SBI PO Mains Current Affairs Capsule

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1. A. List of Chief Ministers & Governors of Indian States

S.No	State	Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
1	Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Chandrababu Naidu	Retd. S. Abdul Nazeer
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Retd. Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
3	Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sharma	Lakshman Prasad Acharaya
4	Bihar	Patna	Samrat Choudhary	Syed Ata Hasnain
5	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Vishnu Deo Sai	Ramen Deka
6	Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	Pasupati Ashok Gajapathi Raju
7	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Dev Vrat
8	Haryana	Chandigarh	Nayab Singh Saini	Prof.Ashim Kumar Ghosh
9	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu	Kavinder Gupta
10	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Santhosh Kumar gangwar
11	Karnataka	Bengaluru	D.K.Shivakumar	Thawarchand Gehlot
12	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	V. D. Satheesan	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
13	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Mohan Yadav	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
14	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Devendra Fadnavis	Jishnu Dev Varma
15	Manipur	Imphal	Yumnam Khemchand Singh	Ajay Kumar Bhalla
16	Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	CH Vijayashankar
17	Mizoram	Aizawl	Lalduhoma	Vijay Kumar Singh
18	Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	Nand Kishore Yadav

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19	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Mohan Charan Majhi	Hari Babu Kambhampati
20	Punjab	Chandigarh	Bhagwant Singh Mann	Gulab Chand Kataria
21	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Bhajan Lal Sharma	Haribhau Bagade
22	Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Om Prakash Mathur
23	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	C. Joseph Vijay	Rajendra Arlekar (Addl. Charge)
24	Telangana	Hyderabad	A Revanth Reddy	Shiv Pratap Shukla
25	Tripura	Agartala	Manik Saha	Indra Sena Reddy Nallu
26	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
27	Uttarakhand	Dehradun (winter) Gairsain (summer)	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
28	West Bengal	Kolkata	Suvendu Adhikari	R.N. Ravi

B. List of Updated Chief Ministers and Governors of Union Territories

S.NO	Union Territory	Capital	Chief Minister	Lt. Governor/Administrator
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair		Admiral D K Joshi
2	Chandigarh	Chandigarh		Gulab Chand Kataria
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Daman		Praful Khoda Patel
4	Delhi	Delhi	Rekha Gupta	Taranjit Singh Sandhu
5	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti		Shri. Praful Khoda Patel (Administrator)
6	Puducherry (Pondicherry)	Pondicherry	N. Rangasamy	Kuniyil Kailashnathan

7	Ladakh (proposed from 31 October 2019)	Ladakh		B D Mishra
8	Jammu and Kashmir (proposed from 31 October 2019)	Srinagar (summer), Jammu (winter)	Omar Abdullah	Manoj Sinha

2. A. New Cabinet Ministers of India with their Portfolios& Constituencies

Name of Indian Ministers 2026	Portfolio	Constituency
Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister and also in charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space All important policy issues All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs Minister of Cooperation	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways	Nagpur. Maharashtra
J.P. Nadda	Minister of Health and Family Welfare Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Gujarat constituency
Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry of Rural Development	Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance Minister of Corporate Affairs	Rajya Sabha MP, Karnataka
Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs	Rajyasabha MP, Gujarat
Manohar Lal Khattar	Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Minister of Power	Karnal, Haryana
H. D. Kumaraswamy	Minister of Heavy Industries Ministry of Steel	Mandya constituency, Karnataka
Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry	Lok Sabha MP, Mumbai North, Maharashtra
Shri Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Education Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister of New and Renewable Energy	Dharwad, Karnataka (Representing State)
Jitan Ram Manjhi	Minister of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises	Lok Sabha MP, Gaya, Bihar
Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh	Minister of Panchayati Raj Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Munger constituency of Bihar
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways	Dibrugarh, Assam
Dr Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment	Tikamgarh MP, Madhya Pradesh
Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu	Minister of Civil Aviation	Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh
Jual Oram	Minister of Tribal Affairs	Sundargarh constituency of Odisha
Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Textiles	Begusarai, Bihar

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways Minister of Information and Broadcasting Minister of Electronics and Information Technology	Rajya Sabha MP, Odisha
Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Minister of Communications Minister of Development of North-Eastern Region	Lok Sabha MP, Madhya Pradesh
Shri Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Lok Sabha MP, Rajasthan
Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Culture Minister of Tourism	Jodhpur, Rajasthan
Annpurna Devi	Minister of Women and Child Development	Kodarma, Jharkhand
Shri Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of Minority Affairs	Arunachal Pradesh West, Arunachal Pradesh
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Rajayasabha MP, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Labour and Employment Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports	Lok Sabha MP, Gujarat
Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Coal Minister of Mines	Secunderabad, Telangana
Chirag Paswan	Minister of Food Processing Industries.	Hajipur, Bihar
C R Patil	Minister of Jal Shakti	Navsari constituency in South Gujarat

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B. List of Ministers of State Independent Charge with their Portfolios & Constituencies

S.No	Name	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Rao Inderjit Singh	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Ministry of Planning, and Culture.	Gurgaon, Haryana
2	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Science and Technology; Earth Sciences; Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Atomic Energy; and Department of Space.	Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir
3	Arjun Ram Meghwal	Law and Justice; and MoS of Parliamentary Affairs.	Bikaner, Rajasthan
4	Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao	Ministry of Ayush; and MoS Health and Family Welfare.	Buldhana, Maharashtra
5	Jayant Chaudhary	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and MoS in Education	

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C. Ministers of State with their Portfolios &Constituencies

S.No	Name	Portfolio
1	Jitin Prasada	Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2	Shripad Yesso Naik	Ministry of Power; and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
3	Pankaj Chaudhary	Finance
4	Krishan Pal	Cooperation
5	Ramdas Athawale	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
6	Ram Nath Thakur	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
7	Nityanand Rai	Home Affairs
8	Anupriya Patel	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

9	V. Somanna	Jal Shakti; and Ministry of Railways.
10	Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani	Ministry of Rural Development; and Ministry of Communications.
11	Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
12	Sushri Sobha Karandlaje	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Ministry of Labour and Employment.
13	Kirtivardhan Singh	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Ministry of External Affairs.
14	B. L. Verma	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
15	Shantanu Thakur	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
16	Suresh Gopi	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Ministry of Tourism.
17	L. Murugan	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
18	Ajay Tamta	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
19	Bandi Sanjay Kumar	Ministry of Home Affairs.
20	Kamlesh Paswan	Ministry of Rural Development.
21	Bhagirath Choudhary	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
22	Satish Chandra Dubey	Ministry of Coal; and Ministry of Mines.
23	Sanjay Seth	Ministry of Defence.
24	Ravneet Singh	Ministry of Food Processing Industries; and Ministry of Railways.
25	Durgadas Uikey	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
26	Raksha Nikhil Khadse	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

27	Sukanta Majumdar	Ministry of Education; and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
28	Savitri Thakur	Ministry of Women and Child Development.
29	Tokhan Sahu	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
30	Raj Bhushan Choudhary	Ministry of Jal Shakti.
31	Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma	Ministry of Heavy Industries; and Ministry of Steel.
32	Harsh Malhotra	Ministry of Corporate Affairs; and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
33	Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
34	Murlidhar Mohol	Ministry of Cooperation; and Ministry of Civil Aviation.
35	George Kurian	Ministry of Minority Affairs; and Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
36	Pabitra Margherita	Ministry of External Affairs; and Ministry of Textiles.

3. Banks with Headquarters and Taglines

A. Private Banks

Bank name	Headquarters	Tagline
Axis Bank	Mumbai	Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi (Growth is its Name)
Bandhan Bank	Kolkatta	AapkaBhala, SabkiBhalai (Your well-being, everyone's well-being)
Catholic Syrian Bank	Thrissur, Kerala	Support All the Way
City Union Bank	Tamilnadu	Trust and Excellence since 1904
Dhanalaxmi Bank	Thrissur, Kerala	Tann Mann Dhan (Mind, Body, Wealth)

Development Credit Bank	Mumbai	We value you
Federal Bank	Kerala	Your Perfect Banking Partner
HDFC Bank	Mumbai	We Understand Your World
ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Hum Hai Na, KhayalApka (We're here, your care)
IDBI Bank	Mumbai	Banking for All "AaoSocheinBada" (Let's Think Big), and "Bank Aisa Dost Jaisa" (Like a Friend, the Bank).
IDFC First Bank	Mumbai	Always You First
IndusInd Bank	Pune, Maharashtra	We make You Feel Richer, We Care DilSe
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	Srinagar	Serving to Empower
Karnataka Bank	Mangaluru, Karnataka	Your Family Bank across India
KarurVysya Bank	Karur,Tamilnadu	Smart way to Bank
Kotak Mahindra Bank	Mumbai	Let's make money simple, Ab Kona KonaKotak
Lakshmi Vilas Bank (DBS Bank now)	Singapore	Live More,Bank Less
Nainital bank	Nainital, Uttarakhand	Banking with Personal Touch
South Indian Bank	Thrissur, Kerala	Experience Next Generation Banking
Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank	Thoothukudi, Tamilnadu	Be a step ahead in life
Yes Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Experience our Expertise Life Ko Banao Rich (Make Your Life Rich)
RBL Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Apno ka Bank (Our Own Bank).

B. Public Sector Banks

Bank Name	Headquarters	Taglines
State Bank of India	Mumbai, Maharashtra	With You all the way, Pure Banking Nothing Else, The Nation Bank on Us, The Banker to Every Indian, A Bank of the Common Man, You Can Always Bank on Us
Punjab National Bank(Anchor Bank) + Oriental Bank of Commerce+ United Bank of India	New Delhi	The Name You Can Bank upon
Canara Bank (Anchor Bank) + Syndicate Bank	Bengaluru, Karnataka	Together we can
Indian Bank (Anchor Bank) + Allahabad Bank	Chennai, Tamilnadu	Your Own Bank
Union Bank of India (Anchor Bank) + Andhra Bank+ Corporation Bank	Mumbai	Good People to Bank with
Bank of Baroda+ Dena Bank+ Vijaya Bank	Vadodara, Gujarat	India's International Bank
UCO Bank	Kolkatta, West Bengal	Honours your Trust
Indian Overseas Bank	Chennai, Tamilnadu	Good People to Grow with
Bank of India	Mumbai	Relationship Beyond Banking
Bank of Maharashtra	Pune	One Family One Bank/ Ek Parivar Ek Bank
Punjab & Sind Bank	New Delhi	Where Service is a way of Life
Central Bank of India	Mumbai	Central to you since 1911 Build a better life around us".

