

## International

### UK Parliament ends hereditary peer System in House of Lords.

Britain's Parliament has approved legislation to remove the remaining hereditary peers from the House of Lords, ending the centuries-old system where members could sit in the chamber by birth. The reform, part of Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government manifesto, completes a process begun in 1999 when most hereditary peers were removed.

The move aims to modernise the Upper House and ensure membership is no longer based on inherited titles.

### India calls for protection of UN peacekeepers in Lebanon.

India has urged all parties to ensure the safety of UN peacekeepers in Lebanon amid rising tensions between Israel and Hezbollah following the Iran conflict.

In a joint statement with 29 countries at the UN Security Council, India emphasised that peacekeepers must never be targeted or intimidated.

The call came after three Ghanaian peacekeepers were injured during heavy firing in southern Lebanon.

### UN Security Council passes resolution urging Iran to halt Gulf attacks.

The UN Security Council has adopted a resolution calling on Iran to immediately stop attacks on Gulf countries, warning that they violate international law and threaten global peace.

The resolution was passed with 13 votes in favour and two abstentions.

It demands an end to attacks on Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan.

Russia and China criticised the resolution for not mentioning US-Israel strikes on Iran that triggered the conflict.

## Important Days

### World Kidney Day 2026: March 12.

World Kidney Day is observed annually on the second Thursday of March to raise awareness about kidney health and the prevention of kidney-related diseases.

In 2026, it is marked on March 12 with the theme "Kidney Health for All – Caring for People, Protecting the Planet."

The theme highlights the link between environmental factors and kidney health while encouraging early detection, healthy lifestyles, and better management of conditions like diabetes and hypertension.

## National

### Supreme Court allows withdrawal of life support in passive euthanasia case.

The Supreme Court has permitted the withdrawal of artificial life support for a 32-year-old man from Ghaziabad who has been in a coma for over 12 years.

The court directed AIIMS-Delhi to admit him to palliative care to ensure a dignified process.

The order follows the court's 2018 Common Cause judgment and its 2023 modifications, which recognise passive euthanasia and the right to die with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

### UIDAI launches bug bounty programme to strengthen Aadhaar security.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched its first structured Bug Bounty Programme to enhance the security of the Aadhaar ecosystem.

The initiative invites independent cybersecurity experts to identify potential vulnerabilities in key digital platforms.

A panel of 20 ethical hackers and security researchers will examine systems including the UIDAI website, the myAadhaar portal and the Secure QR Code application to ensure stronger protection for users.

## **CCPA issues guidelines to prevent misleading advertisements.**

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued new guidelines requiring due diligence for product endorsements and setting conditions for advertisements to prevent misleading claims.

The guidelines prohibit ads claiming miraculous or supernatural properties and include rules on bait advertising, surrogate advertising, and ads targeting children. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said action will be taken against broadcasters violating the Advertising Code under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

## **NITI Aayog releases Fiscal Health Index 2026.**

NITI Aayog has released the second edition of the Fiscal Health Index 2026 in New Delhi, highlighting policy priorities to strengthen state finances.

NITI Aayog has urged states to maintain fiscal discipline and adhere to deficit limits under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

According to the Fiscal Health Index 2026, Odisha, Goa and Jharkhand emerged among the top fiscally strong states, while Punjab, West Bengal and Kerala ranked at the bottom.

The report emphasised improving tax capacity, expanding the GST base and controlling revenue expenditure to ensure sustainable fiscal management.

## **Chhattisgarh cabinet approves draft Freedom of Religion Bill 2026.**

The Chhattisgarh government has approved the draft Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026 during a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai in Raipur.

The proposed legislation aims to curb religious conversions carried out through force, inducement, fraud or misrepresentation.

The Bill is expected to be introduced in the ongoing Budget Session of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly.

## **Business and Economy**

### **Parthanil Ghosh appointed MD & CEO of HDFC ERGO.**

HDFC ERGO General Insurance has appointed Parthanil Ghosh as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, effective April 16, subject to regulatory approvals.

He will succeed Anuj Tyagi, who resigned in January 2026 to pursue entrepreneurial ventures.

Ghosh, who joined the company in 2016 after the merger with L&T General Insurance, brings over 30 years of experience in financial services and the insurance sector.

### **SBI signs Strategic Partnership with Japan's MUFG Bank.**

State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Japan-based MUFG Bank to collaborate on project financing and advisory services. The partnership will focus on sectors such as mergers and acquisitions, aviation, and real estate finance.

Both banks will also support Indian MSMEs and mid-corporates in connecting with Japanese companies, while facilitating cross-border investments and strengthening economic ties between India and Japan.

### **Cred gets RBI Licence to operate as payment aggregator.**

Fintech company Cred has received a final licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a payment aggregator. The approval allows the firm to onboard merchants, collect payments across multiple instruments, and manage settlements and refunds.

The Bengaluru-based company now holds both online and physical payment

aggregator licences along with a prepaid payment instrument (PPI) authorisation from the RBI.

### **Crisil projects India's GDP growth at 7.1% in FY27.**

Crisil has projected India's economy to grow 7.1% in FY2026–27, driven mainly by strong private consumption and a gradual rise in private investment.

In its report *India Outlook: Wading through Squally Waters*, the agency noted that domestic demand and strong macroeconomic fundamentals will support growth despite global trade tensions and geopolitical uncertainties.

It also highlighted opportunities for India through export growth, infrastructure development and structural reforms.

### **RBI to purchase ₹50,000 Crore Government Bonds via OMO.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced plans to purchase ₹50,000 crore worth of government bonds through an Open Market Operation (OMO) auction to infuse liquidity into the financial system. The purchase will be conducted through a multi-security auction covering several government securities ranging from 2029 to 2046 maturities.

The RBI said it will retain flexibility in deciding the amount purchased for each security.

## **Sports**

### **World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 begins in New Delhi.**

The World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 has begun in New Delhi and will continue till March 13.

Top Indian para-athletes, including Paris 2024 gold medallists Sumit Antil, Praveen Kumar and Mariyappan Thangavelu, are participating in the event.

Athletes from eight countries are competing, with India fielding the largest contingent of around 219 participants.

The competition also offers 74 international classification slots across various categories.

### **India to Host Asia Cup Archery Stage in 2027.**

India will host the second leg of the Asia Cup Archery tournament in 2027 in Delhi, marking the country's return as host of a major international archery event after 22 years. The decision was finalised during discussions between World Archery Asia president Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapol and Archery Association of India secretary general Virendra Sachdeva. India last hosted a major archery event in 2005, when the Asian Archery Championships were held in Delhi.