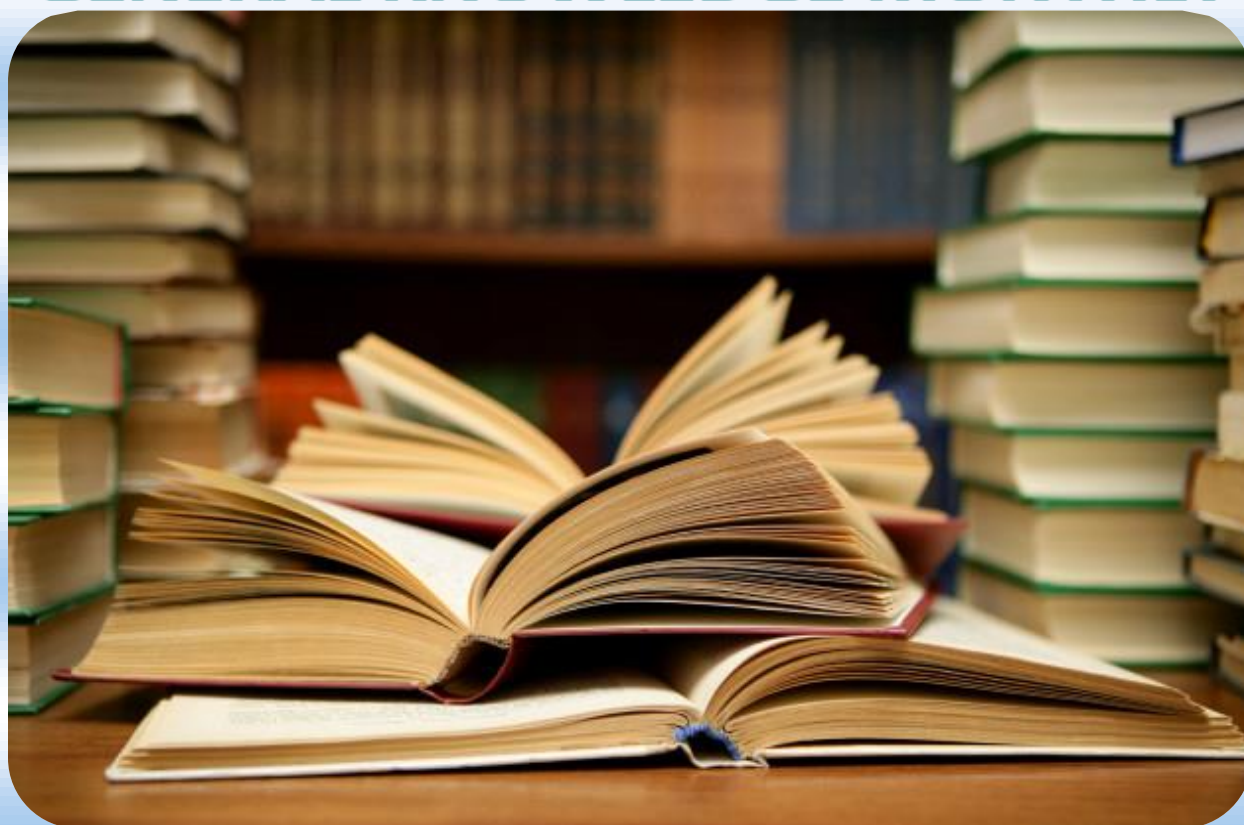


# LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



# MARCH-2025

# NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

## ***EPFO Retains 8.25% Interest Rate on Provident Fund Deposits for 2024-25***

The Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), headed by Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in its 237th meeting held Friday recommended keeping the interest rate for financial year 2024-25 unchanged from previous year at 8.25 per cent for its over 7.4 crore contributing subscribers. The EPFO's Board had last year hiked the EPF interest rate to the highest level in three years ahead of the Lok Sabha elections and has now retained it despite an overall rate cut cycle in the economy.

## ***Virat Kohli Becomes Seventh Indian Cricketer to Play 300 ODIs***

The star Indian batter Virat Kohli has been on top of the world ever since he finally found his form again with a century against Pakistan in India's last game at the ICC Champions Trophy. He even became the fastest player to reach 14,000 ODI runs during his epic innings, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar and Kumar Sangakkara. But it seems like Kohli is in no mood to stop adding records under his belt, as after being announced as part of India's final ICC Champions Trophy.