C. Small Finance Banks

Name	Headquarters	Tagline
AU Small Finance Bank	Jaipur, Rajasthan	ChaloAageBadhein (Let's move forward)
Capital Small Finance Bank (1st SFB)	Jalandhar, Punjab	Viswas Se Vikastak (From Trust to Growth)
Equitas Small Finance Bank	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	It's Fun banking
ESAF Small Finance Bank	Thrissur, Kerala	Joy of Banking
FINCARE Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru, Karnataka	A New Era in Smart Banking begins "Banking on More"
Janalakshmi Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru, Karnataka	"Likho Apni Kahani" (Write Your Own Story) "Paise Ke Kadar" (Value of Money)
North East Small Finance Bank	Guwahati, Assam	Your Door step Banker
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	Navi Mumbai	A Bank of smiles
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru, Karnataka	Bank Better, Live Better Build a Better Life. (Also "Bharosa, Aapke Bharose Par").
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	Varanasi, UP	Aapki Umeed Ka Khata (Your Account of Hope)
Shivalik Small Finance Bank	Noida, Uttar Pradesh	Aapka Apna Bank" (Your Own Bank)
Unity Small Finance Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Digital First Bank

D. Payment Banks

Bank name	Headquarters	Tagline
Airtel Payments Bank (India's 1st payment bank)	New Delhi	Banking is now at your Fingertips.

Fino Payments Bank	Navi Mumbai	QadarAapkiMehnat Ki (Respecting Your Hard Work)
India Post Payments Bank	New Delhi	Aapka Bank AapkeDwar (Your Bank, At Your Doorstep)
Paytm Payments Bank	Noida, UP	Simplifying payments for India
Jio Payments Bank	Mumbai	Your everyday bank
NSDL Payments Bank	Mumbai	Technology, Trust and Reach

4. List of National Parks in India / State wise

State/UT	National parks
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Galathea National Park Mahatma Gandhi Marine (Wandoor) National Park Campbell Bay National Park Mount Harriet National Park Rani Jhansi Marine National Park Saddle Peak National Park Middle Button Island National Park North Button Island National Park South Button Island National Park
Andhra Pradesh	Papikonda National Park Sri Venkateswara National Park Rajiv Gandhi (Rameswaram) National Park
Arunachal Pradesh	Mouling National Park Namdapha National Park

Assam	Nameri National Park Manas National Park Dibru- Saikhowa National Park Kaziranga National Park Orang National Park DihingPatkai National Park Raimona National Park
Bihar	Valmiki National Park Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary Kanwar Lake Bird Sanctuary
Chhattisgarh	Indravati National Park Kanger Valley National Park Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) National Park
Goa	Bhagwan Mahavir (Mollem) National Park
Gujarat	Gir National Park Blackbuck National Park Gulf of KutchNational Park Vansda National Park Marine National Park
Haryana	Sultanpur National Park Kalesar National Park
Himachal Pradesh	Pin Valley National Pak Simbalbara National Park Inderkilla National Park Khirganga National Park Great Himalayan National Park
Jammu and Kashmir	Dachigam National Park Salim Ali National Park Kishtwar National Park Kazinag National Park
Ladakh	Hemis National Park

Jharkhand	Betla National Park Hazaribagh National Park
Karnataka	Bandipur National Park Anshi National Park Bannerghata National Park Kudremukh National Park Nagarhole(Rajiv Gandhi) National Park
Kerala	Eravikulam National Park Mathikettan Shola National Park Periyar National Park Silent Valley National Park Anamudi Shola National Park Pambadum Shola National Park
Madhya Pradesh	Pench (Priyaradharshini) National Park Bandhavgarh National Park Kanha National Park Panna National Park Sanjay National Park Satpura National Park Madhav National Park Van Vihar National Park Mandla Plant Fossils National Park
Maharashtra	Navegaon National Park Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park Chandoli National Park Gugamal National Park Tadoba National Park
Manipur	Sirohi National Park Keibul Lamjao National Park
Meghalaya	Nokrek National Park Balphakram National Park

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Mizoram	Murlen National Park Phawngpui Blue Mountain National Park
Nagaland	Ntangki National Park
Odisha	Simlipal National Park Bhitarkanika National Park Nandankanan National Park
Punjab	ABOHAR NATIONAL PARK HARIKE Wetland JHAJJAR BACHAULI NATIONAL PARK BIR MOTI BAGH NATIONAL PARK BIR BHADSON NATIONAL PARK Mahendra Zoological Park (Chatt Bir zoo)
Rajasthan	Sariska Tiger Reserve Ranthambore National Park Mukundra Hils (Darrah) National Park Keoladeo Ghana National Park Desert National Park Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary
Sikkim	Khangchendzonga National Park
Tamil Nadu	Mudumalai National Park Mukurthi National Park Indira Gandhi (Anamalai) National Park Guindy National Park Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park Palani Hills National Park
Telangana	Mahavir HarinaVanasthali National Park Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park Mrugavani National Park
Tripura	Clouded Leopard National Park Bison (Rajbari) National Park
Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa National Park

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Uttarakhand	Jim Corbett National Park Gangotri National Park Govind Pashu Vihar Rajaji National Park Valley of Flowers National Park Nanda Devi National Park
West Bengal	Buxa National Park Neora Valley National Park Gorumara National Park Singalila National Park Jaldapara National Park Sunderbans National Park

5. Union Budget 2026–27 (Important Key Points)

Category	Important Point
Budget Date	1 February 2026 (Sunday) — first Union Budget presented on a Sunday in independent India
Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman
Consecutive Budgets	9th consecutive Union Budget presented by Nirmala Sitharaman
1999 Precedent	Yashwant Sinha presented the Budget on 27 February 1999 (Saturday) because 28 February was a Sunday
Budget Timing Reform	Yashwant Sinha changed Budget presentation timing from 5 PM to 11 AM in 1999
Core Theme	Yuva Shakti-driven Budget
Three Kartavyas	1. Sustaining Economic Growth 2. Fulfilling Aspirations & Building Capacity 3. Inclusive Development
Biopharma SHAKTI	₹10,000 crore outlay over 5 years
Biopharma SHAKTI Target	Establish 3 new NIPERs, upgrade 7 existing NIPERs and create 1,000+ accredited clinical trial sites

SME Growth Fund	₹10,000 crore fund to create future Champion MSMEs
Textile Programme	Five components: National Fibre Scheme, Textile Expansion & Employment Scheme, National Handloom & Handicraft Programme, Tex-Eco Initiative and Samarth 2.0
Public Capex	Increased to ₹12.2 lakh crore for FY 2026–27
City Economic Regions (CERs)	₹5,000 crore per CER over 5 years
Dedicated Freight Corridor	Proposed Dankuni–Surat corridor
National Waterways	20 new National Waterways proposed over 5 years
High-Speed Rail	7 growth connector corridors proposed
Medical Tourism	5 Regional Medical Hubs to be established
Veterinary Sector	Loan-linked capital subsidy; aim to increase 20,000+ veterinary professionals
AVGC Sector	AVGC Content Creator Labs in 15,000 schools and 500 colleges
Girls in STEM	One girls' hostel in every district
Tourism	10,000 tourist guides to be trained
Sports	Khelo India Mission launched
Agriculture AI	Bharat-VISTAAR — multilingual AI tool integrating AgriStack and ICAR agricultural practices
Women Entrepreneurs	SHE Marts — community-owned retail outlets for Self-Help Entrepreneurs
Mental Health	Establishment of NIMHANS-2; Ranchi and Tezpur institutes to be upgraded as Regional Apex Institutions
Purvodaya	Integrated East Coast Industrial Corridor with a key node at Durgapur
North-East	Buddhist Circuits Scheme covering Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura
Debt-to-GDP	55.6% in BE 2026–27
Fiscal Deficit	4.3% of GDP in BE 2026–27

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Non-debt Receipts	₹36.5 lakh crore
Total Expenditure	₹53.5 lakh crore
Net Tax Receipts	₹28.7 lakh crore
Gross Market Borrowings	₹17.2 lakh crore
Net Market Borrowings	₹11.7 lakh crore
New Income Tax Act	Income Tax Act, 2025 to come into effect from April 2026
Overseas Tour TCS	Reduced to 2%
Education/Medical LRS TCS	Reduced to 2%
Manpower Services TDS	1% or 2%
IT Services Safe Harbour	15.5% margin
IT Safe Harbour Threshold	Increased from ₹300 crore to ₹2,000 crore
Cloud Services Tax Holiday	Foreign companies providing global cloud services using Indian data centres — tax holiday until 2047
STT on Futures	Increased to 0.05%
MAT Rate	Reduced to 14%
Personal Imports Tariff	Reduced from 20% to 10%
Medicines	Customs duty exemption for 17 drugs/medicines for 7 rare diseases
AEO Duty Deferral	Tier 2 & 3 AEO duty deferral increased from 15 to 30 days
Advance Ruling	Validity extended from 3 to 5 years
Digital Customs	Single digital window for cargo clearance
CIS	Customs Integrated System to be rolled out in 2 years
Courier Exports	₹10 lakh per-consignment cap removed
EEZ Fish Catch	Fish caught by Indian vessels in EEZ/high seas exempt from duty

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6. Important Banking Terms

- **Repo Rate (Repurchase Rate):** The interest rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks for short periods against government securities.
    - *High Repo Rate:* Borrowing becomes expensive for banks, which increases loan interest rates for consumers, slowing down spending and inflation.
    - *Low Repo Rate:* Borrowing becomes cheaper, boosting loans, investment, and economic growth.
- **Reverse Repo Rate:** The interest rate that the RBI pays to commercial banks when they park their excess funds with the central bank. It helps the RBI absorb excess liquidity from the banking system.
- **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate:** A tool that allows the RBI to absorb liquidity from banks without providing government securities in return. It acts as the floor (lower limit) of the policy interest rate corridor.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate:** A window for banks to borrow overnight funds from the RBI in an emergency when interbank liquidity dries up completely. This rate is higher than the Repo Rate and acts as the ceiling (upper limit) of the rate corridor.
- **Bank Rate:** The standard rate at which the RBI buys or rediscounts bills of exchange or other commercial papers. Unlike the Repo Rate, it involves long-term lending and does not require collateral.
- **CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio):** The specific percentage of a bank's total deposits (Net Demand and Time Liabilities) that it must keep as cash with the RBI. Banks earn zero interest on this cash.
- **SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio):** The specific percentage of deposits that banks must maintain themselves in safe, liquid assets like gold, cash, or government-approved securities before offering loans to customers.
- **NDTL (Net Demand and Time Liabilities):** The total demand deposits (like current and savings accounts) and time deposits (like fixed and recurring deposits) held by a bank, minus the deposits it holds with other banks. This forms the baseline for calculating CRR and SLR.
- **LAF (Liquidity Adjustment Facility):** The overall framework that allows banks to borrow money through repo agreements or make deposits through reverse repo/SDF agreements to manage daily asset-liability mismatches.

