

The week from 23rd March 2026 to 29th March 2026

The government has launched PRARAMBH 2026, a nationwide campaign to spread awareness about the Income Tax Act, 2025, effective from April 1, 2026. The initiative aims to promote taxpayer compliance and understanding through a multi-channel approach, and offers resources like guides, videos, FAQs, and an AI chatbot 'Kar Saathi' for real-time assistance.

In a landmark decision, the US Treasury will introduce currency notes featuring President Donald Trump's signature from June 2026, marking the first inclusion of a sitting president on US paper money in over 150 years. Coinciding with America's 250th independence anniversary, the move replaces the Treasurer's signature, on US currency bills.

After a decade, a Great Indian Bustard (GIB) chick was born in Gujarat, raising hopes for the species' recovery in the grasslands of Kutch. A female GIB had laid an infertile egg in Kutch, which was replaced using a captive-bred GIB egg from a conservation breeding programme in Rajasthan. This was transported by road over 19 hours in a handheld portable incubator. The female GIB completed incubating this fertile egg and hatched it. The young chick is now reared by its foster mother!

India has been awarded the hosting rights for the 2028 World Indoor Athletics Championships. The event will take place at the state-of-the-art indoor facility within the Kalinga Stadium complex in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This marks the first time India will host this prestigious global track and field competition featuring 26 events, including the newly introduced 4×400m mixed relay.

Scientists have identified a desert moss, *Syntrichia caninervis*, capable of surviving extreme conditions, making it a candidate for Mars colonisation. It can lose over 98% of its water and revive quickly when moisture returns. It has survived simulated Martian conditions, including high radiation, low pressure, and carbon dioxide-rich atmosphere. It also tolerates extreme cold up to -196°C .

Japan has discovered over 16 million tonnes of rare earth elements beneath the Pacific Ocean near Minamitorishima island. The deposit includes critical minerals like yttrium and dysprosium, essential for electric vehicles and renewable energy technologies. The deposit could meet global demand for certain elements for up to 700 years.

LeBron James broke the NBA record for most games played by appearing in his 1,612th NBA regular-season game, surpassing Robert Parish's long-standing record. The milestone came during a Los Angeles Lakers match against Orlando Magic. LeBron also holds multiple records, including most points scored in NBA history.

Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India have discovered a new wild kiwi species named *Actinidia indica* in Arunachal Pradesh near Ziro Valley. The plant grows in a biodiversity-rich transition zone at around 1,725 metres altitude. Its olive-green fruit has a unique reticulate pattern, distinguishing it from other species. This discovery increases the global count of *Actinidia* species to 56.



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