## ***Crisil Forecasts India's GDP Growth at 6.5% for FY26, Predicts Repo Rate Cut***

India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to exceed 6.5% in the fiscal year ending March 2026, said Moody's Ratings in its latest Banking System Outlook – India report, released on Wednesday. The agency attributed this growth to increased government capital expenditure, tax cuts, and interest rate reductions. Moody's report highlighted that India's economy is set to recover from a cyclical slowdown. The Union Budget 2025-26.

## ***PM Modi Inaugurates Vantara, an Animal Rescue and Conservation Centre in Gujarat***

With habitat destruction, poaching, and climate change pushing countless species toward extinction, conservation efforts have never been more critical. Sanctuaries and rescue centres play a vital role in safeguarding endangered wildlife, ensuring they receive the care and protection they need.



### ***India's Circular Economy: A \$2 Trillion Market and 10 Million Jobs by 2050***

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav on Tuesday said India's circular economy has the potential to create a market worth over USD 2 trillion and generate nearly 10 million jobs by 2050. "On a global scale, the circular economy could contribute an additional \$4.5 trillion to the global economy by 2030," he said, while speaking on the second day of the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum for the India and Pacific region in Jaipur.

### ***PhonePe Launches 'Insuring HEROES' Campaign for International Women's Day 2025***

New Delhi, PhonePe on Thursday launched its 'insuring HEROES' campaign ahead of the International Women's Day. International Women's Day is observed every year on March 8. As part of the initiative, the company is offering exclusive discounts of up to 30 per cent, specifically for women, on select term life and health insurance plans. It is available on the PhonePe platform until March 9, 2025.

### ***HDFC Bank Signs MoU with Indian Air Force and CSC Academy; Launches Project HAKK***

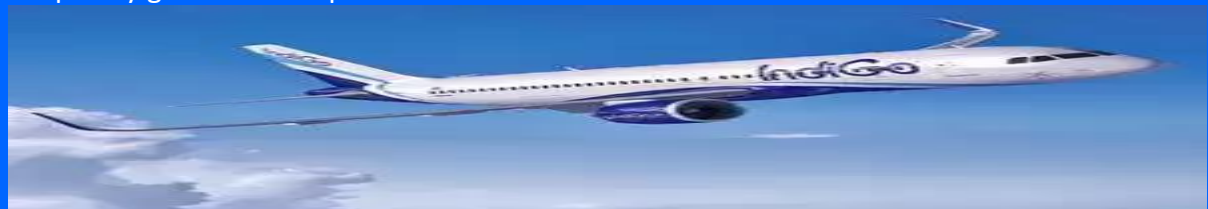
Mumbai: HDFC Bank has signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force and CSC Academy to launch Project HAKK (Hawai Anubhavi Kalyan Kendra), an initiative aimed at providing financial and administrative support to retired defence personnel and their families. The initiative will set up 25 centres across Air Force units in cities including New Delhi, Bengaluru, Pune, Secunderabad, Guwahati, Jodhpur, and Chandigarh.

### ***LIC Ranked World's 3rd Strongest Insurance Brand***

**Mumbai:** State owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the largest life insurer in India, has been ranked third among the world's 100 strongest insurance brands, achieving a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 88 out of 100, as per the Brand Finance Insurance 100 2025 report. Poland-based PZU secured the top spot with a BSI score of 94.4, followed by China Life Insurance, which ranked second with a BSI score of 93.5.

### ***IndiGo Becomes the World's Second Fastest-Growing Airline in Seat Capacity***

IndiGo Airlines, India's largest airline, has been recognized as the world's second fastest-growing airline in seat capacity with a 10.1 per cent increase. It also leads globally in flight frequency growth at 9.7 per cent.



### ***Madhav National Park Declared as India's 58th Tiger Reserve***

The Centre declared the Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh as the country's 58th tiger reserve on Sunday (March 9, 2025), with Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav making the announcement. The newly added national park was also the ninth from the State to get the recognition.