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- **OMOs (Open Market Operations):** The buying and selling of government securities in the open market by the RBI.
    - *Selling securities* sucks liquidity out of the economy.
    - *Buying securities* injects liquidity into the economy.
- **PCA (Prompt Corrective Action):** A watch-list framework under which the RBI places financially weak or struggling banks. It triggers restrictions on dividend distribution, branch expansion, and executive compensation until the bank's financial health improves.
- **MSS (Market Stabilization Scheme):** A tool introduced in 2004 to absorb massive excess liquidity caused by large foreign capital inflows. The RBI issues special short-term government bonds (MSS bonds) to soak up this cash, but the money collected is kept in a separate account and not spent by the government.
- **LTRO (Long-Term Repo Operation):** A mechanism where the RBI provides one-year to three-year loans to banks at the prevailing Repo Rate. This helps banks secure cheaper long-term funds to pass on as affordable loans to businesses.
- **Variable Rate Repo / Reverse Repo (VRR / VRRR):** Auctions conducted by the RBI to fine-tune daily liquidity. Instead of a fixed rate, the interest rate is determined by market bidding based on how much cash the banking system needs or has in excess.
- **Operation Twist:** The simultaneous buying of long-term government securities and selling of short-term government securities. This lowers long-term interest rates to encourage corporate borrowing without changing the overall money supply.
- **NPA (Non-Performing Asset):** A loan or advance where the borrower has stopped making interest or principal payments for **more than 90 days**. NPAs are the primary measure of a bank's financial bad health.
- **MCLR (Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate):** The internal benchmark interest rate below which a bank cannot lend, except in rare RBI-approved cases. It is calculated based on the bank's actual cost of getting funds (like deposit rates).
- **EBLR (External Benchmark Lending Rate):** The current mandatory framework replacing MCLR for personal, retail, and MSME loans. Banks must link their loan interest rates directly to an external benchmark, most commonly the **RBI Repo Rate**, ensuring faster transmission of rate cuts to consumers.

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- **PSL (Priority Sector Lending):** A mandate requiring all commercial banks to direct **40% of their Net Bank Credit** to specific sectors vital for development, such as Agriculture, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Education, Housing, and Social Infrastructure.
- **CAR / CRAR (Capital Adequacy Ratio):** The ratio of a bank's capital to its risk-weighted assets. It acts as a financial cushion, ensuring a bank can absorb a reasonable amount of loan losses before becoming insolvent.
- **D-SIB (Domestically Systemically Important Banks):** Banks classified by the RBI as **"Too Big To Fail."** Because their failure would collapse the entire Indian economy, they are subjected to much stricter regulations and must hold higher capital reserves. (e.g., SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank).
- **Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB):** An extra layer of capital (2.5%) that banks must accumulate during normal economic times. They can draw on this buffer to absorb losses during periods of severe economic stress.

7. Target Years

No.	Initiative / Programme	Target Year	Target / Objective
1	Viksit Bharat	2047	Vision of making India a developed nation by 2047.
2	Mission Golden Spice	2030	Transform Meghalaya's Lakadong turmeric into a globally recognised premium spice; project runs 2025–2030.
3	Expanded Khelo India Scheme & ANSF Assistance	2030–31	Sports development programme approved for 2026–27 to 2030–31 with ₹36,441 crore outlay.
4	Samudra Manthan – National Offshore Exploration Scheme	2030–31	Implementation up to FY 2030–31 to strengthen India's energy security through offshore exploration.
5	Toy Industry Target	2032	India aims to capture 5% of the global toy market by 2032.
6	Global GDP Share – IMF Projection	2030	India's share of global GDP projected to rise to 9.7% by 2030.
7	Coal Gasification	2030	India aims to achieve 100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030.

8	Prime Minister Internship Scheme	Next 5 years	Target to provide internship opportunities to 1 crore youth over five years.
9	Employment under SDGs	2030	India is committed to achieving full and productive employment by 2030.
10	ADB Energy & Digital Infrastructure Plan	2035	ADB's USD 70 billion initiative to connect Asia-Pacific energy and digital infrastructure by 2035.
11	Viksit Bharat / Caregiving Ecosystem	2047	NITI Aayog's caregiving roadmap is aligned with the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision.
12	Radio Broadcasting Centenary	2027	Akashvani's 90th anniversary celebrations begin preparations for the centenary of radio broadcasting in India in 2027.

8. GI tags in India 2026

Top Leading States in 2026 (As of August 2026)

1. Uttar Pradesh: 81 entries (Highest in India)
2. Tamil Nadu: 76 entries
3. Maharashtra: 55 entries

Brand New GI Tags Registered in 2026

Month	State	GI Product / Products
January 2026	Andhra Pradesh	Ponduru Khadi
March 2026	Gujarat	Unjha Cumin (Jeera)
March 2026	Gujarat	Unjha Fennel (Variyali)
March 2026	Haryana	Sirsa Kinnow
March 2026	Assam	Joha Rice (export milestone; GI received earlier)
April 2026	Madhya Pradesh	Khajuraho Stone Craft; Betul Bharewa Metal Craft; Gwalior Paper Mache & Stone Craft; Sitahi Kutki; Nagdaman Kutki; Baigani Arhar; Mahakoshal Chhatriya Chawal

April 2026	West Bengal	Banglar Nolen Gur; Santiniketan Batik; Santiniketan Ektara; Krishnanagar Clay Dolls
April 2026	Tamil Nadu	Woraiyur Cotton Sari; Kavindapadi Nattu Sakkarai; Namakkal Soapstone Cookware; Thooyamalli Rice; Ambasamudram Choppu Saman
May 2026	Rajasthan	Nagauri Ashwagandha
May 2026	Jharkhand	Jadupatia Paintings
June 2026	Assam	Karbi Anglong Handloom Products; Assam Bihu Pepa; Assam Bamboo Crafts; Deuri Handloom Products
June 2026	Bihar	Bawan Buti Saree; Patharkatti Stone Craft; Pidiya Painting
June 2026	Himachal Pradesh	Seabuckthorn (Chharma) of Spiti; Salooni Safed Makka; Chamba Metal Art; Sirmauri Loiya; Kinnauri Topi; Sepuvadi of Mandi; Kinnauri Apple; Kinnauri Jewellery
June 2026	West Bengal	Jolbhora Sandesh
June 2026	Tripura	Tripura Sarinda
June 2026	Madhya Pradesh	Khurasani Imli; Garadu; Indori Malwi Potato; Sailana Balam Kakdi
June 2026	Jharkhand	Bhoya Saree and Fabric; Kuchai Silk Saree; Kesaria Kalakand; Dokra Craft; Tumka Chadar; Baroni Paintings; Munda Jewellery; Jharkhand Bamboo Craft; Tussar Silk and Sarees; Jadopatia Painting; Pancho Saree and Fabric
July 2026	Bihar	Nalanda Bawanbuti Saree and Fabrics; Gaya Pattharkatti Stone Craft
July 2026	Jharkhand	Kuchai Silk Saree and Fabrics
July 2026	Assam	Ba Shilp (Bamboo Craft); Bihu Pepa
July 2026	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Wood Carving Craft

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July 2026	Madhya Pradesh	Khajuraho Metal Craft
July 2026	Gujarat	Unjha Jeera (Unjha Cumin); Unjha Saunf (Unjha Fennel)

Related developments — not new GI tags

Month	State	Product / Development
March 2026	Assam	Joha Rice – first commercial bulk export to UK and Italy
June 2026	Assam	Muga Silk Trail – Silk Tourism Park and Muga Utsav
June 2026	Haryana	Sirsa Kinnow – product details/recognition
July 2026	Jharkhand	Tassar Silk; Kuchai Silk; Bhagalya/Bhagaiya Saree and Fabric; Tumka Chadar; Bhoya Saree and Fabric; Pancho Saree and Fabric – showcased at Bharat Tex 2026

9. Ramsar Sites in India 2026

Ramsar Site	State
Patna Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Chhari-Dhand	Gujarat (Kutch)
Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)	Uttar Pradesh
Glaw Lake	Arunachal Pradesh

10. UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India 2026

Category	UNESCO World Heritage Site	State/UT	Year of Inscription
Cultural	Taj Mahal	Uttar Pradesh	1983
Cultural	Agra Fort	Uttar Pradesh	1983
Cultural	Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra	1983

