

THE HINDU REVIEW

Adda247

JULY 2026

CURRENT AFFAIRS
MONTHLY CAPSULE

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026



PM NARENDRA MODI
CONFERRED SEYCHELLES'
'GUARDIAN OF THE
BLUE HORIZON'



INDIA'S FIRST
HYDROGEN FUEL CELL TRAIN



GLOBAL TIGER DAY
2026 REPORT



ANCIENT BUDDHIST SITE
OF **SARNATH** INSCRIBED ON
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST



RBI'S NEW INTEGRATED
OMBUDSMAN SCHEME COMES
INTO EFFECT FROM 1 JULY



NEW EPF
WITHDRAWAL
RULES 2026



EXAM FOCUSED
ANALYSIS



MONTHLY
CAPSULE



FACTS &
FIGURES



COMPETITIVE EXAMS
SPECIAL

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Most Important Current Affairs of the Month

FIFA World Cup 2026 Awards: Full List of Winners

The FIFA World Cup in 2026 came to an end, and Spain was crowned the victorious title-holder after winning the match versus Argentina with a score of 1-0 in extra time. FIFA has announced its prestigious individual awards for the participants of the tournament. The majority of trophies were won by the winners of the tournament - Spain, where Rodri and Unai Simón received major awards for their achievements, while Kylian Mbappé managed to prove that he is one of the best scorers in the world by winning the Golden Boot. The awards helped to evaluate the players and their achievements in the tournament.

Spain Victorious at FIFA World Cup 2026 Awards

Spain has emerged as the utmost victor in the FIFA World Cup 2026 awards after its triumphant victory in the World Cup.

The country received three individual awards for three players who played key roles in Spain's phenomenal performance in the World Cup.

Spain won not only the tournament, but it has also recorded only one goal conceded during the whole tournament, breaking the record for the least number of goals.

The awards were due to Spain's terrific balance of defensive strength, midfield control, and tactical discipline under the leadership of coach Luis de la Fuente.

Rodri Secures Adidas Golden Ball

Spanish footballer Rodri awarded adidas Golden Ball for being the top player of the competition.

Rodri performed exceptionally throughout the competition. His excellent skills in ball control, accurate passing, alert defence, and great leadership were on show in all the eight games Spain played in the tournament.

It was his incredible performance that helped Spain in claiming the second FIFA World Cup title.

Golden Ball Winners

- Golden Ball: Rodri (Spain)
- Silver Ball: Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- Bronze Ball: Kylian Mbappé (France)

Kylian Mbappé Obtains the Golden Boot

Although France came out fourth overall, Kylian Mbappé yet once again demonstrated why he should be counted among the best forwards in the world.

He scored the overall highest number of goals during the competition, which were 10 in eight matches, and obtained the adidas Golden Boot as the tournament's top scorer.

His incredible performance in front of the net made history since he became the only player to win the World Cup Golden Boot twice in a row. He also holds the record for being the all-time top goal-scorer at men's FIFA World Cup tournaments with 22 goals scored in his career.

Main Players for the Golden Boot

- Golden Boot: Kylian Mbappé (France) – 10 Goals
- Silver Boot: Lionel Messi (Argentina) – 8 Goals
- Bronze Boot: Jude Bellingham (England) – 7 Goals

Unai Simón Wins the Golden Glove

Unai Simón, goalkeeper of the Spain national team, was awarded with the adidas Golden Glove trophy for his extraordinary performance at the FIFA World Cup.

Simón was able to maintain a clean sheet in and recorded a total of seven clean sheets throughout the tournament by keeping the net clean against Argentina in the final, which contributed significantly to the remarkable defence record of Spain.

Simón set an exceptional record for being without conceding a goal for around 650 minutes, emphasising the dominance of the Spanish defence in this tournament.

Pau Cubarsí Named FIFA Best Young Player

One of the brightest stars of the FIFA World Cup was Pau Cubarsí, defender of Spain, who received the FIFA Best Young Player Award from Aramco Company.

Despite being very young, Cubarsí showed excellent maturity, poise and tactical awareness in defence.

He was an instrumental player of the defence in the Spanish team, because they only conceded one goal during the tournament.

The award only proves that Cubarsí is one of the best young defenders in the world in football.

Netherlands Receives FIFA Good Behavior Award

The FIFA Good Behavior Award given by McDonald's was awarded to the Netherlands.

The winning team is recognized for its discipline, sportsmanship and respect towards others during the tournament.

This award is another indication of FIFA's commitment to principles of the good behavior along with competition success.

The List of Winners of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Awards

The winners of the team awards

- Champions: Spain
- Runners-up: Argentina
- Third Place: England
- Fourth Place: France

The Winners of Individual Awards

- The Adidas Golden Ball: Rodri (Spain)
- The Adidas Silver Ball: Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- The Adidas Bronze Ball: Kylian Mbappé (France)
- The Adidas Golden Boot: Kylian Mbappé (France)
- The Adidas Silver Boot: Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- The Adidas Bronze Boot: Jude Bellingham (England)
- The Adidas Golden Glove: Unai Simón (Spain)
- FIFA Best Young Player award: Pau Cubarsí (Spain)
- FIFA Fair Play trophy: Netherlands.

PM Narendra Modi Conferred Seychelles' 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential Distinction

Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred with the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential honor. Respectable President of Seychelles Dr. Patrick Herminie conferred this award on 28th June, 2026 to Indian Prime Minister. This recognition highlights the growing role of the PM Modi's in the areas like climate action, Blue Economy promotion, environmental conservation, and the sustainable development.

About the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential Distinction

The 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential Distinction is a prestigious civilian honour which is instituted by the Republic of Seychelles.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first recipient of this award, which recognizes exceptional global leadership in the,

- Climate action
- Environmental conservation
- Sustainable management of ocean resources
- Promotion of the Blue Economy
- Support for the small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- Sustainable development initiatives

The honour reflects the Seychelles appreciation of the international leaders who have contributed significantly to protecting the marine ecosystems and addressing global environmental challenges.

Why Was PM Narendra Modi Honoured?

According to the Government of Seychelles, the award was presented in recognition of the Prime Minister Modi's long-standing commitment towards environmental sustainability and the interests of the developing countries.

The honour acknowledges his contributions in promoting the,

- Climate action at the global level
- Sustainable ocean governance
- Blue Economy initiatives
- Green development
- Environmental conservation
- International cooperation for the Small Island Developing States

The recognition also showcases the India's expanding role in supporting the environmental resilience and sustainable development among island nations.

Environmental Initiatives Recognized by Seychelles

The honour highlights the several major initiatives launched or promoted under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)
- Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam
- International Big Cat Alliance

These initiatives collectively showcases India's strong emphasis on balancing economic growth with the environmental sustainability.

Strengthening India-Seychelles Relations

The award comes at that significant moment, as India and Seychelles are celebrating the 50 years of diplomatic relations. While accepting the honour, Prime Minister Modi dedicated this recognition to all nations who are committed to protecting the environment and combating climate change. He noted that the distinction would further strengthen the longstanding friendship between the India and Seychelles while reinforcing their cooperation in sustainable development and maritime security across the Indian Ocean Region.

PM Modi's Australia Visit Delivers 18 Major Outcomes, Deepening Defence, Energy, Technology and Education Ties

Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Australia has contributed to a major achievement in India-Australia relations, with 18 agreements and initiatives being unveiled at the Third Annual Summit between Australia and India. These agreements, which cover wide areas such as defence, maritime security, clean energy, critical technologies, education, skill development, research and cultural cooperation, indicate that this is one of the broadest expansions of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

New Phase in India-Australia Strategic Partnership

The summit has reaffirmed that the strategic significance of India-Australia ties is growing in complicated geopolitical circumstances.

Both countries agreed on the need for collaboration in defense, trade, technology, energy security, education and innovation while restating the commitment to the common vision of a free, open, inclusive and rule-based Indo-Pacific region.

The 18 results reflect the long-term intention to cooperate in matters crucial for regional stability and growth.

List of Outcomes During PM's Visit to Australia

1. Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation (JDDSC)
2. Maritime Security Cooperation Roadmap (MSCR)
3. India-Australia Joint Declaration on Energy Security
4. Finalization of the Administrative Arrangement of the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement
5. Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies, and Supply Chains (PACTS)
6. MoU between Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and MBC of Australia
7. Indian Military Officer in Australian Defence College (2028-29)
8. MoU on Mining and METS Center of Excellence
9. Flinders University Branch in Bengaluru
10. Letter of Intent between NCVET and ASQA
11. Restoration of Three Indian Artifacts
12. Starting of Rooftop Training Academy

13. MoU on Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership
14. MoU between Geoscience Australia and Geological Survey of India
15. Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Access Agreement
16. MoU between CSIR and University of Melbourne
17. MoU between SRFTI Kolkata and Griffith Film School
18. Victoria University Campus in Gurugram

Importance of These Initiatives

The outcomes resulting from the third India-Australia Annual Summit go beyond the concept of international cooperation. These agreements mean better cooperation in vital sectors, which include,

- Defense and Indo-Pacific security
- Switch to renewable energy
- Civil nuclear energy cooperation
- Artificial Intelligence and cybersecurity initiatives
- Mineral ministry cooperation
- Education and skill development cooperation
- Research
- Cultural heritage protection

These activities are aimed at to strengthening India's strategic relations and ensuring stability, technological progress, and sustainable growth in the region.

India's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train: Features, Safety, Route and Global Significance

Indian railways set to launch India's first Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train, the train was developed with domestic technology and with the assistance of the hydrogen ecosystem located in Jind, Haryana, the train that produces electricity on board with the help of hydrogen fuel cells with the only by-product being water vapour. The train can take around 2,600 passengers, all advanced multi-layer safety systems, along with nearly zero emissions, are installed on board the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train, which can be regarded as the India's movement towards clean energy provision and technological advancement in order to make the railway system greener.

About First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train in India

India's Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train is a next-gen railway vehicle that generates electricity onboard using the hydrogen fuel cells instead of conventional diesel engines or above-ground electric systems.

In comparison with the normal trains, hydrogen stored in the tanks onboard the train reacts with oxygen to produce electricity through PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) Fuel Cells.

This is used to operate the engines of the train, and the only output is steam, which makes it one of the cleanest technologies for the railways.

This project symbolizes a giant step towards the sustainable and low carbon transport in India.

What Makes This Train an Important Symbol for Indian Railways?

Indian Railways has made significant strides in to electrifying over 99% of its broad gauge network, which has substantially cut down the use of diesel.

The Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train enhances this transition even further by,

- Stopping carbon emissions during its operation.
- Generating electricity while on the board.
- Aiding India in transition to clean energy.
- Proving the capability the technology sector of the country possesses.
- Contributing to the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Creating a new possibility in supporting with the Net Zero goals of the country.

It marks a new era in the history of the railway propulsion system from steam to diesel, and now to electric and hydrogen propulsion system.

How Does a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train Function?

Instead of just utilizing fossil fuel combustion like diesel trains do, the train has a miniature power plant that is made up of the Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Fuel Cells.

The procedure is as follows the,

- Hydrogen from the storage tanks on the train enters the fuel cell.
- Oxygen is sourced from the air.
- Electrochemical reaction takes place.
- Electricity is generated.
- Electricity is sent to the traction motors.
- Only steam and heat are emitted as by-products.

Unlike the diesel engines, there is no fire, no emissions and no waste products.

To summarize,

- Hydrogen + Oxygen → Electricity + Steam + Heat

Technical Specifications of India's Hydrogen Train

The Commissioning of the new Hydrogen Train has been accomplished for the mass passenger transport from one place to other.

Key Features

- Train Structure: 10 cars
- Passenger Capacity: Approximately 2,600 passengers
- Power Cars: 2 Hydrogen Power Cars
- Trailer Cars: 8
- Power Production: 1,200 kW (1,600 hp) per Power Car
- Total Power: 2,400 kW
- Operating Speed: 75 km/h
- Maximum Design Speed: 110 km/h

This technology positions the hydrogen train to be bigger than other hydrogen passenger trains currently operating throughout the globe which generally consist of only two to four cars.

Route and Operations

Initially, this train will be running in the segment from Jind to Sonipat under the Northern Railway.

Major Stations in the Route

- Jind Junction
- Jind City
- Pandu Pindara Junction
- Gohana Junction
- Bhambhewa
- Butana
- Mohana
- Sonipat
- Sonipat New

The 89 kilometers section has been identified for the assessment of the performance, safety, and efficiency of the hydraulic passenger trains under normal railway conditions.

India's First Hydrogen Refuelling Facility in Jind

A major highlight of the project is the establishment of the largest hydrogen refuelling centre for trains in India at Jind in Haryana.

The integrated centre comprises of the,

Hydrogen Production

Hydrogen is obtained through electrolysis, the process of splitting the water into the hydrogen and oxygen with the help of electricity.

Hydrogen Storage.

The created hydrogen is stored in specially designed containers.

Compression.

Hydrogen is compressed by applying a pressure of around 500 b.

Refuelling

The hydrogen used to refuel the train comes from two dispensers operating at 350 bar at the same time so that both motor cars are refuelled.

Storage Capacity

The capacity of the centre is approximately of 3000 kg which is enough to cater to the regular needs for train operations.

Safety Approaches with the Advanced Multi-Level Systems

Hydrogen being highly combustible necessitates ensuring safety.

Indian Railways has put in the multiple independent safety mechanisms for the safety of people and its operations.

Main Safety Components

- Regular hydrogen leak detection.
- Flame detection devices.
- Smoke detecting devices.
- Heating monitoring devices.
- Hydrogen shutting off devices.
- Continuous ventilation aimed at avoiding gas accumulation.

- Fire prevention devices.
 - Water spraying systems.
 - Out of ordinary mode of operation.
 - Real-time monitoring systems within the cabin of a train.
- Altogether these sets of protective mechanisms follow the internationally recognized rule of defence in depth that provides for a comprehensive safety solution rather than relying on only one element.

Global Safety Regulations

The hydrogen ecosystem is also designed according to the world-wide accepted standards such as the,

- NFPA-2
- ISO 19880 Series

The system also meets the legal requirements provided by PESO.

The project has undergone the procedure of independent assessment of safety by a third party organization TÜV SÜD, Germany, which is widely recognized testing and certification authority worldwide before it is brought to actual work.

Global Tiger Day 2026 Report: India's Tiger Population Rises to 3,682; Tiger Reserves Increase to 58

On the occasion of **Global Tiger Day 2026**, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Shri Bhupender Yadav** highlighted India's remarkable progress in wildlife conservation over the past 12 years. Addressing the celebrations organized by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** in **New Delhi**, the Minister stated that **India's tiger population has increased to 3,682**, while the number of **Tiger Reserves has risen to 58** under the leadership of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

The event was attended by **Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh**, senior government officials, wildlife experts, frontline forest personnel, students, and other stakeholders committed to wildlife conservation.

India's Growing Success in Tiger Conservation

During his address, Shri Bhupender Yadav emphasized that wildlife conservation extends beyond protecting animals and involves building a harmonious relationship between people and nature.

He noted that over the last 12 years, India has witnessed significant growth not only in the number of tigers and tiger reserves but also in:

- Elephant Reserves
- National Parks
- Wildlife Sanctuaries
- Protected Areas
- Community Reserves
- Wetlands

The Minister attributed these achievements to sustained conservation efforts, scientific management, and increased public participation.

NTCA Launches Integrated Eco-Tourism Webpage

A major highlight of the event was the launch of the **NTCA Eco-Tourism Webpage**, an integrated digital platform that provides authentic information about all Tiger Reserves across India.

Key Features

- Direct links to official Tiger Reserve websites.
- Online safari booking information.
- Accommodation booking facilities.
- Promotion of responsible and sustainable eco-tourism.
- Easy access to verified information for visitors.

The initiative aims to encourage nature-based tourism while ensuring ecological sustainability.

Importance of Knowledge Sharing in Conservation

The Minister stressed that wildlife conservation is not limited to scientific data but also includes traditional knowledge, field experience, and the dedication of forest officials.

He encouraged wildlife officers and conservationists to document their experiences so that practical insights can contribute to future conservation policies and management strategies.

Capacity Building and International Cooperation

Shri Yadav highlighted the importance of continuous capacity building for forest officers by adopting global best practices.

He also emphasized the growing role of the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** in promoting international cooperation, knowledge exchange, and scientific collaboration for the conservation of big cats across the world.

NTCA Awards Presented

To recognize outstanding contributions in wildlife conservation, the **NTCA Awards** were presented to:

- Wildlife officers
- Forest officials
- Conservation professionals
- Frontline forest personnel

The awards acknowledged exemplary work in tiger conservation and protected area management across the country.

Nationwide Tiger Conservation Awareness Campaign

As part of the Global Tiger Day celebrations, NTCA organized a nationwide awareness campaign through **Eco-Clubs** under the Ministry's Environment Education Programme.

Special emphasis was placed on:

- Schools located near Tiger Reserves
- Student participation
- Wildlife awareness activities
- Painting competitions
- Sketching competitions
- Slogan-writing competitions
- Mask-making competitions based on the theme "Save Tiger"

Publications Released

Five important publications focusing on wildlife conservation and scientific management were released during the event:

1. **STRIPES – NTCA Outreach Journal (July 2026 Edition)**
2. **Security Audit Report of 24 Tiger Reserves**
3. **Habitat Suitability Assessment for Sloth Bears Across Tiger Landscapes in India**
4. **Tigers of the World** (Published by IBCA and Global Tiger Forum)
5. **The Rehman Khera Tiger** by Chandra Prakash Goyal and Satya Prakash Yadav

These publications aim to strengthen research, policy-making, and public awareness regarding wildlife conservation.

Background: Global Tiger Day

Global Tiger Day is observed every year on **29 July** to raise awareness about tiger conservation worldwide.

The day was established during the **St. Petersburg Tiger Summit (2010)**, where the **13 Tiger Range Countries** launched the **Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP)**.

The summit also introduced the ambitious **TX2 Goal**, which aimed to double the global wild tiger population by 2022.

Threats to Tigers

Despite conservation success, tigers continue to face several challenges:

- Poaching
- Illegal wildlife trade
- Habitat loss
- Habitat fragmentation
- Human-wildlife conflict
- Climate change

Today, wild tigers occupy **less than 8% of their historical range**, while three subspecies—the **Bali Tiger**, **Javan Tiger**, and **Caspian Tiger**—have become extinct.

Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath Inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List

Sarnath, an ancient Buddhist site located in Uttar Pradesh, made it to the UNESCO World Heritage List on July 25th, 2026, at the 48th Session of the World Heritage Committee which took place in Busan, South Korea. With this Sarnath is the 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site from India while also emphasizing its significance in terms of history, religion, and culture. It is widely known as the place where Gautama Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment, Sarnath has been symbolic of peace, wisdom, and spirituality for a span of 2500 years. This inscription adds to the rich heritage of India and adds even more significance to worldwide efforts to protect one of the holiest pilgrimage sites of Buddhism.

Sarnath Announced As World Heritage Site

The World Heritage Committee during its 48th meeting convened in Busan, Republic of Korea decided to inscribe Sarnath, Ancient Buddhist Site, on the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's World Heritage List.

Thus,

- Now India has 45 World Heritage Sites.
- Sarnath is on the list of the places with Outstanding Universal Value.
- The inscription acknowledges Sarnath's contribution to the history, culture, and religion of the world.

The UNESCO decision demonstrates the its efforts in protecting places of cultural heritage which belong to the whole mankind

What Makes Sarnath Significant?

The significance of Sarnath lies in its distinguished place in history regarding Buddhism.

Sarnath is where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta) after gaining enlightenment in Bodh Gaya in the sixth century before the beginning of the Common Era.

The significance of this event lies in the following,

- The beginning of the propagation of Buddhism.
- Establishment of Buddhist monastery (the Sangha).
- Basis of the Buddhist doctrine.

This is what makes Sarnath the fourth holiest Buddhist place after Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, and Kushinagar.

Sarnath's Historic Monuments

Centuries of transformation have seen kings, monks, and followers of Buddhism turn the city of Sarnath into a notable center of Buddhist scholarship.

The important monuments in the city include the following the,

Dhamek Stupa

Dhamek Stupa is the most well-known monument in Sarnath. The large cylindrical stupa was built at the location where the Buddha reportedly gave his first sermon, with elaborate stone carvings. It attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Dharmarajika Stupa

Currently in ruins, Dharmarajika Stupa is one of the oldest stupas in Buddhism and has traditionally been associated with Emperor Ashoka, who played an important role in the spread of Buddhism.

Chaukhandi Stupa

The Chaukhandi Stupa commemorates the event of the Buddha meeting with his first disciples prior to giving his first sermon. It marked a key incident in the history of Buddhism. These monuments represent what is known as the Deer Park (Mrigadava), the place where Buddhism began its journey as a world religion.

UNESCO's Recognition and Outstanding Universal Value

UNESCO has considered Sarnath as the noteworthy and deserving to be on the list due to the following reasons,

- Sarnath's association with one of the major religions.
- Its continuous importance for more than two millennia.
- Presence of the ancient and substantial artifacts honoring the Buddhist religion.

- Effect on philosophy, education, and pilgrimage throughout Asia.
- Bright future as the site will receive due attention and protection through UNESCO recognition.

UNESCO's Message About the International Value of Sarnath

After receiving the inscription, Tim Curtis, Director of the UNESCO International Bureau of South Asia, congratulated India and pointed out that Sarnath has been inspiring many Buddhist monks for two thousand years.

He observed that the temples, monasteries, and stupas of Sarnath are the imprints of kindness, intelligence, faith, and shared human heritage.

UNESCO also underlined the fact that the responsibility of safeguarding the site belongs to the current and future generations.

RBI's New Integrated Ombudsman Scheme Comes into Effect from 1 July: Key Features, Complaint Process and Benefits

From 1st of July, 2026, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has implemented the its revamped Integrated Ombudsman Scheme. This scheme introduced to strengthened framework for resolving the customer complaints against the financial entities. It replacing the 2021 scheme and this new mechanism aims to provide a free, faster, transparent grievance redressal system.

What Is the RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme?

The Integrated Ombudsman Scheme is the RBI's unified grievance redressal mechanism for the customers of the regulated financial institutions.

This scheme enables the customers to seek resolution of complaints related to the in service without approaching multiple authorities.

It follows the "One Nation, One Ombudsman" principle and it ensuring that the are processed irrespective of the customer's location or the location of the regulated entity.

This revised framework replaces the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 while the complaints filed under the earlier scheme will continue to be handled as per the previous rules.

Institutions To Be Covered

The new revamped scheme extends its coverage to the several categories of RBI-regulated entities, including the,

- Scheduled and commercial banks.
- Eligible Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
- Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuers.
- Credit Information Companies (CICs).

This wider coverage also allows more financial consumers to access the single and standardized grievance redressal mechanism.

How Does the Complaint Process Work?

The new framework outlines the clear step-by-step process for to lodging complaints.

Step 1: Contact the Regulated Entity

Customers must have to first submit their complaint to the concerned bank, NBFC, PPI issuer, or the credit information company.

Step 2: Wait for the Response

If the entity,

- Fails to respond within 30 days (or within a longer timeline prescribed by the RBI, NPCI, or applicable card network rules), or
 - Provides the response that the customer finds unsatisfactory,
- then the complaint can be escalated.

Step 3: Approach the RBI Ombudsman

Customers may file a complaint with the RBI Ombudsman within the 90 days from receiving the final response or after the response period expires.

This structured process encourages the regulated entities to resolve grievances at the first level while ensuring the independent avenue for unresolved cases.

Major Features of the Revamped Scheme

The revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme introduces the several important improvements such as,

- One Nation, One Ombudsman framework.
- Uniform complaint handling across India.
- Cost-free grievance redressal.
- Non-adversarial dispute resolution process.
- Expanded role of the Deputy Ombudsmen in examining complaints.
- Clearly defined maintainability criteria for complaints.
- Online and simplified complaint filing process.

The RBI has also released the comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to help the customers better understand the new framework.

Compensation Under the New Framework

Where the Ombudsman finds the deficiency in the service, it may,

- Directs the regulated entity to take the corrective action.
- And award compensation for the financial losses.

The compensation limits are the,

- Up to ₹30 lakh for the consequential financial losses.
- Up to ₹3 lakh for loss of time, expenses, harassment, and mental anguish.

New EPF Withdrawal Rules 2026: 3-Day Claim Settlement, 25% Balance Rule, Online Process & Latest EPFO Changes

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has introduced major reforms under the its new EPFO 3.0 digital initiative, and making the Provident Fund (PF) withdrawals faster, simpler and digital. These EPF Withdrawal Rules 2026 will bring the some o the significant changes which include 3-day claim settlements, a higher ₹5 lakh auto-processing limit, simplified withdrawal categories, and the a 25% minimum balance retention rule. Here is everything you need to know about the new EPF Withdrawal Rules 2026.

What Are the New EPF Withdrawal Rules 2026?

The EPFO has streamlined the withdrawal process, replacing the multiple withdrawal categories with a simplified structure and expanded digital services.

This new framework aims to make the partial withdrawals smooth and easier, while ensuring that employees to retain some portion of their retirement savings until retirement or final settlement..

Major Highlights of EPF Withdrawal Rules 2026

3 Day Online Claim Settlement

The eligible online PF advance claims with the Aadhaar-linked and verified KYC will now be processed within just three working days, and this significantly reduces the earlier processing period of around 7 to 20 days.

Mandatory 25% Balance Retention

As per the new rules, employees must retain at least 25% of their total EPF balance while they remain employed.

12-Month Uniform Service Requirement

Previously, , different withdrawal purposes required around 3 to 7 years of service; now most partial withdrawal benefits become available after completing 12 months of EPF membership and making the system more employee-friendly.

Three Simplified Withdrawal Categories

More than 13 separate withdrawal reasons have now been merged into the three easy-to-understand categories which are,

- Essential Needs
- Housing Needs
- Special Circumstances

Auto-Settlement Limit Increased to ₹5 Lakh

The limit for the automatic online claim processing has also increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh, it allows eligible claims below this amount to be settled without any manual verification.

Three New EPF Withdrawal Categories

1. Essential Needs

This category covers the important personal and family requirements.

Medical Expenses

Members can withdraw up to 100% of the withdrawable balance (subject to the mandatory 25% balance retention) for the treatment of themselves or immediate family members. There is no restriction on the number of the medical claims.

Education

Employees can make up to 10 education-related withdrawals during their EPF membership. Eligible members can withdraw up to 100% of the withdrawable balance after completing the 12 months of service.

Marriage

Members can withdraw the funds for the marriage expenses up to five times during their career, but it is subject to eligibility conditions.



ALL EXAMS, **ONE** SUBSCRIPTION

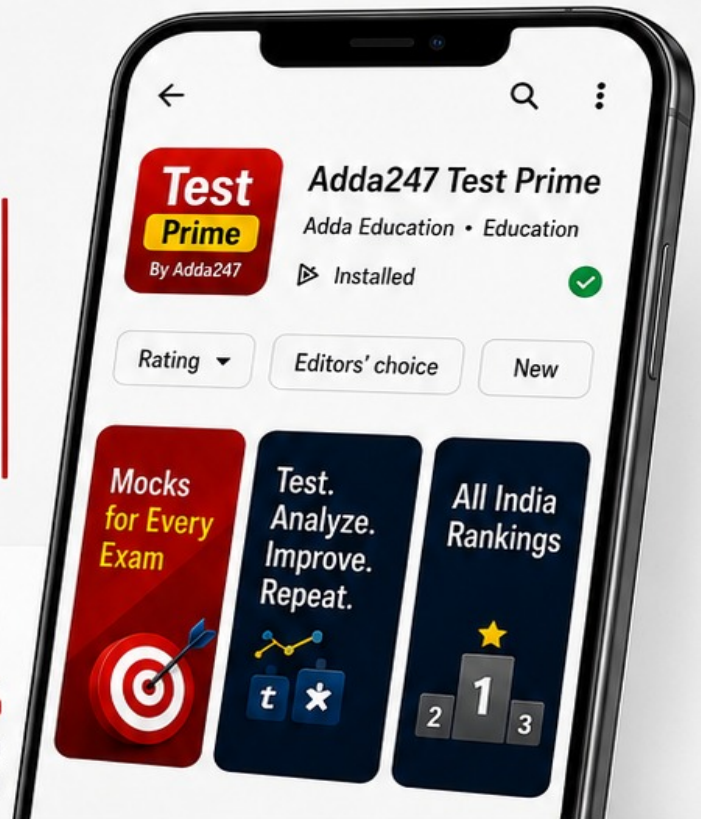


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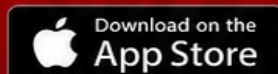
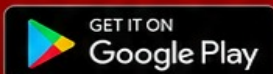


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2. Housing-Related Needs

Employees can withdraw their EPF savings for the,

- Purchasing land
- Buying a house
- House construction
- Home renovation
- Home loan repayment

Members can also claim housing advances up to five times during their EPF membership after the completion 12 months of service.

3. Special Circumstances

This category covers situations such as,

- Financial hardship
- Factory closures
- Emergencies declared by the EPFO Central Board

Eligible members can make up to total two withdrawals per financial year.

Understanding the New 25% Minimum Balance Rule

One of the major reforms under the EPF Scheme 2026 is the introduction of the mandatory retirement savings protection mechanism.

Employees cannot withdraw their entire EPF balance while they remain employed in a service.

Example

If your total EPF balance is ₹4 lakh,

- Minimum balance to remain in the EPF: ₹1 lakh (25%)
- Maximum amount available for the withdrawal: ₹3 lakh (75%)

The retained 25% continues earning the EPF interest until retirement or any final settlement.

How to Apply for EPF Withdrawal Online

Members can submit their online claims through the EPFO Member e-Sewa Portal.

Step 1

Log in using your,

- Universal Account Number (UAN)
- Password
- Captcha

Step 2

Verify that your KYC is complete.

And ensure the following are approved,

- Aadhaar
- PAN
- Bank Account

Step 3

Go to,

Online Services → Claim (Form 31, 19, 10C & 10D)

Step 4

Verify the users registered bank account.

Step 5

Choose PF Advance (Form 31).

Step 6

Select the withdrawal category and enter the total required amount within your eligible withdrawal limit.

Step 7

Authenticate the application via using the Aadhaar OTP sent to the registered mobile number.

Once it get verified, your online claim will be submitted.

Rules for Unemployment and Final Withdrawal

This revised EPF rules also clarify withdrawal after leaving the employment.

After One Month of Unemployment

Employees can withdraw up to 75% of their EPF balance.

After 12 Months of Continuous Unemployment

The remaining 25% can also be withdrawn through the final settlement.

Full EPF Withdrawal

Members can withdraw total 100% of their EPF corpus in cases such as,

- Retirement (age 55-58, as applicable)
- Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)
- Permanent disability
- Permanent overseas migration

Benefits of the New EPFO 3.0 Reforms

The latest EPFO reforms offer several advantages for employees,

- The faster online claim settlements.
- It will reduce the paperwork through Aadhaar-based verification.
- Easier access to the PF savings after just one year of service.
- Higher automatic processing limit of ₹5 lakh.
- Simplified withdrawal rules with fewer categories.
- Better protection of retirement savings through mandatory balance retention.

National News

Cabinet Approvals

1. Cabinet Approves Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)

The Union Cabinet approved the **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)** with a total outlay of **₹62,500 crore** to boost India's mobile phone manufacturing ecosystem. The five-year scheme, running from **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**, offers incentives ranging from **2.25% to 5%**

on eligible sales, along with additional incentives for domestic sourcing of key components and for design and R&D activities by Indian brands. The initiative aims to enhance domestic value addition, strengthen supply chains, increase exports, and establish India as a global electronics manufacturing hub. Under the scheme, India is expected to achieve mobile phone production worth **₹39 lakh crore** and generate around **60,000 direct jobs** during its implementation period.

2. Cabinet Approves Semicon 2.0 with ₹1.27 Lakh Crore Outlay

The Union Cabinet approved **Semicon 2.0** with a financial outlay of **₹1,27,500 crore** to accelerate the development of India's semiconductor design and manufacturing ecosystem. The programme focuses on six pillars—chip design, manufacturing equipment and materials, fabrication units (fabs), ATMP/OSAT facilities, research and development, and talent development. It aims to build on the success of **Semicon 1.0**, under which **12 semiconductor manufacturing units** have already been approved with investments exceeding **₹1.64 lakh crore**. The initiative seeks to position India as a global semiconductor hub while strengthening technological self-reliance, supply chain resilience, and advanced chip manufacturing capabilities.

3. Cabinet Approves Two Railway Multi-Tracking Projects in Odisha and Jharkhand

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved **two railway multi-tracking projects** worth **₹3,907 crore** covering Odisha and Jharkhand. The projects include **Paradeep-Haridaspur Doubling** and **Rajkharsawan-Dangoaposi Fourth Line**, adding around **145 km** to the railway network. Scheduled for completion by **2030-31**, the projects will improve connectivity to around **1,526 villages** with a population of nearly **14 lakh**, increase freight capacity by **44 million tonnes per annum (MTPA)**, reduce logistics costs, and cut carbon emissions while enhancing operational efficiency under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

4. Cabinet Approves National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026)

The CCEA approved the **National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026)** to encourage fresh investments in gas-based urea manufacturing plants and strengthen India's fertilizer self-sufficiency. Replacing the earlier **NIP-2012**, the policy introduces key reforms such as separate fixed and variable cost calculations, a **Return on Equity (RoE)** band of **12% to 16%**, and measures to reduce foreign exchange risks. The government estimates savings of more than **₹250 crore per plant** under the new framework. The policy aims to reduce India's dependence on urea imports by encouraging the establishment of new domestic production units.

5. Cabinet Approves BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme for Chemical Parks

The Union Cabinet approved the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan)** with a financial outlay of **₹3,030 crore** to establish **three dedicated Chemical Parks** across India. Implemented from **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**, the Centre will provide grants of up to **₹1,000 crore per park**, while states will contribute at least **₹500 crore**. Each park will span a minimum of **2,000 acres** and provide common infrastructure such as effluent treatment plants, hazardous waste management facilities, logistics hubs, steam networks, and water supply systems. The scheme aims to strengthen India's chemical manufacturing sector, boost exports, attract investments, and generate employment.