### ***Saina Nehwal Joins Naarica as Strategic Investor & Brand Ambassador***

Menstrual hygiene brand Naarica has announced its partnership with badminton icon Saina Nehwal, who joins as an investor and brand ambassador. This collaboration marks a significant step in Naarica's mission to redefine intimate wear and improve access to sustainable and practical menstrual care solutions for women across India. Expressing, Nehwal said, "I am proud to partner with Naarica as a strategic investor and brand ambassador. Menstrual hygiene is a critical yet often overlooked issue in our country.

### ***SBI Launches Collateral-Free Digital SME Loan for Women Entrepreneurs***

SBI on Friday launched a dedicated collateral-free low-interest rate loan offering for women entrepreneurs. The country's largest lender launched the product christened 'Asmita' on the eve of the International Women's Day, under which it aims to offer low-interest rate funding alternatives to women. The launch comes within days of Transunion Cibil flagging a low preference for business borrowing by women, who tend to prefer borrowing for consumption purposes.

### ***Amul Ranked as the 3rd Most Valued Brand in India – YouGov India Value Rankings 2025***

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), the country's largest milk cooperative, has been ranked as the third most valued brand in India in the prestigious YouGov India Value Rankings 2025. Notably, Amul is the only Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand in the top three list, alongside e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart. According to an official communique, this ranking highlights its strong competitive standing among India's most valued brands.



### ***Government Initiatives to Promote Gas-Based Power Generation***

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas stated in a latest update that Gas-based plants in the country are operating at very low Plant Load Factor (PLF). To enhance the availability of natural gas for power generation, Government have placed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) under the Open General License (OGL) category, thereby allowing power plants to import LNG as per their requirements on mutually agreed commercial terms with suppliers. The gas imported by power plants during 2024-25 (Apr-Jan), is about 9.58 MMSCMD.

### ***SBI Life Insurance Expands Product Line with Two New Child Insurance Plans***

Mumbai (Maharashtra) [India], March 7: SBI Life Insurance, one of India's most trusted private life insurers, launched two new child products, 'SBI Life - Smart Future Star' and 'SBI Life - Smart Platina Young Achiever', specifically curated to empower parents in securing child's future aspiration. The increasing cost of education coupled with evolving career aspiration and rising lifestyle expenses can understandably be unsettling for parents today.

### ***Salman Khan Teams with GRM for Wheat Flour Campaign***

GRM Overseas Limited announced today the launch of a new marketing campaign for its 10X Classic Chakki Fresh Atta, featuring Bollywood actor Salman Khan as brand ambassador. The campaign, titled "Better Half Ki Better Choice," aims to position the product as the preferred choice for families with the tagline "10 Ka Dum." The shares of GRM Overseas Limited closed on the NSE today at ₹258.19, up by ₹8.85 or 3.55 per cent.

### ***PM Narendra Modi's Historic Visit to Mauritius***

Terming Mauritius as a bridge between India and the Global South, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday (March 11, 2025) said that the island nation is part of India's family and not just a partner country. Mr. Modi commenced his two-day state visit to Mauritius with a ceremonial welcome in Port Louis on Tuesday. Mr. Modi began his visit to the island nation with a sapling planting ceremony at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical, alongside his Mauritius counterpart Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

### ***Star Health Insurance Launches 'SheTARA' Campaign to Mark International Women's Day***

Chennai (Tamil Nadu) [India], March 7: Star Health and Allied Insurance Limited (Star Health Insurance) is marking International Women's Day with the launch of 'SheTARA', a large-scale women's health initiative designed to provide free and accessible healthcare to women across Tamil Nadu through 40+ health camps, including a flagship event in Chennai's Anna Nagar branch. The initiative will provide essential medical screenings and raise awareness about preventive healthcare.

### ***Starlink's Entry into India: A Game-Changer for Internet Connectivity?***

Elon Musk's satellite communications company, Starlink, is finally making an entry into India, after eyeing the Indian market for years, and after months of behind-the-scenes struggles. However, Starlink isn't breaking in alone. Instead, it's joining forces with India's telecom giants, Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, two companies once seen as Starlink's biggest obstacles. Both Jio and Airtel have announced partnerships with Starlink to expand satellite-based internet services across India, pending government approval. Here's a comprehensive breakdown of what this means, the technology behind it, and the broader impact on the market.