Cultural	Ellora Caves	Maharashtra	1983
Cultural	Elephanta Caves	Maharashtra	1987
Cultural	Group of Monuments at Hampi	Karnataka	1986
Cultural	Group of Monuments at Pattadakal	Karnataka	1987
Cultural	Sun Temple, Konark	Odisha	1984
Cultural	Great Living Chola Temples	Tamil Nadu	1987
Cultural	Red Fort Complex	Delhi	2007
Cultural	Qutb Minar and its Monuments	Delhi	1993
Cultural	Humayun's Tomb	Delhi	1993
Cultural	Jaipur City, Rajasthan	Rajasthan	2019
Cultural	Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas	Karnataka	2023
Cultural	Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty	Assam	2024
Cultural	Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath	Uttar Pradesh	2026
Natural	Kaziranga National Park	Assam	1985
Natural	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	1985
Natural	Sundarbans National Park	West Bengal	1987
Natural	Western Ghats	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala & Tamil Nadu	2012
Natural	Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area	Himachal Pradesh	2014
Natural	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks	Uttarakhand	1988
Mixed	Khangchendzonga National Park	Sikkim	2016

11. Monetary Policy Rates (Updated on August 05, 2026)

Name of the rate	Percentage %
Policy Repo Rate	5.25

Standing Deposit Facility Rate (SDFR)	5.00
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	5.50
Bank Rate	5.50
Fixed Reverse Repo Rate	3.35
Cash Reserve Ratio(CRR)	3.00
Statutory Liquidity Ratio(SLR)	18.00

12. Current Small Savings Scheme Rates

- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS): 8.20%
- Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA): 8.20%
- National Savings Certificate (NSC): 7.70%
- Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP): 7.50% (doubles in 115 months)
- Monthly Income Scheme (MIS): 7.40%
- Public Provident Fund (PPF): 7.10%
- Post Office Savings Account: 4.00%

13. International Organisations & Its Headquarters

S. No.	Organisation	Headquarters
1	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Geneva, Switzerland
2	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	Geneva, Switzerland
3	Universal Postal Union (UPU)	Bern, Switzerland
4	Inter-Parliamentary Union	Geneva, Switzerland
5	International Peace Bureau (IPB)	Geneva, Switzerland
6	International Olympic Committee (IOC)	Lausanne, Switzerland
7	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Geneva, Switzerland
8	International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)	Paris, France
9	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Geneva, Switzerland

10	Bank for International Settlements (BIS)	Basel, Switzerland
11	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Rome, Italy
12	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Paris, France
13	International Court of Justice (ICJ)	The Hague, Netherlands
14	League of Arab States	Cairo, Egypt
15	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	New York City, USA
16	World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)	Geneva, Switzerland and New York City, USA
17	International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	Montreal, Canada
18	International Organization for Standardization (ISO)	Geneva, Switzerland
19	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)	Noumea, New Caledonia
20	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	Bangkok, Thailand
21	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	London, United Kingdom
22	World Health Organization (WHO)	Geneva, Switzerland
23	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)	Amman, Jordan
24	Council of Europe	Strasbourg, France
25	North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	Washington, DC, USA
26	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Geneva, Switzerland
27	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Geneva, Switzerland
28	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Geneva, Switzerland
29	Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)	Geneva, Switzerland
30	Unión Latina	Paris, France
31	Western European Union (WEU)	Paris, France

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32	International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Washington, DC, USA
33	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Vienna, Austria
34	Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	Washington, DC, USA
35	Central American Bank for Economic Integration	Tegucigalpa, Honduras
36	International Development Association (IDA)	Washington, DC, USA
37	European Free Trade Association (EFTA)	Geneva, Switzerland
38	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	Vienna, Austria
39	World Food Programme (WFP)	Rome, Italy
40	Amnesty International (AI)	London, United Kingdom
41	The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)	Central Jakarta, Indonesia
42	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Paris, France
43	United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	Geneva, Switzerland
44	African Development Bank Group	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
45	International Trade Centre (ITC)	Geneva, Switzerland
46	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	New York City, USA
47	Commonwealth Secretariat	London, United Kingdom
48	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Vienna, Austria
49	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Mandaluyong, Philippines
50	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	Geneva, Switzerland
51	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Jakarta, Indonesia
52	Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)	Kuwait, Middle East
53	United Nations Population Fund (UNPF)	New York City, USA
54	Andean Community	Lima, Peru

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55	Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
56	Nordic Council of Ministers	Copenhagen, Denmark
57	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Nairobi, Kenya
58	United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)	Nairobi, Kenya
59	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	Copenhagen, Denmark
60	United Nations University (UNU)	Tokyo, Japan
61	Caribbean Community (CARICOM)	Georgetown, Guyana
62	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	Beirut, Lebanon
63	World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	Madrid, Spain
64	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
65	European Space Agency (ESA)	Paris, France
66	Group of Eight (G8)	New York, USA
67	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)	Vienna, Austria
68	United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
69	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Rome, Italy
70	United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)	Nairobi, Kenya
71	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)	Geneva, Switzerland
72	Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA)	Amsterdam, Netherlands

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73	International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)	Geneva, Switzerland
74	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	Kathmandu, Nepal
75	World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)	Geneva, Switzerland
76	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	Djibouti, Djibouti
77	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)	Washington, DC, USA
78	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)	Singapore
79	G-15 Summit	Geneva, Switzerland
80	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	London, United Kingdom
81	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Geneva, Switzerland and New York City, USA
82	Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)	Istanbul, Turkey
83	Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)	Stockholm, Switzerland
84	European Union (EU)	Brussels, Belgium
85	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)	Geneva, Switzerland and New York City, USA
86	Association of Caribbean States (ACS)	Port of Spain, Trinidad, Tobago
87	UNAIDS	Geneva, Switzerland
88	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Bonn, Germany
89	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	Lusaka, Zambia
90	International Seabed Authority (ISA)	Kingston, Jamaica
91	World Trade Organization (WTO)	Geneva, Switzerland
92	Arctic Council	Tromso, Norway
93	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)	The Hague, Netherlands

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94	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	Vienna, Austria
95	European Central Bank (ECB)	Frankfurt, Germany
96	United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC)	Turin, Italy
97	African Union (AU)	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
98	United Cities & Local Governments (UCLG)	Barcelona, Spain
99	UN Women	New York City, USA

14. List of Sports Cups and Trophies

Sport	Important Cups / Trophies
Air Racing	Jawaharlal Challenge Trophy, King's Cup, World Cup
Archery	Federation Cup
Athletics	Charminar Trophy, Federation Cup, World Cup
Badminton	Agarwal Cup, Amrit Diwan Cup, Asia Cup, Australasia Cup, Chadha Cup, European Cup, Harilela Cup, Ibrahim Rahimatollah Challenge Cup, Konica Cup, Narang Cup, Sophia Kitiakara Cup, S. R. Ruia Cup, Thomas Cup, Tunku Abdul Rahman Cup, Uber Cup, World Cup, Yonex Cup
Basketball	Basalat Jha Trophy, B. C. Gupta Trophy, Federation Cup, S. M. Arjuna Raja Trophy, Todd Memorial Trophy, William Jones Cup
Billiards	Arthur Walker Trophy, Thomas Cup
Boat Rowing	American Cup (Yacht Racing), Wellington Trophy (India)
Boxing	Aspy Adjahia Trophy, Federation Cup, Val Baker Trophy
Bridge	Basalat Jha Trophy, Holkar Trophy, Ruia Gold Cup, Singhania Trophy

Chess	Naidu Trophy, Khaitan Trophy, Limca Trophy, Linares City Trophy, World Cup
Cricket	Anthony D'Mello Trophy, Ashes, Asia Cup, Benson and Hedges Cup, Bose Trophy, Champions Trophy, Charminar Challenge Cup, C. K. Nayudu Trophy, Cooch-Behar Trophy, Deodhar Trophy, Duleep Trophy, Gavaskar-Border Trophy, G. D. Birla Trophy, Gillette Cup, Ghulam Ahmad Trophy, Hakumat Rai Trophy, ICC World Cup, Interface Cup, Irani Trophy, Jawaharlal Nehru Cup, Lombard World Challenge Cup, McDowells Challenge Cup, Merchant Trophy, Moin-ud-Dowla Cup, NatWest Trophy, Prudential Cup (World Cup), Rani Jhansi Trophy, Ranji Trophy, Rohinton Baria Trophy, Rothmans Cup, Sahara Cup, Sharjah Cup, Sheesh Mahal Trophy, Sheffield Shield, Singer Cup, Sir Frank Worrell Trophy, Texaco Cup, Titan Cup, Vijay Hazare Trophy, Vijay Merchant Trophy, Vizzy Trophy, Wisden Trophy, Wills Trophy, World Series Cup
Football	African Nations Cup, America Cup, Asia Cup, Asian Women's Cup, Bandodkar Trophy, B. C. Roy Trophy, Begum Hazrat Mahal Cup, Bicentennial Gold Cup, BILT Cup, Bordoloi Trophy, DCM Cup, Durand Cup, European Cup, FA Cup, Federation Cup, G. V. Raja Memorial Trophy, Gold Cup, Governor's Cup, Greek Cup, Great Wall Cup, IFA Shield, Independence Day Cup, Indira Gandhi Trophy, Inter-Continental Cup, Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Cup, Jules Rimet Trophy, Kalinga Cup, King's Cup, Kirin Cup, Lal Bahadur Shastri Trophy, McDowell Cup, Merdeka Cup, Nagjee Trophy, Naidunia Trophy, Nations Cup, NFL Trophy, Nehru Gold Cup, Nizam Gold Cup, Raghbir Singh

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	Memorial Cup, Rajiv Gandhi Trophy, Rovers Cup, Sanjay Gold Cup, Santosh Trophy, Scissors Cup, Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee Trophy, Stafford Cup, Subroto Cup, Super Cup Trophy, Todd Memorial Trophy, UEFA Cup, US Cup, Vittal Trophy, Winner's Cup, World Cup
Golf	Canada Cup, Eisenhower Trophy, Inter-Continental Cup, Maekyung LG Fashion Open Trophy, Muthiah Gold Cup, Nomura Trophy, Paralamdi Trophy, President's Trophy, Prince of Wales Cup, Ryder Cup, Solheim Cup, Topolino Trophy, Walker Cup, Waterford Crystal Trophy, World Cup
Hockey	Agha Khan Cup, Allwyn Asia Cup, Azlan Shah Cup, Beighton Cup, Bhim Sain Trophy, BMW Trophy, Bombay Gold Cup, Champions Trophy, Clarke Trophy, Dhyan Chand Trophy, Esanda Champions Cup, European Nations Cup, Gurmeet Trophy, Guru Nanak Cup, Gyanvati Devi Trophy, Indira Gandhi Gold Cup, Intercontinental Cup, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan Cup, Kuppuswamy Naidu Cup, Lady Rattan Tata Cup (Women), Lal Bahadur Shastri Cup, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Gold Cup, Modi Gold Cup, Murugappa Gold Cup, Nehru Trophy, Obaidullah Gold Cup, Prime Minister's Gold Cup, Rangaswami Cup, Ranjit Singh Gold Cup, Rene Frank Trophy, Sanjay Gandhi Trophy, Scindia Gold Cup, Shriram Trophy, Tunku Abdul Razak Cup, Wellington Cup, World Cup, Yadavindra Cup
Horse Racing	Beresford Cup, Blue Riband, Derby, Grand National Cup
Kabaddi	Federation Cup
Netball	Anantrao Pawar Trophy