6. Cabinet Approves Ballari-Guntakal Railway Multi-Tracking Project

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the **third and fourth railway lines between Ballari and Guntakal** in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of **₹1,264 crore**. The project will add around **46 km** to the railway network and is expected to be completed by **2028-29**. It will improve connectivity for nearly **99 villages** with a population of about **7 lakh**, facilitate transportation of minerals and industrial goods, increase freight movement by **16.22 MTPA**, and reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions while improving operational efficiency.

7. Cabinet Approves 'Samudra Manthan' National Offshore Exploration Scheme

The Union Cabinet approved **'Samudra Manthan'**, the **National Offshore Exploration Scheme**, with a total outlay of **₹84,084 crore** to enhance India's offshore oil and gas exploration. The scheme includes large-scale seismic surveys, deepwater drilling, scientific exploration, offshore infrastructure development, and the establishment of an integrated oil and gas manufacturing ecosystem. It aims to unlock offshore energy reserves exceeding **600 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE)**, strengthen India's energy security, encourage domestic production, generate employment, and promote advanced offshore technologies in line with the vision of **Viksit Bharat**.

8. Cabinet Approves Revamped Khelo India Scheme

The Union Cabinet approved a revamped **Khelo India Scheme** along with enhanced **Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs)** with a combined outlay of **₹36,441 crore** for **2026-27 to 2030-31**. The expanded programme introduces a comprehensive athlete development pathway from grassroots to elite competition, significantly expands the athlete support ecosystem, strengthens school sports through **Khelo India Feeder Schools** and **Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas**, and enhances coaching, sports science, digital infrastructure, and international exposure. The initiative aims to prepare India for future global sporting events, including the **2030 Commonwealth Games** and the country's Olympic ambitions.

9. Cabinet Approves Continuation of PM-KISAN Scheme

The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme from **2026-27 to 2030-31** with a financial outlay of **₹3.15 lakh crore**. Under the scheme, eligible farmer families will continue to receive **₹6,000 annually** through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in three instalments. Since its launch in **2019**, the scheme has transferred over **₹4.47 lakh crore** directly into farmers' bank accounts, benefiting more than **9.49 crore farmers** under the latest instalment. The continuation aims to strengthen farmers' income, support agricultural investment, and improve rural financial stability.

10. Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)

The Union Cabinet approved the **Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)** with a total outlay of **₹5,070 crore** to promote **Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV)** projects integrated with Energy Storage Systems. The scheme targets the installation of **5,000 MW** of floating solar capacity along with **10,000 MWh** of energy storage between **FY 2026-27 and FY 2030-31**. It provides Central Financial Assistance of **₹1 crore per MW** and additional support for feasibility studies. The initiative aims to utilize reservoirs and water bodies for renewable energy generation, reduce around **10 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually**, create **16,000-17,000 jobs**, and strengthen India's clean energy infrastructure.

State-wise July Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- **Srikakulam Greenfield Airport:** To be developed under UDAN Scheme by AAI-APADC on 1,383 acres in two phases, complementing Bhogapuram International Airport.
- **Pillale Sampada Initiative:** Launched to encourage balanced population growth; includes Talliki Vandanam Scheme (₹15,000 per child), linked to Swarna Andhra 2047 vision.
- **Common Zoning Regulations (CZR) 2026:** Reduces land-use categories from 16 to 9; introduces negative-list zoning approach.
- **Mee Bhoomi-Blockchain Pilot Project:** Uses Hyperledger Fabric via NIC to modernize land records across 7 mandals and 89 re-survey villages.
- **Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, Bhogapuram:** Inaugurated by PM Modi (1 Aug 2026); ₹5,000 crore, built by GMR Group; commercial ops from 17 Aug 2026; first phase capacity 6 million passengers/year.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Emergency Helicopter Relief, Lower Siang:** Skyone Airways Mi-172 delivered 11.5 MT of supplies (Pasighat-Koyu) and evacuated 4 critical patients after floods/landslides.

Assam

- **Borjuli Biodiversity Heritage Site (Sonitpur):** Declared for in-situ wild rice (*Oryza rufipogon*) conservation via ICAR-NBPGR and Assam State Biodiversity Board.
- **Matcha Tea Production:** Assam becomes India's first state to commercially produce Matcha, manufactured at Chota Tingrai Tea Estate, Tinsukia, auctioned via GTAC.

Bihar

- **Mukhyamantri Bihar Heli-Tourism and Air Tourism Service Scheme 2026:** Subsidies up to ₹15,422/ticket; connects Patna with Rajgir, Valmikinagar, Maa Mundeshwari Temple from 18 July 2026.

Gujarat

- **Operation Surakshit Cyberspace:** 28-day cyber awareness campaign (1-28 July 2026) targeting cyberstalking, fraud, harassment.
- **Project SAMARTH:** ₹190 crore semiconductor training hub at IIT Gandhinagar, targeting 10,000 professionals trained over 5 years.
- **Inflatable Rubber Dams (Rajvasana & Pathakwadi):** South Korean tech, ₹162+ crore combined investment; SCADA-automated.
- **Viksit Gujarat - Data Centre Policy 2026-29:** Capital subsidies, power tariff support for AI/cloud/hyperscale data centres.
- **Unjha Cumin & Fennel GI Tag:** Granted to Mehsana district spices via Unjha APMC, SDAU, EDII.
- **e-Zero FIR System:** Launched 27 July 2026 to auto-convert 1930 helpline cyber fraud complaints into e-FIRs.
- **Shipbuilding and Repair Policy 2026:** ₹27,000+ crore expected investment; two Mega Shipbuilding Parks plus Porbandar Greenfield Cluster.
- **Kalpasar Project (Gulf of Khambhat):** 64-km dam creating ~13,000 MCM freshwater reservoir; irrigation to ~10 lakh hectares; 2,470 MW hybrid renewable capacity planned.
- **Pithora Painting GI Tag:** Granted to Rathwa tribal mural art form.

Haryana

- **Yamuna Water Project (with Rajasthan):** Ends 30-year dispute; ~580 MCM water via pipelines to Sikar, Churu, Jhunjhunu.
- **Sirsa Kinnow GI Tag:** Haryana's first fruit GI tag, granted to Kharisuverian Farmer Producer Company.

Himachal Pradesh

- **GI Registration (8 new products):** Total GI tags now 17, including Spiti Seabuckthorn, Kinnauri Apple, Chamba Metal Art, etc.
- **Regulated Cannabis Cultivation:** Third state (after Uttarakhand, MP) to permit under NDPS Amendment Rules 2026; medicinal/scientific use only.

Jharkhand

- **AI Policy 2026-31:** ₹1,150 crore public investment; targets ₹10,000+ crore private investment, 50+ GCCs, 1,000 AI startups.
- **Jharkhand Film and Television Institute (JFTI):** MoU with SRFTI to establish state's first film institute in Ranchi.

Karnataka

- **Draft Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025:** Aligns with RERA; Apartment Owners Councils; 75% consent for redevelopment; applies to complexes with 8+ units.
- **India's First Government-Backed AI University:** Announced by CM D.K. Shivakumar at Google I/O Connect India 2026, Bengaluru.

Maharashtra

- **India's First Offshore Airport:** Approved by MADC in Arabian Sea off Palghar, near Uttan-Virar Sea Link.
- **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA):** ₹48 crore project digitizing legislative proceedings in Mumbai and Nagpur.
- **AI-Powered Bird Sanctuary:** ₹45 crore project at Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary for AI-based bird detection/monitoring.
- **PM-RKVY Second Instalment:** Maharashtra first state to qualify after utilizing 75%+ of ₹335 crore initial allocation.

Madhya Pradesh

- **Submer Group Investment:** Spain-based firm to invest \$2 billion (semiconductor facility + 1-GB data centre) at MP Tech Growth Conclave 3.0.
- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026:** MP becomes fourth state (after Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Assam) to approve UCC; STs/PVTGs exempt.

Odisha

- **Deep Sea Fishing Mission:** ₹2,295.45 crore (2026–2036) to boost Blue Economy; targets 2 lakh MT additional fish production, 50,000 jobs.
- **HCL Technologies AI Data Centre, Bhubaneswar:** ₹15,000 crore investment with Sarvam AI; Odisha Sovereign AI Park; 5,000 jobs by 2028.
- **Jagannath Temple Trademark:** SJTA secured trademark for 5 sacred names (Jagannath Dham, Shree Kshetra, Mahaprasad, Nilachakra, Koili Vaikuntha).

Rajasthan

- **Yamuna Water Project (with Haryana):** See Haryana entry.
- **State Water Plan 2047:** Integrates Jal Jeevan Mission, AMRUT 2.0, Atal Bhujal Yojana; ₹5,100 crore under AMRUT 2.0.
- **Mukhyamantri Yuva Suyog Platform:** Digital youth platform piloted in Bagru and Baran; integrated with MY Bharat Programme.
- **Bharat Taxi Cooperative Mobility Platform:** Launched in Jaipur; 8 lakh drivers, 41 lakh customers nationally; ₹5 lakh accident insurance for drivers.

Telangana

- **BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting:** India hosting 12th meeting in Hyderabad, 15–16 July 2026, chaired by Mansukh Mandaviya.

Tamil Nadu

- **Highest Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER):** 52.3% in higher education (2023–24) vs national average 30%; female GER 53.1%.
- **Secure Our City (SOC) Campaign, Chennai:** All 5 phases completed; free CCTV installation via Securecam India.
- **Madurai Banyan Tree:** 107th birthday celebrated; last surviving centenarian tree in Meenakshipuram.

Uttarakhand

- **Sixth Fully Literate State:** Under ULLAS programme/NEP 2020, joining Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, HP, Sikkim.
- **GI Products Gallery, Haldwani:** First such gallery; showcases 30+ GI products (Munsiyari White Rajma, Berinag Tea, etc.).
- **Elephant Radio-Collaring:** WII collaboration ahead of Haridwar Kumbh Mela 2027; Rajaji–Corbett landscape study.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Startup Policy 2026:** ₹1,000 crore Startup Fund; ₹15 lakh seed funding; targets \$1 trillion economy by 2030.
- **Data Centre Policy 2026:** Targets ₹2 lakh crore investment, 2 GW capacity; incentives for Bundelkhand/Purvanchal.
- **Jalalabad Renamed Parashurampuri:** Shahjahanpur town renamed, citing Lord Parashuram's birthplace association.
- **Highest Cyber Fraud Complaints:** UP reported 1.85 lakh complaints (highest nationally) in H1 2026.
- **Kaushal Setu & Kaushal Sarathi:** Digitizes training centre registration and connects students to jobs; AI/robotics/textiles partnerships.

July Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- **The Ministry of Law and Justice** launched the **Fresh Application Module** on the **Notary Portal** to enable eligible advocates and legal practitioners to apply online for appointment as **Notary Public** under the **Notaries Act, 1952** and **Notaries Rules, 1956**. Developed with the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, the portal provides **paperless applications, automated scrutiny, real-time tracking, and transparent processing**, reducing delays and paperwork. Applications will be invited based on vacancies and regional requirements. The initiative strengthens **Digital India** by improving **efficiency, accessibility, transparency, accountability**, and modernizing legal administration across the country.
- **The National Health Authority (NHA)** launched **Ayushman Sarathi**, a **WhatsApp-based chatbot** to simplify access to services under **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY**. Beneficiaries can verify eligibility, apply for and download **Ayushman Cards**, complete **e-KYC**, link **Aadhaar**, locate **empanelled hospitals**, track grievances, and submit feedback through secure **API integration**. The chatbot operates **24×7**, reducing dependence on physical government offices while ensuring faster and transparent service delivery. The initiative promotes **Digital India, paperless governance**, improved healthcare accessibility, efficient administration, and citizen-centric digital healthcare services for millions of beneficiaries nationwide.

- The Government of India launched the **Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)** to strengthen healthcare for children from **birth to 36 months** by integrating newborn and early childhood health services. The programme prioritizes **low birth weight, malnourished, premature,** and developmentally vulnerable children through additional home visits, early screening, regular monitoring, and timely referrals by frontline workers. It also promotes awareness about **nutrition, breastfeeding, child development,** and reduced screen exposure. Integration with digital health platforms enables continuous monitoring, aiming to improve child survival, healthy development, and community-based healthcare delivery.
- The Government of India established the **Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)** under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** to strengthen **maritime and cyber security**. Modeled on the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**, BoPS will function under the **Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA)** as the apex authority for port and ship security. The **CISF** has been designated as the **Recognised Security Organisation** for security assessments, planning, and training. The initiative enhances surveillance, intelligence sharing, cyber resilience, regulatory compliance, and protection of India's critical maritime infrastructure.
- **Bharat Taxi** was launched in **Gujarat** by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** on **27 June 2026** as a **cooperative-based ride-hailing platform** under the vision of "**Sahakar Se Samridhi**." Unlike private aggregators, drivers (**Sarathis**) become shareholders, ensuring ownership, higher earnings, insurance, loans, welfare, and transparency. The platform supports **two-wheelers, auto-rickshaws, and taxis**. Over **7 lakh Sarathis** and **37 lakh customers** are already connected. Initially launched in Gujarat, it aims to expand to **seven cities by July 31** and **500+ cities within two years**, with support from major cooperative and transport institutions.
- **Gujarat** launched the **PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT)** and **Health Passport** as a pilot project on **28 June 2026** to strengthen **maternal and child welfare**. The digital platform tracks beneficiaries from **pregnancy to 16-18 years**, integrating **health, education, nutrition, birth and death registration,** and welfare databases. It generates automatic alerts for **missed vaccinations** and **school dropouts**, enabling timely government intervention. Connected departments include **Health, Women and Child Development,** and **Education**. Supporting **Viksit Gujarat @2047** and **Viksit Bharat @2047**, it marks a significant step toward integrated **digital governance** and welfare delivery.
- The **Union Health Ministry** launched **e-Sushrut@Clinic**, a cloud-based **Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** developed by **C-DAC** for **primary health centres, sub-centres, and small outpatient clinics**. Unveiled by **Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda** on **29 June 2026**, it digitizes **patient registration, billing, MIS reporting,** and offers **speech-to-text documentation** with **clinical decision support**. Supported by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** through cloud hosting and SMS services, it integrates with the **Health Professional Registry (HPR)** and **Health Facility Registry (HFR)**. Over **800 health facilities** have already been onboarded.
- The Government of India launched the **FCRA 2.0 Portal** and **e-Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) Card** on **30 June 2026** to strengthen digital governance. Introduced by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**, the **FCRA 2.0 Portal** enables online registration, renewal, compliance monitoring, **Aadhaar authentication,** e-signatures, OCR verification, and integration with **PAN, NGO Darpan,** and **UDIN**. The **e-OCI Card** digitizes Overseas Citizen of India services through online updates and digital records while retaining the validity of existing OCI cards, improving transparency, efficiency, and citizen-centric governance.
- **Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the nationwide **Viksit Bharat – G-RAM G Act** from **Andhra Pradesh**, introducing a legal guarantee of **125 days** of wage employment annually for every eligible rural household. Replacing the previous **100-day** employment guarantee, the scheme provides unemployment allowance if work is unavailable. The Centre will contribute over **₹95,000 crore** in the first year, with long-term investment of **₹7.5 lakh crore**. **Gram Sabhas** will lead development planning, while **Andhra Pradesh** received **₹7,707 crore, 74,212 PMAY-G houses,** and major **PMGSY-IV** infrastructure projects.
- **UIDAI** has introduced a free **Email Update Service** through the **Aadhaar App**, allowing users to add or update their email ID digitally without visiting an **Aadhaar Seva Kendra**. Available free for six months from **1 July 2026**, the service enhances convenience, security, and transparency by sending real-time notifications for **Aadhaar authentication**. Within two days, over **2.5 lakh** users updated their email IDs. The app also supports mobile number, address, and other eligible updates, reflecting growing adoption of **Digital India** initiatives and improving citizen-centric digital governance across India.
- The Government launched the **e-OCI Card**, enabling eligible **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** cardholders to carry a secure digital version of their OCI card on smartphones. Accessible through the **OCI Services Portal**, it simplifies travel documentation by allowing digital verification by immigration authorities and airlines. The government clarified that the physical OCI booklet remains fully valid, while the digital version is optional. The initiative strengthens **Digital Governance**, enhances travel convenience, reduces document loss risks, and improves accessibility for millions of OCI cardholders worldwide.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) Facility** at **Sanand, Gujarat**, under the **Semicon India Programme**. The facility strengthens India's semiconductor ecosystem by supporting chip packaging, assembly, testing, and quality assurance. Developed through collaboration with **India, Japan, and Thailand**, it will initially manufacture **20 crore semiconductor units annually**, with plans to increase capacity to **500 crore units**. The project supports **high-tech manufacturing**, reduces import dependence, promotes **self-reliance**, and advances India's ambition of becoming a **global semiconductor hub**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's first **greenfield refinery-cum-petrochemical complex** at **Pachpadra, Rajasthan**, developed with an investment of **₹79,450 crore** by **HPCL** and the **Government of Rajasthan**. The facility has a **9 MMTPA crude refining capacity** and **2.4 MMTPA petrochemical production capacity**, producing fuels and petrochemical products. The project will reduce **petrochemical imports**, strengthen **energy security**, generate employment, and support downstream industries. It also promotes the **Petrochemical and Plastic Park**, transforming western Rajasthan into a major industrial and manufacturing hub.
- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched **Tribex**, India's first dedicated **digital learning platform** for **tribal arts, culture, languages, and traditional knowledge**. Inaugurated by **Jual Oram** in **Bhubaneswar**, the platform currently offers **20 free certificate courses** and plans to expand beyond **100 courses**. It also introduces **UGC-recognised postgraduate diploma programmes** in tribal studies, museology, textiles, and sustainable livelihoods. Supported by an **MoU with Sampurnanand Sanskrit University**, **Tribex** promotes **digital documentation**, research, skill development, employment opportunities, and preservation of India's rich tribal heritage.
- **IIM Bangalore** announced its **first overseas campus** at the **Singhasari Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** in **Malang, Indonesia**, under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**. Developed through an **MoU with PT Intelegensia Grahatama**, the project will begin with **executive education and leadership programmes**, followed by full **management degree courses**. Academic focus includes **Artificial Intelligence, Digital Transformation, Healthcare Management, Climate and Sustainability, and Global Supply Chain Management**. The initiative strengthens **India-Indonesia educational cooperation** and expands the global presence of Indian higher education institutions.
- India has become the **world's largest Retail and FMCG Global Capability Centre (GCC) hub**, hosting **180 GCCs** employing over **2.72 lakh professionals**. Major companies including **Walmart, Tesco, Target, H&M, L'Oréal**, and **Lowe's** operate technology, analytics, finance, and supply-chain centres in India. **Bengaluru** leads GCC employment, followed by **Delhi NCR** and **Hyderabad**. Rapid adoption of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** has increased demand for specialists in **Large Language Models (LLMs), GenAI Ops, MLOps, and data analytics**, strengthening India's position as a global technology and innovation hub.
- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** launched **CITES 2.01 (Centralised IT Enabled Services)**, migrating nearly **340 million member accounts** to a unified national platform. Introduced by **Mansukh Mandaviya**, the system enables **centralised claim processing, real-time tracking**, and faster digital services through a single portal. The **EPF interest rate** for **FY2025-26** remains **8.25%**, while the **auto-settlement limit** has increased from **₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh**. Future features include **UPI-based PF withdrawals** and withdrawal of up to **75% of PF balance**.
- Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **PRAGATI (Promoting Regenerative Agriculture, Growth, Agri-Entrepreneurship and Transformative Innovation)** initiative to strengthen **sustainable agriculture** and rural livelihoods. The programme aims to develop **20,000 agri-entrepreneurs** and benefit **20 lakh small and marginal farmers** through **regenerative farming, digital technologies, soil testing, mechanisation, and financial literacy**. Initially covering **eight states**, the initiative is supported by organizations including the **PepsiCo Foundation, SBI Foundation, and Gates Foundation**, promoting climate-resilient and technology-driven agriculture.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict** at **WII-SACON, Coimbatore**. The centre will serve as a national hub for **research, policy support, capacity building, and innovation** to address **human-wildlife conflicts**. It will use **Artificial Intelligence (AI), satellite mapping, and predictive analytics** for conflict mitigation. The **National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal** and a status report on wildlife conflicts were also launched, promoting **scientific conservation, evidence-based policymaking, and protection of both wildlife and human communities**.
- Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated the **Mannam Smriti Mandapam** and unveiled the statue of **Mannathu Padmanabhan** at the Mannam International Centre in New Delhi. The memorial honours the renowned **social reformer, freedom fighter, and founder of the Nair Service Society (NSS)**, who worked for **education, equality, and social upliftment**. The Vice President praised his vision of **justice, dignity, and inclusiveness**, saying it transcended caste and regional boundaries. He also participated in the **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam** campaign by planting a sapling, promoting **environmental conservation** and community service.

- **MeitY**, in collaboration with the **Drone Federation India (DFI)**, launched **NIDAR 2.0** under the **SwaYaan Initiative** for **2026-27** to promote indigenous drone technology. The competition offers prizes worth over **₹65 lakh**, startup incubation, internships, cloud credits, and technical support. It includes **Drone Innovation** and **Component Innovation** tracks focusing on **autonomous drones**, **disaster response**, **medical delivery**, **GPS-denied navigation**, **indigenous flight controllers**, and **VEGA processor-based electronics**. The initiative supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat** by strengthening India's drone and semiconductor ecosystem.
- The Central Government plans to introduce the **Prevention of Insult to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026** during the **Monsoon Session of Parliament**. The proposed law seeks to extend legal protection to **Vande Mataram**, making its insult or obstruction a punishable offence, similar to the **National Flag** and **National Anthem**. The amendment will define the meaning of "insult" and "obstruction" while ensuring constitutional safeguards, including **freedom of speech**. The move recognizes the National Song's historic contribution to India's **freedom movement** and reinforces efforts to preserve **national symbols** and patriotic values.
- **Indian Railways** will introduce India's first **Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train** on the **Jind-Sonipat** route under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**. Powered by **Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM)** fuel cells, the train emits only **water vapour** and **heat**. Designed for around **2,600 passengers**, it includes a **3,000 kg hydrogen refuelling facility** at **Jind**. Developed using **indigenous technology**, the project supports **Net Zero** goals and promotes **clean mobility** and **sustainable rail transport**.
- The Government launched **Going Global: A Practical Guide for Indian MSMEs**, prepared by **CTIL-IIFT** and **CII**, to help MSMEs enter **international markets**. The guidebook covers **export planning**, **trade intelligence**, **market access**, **sustainability standards**, **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)**, **Rules of Origin**, and **trade remedies**. It aims to strengthen **MSME exports** by reducing trade barriers and improving export awareness.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Advanced Mother and Child Centre** and **Advanced Neurosciences Centre** at **PGIMER Chandigarh** and laid the foundation for a **150-bed Critical Care Block** under **PM-ABHIM**. The projects will strengthen **maternal care**, **pediatric services**, **neurology**, **neurosurgery**, **medical education**, and **research**. The Prime Minister also highlighted achievements such as **AIIMS expansion**, **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs**, **eSanjeevani consultations**, and new **medical colleges**.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated **Saushrutam 2026**, a three-day international seminar at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, **New Delhi**, on **15 July 2026** to mark **Sushruta Jayanti**. She also inaugurated the institute's **MRI section** and paid tribute to **Acharya**

Sushruta, widely regarded as the **Father of Surgery**. Highlighting his pioneering contributions to plastic surgery and surgical science, she emphasized integrating **Ayurveda** with modern scientific research and evidence-based medicine. The seminar encourages innovation, ethics, and global collaboration in **Ayurvedic research** while strengthening **Ayurveda's** role in modern healthcare.

- **Indian Railways** launched the **Reform Express** initiative, introducing eight major freight reforms to modernise logistics and improve freight efficiency. With this, **17 of the planned 52 reforms** have been completed. The reforms include simplified licensing for container train operators, expansion of containerised cargo movement, freight tariff rationalisation, and the **Rail Bhoomi Portal** for digitised land acquisition. These measures aim to lower logistics costs, encourage private sector participation, improve multimodal connectivity, and strengthen India's freight infrastructure while enhancing the competitiveness of rail transport.
- The Government launched **Going Global: A Practical Guide for Indian MSMEs**, prepared by **CTIL-IIFT** and **CII**, to strengthen **MSME exports**. The guide covers **export planning**, **trade intelligence**, **market access**, **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)**, **Rules of Origin**, **sustainability standards**, and **global compliance**. It addresses regulatory challenges, improves export awareness, reduces trade barriers, and enhances global competitiveness. The initiative aims to help **Indian MSMEs** expand into international markets and contribute significantly to India's export growth.
- The **National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026** was introduced in the **Rajya Sabha** on **24 July 2026** to provide statutory protection to **Vande Mataram**, India's **National Song**, under the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**. The proposed amendment seeks to place it under the same legal framework as the **National Flag**, **Constitution**, and **National Anthem**, while prescribing penalties for intentionally preventing or disrupting its singing. Introduced during the **150th anniversary celebrations of Vande Mataram**, the Bill recognizes its historic contribution to **India's freedom movement** and awaits parliamentary approval.

Miscellaneous National News

- **India** secured **five medals** at the **Global Skills Challenge Australia 2026**, winning **three gold**, **one silver**, and **one bronze** during the competition held from **23-29 June 2026**. Nearly **600 participants** from **16 countries** competed in preparation for **WorldSkills Shanghai**. Indian participants excelled in **cloud computing**, **additive manufacturing**, **health and social care**, and **digital game art**. The achievement reflects the success of the **Skill India Mission**, showcases India's globally competitive vocational talent, encourages youth participation in technical careers, and strengthens the country's reputation in international skill development.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first recipient of Seychelles' highest civilian honour, the "Guardian of the Blue Horizon" Presidential Distinction, conferred by President Dr. Patrick Herminie on 28 June 2026. The award recognizes leadership in climate action, Blue Economy, environmental conservation, ocean governance, and support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It acknowledges India's initiatives including International Solar Alliance (ISA), Mission LiFE, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, and the International Big Cat Alliance. Presented during the 50th anniversary of India-Seychelles diplomatic ties, it further strengthens bilateral cooperation in maritime security, sustainability, and regional climate resilience.
- During his Seychelles visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Seychelles National Botanical Gardens, where he met Jonathan, the world's oldest living land animal. Jonathan, a Seychelles giant tortoise, was born around 1832 and is recognized by Guinness World Records, with an age nearing 194 years. He resides on Saint Helena, a British Overseas Territory. Modi also planted a tree, highlighting environmental conservation, biodiversity protection, climate resilience, Mission LiFE, and Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam. The visit symbolized India's commitment to sustainable development and global environmental cooperation.
- The Union Health Ministry released the revised Anaemia Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan Guidelines 2026 on 29 June 2026, introducing a 7x7x7 strategy covering seven beneficiary groups, seven interventions, and seven institutional mechanisms. The programme adopts a life-cycle approach, includes low birth weight infants (0-6 months) as a new target group, and adds "Eating Right" to encourage iron-rich diets. The framework upgrades from T3 (Test, Treat, Talk) to T4 (Test, Treat, Talk, Track) and integrates JANANI, RBSK, and U-WIN platforms, strengthening anaemia prevention, monitoring, maternal health, and child nutrition nationwide.
- The Ministry of Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Google India Pvt. Ltd. in New Delhi to enhance the digital visibility of India's tourism destinations. Witnessed by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the agreement leverages Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital technologies, and data-driven insights to improve discoverability of cultural, historical, spiritual, and natural attractions. It supports personalized visitor engagement, travel trend analysis, digital marketing, and official training. The non-commercial, non-binding MoU strengthens the Incredible India campaign while promoting Digital India, sustainable tourism, and India's global tourism competitiveness.
- The Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025 came into force from 1 July 2026, replacing the earlier rural employment framework. The Act increases guaranteed employment from 100 to 125 days per eligible rural household and focuses on durable asset creation, water conservation, transparent governance, and sustainable development. The Government allocated ₹95,692.31 crore for nationwide implementation. It also promotes Self-Help Group (SHG) participation, women's empowerment, technology-driven execution, and improved rural infrastructure. Existing beneficiaries continue receiving benefits without disruption during the transition.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) granted in-principle approval to restart the tiger reintroduction programme in Odisha's Satkosia Tiger Reserve after the unsuccessful 2018 translocation attempt. A 2024 assessment confirmed the absence of resident tigers and recommended habitat improvement before reintroduction. Spread across 1,136 sq km, including a 523 sq km core area, the reserve offers suitable tiger habitat. Recommended measures include village relocation, prey base enhancement, anti-poaching initiatives, staff training, and conflict mitigation. The project aims to restore ecological balance, biodiversity, and a sustainable tiger population.
- The White-rumped Vulture (Gyps bengalensis) remains Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List following drastic population declines caused mainly by diclofenac, other harmful NSAIDs, contaminated carcasses, electrocution, habitat loss, and urbanization. As vital scavengers, vultures prevent disease spread by removing animal carcasses. India is expanding captive breeding programmes, planning the release of over 700 vultures, while banning harmful veterinary drugs like ketoprofen and nimesulide. Conservation efforts in Nepal and Cambodia, along with GPS tracking and satellite monitoring, support long-term species recovery.
- Under NEP 2020, India is transforming education through the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR). Managed by the University Grants Commission (UGC), ABC enables students to store, transfer, accumulate, and redeem academic credits across institutions. APAAR, a 12-digit lifelong student ID, integrates school and higher education records with DigiLocker and ABC. Together, they support Multiple Entry and Exit, academic mobility, online learning through SWAYAM, and flexible degree completion, creating a unified, transparent, and student-centric education ecosystem.

- The **Union Cabinet** approved **two highway projects** worth **₹14,114.81 crore**, including an **8.1-km six-lane tunnel** in **Delhi** and the **117.7-km Kanpur-Kabrai Greenfield Highway** in **Uttar Pradesh**. The Delhi tunnel, built under the **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)**, will connect **Dwarka Expressway** with **Nelson Mandela Marg** through a **3.14-km twin-tube tunnel** beneath the **Southern Ridge Forest** using **Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM)** technology. The highway, developed by **NHAI** under the **BOT model**, will reduce travel time from **3.5 hours to 1.5 hours**, improve connectivity, and generate employment.
- The **Southern Birdwing (Troides minos)**, India's **largest butterfly** and the **state butterfly** of **Karnataka**, has been recorded for the **first time in Telangana** at the **Amrabad Tiger Reserve**. Belonging to the **Papilionidae** family and endemic to **South India**, it is primarily found in the **Western Ghats** and is listed as **Least Concern** on the **IUCN Red List**. The sighting in the **Nallamala Hills** of the **Eastern Ghats** enriches Telangana's biodiversity records and highlights the ecological significance of the **Amrabad Tiger Reserve**.
- The **Government of India** directed **Meta** to temporarily suspend the rollout of **WhatsApp's username feature** and submit a detailed explanation within **three days**. The feature would allow users to communicate through **unique usernames** instead of mobile numbers, enhancing privacy. However, the government raised concerns regarding **privacy safeguards, identity verification, cybersecurity, traceability, impersonation risks, phishing, fraud prevention, and compliance with Indian laws**. Until consultations conclude, Meta has been instructed not to launch the feature in India, ensuring stronger digital governance and user protection.
- reflecting stronger domestic production and the Government's import substitution strategy. **Power sector imports** dropped **24.89%**, while **Imported Coal-Based (ICB)** plants recorded the steepest decline of **27.45%**. Imports for **Domestic Coal-Based (DCB)** plants also decreased **11.26%**. Coal imports' share in total consumption fell from **21.69%** to **19.68%**, whereas **coking coal imports** rose **1.34%** due to steel demand. Improved logistics, first-mile connectivity, and domestic supply strengthened energy security.
- **MANAS (Madak Padarth Nishedh Asoochna Kendra)**, India's **National Narcotics Helpline**, strengthens the vision of **Nasha Mukh Bharat** by enabling citizens to anonymously report drug trafficking, peddling, and illegal cultivation. Launched by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** under the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** with the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**, it operates through the **1933 helpline, UMANG app, web portal, and email**. The platform also links callers to the **14446 de-addiction helpline**, offering counselling, rehabilitation support, multilingual services, chatbot integration, Smart IVRS, and stronger coordination with anti-narcotics agencies nationwide.
- **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with **PwC**, released the **"Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global"** outlining a phased vision up to **2047**. The roadmap seeks to establish **Ayurveda** as an evidence-based global healthcare system through international clinical trials, annual safety reports, scientific validation, and modernization of the **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)**. It proposes a patent-watch system, global Ayurveda centres in **Geneva, New York, and Tokyo**, and medical value travel zones. With **Ayush exports** doubling between **2014 and 2023**, the roadmap supports global market expansion under institutional governance led by the **Minister of Ayush**.
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** issued notices to **Telegram** and **Signal**, following an earlier notice to **WhatsApp**, regarding their **username-based communication** features. The Government expressed concerns that anonymous usernames could facilitate **fraud, phishing, impersonation, and digital arrest scams**. Platforms were asked to explain security safeguards, identity verification mechanisms, and misuse prevention within **three days**. Meanwhile, **Zoho-backed Arattai** decided to disable username-based accounts. The move reflects India's focus on strengthening **digital governance**, user accountability, cybersecurity, and compliance with national regulations.
- **ACME Group** signed a nearly **US\$1 billion** agreement with **Mitsubishi Gas Chemical (MGC)** to supply **100,000 tonnes of Green Methanol** annually from its upcoming **Paradip, Odisha** facility. The fuel, produced using **Green Hydrogen** and captured carbon dioxide, will support Japan's shipping sector while meeting **EU RFNBO** and future **IMO** standards. The deal strengthens **India-Japan Clean Energy Cooperation**, supports the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, secures a long-term export market, promotes sustainable fuels, and boosts India's leadership in green energy and global low-carbon supply chains.
- Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** unveiled India's first export-import shipping container manufactured for **A.P. Moller-Maersk** at **Dadri, Uttar Pradesh**. Maersk simultaneously placed an order for **1,000 additional containers** with **DCM Shriram Group**, marking a long-term partnership. The initiative supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**, while complementing the **₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)**. It aims to boost domestic manufacturing, technology transfer, employment, supply-chain resilience, exports, and establish India as a global hub for high-quality shipping containers.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's first **Greenfield Integrated Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex** at **Pachpadra, Rajasthan**, developed by **HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL)**. Built at an investment of over **₹79,450 crore**, the refinery has a capacity of **9 MMTPA** and integrates petrochemical production with refining. The project strengthens **India's Energy Security**, enhances petrochemical self-sufficiency, supports cleaner fuel production, creates employment, and produces value-added petrochemical products, marking a major milestone in the country's energy and industrial infrastructure development.
- **Japan** reaffirmed support for the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR)** project, targeting commercial operations on priority sections by **2027**. Built using **Shinkansen E10** technology, the **508-km** corridor is financed **81%** by **JICA** through a **50-year loan at 0.1% interest**. The first operational stretch between **Surat-Bilimora/Vapi** is expected by **15 August 2027**, while the full corridor is targeted for **2029**. The project enhances high-speed connectivity, technology transfer, economic development, and strengthens long-term **India-Japan Strategic Partnership**.
- The **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)** inducted its first **15 Global Biofuel Champion Fellows** in New Delhi. Selected from **32 countries**, each fellow will receive research funding of up to **US\$15,000** and serve as a **GBA Ambassador** for two years. Established during the **G20 Summit 2023**, the alliance now includes **34 countries** and **14 international organizations**. The fellowship promotes innovation in **Ethanol, Biodiesel, and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**, encouraging research collaboration, leadership development, and global clean energy solutions supporting sustainable transportation.
- India hosted the **BRICS Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies Meeting** in **Guwahati, Assam**, led by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. Delegates from the expanded **11-member BRICS** discussed challenges including **synthetic drugs, darknet trafficking, New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)**, and **cryptocurrency-based money laundering**. India presented its **Vision Document on Narcotics Control 2026-2029**, emphasizing **technology-driven investigations, border surveillance, intelligence sharing, and international cooperation**. The summit is expected to adopt a **Joint Declaration** to strengthen coordinated global action against transnational narcotics networks.
- India crossed **104 crore linked digital health records** under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**, connected to over **93 crore ABHA accounts**. The **Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)** is a **14-digit digital health ID** that securely links patients with **hospitals, doctors, laboratories, pharmacies, and insurance providers**. The initiative enables **paperless healthcare**, preserves complete **medical history**, and improves continuity of treatment. The government aims to expand the **digital public health ecosystem** by integrating healthcare facilities nationwide, ensuring **secure, accessible, and efficient digital health services** for all citizens.
- India registered **125 new Geographical Indication (GI) tags** during **2025-26**, raising the total to **822 registered GI products**. **Madhya Pradesh** led with **26 registrations**, followed by **West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, and Jharkhand**. The new registrations include **traditional handicrafts, agricultural products, tribal heritage, and indigenous knowledge**, helping preserve regional identity while improving exports and market value. **Handicrafts account for 53%** and **agricultural products 31%** of all GI registrations. The initiative strengthens protection of authentic regional products and promotes India's cultural and economic heritage.
- India ranked **125th** among **197 countries** in the **Global Passport Index (GPI) 2026**, despite achieving its highest-ever score of **45.1**. Published by **Global Citizen Solutions**, the index evaluates passports based on **mobility, quality of living, and investment opportunities**. India ranked **136th in mobility, 118th in quality of living, and 94th in investment potential**. Indian passport holders currently enjoy **visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to around 26 destinations**, while visas remain necessary for several major countries. **Sweden** secured the top position in the 2026 rankings.
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated the first export of premium **Areko cherries** and **Scentrose plums** from **Jammu & Kashmir** to the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. The **one-metric-tonne shipment**, sourced from **Shopian and Pulwama**, reached **Abu Dhabi and Dubai**. Farmers reportedly earned nearly **60% higher returns for cherries** and **120% higher returns for plums** compared to domestic markets. The initiative aims to expand India's **fresh fruit exports**, improve farmers' incomes, strengthen **horticulture exports**, and establish **Jammu & Kashmir** as a leading premium fruit-exporting region.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah** announced the establishment of a **Cooperative Life Insurance Company** and expansion of the **Bharat Taxi** platform to **500 cities** within two years during the **Ministry of Cooperation's fifth Foundation Day**. The insurance company aims to strengthen the **cooperative sector**, promote **financial inclusion**, and improve insurance access. **Bharat Taxi**, operating under a **cooperative model**, currently has **6.37 lakh drivers** and **35.77 lakh customers**. The initiative also promotes **organic farming, entrepreneurship through PACS**, and nationwide cooperative-led economic development and employment generation.