### ***Tamil Nadu Govt Replaces Rupee Symbol with Tamil Letter: A Language Debate Intensifies***

Amid its war of words with the Centre over the three-language policy under the National Education Policy, the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government Thursday dropped the Devanagari rupee symbol and replaced it with a Tamil letter in its logo for the state Budget 2025-26, which will be tabled Friday in the Assembly. This drew a sharp response from the BJP with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman calling it a "completely avoidable example of language and regional chauvinism". Targeting the DMK, she said this "signals a dangerous mindset that weakens Indian unity and promotes secessionist sentiments under the pretence of regional pride".

### ***Finance Ministry Notifies Zero Coupon Bond (ZCB) For Power Finance Corporation***

Finance Ministry has notified Zero Coupon Bond (ZCB) for Power Finance Corporation. The company can raise up to ₹10,000 crore. ZCB is an instrument that doesn't pay interest during its term, but instead is sold at a discount to its face value. When the bond matures, the investor receives the full-face value. There will be no periodic payment of interest. According to the notification, the bond will be issued with a discount of ₹49,546 for a face value of ₹1 lakh. In other words, the investor will pay ₹50,454 at the time of issuance, while get ₹1 lakh at maturity.

### ***India Becomes the Top Source of FDI into Dubai***

The relentless flight of Indian entrepreneurs, consultants, and businesses to Dubai over the last decade due to a favourable tax regime and business friendly environment is now showing its impact on the ground. As per recent findings India has emerged as the key source country for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Dubai as the desert city has retained its top position as Global FDI Destination in 2024. According to the Financial Times Ltd.'s 'FDI Markets' data Dubai has been ranked the world's No.1 destination for Greenfield Foreign Direct investment (FDI) projects for the fourth successive year.

### ***Delhi International Airport Wins Prestigious ASQ Award for Best Airport in Asia-Pacific***

NEW DELHI: Indira Gandhi International Airport has been conferred the award for the 'Best Airport' in the Asia-Pacific Region for the sixth consecutive year. According to the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), "Delhi's Indira Gandhi Airport International Airport has bagged the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Best Airport award for 2023 in the category of over 40 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) for its excellence and commitment to ensure passenger satisfaction and adherence to global aviation standards,".



### ***Valueattics Reinsurance Becomes India's First Private Reinsurer, Ending GIC Re's Monopoly***

In Debasish Panda's last board meeting on Thursday as chairperson of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), the regulator approved the first reinsurance licence to a private player, Valueattics Reinsurance, backed by Prem Watsa and Kamesh Goyal. So long GIC Re, a public-sector entity, was the only player in the field. "This marks a significant step in fostering competition within the reinsurance sector," Irdai said in a statement.

### ***Moody's Projects India's GDP Growth to Exceed 6.5% in FY 2025-26***

India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to exceed 6.5% in the fiscal year ending March 2026, said Moody's Ratings in its latest Banking System Outlook – India report, released on Wednesday. The agency attributed this growth to increased government capital expenditure, tax cuts, and interest rate reductions. Moody's report highlighted that India's economy is set to recover from a cyclical slowdown. The Union Budget 2025-26, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, introduced significant tax relief under the new tax regime, exempting income up to Rs 12 lakh from taxation.

### ***Google Unveils Gemma 3: The Next Evolution in Lightweight AI Models***

Google has released Gemma 3, the latest addition to its family of lightweight open models that are designed to run directly on phones, laptops, and other devices. The Gemma 3 series of models are powered by the same research and technology that powers Google's Gemini 2.0 models, the tech giant said in a blog post published on Wednesday, March 12. "This helps you to create engaging user experiences that can fit on a single GPU or TPU host," Google said.

### ***Adar Poonawalla Sells Magma Insurance Stake to Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group for ₹4,500 Crore***

Yoga Guru Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved and Rajnigandha maker Dharampal Satyapal Group (DS Group) will acquire Magma General Insurance from Sanoti Properties LLP at a valuation of ₹4,500 crore, a company statement said on Thursday. This would mark the entry of Patanjali Ayurved, a manufacturer and marketer of herbal, nature-based products, medicines and other FMCG products, into the general insurance business following the regulatory approval.

### ***India's Wholesale Inflation Remains Steady at 2.38% in February***

Wholesale inflation increased to 2.38% as cost of manufactured products increased in February 2025, from 2.31% in the previous month, according to data from Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Inflation of manufactured products increased to a two-year high of 2.86% in the reporting month. "Excluding food, core manufactured WPI inflation rose to 1.3% y-o-y from 1.0% in January. We think core WPI inflation may rise gradually over the coming months, reflecting the rise in international metal prices in February" according to Aastha Gudwani, India Chief Economist at Barclays research.