Polo	Ezar Cup, Gold Cup, King's Cup, President Cup, Prithi Singh Cup, Radha Mohan Cup, Winchester Cup
Rowing	Beefeater's Gin
Rugby Football	Bledisloe Cup, Calcutta Cup, Webb Ellis Trophy
Shooting	North Wales Cup, Welsh Grand Prix
Snooker	Team Tournament ASEAN Cup
Table Tennis	Asian Cup, Berna Bellack Cup, Corbillion Cup (Women), Electra Gold Cup, Gasper-Giest Prize, Grand Prix, Jayalaxmi Cup (Women), Kamala Ramanujan Cup, Marcel Corbillon Cup, Pithapuram Cup (Men), Swaythling Cup (Men), Travancore Cup (Women), U Thant Cup, World Cup
Tennis	Ambre Solaire Cup, AT&T Cup, Champions Cup, ATP President's Cup, Davis Cup, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Cup, Edgbaston Cup, Evert Cup, Federation Cup, Ghafar Cup, Grand Prix, Grand Slam Cup, Nations' Cup, Watson's Water Trophy, Wightman Cup, Wimbledon Trophy, World Cup, World Team Cup
Volleyball	Centennial Cup, Federation Cup, Indira Pradhan Trophy, Shivanthi Gold Cup, World Cup, World League Cup
Weightlifting	World Cup
Wrestling	Bharat Kesari, Burdwan Shield, World Cup
Yachting	America's Cup

May Month Current Affairs

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme
1 May	International Labour Day	Theme 2026: "Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment"; celebrates workers' rights and achievements; first observed in 1890.
1 May	Gujarat Foundation Day	Marks formation of Gujarat in 1960 after separation from Bombay State; also known as Gujarat Gaurav Diwas.
2 May	World Tuna Day	Theme 2026: Sustaining Tuna, Sustaining Nations.
3 May	World Laughter Day	Theme 2026: "World Peace Through Laughter"; promotes health, stress reduction, and peace.
3 May	World Press Freedom Day	Theme 2026: "Shaping a Future of Peace"; promotes independent media and freedom of expression.
4 May	Coal Miners Day	Theme 2026: Safety, Health, and Sustainable Mining
5 May	World Asthma Day	Theme 2026: "Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need"; promotes asthma awareness and management.
7 May	World Athletics Day	Theme: "Athletics for a Better World"; encourages sports participation and athletic excellence.
8 May	World Thalassaemia Day	Theme: Hidden No More: Finding the Undiagnosed. Supporting the Unseen.
8 May	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	Celebrated on birth anniversary of Henry Dunant; promotes humanitarian values and relief efforts.
9 May	Victory Day (Russia)	Commemorates Nazi Germany's surrender in 1945 and the end of World War II in Europe.
11 May	National Technology Day	Theme 2026: Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth

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11–17 May	Mental Health Awareness Week	Theme 2026: "Action"; focuses on practical steps to improve mental well-being.
12 May	International Nurses Day	Theme 2026: "Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives."; honours nurses and healthcare workers.
15 May	International Day of Families	Theme 2026: "Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing"; highlights the role of families in society.
17 May	World Hypertension Day	Theme 2026: Controlling Hypertension Together
17 May	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Highlights the role of telecommunications and digital connectivity in development.
18 May	International Museum Day	Promotes museums' role in preserving cultural heritage and education.
18 May	World AIDS Vaccine Day	Theme 2026: Rethink. Rebuild. Rise
20 May	World Metrology Day	Theme 2026: Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making
21 May	Anti-Terrorism Day (India)	Observed on Rajiv Gandhi's death anniversary; promotes peace and national unity.
21 May	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	Encourages cultural diversity, inclusion, and intercultural dialogue.
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity	Theme 2026: "Acting Locally for Global Impact"; promotes biodiversity conservation.
24 May	Commonwealth Day (India)	Celebrates unity, cooperation, and shared values among Commonwealth nations.
28 May	International Day of Action for Women's Health	Promotes women's health, especially Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).
29 May	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	Theme 2026: Invest in Peace
29 May	International Everest Day	Commemorates the first successful ascent of Mount Everest by Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary in 1953.
31 May	World No Tobacco Day	Theme 2026: Unmasking the appeal – countering

		nicotine and tobacco addiction

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Employees Provident Fund Organisation to Launch E-PRAAPTI Digital Platform

- The **Employees Provident Fund Organisation** will launch a new digital platform **E-PRAAPTI**, announced by **Union Minister of Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya**, to enhance **digital governance, transparency, and user empowerment**.

Maharashtra Approves Artificial Intelligence Policy 2026 to Boost Investment and Employment

- The **Maharashtra Cabinet led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** approved the **Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence Policy 2026** to position the state as a **leading Artificial Intelligence hub in India**.

Bengaluru Police Launch Artificial Intelligence-Powered Multilingual Feature in Namma 112 Helpline

- **Bengaluru Police** introduced an **Artificial Intelligence-powered multilingual feature** in the **Namma 112 emergency helpline**, becoming the **first police unit in India** to implement such technology.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Ganga Expressway** in **Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh**.

Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 Report Released on National Panchayati Raj Day

- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** released the **Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 Report** on **National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24)**, highlighting progress in **rural development and grassroots governance**.

West Bengal Records Highest-Ever Voter Turnout in Assembly Elections

- **West Bengal** recorded its **highest-ever voter turnout after Independence** with an overall participation of **92.47 per cent** in the **Assembly Elections conducted in two phases**.

Karnataka Launches India's First Digital Grievance Redressal System for Gig Workers

- **Karnataka** introduced **India's first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers**, aiming to enhance **transparency, accountability, and worker protection**.

India Deploys Aarogya Maitri Healthcare Infrastructure in Jamaica under Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Framework

- **India** deployed the **Aarogya Maitri portable healthcare infrastructure** in **Jamaica** under the **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief framework**, strengthening **India–Caribbean**

relations.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026 to be Held from June to August

- The **Government of India** announced that the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026** will be conducted from **June to August**, marking progress in **restoration of cross-border pilgrimage**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visits Uttar Pradesh and Launches Development Projects Worth ₹6,350 Crore

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Uttar Pradesh** covering **Varanasi and Hardoi**, focusing on **women empowerment and infrastructure development**.

National Rifle Association of India Marks 75th Anniversary with New Initiatives

- **Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya** attended the **75th anniversary celebrations of the National Rifle Association of India** (NRAI) held at **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range Finals Hall, New Delhi**.

Government Notifies Citizenship Amendment Rules 2026 with Changes for Overseas Citizen of India Cardholders

- The **Government of India**, through the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, notified the **Citizenship Amendment Rules 2026**, modifying the **Citizenship Rules 2009** to make processes **more streamlined, digital, and efficient**.

India Chairs Brazil Russia India China South Africa Middle East and North Africa Meeting 2026 in New Delhi

- **Dr Neena Malhotra**, Secretary South, **Ministry of External Affairs**, chaired the **Brazil Russia India China South Africa (BRICS) Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys for the Middle East and North Africa meeting** in **New Delhi** under **India's chairship**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Releases "Women and Men in India 2025" Report

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** released the **27th edition** of its publication titled **"Women and Men in India 2025: Selected Indicators and Data"** at the **National Deliberative Summit on Data for Development** held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

Tamil Nadu Becomes Top Marine Fish Producing State in 2025

- According to the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute**, **Tamil Nadu** has emerged as the **top marine fish producing state in India in 2025**, overtaking **Gujarat**.

India Launches Multi-Lane Free Flow Barrier-less Tolling System on National Highway-48

- **Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways**, announced the launch of India's first **Multi-Lane Free Flow barrier-less tolling system** at the **Chorayasi Toll Plaza** on the **Surat–Bharuch section of National Highway-48 in Gujarat**.

India Placed on United States Trade Representative Priority Watch List 2026

- India has been included in the **Priority Watch List** of the **United States Trade Representative Special 301 Report 2026**, indicating concerns over the country's **intellectual property rights framework**.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands Sets Guinness World Record with Largest Underwater National Flag

- The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** achieved a **Guinness World Record** by unfurling the **world's largest underwater national flag** at **Radhanagar Beach** on **Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island)**.

Sikkim Becomes India's First Fully Paperless Judiciary

- **Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India**, announced that **Sikkim** has become the **first state in India to achieve a fully paperless judiciary**.

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Launches National Framework for Childhood Diabetes Management

- The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has introduced a national framework for managing childhood diabetes for the **0–18 years** age group.

Karnataka Launches Centre of Excellence for Space Technology in Bengaluru

- The **Government of Karnataka** has launched India's first **state-led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology (CoE SpaceTech Foundation)** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

Cell Broadcast System Launched to Strengthen Emergency Communication in India

- **Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Communications**, launched the **Cell Broadcast System (CBS)** in **New Delhi** to enhance India's **emergency communication and disaster management framework**.

Padma Doree Initiative Launched to Promote Cross-Regional Textile Integration

- The **Northeastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC)** under the **Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (MDoNER)** launched **'Padma Doree'**, a cross-regional textile initiative combining **Eri (Ahimsa) silk of Northeast India** with **Chanderi weaving of Madhya Pradesh**.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Launches Fire Safety Week 2026

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** launched **Fire Safety Week 2026** from **4–10 May 2026**, beginning with a nationwide pledge led by **Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary**.