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** designated the **Natural History Museum (NHM), Mizoram University**, as India's **21st Designated Repository** under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**. Recommended by the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**, the repository preserves authenticated **biological specimens**, supports **species identification**, and strengthens biodiversity conservation. Located in the **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**, the museum houses over **500 specimens** covering plants, fungi, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes. The recognition enhances **biodiversity documentation**, ecological restoration, scientific research, and collaboration with regional conservation institutions.
- The **Union Government** extended two new **National Pension System (NPS)** life-cycle investment options to employees of **Central Autonomous Bodies (CABs)**. The **LC-75 High Fund** allows up to **75% equity exposure** for long-term wealth creation, while the **Aggressive Life Cycle Fund** provides about **50% equity exposure**, gradually reducing risk after **45 years of age**. Previously available only to Central Government employees, the options improve **retirement planning**, increase investment flexibility, align portfolios with individual financial goals, and enhance the attractiveness of NPS through the **Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA)** platform.
- **Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL)** in Tamil Nadu became India's **second port** after **Visakhapatnam Port** to achieve an **18-metre operational draft** following completion of the **₹440-crore Capital Dredging Phase VI Project**. The upgrade enables handling of fully loaded **Capesize vessels** carrying up to **1,70,000 DWT**, improving cargo capacity and operational efficiency. Enhanced channel depth, berth infrastructure, and navigational facilities will reduce **logistics costs**, improve **vessel turnaround time**, strengthen **EXIM trade**, and significantly enhance India's **global maritime competitiveness**.
- **Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra** signed a landmark agreement to resolve long-pending financial disputes related to the **Sardar Sarovar Project** and **Indira Sagar Project** under the **Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT)** Award. The agreement addresses **cost-sharing, rehabilitation expenses, land compensation, interest liabilities**, and pending dues among participating states. Signed in the presence of **Amit Shah** and **C. R. Patil**, it strengthens **cooperative federalism**, improves **inter-state water governance**, and supports sustainable irrigation, hydropower generation, and drinking water management across the Narmada basin.
- The Government approved nationwide implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)** scheme with an investment of **₹60,000 crore** over five years. The initiative will modernize **1,000 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** through upgraded laboratories, digital infrastructure, advanced equipment, revised curricula, and stronger placement support. It also establishes **five National Centres of Excellence (NCoEs)** using a **hub-and-spoke model**. The scheme aims to create an **industry-ready workforce**, strengthen vocational education, enhance employability, and promote industry-academia collaboration.
- India's **energy storage requirement** is projected to reach **888 GWh by 2035-36**, according to the latest **India BESS Market Review** and **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** estimates. The requirement includes **80 GW/321 GWh** from **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)** and **94 GW/567 GWh** from **Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs)**. Installed BESS capacity is expected to exceed **10 GWh** by 2026, while **lithium-ion cell manufacturing** may reach **110 GWh** by 2030. The expansion supports **renewable energy integration, grid reliability**, and India's long-term **clean energy transition**.
- India hosted the **13th ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee Meeting** in **New Delhi** to accelerate the review of the **India-ASEAN trade pact**. Representatives from all **10 ASEAN member states** discussed **Customs Procedures, Trade Facilitation, Market Access, and Rules of Origin** to strengthen regional trade. Co-chaired by **Nitin Kumar Yadav** and **Mastura Ahmad Mustafa**, the meeting assigned time-bound tasks for pending negotiations. **ASEAN** accounts for nearly **11% of India's global trade**, with bilateral trade reaching **USD 128 billion** during 2025-26.
- The **Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports (JIM & WS)** successfully completed a mountaineering expedition to the **Mt Khyam Tso Massif** in **Ladakh**. The team summited **Peak Pt 5901 m, Peak Pt 6090 m, Peak Pt 5944 m**, and finally **Mt Khyam-III (6,018 m)** despite extreme weather conditions. Expedition leader **Col. Hem Chandra Singh** also achieved the **first-ever paragliding flight from 5,600 metres**. The expedition showcased India's mountaineering excellence, technical expertise, and commitment to exploring the remote Himalayan region.
- **Jaipur** secured the **6th position globally** in the **Happy City Index 2026**, becoming the **only Indian city** in the global top ten. The ranking recognizes excellence in **governance, healthcare, education, mobility, environmental sustainability, innovation, and quality of life**. Jaipur's success reflects its balance between preserving **cultural heritage** and promoting **smart city development**, improved civic amenities, tourism, handicrafts, and economic opportunities. The recognition highlights India's growing emphasis on **sustainable, livable, and citizen-centric urban development**.

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- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** notified **Navi Mumbai International Airport** as India's **42nd designated drug import port** under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**. The notification strengthens the country's pharmaceutical import infrastructure by providing an additional regulated entry point for medicines. Issued after consultation with the **Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)**, the decision improves **healthcare logistics**, enhances **supply chain efficiency**, reduces congestion at existing ports, and strengthens regulatory oversight while supporting India's growing pharmaceutical sector.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, accompanied by Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto**, visited the **Prambanan Temple Complex** in **Yogyakarta** and launched an **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** restoration project. The **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, built in the **9th century**, is Indonesia's largest **Hindu temple complex**, dedicated to the **Trimurti—Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma**. The restoration project symbolizes centuries-old **India-Indonesia cultural ties**, strengthens heritage conservation, and promotes bilateral cooperation in preserving historic monuments and shared civilizational traditions.
- India launched the **Letter of Authorisation (LoA) regime** to promote **sustainable deep-sea fishing**, strengthen the **Blue Economy**, and improve fishermen's livelihoods. The framework allows regulated fishing in the **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** and high seas, reducing pressure on coastal fisheries while expanding seafood exports. Supporting **Fish Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs)** and cooperatives, the initiative enhances marine resource management. Simultaneously, **Odisha** launched the **Deep Sea Fishing Mission 2026–2036** with **₹2,295.45 crore** to develop fisheries infrastructure, aquaparks, export facilities, and modern markets, boosting India's marine economy and sustainable fisheries growth.
- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** discovered **thorium-bearing deposits** in **Gundlupet, Karnataka**, spread across nearly **700 acres**, with **20 acres** identified for mining. Found in **monazite**, the deposits contain **thorium, rare earth elements**, and uranium. Thorium can produce **uranium-233**, making it an important future **nuclear fuel**. India already possesses among the world's largest thorium reserves. The discovery strengthens strategic mineral security, supports future **advanced nuclear reactors**, and enhances resource assessment. Operating under the **Ministry of Mines**, GSI continues geological exploration to advance India's long-term nuclear energy programme.
- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** will establish India's first **Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research** at **Keylong, Himachal Pradesh**. The centre will research **altitude physiology, acute mountain sickness (AMS), HAPE, HACE**, disaster medicine, climate-sensitive diseases, maternal health, nutrition, and mental health. It will use **telemedicine, drone-based healthcare**, digital surveillance, and collaborate with **DRDO, AFMS**, and academic institutions. Located above **2,500 metres**, the facility will strengthen healthcare, emergency response, and scientific research in India's Himalayan and border regions through advanced mountain medicine.
- The **AISHE Reports 2022–23 and 2023–24** revealed record **higher education enrolment** of **4.5 crore**, rising **31.5%** since 2014–15. The **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** increased to **30**, while **female enrolment** reached **2.24 crore** with a **GER of 31.2**. The **Gender Parity Index (GPI)** remained above **1.08** for the seventh consecutive year. **STEM enrolment** crossed **one crore**, with women forming **44%** of students. Faculty strength reached **17.32 lakh**, reflecting progress under **NEP 2020** toward inclusive, quality-driven higher education and expanded access nationwide.
- **NABARD** facilitated **Geographical Indication (GI)** registration for **28 new products**, increasing its total supported GI products to **176**. The newly registered items include **handicrafts, handloom textiles, bamboo crafts, pottery, paintings, and musical instruments** from several states. Governed by the **Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999**, GI protects products linked to specific regions. NABARD has also established **GI Facilitation Centres** and a **GI Store**, benefiting over **13,000 artisans** and creating more than **50,000 direct employment opportunities**.
- The **Union Health Ministry** amended the **Drugs Rules, 1945** to strengthen regulation of **alcohol-based medicinal formulations**. Products containing more than **12% v/v ethyl alcohol** in quantities above **30 ml** will now require manufacturing and sale licences under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**. These medicines have been included under **Schedule H1**, making them **prescription-only drugs** with mandatory pharmacy records. The revised rules aim to prevent misuse of medicinal products as intoxicants while ensuring legitimate medical use from **January 2027**.
- The **Department of Posts (DoP)** and **TRAI** signed an MoU to conduct India's largest **rural telecom network performance survey** covering **5.68 lakh villages**. Using an **Android-based application, Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDSs)** will assess mobile services of **Airtel, Jio, Vodafone Idea, and BSNL** across all states and Union Territories. The initiative will identify **network gaps**, evaluate service quality, and provide data for **evidence-based policymaking**, helping strengthen **Digital India**, improve rural connectivity, and guide telecom infrastructure investments.

- India will observe the **3rd NAMASTE Day** on **14 July 2026**, celebrating three years of the **National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme**. Led by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, the initiative promotes **mechanised sanitation**, eliminates **manual scavenging**, and ensures the **safety, dignity, and welfare** of sanitation workers. Nationwide events will include **health camps, PPE awareness, mechanised equipment demonstrations, skill training, and welfare benefit distribution**. Launched in **2023-24**, the scheme supports an inclusive sanitation ecosystem by improving workplace safety and enhancing the social and economic well-being of sanitation workers.
- ONGC** successfully drilled its **second geothermal well** in **Puga Valley, Ladakh**, reaching a depth of **1,000 metres** at an altitude above **14,000 feet**. Developed through the **ONGC Energy Centre**, the project supports India's **first 1 MW pilot geothermal power plant**. Following the success of the first well, it confirms the region's geothermal potential for generating **24x7 clean energy**. The project aims to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, strengthen **energy security** in remote Himalayan regions, and contribute towards India's target of **500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030**.
- As **Digital India** completed **11 years**, the **eSaras** platform emerged as a major initiative promoting **rural entrepreneurship**. Developed by the **Digital India Corporation** under **MeitY** with the **Ministry of Rural Development**, it enables **Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), and rural entrepreneurs** to sell products nationwide through **ONDC-enabled applications**. Supporting over **8.99 crore SHG members** and **1,400+ products**, the platform provides **digital payments, logistics, multilingual support through BHASHINI**, and market access. It also contributes to the government's target of creating **6 crore Lakhpati Didis by 2029**.
- Bharat Tex 2026** will be held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, from **14-17 July 2026**, showcasing India's complete textile value chain. Organized by the **Bharat Tex Trade Federation** with support from the **Ministry of Textiles**, the event is inspired by **PM Narendra Modi's 5F Vision—Farm, Fibre, Factory, Fashion, and Foreign**. It is expected to host over **1,600 exhibitors, 7,000 global buyers, and 1.3 lakh visitors**, promoting **trade, investment, sustainability, innovation, exports, and strengthening India's position as a global textile manufacturing and sourcing hub**.
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, along with **CERT-In, CSIRT-Fin, and SISA**, released the **Digital Threat Report 2025-26** to strengthen cybersecurity in India's **Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI)** sector. The report highlights rising threats from **AI-powered cyberattacks, credential theft, cloud exploitation, social engineering, and supply chain attacks**. It introduces a **Cyber Failure Anatomy Framework** and recommends an **18-month cybersecurity roadmap** emphasizing **continuous monitoring, stronger security controls, collaboration, and proactive cyber resilience** to safeguard India's expanding digital financial ecosystem.
- The **Government of India** has officially renamed the **Central Vista redevelopment area** as the **Kartavya Bhawan Area (Kartavya Bhawan Complex)**. Union Minister **Manohar Lal** directed all ministries to discontinue using the term **Central Vista** in official documents. The renamed area includes **Kartavya Path, Kartavya Bhawans, the upcoming Common Central Secretariat, and future government offices**. The decision follows the **2022 renaming of Rajpath to Kartavya Path** and reflects the government's objective of replacing colonial-era names with terminology symbolizing **public service, national identity, and democratic values**.
- India Post** achieved its highest-ever **Q1 FY2026-27 revenue of ₹4,009 crore**, registering **22% year-on-year growth**. Announced during the **Quarterly Business Review Meeting** chaired by Union Minister **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, the performance reflects India Post's transformation into a **digitally empowered, customer-centric organisation**. **Citizen Centric Services** recorded the highest growth (86%), followed by **Parcel Services (50%), Mail Services (42%), and International Business (34%)**. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal emerged as top-performing circles, while operational efficiency significantly improved through sharp reductions in **nil business transactions**.
- ICAR** unveiled the **Viksit Krishi Vision 2047** roadmap to modernize Indian agriculture through **technology, sustainability, and climate resilience**. The plan aims to establish **100 Climate Smart Villages**, reach **100 million farmers**, and launch **digital knowledge platforms**. ICAR also released **43 new crop varieties, 17 agricultural technologies, and 14 research publications**. The roadmap promotes **AI, robotics, precision farming, and commercialization of innovations** to enhance **productivity, farmer incomes, and food security**, supporting **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- NITI Aayog** released the first **Investment Friendliness Index (IFI)** to assess the investment readiness of all **36 States and Union Territories** using **84 indicators** across **eight key pillars**. Designed as a **benchmarking tool**, the index encourages reforms to improve **investment ecosystems** rather than create competition. **Gujarat** emerged as the **top-performing large state** with a score of **56.6**, followed by **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha**, while **Goa** led the **Union Territory** category. Since no state crossed the **60-mark**, the report highlights the need for improvements in **governance, infrastructure, business climate, and regulatory reforms** to achieve **Viksit Bharat**.

- The **National Conference on Responsible Business Conduct (NCRBC) 2026** was held in **New Delhi** with the theme **"ESG-led Transformation for Viksit Bharat."** Organized by the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)** under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, the conference focused on integrating **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)** principles into India's development strategy. Experts emphasized **transparent ESG reporting, AI-enabled reporting, corporate governance, responsible supply chains**, and prevention of **greenwashing** to promote **sustainability** and **inclusive growth**.
- India received approval to develop its first **Urban Night Safari** at **Kukrail Reserve Forest, Lucknow**. The **₹1,510-crore** project, spread across **855 acres**, will include **natural wildlife enclosures, a Day Zoo, eco-friendly safari vehicles, forest trails, and educational centres**. The safari will house species like **Asiatic Lions, Bengal Tigers, Leopards, Hyenas, Flying Squirrels, and Gharials**, promoting **wildlife conservation, eco-tourism, and environmental education**.
- India commissioned its first **Deep Geothermal Wells** at **Puga Valley, Ladakh**, with two wells drilled to **1,000 metres** by the **ONGC Energy Centre**. The project aims to support a **1 MW pilot geothermal power plant**, with recorded temperatures of **135°C** indicating strong **geothermal potential**. The initiative promotes **renewable energy, 24×7 clean power, and sustainable energy generation**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** became India's **second-largest state in rooftop solar installations** under the **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**. The state recorded over **6.74 lakh installations** with a capacity of **2.28 GW**, behind **Gujarat**. The programme has boosted **clean energy adoption**, reduced **electricity costs**, and generated around **85,000 jobs** in the **solar sector**.
- The Ministry of Heavy Industries has invited bids for **10 GWh Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery manufacturing** under the **₹18,100 crore PLI Scheme**. This final allocation phase aims to complete the target of establishing **50 GWh domestic battery capacity**, with around **40 GWh** already allotted. Launched in 2021, the scheme supports next-generation batteries essential for electric vehicles and renewable energy storage. It seeks to reduce import dependence, strengthen domestic manufacturing, improve energy security, and accelerate India's clean energy transition through advanced battery technology.
- The Union Cabinet approved **Semicon 2.0** with an outlay of **₹1.27 lakh crore** to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem. Building on Semicon 1.0, the programme focuses on chip design, fabrication, packaging, research, and workforce development. Semiconductors are vital for AI, electric vehicles, telecom, healthcare, and defence industries. The initiative seeks to reduce dependence on imported chips, promote innovation, attract investments, and establish India as a trusted global semiconductor manufacturing hub while supporting long-term technological self-reliance.
- The Union Cabinet approved two major highway projects worth over **₹25,400 crore** under the Varanasi Decongestion Plan. The projects include elevated corridors along the Varuna and Ganga rivers, reducing travel time and improving connectivity. A 910-metre cable-stayed bridge and a 1.32-km travelator-equipped foot overbridge linking Kashi Vishwanath Temple are also planned. Implemented by NHAI under the Hybrid Annuity Model, the projects aim to ease congestion, enhance tourism, improve urban mobility, and strengthen Varanasi's transport infrastructure.
- The **Central Government** will introduce the **Prevention of Insult to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026** during the **Monsoon Session**. The Bill extends legal protection to **Vande Mataram**, making its **insult or obstruction** punishable, similar to the **National Flag** and **National Anthem**. It defines key terms while protecting **freedom of speech** under the Constitution. The move recognizes **Vande Mataram's** historic role in India's **freedom movement** and aims to preserve **national symbols, patriotic values, and respect for the National Song**.
- **ICAR** launched **Viksit Krishi Vision 2047** to modernize agriculture using **AI, robotics, precision farming, and climate-smart technologies**. The roadmap targets **100 Climate Smart Villages**, reaching **100 million farmers**, and introduces **43 crop varieties, 17 agricultural technologies, and 14 research publications**. It promotes **digital knowledge platforms, innovation commercialization, improved farmer incomes, food security, and sustainable farming**. The initiative supports the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047** by creating a technology-driven and climate-resilient agricultural ecosystem.
- **Indian Railways** will introduce India's first **Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train** on the **Jind-Sonipat** route in **Haryana** under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**. Powered by **PEM Fuel Cells**, the train emits only **water vapour and heat**, making it eco-friendly. It accommodates **2,600 passengers**, features advanced safety systems, and includes a **3,000 kg hydrogen refuelling facility**. Developed using **indigenous technology**, the project supports **Net Zero, clean mobility, sustainable transport, and innovation in hydrogen-powered rail infrastructure**.

- The **Government of India** has constituted a high-powered **Exam Reform Task Force** under the chairmanship of **Nandan Nilekani**, co-founder of **Infosys**, to strengthen the credibility of India's examination system. The panel will recommend reforms to prevent **paper leaks**, curb **unfair practices**, enhance **transparency**, improve **technology-based monitoring**, strengthen **security mechanisms**, and modernize **exam management**. Other members include **Dr. S. Somnath**, **Tapan Deka**, **Prof. V. Kamakoti**, **Anita Karwal**, and **Amrit Lal Meena**. The initiative comes ahead of the proposed **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026**, which seeks stricter punishment for examination fraud.
- The **University of Leeds** and **IIT Kharagpur** signed a strategic **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to deepen cooperation in **research, education, innovation**, and **student mobility**. The partnership promotes **faculty and student exchange programmes**, **joint academic initiatives**, **entrepreneurship**, and **industry collaboration**. It also focuses on **technology transfer**, **intellectual property development**, **startup support**, and **research commercialization** to convert innovations into practical solutions. The agreement further strengthens **India-UK academic relations**, enhances **global talent development**, expands international research opportunities, and provides students with valuable **cross-cultural learning experiences**.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** received the honorary **Doctor Honoris Causa** degree from the **Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE)**, **Romania**, for her outstanding public service, commitment to **education, social inclusion**, and strengthening **India-Romania relations**. She dedicated the honour to the **1.4 billion people of India**, describing it as a symbol of enduring friendship between the two nations. During her address, she called **education** the greatest equaliser, shared her inspiring journey from her village to the Presidency, and emphasized balancing **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** with **ethics, compassion, wisdom**, and **human values**.
- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** resigned following nationwide protests over alleged irregularities in the **NEET-UG examination**. In his resignation letter, he stated that the decision was taken in the best interests of students and to restore confidence in India's education system. He acknowledged students' concerns, emphasized the importance of **education** in nation-building, highlighted government action against **exam malpractice**, and thanked the Prime Minister and ministry officials. The controversy has accelerated discussions on **computer-based examinations**, stronger **digital infrastructure**, improved **monitoring systems**, and faster **grievance redressal mechanisms**.
- Following the resignation of **Dharmendra Pradhan**, **Pralhad Joshi** was entrusted with the additional charge of the **Ministry of Education**. The appointment was approved by **President Droupadi Murmu** on the advice of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** under **Article 75(2) of the Constitution of India**. Joshi will continue managing the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, and the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** alongside his new responsibility. A senior **BJP** leader and **Dharwad MP** since 2004, he also appreciated Pradhan's role in implementing the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- A state-of-the-art **AI Holobox** of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** was inaugurated at the **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, New Delhi**, on **26 July 2026**. The exhibit features a **hyper-realistic 3D AI avatar** capable of interacting with visitors using authenticated **historical records, speeches, writings**, and **archival materials**. The inauguration coincided with the **27th Kargil Vijay Diwas** and included a special exhibition showcasing **microfilms, historic photographs, archival videos, official documents**, and **personal letters**. The initiative demonstrates how **Artificial Intelligence** can preserve India's **political, historical, and cultural heritage** while creating immersive educational experiences.
- The **Government of India** has approved the **manufacture and agricultural use of anhydrous ammonia** as a fertilizer for **three years**, aiming to improve **nitrogen-use efficiency** and reduce dependence on **urea**. Containing about **82% nitrogen**, it provides a highly concentrated nutrient source but requires **specialized equipment, safe storage**, and **trained handling** due to its hazardous nature. The initiative supports **sustainable agriculture**, aligns with the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, encourages **green ammonia** and **green urea** production, strengthens **fertilizer security**, reduces **import dependence**, and promotes environmentally friendly farming practices.
- The **Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project** has been approved under the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP)** to improve **irrigation infrastructure** in **Bihar**. The project has a balance cost of **₹6,143.22 crore**, with **₹3,652.56 crore** as **Central assistance**, and is scheduled for completion by **March 2029**. It will transfer surplus water from the **Kosi River** to the **Mechi basin**, modernize the **Eastern Kosi Main Canal**, expand irrigation coverage, improve **water-use efficiency**, support farmers, enhance **agricultural productivity**, and promote sustainable **water resource management**.

- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** celebrated its **20th Foundation Day** on **27 July 2026** at **Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi**, showcasing two decades of achievements in **weather forecasting, ocean research, climate science, polar exploration, and disaster preparedness**. Established in **2006**, the Ministry has advanced programmes such as **Mission Mausam, Prithvi Systems**, and the **Deep Ocean Mission**. During the celebration, **AI-based coastal monitoring systems**, upgraded **cyclone warning facilities**, advanced **weather platforms**, and **13 Centres of Excellence** were launched, reinforcing India's commitment to scientific innovation and public safety.
- The **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** is transforming legislative functioning across India by replacing **paper-based procedures** with a secure **digital governance platform** under the **Digital India Programme**. Designed around the vision of "**One Nation, One Application**," NeVA digitizes legislative documents, proceedings, and administrative workflows. According to the latest update, **33 of 37 State and Union Territory Legislatures** have signed **MoUs**, while **21 Legislative Houses** have already become **fully digital**. The platform improves **transparency, efficiency, accessibility**, and coordination among legislators, officials, and citizens while promoting **paperless governance** and continuous technological upgrades.
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated the **first-ever air shipment** of **Karnataka's Neelam and Totapuri mangoes** to the **Maldives** on **30 July 2026**. Around **one metric tonne** of mangoes from **Kolar district** was exported by **Ashwini A of Ahalya Devi Ventures**. Flagged off by **APEDA Chairman Abhishek Dev**, the initiative enabled farmers to earn over **50% higher returns** through **premium export pricing**. Supported by **Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs)**, it promoted **women-led agri-business**, expanded **global horticulture exports**, and strengthened farmers' incomes.
- **Ahmedabad** inaugurated the **Amdavad Experience Centre** in **Glasgow** during the **Commonwealth Games 2026** to showcase its vision of hosting the **2030 Commonwealth Games**. Opened by **Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi**, the centre highlights **Ahmedabad's sports infrastructure, Gujarat's cultural heritage**, and preparations for the **centenary edition** of the Games. It attracted over **5,000 registrations** within a day from athletes, delegates, and sports officials. The launch featured a traditional **Garba performance**, while discussions with the **British Council** focused on strengthening future **educational and cultural partnerships**.
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** enabled the **first-ever sea shipment** of **value-added flavoured makhana (fox nuts)** from **Bihar** to **Canada**, marking a significant achievement for India's agri-exports. The **7-metric-tonne** consignment, processed by **Nutrivin Agro Private Limited**, was dispatched from **Darbhanga** through **Mundra Port** to **ZKV Foods, Canada**. Manufactured according to **international food safety and quality standards**, the initiative promotes **value-added agricultural exports**, improves **branding, packaging**, and **global market access**, while helping farmers earn over **50% higher incomes**.
- The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, extending legal protection to **Vande Mataram**, India's **National Song**. The amendment to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971** makes deliberate insults or obstruction during its rendition a **punishable offence**, placing it on par with protections available to the **National Flag, Constitution, and National Anthem**. After receiving approval from both **Houses of Parliament**, the Bill has been sent to the **President** for assent. Written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**, **Vande Mataram** played a vital role in **India's freedom movement**.
- The **Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs**, chaired by **Shashi Tharoor**, recommended appointing a dedicated **Polar Representative** to strengthen India's engagement in **Arctic and Antarctic** affairs. Presented in **Parliament** on **30 July 2026**, the report titled "**India's Role and Presence in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions**" emphasized enhancing **polar diplomacy, scientific cooperation**, and long-term strategic planning. It also called for the early construction of a new **Maitri Research Station** in Antarctica, noting that changes in polar regions significantly influence **India's climate, monsoon, sea levels, and coastal security**.
- **Indian Railways** introduced an **online personal luggage booking** facility for passengers holding **confirmed reserved tickets**, effective **31 July 2026**. Developed by the **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)**, the platform enables passengers to book **excess luggage online** while reserving tickets, eliminating the need to visit luggage counters. The system displays **free baggage allowances, permissible limits, charges, prohibited items**, and applicable penalties. Free luggage limits range from **35 kg in Second Class** to **70 kg in AC First Class**, while oversized luggage must be booked separately in the **Brake Van**.

- To mark **four years of her presidency**, **President Droupadi Murmu**, the **15th President of India** and the **first tribal President**, launched several **citizen-centric and sustainability-focused initiatives** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi**. The initiatives include the **RAAHI (Rashtrapati Bhavan Access and Heritage Interconnector)** project, an **application-based e-Audio Guide**, the **third edition of e-Upahaar**, **Bachpan-Bal Parisar** for children, a **Net Zero Energy Strategy** for the Service Block, and upgraded infrastructure within the President's Estates. These initiatives aim to enhance **visitor experience, heritage conservation, digital governance, public engagement, and environmental sustainability**.
- Vastra Utsav 2026**, organised by the **Friends of DakshinaChitra (FoD)** as a fundraiser for the **DakshinaChitra Museum** near **Chennai**, celebrates India's **handloom heritage, traditional crafts, and sustainable fashion**. The exhibition brings together **master weavers, artisans, designers, craft revivalists, and women entrepreneurs** from across the country. Featuring nearly **50 stalls**, it showcases **handwoven textiles, natural fibres, traditional dyeing techniques, SHG products, millet-based foods, and indigenous crafts**. The event promotes **artisan livelihoods, women's empowerment, ethical fashion, and the preservation of India's rich textile and cultural heritage**.
- India's **first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)** will be established in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**, to strengthen **domestic telecom and electronics manufacturing** under the **Make in India** and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives. An **MoU** will be signed between the **Madhya Pradesh Government** and the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, followed by the formation of a **Special Purpose Company (SPC)**. Spread across **350 acres**, the project will manufacture **mobile phones, telecom equipment, optical fibre, semiconductors, 5G and 6G products**. Supported by **₹493 crore** in Central funding, it is expected to attract **₹12,000–15,000 crore** in investments and create around **5,000 direct jobs**.
- The **Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)**, India's **oldest scientific research institution**, completed **150 years** in **2026**. Established on **29 July 1876** in **Calcutta (now Kolkata)** by **Dr. Mahendralal Sircar**, the institution played a pioneering role in promoting **scientific research** and nurturing Indian scientists. During the **Bengal Renaissance**, IACS contributed significantly to **physics, chemistry, biology, and materials science**. Its most historic achievement was **Sir C. V. Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect** in **1928**, which earned him the **1930 Nobel Prize in Physics**. Currently functioning under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, IACS continues to promote **innovation and advanced research** in India.
- Indian Railways** achieved a major milestone on **31 July 2026** by successfully transporting India's first **live donor heart** through the **Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express**. The organ was moved from **Surat to Ahmedabad** and delivered to the **U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology & Research Centre** for a critical transplant procedure. Train No. **20901** completed the journey within the required **organ viability period**. A special **Green Corridor** was created from **Ahmedabad Railway Station** to the hospital with support from the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** and **Gujarat State Police**. The operation highlighted railway infrastructure's expanding role in **emergency healthcare logistics** and involved coordination among railway officials, doctors, security agencies, and transplant teams.

