

Page 1: Kuki-Zo Highway Blockade & Protest (Manipur)

- **Blockade Ended:** Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) lifted the highway shutdown on NH-2 and NH-37 after burying a protester killed on March 8.
- **Reason for Blockade:**
  - Protest against alleged injustice and security force actions in hill districts.
  - Fear that free highway movement would weaken their demand for a separate administration.
- **Government Response:**
  - Home Ministry’s directive to ensure free movement on roads.
  - Security operations intensified to recover looted arms.
- **Political Efforts:** Naga MLAs and other groups met the Governor, seeking peace and rehabilitation for the displaced.
- **Key Takeaway:** Lifting of blockade is a temporary relief; deeper ethnic reconciliation and inclusive dialogue remain crucial.

Page 1: UN Accusation of Genocidal Acts in Gaza

- **UN Commission Report:**
  - Alleges Israel destroyed reproductive healthcare facilities in Gaza and used sexual violence as a war tactic.
  - States such acts fall under “genocidal acts” per the Rome Statute and Genocide Convention.
- **Israel’s Response:** Prime Minister Netanyahu rejects the report as “biased” and “antisemitic.”
- **Context & Legal Angle:**
  - Genocide Convention obligations and ICI’s earlier directive (Jan 2024) for Israel to prevent genocide.
  - South Africa filed a genocide case at the ICJ over Israel’s actions.
- **Significance:** Highlights ongoing international scrutiny and legal challenges related to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Page 1: Tamil Nadu Budget Logo Change

- **Change:** TN budget 2025-26 uses Tamil letter ‘ரூ’ (Roobai) instead of the national rupee symbol (₹).
- **Symbolism:** Slogan “Ellarkum Ellam” stresses inclusiveness.
  - Features a Sangam verse celebrating Tamil heritage.
- **Details:**
  - Official documents use ‘ரூ’ and “rupees” to avoid Devanagari.
  - Not seen as unconstitutional by officials.
- **Reactions:** BJP criticizes replacing the widely adopted rupee symbol designed by a Tamilian in 2010.



Page 8: ‘Acceptable Contrast’: Economic Performance & Inflation

- **Inflation Trends:** Retail inflation at 3.61% (7-month low), food inflation at 3.75% (2-year low).
- **Industrial Production (IIP):** Grew 5% in January (up from 3.55% in December), driven by infrastructure and intermediate goods.
- **Monetary Policy:**
  - RBI repo rate cut by 25 bps (6.50% → 6.25%), first cut in five years, to stimulate growth.
  - Dollar-rupee swap auctions to inject liquidity amid ₹2 trillion banking deficit.
- **Market Dynamics:**
  - Foreign investor outflows amid rupee depreciation and global inflation fears.
  - Equity mutual fund inflows down 27%, SIP accounts dropping.
- **Key Takeaway:** Low inflation offers relief; however, global factors and investor confidence remain key to sustained economic stability.

Page 8: India’s Choice Between Progress and Parochialism (Language Policy)

- **Context:**
  - RSS, some States advocating reduced English usage in favor of regional languages.
  - English remains vital for global education, law, technology, and jobs.
- **Global Comparisons:** China, South Korea, Vietnam emphasize English to boost competitiveness.
- **Implications for India:**
  - Bifurcated education system: private vs. government schools.
  - Lack of English proficiency can limit STEM and AI job opportunities.
- **Key Takeaway:** Balancing vernacular promotion with English proficiency is critical for global competitiveness and social equity.

Page 9: Is Learning Hindi as a Third Language Necessary?

- **Three-Language Formula (NEP 2020):** Mother tongue/regional language + Hindi (or another Indian language) + English.
- **Opposition:**
  - Tamil Nadu opposes compulsory Hindi, calling it a “Hindutva policy.”
  - Burden on non-Hindi states, teacher shortages, potential federalism concerns.
- **Debate Highlights:**
  - Yogendra Yadav (YY) & T.M. Krishna (TMK) emphasize linguistic diversity and the risk of Hindi imposition.
  - North India’s reluctance to learn southern languages.
- **Way Forward:**
  - Avoid one-size-fits-all.
  - Respect linguistic autonomy of states; promote multilingualism without compulsion.

Page 13: Finalize Norms Before Announcing Schemes (Parliamentary Committee)

- **Recommendation:** Schemes’ guidelines/documentation should be ready prior to Budget announcements.
- **Reason:** Prevent delays in fund utilization and repeated “parked” allocations.
- **Affected Schemes:** Urban Challenge Fund, Industrial Housing, PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, National Urban Digital Mission.
- **Key Takeaway:** Improves fiscal discipline and accountability, ensuring timely approvals and efficient public spending.

Page 13: SC on Vote Recount & Ballot Secrecy

- **Supreme Court Ruling:**
  - Ballot secrecy is sacrosanct; recount orders require strong prima facie evidence.
  - Each vote’s value must be protected, and arbitrary recount demands are rejected.
- **Context:** Dispute in UP Panchayat Elections (Chaka village).
- **Significance:**
  - Reinforces integrity of the electoral process.
  - Minimizes frivolous recount petitions and preserves democratic sanctity.