Hazaribag to Become India's First Pearl Farming Cluster

- **Hazaribag district in Jharkhand** is set to become **India's first pearl farming cluster**, led by the **Fisheries Department** with government support.

Bureau of Indian Standards Issues Six New Standards for Assistive Technologies

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, under the **Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)**, **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD)**, has published **six new Indian Standards** for priority **medical assistive technologies** under the **National List of Essential Assistive Products (NLEAP)**

Union Government Notifies South Coast Railway Zone with Headquarters at Visakhapatnam

- The **Union Government** has notified the creation of the **South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR)** with headquarters at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** under the **Railways Act, 1989**.

National Council of Educational Research and Training Launches PRASHAST 2.0 for Early Identification of Disabilities

- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has launched **PRASHAST 2.0 (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool)**, an upgraded digital platform for **early identification of disabilities in school children**.

Union Cabinet Approves Increase in Supreme Court Judge Strength to 37

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved a proposal to increase the judge strength of the **Supreme Court of India** from **33 to 37 judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India)**.

Union Cabinet Approves Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar, Gujarat

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved the establishment of a **state-of-the-art ship repair facility** at **Vadinar, Gujarat**, with an investment of around **₹1,570 crore**.

Union Cabinet Approves Two Semiconductor Projects under India Semiconductor Mission

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved **two semiconductor projects** under the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** with a **combined investment of over ₹3,936 crore**.

India to Host First International Big Cat Alliance Summit in New Delhi

- **India will host** the **first International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit** on **1–2 June 2026** in **New Delhi**.

Union Cabinet Proposes Legal Protection for Vande Mataram on 150th Anniversary

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has proposed granting **Vande Mataram** legal protection equivalent to the **National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana**, through amendments to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act**.

India and European Union Launch ₹169 Crore Initiative for Electric Vehicle Battery Recycling

- **India** and the **European Union (EU)** have launched a **₹169 crore joint initiative** to strengthen **Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling capacity**.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Launches JANANI Digital Platform

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** has launched the **JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care)** platform to strengthen **maternal and child healthcare services** in India.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Recognised for Plastic Waste-Based Road Technology

- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)** and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** have been recognised by the **India Book of Records** and **Asia Book of Records** for developing India's first road section using **technical textile geocells made from end-of-life plastic waste**.

Reliance Industries Limited to Build India's Largest Artificial Intelligence-Focused Data Centre Cluster in Andhra Pradesh

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** is set to establish India's largest **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-focused data centre cluster** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, with an investment of around **₹1.6 lakh crore (over USD 17 billion)**.

Bengaluru Records Highest Suicide Rate Among Major Indian Cities: National Crime Records Bureau Data

- According to data published by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**, **Bengaluru** has recorded the highest suicide rate among major Indian cities in recent years.

India Inaugurates Pavilion at 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia 2026 in Venice, Italy

- **India officially opened its Pavilion** at the **61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di**

Venezia 2026 in **Venice, Italy**.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Launches Nationwide Free Annual Health Check-Up Initiative for Workers Under New Labour Codes

- Union Minister for Labour and Employment **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** launched a nationwide **free annual health check-up initiative** for workers aged **40 years and above** under the new Labour Codes.

India to Host BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting 2026 in Indore Focused on Food Security and Smart Farming

- India will host the **BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting 2026** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh** under its **BRICS Presidency**.

All India Ophthalmological Society – Armed Forces Ophthalmic Update 2026 Conference to be Held at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment

- The **All-India Ophthalmological Society – Armed Forces Ophthalmic Update 2026 Conference (AIOS–AFOU 2026)** will be held at the **Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment**.

Aizawl Hosts First Regional Cooperative Reform Conference Under "Sahkar se Samriddhi" Vision

- **Aizawl, Mizoram** hosted its **first Regional Cooperative Reform Conference** under the vision of **"Sahkar se Samriddhi"** to strengthen cooperative institutions in **North-East India**.

India Advances BRICS Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Cooperation Under 2026 Chairship with Focus on Finance and Financial Technology

- **India** is advancing **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) cooperation** under its **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) Chairship 2026** with focus on **financial inclusion, financial technology ecosystems, and inclusive growth**.

India Introduces QR-Code Verification for Census Enumerators for Census 2027

- India has introduced **QR-code-enabled identity cards** for Census enumerators for the upcoming **Census 2027** to improve **identity verification and data collection**.

Odisha Tops Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 House Completions with Over 2,000 Houses Completed

- **Odisha** has emerged as the **top-performing state** in house completions under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)**.

Maharashtra Approves Compressed Biogas Policy 2026 with ₹500 Crore Support to Promote Waste-to-Energy Projects

- The **Government of Maharashtra** has approved the **Compressed Biogas Policy 2026** to promote **renewable energy generation through waste-to-energy projects**.

Supreme Court Proposes Permanent Women-Only Vice-President Post in Supreme Court Bar Association from 2027–28

- The **Supreme Court of India** has proposed the creation of a **permanent women-only Vice-President post** in the **Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** starting from the **2027–28 election cycle**.

Jharkhand Achieves Zero Primary Dropout Rate in 2024–25 as per Unified District Information System for Education Plus Data

- **Jharkhand** has achieved a **zero primary dropout rate (0%) in 2024–25**, marking a major milestone in school education.

India's Steel Sector Emerges as Key Growth Driver with Focus on Self-Reliance and Green Transition

- India's steel sector is recognised as a **"sunrise sector"** and has been the **second-largest steel producer in the world since 2018**.

India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0 Held at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City to Boost Aviation Financing Ecosystem

- The **India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0** was organised at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Supreme Court Ruling Highlights Misuse Concerns in Section 498A of Indian Penal Code

- A recent **Supreme Court of India** judgment in a **dowry harassment case** has brought renewed focus on **Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visits Karnataka and Telangana; Inaugurates Projects Worth ₹9,400 Crore

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Karnataka and Telangana** to participate in events and **inaugurate development projects worth** around **₹9,400 crore**

India Launches 'Sehat Mission' to Integrate Agriculture, Nutrition and Healthcare

- The **Government of India** launched the **'Sehat Mission'** in the National Capital under the leadership of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

Government to Launch 'Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025' from July 1, 2026

- The **Government of India** has announced the rollout of the **'Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for**

Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025' (VB-G RAM G Act)

India Plans 'Made in India Brand Scheme' to Boost Domestic Manufacturing

- The **Government of India** is planning to launch the **'Made in India Brand Scheme'** to **strengthen domestic manufacturing** and **reduce import dependence**

Supreme Court Launches 'One Case One Data' Initiative and 'Su-Sahayak' AI Chatbot to Modernize Judicial System

- The **Supreme Court of India** has launched the **'One Case One Data' initiative** along with an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot 'Su- Sahayak'**

West Bengal Announces Annapurna Bhandaar Scheme to Provide ₹3,000 Monthly Aid to Women

- The **Government of West Bengal, led by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari,** has approved the launch of the **Annapurna Bhandaar Scheme** in its first Cabinet meeting

Jute Crop Information System Strengthens India's Jute Sector with Satellite-Based Monitoring

- The **Jute Crop Information System (JCIS)** has been implemented to enable **technology-driven monitoring of jute cultivation** in India

Periodic Labour Force Survey Revised to Provide Monthly and Quarterly Labour Market Data

- The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted by the National Statistical Office under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has been **revamped from January 2025**

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant Announces Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee for Court Reforms

- The **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** has announced the formation of a **Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee** to improve **court infrastructure across India**

India Raises Import Duty on Gold and Silver to 15% to Protect Rupee and Forex Reserves

- The **Government of India** has increased **import duty on gold and silver to 15%**

Cabinet Approves Ahmedabad–Dholera Semi High-Speed Rail Project Worth ₹20,667 Crore

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)–Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line rail project** at an estimated cost of **₹20,667 crore**.

Union Cabinet Approves ₹37,500 Crore Coal Gasification Scheme

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved a **₹37,500 crore scheme** to promote **surface coal and lignite gasification projects**.

Prime Minister Internship Scheme 2026 Launched to Boost Youth Employability

- The **Central Government** has launched the **Prime Minister Internship Scheme 2026** to provide

practical **workplace experience and improve employability among youth.**

India Imposes Ban on Sugar Exports Until September 2026

- The **Government of India** has imposed an **immediate ban on sugar exports until 30 September 2026** to **safeguard domestic supply and control inflation risks**.

India Sets Ambitious 1 Trillion Dollar Export Target, Releases LEADS (Logistics Excellence Advancement and Performance Shield)2025 Report

- The **Government of India** has set an **ambitious export target of 1 trillion United States dollars** for the **current financial year**, following a **record export of 863 billion United States dollars in Financial Year 2025-2026**.

Assam Cabinet Approves Draft Uniform Civil Code Bill

- The **State Government of Assam** has approved the **draft Uniform Civil Code Bill**, marking a **major legal and political development** in the state.

Uber Partners with Adani Group for First Data Centre in India

- **Uber has partnered with the Adani Group** to establish its **first data centre in India**, marking a **significant expansion of its digital and engineering infrastructure** in one of its most important global markets.

India's Ethanol Programme Sees Major Shift as Maize Emerges as Top Feedstock

- India's **ethanol programme** is witnessing a **major shift** as **maize becomes the largest ethanol feedstock**, surpassing **sugarcane-based sources**.

India Hosts 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi

- **India hosted** the **10th edition of the Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi** under the theme **"Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World."**

India Plans 2,000 Kilometre Oman–Gujarat Subsea Gas Pipeline

- **India is planning to construct** a **₹40,000 crore subsea gas pipeline** connecting **Oman and Gujarat** to strengthen long-term energy security.

Election Commission of India Begins Phase III of Special Intensive Revision

- The **Election Commission of India** has launched **Phase III of the Special Intensive Revision** across **16 States and 3 Union Territories** to update electoral rolls.

India Assumes Chair of Common Criteria Development Board for 2026–2028

- India has assumed the **Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board for 2026–2028**, marking a major achievement in the country's global cybersecurity leadership.

