

23rd February 2026

YES OFFICER

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* RBI JUNCTION

① RBI sets up secure data centre in safe location.

- RBI has established its second primary high-security greenfield data centre in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- The centre has achieved Tier IV Certification for its design, representing the highest global standard for reliability, fault tolerance, and 99.995% uptime.
- RBI's first primary data centre is located in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

* BANKING & FINANCIAL

→ Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

② World Bank MIGA provides USD 197.67 Million Guarantee to Citibank to Refinance SBI Rooftop Solar Program.

- The guarantee supports a non-shareholder loan provided by Citibank to the SBI for refinancing investments in Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic (GCRPV) systems in India.
- MIGA: Provides guarantees against - political risks, credit risks; Investment Uncertainties.

③ ICICI launched Swasthya Pension Scheme Blending Retirement & Healthcare.

- ICICI Prudential Pension Funds Management Company Limited launched India's first Swasthya Scheme - "ICICI PF NPS Swasthya Equity Plus" under the National Pension System (NPS):
- The scheme has been developed in collaboration with:
 - Apollo Health Co Limited - Healthcare network partner.
 - KFin Technologies Limited - Digital & technology partner.

③ Key Features of the Scheme :

(i) Retirement + Healthcare Integration.

(ii) Medical Withdrawal Facility.

- Subscribers can make multiple withdrawals.
- Up to 25% of their own contributions allowed.

④ MOCI Revised Base Year of India's Merchandise Trade Indices to 2022-23.

- The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI) revised the base year of India's Merchandise Trade Indices from 2012-13 to 2022-23.

⑤ Revision based on recommendations of a DGCI&S-constituted committee.

- Chairperson : Prof. Nachiketa Chattopadhyay.
- Institution : Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, West Bengal.

⑤ SBI Plans to Raise Green Loans to 10% by 2030.

- Green Financing Target by 2030 : 7.5-10% of total loan.
- Funding Source : 25% of green advances to be financed through green lines of credit.
- Currently, green advances account for 1.56% of SBI's total advances (as of 31 March 2025).

⑥ UPI's global volumes cross 1mn in FY26, nearly doubling from last year.

⑦ Volume Growth :

- FY26 (till December-2025) : 1.48 million transactions.
- FY25 : 0.75 million transactions • FY24 : 37,060 transactions.

⑧ Value Growth :

- FY26 : ₹ 330.43 crore
- FY25 : ₹ 258.53 crore • FY24 : ₹ 19.7 crore.

⑨ Shows strong expansion in cross-border digital payments

★ INTERNATIONAL

- ⑦ Global AI Brain Race 2026.
- Published by : essayhumaniser.io.
 - Top countries in AI Leadership (2026).
 - (i) United States — Rank 1 with score : 82/100.
 - (ii) China (iii) Singapore (iv) South Korea
 - (v) United Kingdom
 - (vi) India — Rank 6 with score : 32/100.

★ NATIONAL

- ⑧ Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches 7 additional interventions under EPM.
- Export Promotion Mission
- EPM is a flagship initiative of the Department of Commerce aimed at : Empowering MSMEs for global trade and promoting inclusive & broad-based export growth.
 - The Mission follows a holistic ecosystem approach through :
 - Niryat Psotsahan — Financial support measures.
 - Niryat Disha — Trade Ecosystem & facilitation.
 - (i) Support for Alternative Trade Instruments :
 - Interest subvention : 2.75%.
 - Annual assistance limit : ₹ 50 lakh per MSME.
 - Transactions via RBI/IFSCA recognised entities.
 - (ii) Credit Assistance for E-Commerce Exporters :
 - Direct E-commerce Credit Facility — Supports up to ₹ 50 lakh and 90% guarantee coverage.
 - Overseas Inventory Credit Facility : Supports up to ₹ 5 crore & 75% guarantee coverage :
 - Interest subvention : 2.75%.
 - Annual ceiling : ₹ 15 lakh per exporter.

- (iii) Support for Emerging Export Opportunities.
- (IV) Trade Regulations, Accreditation & Compliance Enablement (TRACE)
- Supports compliance with global standards such as :
 - Testing
 - Inspection
 - Certification
 - Financial Support.
 - 60 % reimbursement (Positive List).
 - 75 % reimbursement (Priority Positive List).
 - Ceiling : ₹ 25 lakh per Import Export Code (IEC).
- (V) Facilitating Logistics, Overseas Warehousing & Fulfilment (FLOW).
- Supports overseas warehouses & e-commerce export hubs.
 - Assistance up to 30% of project cost.
 - Support available for maximum 3 years.
- (VI) Logistics Interventions for Freight & Transport (LIFT).
- Freight reimbursement up to 30%.
 - Ceiling : ₹ 20 lakh per IEC annually.
- (VII) Integrated Support for Trade Intelligence & Facilitation (INSIGHT)
- Financial Assistance : Up to 50% project cost & Up to 100% support for Govt institutions and Indian Missions abroad.