### ***SBI to Launch Project Finance Unit for AI, Fintech, and E-Commerce***

State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, is setting up a unit to manage project financing solutions for "new age industries" such as artificial intelligence, e-commerce, and fintech, according to a senior executive. The public sector bank plans to complete the project within a year and will hire "specialised professionals" to staff it, said Ashwini Kumar Tewari, a managing director at the bank. It's also in the process of appointing an external consultant, Tewari said.

### ***India's GDP to Reach \$5.7 Trillion, Becoming Third Largest by 2028: Morgan Stanley***

India will be the world's third-largest economy by 2028 as it becomes the world's most sought-after consumer market and gains share in global output, driven by macro stability influenced policy and better infrastructure, Morgan Stanley said. From a \$3.5 trillion economy in 2023, the Indian economy is projected to expand to \$4.7 trillion in 2026, which will make it the fourth largest in the world behind the US, China and Germany.





### ***India's First PPP Green Waste Processing Plant in Indore***

Indore has opened the first Public-Private Partnership model-based green waste processing plant in the country under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U). This reflects the city's emphasis on unique methods of waste disposal. Indore, being the cleanest city in India, has also taken a leap by launching a green waste processing plant in conjunction with Astronomical Industries Private Limited located in Indore.



### ***Government Establishes Fintech Panel to Address Regulatory Challenges***

In order to address the regulatory concerns and long-term strategy for the financial technology (FinTech) sector, the government has set up an inter-ministerial-industry committee on fintech (IMICF). As per the information shared by the government, the committee will be chaired by the secretary of the department of financial services (DFS). Further, the committee will bring together senior officials from key government departments, including the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY).

### ***ISRO Develops High-Speed Microprocessors: Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201***

ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh have jointly developed 32-bit Microprocessors -- Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201-- for space applications, the space agency has said. Vikram 3201 is the first fully Indian-made 32-bit microprocessor qualified for use in the harsh environmental conditions of launch vehicles. The processor was fabricated at the 180nm (nanometer) CMOS (Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor) semiconductor fab of SCL.

### ***BPCL Inaugurates Floating Solar Power Plant at Kochi Refinery***

Chief Secretary Sarada Muraleedharan on Friday inaugurated Bharat Petroleum Corporation's floating solar power plant at the Kochi Refinery. The 3.2MW AC floating solar plant has been set up in the rainwater harvesting pond and covers eight acres of the waterbody, which has a total area of around 19 acres, according to a release. The plant has been set up at a cost of ₹28.93 crore. Ms. Muraleedharan also visited the 150 TPD municipal solid waste to compressed bio gas (CBG) plant being set up by BPCL near the Brahmapuram waste dumping yard of the Kochi Corporation and reviewed its progress, it said.

### ***World Happiness Report 2025: India at 118th***

BENGALURU: The recently released World Happiness Report 2025, which placed India at 118 out of 147 countries, has sparked widespread criticism from netizens, including prominent personalities. Many expressed disbelief over India ranking below Pakistan, Palestine and Ukraine, questioning the methodology used in the assessment.



### ***East Coast Railway Creates History: Becomes the First Railway Zone to Achieve 250 MT of Freight Loading in 2024-25***

East Coast Railway (ECoR) has once again set a historic milestone in freight loading by becoming the first railway zone in India to achieve 250 million tons (MT) of originating freight in the financial year 2024-25. This was accomplished 11 days ahead of schedule—by March 21, 2024—before the end of the financial year.



### ***SBI Mutual Fund Launches Two New PSU Bank-Focused Schemes***

SBI Mutual Fund launched PSU Bank-based two new passive schemes: SBI BSE PSU Bank Index Fund and SBI BSE PSU Bank ETF. The new fund offer or NFO for both schemes is open for subscription and will close on March 20. SBI BSE PSU Bank Index Fund is an open-ended scheme replicating/tracking the BSE PSU Bank Index, and the SBI BSE PSU Bank ETF is an open-ended exchange-traded fund replicating/tracking the BSE PSU Bank Index.