Lieutenant Governor Inaugurates High-Altitude Irrigation Canal in Changthang Region of Ladakh

- **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena** inaugurated the **Mahey Tokpo–Raldho irrigation canal** in the remote **Changthang region of Ladakh**.

Centre Launches ₹189.79 Crore Mizoram Ginger Mission to Boost Exports

- The **Central Government** has launched the **₹189.79 crore Mizoram Ginger Mission** to transform **Mizo ginger into a globally recognised agricultural brand**.

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology Pune Launches Climate Innovation Startup Hub

- The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune**, has launched a dedicated **climate-tech startup incubation centre** focused on weather and climate innovation.

Rajasthan Launches First Semiconductor Cluster in Bhiwadi

- **Rajasthan** launched its first **Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Cluster** in **Bhiwadi**, marking a major industrial milestone for the state.

National Highways Authority of India Launches Project Saksham for Women Empowerment

- **National Highways Authority of India** launched **Project Saksham** to promote **Inclusive Development** through skill development and employment opportunities.

India Concludes Kimberley Process Intersessional 2026 in Mumbai

- **India concluded** the **Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026** in **Mumbai** under its chairship.

President Approves Increase in Supreme Court Judge Strength from 34 to 38

- **Honorable President Droupadi Murmu approved** the **increase in the judge** strength of the **Supreme Court of India from 34 to 38 Judges** through an ordinance.

Andhra Pradesh Announces Cash Incentives for Third and Fourth Child Under New Population Policy

- **Respectable Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** announced a new population policy in **Andhra Pradesh to address declining population growth and falling fertility rates in the state**.

Nimapara Patha Utsav 2026 Inaugurated in Puri by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida

- **Respectable Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida** inaugurated **Nimapara Patha Utsav 2026** in Puri under the **Utkarsha Nimapara 2.0 Initiative**.

Sikkim to Implement Anand Marriage Act, 1909 from 1 June 2026

- **Sikkim will implement** the **Anand Marriage Act, 1909** from **1 June 2026**, allowing Sikh couples to directly register marriages conducted through the traditional **Anand Karaj Ceremony**.

Ministry of Education Launches Pilot Programme for Out-of-School Adolescents

- The **Union Ministry of Education** unveiled a new pilot programme as a targeted intervention to reintegrate over **2 crore out-of-school adolescents aged 14–18 years** back into the education system through flexible learning pathways.

Central Bureau of Investigation Launches "Abhay" Artificial Intelligence-Based Helpbot

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation** launched **"Abhay"**, an **Artificial Intelligence-Based Helpbot** developed to verify the authenticity of notices issued in the name of the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Karnataka Introduces Two Digital Drug Monitoring Systems

- **Karnataka** introduced **Two New Digital Monitoring Systems** through the State Food Safety and Drug Administration to strengthen **Drug Safety, Public Health Protection, and Regulatory Transparency** in the pharmaceutical sector.

Tripura Becomes First State to Complete All Priority Areas Under Deregulation Reform Programme

- **Tripura** became the **First State in India** to complete all Priority Areas under **Deregulation Phase-II** of the national **Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative** led by the Cabinet Secretariat.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches ₹175 Crore Coffees of Nagaland Mission

- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched the **₹175 Crore Coffees of Nagaland Mission** to develop **Nagaland** as a premium specialty coffee destination in India and global markets.

India Releases First Satellite-Tagged Ganges Softshell Turtle in Assam

- India achieved a major milestone in wildlife conservation by releasing the country's **first-ever satellite-tagged Ganges softshell turtle** into the **Brahmaputra River** at **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam**.

Uttarakhand Plans ₹450 Crore Ropeway Between Rishikesh and Neelkanth Mahadev Temple

- The Government of **Uttarakhand** has planned a **₹450 crore ropeway project** connecting **Rishikesh** to the famous **Neelkanth Mahadev Temple**.

Maharashtra Leads in Central Government Infrastructure Projects Across India

- India is witnessing rapid infrastructure expansion through major **Central Government projects** across sectors such as **highways, railways, airports, industrial corridors, ports, energy, and urban development**.

Delhi Airport to Launch Automated Air Train Project by 2029

- **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI Airport), New Delhi** is set to launch its first automated air train system by **2029** to improve passenger movement across the airport.

West Bengal Approves 7th Pay Commission for State Employees and Pensioners

- The Government of **West Bengal** has approved the implementation of the **7th Pay Commission** for state government employees and pensioners. The decision was taken during a **Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari.**

India Notifies E30 Petrol Standards, Signalling Next Phase of Ethanol Blending Policy

- **India has officially notified new fuel standards for higher ethanol-blended petrol,** including **E22, E25, E27, and E30**, marking a major step in the country's clean energy and biofuel transition.

Indian Railways Approves ₹238 Crore Upgrade for Jammu–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Rail Section

- **Indian Railways** has approved a **₹238 crore** infrastructure and safety upgrade project for the **Jammu–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra rail section** under the **Northern Railway Zone**.

India Assumes Chairmanship of Regional Cooperative Agreement for 2026

- **India officially assumed the chairmanship** of the **Regional Cooperative Agreement** for the year **2026** under the **International Atomic Energy Agency.**

India Hosts 68th Asian Productivity Organization Governing Body Meeting in New Delhi

- **India is hosting** the **68th Governing Body Meeting of the Asian Productivity Organization** in New Delhi.

India Celebrates World Metrology Day 2026 with Major Legal Metrology and Digital Compliance Reforms

- India observed **World Metrology Day 2026** with a major focus on strengthening **legal metrology, digital compliance systems, precision standards and consumer protection mechanisms**.

India Launches Arunachal Kiwi Mission with ₹167 Crore Outlay

- **The Government of India** launched the **Arunachal Kiwi Mission** with a financial outlay of **₹167 crore** to **transform Arunachal Pradesh** into a premium organic kiwi production and **export hub with strong domestic and international market presence.**

Kerala Becomes First State to Create Cabinet-Level Artificial Intelligence Portfolio

- **Kerala became the first Indian state** to create a dedicated **Artificial Intelligence portfolio** at the cabinet level under the **new United Democratic Front government.**

Government to Launch JEEVAN (Joint Elderly Empowerment and Virtual Assistance Network) App and SHATAYU (Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility) Dashboard for Senior

Citizens

- **Union Minister Virendra Kumar** will launch the **JEEVAN (Joint Elderly Empowerment and Virtual Assistance Network) mobile application** and the **SHATAYU (**Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility**) dashboard**.

Delhi Plans to Raise Ration Card Income Eligibility Limit to ₹2.5 Lakh

- The **Delhi government has announced plans to increase the annual income eligibility limit** for ration cards from **₹1.2 lakh to ₹2.5 lakh**.

India Approves Major Chenab River Projects Worth ₹2,600 Crore

- **India has approved major infrastructure and hydropower projects linked** to the **Chenab River**, with a total investment of nearly **₹2,600 crore**.

Delhi Forest Department Plans 'Vaman Van' Biodiversity Project

- **The Delhi Forest Department** is planning to develop **'Vaman Van'**, a unique interactive biodiversity space aimed at promoting **environmental awareness, ecological education and nature conservation**.

Project Cheetah Records Major Success as India's Cheetah Population Reaches 53

- **India's flagship wildlife restoration programme Project Cheetah** has achieved a major milestone as the country's cheetah population increased to **53**, including **33 cubs born in India**.

Government Plans High-Powered Demography Mission to Tackle Illegal Immigration

- The **Central Government** is preparing to launch a **High-Powered Demography Mission** aimed at tackling illegal immigration, strengthening border security and **preventing demographic changes in sensitive border regions.**

Dr Jitendra Singh Launches Phase-II of UMMID Programme for Rare Genetic Disorders

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched **Phase-II of the Unique Methods of Management and Treatment of Inherited Disorders (UMMID) Programme**.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah Chairs 26th Central Zonal Council Meeting in Bastar

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Amit Shah** chaired the **26th meeting of the Central Zonal Council** in **Bastar, Chhattisgarh**.

India and United States Hold High-Level Talks Ahead of Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting

- **Marco Rubio**, Secretary of **State of the United States,** held talks with **S. Jaishankar** during his official visit to India ahead of the **Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting**.

Government Releases Guidelines for Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna Scheme to Develop 100

Industrial Parks

- The **Government of India released detailed guidelines** for the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna **BHAVYA Scheme** aimed at developing **100 world-class industrial parks** across India.

Kerala Gets First Private Medical Museum in Thiruvananthapuram

- **Kerala has established** its **first private medical museum**, named the **Museum of Medical Archives**, at Ulloor in **Thiruvananthapura**m.

India Semiconductor Mission Launches Investors Support Portal to Boost Semiconductor Manufacturing

- The **India Semiconductor Mission** has launched the **Investors Support Portal** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to** strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem and improve investor facilitation under the **Semicon India Programme**.

Khajuraho to Host Yoga Mahotsav 2026 Ahead of International Day of Yoga

- The **UNESCO World Heritage temples at Khajuraho** Group of Monuments will host **Yoga Mahotsav 2026**, marking the important **25-day countdown** to the **International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026**.

Oil India Discovers New Gas-Bearing Zone in Rajasthan's Dandewala Field

- **India has discovered** a new **natural gas-bearing zone** in the **Dandewala field** located in **Rajasthan**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Showcases India's Tribal Heritage Through Diplomatic Gifts

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** showcased **India's tribal heritage** and indigenous **craftsmanship through diplomatic gifts** presented to global leaders during his recent foreign visits.

Adani Green Energy Commissions 3.37 Gigawatt-hour Battery Energy Storage System at Khavda

- **Adani Green Energy Limited** commissioned a **3.37 Gigawatt-hour Battery Energy Storage System at Khavda**, **Gujarat.**

Department of Consumer Affairs Expands Role of Government Approved Test Centres

- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has expanded the role of **Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs)** through amendments to the **Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Chairs 51st PRAGATI Meeting to Review Major Infrastructure and Development Projects

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** chaired the **51st meeting of Pro-Active Governance and**

Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) to review major infrastructure, renewable energy, sanitation, and water resource projects across the country.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches Mission Queen Pineapple in Tripura

- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched the **₹236 crore Mission Queen Pineapple** in Tripura to transform the state's **Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Queen Pineapple** into a premium global brand.

