

The week from 30th March 2026 to 05th April 2026

India, under its 2026 BRICS Chairship, hosted the first BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting virtually on 25 March 2026, launching youth engagements themed on resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability. India presented an overview of the BRICS Youth Track 2026 under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

The International Olympic Committee introduced a policy restricting women's Olympic events to biological females, requiring a one-time SRY gene test for eligibility. Athletes with the gene, including most transgender women and certain DSD athletes, will be excluded, aiming to ensure fairness, safety, and integrity in women's sports.

A new butterfly species, *Euthalia zubeengargi*, has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh, highlighting the region's rich biodiversity. Named after singer Zubeen Garg, it inhabits semi-evergreen forests, shows calm flight behaviour, and acts as a bio-indicator, reinforcing the area's importance as a conservation hotspot.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Phase I of Noida International Airport, developed as a greenfield airport under the PPP model. Its architecture draws inspiration from traditional Indian ghats and havelis featuring a 3,900-metre runway with an initial capacity of 12 million passengers per annum and further bolstering to 70 million passengers per annum.

Jammu and Kashmir created history by winning its maiden Ranji Trophy title, ending a decades-long wait. Led by Paras Dogra, with Aaqib Nabi starring with 60 wickets, the triumph is set to boost cricket infrastructure and inspire greater youth participation in sports across the region.

Japan has launched the world's first dedicated freight-only Shinkansen, repurposing the E3 series for cargo transport. Operated by East Japan Railway Company, it carries high-value goods at speeds up to 275 kmph, improving logistics efficiency and offering a sustainable alternative between conventional rail and air freight.

NASA launched Artemis II, the first human Moon mission since 1972. Using the Space Launch System and Orion spacecraft, four astronauts will conduct a 10-day lunar flyby, testing systems for future landings and paving the way for Artemis III.

Income Tax Act, 2025 came into force on 1 April 2026, replacing the Income Tax Act, 1961. The reform simplifies tax language, streamlines deductions, and eases return filing. Linked to the Union Budget 2026–27, it aims to reduce litigation, improve compliance, and modernise provisions, especially for digital transactions and economic governance.



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