### ***U.S., U.K. Replace Gulf Nations as Top Source of Remittances into India: RBI Bulletin***

Developed economies emerged as the top source of inward remittances for Indians in the last four years, RBI officials said in a paper titled “Changing Dynamics of India’s Remittances – Insights from the Sixth Round of India’s Remittances Survey” that was published in the RBI’s monthly Bulletin in March. Remittances from the United States and the United Kingdom together nearly doubled to 40% of the total money coming into India through banks in the last fiscal year (FY24).

# INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

## *Oscars Awards 2025: Full List of the 97th Academy Awards Winners*

The prestigious 97th Academy Awards was held at the Dolby Theatre in California, United States, today. The starry event saw Sean Baker's fan-favourite Anora clinch Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Editing and Best Actress (for lead Mikey Madison).



## *Yamandú Orsi Sworn in as Uruguay's President*

Montevideo (EFE).- Yamandú Orsi was sworn in as the new President of Uruguay until 2030 on Saturday in a ceremony held at the Legislative Palace in front of the members of the General Assembly and the invited representatives from various countries. "I, Yamandú Orsi, swear on my honor to faithfully carry out the office entrusted to me and to respect and defend the Constitution of the Republic," said the new president. Orsi said in his inaugural speech to the members of the General Assembly that the South American country is a "pluralistic amalgam of coexistence that continues to amaze the world."

## *Trump's Imposed Tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China*

President Donald Trump has said he is moving forward with 25% tariffs on goods imported from Canada and Mexico into the US, adding that time had run out to reach a deal. US stock markets sank in response to the measures, which he has threatened since earlier this year and said would now go into effect on Tuesday.





### ***Trump Announces Reciprocal Tariffs on India and Other Nations***

Dampening prospects of a concession, US President Donald Trump said Thursday India will face reciprocal tariffs on April 2, a move likely to hurt India's exports of agricultural and pharmaceutical goods. These are among the products that have a high tariff differential with the US. "I have a very good relationship with India, but the only problem I have with India is that they are one of the highest tariffing nations in the world. I believe they are probably going to be lowering those tariffs substantially, but on April 2, we will be charging them the same tariffs they charge us," Trump said in an interview with US-based Breitbart News.

### ***Mark Carney Appointed as Canada's New Liberal Party Leader and Prime Minister***

Mark Carney, an economist and political newcomer, has been sworn in as Canada's new prime minister, and delivered remarks vowing to "never" become a part of the United States. He took office on Friday just days after being elected leader of the governing Liberal Party and amid an ongoing trade war with US President Donald Trump. "We know that by building together, we can give ourselves far more than anyone else can take away," he said after the ceremony.

### ***Sunil Chhetri's Return to the Indian National Team at 40***

Indian football legend Sunil Chhetri will return to the national team aged 40 in an unexpected reversal of his decision to hang up his boots last year. The former captain, the fourth-highest men's international goalscorer of all time, played his last match for India in June 2024 in a World Cup qualifier. Chhetri said last year that "instinct" told him the match against Kuwait should be his last and he bowed out in front of nearly 59,000 fans in Kolkata.

### ***China's 5,000 km Radar: A Challenge for India's Defense?***

China has reportedly deployed a new Large Phased Array Radar (LPAR) in Yunnan province near the Myanmar border, significantly enhancing its surveillance capabilities over India. While the Chinese media did not reveal the details of the radar system, reports say that it has a range of over 5,000 km which can monitor deep into Indian territory and track missile tests.





### ***UN Chief Announces 'UN80 Initiative' to Boost Efficiencies Amid Uncertainty***

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has announced a new initiative aimed at improving efficiencies at the 80-year-old world organisation and making it more cost-effective, as he voiced concern over shrinking resources and liquidity crisis amid an environment of "uncertainty and unpredictability". The 'UN80 Initiative' will come up with proposals in areas of rapidly identifying efficiencies and improvements in the way the UN works; thoroughly reviewing implementation of all mandates given to the UN by member states, which have significantly increased in recent years and a strategic review of deeper, more structural changes and programme realignment in the UN system.