GOVT SCHEMES

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan)	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Approved 24 July 2026; FY 2026–31	Establishes three integrated Chemical Parks with shared infrastructure (CETP, TSDF, hazardous waste management, pipelines, logistics) to boost chemical industry competitiveness, cut production costs, attract investment, and generate employment under Viksit Bharat 2047
EPFO Amnesty Scheme 2026	Ministry of Labour & Employment	2026	One-time six-month compliance window for Exempted PF Trusts to complete pending legal formalities and improve governance
Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0	Ministry of Women and Child Development	FY 2025–26	Integrates Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyaan, and Scheme for Adolescent Girls
Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment	Ministry of Education / Personnel	2026	Raises minimum imprisonment to 5 years, fine up to ₹10 crore for paper leaks and cheating

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Common Service Centre (CSC) Scheme 4.0	Ministry of Electronics & IT (Digital India Mission)	Ongoing	Enables Village Level Entrepreneurs to deliver 500+ digital govt/private services
EPF Scheme 2026	Ministry of Labour & Employment / EPFO	Effective 29 June 2026	Revises partial withdrawal rules; introduces 25% minimum balance rule, UPI withdrawals, WhatsApp services
VB-G RAM G Act, 2025	Ministry of Rural Development	Effective 1 July 2026	Replaces MGNREGA; guarantees 125 days rural wage employment with revised state-wise wages
EPFO VISHWAS 2026	Ministry of Labour & Employment / EPFO	2026 (6-month window from 29 June)	One-time scheme to resolve pending EPF damages/penalty disputes with reduced penalty rates
Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)	Ministry of Electronics & IT	FY 2026-27 to 2030-31	₹62,500 crore scheme to boost local mobile manufacturing, value addition, and Indian brands
Bharat Taxi (National Cooperative Platform)	Ministry of Cooperation	2026	Cooperative ride-hailing platform ("Sahakar Se Samridhi") giving drivers ownership/shareholding

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	State	Year	Purpose
Mahila Samarthya Yojana	Uttar Pradesh (UPSRLM)	2026	Empowers rural women via SHGs with skill training, ₹15,000 revolving fund, market linkages
Nishulk Boring Yojana 2026	Uttar Pradesh	2026 (orig. 1985)	Free agricultural borewell installation and subsidised pump sets for small/marginal/SC-ST farmers
Mahila Udyam Nidhi Yojana 2026	Uttar Pradesh	2026	₹50,000-₹10 lakh loans at ~4% interest for women entrepreneurs
Khet Suraksha Yojana 2026	Uttar Pradesh	2026	Up to 70% subsidy for solar-powered electric fencing to protect crops from stray animals
One District One Product (ODOP) Scheme 2026	Uttar Pradesh	2026	Loans up to ₹25 lakh, 25% margin subsidy for traditional industries/artisans across 75 districts
Delhi Lakshmi Yojana	Delhi	2026 (registration from 1 Aug 2026)	₹2,500/month DBT to eligible women; ₹5,110 crore allocated, benefits 17+ lakh women
Bharat Taxi (Maharashtra Launch)	Maharashtra	2026	Cooperative ride service at Navi Mumbai Airport with fixed fares and no surge pricing
Parivartan Scheme	Delhi	2026	Replaces BS-IV commercial vehicles with BS-VI/EVs via tax exemptions and subsidies
Mukhyamantri Swasth Bastar Abhiyan	Chhattisgarh	Ongoing	Improves maternal/child healthcare in Sukma; institutional deliveries raised to 98.6%
Gruha Jyothi Scheme	Karnataka	Ongoing	Up to 200 units free electricity per month for eligible domestic consumers
Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya Yojana (MAAY)	Rajasthan	Ongoing	Cashless health insurance up to ₹25 lakh/family annually, covering 1,700+ procedures
Mini Nandi Farmer Prosperity Scheme	Karnataka	Ongoing	50% subsidy (up to ₹11.80 lakh) for 10-cow dairy units using indigenous breeds
Udyogini Scheme	Karnataka	Ongoing	Collateral-free loans up to ₹3 lakh for women entrepreneurs; 50% subsidy for SC/ST women
Thayi Bhagya Scheme	Karnataka	Ongoing	Free cashless maternity care for BPL/SC/ST women for first two deliveries
Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana (MMYSY) 2026	Rajasthan	Until 31 March 2029	Interest-free, collateral-free loans up to ₹10 lakh for youth entrepreneurs (age 18-45)

Name of Initiative	State	Year	Purpose
Krushi Aranya Protsaha Yojane (KAPY)	Karnataka	Ongoing	Incentivizes agroforestry with per-seedling payments over 3 years
Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana	Himachal Pradesh	2026	₹3,500 annual DBT to ~3,700 reservoir fishermen affected by fishing ban
Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MJPJAY)	Maharashtra	2012	Cashless health treatment worth ₹1.5 lakh/family (₹2.5 lakh for organ transplants)
Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree Yojana	Maharashtra	2017	₹50,000/₹25,000 fixed deposit for girl children to prevent foeticide, promote education
Climate-Resilient Village Initiative (Killai)	Tamil Nadu	2026	Community-based coastal resilience model against cyclones, floods, sea-level rise

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Bangladesh's **Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project** gained attention following discussions with **China** during **Tarique Rahman's** Beijing visit. The project includes dredging **140 million cubic metres** of sediment, reclaiming **171 sq km** of land, constructing and repairing **234 km** of embankments, developing a **224-km road network**, and building **82 jetties**. Since the **Teesta River** flows through **Sikkim, West Bengal**, and Bangladesh, the project carries strategic significance for **India-Bangladesh water sharing, regional connectivity**, and cross-border cooperation. China emphasized its role as technical support without targeting any third country.
- The **AI for Good Global Commission**, launched by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** and **Salesforce**, aims to promote **responsible, inclusive**, and **sustainable Artificial Intelligence** governance worldwide. The commission comprises over **40 global leaders** from governments, industry, academia, and international organizations. Indian business leaders **Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal, Lakshmi N. Mittal**, and **Vishal Talwar** are founding members, reflecting India's growing influence in AI governance. Co-chaired by **Paul Kagame** with **Doreen Bogdan-Martin** as Vice-Chair, the commission begins deliberations during the **AI for Good Global Summit 2026**.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** added the first molecular diagnostic test for the **Bundibugyo Ebola virus** to its **Emergency Use Listing (EUL)**, enabling faster laboratory confirmation during outbreaks. The test detects viral **RNA** in blood samples, improving diagnosis of a strain different from **Zaire ebolavirus**. First identified in **Uganda** in **2007**, the virus has caused a major outbreak in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**. The new diagnostic strengthens outbreak preparedness, expands testing capacity, and enhances global response against viral haemorrhagic fevers and public health emergencies.
- India** and **Mali** launched the first **India-Mali Forum for Promotion of Exports in Bamako** to institutionalize bilateral trade and investment. Bilateral trade reached **US\$326.61 million** in FY 2025-26, recording **55% growth** supported by India's **DFTP Scheme**. The forum featured **B2B, B2G**, and **G2G** meetings focusing on textiles, mining, pharmaceuticals, energy, digital trade, and agro-industry. Mali also announced an **Investment Forum** for December 2026, strengthening strategic partnerships, investment opportunities, and long-term economic cooperation.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** began a **six-day diplomatic tour** of **Indonesia, Australia**, and **New Zealand** from **6-11 July 2026** to strengthen India's **Indo-Pacific partnerships**. In Indonesia, he will meet **President Prabowo Subianto** and review the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**. In Australia, discussions with **Prime Minister Anthony Albanese** will focus on **defence, trade, critical technologies**, and **education**. The New Zealand visit includes talks with **Prime Minister Christopher Luxon** on **economic cooperation**. The tour reinforces India's **Act East Policy, MAHASAGAR Vision**, and commitment to a **free and inclusive Indo-Pacific**.
- India is chairing the **Ninth Session of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE)** on **Consumer Protection Law and Policy** in Geneva. Led by **Nidhi Khare**, the meeting focuses on strengthening **global consumer protection**, international cooperation, and policy coordination. A major highlight is the launch of the **UN Principles for Consumer Product Safety**, adopted by the **UN General Assembly** in **December 2025**. India is showcasing initiatives such as the **National Consumer Helpline** and **AI-powered e-Jagriti platform**, highlighting its leadership in **digital consumer grievance redressal** and international consumer policy.
- India and **Indonesia** strengthened their **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** by signing **14 agreements** covering **defence, trade, maritime security, space, education, digital payments, healthcare, critical minerals**, and telecommunications. Indonesia agreed to procure **BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles** and **Astra Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (BVRAAMs)** worth over **US\$600 million**. Both countries reaffirmed support for a **free, open, inclusive**, and **rules-based Indo-Pacific**, emphasizing **ASEAN Centrality**, maritime cooperation, international law, and stronger regional security, further deepening bilateral strategic and defence ties.

- **Switzerland** announced that the **Geneva AI Summit 2027** will be held on **21–22 June 2027** alongside the **ITU AI for Good Global Summit**. The event will gather **world leaders, researchers, technology companies, and international organisations** to discuss **AI governance, innovation, ethics, AI safety, and responsible artificial intelligence**. Building on previous global AI summits, the conference aims to promote **human-centric, inclusive, and trustworthy AI** while reinforcing **Geneva's** role as a global centre for multilateral diplomacy and international policymaking.
- India and **Myanmar** held the **23rd National-Level Border Coordination Meeting** in **New Delhi**, reviewing security along the **1,643-km shared border**. Both countries agreed to strengthen cooperation against **terrorism, insurgency, narcotics trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, wildlife crime, and cybercrime** through enhanced intelligence sharing and operational coordination. Discussions also covered the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** and the **India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway**, supporting India's **Neighbourhood**.
- According to media reports, **OpenAI** plans a wider rollout of **GPT-5.6** after completing evaluation under a new **U.S. Department of Commerce** framework for **frontier AI systems**. The review assessed **cybersecurity, national security, AI safety, and misuse risks** under a **2026 Executive Order** establishing oversight for advanced AI models. The framework seeks to balance **innovation** with safeguards against cyber threats, misinformation, military misuse, and hostile actors. Official confirmation from **OpenAI** and U.S. authorities had not yet been issued.
- India and **Kyrgyzstan** inaugurated the **International Centre for Civilizational Studies – Manas and Mahabharata** in **Bishkek** to promote comparative research, cultural diplomacy, and academic collaboration. The centre will study the **Mahabharata** and the **Manas Epic**, encouraging interdisciplinary work in literature, philosophy, history, and international relations. Agreements with **seven Kyrgyz universities** will support faculty exchanges, joint research, and educational programmes. The event also marked the release of the first **Hindi translation** of the **Manas epic**, strengthening centuries-old cultural and civilizational ties between both countries through education and scholarship.
- India and **Australia** launched **PACTS (Partnership for Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains)** during the Third Annual Summit in Melbourne. The initiative promotes cooperation in **cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, critical minerals, digital resilience, and defence research** through collaboration among governments, industry, universities, and innovators. Built around **five strategic pillars**, PACTS aims to strengthen secure supply chains, technology commercialization, and innovation. Alongside it, both countries launched the **Australia–Canada–India Technology and Innovation Partnership (ACITI)** to promote trilateral cooperation in advanced technologies and research.
- Prime Ministers **Narendra Modi** and **Anthony Albanese** reaffirmed the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** during the Third India–Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne. Both leaders reviewed progress since 2020 and committed to concluding the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** to expand trade and investment. Discussions covered **defence, critical minerals, clean energy, cybersecurity, space, civil nuclear cooperation, education, renewable energy, and research**. Australia also announced the return of ancient Indian artefacts, strengthening cultural ties alongside strategic cooperation and reinforcing a stable, rules-based Indo-Pacific partnership.
- India and New Zealand elevated their ties to a **Strategic Partnership** and set a target to double bilateral trade to **₹35,000 crore (NZ\$7 billion)** by **2030**. The countries adopted the **Strategic Partnership Roadmap 2030**, focusing on **trade, agriculture, clean energy, education, innovation, skills, and sports**. The recently concluded **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** is expected to strengthen economic cooperation. New Zealand also announced **\$20 billion investment** in India to boost long-term economic engagement.
- A **UN Women** report highlighted a severe **humanitarian funding crisis**, stating that over **one million women and girls** lost access to essential assistance due to declining donor support. The survey of **855 women-led organisations** found that **40%** risk closure within a year, while many have reduced staff and services. Funding shortages have affected **gender-based violence protection, reproductive healthcare, education, and shelters**, prompting calls for increased global investment in women-led humanitarian organisations.
- **Andy Burnham** is set to become the next **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom** after securing support from **322 Labour MPs**. Under **Labour Party** rules, a rival candidate requires **81 nominations**, making Burnham's leadership almost certain. He is expected to succeed **Keir Starmer**, who resigned following Labour's poor local election performance. The leadership transition is expected to reshape the party's strategy and restore public confidence ahead of future national elections.
- India and New Zealand adopted the **Strategic Partnership Roadmap to 2030**, signing **10 agreements** covering **defence, maritime security, disaster management, agriculture, education, tourism, culture, and scientific research**. Key outcomes include **defence logistics cooperation, Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, Animal Husbandry Agreement, Kiwifruit Centres of Excellence in Nagaland and Uttarakhand, and expanded Indo-Pacific cooperation**. Both countries also pledged to enhance **trade, renewable energy, Antarctic research, and academic collaboration**.



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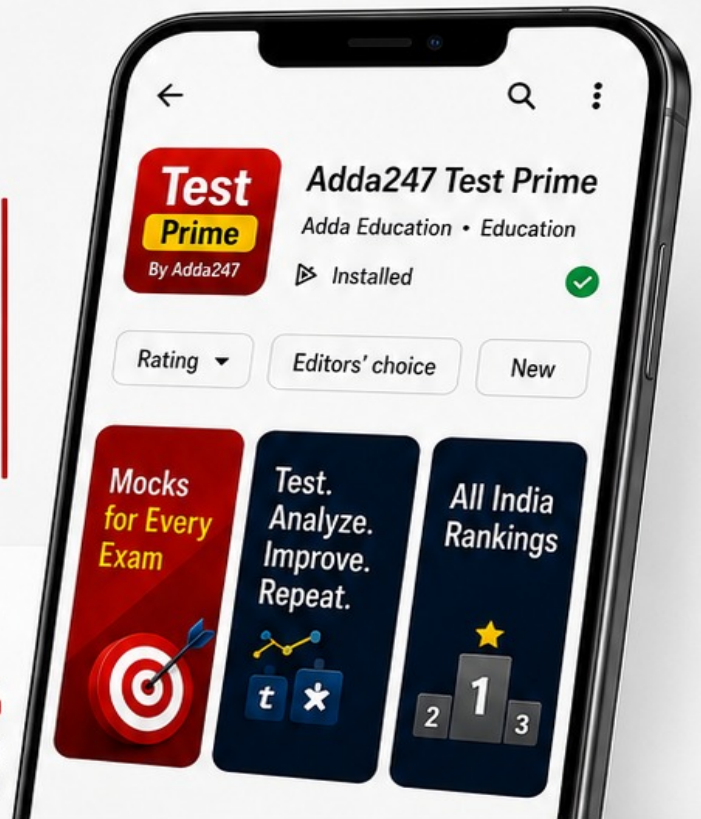


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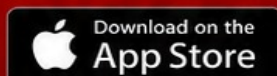


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- **14 Nations Reaffirm South China Sea Arbitration Ruling (90 Words)**
- Fourteen countries, including the **United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, and the Philippines**, reaffirmed the **2016 South China Sea Arbitration Award** under **UNCLOS**, rejecting **China's Nine-Dash Line claims**. Issued on the ruling's **10th anniversary**, the joint statement described the tribunal's decision as **final and legally binding**. The countries expressed concern over increasing tensions, coercive maritime activities, and threats to regional stability. They reaffirmed support for **freedom of navigation, peaceful dispute resolution, international law, and a rules-based maritime order** in the strategically important **South China Sea**.
- India announced the **Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ)** allocation procedure under the **India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, effective from **1 June 2026**. Issued by the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**, the notification allows concessional tariffs on specified imports such as **dates, marble, aluminium products, petrochemicals, copper weld wire, and LDPE**. Eligible importers must obtain a valid **Certificate of Origin** from Oman. The TRQ mechanism aims to facilitate bilateral trade while balancing domestic industry interests.
- The **United Nations** released its first scientific report on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, urging governments to strengthen global AI governance. Prepared by the **Independent International Scientific Panel on AI**, the report highlights AI's opportunities, risks, and growing **compute divide** dominated by the **United States and China**. It covers **AI applications, security, human rights, environmental concerns, governance, and economic impacts**. For India, the report stresses expanding domestic computing infrastructure through the **IndiaAI Mission** to ensure technological self-reliance and global competitiveness.
- **Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi**, President of **Zanzibar**, visited India to strengthen cooperation in **education, healthcare, trade, investment, and technology**. He attended the **63rd Convocation of IIT Madras**, highlighting the success of the **IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus (2023)**. The visit reinforced **India-Tanzania relations** and India's role in **South-South Cooperation**.
- **Andy Burnham** has been confirmed as the new **Leader of the UK Labour Party** and is expected to become the **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom**, succeeding **Sir Keir Starmer**. He pledged to restore **public trust**, strengthen **public services**, promote **regional development**, expand **local government autonomy**, and support **inclusive economic growth**.
- **Serhii Korotshuk** was appointed **Prime Minister of Ukraine** following a government reshuffle led by **President Volodymyr Zelenskyy**. Formerly **CEO of Naftogaz**, he will focus on **energy security, economic stability, public services, and protection of critical infrastructure** during the ongoing **Russia-Ukraine conflict**.
- India hosted the **5th BIMSTEC National Security Advisers' Meeting** in New Delhi on 16 July 2026, bringing together senior officials from all seven member countries. Discussions focused on cyber security, terrorism, transnational crime, trafficking, satellite cooperation, and intelligence sharing. The meeting highlighted India's commitment to regional security cooperation and collective action against emerging threats. It also strengthened collaboration among Bay of Bengal nations to promote peace, stability, and secure digital infrastructure in the region.
- India played a prominent role at the **49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49)** held in Geneva by leading the adoption of seven international food standards. The Indian delegation, headed by **FSSAI CEO Rajit Punhani**, chaired standards on dried coriander seeds and fresh curry leaves while co-chairing guidelines on vanilla, cardamom, and food-processing water safety. India also proposed global standards for cashew kernels, reinforcing its leadership in food safety, international trade, and global standard-setting.
- **Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi** visited India to strengthen cooperation in **education, healthcare, trade, investment, and technology**. He attended the **63rd IIT Madras Convocation** and highlighted the success of the **IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus (2023)**. The visit reinforced **India-Tanzania strategic ties**, promoted **South-South cooperation**, educational collaboration, infrastructure support, and capacity building while enhancing economic, cultural, and diplomatic engagement between the two nations.
- **Andy Burnham** became the new **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom** on **20 July 2026** after being appointed by **King Charles III**, following **Keir Starmer's** resignation. Formerly the **Mayor of Greater Manchester**, Burnham secured parliamentary confidence and was invited to form a government under UK constitutional practice. In his first address outside **10 Downing Street**, he described his administration as a **"circuit breaker"** government and promised long-term reforms to restore **political stability, economic confidence, and public trust**.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** began the **first-ever State Visit** by an Indian President to **Moldova**, holding talks with **President Maia Sandu** in **Chisinau**. Both leaders discussed cooperation in **trade, investment, agriculture, healthcare, renewable energy, digital public infrastructure, Artificial Intelligence, innovation, and education**. India announced increased **ITEC training slots**, specialised AI and cyber diplomacy courses, and invited Moldova to join the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and the **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, strengthening bilateral ties.

- India became the **123rd WTO member** to accept the **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**, reinforcing its commitment to **sustainable fisheries** and marine conservation. The agreement, adopted at **MC12 (2022)** and effective from **15 September 2025**, prohibits subsidies supporting **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing**, overfishing, and depleted fish stocks. It applies only to **marine wild capture fisheries**, leaving **aquaculture and inland fisheries** unaffected. The move aligns with **PMMSY** and India's fisheries policies while protecting traditional fishers.
- Khalil al-Hayya** was elected the new overall leader of **Hamas**, succeeding **Yahya Sinwar**, who was killed during the **Gaza conflict in October 2024**. A senior Hamas leader and chief negotiator in indirect ceasefire talks mediated by **Egypt and Qatar**, al-Hayya won through a **69-member electoral college**, defeating **Khaled Meshaal** in the second-round runoff. He assumes leadership amid military setbacks, international scrutiny, and ongoing ceasefire negotiations, with diplomacy expected to remain central to Hamas' future strategy.
- France** approved a landmark law banning children under **15** from accessing **social media platforms**, becoming the **first European country** to implement such nationwide restrictions. Backed by **President Emmanuel Macron**, the law introduces mandatory **age verification** from **September 2026**, while the full ban takes effect in **January 2027**. The legislation aims to improve **child online safety**, protect mental health, reduce cyberbullying, and limit exposure to harmful content, though concerns remain regarding **privacy, data protection, and enforcement**.
- Kanishka Narayan**, a British politician of **Indian origin**, has been appointed the **United Kingdom's first Minister for Artificial Intelligence**. Born in **Muzaffarpur, Bihar**, and educated at **Oxford University and Stanford University**, he will lead the UK's AI strategy covering **AI safety, innovation, regulation, digital transformation, research, startups, infrastructure, and ethical governance**. His appointment reflects the growing importance of **Artificial Intelligence** in governance while highlighting the increasing global leadership of professionals of Indian origin.
- President Droupadi Murmu** became the **first Indian President** to make a bilateral visit to **North Macedonia**, strengthening ties established in **1995**. Both nations agreed to deepen cooperation in **trade, technology, healthcare, tourism, agriculture, AI, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, textiles, and skill development**. India announced expanded **ITEC training**, renewed the healthcare **MoU** for five years, and promoted cooperation through the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, and **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)** to enhance bilateral relations.
- India hosted the **BRICS Network University (BRICS NU) Governing Board Meeting** and the first conference on **Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems** under its **BRICS Presidency 2026**. Organised by the **Ministry of Education**, the event focused on **higher education, research collaboration, faculty exchange, innovation, ethical AI, and preservation of indigenous knowledge**. India proposed creating a new **International Thematic Group** on Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, receiving broad support from BRICS member countries to strengthen academic cooperation.
- A **University of Oxford** study published in **Sustainable Cities and Society** ranked **Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai** among the world's **top 10 cities most vulnerable to extreme heat**. Assessing **205 global cities**, the research evaluated **temperature exposure, population vulnerability, and adaptive capacity**. **Delhi** ranked **second**, while **Mumbai** and **Chennai** ranked **sixth and ninth**, respectively. The study recommends expanding **green spaces, climate-resilient infrastructure, healthcare systems, urban planning, and heat action plans** to address increasing climate-related risks.
- The **United States** approved a **30-year civilian nuclear cooperation agreement** with **Saudi Arabia** under **Section 123 of the US Atomic Energy Act, 1954**. The agreement supports cooperation in **reactor development, nuclear fuel supply, technology transfer, infrastructure, and technical expertise**, assisting Saudi Arabia's energy diversification. However, the deal excludes the **Gold Standard restrictions** on uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing, prompting debate over **nuclear proliferation risks**, despite supporters viewing it as a significant strategic partnership.
- India delivered 4.5 tonnes of medical aid to Kenya** to enhance the country's **Ebola preparedness** and disease response capabilities. The assistance, handed over in **Nairobi** by **High Commissioner Adarsh Swaika**, included **PPE kits, sample transport kits, infrared thermometers, face shields, and protective boots**. The supplies will support **healthcare workers, disease surveillance, laboratory testing, and emergency response systems**. The initiative reflects **India's commitment to global health cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and its longstanding healthcare partnership with Kenya and African nations**.
- India hosted the 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting** in **Chandigarh** under its **BRICS Chairship 2026**, bringing together representatives from **11 member countries**. The meeting focused on **pandemic preparedness, Universal Health Coverage, digital health, AI, telemedicine, and equitable healthcare access**. Members adopted the **16th Health Ministerial Declaration**, reaffirming cooperation to strengthen resilient healthcare systems. India proposed establishing a **BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Mental Wellness**, coordinated by **NIMHANS Bengaluru**, while also supporting collaboration in **traditional medicine, electronic health records, and secure health data exchange**.

- **Spain** is battling one of its **largest-ever wildfires**, with more than **32,000 hectares** destroyed in **Guadalajara** amid an intense **heatwave**. The blaze forced evacuations in **34 villages**, while over **200 firefighters**, helicopters, and aircraft continue firefighting operations. Officials described it as the **largest wildfire in Castilla-La Mancha** and the **second-largest in Spain's history**. Prime Minister **Pedro Sánchez** linked the disaster to **climate change**, stressing the need for stronger climate action as **heatwaves, drought, and extreme weather** continue to increase wildfire risks across Europe.
- During **President Droupadi Murmu's** visit to **Romania**, India signed **three agreements** covering **science and technology, Indian studies, and sports cooperation**. The countries also agreed to **double bilateral trade within three years** and declared **2028 as the India-Romania Year of Innovation**. The partnership aims to strengthen cooperation in **AI, renewable energy, healthcare, manufacturing, and education**, while marking **80 years of diplomatic relations**.
- India invited **Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman** as a **special guest** for the **BRICS Summit 2026** in **New Delhi**. Although Bangladesh is not a BRICS member, the invitation reflects stronger **regional cooperation** and support for the **Global South**. Under the theme "**Creating Resilience, Innovation, Collaboration and Sustainability**," India is promoting cooperation in **health, climate resilience, disaster management, digital transformation, and economic development**.
- India and **Israel** completed the **second round** of negotiations for a proposed **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** in **New Delhi**. Discussions focused on **trade in goods and services, customs, intellectual property, rules of origin, and investment**. With bilateral merchandise trade reaching **USD 3.93 billion** in **FY 2025-26**, the agreement aims to improve **market access, technology cooperation, investment, and supply chain resilience**.
- During the **48th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee** held in **Busan, South Korea**, **Mount Olympus (Greece)** and the **D-Day Landing Beaches (France)** were added to the **UNESCO World Heritage List**. **Mount Olympus**, Greece's highest peak at **2,918 metres**, received recognition as a **Mixed World Heritage Site** for its exceptional **natural biodiversity and mythological significance**. The **D-Day Landing Beaches** in **Normandy**, including **Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, Sword Beaches, and Pointe du Hoc**, were inscribed for their historic role in **World War II**. UNESCO also highlighted concerns regarding **climate change, tourism, and sea-level rise**.
- According to the **Competere Foundation's** report, **India** improved its ranking in the **Market Distortions Performance Index** from **82nd in 2010** to **57th in 2023**, gaining **25 positions**. The report credits reforms such as the **Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), regulatory simplification, and trade facilitation measures** for reducing market distortions. The index assesses **ownership rights, domestic competition, and international competitiveness**. The findings highlight India's progress toward a more **transparent, competitive, and investment-friendly economy**, while emphasizing the need for continued structural reforms to sustain long-term economic growth.
- A **U.S.-backed peace proposal** under **President Donald Trump's Board of Peace** seeks the phased **disarmament of Hamas** and other militant groups in **Gaza** as part of a broader **ceasefire and reconstruction plan**. While **Hamas** has reportedly accepted the proposal in principle, **Israel** has not yet granted formal approval, citing security concerns. Mediated by **Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey**, the plan includes **verified disarmament, phased Israeli troop withdrawal, deployment of an international stabilization force, establishment of a new Palestinian police force, and internationally supervised reconstruction, with implementation dependent on mutual compliance**.
- **Venezuela** has formally notified the **United Nations (UN)** of its decision to withdraw from the **Rome Statute**, the founding treaty of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**. Foreign Minister **Felix Plasencia** called the move "**firm and irrevocable**", citing concerns over alleged **geographical bias and unequal treatment** by the court. Under **Article 127 of the Rome Statute**, withdrawal will become effective after **one year**, and it will not stop ongoing investigations, including the ICC probe into alleged **crimes against humanity** in Venezuela opened in **2021**. The ICC, headquartered in **The Hague, Netherlands**, investigates **genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression**, and Venezuela's exit adds to growing challenges facing the global justice system.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** unveiled two major reforms for the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** on **29 July 2026** in **New Delhi** to promote **gender equality** and improve personnel welfare. The new policy introduces a **gender-neutral officer induction framework**, allowing women officers to join **Short Service Appointment (SSA)** and **Permanent Appointment (PA)**, while opening SSA for male candidates as well. The reforms also empower the ICG to declare personnel "**presumed dead**" in cases of disappearance at sea during duty, enabling faster release of **ex gratia compensation, terminal benefits, and financial assistance to Next of Kin (NoK)**. The initiatives strengthen **Nari Shakti, inclusiveness, and operational efficiency** in maritime security.

- India achieved a major milestone as its **first-ever direct commercial container freight train** reached **Nepal** carrying a consignment of **canola** under the revised **India-Nepal Rail Transit Protocol**. The train operated from **Kolkata Port (India) to Biratnagar (Nepal)** with **40 wagons** and eliminated **border transshipment** requirements. The initiative aims to reduce **transit time, logistics costs, and cargo handling**, while improving **supply chain efficiency**. The direct freight service strengthens **India-Nepal trade relations**, promotes **regional connectivity**, and supports sustainable rail-based transportation under the **Neighbourhood First Policy**.
- The Pacific island country previously known as **Nauru** officially changed its name to the **Republic of Naoero** after approval of a **constitutional amendment** by Parliament in **May 2026** and confirmation by President **David Adeang** on **31 July 2026**. The name change aims to restore the nation's **indigenous identity**, protect the endangered **Nauruan language (dorerin Naoero)**, and strengthen cultural heritage. The **United Nations** was informed on **26 June 2026** and began updating official records. The country's short name is now **Naoero**, while its code **NRO** remains unchanged. Located in **Micronesia**, the nation covers around **21 sq km**, has nearly **12,000 people**, uses the **Australian Dollar**, and has **Yaren District** as its administrative centre.

BANKING & FINANCE

- India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** grew **5.1%** in **May 2026**, marking its highest growth in five months. **Manufacturing** expanded **5.5%**, while **electricity and gas supply** rose **9.9%** due to summer demand and renewable energy generation. **Capital goods** output surged **12.9%**, indicating stronger investment, whereas **mining** contracted. The release introduced the **2022-23 base year** and replaced the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** with the **Output Producer Price Index (PPI)** for better measurement of industrial output. The figures reflect strengthening industrial activity and economic recovery.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, India's **external debt** increased to **\$762.8 billion** at the end of **FY26**, rising by **\$26.3 billion** from the previous year. The **external debt-to-GDP ratio** rose from **19.8%** to **20.8%**. Appreciation of the **US dollar** reduced the reported increase by **\$24.6 billion**. The debt remains diversified, with the **US dollar** accounting for the largest share, followed by the **Indian rupee, Japanese yen, and euro**. Strong foreign exchange reserves continue supporting overall external sector stability.
- Eurobank** launched a **UPI-based cross-border remittance service** enabling customers in **Greece** to transfer money instantly to **India** through collaboration with **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**. **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** welcomed the initiative, highlighting reduced transaction costs and stronger digital payment connectivity. During his Greece visit, he also met **Eurobank CEO Fokion Karavias** to discuss investments, manufacturing, infrastructure, and bilateral cooperation. The initiative expands the global reach of **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, enhances financial connectivity, promotes seamless remittances, and reinforces India's leadership in digital payment innovation.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, India's **external debt** rose to **\$762.8 billion** by the end of **FY26**, increasing by **\$26.3 billion** over the previous year, with the **debt-to-GDP ratio** rising to **20.8%**. Appreciation of the **US dollar** reduced the reported increase by **\$24.6 billion**, while the debt composition remained diversified across the **US dollar, Indian rupee, Japanese yen, and euro**. Despite faster growth in short-term borrowings, India's strong foreign exchange reserves continue to maintain overall external sector resilience and stability.
- HDFC Bank** appointed former **Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar** as its **Part-Time Chairman** for **three years**, subject to **RBI** approval. He was also appointed **Independent Director** for **four years** beginning **30 June 2026**, pending shareholder approval. He succeeds the interim arrangement after **Atanu Chakraborty's** resignation, while **Keki Mistry** continues as interim chairman until approvals are completed. A **1984-batch IAS officer**, Rajiv Kumar previously served as **Secretary, Department of Financial Services**. His expertise in governance, banking reforms, and public finance is expected to strengthen corporate governance.
- OpenAI** appointed **Prabhjeet Singh**, former **Uber India and South Asia President**, as its **Managing Director for India**, effective **September 2026**. Reporting to **Kiran Mani**, he will oversee **strategy, operations, partnerships, and expansion** across India's rapidly growing **artificial intelligence ecosystem**. Singh's experience in scaling technology businesses and leading Uber's growth makes him well suited for the role. His appointment reflects India's strategic importance because of its large **digital user base**, thriving **startup ecosystem**, increasing **enterprise AI adoption**, and strong government focus on **artificial intelligence**, strengthening OpenAI's long-term expansion plans in the country.

