



8. Short News

1. Science & Technology- The "Moonshot" Project

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Pratiksha Trust have launched an ambitious project to revolutionize neurological recovery.

Core Objective- To develop AI-based brain co-processors that help stroke survivors regain movement, specifically for reaching and grasping.

Mechanism- These are closed-loop neural devices that decode brain signals and send corrective electrical stimulation back to the brain to bypass damaged circuits.

Technology Blend- Integrates neuroscience, AI, bioelectronics, and neuromorphic hardware (computing that mimics the human nervous system).

Phased Implementation-

Phase I- Creation of non-invasive (external) neural co-processors.

Phase II- Development of minimally invasive implantable devices.

The "Brain Co-processor" Difference- Unlike standard interfaces, these target the entire cognitive loop, including perception, decision-making, and motor control.

2. Women in Sports- ASMITA Initiative

The Prime Minister recently highlighted ASMITA, a dedicated vertical under the Khelo India framework.

Full Form- Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action.

Mission- A gender-neutral mission to promote sports among women through structured leagues.

Implementing Agencies- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India (SAI), and MY Bharat.

Key Goals- Identifying grassroots talent in villages.

Preparing athletes for India's 2036 Olympic bid.

Recent Success- On March 8, 2026 (International Women's Day), a record 2.5 lakh women participated in leagues across 250 locations simultaneously.

3. International Relations- Three Seas Initiative (3SI)

India is increasing its engagement with Central and Eastern Europe through the Three Seas Initiative.

Definition- A forum of 13 EU nations located between the Baltic, Adriatic, and Black Seas.

Member Nations- Includes countries like Poland, Greece, Austria, and Croatia.

Objective- To improve North-South connectivity via massive infrastructure projects in energy, transport, and digital sectors.

India's Role- India recently met with Croatia's envoy and reinforced a 5-year Action Plan with Poland (2024-2028) focusing on defense and trade.

4. Geography & Environment- Solomon Islands Earthquake

A significant 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck near Kirakira (Makira) on March 6, 2026.

Location- An archipelago of ~1,000 islands in the Southwest Pacific (Melanesia), northeast of Australia.

Geological Context- Located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, where the Australia Plate meets the Pacific Plate.

Unique Biodiversity- Birds- Home to the Megapode, which nests in volcanic sands.

Flora- Over 4,500 species with high endemism (found nowhere else).

Reptiles- Home to the endemic Saltwater Krait.

5. Global Politics- Nepal Elections 2026

Following youth-led protests in 2025, Nepal held early elections for the House of Representatives.

The Winner- The Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), led by Balendra "Balen" Shah, won a landslide victory (122/165 directly elected seats).

Electoral System- A mixed system where 165 members are elected via First-Past-the-Post and 110 via Proportional Representation.

Outcome- Traditional powerhouses (Nepali Congress and CPN-UML) faced significant losses against the reformist RSP.

6. Sports- India Wins T20 World Cup 2026

India has become the most successful team in T20 World Cup history.

The Achievement- India defeated New Zealand in the final at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, to win their third title.

Historic Milestones-

First team to win back-to-back titles (defending the 2024 crown).

First host nation to win the trophy on home soil.

Top Performers- Jasprit Bumrah (Player of the Match) and Sanju Samson (Player of the Tournament).

7. Water Governance- Jal Mahotsav & Sujalam Shakti Diwas

A nationwide campaign was launched on March 8, 2026, focusing on community water management.

Event	Focus	Key Activities
Jal Mahotsav	Community Ownership	Jal Arpan Diwas- Handing over water infrastructure to local Gram Panchayats.
Sujalam Shakti Diwas	Women's Leadership	Recognising women as pump operators, water testers, and leaders in water governance.

Campaign Period- March 8 to March 22 (World Water Day).

Tagline- "Gaon ka Utsav, Desh ka Mahotsav."

Nodal Ministry- Ministry of Jal Shakti.

8. Women's Empowerment- SHINE App (Indian Railways)

Launched on International Women's Day (March 8, 2026), the SHINE app is a digital shield for female employees.

Full Form- Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment.

Purpose- To provide a secure, confidential platform for reporting workplace harassment.

Integration- complaints are filed via the Human Resources Management System (HRMS) and the Employee Self Service portal.

Inclusive Scope- Uniquely allows complaints to be filed on behalf of contractual workers, students, and outside visitors, extending protection beyond permanent staff.

Compliance- Aligned with the Visakha Guidelines (1997), ensuring swift action by Internal Complaints Committees.

9. Governance- Rajya Sabha Election Mechanics

With elections scheduled for March 16, 2026, understanding the "Single Transferable Vote" (STV) system is crucial.

Electoral College- Elected members of State Legislative Assemblies (MLAs).

The Voting Process- MLAs rank candidates by preference (1, 2, 3...). It is an Open Ballot system where party MLAs must show their marked paper to an authorized agent to prevent cross-voting.

The "Quota" Formula- To be elected, a candidate needs a specific number of votes (the Droop Quota)-
$$\text{Quota} = (\text{Total Valid Votes} / (\text{Number of Seats} + 1)) + 1$$

10. Social Welfare- Orunodoi 3.0 (Assam)

On March 10, 2026, the Assam government carried out one of the largest single-day transfers under this flagship scheme.

Financial Transfer- Approximately 40 lakh families received ₹9,000 each via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Breakdown- This payment includes four months of assistance (January–April 2026) plus a top-up for the Bohag Bihu festival.

Monthly Support- Under Orunodoi 3.0, the monthly aid increased to ₹1,500 starting January 2026.



Primary Beneficiaries- Widows, unmarried women over 45, differently-abled persons, and low-income households (income below ₹2 lakh/year).

11. Digital Risks- AI Animal Deepfakes

The rise of "AI Slop"—low-effort, hyper-realistic animal videos—is creating real-world ecological and safety threats.

The Danger- Distorts public perception, making people believe wild animals are domestic or "cute," leading to dangerous human-wildlife encounters.

Conservation Impact- Misleadingly suggests that endangered species are abundant, potentially reducing support for protection projects and fuelling the illegal wildlife trade.

Regulatory Response- The IT Amendment Rules, 2026 mandate "prominent labelling" of all synthetic content. Platforms must now remove harmful deepfakes within a strict 2-to-3-hour window to keep their "safe harbour" legal immunity.

Scientific Irony- While entertainment "slop" is harmful, scientists use the same AI technology (Digital Twins) for identifying species and monitoring animal health in livestock farming.