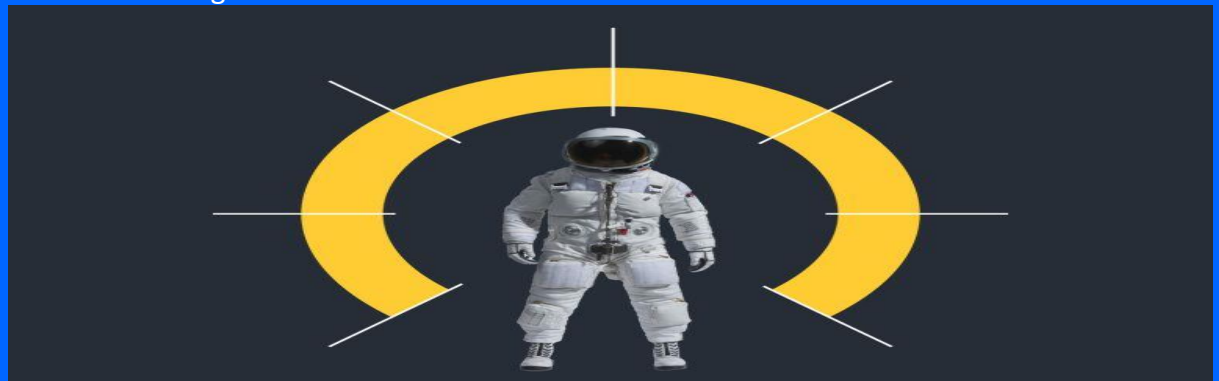
### ***NASA's SPHEREx Space Telescope Launches to Map the Universe's Cosmic Glow***

Nasa's newest space telescope rocketed into orbit on Tuesday to map the entire sky like never before – a sweeping look at hundreds of millions of galaxies and their shared cosmic glow since the beginning of time. SpaceX launched the Spherex observatory from California, putting it on course to fly over Earth's poles.



### ***Sunita Williams' Return: What Happens After NASA Astronauts' Landing on Earth?***

United States astronauts Sunita "Sun" Williams and Barry "Butch" Wilmore went to space on board the Boeing Starliner Calypso on June 5, 2024. They were meant to spend eight days on the International Space Station (ISS). But as the spacecraft was approaching the station, its thrusters malfunctioned, and NASA ordered the astronauts to remain on the ISS while figuring out how to bring them back.



### ***Norris Triumphs in a Chaotic Australian GP Opener***

Lando Norris and McLaren delivered on their potential with a copybook victory in a demanding Australian Grand Prix in the most difficult of conditions to put their stamp on the start of the new season. Briton Norris described his win as "stressful but rewarding".



### ***Kirsty Coventry Becomes First Female and African President of the International Olympic Committee***

The Zimbabwean swimmer Kirsty Coventry has become the first woman to lead the International Olympic Committee in its 131-year history after a stunning first-round knockout over a seven-strong field that included Britain's Sebastian Coe. In a contest that had been expected to go through multiple rounds of voting, the 41-year-old won 49 of the 97 votes in the first round, giving her an immediate majority.

### ***Hydrologist Gunter Blösch Wins 2025 Stockholm Water Prize***

Professor Gunter Blösch has won this year's Stockholm Water Prize based on his world-renowned research and work on flood risk reduction, water resource management, flood scaling, and regional process hydrology. Blösch is a pioneer of water engineering. His comprehensive database and analysis have revolutionized and deepened the global understanding of flood risk reduction and water resource management.

### ***Chiranjeevi Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award by UK Government***

Actor Chiranjeevi was felicitated by the House of Commons, United Kingdom, on March 19. He was greeted and honoured by members of British Parliament, ministers and under secretaries, and diplomats. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Public Service through Cultural Leadership from Bridge India, a UK-based organisation focused on improving public policy.



### ***Japan Becomes First Team to Qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup After Host Nations***

CNN-Japan became the first country to qualify for the 2026 men's World Cup after it beat Bahrain 2-0 at Saitama Stadium on Thursday. Second-half goals from Daichi Kamada and Takefusa Kubo were enough for the Samurai Blue to earn its spot at next year's tournament which is being hosted in the US, Canada and Mexico.



### ***Oscar Piastri Triumphs at the Chinese Grand Prix as McLaren Secures One-Two Finish***

Now 18 years into his career and hoping to see it out with a flourish, it will not have gone unnoticed by Lewis Hamilton that while McLaren – with whom he started in Formula One all those years ago – are enjoying a breathless, heady run of form, his opening with Ferrari has been an altogether more frustrating affair.