- According to the **National Statistics Office (NSO)**, **India's unemployment rate** declined to **3.1% in 2025**, the lowest in **eight years**, reflecting stronger job creation, economic recovery, and increased labour force participation. The improvement supports **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** targeting productive employment by 2030. Although **urban female unemployment** declined from **10.8% in 2017-18** to **6.4% in 2025**, states like **Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan** continue reporting higher joblessness. **Gujarat** demonstrated notable gender parity, while **Kerala and Maharashtra** also recorded significant improvements.
- India's **fiscal deficit** widened to **₹1.62 lakh crore** during **April-May FY2026-27**, reaching **9.6%** of the annual **Budget Estimate of ₹16.96 lakh crore**, according to the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**. Total receipts declined to **₹7.19 lakh crore**, mainly due to weaker tax collections and a nearly **20% fall in excise duty** after fuel tax cuts. Government expenditure increased **18%** to **₹8.81 lakh crore**, with capital expenditure rising over **13%**. A record **RBI dividend of ₹2.87 lakh crore** partially offset the deficit.
- India's **gross GST collections** reached **₹1,94,812 crore** in **June 2026**, registering a **13.9%** annual increase, while **net GST collections** after refunds stood at **₹1,62,377 crore**, up **11.2%**. **Import-related GST** surged **34.6%** to **₹60,038 crore**, becoming the primary growth driver, while domestic collections increased **6.5%**. Refunds rose **29.1%** to **₹32,436 crore**. **Maharashtra** recorded the highest collections, followed by **Karnataka and Gujarat**, whereas **Sikkim, Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Tamil Nadu** reported declining GST revenues.
- Goods and Services Tax (GST)** completed **nine years** on **1 July 2026**, marking a milestone in India's "**One Nation, One Tax**" reform launched in **2017**. GST replaced multiple indirect taxes, established a unified national market, reduced cascading taxation, and improved compliance through digital systems. **GST 2.0** introduced simplified **5%, 18%, and 40%** tax slabs for luxury and sin goods, along with easier registration, refunds, and return filing. Registered taxpayers increased from **66.5 lakh** to **1.65 crore**, reflecting greater formalization, transparency, and stronger revenue collection.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** partnered with **HSBC India and JP Morgan Payments** to introduce **real-time foreign exchange (FX) conversion** and settlement for **cross-border UPI** transactions. The system enables instant currency conversion, faster payment confirmation, real-time settlement, and transparent exchange rates while reducing intermediaries and settlement delays. The initiative improves security, customer experience, and operational efficiency in international payments. By addressing major cross-border payment challenges, the partnership expands the global reach of **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** and reinforces India's leadership in digital payment innovation.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** implemented the revamped **Integrated Ombudsman Scheme** from **1 July 2026**, replacing the **2021 framework** under the principle of "**One Nation, One Ombudsman**." The scheme provides a free, faster, and transparent grievance redressal mechanism covering **scheduled commercial banks, eligible NBFCs, prepaid payment instrument issuers, and credit information companies**. Customers can approach the RBI if complaints remain unresolved after **30 days**. It offers **online filing**, non-adversarial dispute resolution, and compensation up to **₹30 lakh** for financial losses and **₹3 lakh** for harassment.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** appointed **Ravi Shankar** as its new **Executive Director** with effect from **1 July 2026**. Previously serving as **Adviser-in-Charge** of the **Department of Statistics and Information Management (DSIM)**, he brings over **30 years** of experience in banking statistics, government securities, settlement systems, public debt management, and economic research. He has contributed to several RBI committees on **macroeconomic statistics, financial sector analysis, economic policy, and data governance**, reflecting the central bank's confidence in his expertise and leadership.
- The **Ministry of Steel** granted **Miniratna Category-I** status to **MECON Limited**, recognizing its consistent profitability and operational excellence. Established in **1959** and headquartered in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**, MECON is a **Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise** providing engineering, consultancy, project management, and contracting services. The company achieved a **net worth of ₹535.42 crore** as of **31 March 2026** after recording profits for **three consecutive financial years**. The new status provides greater financial autonomy, enabling faster decision-making, technology modernization, business expansion, and enhanced competitiveness across key infrastructure sectors.
- Microsoft and Lightstorm** partnered to develop the **I-2SEA (India-2-Southeast Asia)** undersea cable, a **3,600-km submarine fibre-optic network** connecting **India, Malaysia, and Singapore**. The consortium includes **Tata Communications, Singtel, ASEAN Cables, and NEC Corporation**, with a landing station at **Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh**. Expected to become operational by **Q4 2029**, the cable will strengthen AI infrastructure, cloud computing, hyperscale data centres, and high-capacity digital connectivity. Carrying part of the **95% of global internet traffic** transmitted through submarine cables, it significantly enhances regional digital resilience.

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** will launch the **Index of Services Production (ISP)** with **2024-25** as the base year, providing India's first monthly indicator for measuring the **formal services sector**, which contributes nearly **53% of Gross Value Added (GVA)**. Using the **Laspeyres Volume Index** methodology, the index will complement the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** and support timely policy decisions. Compiled using **GST data**, administrative records, and sectoral statistics, the ISP will significantly strengthen India's economic monitoring framework.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the appointment of **Mahesh Muralidhar Pai** as the **Managing Director & CEO** of **South Indian Bank** for a **three-year term** beginning **1 October 2026**. Currently serving as **Chief General Manager** at **Canara Bank**, Pai has nearly **30 years of banking experience** across **digital banking, treasury, foreign exchange, retail banking, MSME finance**, and corporate strategy. He will succeed **P. R. Seshadri**, strengthening leadership at the Thrissur-based private sector bank.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** revised India's **FY2026-27 GDP growth forecast** to **6.4%**, slightly lower than its earlier estimate, while raising the **FY2027-28 forecast** to **6.7%**. The revision reflects higher **global energy prices**, geopolitical tensions, and increased import costs. Despite these challenges, India remains the **fastest-growing major economy**, supported by strong **domestic demand** and a resilient **services sector**. The IMF also lowered its **global growth forecast** to **3.0%**, citing elevated commodity and energy prices.
- **Federal Bank** received its first international **investment-grade credit rating** from **S&P Global Ratings**, earning **BBB-/Stable** long-term and **A-3** short-term ratings. The recognition reflects strong capitalization, disciplined **risk management**, diversified funding, healthy financial performance, and stable business operations. An investment-grade rating improves investor confidence, lowers funding costs, enhances international credibility, and provides better access to global capital markets. The milestone strengthens Federal Bank's competitive position among internationally recognized financial institutions while supporting future business expansion and sustainable financial growth.
- The **World Bank** approved **\$890 million** for **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**, including an **\$820 million IBRD loan**, **\$60 million Clean Technology Fund loan**, and **\$10 million grant**. The programme targets rooftop solar installations in **one crore households**, mobilizing **\$4.2 billion** in private investment and creating **1.7 million jobs**. It also strengthens **DISCOMs**, financial institutions, and vendors for large-scale implementation. The initiative supports India's **net-zero 2070** target, renewable energy expansion, energy security, and affordable electricity through residential solar power adoption.
- The Government exempted eligible **GIFT City IFSC** maritime units from obtaining licences under **Section 11 of the Coastal Shipping Act, 2025** for chartering foreign vessels used in **EXIM trade**. The reform aims to promote **maritime leasing, ship financing, and maritime services**, while improving the **ease of doing business**. Existing **cabotage rules** remain unchanged. The move is expected to attract global investment and strengthen **GIFT City** as an international maritime and financial services hub.
- India extended the **anti-dumping duty** on **seamless steel tubes and pipes** imported from **China** until **27 January 2027**. The decision followed a **sunset review** by the **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)**, which concluded that removing the duty could harm domestic manufacturers. Applicable to products under **Customs Tariff Heading 7304**, the measure protects the Indian steel industry from **unfairly priced imports** and supports fair competition.
- **Indian Potash Limited (IPL)** and **Jain Irrigation Systems Limited** signed an MoU to promote **drip irrigation** for **sugarcane cultivation** in **Gujarat**. The partnership covers **field surveys, system design, installation, farmer training, and fertigation support**. Farmers will receive assistance for adopting **Micro Irrigation Systems**, including access to **credit and government grants**. The initiative aims to improve **water-use efficiency**, increase **crop productivity**, promote **sustainable agriculture**, and strengthen India's **biofuel feedstock** ecosystem.
- **Jio Platforms Ltd.** appointed **Pankaj Pawar** as its new **Chief Executive Officer**, replacing **Kiran Thomas**, ahead of its proposed **IPO**. Pawar, a Reliance veteran since **2000** and Managing Director of **Reliance Jio Infocomm**, brings over **30 years** of telecom experience. The leadership change was disclosed in the **Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP)** filed with **SEBI**. The company plans to raise nearly **USD 4 billion (₹37,700 crore)**, potentially making it **India's largest IPO**.
- **Policybazaar** appointed **Amitabh Bachchan** as its **Insurance Awareness Ambassador** to promote **health and term insurance** across India. The campaign supports **IRDAI's Insurance for All by 2047** vision and encourages families to prioritise financial protection. Under the theme '**Parivaar Sabse Pehle**', the initiative aims to increase insurance awareness in both urban and rural areas. Bachchan's trusted image will help promote **financial planning, insurance penetration**, and social security, encouraging timely insurance decisions for Indian households.

- India's **merchandise trade deficit** widened to **\$30.43 billion** in **June 2026**, rising from **\$28.21 billion** in May and **\$19.10 billion** a year earlier. Merchandise exports declined to **\$40.41 billion**, while imports stood at **\$70.84 billion**. The widening deficit was driven by high imports of **crude oil, machinery, electronics**, and precious metals alongside slower export growth. The trend may increase pressure on the **current account deficit, rupee stability**, and inflation, highlighting the need to strengthen exports and manufacturing competitiveness.
- India's **Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation** increased to **9.87%** in **June 2026** from **9.68%** in May due to rising prices of **food products, basic metals, chemicals**, and mineral oils. **Retail inflation** also rose to **4.38%**, while the **Consumer Food Price Index** reached **5.32%**. Although **fuel inflation** moderated due to lower crude oil prices, manufacturing inflation remained elevated. Persistent food and commodity price pressures continue to pose inflation risks for the Indian economy.
- EaseMyTrip** signed an **MoU** with the **Jharkhand Tourism Department** to promote the state's **religious, cultural, eco-tourism**, and tribal heritage. The partnership will market destinations including **Baidyanath Dham, waterfalls, forests, wildlife parks**, and heritage sites through digital campaigns and the **EasyDarshan** platform. The initiative aims to increase tourist arrivals, generate employment, support local businesses, and strengthen Jharkhand's tourism economy by showcasing authentic travel experiences and improving digital visibility across India.
- MRF Ltd.** was named **India's Most Valuable and Strongest Tyre Brand** in the **Brand Finance India 100 – 2026** report. It also ranked as the **third strongest tyre brand globally** with a **Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 87.7/100**. The recognition reflects MRF's strong financial performance, market leadership, customer trust, and brand value. Established in **1946**, MRF manufactures tyres for automobiles, aircraft, agricultural machinery, and commercial vehicles, reinforcing its leadership in India's automotive sector.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** launched India's first **Index of Services Production (ISP)** with **2024–25** as the base year. Covering **19 formal service sectors**, the index will provide monthly data for policymaking and economic monitoring. The first report showed **14 sectors** recording double-digit growth in **April 2026**, led by **Accommodation & Food Services (37.2%)**, **Retail (30.8%)**, and **Administrative Services (28.7%)**. The index uses **GST data, administrative records**, and surveys, with monthly releases scheduled on the **29th**.
- India's **net direct tax collections** increased by **16.4%** to **₹6.51 lakh crore** as of **13 July 2026**, according to the **Income Tax Department**. **Corporate tax** collections reached **₹2.40 lakh crore**, while **non-corporate taxes** rose to **₹3.85 lakh crore**. **Gross direct tax collections** stood at **₹7.74 lakh crore**, with refunds increasing to **₹1.22 lakh crore**. Rising tax compliance, stronger corporate earnings, and higher market activity contributed to the increase, strengthening India's fiscal position.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced a prudential framework for **Specified Non-Financial Assets (SNFAs)**, effective **1 October 2026**. Applicable to **banks, NBFCs, RRBs, SFBs**, and **AIFIs**, the framework standardizes **asset acquisition, valuation, recovery**, and **disposal**, improving **transparency and financial governance**.
- The Digital India BHASHINI Division signed an MoU with **Punjab National Bank** to introduce AI-powered multilingual banking services. Under the **BHASHINI for Seva/Sanchalan** initiative, customers will access banking services in their preferred Indian languages using AI translation, speech technologies, and language models. The integration aims to improve digital banking accessibility, particularly in rural and regional areas, while supporting Digital Public Infrastructure and advancing financial inclusion through language-friendly banking solutions.
- The Government revised the **Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED)** on petroleum product exports with effect from **16 July 2026**. Export duty on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) was increased, while petrol duty was reduced. The changes aim to ensure adequate domestic fuel availability, discourage excessive exports during periods of high crude oil prices, and strengthen India's energy security amid global geopolitical uncertainties. Domestic excise duties on petrol and diesel remain unchanged.
- The **RBI Financial Inclusion Index** increased from **67 (FY25)** to **70 (FY26)**, reflecting wider access to **banking, digital payments, insurance, pensions, investments**, and **postal financial services**. Introduced in **2021**, the index measures **Access, Usage, and Quality**. Growth was driven by increased adoption of formal financial services, supporting **financial inclusion, digital finance**, inclusive growth, and efficient delivery of government welfare benefits.
- A **FICCI-Deloitte** report projects India's **Food Processing Industry** to reach **USD 600 billion by 2030**. With only **12–13%** of agricultural produce currently processed, the sector offers major opportunities for **value addition**, reducing post-harvest losses, and increasing farmer incomes. Growth will be supported by **AI, smart logistics, precision agriculture**, exports, urbanization, and government initiatives, strengthening India's global competitiveness and food processing ecosystem.

- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** launched **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)**, a **SEBI-regulated** digital system for trading physical gold electronically. **EGRs** represent ownership of standardized, high-purity gold stored with approved **vault managers**, allowing investors to buy, sell, hold, and redeem gold through **demat accounts** without physical storage. The system offers **secure storage**, **transparent pricing**, **standardized quality**, and **improved liquidity**. This initiative modernizes India's bullion market, strengthens organized gold trading, enhances price discovery, and boosts investor confidence in digital gold investments.
- India's **Index of Core Industries (ICI)** recorded **5% year-on-year growth** in **June 2026**, according to the **Office of Economic Adviser (OEA)**, **DPIIT**. The government introduced a revised **2022-23 base year** and added **Iron Ore** as the **ninth core industry**. **Iron Ore** recorded the highest growth at **43.9%**, followed by **Electricity** and **Cement** at **9.8%** each, while **Steel** grew **4.6%**. The April-June 2026 period registered **3.6% growth**, indicating stronger industrial momentum.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** attracted **\$20.72 billion** in foreign capital between **8 June and 17 July 2026** through temporary forex measures aimed at strengthening the **balance of payments**, supporting the **rupee**, and increasing **foreign exchange reserves**. The inflows comprised **\$17.41 billion** in **FCNR deposits**, **\$1.34 billion** through **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)**, and **\$1.97 billion** via **Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs)**. India's forex reserves stood at **\$675.1 billion** as of **10 July 2026**.
- **EnKash** launched India's first **UPI-enabled Digital Meal Card**, integrating employee meal benefits with the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**. Available in both physical and virtual formats on the **RuPay network**, the prepaid card supports **tap, swipe, scan, and online payments** at over **5 lakh food and grocery outlets**, including **Swiggy, Zomato, and Blinkit**. Following revised **Income Tax Rules** effective **1 April 2026**, employees can receive tax-free meal benefits up to **₹8,800 per month**, promoting digital payments and cashless transactions.
- India's **fertiliser exports** increased by nearly **52%** between **FY24 and FY26**, rising from **0.31 million tonnes to 0.47 million tonnes**, driven mainly by exports of **potassium sulphate, superphosphates, organic fertilisers, and specialised products**. **Brazil** emerged as the largest importer during this period. Despite export growth, India continues to rely heavily on imports of **urea, DAP, and MOP**, with total imports reaching **28.17 million tonnes** in **FY26**, highlighting the need to reduce import dependence for long-term agricultural security.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** revived its **polymer banknotes initiative** by inviting a global **Expression of Interest (EoI)** through **BRBNMPL** for security-grade polymer substrate sheets. The proposal focuses on introducing durable **₹10 and ₹20 polymer notes**, offering improved resistance to moisture, dirt, and tearing while incorporating advanced **anti-counterfeit features** such as transparent windows, holograms, and colour-shifting inks. Although more expensive initially, polymer notes have longer lifespans, reducing replacement costs and supporting currency modernization.
- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** recorded **24,161.69 crore transactions** worth **₹314.23 lakh crore** during **FY 2025-26**, according to the **Ministry of Finance**. Operated by **NPCI**, the platform had **55.49 crore users** by **June 2026**, significantly improving upon the previous financial year. To strengthen cybersecurity, authorities introduced **risk-based transaction limits**, enhanced authentication, and the **Comprehensive UPI Information Security Framework (CUIISF) 2025**. UPI also expanded internationally, enabling merchant payments in countries including **Bhutan, Singapore, and the UAE**.
- **NRI deposit inflows** declined **29.25%** to **\$1.33 billion** during **April-May FY27**, according to **RBI** data, mainly due to slower growth in **FCNR(B)** and **NRE deposits**. Outstanding **NRI deposits** stood at **\$165.96 billion** in **May 2026**, while **NRO deposits** recorded a modest increase. Following the decline, the **RBI** introduced a **concessional swap facility** for fresh **FCNR(B)** deposits, resulting in **\$17.4 billion** of fresh inflows between **8 June and 17 July 2026**, strengthening foreign currency reserves.
- **Infosys** has appointed **Ashiss Dash** as its next **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD)**, effective **1 April 2027**, after **Salil Parekh's** second term concludes. **Dash**, who joined **Infosys** in **1995**, becomes the company's **first internally promoted CEO** and brings nearly **three decades of experience** across global business operations. His appointment comes as the **IT industry** undergoes rapid transformation driven by **artificial intelligence, automation, and digital innovation**. The leadership transition is expected to support **Infosys' continued growth, technological advancement, and long-term competitiveness**.
- **India** is emerging as a **fast-growing consumer market** for **European investors**, driven by its **rapid economic growth, expanding middle class, skilled workforce, and business-friendly reforms**. According to **Euractiv**, sectors such as **technology, renewable energy, healthcare, manufacturing, automobiles, and financial services** present significant investment opportunities. Compared with challenges faced in **China**, India offers stronger long-term growth potential through infrastructure expansion, digital transformation, and policy reforms. The trend is expected to strengthen **India-Europe trade, investment, technology partnerships**, and India's position as a leading global investment destination.

- **India successfully exported 12.5 tonnes of Dashehari and Langra mangoes** from Uttar Pradesh to Dubai through the **sea route**, marking a breakthrough in agricultural exports. Developed by **ICAR-CISH** and **APEDA**, the export used **METWASH treatment**, **advanced post-harvest technology**, and **uninterrupted cold-chain logistics**, ensuring nearly **90% marketable quality** after a **25-day journey**. The sea-based protocol reduces dependence on expensive air freight and increased farmers' earnings by **₹15-20 per kg**, creating new opportunities for expanding **Indian mango exports** to international markets.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** increased by **\$1.08 billion** to **\$676.24 billion** for the week ending **17 July 2026**, according to the **RBI**. The rise was driven mainly by higher **Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs)**, although **gold reserves** declined. Strong reserves enhance **rupee stability**, support imports, strengthen investor confidence, and help India withstand **global financial uncertainties**.
- India will launch its first **benchmark-based Natural Gas Futures Contract** on the **NSE** from **27 July 2026** after **SEBI approval**. Traded under **NATGASIND**, the contract is linked to the **IGX Dahej Hub benchmark** and enables **producers, traders, and consumers** to hedge against **gas price volatility**. The initiative improves **price discovery, transparency, risk management**, and supports India's transition towards a **gas-based economy**.
- India has emerged as one of **Red Hat's top five global growth markets**, driven by rapid adoption of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **open-source software**, **cloud computing**, and **digital transformation**. According to **Navtej Singh Bal**, Vice President and General Manager for **India and South Asia**, the country has become a major **business, engineering, and innovation hub** for **Red Hat** and **IBM**. He emphasized that AI will enhance **productivity** rather than replace jobs, increasing demand for skills in **AI, cybersecurity, data science**, and **cloud technologies**, while highlighting challenges such as **infrastructure costs, AI deployment, and talent shortages**.
- The **Government of India** has approved the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** proposal to conduct field trials of **one billion ₹10** and **one billion ₹20 polymer banknotes** to modernize the country's currency system. Announced by **Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary**, the initiative will evaluate the notes' **durability, security, and performance** under different climatic and usage conditions. Made from a **special plastic polymer**, these notes are more resistant to **moisture, dirt, and wear**, offer stronger **anti-counterfeiting features**, and reduce replacement costs. **Paper currency** will continue alongside polymer notes, while **digital payment systems** remain unaffected.
- **SBI Life Insurance Company Limited** has become the **Principal Partner** of the **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** for the **2026 Para Sports Season**, reinforcing its commitment to promoting **inclusive sports** and supporting **para-athletes**. Under the partnership, SBI Life will serve as the **Official Life Insurance Partner** for the **Commonwealth Para Games 2026** in **Glasgow** and the **Asian Para Games 2026** in **Aichi-Nagoya**. The collaboration aims to celebrate athletes' achievements, raise awareness about **para sports**, and encourage wider participation. It also continues the company's support following its association with Indian para-athletes during the **2024 Paris Paralympic Games**.
- The **Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA)** launched the **Favara-UPI Cross-Border Payment Corridor** on **30 July 2026**, enabling instant money transfers from **Maldivian mobile banking applications** to **UPI-linked bank accounts in India**. The system integrates the **Favara Instant Payment System** with **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, automatically converting **Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR)** into **Indian Rupees (INR)**. Initially available through **Bank of Maldives Plc** and **Maldives Islamic Bank Plc**, the initiative was developed with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, strengthening **digital financial connectivity** and **India-Maldives economic cooperation**.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has decided to replace the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** with the **Output Producer Price Index (PPI)** as the **GDP deflator** for quarterly and annual **GDP estimates**, wherever applicable. Released by **DPIIT** in **June 2026**, the **PPI** better reflects **producer prices** and aligns India with **international statistical standards**. The reform introduces the **Double Deflation Method**, updates the **GDP base year** from **2011-12 to 2022-23**, and will be implemented from **Q1 FY 2026-27**, improving **real GDP, GVA estimation, and economic policymaking**.
- **OmniCard**, developed by **Eroute Technologies Pvt. Ltd.**, has launched **India's first UPI-based Flexi Benefits Wallet**, called the **Flexi Benefits Basket**, built on an **RBI-licensed Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI)** platform. The wallet enables employees to manage **tax-efficient benefits** through a **single digital wallet** and make **UPI Scan-and-Pay** transactions at nearly **60 million UPI-enabled merchants**. Supporting categories like **meals, fuel, telecom, books, and gadgets**, it uses **Merchant Category Code (MCC)** controls for compliance. Aligned with the **Income-tax Rules, 2026** (effective **1 April 2026**), it offers tax-free benefits exceeding **₹2 lakh annually**, including **₹1,05,600** for meals.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **draft amendments** requiring all **Securitisation Notes (SNs)** to be issued, held, and transferred only in **dematerialised (demat) form** to improve **transparency, liquidity, efficiency, and investor protection**. The RBI has also retained the **minimum investment limit of ₹1 crore** at both **issuance and subsequent transfers**. The proposal mandates compliance agreements between **lenders and Special Purpose Entities (SPEs)** and aligns **public issue criteria** with **SEBI regulations**. The reforms aim to modernise India's **securitisation market**, strengthen the **debt market**, and boost investor confidence.
- **DBS Bank**, headquartered in **Singapore**, became the **first Southeast Asian bank** to win the **"World's Best Corporate Bank"** title at the **Global Finance Global Bank Awards 2026**, marking the first regional winner since the category was introduced in **2005**. The bank also received **"Asia's Best Bank"** and **"Singapore's Best Bank"** awards for its excellence in **corporate banking, digital innovation, and financial services**. Operating across **19 international markets**, DBS offers **AI-driven solutions** in **corporate finance, trade finance, cash management, and treasury services**, reinforcing **Singapore's global financial leadership** and Asia's growing prominence in banking.
- India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** has gained global recognition, with **24 countries** partnering to adopt **India Stack**, including **UPI, DigiLocker, Aadhaar, e-KYC, eSign**, and the **Account Aggregator** framework. **UPI** is now available for merchant payments in **10 international markets**, while **Kenya and Cuba** have begun implementing **DigiLocker**. India is also in discussions with **Laos, Seychelles, Venezuela, Armenia, Fiji, Guyana, and Colombia** to deploy digital platforms like **e-Sanjeevani, e-Office, and e-Hospital**, strengthening its leadership in **digital governance, financial inclusion, and global Digital Public Infrastructure** initiatives.
- Indian banks collected **₹7,086.63 crore** as penalties for non-maintenance of **Minimum Average Balance (MAB)** in **FY 2025-26**, according to the **Ministry of Finance** data presented in the **Rajya Sabha**. **Private sector banks** collected **₹4,948.71 crore**, accounting for nearly **70%** of total charges, while **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** collected **₹2,137.92 crore**. **HDFC Bank and Axis Bank** were the highest private-sector contributors. Meanwhile, **10 out of 12 PSBs** discontinued savings account penalties. **Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDAs)**, including **PM Jan Dhan Yojana** accounts, remain exempt from minimum balance requirements. RBI allows such charges under **transparent and board-approved policies**.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** is set to become the **first Indian bank in 2026** to issue **Basel III-compliant Additional Tier-I (AT-1) Perpetual Bonds**, aiming to strengthen its capital base. The bank plans to raise **₹5,000 crore** through the bond issue with a **five-year call option**, subject to approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and regulators. The issuance is part of SBI's larger **₹60,000 crore capital-raising plan** for **FY 2026-27** through **Infrastructure Bonds, AT-1 Bonds, and Tier-II Bonds**. **AT-1 Perpetual Bonds** help banks improve **Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)**, meet **Basel III norms**, absorb losses, and support future lending growth. **SBI**, founded in **1955**, is headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **Axis Finance Limited (AFL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Axis Bank**, launched **'Axis Finance Drishti'**, an in-house **Business Rules Engine (BRE)** and digital credit decision platform to enhance **retail and MSME lending**. The platform uses **advanced analytics, statistical scorecards, and multiple data sources** for faster, data-driven credit assessment and supports **real-time decision-making and Straight-Through Processing (STP)**. In **Phase-I**, **Drishti** was rolled out for **Personal Loans, Business Loans, Loan Against Property (LAP), and Disha Home Loans**. **AFL** is a **non-deposit-taking NBFC**, incorporated in **1995**, headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced the winding up of **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** after approval from the **Delhi High Court**. RBI appointed **Girikumar Nair**, former **Chief General Manager of State Bank of India (SBI)**, as the **Official Liquidator** to manage the process. The action follows RBI's cancellation of **PPBL's licence** due to **serious regulatory violations**. The winding-up process will be conducted under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** and **Companies Act, 2013**. RBI assured that **depositors' funds are safe** and **PPBL** has sufficient liquidity to repay liabilities.
- India's **Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections** reached **₹2.11 lakh crore in July 2026**, registering a **15.4% year-on-year growth** due to improved **tax compliance**, strong economic activity, and better business performance. **Domestic GST collections** increased by **10.1%** to **₹1.45 lakh crore**, while GST from **imports** grew by **28.8%** to **₹66,511 crore**. After refunds of **₹29,968 crore**, net GST revenue stood at **₹1.81 lakh crore**, rising **15.8%** annually. During **April-July FY 2026-27**, total GST collections reached **₹8.43 lakh crore**. **Haryana** recorded the highest growth at **25%**, followed by **Gujarat and Telangana at 19%**. The strong revenue performance reflects healthy consumption, increased imports, efficient tax administration, and improved government fiscal capacity.

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- India's **fiscal deficit** reached **₹3.1 trillion** during the **April-June quarter of FY 2026-27**, accounting for **18.2%** of the government's annual target of **₹16.96 trillion**. The increase was mainly due to higher government spending on **capital expenditure** and infrastructure projects. Compared with **₹2.8 trillion** during the same period last year, the deficit remained within the planned fiscal framework. Government finances received support from stronger revenue collections, with **net tax receipts** increasing to **₹6.4 trillion** from **₹5.4 trillion**, while **non-tax revenue** rose to **₹3.8 trillion**. Total government expenditure reached **₹13.6 trillion** during the quarter. The data indicates continued focus on **investment-led growth** while maintaining the FY27 fiscal deficit target of **4.3% of GDP**.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** increased by **\$6.12 billion** to reach **\$682.35 billion** during the week ending **24 July 2026**, according to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. The rise was mainly supported by growth in **Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs)** and higher **gold reserves**. FCAs increased by **\$4.87 billion** to **\$555.93 billion**, while gold reserves rose by **\$1.31 billion**. However, **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** declined by **\$53 million** to **\$18.62 billion**, and India's IMF reserve position fell by **\$11 million** to **\$4.75 billion**. Strong forex reserves help maintain **rupee stability**, support import payments, manage external obligations, and protect the economy from global financial uncertainties.

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

- The **Ministry of Ayush** and the **IndiaAI Mission** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on **31 July 2026** to integrate **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** into India's traditional healthcare systems. The collaboration will promote **AI-driven research, digital healthcare, medicinal plant studies, drug administration**, and innovation across **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy**. Key initiatives include the **AIKosh platform, GPU-based high-performance computing**, and the **IndiaAI Innovation Challenge 2026**, supporting researchers, startups, and evidence-based healthcare.
- India and Saudi Arabia** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** during **Saudi Water Week in Jeddah** to strengthen cooperation in **water resource management and sustainable irrigation**. Signed by **Suhel Khan** and **Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen AlFadley**, the agreement promotes irrigation efficiency, technology exchange, institutional capacity building, and sharing of best practices. It addresses water challenges arising from **climate change**, urbanization, and growing demand. The partnership expands bilateral ties beyond energy and trade while supporting long-term **water security, climate resilience**, agricultural sustainability, and collaborative research.
- On **26 June 2026**, the **United States, Israel, and Lebanon** signed a **Trilateral Framework Agreement** to reduce border tensions and promote long-term regional stability. The **US-mediated** agreement provides for **phased Israeli military redeployment**, greater deployment of the **Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF)**, verified **disarmament of Hezbollah**, **pilot security zones**, and a **US-backed coordination mechanism**. It also includes **100 million US dollars** in humanitarian assistance for Lebanon. While **Lebanon** and the **United States** welcomed the initiative, **Israel** linked troop withdrawal to Hezbollah's disarmament, whereas **Hezbollah** rejected the agreement entirely.
- India and Japan** strengthened their **Special Strategic and Global Partnership** during **Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's** visit to India. The two countries signed agreements on **Economic Security, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Energy Resilience**, while launching a roadmap covering **semiconductors, quantum technologies, critical minerals**, advanced materials, and resilient supply chains. They also announced an AI partnership promoting responsible innovation and plans to establish around **1,000 biogas and organic fertiliser plants** under the **GOBARDhan** initiative. Defence cooperation, naval exercises, and **Indo-Pacific** maritime collaboration will also be significantly expanded.
- India and Rwanda** strengthened defence relations during the **2nd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC)** meeting in **New Delhi**. Building on the **2018 Defence Cooperation Agreement**, both nations adopted an implementation plan covering **military training, joint exercises, defence manufacturing, military medicine**, and institutional capacity building. The Rwandan delegation also interacted with **India's defence industry** and visited the **Army Hospital (Referral & Research)**. The meeting reinforces **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, expands defence technology collaboration, strengthens military healthcare cooperation, and reflects India's growing strategic engagement with African partners.
- India and Australia** signed an agreement granting **IP Australia** access to the **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** developed by **CSIR** and the **Ministry of AYUSH**. Australian patent examiners will use TKDL as **prior art** to prevent wrongful patents on traditional knowledge. Established in **2001**, the database contains over **5.2 lakh formulations** from **Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Sowa Rigpa, and Yoga**. Australia becomes the **18th patent office** with access to TKDL.

- **India and Romania** signed multiple **MoUs** to strengthen cooperation in **science, technology, and sports** during **President Droupadi Murmu's** visit to **Bucharest**. Discussions with **President Nicusor Dan** also covered **trade, investment, defence, IT, renewable energy, education, and innovation**. President Murmu received a ceremonial welcome at **Cotroceni Palace** and participated in the **India-Romania Business Forum** and interactions with the Indian diaspora. The agreements are expected to deepen bilateral ties, expand economic cooperation, and further strengthen **India's engagement with Romania and the European Union**.
- India and Seychelles strengthened their bilateral relationship during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit to Seychelles by unveiling **19 major initiatives** covering maritime security, defence, digital payments, healthcare, education, space cooperation, infrastructure, agriculture, and financial assistance. During bilateral talks with President Patrick Herminie in Victoria, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation under India's **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)** vision. Key agreements include maritime security cooperation, an Extradition Treaty, UPI-based digital

payments, peaceful use of outer space, healthcare infrastructure, education, agriculture, and an Exim Bank Line of Credit. India also announced defence assistance by gifting an indigenously built **Fast Patrol Vessel, 10 utility vehicles, five Laser Radial sailing boats**, upgrading the **Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft**, and completing the refit of **PS Zoroaster** for the Seychelles Coast Guard.

- India and New Zealand elevated their bilateral ties to a **Strategic Partnership** by launching the **Strategic Partnership Roadmap to 2030** and signing **10 agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to New Zealand. The roadmap focuses on strengthening cooperation in defence and security, trade and investment, maritime partnership, agriculture, tourism, sports, culture, education, scientific research, and global cooperation. The agreements include maritime cooperation between the defence forces, hydrography and nautical cartography, mutual logistics support between the Indian Navy and the New Zealand Defence Force, a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, disaster management, animal husbandry and dairying, tourism, sports, development of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** at **Lothal, Gujarat**, and cultural cooperation.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

- The **Central Government** reappointed **Ravi Agrawal** as **Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** for an additional **six-month** term from **1 July to 31 December 2026**, following approval by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. A **1988-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS)** officer, he has served as **CBDT Chairman** since **June 2024**. The **CBDT**, under the **Ministry of Finance**, is the apex authority for direct tax administration, responsible for tax policy, implementation of the **Income-tax Act**, compliance, transparency, and
- combating tax evasion.
- The **Indian REITs Association (IRA)** appointed **Shirish Godbole**, **CEO of Knowledge Realty Trust**, as its new **Chairperson**, succeeding **Alok Aggarwal**. Established in **2023** under the guidance of **SEBI** and the **Ministry of Finance**, the IRA promotes the development of India's **Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)** ecosystem. Godbole pledged to strengthen governance, transparency, investor awareness, and sustainable sector growth. **Knowledge Realty Trust**, backed by the **Sattva Group** and **Blackstone**, is currently **India's largest listed REIT** by market capitalization.
- The **Government of India** extended the tenure of **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri** by **one year** from **1 July 2026**, ensuring continuity in the **Ministry of External Affairs**. A **1989-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS)** officer, he became **Foreign Secretary** on **15 July**

2024. With over **three decades** of diplomatic experience, he has served in **Brussels, Tunis, Islamabad, Washington D.C., Sri Lanka, Munich**, and as Ambassador to **Spain, Myanmar, and China**. He also served as **Deputy National Security Adviser (Strategic Affairs)** between **2022 and 2024**.

- **Lokhande Prashant Sitaram**, a **2001-batch IAS officer** of the **AGMUT cadre**, was appointed **Additional Secretary** in the **Department of Home, Ministry of Home Affairs**, following approval by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. He will oversee major policy coordination and administrative responsibilities while continuing as **Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** on an **additional charge** basis until a regular appointment is made. The appointment reflects the Government's confidence in his administrative experience across education and internal governance.
- The **Central Government** appointed new heads of three major police institutions after approval by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**. **Alok Kumar Mittal** became **Director General of BPR&D**, **Amit Garg** was appointed **Director of NCRB**, and **Sujeet Pandey** became **Director of SVPNPA, Hyderabad**. These appointments aim to strengthen **police modernization**, improve **crime data management**, and enhance **IPS officer training**. **BPR&D** functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, while **NCRB** manages national crime records and **SVPNPA** trains Indian Police Service officers.

- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** appointed **Sanjeev Jain**, a **2008-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer**, as **India's Ambassador to North Korea (DPRK)**. Previously serving as Ambassador to **Cabo Verde**, Jain brings extensive diplomatic experience in strengthening India's bilateral relations. He will assume charge after completing necessary diplomatic formalities. His appointment is expected to enhance **India-North Korea diplomatic engagement**, support India's broader **foreign policy objectives**, and strengthen cooperation on regional and international issues through continued diplomatic dialogue and strategic
- **Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala** has been appointed **Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**. A renowned **oceanographer**, he has contributed to **satellite oceanography, climate services, tsunami warning systems, and disaster risk reduction**. As Director of **INCOIS**, he helped establish the **Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre**.
- The **Government of India** appointed senior **BJP leader Harjeet Singh Grewal** as the new **Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**. Established under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**, the statutory body safeguards minority rights, monitors constitutional protections, and advises the government on welfare measures. Grewal becomes the **third Sikh and second person from Punjab** to head the Commission and receives the status of a **Union Cabinet Minister**. A **BJP member since 1986**, he previously founded and led the **BJP Kisan Morcha**.
- Global real estate investment firm **Hines** appointed **Amit Diwan** as the **Head of Asia-Pacific and Middle East Operations**. Previously leading **Hines India**, Diwan brings nearly **25 years** of experience in real estate investment and development. He will oversee regional investments, partnerships, strategic expansion, and cross-border operations across high-growth markets. Succeeding **Jon Tanaka**, who will focus on Japan and Korea, Diwan's appointment highlights the growing influence of **Indian professionals** in global leadership and international real estate markets.
- **Rahul Himalian**, Director (**Tourism & Marketing**) of **IRCTC**, has been given additional charge as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** following the resignation of **Sanjay Kumar Jain**. A **1999-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer** with over **26 years** of experience, Himalian has served on the **IRCTC Board** since **February 2024**. He will continue overseeing tourism and marketing while ensuring leadership continuity at the **Miniratna PSU** responsible for ticketing, catering, tourism, Rail Neer, and hospitality services.
- Senior **IAS officer Anurag Jain** has been appointed the new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog** after approval by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. A **1989-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre** officer, Jain brings extensive experience in **governance, infrastructure, industrial policy, and public administration**. He will serve for **two years** or until further orders, supporting policy reforms under the **Viksit Bharat@2047** vision and strengthening initiatives such as the **Investment Friendliness Index 2026**.
- **Naresh Pal Gangwar**, a **1994-batch IAS officer** of the **Rajasthan cadre**, has been appointed as the new **Secretary, Department of Higher Education**, under the **Ministry of Education** as part of a major government reshuffle. Approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, he succeeds **Vineet Joshi**, who has been transferred to the **Department of Panchayati Raj**. Gangwar will oversee **higher education policy implementation, institutional reforms, university coordination, and regulatory affairs**. With extensive administrative experience at both the **state and central levels**, he is expected to strengthen governance and reforms in India's higher education sector.
- The **Union Government** appointed **Satya Pal Kumar**, a **2005-batch IRS officer**, as the new **Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-India)**. The appointment, approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, strengthens India's efforts against **money laundering, terror financing, financial fraud, and suspicious transactions**. **FIU-India** plays a key role in collecting and sharing **financial intelligence** with enforcement agencies.
- **Shri Keshav Chandra**, a **1995 AGMUT cadre IAS officer**, assumed charge as the **Secretary of the Ministry of Mines** on **27 July 2026**. Soon after taking office, he chaired a review meeting to assess key programmes related to **mineral exploration, auction of mineral blocks, and the development of critical and strategic minerals**. He emphasized effective implementation of mining reforms, improved coordination among stakeholders, and strengthening **India's mineral security**. The Ministry is prioritizing minerals such as **lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements** to support **electric vehicles, renewable energy, defence, and advanced technologies**.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** appointed **Dr. K. Srikar Reddy**, currently **Consul General of India in San Francisco**, as the next **Ambassador of India to Qatar**. His appointment comes at a time when **India-Qatar relations** are expanding in **energy, trade, investment, technology, and strategic cooperation**. **Qatar** remains India's largest supplier of **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**, contributing **11.2 million tonnes, or 41% of India's LNG imports** in **FY 2024-25**. Both countries elevated their ties to a **Strategic Partnership** in **February 2025** and aim to double bilateral trade from **\$14 billion to \$28 billion by 2030**, while **Qatar** continues to host over **8 lakh Indians**.

- **Varsha Ashok Aglawe** became the first woman to head the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** after taking charge as its **54th Director General** on **31 July 2026**. Her appointment marked a historic moment in the **176-year history** of GSI and highlighted women's growing contribution to India's scientific leadership. She succeeded **Asit Saha** and brings over **30 years of experience** in geoscience, geological exploration, and administration. Aglawe joined GSI in **1992** after working with the **Indian Bureau of Mines** and previously served as **Additional Director General and Head of Department, Eastern Region, Kolkata**. A specialist in **palaeontology and palynology**, she contributed to identifying the **Salbardi-Ghorpend dinosaur nesting site** in Central India. Her leadership comes during India's expansion in **critical mineral exploration** for clean energy and advanced manufacturing.
- The Central Government extended the tenure of **K Rajaraman** as Chairperson of the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** until **24 October 2028**. The extension was announced through a **Ministry of Finance gazette notification** dated **30 July 2026**, adding **27 months** beyond his original three-year term that began in **2023**. Rajaraman, a senior **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer and former **Secretary of Department of Telecommunications**, will continue guiding the growth of the **GIFT International Financial Services Centre (GIFT IFSC), Gandhinagar**. Established in **April 2020** under the **IFSCA Act, 2019**, the authority regulates international financial services including **banking, insurance, capital markets, and funds**. His continued leadership aims to attract global investment and strengthen India's position in international finance.

AWARDS

- **Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises**, received the **2026 Leadership Award** from the **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)** during its **Annual Leadership Summit** in **Washington, D.C.** The honour recognizes his outstanding contribution to strengthening **India-US economic relations** and transforming India's telecommunications sector. Mittal emphasized the importance of **digital connectivity, innovation, and investment**, while expressing confidence in the early conclusion of the proposed **India-US trade agreement**. The award also acknowledges his role in promoting globally competitive businesses and bilateral commercial cooperation.
- From **2027**, the **International Booker Prize** will be renamed the **Bukhman International Booker Prize** under a **10-year partnership** with **Bukhman Philanthropies**. The annual prize money will double to **£100,000**, shared equally between the **author and translator**, while shortlisted entries will continue receiving **£5,000** each. Founded by **Daria and Dmitri Bukhman**, the philanthropic organization supports literature, education, and healthcare. Chaired by **Katie Kitamura** in **2027**, the award continues recognizing outstanding translated fiction published in the **UK or Ireland**.
- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** received the **Gold Award** at the **National Awards for e-Governance 2026** for its **AI-powered mental health platform, ICMR-MINDS**. The award recognized innovation in delivering **citizen-centric healthcare services** through **Artificial Intelligence**. The platform uses an **AI-based Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS)** to assist frontline healthcare workers with **mental health screening, assessment, treatment recommendations, and follow-up care**. Featuring **multilingual support, offline functionality, and real-time dashboards**, ICMR-MINDS aims to improve accessible and evidence-based mental healthcare across India.
- **Acharya Ranchhodlal Goswami** of **Ahmedabad** was selected for the **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025** by the **Sangeet Natak Akademi** for preserving **Haveli Sangeet**. The **16th-generation Acharya** of the historic **Goswami Haveli** has composed over **2,200 devotional verses**, authored **eight books**, contributed to **Gujarat University's Haveli Sangeet curriculum**, and continues doctoral research in music. The award recognizes his efforts in preserving the **550-year-old Pushtimarg devotional music tradition**, an important component of India's classical musical heritage.
- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** won the prestigious **WSIS Prize 2026** for **Samriddh Gram**, an integrated **phygital** rural service delivery model powered by **BharatNet**. Awarded under **Action Line C6**, the initiative establishes **Samriddhi Kendras** delivering healthcare, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, governance, and digital services through village-level centres. Supported by BharatNet's connectivity to over **2.17 lakh Gram Panchayats**, the project was selected after evaluation by the **ITU** and over **2.2 million global votes**, showcasing India's leadership in **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** and inclusive rural digital transformation.

- India achieved a historic feat at the **56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026** in **Colombia**, with all five team members winning **gold medals**. India jointly topped the medal tally with **China, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea, and Taiwan**. The medalists were **Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Bendale, Rishit Garg, Shresth Suraiya, and Svarit Joshi**. Trained by **HBCSE**, the team continued India's decade-long record of winning only **gold or silver medals**, reinforcing India's excellence in international science education.
- Renowned **Tamil poet and lyricist R. Vairamuthu** received the **60th Jnanpith Award (2025)**, India's highest literary honour, becoming the **third Tamil writer** to receive the award after **Akilan and Jayakanthan**. Presented in **New Delhi** by **Dr. Karan Singh**, the award includes **₹11 lakh**, a **bronze statue of Goddess Vagdevi**, and a citation. Vairamuthu was recognised for his exceptional contribution to **Tamil literature**, including works such as **Kallikattu Ithikasam**, which won the **Sahitya Akademi Award**.
- India achieved a historic milestone at the **58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026** in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**, with all four participants winning **gold medals** for the first time. **Debadatta Priyadarshi, Harshit Singla, Kabeer Chillar, and Sandeep Kuchi** secured golds, placing India among the top-performing nations alongside **China, Vietnam, and Russia's Individual Participants Group B**. Organized with **363 students from 93 countries**, the competition tested advanced chemistry concepts and laboratory skills. The achievement reflects the excellence of **HBCSE's** rigorous scientific training.
- India won **one gold and three silver medals** at the **37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026** held in **Vilnius, Lithuania**. **Bhavya Gunwal** earned the **gold medal**, while **Soumil Maity, Nishit Kalani, and Anmol Kumar** secured **silver medals**, ensuring every Indian participant won an award. The event featured **307 students from 78 countries**, assessing theoretical and practical knowledge in **genetics, molecular biology, ecology, and physiology**. Guided by **HBCSE-TIFR**, India further strengthened its reputation in global science competitions.
- Renowned American filmmaker **James Gray** will receive the **Pardo alla Carriera (Honorary Career Pardo Award)** at the **79th Locarno Film Festival** on **9 August 2026**. The honour recognizes his outstanding contribution to world cinema and will be presented before the screening of his latest film, **Paper Tiger**. Gray is acclaimed for films including **Little Odessa, We Own the Night, The Immigrant, The Lost City of Z, Ad Astra, and Armageddon Time**, celebrated for exploring identity, family, immigration, and human values.
- Former **DRDO Chairman Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy** received the prestigious **EMESCO-Dr. B.V. Pattabhiram Changemaker-2026 Award** in **Hyderabad** for his exceptional contributions to **defence research, scientific innovation, and technological self-reliance**. The award was presented by actor and politician **Chiranjeevi**. Dr. Reddy highlighted India's growing capabilities in **indigenous defence technologies**, which have significantly reduced dependence on foreign nations for critical military systems. As a member of the **National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)**, he continues to inspire students and young scientists through **science outreach, lectures, and innovation-driven initiatives**.
- Prem K. Vora**, President of the **Electric Merchants Association (EMA)** for **2025-26**, was honoured with the prestigious **Rashtriya Ashok Samman (Bharat Samman)** during the **National Leadership Conclave** held in **New Delhi** in **July 2026**. The award recognizes his outstanding contribution to the **electrical trade sector, ethical business practices, MSME development, and sustainable industrial growth**. Under his leadership, EMA has promoted **digital transformation, the Green Electricals initiative, innovation, and modernization** within the industry. He has previously received honours such as the **Global Youth Ambassador Award** and the **Iconic Emerging Leader in the Electrical Industry Award**.
- The **Fields Medal 2026**, considered the **highest honour in mathematics**, was awarded to **Hong Wang, Yu Deng, John Pardon, and Jacob Tsimmerman** at the **International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) 2026**. The award recognizes exceptional mathematical achievements and future potential. **Hong Wang** was honoured for contributions to **harmonic analysis and geometric measure theory**, while **Yu Deng** received it for work in **partial differential equations (PDEs)**. **John Pardon** was recognized for **symplectic geometry and topology**, and **Jacob Tsimmerman** for advances in **arithmetic geometry**. The **Fields Medal** is awarded every four years by the **International Mathematical Union (IMU)** to mathematicians **under 40 years of age**.
- National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval** received the **Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026** on **1 August 2026** in **Pune, Maharashtra** for his outstanding contribution to **national security and strategic affairs**. The award was presented by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** during a ceremony organized by the **Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust** on the **106th death anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak**. Doval was recognized for his decades-long service in **intelligence operations, counter-terrorism, border security, and security policymaking**. A **1968-batch Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer, he is India's longest-serving **National Security Adviser**. The honour included a **memento, citation, and ₹1 lakh cash prize**, recognizing his role in strengthening India's security framework and protecting national interests.

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

- **Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav** inaugurated **ASSOCHAM's National Conference on "Electric Mobility: Building India an Electric Mobility Hub for Viksit Bharat"** in **New Delhi**. He emphasized that India's **electric vehicle (EV)** transition should prioritize **green growth**, resilient infrastructure, transparent governance, and a **circular economy**. Discussions covered charging infrastructure, battery supply chains, localization, financing, and innovation. The Minister highlighted the **PARIVESH portal**, battery recycling, critical mineral security, and sustainable manufacturing, reinforcing India's ambition to become a global leader in **clean mobility** under the **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision.
- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** organised the **All India Conference of Senior Most Secretaries of Water Resources Departments** in **New Delhi** under the chairmanship of **C. R. Patil**. The conference focuses on **water governance, irrigation efficiency, dam safety, reservoir management, Catch the Rain campaign,**
- State Water Reforms Framework, and Model State Water Awards**. Senior officials from States, Union Territories, the **Central Water Commission**, and the **National Dam Safety Authority** participated to strengthen **Centre-State coordination** and accelerate reforms for sustainable **water conservation and long-term water security**.
- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** unveiled the theme **"Scale without Boundaries"** for the **10th India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026**, to be held from **7-10 October 2026** in **New Delhi**. Organised by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)**, Asia's largest digital technology forum will focus on four pillars—**Srishti, Suraksha, Sashakt, and Samvardhan**. The event will showcase **5G, 6G, AI, IoT, Satellite Communications, Quantum Technologies, and Green Technologies**, while highlighting initiatives like the **Bharat 6G Alliance, PLI Scheme, and Sanchar Saathi Portal**, reinforcing India's vision as a global digital technology leader.

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- According to the **BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026**, India has become the **world's second-largest supplier of seafarers**, contributing **311,936 maritime professionals** and **12.16% of the global seafaring workforce**. India ranks after the **Philippines** and ahead of **China, Russia, and Indonesia**. India's global share increased from **5.2% in 2015 to 12.16% in 2026** due to growth in **maritime education, skill development, and training infrastructure**. The report is prepared by **BIMCO (Baltic and International Maritime Council)** and **ICS (International Chamber of Shipping)**, highlighting India's rising role in the **global shipping industry**.
- The **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026**, prepared by the **Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, CIESIN of Columbia University, and the Yale Center for Geospatial Solutions**, evaluated **177 countries** across **47 indicators** covering **climate change, air quality, biodiversity, water resources, and ecosystem health**. **Estonia** topped the rankings with a score of **74.79**, while **India** ranked **176th** with **22.46**, placing above only **Laos**. The report highlighted challenges related to **pollution, ecosystem conservation, and sustainability**, though India has previously questioned the **EPI methodology** and data assessment process.

DEFENCE

- **General Dhiraj Seth** assumed charge as the **31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** on **30 June 2026**, succeeding **General Upendra Dwivedi**. His tenure will continue until **31 August 2028**. Previously serving as the **49th Vice Chief of the Army Staff**, he was commissioned into the **Armoured Corps** in **December 1986** after graduating from the **National Defence Academy (NDA)**. With nearly four decades of service, he has commanded key formations and became the **first Armoured Corps officer** to become Army Chief since **General Shankar Roy Chowdhary** in **1997**.
- The **Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)** has been established under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** as the apex authority for **port and ship security**. Functioning under the **Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA)** and modeled on **BCAS**, BoPS will oversee surveillance, intelligence sharing, cyber security, compliance, and risk management. The **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** will conduct security assessments, prepare security plans, and provide training. The initiative modernizes India's maritime security architecture and strengthens protection against physical and cyber threats to port infrastructure.

- **Project BRAHMANK**, a flagship initiative of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**, celebrated its **16th Raising Day** in **Arunachal Pradesh**, marking fifteen years of strategic border infrastructure development. Since **2011**, it has constructed and maintained hundreds of kilometres of roads and key bridges across difficult Himalayan terrain. The project has enhanced border connectivity, military mobility, disaster response capability, and socio-economic development in remote regions. By providing all-weather access to border areas, it strengthens India's defence preparedness while improving healthcare, education, and essential services for local communities.
- The **Ministry of Defence** introduced the **Delegation of Financial Powers to DRDO 2026 (DFP-2026)** to improve the efficiency and transparency of defence research. The framework grants greater financial autonomy across different levels of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, enabling faster approvals for procurement, research, innovation, and testing. It strengthens programmes including the **Technology Development Fund (TDF)**, **Extra-Mural Research (EMR)**, and **Defence Innovation Accelerator**. The reform reduces procedural delays, promotes collaboration with industry, startups, MSMEs, academia, and supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in defence technology.
- India commissioned **ICGS Akshay**, a new-generation **Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)**, into the **Bharatiya Tatrakshak (Indian Coast Guard)** fleet on **27 June 2026** at **Goa Shipyard Limited**. Built under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, the vessel is designed for **coastal surveillance, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, anti-smuggling operations, disaster response, and environmental protection**. Named after the Sanskrit word "**Akshay**" meaning **Indestructible**, it enhances maritime security across India's **7,500-km coastline** and **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**. The vessel strengthens India's capability to combat maritime crime while safeguarding marine ecosystems and national interests.
- The **Indian Army** will operationalise its first **Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs)** on **1 July 2026** under the **XVII Corps (Mountain Strike Corps)** at **Panagarh**. Each IBG is a brigade-sized, self-sufficient formation with over **5,000 troops**, integrating **infantry, artillery, armour, engineers, air defence, signals, logistics, and medical support** under a **Major General**. Designed for deployment within **48 hours**, the concept was proposed by **General Bipin Rawat** and tested during **Exercise HimVijay (2019)**. The reform significantly enhances India's readiness for **multi-domain warfare**, particularly along the **India-China border**.
- **General Dhiraj Seth**, the **31st Chief of the Army Staff**, unveiled the **VIJAY** vision to build a technology-driven, future-ready **Indian Army**. The framework focuses on **Vigilance and Readiness, Innovation and Transformation, Jointness and Integration, Aatmanirbharta, and Yoddha First**, emphasizing border security, modernization, indigenous defence capabilities, and soldier welfare. An alumnus of the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** with nearly four decades of service, General Seth aims to accelerate military modernization, strengthen tri-service integration, and align the Army with the national vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- The **K9 Vajra-T** self-propelled howitzer programme highlights strategic defence cooperation between **India** and **South Korea** under **Make in India**. Developed through collaboration between **Hanwha Aerospace** and **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, the **155 mm/52-calibre** artillery system is manufactured at **Hazira, Gujarat**, with **50-60% indigenous content**. India inducted **100 units** by **2021**, ordered another **100** in **2024**, and plans **300 additional guns** under a **₹23,000 crore** modernization programme. The system significantly enhances long-range artillery capability and border preparedness in challenging terrains.
- **Air Marshal Jasvir Singh Mann, AVSM, VSM**, assumed charge as the **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C)** of the **Southern Air Command** on **1 July 2026**, succeeding **Air Marshal Manish Khanna**. Commissioned into the **fighter stream** in **1989**, he is a **Pilot Attack Instructor** with over **3,000 flying hours** on aircraft including the **Apache, MiG-21, Jaguar, MiG-29, Su-30, and Rafale**. He previously served as **Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operations-Offensive)**, **Director General (Weapon Systems)**, and **Senior Air Staff Officer**, bringing extensive operational and leadership experience.
- **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** assumed charge as the **Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS)** on **1 July 2026**, succeeding **Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor**. A fighter pilot commissioned in **1986**, he has accumulated over **3,300 flying hours** on more than **20 aircraft types**. His distinguished career includes commanding a **Mirage-2000 squadron**, a frontline fighter base, and serving as **Air Defence Commander, Director of Air Staff Requirements, and Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC)**. Simultaneously, **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh** assumed charge as the new **CISC**.
- **Lieutenant General Rajesh Pushkar, AVSM, VSM**, assumed charge as the **General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C)** of the **Southern Command** on **1 July 2026**, succeeding **Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain**. A **National Defence Academy (NDA)** alumnus commissioned into the **74 Armoured Regiment** in **1988**, he has nearly **four decades** of military service. He has commanded an **Armoured Regiment, Independent Armoured Brigade, Infantry Division, and 2 Corps (Kharga Corps)**. Headquartered in **Pune**, the Southern Command oversees operational preparedness, logistics, disaster relief, and defence across southern and central India.

- **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh** assumed charge as the **Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC)**. After paying tribute at the **National War Memorial**, he received a ceremonial **tri-service Guard of Honour**. Commissioned into the **Indian Air Force** in **1987**, he is a **Category 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor** with over **4,500 flying hours**. He has commanded a **Fighter Squadron, Radar Station, Fighter Base, and Jammu & Kashmir Air Command**, and is a recipient of the **Vayu Sena Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, and Param Vishisht Seva Medal**.
- The **Indian Navy** deployed a **P-8I** long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft to **Hawaii** for **RIMPAC 2026**, the world's largest multinational naval exercise. Hosted by the **US Pacific Fleet**, the exercise runs from **24 June–31 July 2026**, involving over **30 countries**, warships, submarines, aircraft, and personnel. India has participated since **2014**, reinforcing maritime cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific**. The deployment strengthens surveillance, anti-submarine capabilities, interoperability, collective readiness, and supports a **Free and Open Indo-Pacific** vision.
- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** approved **₹52,000 crore** worth of defence procurement proposals to modernize India's armed forces and strengthen indigenous capabilities. The approvals support **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** by encouraging domestic manufacturing of advanced defence equipment while enhancing operational preparedness across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The procurement package focuses on improving combat readiness, technology induction, self-reliance, defence industrial growth, and national security. The decision also promotes indigenous defence production, reduces import dependence, and accelerates military modernization under India's long-term strategic capability development plans.
- **Adani Defence & Aerospace** began foundation work for a **₹2,500 crore missile manufacturing facility** at **Pali, Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh**. The project will manufacture **medium and long-range missile systems**, along with **composite propellants, TNT, and other explosive materials**. Scheduled for completion within **three years**, it is expected to create around **5,000 direct and indirect jobs** while engaging more than **50 MSMEs**. The facility strengthens **India's defence manufacturing ecosystem**, supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, and enhances the country's indigenous missile production capabilities.
- **INS Mahendragiri (F38)**, the **sixth indigenous stealth frigate** under **Project 17A (Nilgiri-class)**, will be commissioned into the **Indian Navy** on **11 July 2026** at **Visakhapatnam**. Built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited** with over **75% indigenous content**, the warship features **surface-to-air missiles, surface-to-surface missiles, electronic warfare systems, anti-submarine capabilities, and a CODOG propulsion system**. It will join the **Eastern Fleet**, strengthening India's maritime security and supporting the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative in defence manufacturing.
- Indonesia decided to import India's indigenous **Astra Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)** during bilateral discussions between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **President Prabowo Subianto**. Developed by **DRDO** and manufactured by **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**, **Astra** is India's first indigenous long-range air-to-air missile. The agreement also includes expanded cooperation through **BrahMos missile supplies, Indonesia-specific Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)**, and development of **Sabang Port**. The deal strengthens **India's defence exports**, supports **Make in India**, and enhances strategic cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific** region.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight-tested the **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR)** at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**. The rocket accurately demonstrated its **minimum operational range of 60 km**, successfully completing all planned manoeuvres and hitting the target with high precision. Developed by **ARDE, HEMRL, DRDL, and RCI**, the LRGR enhances the **Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL)** system with advanced **guidance, navigation, and precision strike capabilities**, strengthening India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** defence programme.
- The **CSIR-NAL** completed the design phase of the indigenous **Saras MkII 19-seater twin-turboprop aircraft**, marking a major milestone in India's aviation programme. Designed for **regional connectivity** under the **UDAN Scheme**, it features a **pressurised cabin, glass cockpit, digital avionics, autopilot, and command-by-wire flight controls**. **HAL** will support prototype manufacturing and component production, while the **maiden flight** is scheduled for **December 2027**. The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has indicated an initial requirement of **15 aircraft**, strengthening indigenous aerospace capability, civil aviation, and defence transport operations across India.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** deployed **Rafale fighter jets** to Australia for **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**. Hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**, the exercise enhances **interoperability, air combat training, and Indo-Pacific defence cooperation**.
- **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2** is jointly conducted by the **Indian Navy** and the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)** to improve **maritime security, interoperability, and combat piracy, terrorism, and illegal trafficking**, reinforcing a **rules-based maritime order**.



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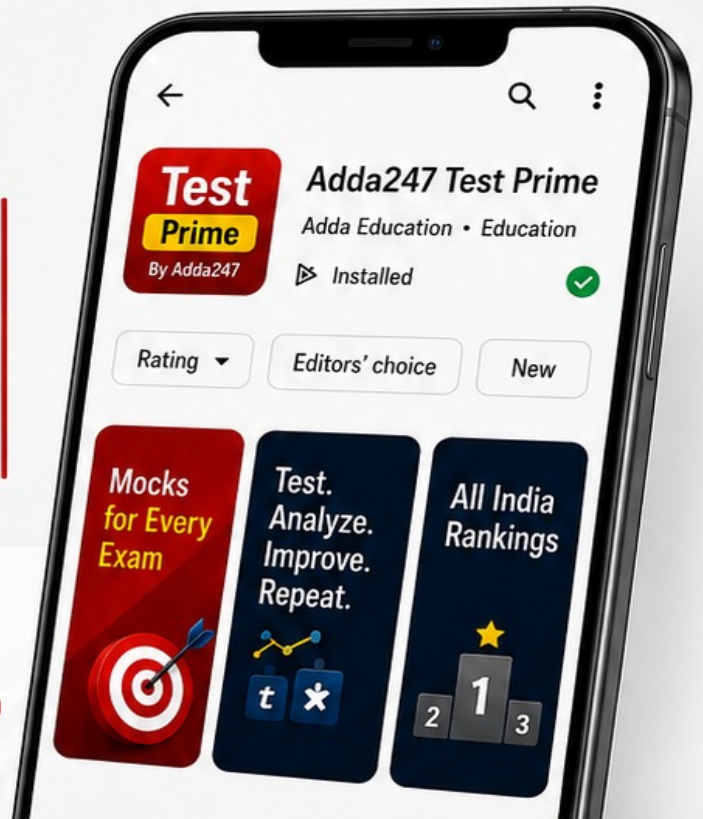


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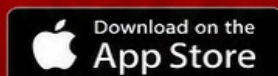


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- The Indian Navy will commission **INS Malvan**, the second **Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** with **80% indigenous content**. It strengthens coastal surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, maritime security, and supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- **Paras Semiconductors Pvt. Ltd.**, a subsidiary of **Paras Defence and Space Technologies**, signed an **MoU** with the **MP State Electronics Development Corporation** to establish a **₹6,200 crore OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test)** facility in the **Indore-Ujjain** region. Supporting the **India Semiconductor Mission**, the project will use advanced technologies including **3D integration, chiplet integration, hybrid bonding, wafer bumping, and flip-chip assembly**. Expected to create over **2,500 direct jobs**, the facility will initially serve the **defence, space, sensor, and optical sectors** before expanding into **AI chip packaging**.
- The **Indian Navy** launched **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2** at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, marking the **first time** the multinational maritime exercise has been hosted in India. Conducted under **Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154)** of the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**, the exercise involves **254 participants from 26 countries**. Through practical training, simulator exercises, and discussions, it aims to enhance **maritime cooperation, interoperability, operational readiness, and regional security** in the **Indian Ocean Region**.
- **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval** has been selected for the **Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026** by the **Tilak Smarak Trust** for his exceptional contributions to **India's national security**. The award will be presented on **1 August 2026** in **Pune** by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**. A former **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer and veteran of the **Intelligence Bureau**, Doval is being honoured for his leadership in **counter-terrorism, intelligence coordination, strategic planning, and safeguarding India's national interests** through decades of distinguished public service.
- **India scripted history** with **Samudra Pradakshina**, the country's **first tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition**, completed by **nine women officers** from the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force** aboard the indigenous **IASV Triveni**. The **314-day voyage** covered nearly **25,500 nautical miles**, crossed the **Equator twice, the International Date Line, all meridians, and rounded Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn, and the Cape of Good Hope**. The mission showcased **Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Nari Shakti, indigenous shipbuilding, maritime excellence, and seamless tri-service cooperation**.
- The **Indian Navy** commissioned **INS Malvan**, the second **Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, at **Karwar Naval Base** under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative. Built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited** with over **80% indigenous content**, the vessel is designed for **anti-submarine warfare, underwater surveillance, mine warfare, and coastal security operations**. Named after **Malvan** in **Maharashtra**, the warship strengthens **maritime domain awareness, enhances shallow-water operational capability, and reinforces India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing**.
- **DRDO** signed two major contracts to advance the **indigenous AEW&C Mk-II Programme**, boosting India's air defence capabilities under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**. **CABS** partnered with **AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL)** to convert **six Airbus A321 aircraft** into airborne surveillance platforms, while **Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL)** will develop advanced mission systems. The project will provide **long-range surveillance, early warning, secure communications, and command-and-control capabilities**, strengthening **indigenous aerospace manufacturing** and the **Indian Air Force's operational readiness**.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and **Safran Aircraft Engines** signed a long-term agreement to manufacture **superalloy turbine ring forgings** for the globally used **CFM LEAP aircraft engine**. Production will take place at **HAL's Foundry and Forge Division in Bengaluru**, supplying components for aircraft such as the **Airbus A320neo, Boeing 737 MAX, and COMAC C919**. The partnership enhances **India's aerospace manufacturing ecosystem**, expands exports of high-value components, strengthens **global supply chain integration**, and supports India's ambition to become a **global aerospace manufacturing hub**.
- **DRDO** successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the **indigenous Kusha Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)** from **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**, on **23 July 2026**. The missile accurately intercepted a high-speed aerial target, proving its advanced **air defence capability**. Equipped with **advanced radars, command-and-control systems, and indigenous technologies**, the system can counter aircraft, missiles, and UAVs. The successful trial strengthens **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, enhances India's integrated air defence network, and marks significant progress toward operational deployment.

- India developed its first **indigenous expendable turbojet engine** in the **350 kg thrust category**, designed by **GTRE-DRDO** and manufactured by **Azad Engineering**. Delivered within **24 months**, the engine is intended for **missiles, UAVs, and anti-drone systems**. The achievement boosts India's **indigenous propulsion technology**, reduces dependence on foreign engines, and highlights successful collaboration between the **public and private sectors**. It is a major milestone in strengthening **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and India's advanced aerospace and defence capabilities.
- **Bhargavastra** is an indigenously developed **anti-swarm drone defence system** designed to neutralize **enemy drones and loitering munitions**. It was showcased to the **Indian Army** on **24 July 2026** during the **Make-II project** launch in **Nagpur**. The mobile and cost-effective system integrates **radar, EO/IR sensors, passive RF detectors, and C4I systems** for real-time threat detection and tracking. It employs a **two-layer defence mechanism**, using **mini-rockets** against drone swarms and **smart mini-missiles** for precision strikes up to **2.5 km**. The system can detect **large UAVs** from **10 km** and **small drones** from **6 km**, while combining **soft-kill electronic warfare** with **hard-kill weapons** to strengthen India's layered air defence.
- **Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth** launched the indigenously developed **Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel** in **New Delhi** on **31 July 2026** to improve military mobility in **high-altitude** and **snowbound regions**. Jointly developed by the **Indian Army** and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, the specialized fuel operates efficiently at temperatures as low as **-42°C**, preventing **engine failures** and **fuel filter blockages**. Compatible with the Army's existing vehicle fleet, the fuel complies with **BS-VI emission norms** and **IS 1460:2025 standards**, strengthening **defence logistics, operational readiness, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in strategic border areas.
- The **Indian Navy** launched **Machilipatnam**, the **seventh** of eight **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)** built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**, enhancing India's **coastal security** and **maritime defence** capabilities. With over **80% indigenous content**, the vessel supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative and is designed for **Underwater Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and Mine Warfare**. Named after the historic port city of **Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, the craft will strengthen **maritime domain awareness**, protect strategic sea lanes, and improve operational readiness in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- The **Government of India** notified the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Recruitment Rules, 2026**, reserving **50% of Constable (General Duty) vacancies** for **ex-Agniveers** who complete their service under the **Agnipath Scheme**. The new rules provide major recruitment relaxations, including exemption from the **Written Examination, Physical Standard Test (PST), and Physical Efficiency Test (PET)**, while retaining **document verification** and **medical examination** requirements. Former Agniveers will receive **5 years age relaxation** for the first batch and **3 years** for subsequent batches. The reform aims to support post-service employment opportunities and strengthen the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**. **SSB** operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and guards India's borders with **Nepal and Bhutan**.
- **Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja** has been appointed as the **Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAfMS)**, the highest medical position in the **Indian Armed Forces**, effective from **31 August 2026**. He will succeed **Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin** after her retirement. Thareja previously served as **Director General Medical Services (Air)** and brings nearly **four decades of experience** in **military medicine, healthcare administration, and operational medical support**. A graduate of **AFMC Pune**, he holds an **MD in Medicine** and a **DM in Gastroenterology** from **AIIMS New Delhi**, where he received the **Best DM Student Award**. He has commanded major military hospitals, served as **Commandant of AFMC**, and contributed to healthcare preparedness for missions like **Gaganyaan** and the **BHISHM Cube initiative**. As **DGAfMS**, he will oversee healthcare policies, medical readiness, and services across the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**.
- **Air Marshal A K Bharti, Deputy Chief of Air Staff (DCAS)** of the **Indian Air Force**, retired on **31 July 2026** after a distinguished military career spanning several decades. He gained national recognition as the public face of India's tri-service media briefings during **Operation Sindoor**, launched after the **2025 Pahalgam terror attack**. During his tenure as **Director General Air Operations (DGAO)**, he played a significant role in planning and executing important air operations and strengthening operational preparedness. He represented the **Indian Air Force** during joint briefings with senior officers from the **Army and Navy**, explaining strategic developments and military operations. Before retirement, he served in one of the IAF's highest leadership positions as **DCAS**. As part of his farewell ceremony, he paid tribute to fallen soldiers at the **National War Memorial, New Delhi**, honouring the values of service and sacrifice.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ISRO successfully conducted the **eighth hot test** of its **Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA)** on **24 June 2026** at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri**. The engine generated **175 tonnes of thrust**, nearly **88%** of its planned **200-tonne capacity**, validating critical systems including **pre-burner, turbopumps, and propellant feed systems**. Powered by **Liquid Oxygen (LOX)** and **Isosene**, the **SE2000 engine** will propel the **SC120 stage** of the **LVM3** launch vehicle. The achievement boosts **payload capacity, fuel efficiency, indigenous capability, and future missions** such as **Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan, and commercial satellite launches**.
- **Brachy bacterium netajii** is a newly discovered bacterial species isolated from the **Hooghly River** in **West Bengal**. Identified through **polyphasic taxonomic characterization**, the bacterium is notable for degrading **p-nitrophenol (PNP)**, a toxic industrial chemical found in dyes and pesticides. It also tolerates heavy metals such as **arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury**, while surviving salinity levels up to **9%**, making it valuable for **bioremediation** in polluted environments. Discovered by researchers from **Netaji Mahavidyalaya, University of Burdwan, IIT (BHU), and Hiroshima University**, it honours **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.
- India approved its **first-ever Private Point-in-Space (PinS) instrument approach procedure** for helicopter operations at **Undavalli Heliport**, marking a major advancement in aviation navigation. Developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and approved by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**, the **satellite-based PinS** system enables safe and precise helicopter landings without conventional infrastructure, especially in adverse weather and remote areas. According to **Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu**, the initiative will enhance **flight safety, emergency medical services, disaster relief, tourism, offshore operations, pilgrimage services, corporate aviation, and regional connectivity**.
- India approved its first **Private Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedure** for helicopter operations at **Undavalli Heliport**, developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and approved by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**. Using **Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)** technology under **Instrument Flight Rules (IFR)**, the satellite-based system enables precise landings without conventional **Instrument Landing Systems (ILS)**. It enhances all-weather operations, flight safety, emergency medical services, disaster response, offshore missions, and regional connectivity while reducing infrastructure costs and aligning with **ICAO standards**.
- **Skyroot Aerospace** is preparing to launch **Vikram-1**, India's **first privately developed orbital launch vehicle**, on **Mission Aagaman** between **12 July and 4**

August 2026 from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**. Named after **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai**, the four-stage rocket can carry **350 kg** to **Low Earth Orbit** and **260 kg** to **Sun-Synchronous Orbit**. Featuring **3D-printed engines, an all-carbon composite structure, and indigenous navigation systems**, the mission will validate commercial launch technologies while carrying payloads from Indian startups and international customers.