Page 14: ISRO Undocks SpaDeX Satellites (Space Docking Experiment)

- **Milestone:** ISRO successfully undocked two satellites in a 460 km orbit, making India the 4th country to achieve in-orbit docking/undocking.
- **Importance:** Essential for future space stations, crewed missions (Gaganyaan), and sample return missions.
- **Technologies Tested:** Autonomous docking, power transfer between spacecraft, in-space robotics.
- **Next Steps:** Further experiments post-undocking to refine docking tech and expand human spaceflight capabilities.



**BREAKING FREE.** The ISRO SpaDex de-docking paves the way for future missions such as Chandrayaan-4 and Gaganyaan

Page 14: Hubs to Develop Quantum Technology Made Operational

- **National Quantum Mission (NQM):**
  - Approved in April 2023 with ₹6,003.65 crore outlay over 8 years.
  - Four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) established in quantum computing, communication, sensing & metrology, materials & devices.
- **Funding:** Uttar Pradesh (₹28.7 crore), Maharashtra (₹3.34 crore), Karnataka (₹3.7 crore), Delhi (₹2.4 crore), Tamil Nadu (₹1.7 crore).
- **Implementation:** IIT-Kanpur as management coordinator; hubs at IISc-Bengaluru, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Madras.
- **Objective:** Develop indigenous quantum tech capabilities, HR training, industry & international collaborations.

Page 14: INA Veteran Celebrates 99th Birthday

- **Lt. R. Madhavan Pillai:**
  - Joined INA under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1943.
  - Role: Recruiting officer, fundraiser, and mobiliser in Burma.
  - Recognized as a freedom fighter by GoI in 1980.
- **Recent Event:** Laid wreaths at National War Memorial & Netaji statue on Kartavya Path.
- **Significance:**
  - Symbol of INA’s legacy in India’s freedom struggle.
  - Emphasizes continued respect for WWII-era veterans.

Page 15: Green Financing & Credit Risks (RBI Governor’s Statement)

- **Key Concern:** Lending to new, untested green technologies poses higher credit risk (limited track record).
  - **RBI’s Advice:**
    - Develop technical know-how and robust risk appraisal for such projects.
    - Calls for cohesive coordination among regulators, government agencies, and lenders.
  - **Wider Impact:**
    - Climate change risks extend beyond finance to real economy.
    - Emphasizes holistic approach for sustainable finance growth.
- RBI Governor has emphasised on developing strategies to better appraise risks in financing projects that use green technologies



- Impact of climate change risks is not limited to financial system, but extends to real economy
- A holistic approach needs to be adopted for mitigation of climate change risks
- Regulated entities should set up a pool via appropriate institutional arrangement to deal with the issue

KURSK: UKRAINE’S BARGAINING CHIP

Russian troops are close to ejecting Ukrainian forces from their foothold in Russia’s Kursk region. It is one of Kyiv’s few bargaining chips in swapping land with Russia, which has occupied around a fifth of Ukraine

**WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING?**  
On Aug 6 last year, Ukraine launched a major offensive in western Russia’s Kursk region, bordering Ukraine’s Sumy region, seizing 1,376 sq km and about 100 towns and villages  
The first invasion of Russian soil since WWII was an embarrassment for Putin, who has placed himself in a historic tradition of militarily successful Russian rulers  
From late Oct, North Korean troops began arriving in Kursk to fight alongside Russia  
Since then, Russian forces have recaptured nearly 90% of the territory

Russian-occupied Ukraine  
Sept 30, 2024  
Mar 11, 2025  
Mar 5, 2025

The Trump administration is urging Putin to accept a 30-day ceasefire that Ukraine has signalled support for. Putin’s surprise visit to Kursk underscores his resolve to expel Ukrainian forces before any negotiations

**MOSCOW RETAKES KEY TOWN OF SUZHDA**  
Russia said Thursday that it had taken full control of Sudzha town. Home to around 5,000 people before the fighting, it is the largest settlement Kyiv seized. Fighting continued in and around Sudzha

**IF UKRAINE LOSES KURSK, WHAT THEN?**  
Ukraine risks losing its Kursk gains—territory, morale, and bargaining power—Withdrawing after months of fierce fighting would further weaken Ukraine President Zelensky, already under pressure after his failed White House meeting with Trump on February 28

Page 16: Putin Backs Ceasefire Idea, Calls for More Talks

- **Context:** Russia-Ukraine war ongoing since 2022; U.S. proposed a 30-day ceasefire.
- **Putin’s Stance:**
  - Agrees in principle but insists on addressing root causes of conflict.
  - Concerned about verifying Ukraine’s surrender of weapons and preventing rearmament.
- **U.S. Role:** President Trump pushing for negotiations; Russia open to discussing terms.
- **Key Takeaway:** Diplomatic overtures exist, but significant hurdles (encircled Ukrainian troops, trust deficit) remain.

Science: Hantavirus

- **Nature:** Virus family causing HPS and HFRS with severe respiratory and renal complications.
- **Transmission:** Contracted through aerosolized droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents.
- **Symptoms:** Starts with flu-like signs (fever, aches) and can progress to acute respiratory distress.
- **High-Risk Groups:** Individuals in rodent-prone areas, vulnerable populations (children, pregnant women, immunocompromised).
- **Treatment:** No specific cure; supportive care with early intervention (oxygen therapy, ventilation).
- **Prevention:** Focus on rodent control and proper sanitation to minimize exposure.