9) MOMA organizes 'Chintan Shivirs' at Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar.

↳ Ministry of Minority Affairs.

• Date : 18-19 February 2026.

o Digital Initiatives Launched :

(i) NIGIRANI App - launched under PMJVK (Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram) to promote Real-time monitoring of infrastructure projects.

(ii) AI-Powered Chatbots : AI-based citizen service platform.

(iii) Hajj Waist Band.

10) 2026 Marks 50th Anniversary of Bonded Labour System Abolition Act, 1976.

- Enacted during the tenure of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- Came into force : 9 February 1976.

⑪ Nodda Launches Indigenous Td Vaccine at Kasauli Centre.

Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Jagat Prakash

Nodda launched an indigenously manufactured Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) vaccine at Centre Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.

- The Td vaccine will replace the Tetanus Toxoid (TT) vaccine in India.

⑫ Railway switches to AI-enabled apps to address grievances & crowd management.

- Indian Railways has integrated AI into seven major passenger-facing applications.

Regional Rapid Transit System

⑬ PM Modi flags off India's first Namo Bharat RRTS, dedicates Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor.

Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor (RRTS)

- Length: 82 Km • Design Speed: 180 Km per hour.
- Meerut Metro - First-of-its-kind Integration.
- Route: Meerut South - Modipuram.
- Maximum Operational speed: ~ 120 Km/hr.

⑭ India, Brazil set 30 billion Dollar Trade Target by 2030.

⑮ Palamu Tiger Reserve Launches 'Vanjeevi Didi' Initiative.

- 18 educated women selected from each of 17 villages.
- PTR in Jharkhand has launched the 'Vanjeevi Didi' initiative, a community-based conservation programme focused on empowering women to protect forests & wildlife.

⑯ Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary Launches Nationwide Campaign "Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai".

- Legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan joined the campaign.
- The campaign aims to expand participation in the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH).

- (17) NIELIT to Establish India's First Dedicated Quantum & AI University Campus in Amravati.
- To Establish it NIELIT signed MoU with Govt of Andhra Pradesh.

★ DEFENCE

- (18) IA's Konark Corps Tests Strela-10 Air Defence Missiles in Pokhyan, Rajasthan.
- Type : Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)

★ MoUs

→ Larsen & Toubro

- (19) L & T Vyoma to Study 250 MW Green AI Data Centre at Dholera SIR.
- Investment : ₹ 25,000 Crore.
 - Capacity : 250 Megawatt (MW).

- (20) India, Brazil sign MoU to Boost Cooperation in Postal Sector.
- Initial Validity : 5 years.

★ STATES

- (21) Waaree Energies to Establish India's Largest Battery Gigafactory in AP.
- Waaree Energies Limited announced plans to establish India's largest integrated Lithium-Ion Battery Gigafactory at Rambilli, located in Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh.
 - Investment : ₹ 8,175 crore (USD 890 million).

- (22) Bihar Cabinet Approves Greenfield International Airport in Sonpur.

- Estimated Cost : ₹ 1,302 Crore.
- Project completion Target : 2030.

(23) Madhya Pradesh CM inaugurates First-Ever National Divyangjan Cricket Sports Festival 2026 in Bhopal.

★ IMPORTANT DAYS

(24) International Mother Language Day 2026 - February 21.

(25) World Pangolin Day 2026 - February 21.

- It is observed every year on the third Saturday of February.

★ APPOINTMENTS

(26) Naxshaban Kaur Tochan Becomes PSPCL's First Woman Director (Commercial).

(27) Asha Sharma has been appointed CEO of Microsoft Gaming and head of Xbox, succeeding Phil Spencer.

★ AWARDS / BOOKS

(28) 2026 BAFTA Awards.

- Best Film : One Battle After Another,
- Best Director : Paul Thomas Anderson
(One Battle After Another)

(29) Vasai Cathedral wins UNESCO Award for Conservation.

- The Our lady of Grace Cathedral, located in Papdy Village, Vasai (Maharashtra), received the Award of Merit at the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, announced in Bangkok.

★ SPORTS

(30) Norway Breaks Winter Olympics Record.

- Norway created history by winning its 17th gold medal in the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics 2026.