- The **NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory** in **Chile** launched the **10-year Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST)** using the world's largest **3,200-megapixel digital camera**. The observatory will scan the southern sky every **40 seconds**, generating about **10 TB** of data nightly and up to **7 million alerts** on cosmic events. Scientists will study **20 billion galaxies, dark matter, supernovae, black holes, and gravitational lenses**. Indian researchers from **IUCAA and NCRA-TIFR** are significant contributors, advancing global understanding of cosmology and the dynamic Universe.
- Researchers scientifically confirmed that the **700-year-old Banyan Tree** in **Munger, Bihar**, is the oldest accurately dated **Ficus benghalensis**. Scientists from the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP)** used **Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS)** radiocarbon dating on alpha-cellulose samples, calibrated with the **IntCal20** curve and **OxCal** software. Since banyan trees lack annual growth rings, this marks the first validated scientific dating protocol for the species. The findings revise local history, proving the tree predates nearby colonial structures and belonged to an ancient natural forest ecosystem.
- Japan's **Hayabusa2 spacecraft**, operated by **JAXA**, successfully completed a high-speed flyby of asteroid **Torifune (2001 CC21)** on **5 July 2026**. Travelling at **5 kilometres per second**, it passed approximately **800 metres** from the asteroid's centre to study its **surface, structure, and temperature**. The mission supports **planetary defence research** by testing advanced navigation, precision guidance, and **rapid reconnaissance technologies**. Following its successful **Ryugu sample-return mission** in 2020, Hayabusa2 will continue its extended mission toward asteroid **1998 KY26**, targeted for **2031**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully completed the first ground test of the **Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments (SOLVE)** under the **Gaganyaan Mission** at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**. The test validated the vehicle's **solid propulsion system, designed to evaluate crew module recovery, parachute deployment, and safe water landing from 10-17 km altitude**. Using modified **PSLV-based propulsion and advanced nozzle technology**, SOLVE strengthens preparations for India's first indigenous **human spaceflight mission**, enhancing **crew safety and space mission reliability**.

- **China** conducted a **Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM)** test in the **South Pacific**, marking its first known submarine-based strategic missile launch from a **nuclear-powered submarine** since **1982**. The missile carried a **dummy warhead** and was launched during the **Joint Sea-2026** naval exercises with **Russia**. The test drew concern from **Australia, New Zealand, and Japan**, while highlighting China's expanding **sea-based nuclear deterrence** capabilities. The launch also renewed attention on the **Treaty of Rarotonga (1985)**, establishing the South Pacific as a **nuclear-free zone**.
- Chinese AI startup **DeepSeek** is developing a custom **AI inference chip** to reduce dependence on foreign semiconductor technology. Manufactured in collaboration with **SMIC**, China's leading semiconductor foundry, the chip is designed primarily for **AI inference**, enabling efficient text, image, and prediction generation. DeepSeek's **V4-Pro** and **V4-Flash** models are optimized for **Huawei Ascend processors**, supporting China's domestic AI ecosystem amid international export restrictions. The initiative strengthens China's semiconductor self-reliance, advances indigenous AI hardware, and supports long-term technological independence.
- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** approved **Vepdegestrant (Veppanu)** as the world's first **PROTAC-based medicine** for **ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced breast cancer**. Developed by **Arvinas** and **Pfizer**, the drug demonstrated superior performance in the **Phase 3 VERITAC-2 trial**, improving **progression-free survival** compared with **fulvestrant**. The FDA also approved **Guardant360 CDx** as a companion diagnostic for detecting **ESR1 mutations**. This approval marks a major breakthrough in **targeted cancer therapy** through innovative **protein degradation technology**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted the **Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test-05 (IMAT-05)** for the **Gaganyaan Mission** at **Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh**. A simulated **crew module** was dropped from **2.5 km** using an **Indian Air Force IL-76 aircraft**, validating the complete **parachute deployment sequence** and safe descent. Conducted jointly by **ISRO, DRDO, the Indian Air Force, and the Indian Army**, the successful test strengthens preparations for the **Gaganyaan G1 mission** and India's first indigenous **human spaceflight programme**.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has assigned **IIT Madras** and **C-DAC** to manage the **National Bridge Health Monitoring Software**, supporting the **Bridge Health Monitoring System (BHMS)**. Using advanced sensors, the system monitors bridge stress, vibration, movement, and load for improved structural safety. A nationwide **digital bridge inventory** must be completed by **30 September 2026** by agencies including **NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO, and state PWDs**. The initiative enables centralized data analysis, preventive maintenance, improved bridge safety, and efficient long-term infrastructure management across India.
- **Novo Nordisk India** launched **Awikli (insulin icodec)**, the world's first **once-weekly basal insulin** for adults with **Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes**. The therapy reduces injections from **365 to 52 annually**, improving patient convenience and treatment adherence. Delivered through the **FlexTouch** device, Awikli provides stable glucose control throughout the week. Clinical results from the **ONWARDS-1 Trial** showed better **HbA1c reduction**, improved **Time in Range**, and fewer hypoglycaemia concerns than daily insulin. The innovation is significant for India, which has over **101 million** diabetes patients.
- Scientists used **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to decode structured communication among **sperm whales**, identifying **156 distinct codas** resembling a phonetic communication system. Conducted under **Project CETI (Cetacean Translation Initiative)**, the research analysed recordings from about **400 whales** collected between **2005 and 2018**. Published in **Nature Communications**, the study identified communication features including **rubato** and **ornamentation**, suggesting sophisticated vocal patterns. Researchers also developed **AI-powered bio-loggers** and **autonomous underwater gliders** to collect behavioural data, demonstrating AI's growing role in marine biology and animal communication research.
- Japan's **JAXA** successfully completed the first **lift-off and landing test** of the **RV-X reusable rocket** at the **Noshiro Rocket Testing Center**. The prototype completed a **40-second flight**, reaching **10-11 metres** before landing safely after horizontal movement. Developed to test **rocket recovery, precision landing, guidance, and reusable launch technologies**, the programme aims to reduce future space launch costs. After over **160 combustion tests**, the successful demonstration strengthens Japan's role in reusable space transportation and supports the international **CALLISTO reusable rocket project** with **France and Germany**.
- **ISRO** successfully completed three major qualification tests for the **Gaganyaan Crew Module**, validating the **Crew Module Uprighting System (CMUS)**, **Crew-Service Umbilical Unit (CSU-2)**, and **Apex Cover separation system**. These systems ensure **safe splashdown, flotation, parachute deployment, re-entry, and astronaut recovery** during India's first human spaceflight mission. Conducted on **12 July 2026**, the tests significantly improve mission readiness and confirm the reliability of critical safety mechanisms. The achievement marks another milestone towards launching **Gaganyaan**, India's first indigenous **human spaceflight mission** to **Low Earth Orbit**.

- Scientists at the **Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS)**, Bengaluru, developed a self-powered wearable ammonia gas sensor capable of detecting concentrations as low as **319 ppb**. Built using a VO_x/VS_2 heterostructure, the flexible sensor operates efficiently at room temperature without external heating. It offers high sensitivity, stability, and real-time alerts, making it useful for industrial safety, healthcare, environmental monitoring, and smart textile applications while consuming minimal energy.
- Former ISRO Chairman **S. Somanath** joined **Agnikul Cosmos** as an observer on its Board of Directors. The Chennai-based private space startup is preparing for **Mission 02**, which focuses on reusable launch technologies and booster recovery. Somanath's expertise in launch vehicle development will strengthen collaboration between India's public and private space sectors, supporting innovation, commercial space activities, and the country's ambitions to become a leading global space power.
- India approved **QDENG (TAK-003)**, the country's first **dengue vaccine**, after clearance by the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)** on **July 20, 2026**. Developed by **Takeda Biopharmaceuticals, Japan**, the **live-attenuated tetravalent vaccine** protects against all **four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4)** and is approved for people aged **4–60 years**, regardless of prior infection. **Biological E** will manufacture the vaccine domestically with an annual capacity of **50 million doses**, supporting India's fight against dengue and reducing severe infections.
- India commissioned the **White Rabbit Technology-based Indian Standard Time (IST) Dissemination Network**, advancing the **One Nation, One Time** initiative. Developed by the **Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-NPL, and ISRO**, the indigenous system delivers **UTC (NPLI)-traceable IST** with **sub-nanosecond accuracy** over fibre-optic networks. It ensures secure and precise time synchronization for **banking, financial markets, telecommunications, power grids, cybersecurity, and transportation**. Successful demonstrations involving **RRSL Bengaluru** and the **National Stock Exchange** highlighted its reliability and strengthened India's technological self-reliance.
- IIT Kanpur** is establishing the **Centre of Excellence on Innovative and Integrated Ecosystem for Green Hydrogen (ECOGEN)** under the **Uttar Pradesh Green Hydrogen Policy 2024**, with support from **UPNEDA**. The centre will focus on the complete **green hydrogen value chain**, including production, storage, utilisation, and system integration. It aims to develop affordable hydrogen technologies, improve storage solutions, encourage industrial applications, reduce fossil fuel dependence, strengthen renewable energy adoption, and support India's long-term **net-zero** and clean energy goals.
- India approved **QDENG**, developed by **Takeda Biopharmaceuticals**, as its **first dengue vaccine** for public use. Cleared by the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)**, the vaccine protects against all **four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4)** and is approved for people aged **4–60 years** without requiring pre-vaccination screening. Supported by global clinical trials involving over **28,000 participants**, including India's **TIDES Phase III study**, the vaccine significantly reduces dengue infections and hospitalisations, strengthening India's disease prevention strategy.
- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** transferred **three indigenous healthcare technologies** to **Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Biological E Ltd.** under the **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra** initiative. These include **SHetA2** for treating **HPV-related cervical precancer**, a **fusion protein-based typhoid vaccine**, and a **recombinant multivalent vaccine** targeting **Salmonella typhi, Salmonella paratyphi, and Shigella**. The technology transfer promotes **Make in India**, strengthens biotechnology innovation, supports affordable healthcare, and accelerates commercialization of indigenous medical research.
- IIT Kanpur** is establishing the **Centre of Excellence on Innovative and Integrated Ecosystem for Green Hydrogen (ECOGEN)** under the **Uttar Pradesh Green Hydrogen Policy 2024**. The centre will focus on **green hydrogen production, storage, utilisation, and system integration**, supporting cost-effective clean energy technologies and industrial applications. By encouraging research, industry collaboration, and skill development, ECOGEN aims to reduce carbon emissions, strengthen renewable energy adoption, support India's **net-zero goals**, and position **Uttar Pradesh** as a major green hydrogen innovation hub.
- Scientists from **MACS Agharkar Research Institute, Pune**, discovered **five new Allographa lichen species** in the **Western Ghats**, marking the region's first comprehensive molecular study of the genus. The newly identified species—**Allographa keralensis, A. nayakae, A. paraconsanguinea, A. persistinspersa, and A. semicarbonisata**—were confirmed using **field surveys, DNA sequencing, chemical analysis, and morphological studies**. Since lichens are important **bioindicators of environmental health**, the discovery strengthens biodiversity research, ecosystem monitoring, and conservation in one of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots.

- A reported **AI-assisted mathematical breakthrough** involving **Claude Fable 5**, **Harvard mathematician Levent Alpöge**, and **Anthropic** has challenged the long-standing **Jacobian Conjecture** proposed in **1939**. The AI reportedly identified a **counterexample**, later verified using **SymPy** and the **Lean proof assistant**. If confirmed through independent peer review, the discovery could transform **algebraic geometry**, **polynomial mapping**, and computational mathematics while demonstrating the growing role of **Artificial Intelligence** in mathematical research, theorem exploration, and formal proof verification.
- **IIT Madras** will host the **3rd Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) Symposium 2026** on **1-2 August** in collaboration with **MeitY** and **RISC-V International** under the theme **"Empowering Bharat's Semiconductor Future."** The symposium will bring together **policymakers, researchers, startups, industry leaders, investors, and students** to discuss **RISC-V architecture, semiconductor design, AI, secure computing, and hardware innovation**. A major attraction will be the **DIR-V Grand Challenge Hackathon**, supporting **India's semiconductor mission**, fostering **open-source processor development**, startup innovation, and skilled workforce creation.
- India will host the **International Type 1 Diabetes Summit 2026** in **Jodhpur** from **30 July-1 August**. Organised by **Friends of Mewar, Breakthrough T1D, and the William J. Clinton Foundation**, the summit will bring together global experts to discuss **affordable insulin, insulin pumps, digital health, mental health, continuous glucose monitoring**, and research collaboration. The event aims to improve **Type 1 diabetes care**, strengthen international partnerships, and promote innovative healthcare solutions for better patient outcomes worldwide.
- India's **private space sector** attracted **USD 618.5 million** in cumulative investment by **31 March 2026**, reflecting strong growth driven by reforms and investor confidence. More than **400 space startups** now operate in satellite manufacturing, launch services, and Earth observation. **IN-SPACe** has issued **105 authorisations**, while policies like the **India Space Policy 2023** and relaxed **FDI norms** encourage innovation. The expansion strengthens India's commercial space ecosystem, high-tech manufacturing, employment, and global competitiveness.
- China's private aerospace company **Orienspace** successfully launched the **Gravity-1** rocket from a **maritime platform** in the **East China Sea**, placing **nine satellites** into orbit. The mission marked China's first commercial far-sea launch from the **Yangtze River Delta** and the rocket's **third successful flight**. The satellites support **Earth observation, agriculture, forestry, mineral exploration, and environmental monitoring**. The launch strengthens China's commercial space ambitions while advancing future **Gravity-2** and **Gravity-3** programmes.
- India has announced that future **space launch vehicles** will be equipped with **indigenously developed semiconductor chips**, marking a significant step toward **technological self-reliance**. **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced the initiative after **Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1** successful orbital test flight, highlighting the rapid growth of India's **private space sector**. These **space-grade semiconductors** power critical systems such as **navigation, flight control, telemetry, onboard computers, and communication**, while withstanding extreme **radiation, vibrations, and temperature variations**. The move strengthens **supply-chain security**, reduces **import dependence**, and supports **ISRO's** plan to develop indigenous processors and mission electronics within **four years**.
- Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** have discovered two new spider species—**Simonia lawbah** from **Meghalaya** and **Hamataliwa papikonda** from **Andhra Pradesh**—expanding India's documented **biodiversity**. The discoveries were published in the scientific journals **Zootaxa** and **Records of the Zoological Survey of India**. **Simonia lawbah**, discovered inside **Krem Lawbah Cave**, is India's first recorded species of the **Simonia** genus and is a **cave-adapted ray spider**. **Hamataliwa papikonda**, found in **Papikonda National Park**, is an **active hunting lynx spider**. These findings highlight the importance of **taxonomy, wildlife surveys, and biodiversity conservation** in India.
- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** completed the country's first comprehensive **Lepidoptera inventory**, documenting **13,703 species** of **butterflies and moths** after **12 years** of research. Led by **Dr. Navneet Singh** and **Dr. Rahul Joshi**, the project involved extensive **field surveys, museum collections, specimen verification, and literature review**, resulting in a **22-volume catalogue** published in **Zootaxa**. The inventory records **3,705 genera, 102 families, 240 subfamilies, and 31 superfamilies**, while identifying India as a global hotspot for **Geometroidea moth diversity** with **2,205 species**, significantly supporting **taxonomy, biodiversity conservation, and climate research**.

- **IBM and Indian AI startup Sarvam** announced a strategic partnership to accelerate the development of **sovereign artificial intelligence (AI)** solutions for India's governments and regulated sectors. The collaboration aims to create **secure, multilingual, and governance-focused AI systems** for areas including **banking, healthcare, public administration, and critical infrastructure**. IBM will provide its **Sovereign Core platform** to support **data security, AI governance, compliance, and infrastructure control**, while Sarvam will contribute India-specific technologies such as **multilingual language models, voice AI, and locally developed reasoning models**. The initiative focuses on shifting organisations from AI experimentation to large-scale implementation while ensuring control over **data, models, and operations**. The partnership is expected to improve **citizen services, grievance handling, document processing, and administrative efficiency** through secure AI solutions designed for India's linguistic diversity and regulatory environment.
- Scientists discovered a new freshwater hillstream catfish species named **Pseudolaguvia khairii** in the **Budhabalanga River of Mayurbhanj district, Odisha**. The discovery was officially published in the international scientific journal **Zootaxa** on **26 July 2026**, adding to India's freshwater biodiversity records. The species belongs to the **Pseudolaguvia genus**, which is commonly found in fast-flowing rivers of **South Asia** and acts as an indicator of healthy aquatic ecosystems. Researchers identified the species through unique physical characteristics, including a distinctive **fleshy protuberance at the base of its dorsal fin**. The species was named after **Khairi**, the famous orphaned **Royal Bengal tigress** associated with conservationist **Saroj Raj Choudhury**, highlighting Odisha's wildlife conservation legacy. The discovery also emphasizes the ecological importance of the **Similipal landscape** and surrounding river ecosystems.

SPORTS

- **Kidambi Srikanth** won the **silver medal** in the **men's singles** event at the **US Open 2026**, finishing runner-up to **Su Li-yang of Chinese Taipei**. After losing the first game **15-21**, Srikanth fought back to win the second **21-16** before losing the decider **9-21**. The performance marks one of his strongest international results in recent years and boosts confidence ahead of future **BWF tournaments**. His last **BWF title** came at the **2017 French Open**, and he continues striving for another championship victory.
- **Cricket** will return to the **Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games (LA28)** after more than a century with **men's and women's T20 tournaments**, each featuring **six teams**. The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced a qualification system based on **ICC rankings, continental representation, host nation eligibility, and a 2027 Olympic Qualifier Tournament**. Four women's teams—**Australia, India, South Africa, and Great Britain**—have already qualified. The Olympic return is expected to expand cricket's global reach, attract new audiences, and strengthen its international profile.
- **England captain Ben Stokes** announced his retirement from **international cricket** after the **third Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge**, ending a distinguished **15-year career**. He will also step down as **England's Test captain**, a position held since **April 2022**. Stokes is remembered for his match-winning **84** in the **2019 ICC World Cup Final** and iconic **135 at Headingley** during the **2019 Ashes**. His highest Test score is **258** against **South Africa**. Alongside coach **Brendon McCullum**, he transformed England's Test approach through the aggressive **Bazball** philosophy.
- **Kerala's Ancy Sojan** created history at the **2026 National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships** in **Bhubaneswar** by breaking **Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old national long jump record**. The **25-year-old** leaped **6.88 metres**, surpassing the previous record of **6.83 metres** set in **2004**. Representing **Kerala** and serving as a **Chief Petty Officer** in the **Indian Navy**, she won the **gold medal** and secured qualification for the **2026 Asian Games**. Ancy previously won silver medals at the **2023 Asian Games** and **2025 Asian Athletics Championships**, establishing herself among India's top field athletes.
- **Indonesia** won its maiden **AVC Men's Volleyball Cup 2026** title in **Ahmedabad**, defeating **Korea 3-0** in the final after recovering from an earlier group-stage defeat. **Boy Arnez Arabi** scored **17 points**, won the **Most Valuable Player (MVP)** award, and earned a place in the **Dream Team**. Korea secured its first-ever **silver medal**, while host **India** claimed a historic **bronze medal** by defeating defending champions **Bahrain 3-1**. Indonesia's remarkable performance also improved its position from **52nd to 43rd** in the **FIVB World Rankings**, marking its best-ever tournament performance.
- **George Russell** won the **2026 Austrian Grand Prix** at the **Red Bull Ring**, converting pole position into his **seventh Formula 1 victory** and strengthening **Mercedes'** championship challenge. He held off **Max Verstappen**, who finished second, while championship leader **Kimi Antonelli** secured third place, extending his lead to **40 points**. The race featured a **Virtual Safety Car** after **Carlos Sainz's** retirement and several technical retirements. Russell's victory elevated him to second in the championship standings, intensifying the **2026 Formula 1 title battle** between **Mercedes, Red Bull, and McLaren**.

- India created history at the **World Rowing Cup 2026** in **Lucerne, Switzerland**, as **Indian Army Havildars Lakshay and Ujjwal Kumar Singh** won the country's **first-ever gold medal** in the **Lightweight Men's Double Sculls (LM2x)** event. The duo clocked **6:26.09**, narrowly defeating competitors from **Hong Kong** and the **Netherlands**. Trained at the **Army Rowing Node, Pune**, they overcame delayed visa approvals and limited preparation time. Their victory marks a landmark achievement for Indian rowing and highlights the Armed Forces' contribution to elite sports development.
- England fast bowler Lauren Bell** won the **ICC Women's Player of the Month** award for **May 2026**, earning the honour for the first time. She outperformed nominees **Maddy Green** and **Gull Feroza** after impressive performances against **New Zealand** and **India**. Bell claimed **five wickets** in the ODI series, including **3/20**, and added **eight wickets** in four **T20Is** with consistent economy rates. Her impactful bowling strengthened England's pace attack and underlined her growing importance ahead of major international competitions, including the **Women's T20 World Cup**.
- Bangladesh batter Mushfiquir Rahim** received the **ICC Men's Player of the Month** award for **May 2026** after outstanding performances against **Pakistan**. He scored **253 runs** at an average of **63.25**, helping Bangladesh complete a historic **2-0 Test series sweep** and earning the **Player of the Series** award. His notable innings included **71** in the first Test and **137** at **Sylhet** in the second. This marked his **second ICC monthly award**, reinforcing his importance to Bangladesh's success and the **ICC World Test Championship 2025-27**.
- Indian para-athlete **Hokato Hotozhe Sema** became **World No. 1** in the **Men's Shot Put F57** rankings on **2 July 2026**. A **Subedar** in the **9 Assam Regiment** and **Paris 2024 Paralympic bronze medallist**, he achieved a personal best throw of **14.65 metres**. Sema is the **first Paralympian** to receive the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal** and is also an **Arjuna Award** recipient. After losing his leg in a **2002 landmine blast**, he transformed into one of India's leading para-athletes through remarkable determination and international success.
- Cristiano Ronaldo** became the **oldest player** to score in a **FIFA World Cup knockout match**, finding the net against **Croatia** at **41 years and 147 days**. His penalty helped **Portugal** secure a **2-1 victory** and qualify for the **Round of 16**, where they will face **Spain**. The goal marked his **first World Cup knockout goal** since debuting in **2006**. Ronaldo also became the **oldest outfield player** to start a World Cup knockout match and moved closer to **Lothar Matthäus'** appearance record with **26 World Cup matches**.
- Brazilian football legend **Neymar Jr.** retired from **international football** after Brazil's **2-1 FIFA World Cup 2026** Round of 16 defeat to **Norway** at **MetLife Stadium**. Ending a **16-year international career**, Neymar scored Brazil's only goal through a **late penalty**. He retires as **Brazil's all-time leading men's scorer** with **80 goals** and **59 assists** in **130 appearances**. His achievements include the **2013 FIFA Confederations Cup** and **2016 Olympic Gold Medal**, although a **FIFA World Cup title** remained elusive throughout his distinguished international career.
- Australia** defeated **England** by **seven wickets** to win the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026** final at **Lord's Cricket Ground**, securing a record **seventh championship**. England scored **150/4**, led by captain **Nat Sciver-Brunt's** unbeaten **58**, but Australia comfortably chased **153/3** in **17.1 overs**. **Beth Mooney** anchored the innings with **64 runs** and earned the **Player of the Match** award, while **Phoebe Litchfield** contributed **48 runs**. The victory further strengthened Australia's legacy as the most successful team in **Women's T20 World Cup** history.
- Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the **youngest cricketer** to represent **India** in international cricket at **15 years and 99 days**, debuting in a **T20I** against **England** at **Old Trafford**. He surpassed **Sachin Tendulkar's** long-standing record of debuting at **16 years and 205 days**. Vaibhav also became India's **youngest men's T20I debutant**, highlighting the country's emerging cricket talent pipeline. However, the overall record for the **youngest men's T20I international** remains with **Romania's Marian Gherasim**, while **Ireland's Joshua Little** previously held the record among **Full ICC Members**.
- Charles Leclerc** won the **2026 British Grand Prix** at **Silverstone**, claiming his **ninth Formula One victory** for **Ferrari** after an action-packed race. A **late Safety Car**, triggered by **Max Verstappen's** crash, locked the final standings. **George Russell** finished second for **Mercedes**, while **Lewis Hamilton** secured third despite a post-race investigation. **Lando Norris** placed fourth for **McLaren**, and **Kimi Antonelli** dropped to sixteenth following mechanical issues and penalties. Ferrari's strong strategy and consistent pace secured a memorable victory in one of the season's most dramatic races.
- India will become the **first country** to outfit its athletes in **jute-viscose blended apparel** at an international multi-sport event during the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow**. Developed by the **National Jute Board (NJB)**, **Gloster Jute Mills**, and **NIFT**, the uniforms are made from **100% biodegradable fabric** promoting sustainable textiles and **Make in India**. India's **124-member contingent** will wear the eco-friendly apparel during official ceremonies, highlighting innovation, environmental sustainability, value-added jute products, and India's commitment to green manufacturing.

- The **FIFA World Cup 2026** reached the **quarterfinal stage** after completion of the Round of 16. **France, Morocco, Spain, Belgium, Norway, England, Argentina, and Switzerland** advanced to the last eight. Quarterfinal fixtures include **France vs Morocco, Spain vs Belgium, Norway vs England, and Argentina vs Switzerland**, scheduled from **10–12 July 2026 (IST)**. The winners will contest two semifinals before the final. The remaining matches promise intense competition as teams battle for football's most prestigious international title.
- Seventeen-year-old **Aswath S** from **Kanyakumari** became **India's 98th Chess Grandmaster** after securing his final **Grandmaster norm** at the **2026 Pune International Grandmaster Round Robin**. He earned the title by defeating **FM Kannan Vaidyanathan** in the final round, finishing with **7 points from 9 games**. Earlier, he achieved Grandmaster norms at the **Grenke Open** and **Budapest First Saturday GM Tournament**, while crossing the required **2500 FIDE rating**, further strengthening India's growing reputation as a global chess powerhouse.
- **Telangana** will host the **8th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2026**, providing a national platform for young athletes to showcase their talent. Organised under the **Khelo India Programme** by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, the Games aim to identify future champions, strengthen grassroots sports, and prepare athletes for international competitions. The event will attract thousands of participants, coaches, and officials, boosting **sports tourism**, economic activity, and youth participation. Telangana's selection reflects its growing sports infrastructure and supports India's long-term vision of developing a strong sporting culture.
- Former Indian captain **Sourav Ganguly** was inducted into the prestigious **ICC Hall of Fame**, becoming the **12th Indian cricketer** to receive the honour. Recognised for his fearless leadership, Ganguly transformed Indian cricket by leading the team to the **2003 ICC Cricket World Cup Final** and nurturing future stars including **MS Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, and Virender Sehwag**. During his career, he played **113 Tests** and **308 ODIs**. The honour celebrates his outstanding achievements, leadership, and lasting contribution to making India one of cricket's strongest international teams.
- **Linda Noskova** won her **first Grand Slam title** by defeating fellow Czech **Karolina Muchova** 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 in the **Wimbledon 2026 women's singles final**. At just **21 years old**, she became the **ninth consecutive first-time Wimbledon women's champion**. The victory extended the **Czech Republic's dominance** at Wimbledon after titles by **Marketa Vondrousova (2023)** and **Barbora Krejickova (2024)**. Noskova dedicated the emotional victory to her late mother, while Muchova was praised for her fighting spirit. The historic **all-Czech final** highlighted the remarkable strength and depth of Czech women's tennis on the global stage.
- **World No. 1 Jannik Sinner** successfully defended his **Wimbledon men's singles title**, defeating **Alexander Zverev** in four sets for his **10th consecutive win** over the German. In the women's final, **Linda Noskova** claimed her **maiden Grand Slam title** after defeating **Karolina Muchova**, becoming the **ninth straight first-time women's champion**. **Henry Patten & Harri Heliovaara** won the **men's doubles**, **Guo Hanyu & Kristina Mladenovic** secured the **women's doubles**, while **Marcelo Arévalo & Jelena Ostapenko** captured the **mixed doubles** title, making **Wimbledon 2026** a memorable championship.
- Indian pacer **Kranti Goud** created history by becoming the **first female cricketer** to feature on the prestigious **Lord's Honours Board** after claiming a brilliant **five-wicket haul** against **England Women**. She dismissed **Tammy Beaumont, Maia Bouchier, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Alice Capsey, and Lauren Bell**, becoming the **15th Indian bowler** to earn the honour. Joining legends like **Kapil Dev, Bishan Singh Bedi, Ishant Sharma, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, and Jasprit Bumrah**, Goud's achievement marked a landmark moment for **Indian women's cricket** and showcased its growing prominence on the international stage.
- **Yastika Bhatia** became the **first woman cricketer** to score a **Test century at Lord's Cricket Ground**, smashing **113 runs** against **England Women**. After scoring just **12 runs** in the first innings, she produced a remarkable comeback by reaching her century in **145 balls**. The knock earned her a place on the prestigious **Lord's Honours Board** and marked her **maiden international century**. Yastika also joined legendary Indian batters including **Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, Dilip Vengsarkar, Vinoo Mankad, and Mohammad Azharuddin** with a Test hundred at Lord's.
- Indian shooter **Neeru Dhanda** won the **women's trap gold medal** at the **ISSF Shotgun World Cup 2026** in **Lonato, Italy**, securing **India's first shotgun gold** of the season. She topped qualification with **121/125** before defeating former world champion **Carole Cormenier** of **France** in a thrilling final. The victory marked **Dhanda's first individual ISSF World Cup medal**, adding to her **mixed trap bronze** won earlier in **Almaty**. Her outstanding performance underlined India's growing strength in **international shooting** and women's trap events.
- Former **England captain Heather Knight** announced her retirement from international cricket after the historic **Women's Test against India at Lord's**, ending an outstanding **16-year career**. She played **320 international matches**, scored **7,988 runs**, and led England to victory in the **2017 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup**. Knight will now serve as **General Manager of London Spirit in The Hundred**. Her retirement marks the end of one of England's most successful careers and a significant chapter in women's cricket.

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- India scripted history by defeating **England** by **270 runs** in the **first-ever Women's Test at Lord's Cricket Ground**. **Yastika Bhatia** became the **first woman** to score a **Test century at Lord's**, while **Kranti Goud** became the **first female bowler** to feature on the prestigious **Lord's Honours Board** after claiming a **five-wicket haul**. Led by **Harmanpreet Kaur**, India's comprehensive victory showcased the team's dominance and marked a landmark achievement for **Indian women's cricket** on the iconic stage.
- Delhi unveiled '**Mayur**', the official mascot of the **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026**, scheduled from **27 July to 2 August** at **Thyagraj Stadium**. Inspired by **India's national bird, the peacock**, the mascot symbolises **unity, diversity, friendship, and sportsmanship**. Around **35 Commonwealth nations** are expected to participate. Unveiled by **Chief Minister Rekha Gupta**, the championship is jointly organised by the **Delhi Government** and the **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)**, showcasing Delhi as a global sporting destination.
- Spain** won the **FIFA World Cup 2026**, defeating **Argentina 1-0** after extra time at **MetLife Stadium, New Jersey**. **Ferran Torres** scored the winning goal in the **106th minute**, securing Spain's **second World Cup title** after 2010. Under coach **Luis de la Fuente**, Spain conceded only **one goal** throughout the tournament, setting a defensive record for champions. The expanded **48-team tournament**, hosted across the **USA, Mexico, and Canada**, attracted billions of viewers and showcased Spain's tactical dominance.
- Kylian Mbappé** became the **highest goal-scorer in FIFA World Cup history**, finishing the **2026 tournament** with **22 goals**, surpassing **Lionel Messi's 21-goal** record. Achieving the milestone across **three World Cups**, the French star overtook legendary players including **Miroslav Klose, Ronaldo Nazário, Gerd Müller, Pelé, Harry Kane, and Cristiano Ronaldo**. At only **27 years of age**, Mbappé has several opportunities to extend his remarkable record, strengthening his place among football's greatest-ever players.
- Rohit Sharma** became the **first Indian men's cricketer** to score an **ODI century at Lord's** on **July 19, 2026**. His **34th ODI century**, achieved at **39 years and 80 days**, made him India's **oldest international centurion**, surpassing **Sachin Tendulkar's** record. Rohit also became the most successful visiting batter in a single country with **eight ODI centuries in England**. Alongside **Virat Kohli**, he shared a **113-run partnership** in their **400th international match**, creating another significant milestone.
- Lionel Messi** became the **first footballer** to appear in **three FIFA World Cup finals**, reaching the landmark during the **2026 final** against **Spain**. His previous final appearances came in **2014** and **2022**, surpassing **Cafu**, who played in only two finals. Although **Argentina** lost **1-0** after extra time, Messi enjoyed an outstanding tournament with **eight goals and four assists**, reinforcing his legacy as one of football's greatest players despite missing the opportunity for consecutive World Cup titles.
- PV Sindhu** won the **BWF Japan Open 2026**, becoming the **first Indian badminton player** to claim a **BWF Super 750 title**. She defeated **Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-17** in Tokyo, marking her first major title since the **2019 World Championships**. At **31 years**, Sindhu also became the **oldest woman** to win a Super 750 event. The victory improved her world ranking from **18th to 9th**, confirming her resurgence ahead of the **BWF World Championships**.
- The **FIFA World Cup 2030** will celebrate the tournament's **100th anniversary** with a historic **multi-continent** format. **Spain, Portugal, and Morocco** will serve as the main hosts, while **Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay** will stage centenary opening matches. Scheduled from **June 8-July 21, 2030** (subject to FIFA confirmation), the event will feature an expanded **48-team** format, including **six automatic host berths**. It will become the first men's World Cup hosted across **three continents and six countries**.
- The **23rd Commonwealth Games 2026** will be held in **Glasgow, Scotland**, from **23 July to 2 August 2026**, featuring **74 Commonwealth nations, 10 sports, and 215 gold medal events**. India has announced a **120-member contingent**, with leading medal hopes including **Neeraj Chopra, Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Srihari Nataraj, and Murali Sreeshankar**. **Mirabai Chanu** and **Lovlina Borgohain** will serve as India's **flag bearers**, while competitions will take place across major Glasgow sporting venues.
- India dominated the **Menuires International Chess Championship 2026** in **Les Menuires, France**, with **Grandmaster S. Rohith Krishna** winning the **gold medal** and **Grandmaster Raja Rithvik** securing the **silver medal**. Both remained **undefeated**, scoring **7 points** from nine rounds, with Rohith clinching the title on a superior **tie-break score**. Rithvik's victory over **Maxime Lagarde** in the final round was a tournament highlight, reinforcing India's growing strength and international reputation in competitive chess.
- Finnie**, inspired by **Scotland's national animal—the unicorn**, has been unveiled as the official mascot of the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games**. Named after Glasgow's iconic **Finnieston Crane**, the mascot represents Scottish culture, folklore, creativity, and community spirit. Finnie will promote the Games through educational programmes, public engagement activities, and tourism campaigns while creating a memorable identity for the event and connecting local traditions with athletes and spectators from across the Commonwealth.

- Indian Grandmaster **S. Rohith Krishna** won the **gold medal** at the **Menuires International Chess Championship 2026** in **France**, while Grandmaster **Raja Rithvik** secured the **silver medal**. Both players remained **undefeated**, scoring **7 points from 9 rounds**, with Rohith claiming victory through a superior **tie-break score**. Rithvik's final-round win over **Maxime Lagarde** was a major highlight. Their outstanding performances further reinforce **India's growing dominance in international chess** and the country's emergence as a global chess powerhouse.
- Viswanathan Anand** assumed charge as **Interim President of FIDE** after **Arkady Dvorkovich** stepped aside following **EU sanctions**. As **FIDE Deputy President**, Anand will oversee the organisation until the **September 2026 presidential elections in Samarkand**. The leadership transition ensures continuity in global chess administration while maintaining ongoing development initiatives. Anand's appointment marks a historic milestone, making the Indian chess legend responsible for guiding the world's governing body for chess during an important transition period.
- India's **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the **youngest batter** to score a **T20I fifty** at just **15 years and 118 days** during the first T20I against **Zimbabwe**. He smashed a **19-ball half-century** with an exceptional strike rate above **263**, breaking **Louis Bruce's** previous record. The young left-hander also became the **youngest Indian** and the youngest player from an **ICC Full Member nation** to achieve the milestone, showcasing India's emerging cricket talent.
- Lovlina Borgohain** secured **India's first medal** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** by reaching the **women's 75 kg boxing semifinals** in **Glasgow**. With only five participants in the category, all semifinalists were assured medals. This became Lovlina's **first Commonwealth Games medal** after missing the podium in **2018** and **2022**. Entering the event in excellent form, she will face **Tarona Taafaki** with an opportunity to upgrade her guaranteed medal by reaching the final.
- The **Commonwealth Games 2026** officially opened in **Glasgow, Scotland**, with a colourful ceremony celebrating **Scottish culture and heritage**. **Mirabai Chanu** and **Lovlina Borgohain** led the Indian contingent as **flag bearers**, while **King Charles III** and **Queen Camilla** attended the event. Competitions will be held across **four venues**, although sports like **badminton, shooting, and wrestling** are absent. The official mascot **Finnie**, inspired by Scottish heritage, represents the spirit and identity of the Games.
- India's **Anahat Singh** scripted history by becoming the **first Indian** to win the **girls' singles title** at the **World Junior Squash Championships 2026**. The **18-year-old** from **New Delhi** defeated **Egypt's Ruqayya Salem 3-0 (11-3, 11-7, 11-9)** in the final. She dominated the tournament by losing only **two games** in six matches and ended **Egypt's 13-year winning streak**, becoming the **first non-Egyptian champion since 2010**. Anahat, who initially played **badminton** before switching to **squash**, surpassed **Joshna Chinappa's** previous best performance in **2005**, marking a historic milestone for Indian squash.
- Indian weightlifting star **Mirabai Chanu** clinched the **gold medal** in the **women's 48 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026**, securing her **third consecutive Commonwealth Games title** after victories in **2018, 2022, and 2026**. The **31-year-old** lifted a total of **190 kg**, comprising **85 kg in snatch** and **105 kg in clean and jerk**, to earn **India's first gold medal** of the Games. **Nigeria's Ruth Asuquo Nyong** claimed silver, while **Malaysia's Irene Jane Henry** won bronze. With an **Olympic silver medal** and multiple **World Championship medals**, Mirabai continues to inspire Indian sport.
- Indian weightlifter **Raja Muthupandi** won the **silver medal** in the **men's 65 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow** with a combined lift of **286 kg**. He finished behind **Malaysia's Aznil Bin Bidin Muhamed**, who won gold with a **Commonwealth Games record** total of **299 kg**, while **Papua New Guinea's Morea Baru** secured bronze. Raja displayed remarkable determination after recovering from a difficult **snatch** attempt and a failed **clean and jerk** lift. His comeback from previous injuries further strengthened **India's weightlifting campaign** at the Games.
- Rishikanta Singh Chanambam** became the first Indian medallist at the **Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026** after winning **silver** in the **men's 60 kg weightlifting** event. The athlete from **Imphal West, Manipur**, created a new **Commonwealth Games record** by lifting **121 kg in snatch**, followed by **143 kg in clean and jerk**, for a total of **264 kg**. **Malaysia's Mohamad Aniq Kasdan** won gold with **273 kg**, while **Joshua Amunga Mboya** claimed bronze. Previously, Rishikanta had won **gold** at the **2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships**, showcasing his consistency on the international stage.
- Nyck de Vries** secured victory for **Mahindra Racing** in the second race of the **Tokyo E-Prix** of the **ABB FIA Formula E World Championship**, strengthening the team's championship campaign. Starting from **fifth position**, he expertly managed changing **wet-to-dry track conditions**, strategically used **Attack Mode**, and maintained his lead after a late **red flag** restart. The victory marked his **second win of the 2026 season** and Mahindra Racing's **second triumph** of the year, their first **multi-win season since 2017-18**. The team collected **38 points** during the Tokyo double-header to move **fourth** in the **Teams' Championship** with **210 points**, while teammate **Edoardo Mortara** equalled the season's **pole-position record**.

- Indian athlete **Sarvesh Anil Kushare** won the **silver medal** in the **men's high jump** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow**, achieving a best jump of **2.25 metres** on his final attempt. Although he narrowly missed clearing **2.28 metres**, his performance earned India its **best-ever result** in the event, surpassing the previous **bronze medal** achievement. **Jamaica's Romaine Beckford** secured the **gold medal** on countback, while **Scotland's Jack Kimani** won **bronze** with **2.20 metres**. The achievement adds to Kushare's impressive form following his **national record jump of 2.31 metres** at the **Inter-State Athletics Championships**.
- Indian weightlifter **Ajaya Babu** secured the **silver medal** in the **men's 79 kg** event at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** with a combined lift of **330 kg**, comprising **149 kg in snatch** and **181 kg in clean and jerk**. He narrowly missed the **gold medal** by just **1 kg**, as **Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad** won with a **Commonwealth Games record** total of **331 kg**, while **England's Chris Murray** took **bronze** with **325 kg**. Ajaya's medal became **India's sixth weightlifting medal** at the Games, further strengthening the country's reputation in international weightlifting competitions.
- Indian weightlifter **Gyaneshwari Yadav** secured the **silver medal** in the **women's 53 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026**, becoming **India's fourth weightlifting medallist** and **fifth overall medallist** at the Games. She lifted **88 kg in snatch** and **111 kg in clean and jerk**, setting **Commonwealth Games records** before **Nigeria's Onome Omolola** surpassed them to win **gold**, while **Canada's Rebeka Groulx** claimed **bronze**. An **Assistant Sub-Inspector in the Chhattisgarh Police**, Gyaneshwari has also won medals at the **Asian Weightlifting Championships** and holds a **national record**, highlighting her consistent success in international competitions.
- Indian shooter **Esha Singh** won the **gold medal** in the **women's 25m pistol** event at the **ISSF World Cup 2026** in **Hangzhou, China**, defeating **China's Zhang Yueyue** by **40-37** in the final. The victory also secured her direct qualification for the **ISSF World Cup Final 2026** in **Rome**. Fellow Indian shooter and Olympian **Manu Bhaker** earned the **bronze medal** with **28 hits** after a closely contested shoot-off. The outstanding performances by both athletes further strengthened **India's reputation in international shooting**, particularly in **women's pistol events**, showcasing the country's growing dominance on the global stage.
- India** achieved a historic double by winning both the **men's** and **women's team titles** at the **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships** held at the **Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi**, on **30 July 2026**. The **men's team** defeated **Malaysia 3-2**, with **Manush Shah** winning two crucial singles matches, including the deciding encounter. The **women's team** remained **unbeaten** throughout the tournament and defeated **Malaysia 3-0** in the final through victories by **Swastika Ghosh**, **Sreeja Akula**, and **Yashaswini Ghorpade**. Conducted from **27 July to 2 August**, the championship earned India a **USD 10,000 prize purse** and reinforced its status as one of the **Commonwealth's strongest table tennis nations**.
- Indian weightlifter **Lovepreet Singh** secured the **silver medal** in the **men's +110 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026**, narrowly missing the gold by just **one kilogram**. The **28-year-old** lifted a combined total of **388 kg**, including a **Commonwealth Games record 176 kg snatch** and **212 kg clean and jerk**. **New Zealand's David Liti** claimed the **gold medal** with a record **389 kg** total after lifting **223 kg** in clean and jerk, while Lovepreet failed to clear **217 kg** in his final attempt. His medal helped India conclude a successful **weightlifting campaign with eight medals**, while **Martina Devi Maibam** finished **fifth** in the **women's +86 kg** category.
- Indian athlete **Seema Kaliramna** won the **bronze medal** in the **women's discus throw** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow**, securing her **first major international medal** with a best throw of **58.66 metres**. **Jamaica's Samantha Hall** claimed **gold** with **61.66 metres**, while **Canada's Julia Tunks** won **silver** with **60.67 metres**. A **27-year-old PhD scholar** and **mother of a four-year-old son**, Seema made an inspiring comeback after a **two-year break**, achieving a **personal best of 59.73 metres** earlier in 2026. Her bronze increased **India's athletics medal tally to four**, highlighting her determination and perseverance.
- Former **India captain Ajinkya Rahane**, popularly known as "**Jinx**", announced his retirement from **international cricket** after an illustrious career that began with his debut in **2011**. The **Dombivli (Thane), Maharashtra-born** batter shared the announcement through an **Instagram** video, thanking the **BCCI, Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)**, his teammates, family, and wife **Radhika** for their support. Renowned for his **calm leadership, solid technique, and match-winning overseas Test performances**, Rahane also captained India in Tests. He indicated that he plans to remain associated with cricket through **coaching, mentoring, or commentary**.
- India concluded the **ISSF World Cup 2026** with **four medals—one gold, one silver, and two bronze**—demonstrating its growing strength in international shooting. The final medal came in the **10m Air Rifle Mixed Team** event, where **Sonam Maskar** and **Himanshu Dhillon** won **bronze** with **441.2 points**. **Esha Singh** claimed **gold** in the **Women's 25m Pistol**, **Sainyam Vij** secured **silver** in the **Women's 10m Air Pistol**, and **Manu Bhaker** earned **bronze** in the **Women's 25m Pistol**, highlighting India's consistent performance across rifle and pistol events.

- India strengthened its medal tally at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow, Scotland**, by winning **one gold** and **two silver medals** in athletics. **Dilip Mahadu Gavitt** clinched **gold** in the **Men's 100m T47** with a **Commonwealth Games record** time of **10.71 seconds**, while **Mohammed Basil Morssinganakathi** won **silver** in **10.83 seconds**, giving India its **first-ever one-two finish** in the event. **Murali Sreeshankar** secured **silver** in the **Men's Long Jump** with a leap of **8.09 metres**, narrowly missing gold by **6 cm**, earning his **second consecutive Commonwealth Games silver medal**.
- Indian athlete **Tejaswin Shankar** created history by winning a **bronze medal in men's decathlon** at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games**, becoming the first Indian to secure a Commonwealth medal in the event. The 27-year-old scored **7,976 points** across the challenging **10-event competition** despite suffering from **chronic patellar tendinitis**. He remained among the top performers throughout the event, finishing strongly in the final **1,500m race** to secure the podium position. **Grenada's Lindon Victor** won gold with **8,096 points**, while **Canada's Damian Warner** secured silver with **8,036 points**. This was Tejaswin's second Commonwealth Games medal after his **2022 high jump bronze**, making him the first Indian athlete to win Commonwealth medals in two different athletics disciplines.
- Harsh Singh** became the first Indian male judoka to win a **Commonwealth Games gold medal in judo** after defeating Australia's **Joshua Katz** in the **men's 60kg final** at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games** on **31 July 2026**. The **23-year-old athlete** displayed strong tactical skills and composure to secure India's first-ever men's judo gold at the Games. Ranked among the **top 100 judokas by the International Judo Federation (IJF)**, Harsh has represented India at major international competitions, including the **Zagreb Grand Prix** and **Qazaqstan Barysy Grand Slam**. His achievement came on the same day as **Asmita Dey's gold medal victory**, marking India's best-ever Commonwealth Games performance in judo and highlighting the country's growing strength in the sport.
- Asmita Dey** created history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win a **Commonwealth Games gold medal in judo** after defeating Canada's **Heidi Quach** in the **women's 48kg final** at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games** on **31 July 2026**. The 23-year-old secured victory through the **Golden Score** system after a closely contested final, showing excellent tactical ability and mental strength. She reached the final after defeating **Scotland's Eva Ewing** in the quarterfinal and **Sarah Adlington** in the semifinal. Her victory ended India's previous best record of **five silver and six bronze medals** in Commonwealth Games judo. The historic win also gave India its first judo medal at the Glasgow Games and is expected to inspire greater participation and development of judo across the country.
- India recorded a historic achievement at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** as **Neeraj Chopra** won a **silver medal** and **Yash Vir Singh** secured a **bronze medal** in the men's **javelin throw final**, creating India's first-ever **double podium finish** in the event. Neeraj delivered a **season-best throw of 85.83 metres**, while **Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage** won gold with a **Games record throw of 89.75 metres**. Yash Vir Singh produced a career-best performance with a **personal-best throw of 85.41 metres** in his final attempt to claim bronze. Their success helped India reach **23 medals** by the end of Day 8, including **5 gold, 12 silver, and 6 bronze medals**, highlighting India's rising strength in athletics and international sports competitions.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** released his memoir, **"The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts,"** narrating his journey from **Indian Air Force fighter pilot** to astronaut aboard the **Axiom-4 Mission** to the **International Space Station (ISS)**. Unveiled by **Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh**, the book highlights astronaut training, mission preparation, and India's growing space ambitions. It also honours **Rakesh Sharma** while inspiring young Indians to pursue **STEM education** and contribute to future human space exploration.
- Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** released **"The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks"**, edited by **Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar** and published by **Thomson Reuters** with **CLEA**. The book compiles speeches and reflections of former **Chief Justice B.R. Gavai** on **constitutional governance, judicial philosophy, social justice, and the rule of law**. During the event, the Vice-President emphasised the Constitution as a **living document** and urged greater **pro bono legal services** to improve access to justice.

OBITUARY

- **Padma Shri** awardee **Girish Bharadwaj**, popularly known as the “**Bridge Man of India**,” passed away at the age of **76**. A **mechanical engineer** and grassroots innovator, he constructed over **140 low-cost suspension bridges** across **Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, and Odisha**, connecting remote villages to schools, hospitals, and markets. His first bridge, built in **1989** across the **Payaswini River**, pioneered affordable engineering for difficult terrains. Bharadwaj’s work transformed rural connectivity and remains a lasting symbol of **inclusive infrastructure**, innovation, and sustainable community development.
- Former **Qatar Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani** passed away at the age of **74**. Serving as Emir from **1995 to 2013**, he transformed Qatar through the development of the **North Field gas reserves**, expansion of **LNG production**, and establishment of the **Qatar Investment Authority**. He also launched **Al Jazeera** and laid the foundation for hosting the **2022 FIFA World Cup**. Following his death, **Qatar declared national mourning**, while leaders including **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** paid tribute to his visionary leadership and lasting global legacy.
- **Sir Garfield Sobers**, one of cricket’s greatest **all-rounders**, passed away at the age of **89**. The **West Indies** legend scored **8,032 Test runs**, took **235 Test wickets**, made a then-world record **365***, and became the first cricketer to hit **six sixes in an over** in **first-class cricket**. He was **knighthooded in 1975** and inducted into the **ICC Hall of Fame**, leaving behind an extraordinary cricketing legacy.
- Veteran **Congress leader** and former **Uttarakhand Minister Hira Singh Bisht** passed away on **26 July 2026** in **Dehradun** at the age of **85** following a **cardiac arrest**. A **three-time MLA** representing **Doiwala and Rajpur**, he served as a **Cabinet Minister** in the **N.D. Tiwari Government**, handling portfolios such as **Transport, Labour, and Technical Education**. Beyond politics, he contributed significantly to **sports administration** as a founder member of the **Cricket Association of Uttarakhand**, supported the development of **Raipur Cricket Stadium**, and worked for **labour welfare** through his leadership in **INTUC**.
- Former **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Vishwa Nath (V.N.) Sharma** passed away in **New Delhi** on **31 July 2026** at the age of **95**, concluding an illustrious military career spanning over **four decades**. He served as the **14th Chief of the Army Staff** from **1 May 1988 to 30 June 1990** and became the **first post-Independence commissioned officer** to rise to the Army’s highest position. Commissioned into the **16th Light Cavalry** in **1950**, he played a key role during the **1987 Sino-Indian border stand-off** with China. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** and **Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth** paid tribute to his outstanding service and contribution to India’s defence preparedness.
- Legendary Italian footballer **Franco Baresi** passed away at the age of **66**, with **AC Milan** confirming the news on **31 July 2026** after earlier dismissing false rumours. Widely regarded as one of the greatest **defenders** in football history, Baresi spent his entire **20-year professional career** with **AC Milan**, making over **700 appearances**, captaining the club for **15 seasons**, and winning **six Serie A titles and three European Cups**. He also won the **1982 FIFA World Cup** with **Italy** and captained the national team to the **1994 FIFA World Cup Final** despite recovering from knee surgery. His **leadership, defensive excellence, and loyalty** left an enduring legacy in world football.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Important Day / Event	Theme (2026)	Key Takeaway
1 July	Chartered Accountants Day (CA Day)	—	Marks the 77th Foundation Day of ICAI ; celebrates the contribution of Chartered Accountants to taxation, auditing, financial governance and economic growth.
1 July	National Doctors' Day	Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?	Honours doctors; commemorates Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy ; focuses on doctors' mental health and well-being.
4 July	International Day of Cooperatives	Cooperatives for a Peaceful World!	Highlights the role of cooperatives in social justice, financial inclusion and sustainable development.
6 July	World Zoonoses Day	—	Raises awareness about diseases transmitted from animals to humans; commemorates Louis Pasteur's first rabies vaccine .
6 July	Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Birth Anniversary	—	Celebrates the life of educationist, nationalist leader and founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh .

Date	Important Day / Event	Theme (2026)	Key Takeaway
11 July	World Population Day	Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people: today and in the future	Promotes population awareness, reproductive health and youth empowerment.
15 July	World Youth Skills Day	Skills for a Shared Future	Promotes technical, vocational, AI and digital skills for youth.
16 July	Jagannath Rath Yatra	—	Annual chariot festival of Lord Jagannath held in Puri, Odisha .
16 July	World Snake Day	—	Raises awareness about snake conservation and ecological importance.
17 July	World Day for International Justice	—	Commemorates the Rome Statute (1998) and promotes international justice and human rights.
18 July	World Listening Day	—	Promotes mindful listening, acoustic ecology and noise pollution awareness.
22 July	World Brain Day	Brain Health: Access for All	Promotes awareness of neurological disorders and equitable brain healthcare.
22 July	National Flag Day (India)	—	Marks the adoption of the Tiranga by the Constituent Assembly in 1947.
23 July	Lokmanya Tilak Jayanti	—	Commemorates Bal Gangadhar Tilak , pioneer of India's freedom movement.
24 July	Income Tax Day	—	Marks 167 years of Income Tax in India; celebrates taxpayers and digital tax reforms.
26 July	Kargil Vijay Diwas	—	Commemorates India's victory in the 1999 Kargil War through Operation Vijay .
27 July	CRPF Foundation Day	—	Celebrates the 87th Foundation Day of India's largest Central Armed Police Force.
28 July	World Hepatitis Day	Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down	Promotes hepatitis prevention, testing and treatment.
28 July	World Nature Conservation Day	—	Encourages conservation of biodiversity, forests and natural resources.
30 July	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	Trapped Behind the Scam	Raises awareness about human trafficking and protection of victims.
30 July	International Day of Friendship	—	Promotes friendship, peace, intercultural dialogue and global cooperation.

Miscellaneous

- The **Ministry of Law and Justice** introduced the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, increasing the **Supreme Court's sanctioned judge strength from 33 to 37** (38 total including the CJI). The move aims to address nearly **92,385 pending cases** and improve judicial efficiency across the country.
- The **Aadhaar App**, developed by **UIDAI** under the **Ministry of Electronics & IT**, crossed **4 crore downloads** in 2026, reflecting rapid adoption of Digital India services. It enables **address, mobile, and email updates, e-Aadhaar downloads, and biometric lock/unlock features, with free email updates available till December 2026**.
- CSIR-CSMCRI**, in partnership with **Rite Water Solutions**, launched **JAL-YAAN**, India's **first solar-powered water purification van**, designed for **remote and disaster-hit regions**. Using **Reverse Osmosis (RO)** and **Ultrafiltration (UF) technologies**, the mobile unit also provides **emergency electricity** during floods, cyclones, and other disasters.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** granted environmental clearance to the **Naying Hydel Project**, a **1,000 MW hydroelectric project** on the **Siyom River** in **Arunachal Pradesh**, near the **India-China border**. The project is expected to strengthen **renewable energy generation, border infrastructure, and socio-economic development** in the region.
- The **Supreme Court**, through the **Department of Justice**, directed the formation of a **Uniform Post-Retirement Benefits Committee** to recommend standardized benefits for retired **Chief Justices and High Court judges**, covering **security, medical reimbursement, telecommunications, and accommodation**.

- India approved its **first 100 MWh Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) Energy Storage System** under the **Ministry of Power / NTPC Renewable Energy Limited**, scheduled for **2027**. Located at **Khavda Solar Park, Gujarat**, it marks the country's **first indigenous utility-scale non-lithium battery project**, strengthening **grid stability** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** hosted the **5th BRICS Working Group on Geospatial Technologies and its Applications** in 2026, focusing on **GIS, AI, remote sensing, and Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT)**. The meeting aims to strengthen international cooperation in **disaster management** and **interoperable digital infrastructure**.
- The **DGCA**, under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, is developing a **Digital Aviation Incident Reporting Platform** to digitize **Mandatory Occurrence Reports (MORs)**, replacing manual systems. The initiative will enable **faster investigations, compliance monitoring, and quicker regulatory action** as India's aviation sector expands.
- **Paninian India Private Ltd.** unveiled the **Yantur 4.5 kN Turbofan Engine Programme** under **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in 2026, designed for **combat drones, cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial platforms**. The engine features **digital twin-based health monitoring** and scalable thrust up to **12.5 kN**, expected to power the **Svayatt L1 platform**.
- **NHAI**, under the **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**, launched the **Digital Local Pass and MargMitra Help Centre** on the **RajmargYatra Mobile App**. The **Digital Local Pass** enables commuters within **20 km of toll plazas** to obtain digital monthly passes via **DigiLocker, VAHAN, and FASTag**, while **MargMitra**, an **AI-powered multilingual assistant**, provides toll support and grievance tracking.
- **Central KYC (CKYC)**, managed by **CERSAI** under the **Ministry of Finance**, is a centralized identity verification system allowing customers to complete KYC once and use it across **banks, NBFCs, mutual funds, and insurance companies** through a unique **14-digit CKYC Identification Number (KIN)**.
- The **Ministry of Coal** signed a technical cooperation agreement with **Germany's GIZ** to release the first **AAROH (Annual Report on Mine Closure)**, documenting the **scientific closure of 42 coal mines** since Independence. The partnership strengthens initiatives like **RECLAIM, L.I.V.E.S., and SUVIKALP** for ecosystem restoration and community development.
- The **Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF)** and **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** launched the **Campus Biodiversity Register (CBR) Initiative**, enabling colleges and universities to document species using citizen science platforms like **iNaturalist, eBird, and SeasonWatch**. Registrations remain open until **November 2026**, with documentation continuing till **June 2027**.
- Under the **Nuclear Energy Mission**, India will develop at least **five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** by **2033** through the **Department of Atomic Energy / BARC**, including **Bharat SMR, SMR-55, and HTGR** technologies. The programme supports India's target of **22 GW nuclear capacity by 2031-32** and **100 GW by 2047**.
- The **Ministry of Education** plans to introduce a new law to curb **examination paper leaks**, featuring **fast-track courts** and **strict penalties** for offenders. The proposed legislation aims to dismantle **organised examination fraud networks** and restore public confidence in India's recruitment and admission systems.
- **VDA and GAIL** launched the **Electric Boat Conversion Pilot Project** at **Namo Ghat, Varanasi**, converting fuel-powered boats into electric boats equipped with **15 kW motors, lithium batteries, and GPS tracking**. Initially, **20 boats** will be converted to promote clean river transport on the **Ganga**.
- The **Ministry of Textiles** organized the **Weaves of India Festival 2026**, showcasing **116 traditional handloom weaves** including **Banarasi Silk, Jamdani, Kanchipuram Silk, and Sambalpuri Ikat**. The event also celebrates the **12th National Handloom Day**, commemorating the **Swadeshi Movement of 1905**.
- **Indian Railways** launched an **AI-based linen stain detection pilot project** using **computer vision and machine learning** to improve hygiene in **AC coach bedrolls**. The system is being piloted at mechanised laundries in **Pune, Jaipur, and Jodhpur**, complementing existing quality checks.
- The **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, under **MeitY / Ministry of Home Affairs**, directed **GitHub** to remove repositories linked to **Bitchat**, a Bluetooth-based decentralised messaging app created by **Jack Dorsey**. The government cited concerns over **national security, cybercrime, and misinformation**, invoking provisions of the **IT Act, 2000**.

Static Takeaways

Aspect	Details
Andhra Pradesh	CM: Chandrababu Naidu Governor: Abdur Nazeer/Abdul Nazeer Capital: Amaravati
Assam	CM: Hemanta Sarma/Himnata Sarma Governor: Laxman Prasad Acharya/Laxman Acharya Capital: Dispur
Bihar	CM: Samrat Chaudhary Governor: Arif Khan Capital: Patna
Chhattisgarh	CM: Mohan Majhi Governor: Ramen Deka Capital: Raipur
Delhi	Chief Minister: Rekha Gupta Governor: Tarnjit Singh Capital: New Delhi
Gujarat	CM: Bhupendra Patel Governor: Acharya Devvrat/Acharya Devrat Capital: Gandhinagar
Haryana	CM: Nayab Saini Governor: Ashim Kumar Ghosh Capital: Haryana
Jharkhand	CM: Hemant Soren Governor: Santosh Gangwar Capital: Ranchi
Karnataka	CM: DK Shivakumar Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot Capital: Bengaluru
Kerala	CM: V. D. Satheesan Governor: R. Arlekar Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
Madhya Pradesh	CM: Mohan Yadav Governor: Mangubhai Patel Capital: Bhopal
Maharashtra	CM: Devendra Fadnavis Governor: Jishnu Dev Verma Capital: Mumbai
Meghalaya	CM: Konrad Sangma Governor: C. H. Vijayashankar Capital: Shillong
Odisha	CM: Mohan Majhi Governor: Haribabu Khambhupati/Haribabau Khambhupati Capital: Bhubaneswar
Rajasthan	CM: Bhajanlal Sharma Governor: Haribhau Bagade/Haribhau Bagde Capital: Jaipur

Aspect	Details
Tamil Nadu	CM: Joseph Vijay/Joesph Vijay Governor: R. Arlekar Capital: Chennai
Uttarakhand	CM: Pushkar Singh Dhami Governor: Gurmit Singh Capital: Dehradun (Winter)
West Bengal	CM: Suwendu Adhikari Governor: R. N. Ravi Capital: Kolkata
Australia	Prime Minister: Anthony Albanese
England	Prime Minister: Keir Starmer
France	President: Emmanuel Macron
Germany	Chancellor: Friedrich Merz
Israel	Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu Capital: Jerusalem
Italy	Prime Minister: Giorgia Meloni
Japan	Prime Minister: Sanae Takaichi Capital: Tokyo
Nepal	Prime Minister: Balen Shah
New Zealand	Prime Minister: Christopher Luxon
Saudi Arabia	Head of Country: Mohammed Bin Salman
United States (USA)	President: Donald Trump Capital: Washington, D.C.
Venezuela	President: Delcy Rodriguez
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
SEBI	Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey
DBS Bank	CMD & MD: Rajat Verma
ICC	Chairman: Jay Shah
OpenAI	Founder: Sam Altman



ALL EXAMS, **ONE** SUBSCRIPTION

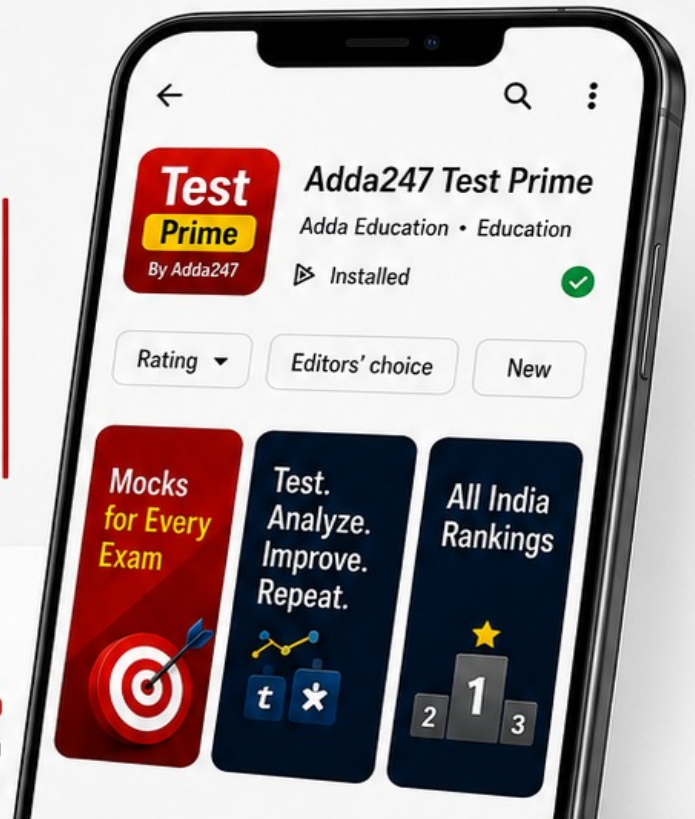


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Perform.**

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for mock tests.



1,50,000+
Mock Tests



25,000+
Previous Year
Papers



800+
Exam
Covered



500%
Refund on
Selection



5 lakh+
Free Quizzes



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- ✓ All India Rankings



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