Releases National Health Accounts Estimates 2022-23

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** released the **National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates 2022-23**, highlighting major improvements in India's healthcare financing system over the past decade.

Assam Legislative Assembly Passes Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026

- The **Assam Legislative Assembly passed** the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026**, making Assam the **first state in Northeast India** and the **third state in the country** after **Uttarakhand and Gujarat** to adopt Uniform Civil Code legislation.

SkyCast Aviation Weather Monitoring System Launched at Indira Gandhi International Airport under Mission Mausam

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **SkyCast Aviation Weather Monitoring System** at **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi**.

Cabinet Approves Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in Public Distribution System (SARTHAK-PDS) with ₹25,530 Crore Outlay

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in Public Distribution System (SARTHAK-PDS)** for a period of **5 years**.

Chhattisgarh to Launch 'Adarsh Shahar Samriddhi Yojana' for Urban Infrastructure Development

- The **Chhattisgarh Government** will launch the **'Adarsh Shahar Samriddhi Yojana'** to equip emerging towns and urban centres with **modern civic infrastructure and public facilities**.

Government Approves Two New Special Economic Zones in Puducherry

- The **Government of India** has notified **two new Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** in the **Union Territory of Puducherry**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Expands Global Geopark

Network with Addition of 12 New Sites, Raising Total to 241

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has designated **12 new Global Geoparks**, increasing the total to **241 sites** across **51 countries**, covering more than **882,000 square kilometres (sq km)**.

United Arab Emirates Announces Exit from Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and OPEC+ Alliance Effective May 2026

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has announced its decision to **exit** the **Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and the wider **OPEC+ alliance**, effective from **May 1, 2026**.

United States of America Launches 'Project Freedom' Naval Operation to Secure Shipping in Strait of Hormuz

- The **United States of America (USA)**, under **President Donald Trump**, launched **"Project Freedom"**, a **naval escort operation** to secure **commercial vessels** in the **Strait of Hormuz** amid rising **Iran–USA tensions**.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's First-Ever Bilateral Visit to Jamaica Strengthens India–Caribbean Relations

- Union Minister **S. Jaishankar,**Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) undertook a **2-day official visit** to **Jamaica** (**May 2–4, 2026**), marking the **first-ever bilateral visit** by an **Indian External Affairs Minister** to Jamaica.

Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Begins Fuel Loading, Moves Closer to Power Generation

- **Bangladesh** has begun **uranium fuel loading** at **Unit-1** of the **Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant**, marking the final stage before **electricity generation**

India hands over Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics banner to South African Astronomical Observatory to boost astronomy and scientific collaboration

- India's High Commissioner to South Africa, **Prabhat Kumar**, formally handed over the banner of the **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)** to the **South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)** during a ceremony at the **Royal Observatory, Cape Town**.

United Nations Global Forest Goals Report 2026 Highlights Fuelwood Demand as Key Driver of Global Forest Loss

- The **United Nations (UN)** released its latest assessment on global forests titled the **"Global Forest Goals (GFG) Report 2026"** during the **21st session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

(UNFF) at the **UN Headquarters in New York, United States of America**.

India Becomes Bangladesh's Second-Largest Trading Partner

- **India has overtaken the United States to become Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner**, reflecting **changing trade dynamics in South Asia**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Pays Two-Day Official Visit to Sweden at the Invitation of PM Ulf Kristersson

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Sweden** on a two-day official visit from **17–18 May 2026** at the invitation of Swedish Prime Minister **Ulf Kristersson**.

India, China and Japan Join World Trade Organization Members in Criticising UK Steel Safeguard Measures

- **India, China, and Japan** have joined other **World Trade Organization (WTO)** members, including South Korea, Switzerland, Russia, and Brazil, in criticising the **United Kingdom's steel safeguard measures**.

World Health Organization Holds 79th World Health Assembly 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** organised the **79th World Health Assembly (WHA79)** in **Geneva, Switzerland** from **18–23 May 2026**.

BANKING AND BUSINESS

Reserve Bank of India Introduces Mission SAKSHAM to Strengthen Capacity in Urban Co-operative Banking Sector

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched **Mission SAKSHAM** (**Sahkari Bank Kshamta Nirman**), a nationwide **capacity-building programme** for strengthening the **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**

Government Enhances Public Sector Banks with Strategic Expansion of Workforce Capacity

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India is implementing sustained and targeted measures to strengthen **human resource capacity** in **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** through calibrated **workforce expansion**, improved **operational efficiency**, and **governance-oriented reforms**.

Reserve Bank of India Announces Expected Credit Loss-Based Norms from April 2027 and Phased foreign exchange Derivatives Reporting from July 2027

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a **Master Direction** on asset classification, income recognition, and provisioning, introducing a shift to the **Expected Credit Loss (ECL)** framework,

effective from **April 1, 2027**.

Flipkart Internet Private Limited, Axis Bank Limited and PayU Payments Private Limited Introduce OTP-Free Card Payments with Biometric Authentication

- **Flipkart Internet Private Limited**, in partnership with **Axis Bank Limited** and **PayU Payments Private Limited**, has launched **biometric authentication** for card payments, replacing traditional One-Time Passwords (OTPs)**-based verification**.

Frequently Asked Questions on Cheque Clearing

- **Cheque Truncation System (CTS)** is a mechanism where the **physical cheque is stopped (truncated)** during clearing after its **electronic image** is captured and transmitted, eliminating the need for **physical movement** of cheques between banks.

India Post Payments Bank Introduces Self Help Group Savings Account to Boost Financial Inclusion

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**, a **100% Government of India-owned** entity under the **Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications**, has launched the **Self Help Group (SHG) Savings Account** to promote **financial inclusion** and **women empowerment** in rural India.

National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited Enhances Stressed Asset Resolution System and Boosts Recoveries in FY 2025–26

- The **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)** has emerged as a key institution in India's **stressed asset resolution framework**, supporting the banking **sector balance sheet strengthening**.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. Downgrades Indian Equities from "Overweight" to "Neutral" on Elevated Valuations Versus Emerging Market Peers

- **JPMorgan Chase & Co.** has **downgraded Indian equities** from **"overweight" to "neutral"**, citing **elevated valuations** compared to **emerging market peers**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases 46th Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves (Oct 2025–Mar 2026)

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released the **46th Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves** for the period **October 2025 to March 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Reporting Instructions for Authorised Dealer Category–I Banks to Enhance Forex Transparency

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has directed banks to report all **Over-the-Counter (OTC)**

foreign exchange derivative contracts involving the **Indian Rupee (INR)** to the **Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)**.

Reserve Bank of India Exempts Small Non-Banking Financial Companies from Registration Norms Under New Framework Effective July 1, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued final guidelines titled **RBI (NBFC – Registration, Exemptions and Framework for Scale Based Regulation) Amendment Directions, 2026** for certain **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**.

Reserve Bank of India Clarifies Credit Card Accounts to Be Reported as 'Past Due' Only After 3-Day Delay

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a **3-day grace period** for **credit card payments** under its updated regulatory framework.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Launches PaRRVA Framework to Enhance Transparency and Investor Protection

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has operationalised the **Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)** framework to improve **transparency in performance claims** made by market intermediaries.

Finance Ministry Notifies 100% foreign direct investment in Insurance Sector and Amends Foreign Exchange Management Act Rules to Liberalise Investment Framework

- The **Central Government** has notified **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the **insurance sector** under the **automatic route**.

DFS Organises Colloquium of Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals Chairpersons and Debts Recovery Tribunals Presiding Officers to Enhance Debt Recovery System Efficiency

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** organised a colloquium of **Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)** and **Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs)** at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi** to improve tribunal functioning.

Bank Loans Against Jewellery Rise Nearly Fivefold to ₹4.6 Lakh Crore by March 2026-Reserve Bank of India Data

- According to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data, **bank loans against jewellery** surged nearly **5 times** to **₹4.6 lakh crore** in **March 2026**, up from ₹93,301 crore two years earlier.

Finance Ministry Notifies Foreign Direct Investment Relaxation for Foreign Firms with Up to 10% Chinese Stake under FEMA Rules

- The **Government of India** has tweaked rules under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act**

(FEMA) to allow certain **overseas investments** under the **automatic route**.

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited and Juspay Introduce Unified Switch and Software Development Kit to Enhance Banking Connect Net Banking Platform

- **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)**, a subsidiary of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, has partnered with **Juspay Technologies Private Limited** with an aim to launch a **unified switch** and **Software Development Kit (SDK)** for the **Banking Connect platform**.

Tata AIA Life Insurance Introduces 'Shubh Health Criti' Unit-Linked Health Fund Plan

- **Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited** has launched a new **Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP)** named **'Shubh Health Criti'** in India.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Amendments to Securitised Debt Instruments Regulations to Align with Reserve Bank of India Securitisation Framework

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed amendments to the **Securitised Debt Instruments (SDI) Regulations** to align them with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** guidelines on **securitisation of standard assets (SSA)**.

Scheduled Commercial Banks Report Strong Credit Growth of 15.9% in FY 2025–26 Driven by Robust Economic Activity and Credit Demand

- The **Financial Year 2025–26** ended with strong **year-on-year (y-o-y) non-food credit growth of 15.9%**, an increase of **497 basis points (bps)** from 10.9% in FY 2024–25.

Asian Development Bank Unveils $70 Billion Plan to Link Asia's Energy and Digital Infrastructure Networks

- The **Asian Development Bank** launched a **USD 70 billion initiative** to expand **energy and digital infrastructure** across **Asia-Pacific by 2035**.

Reserve Bank of India Increases Domestic Gold Holdings by 104.23 Metric Tonnes in Six Months

- The **Reserve Bank of India** moved **104.23 metric tonnes (MT)** of its **gold reserves domestically** in the six months ended **March 2026**, reflecting a continued shift toward **domestic gold custody**.

India's Goods and Services Tax Revenue Hits Record ₹2.43 Lakh Crore in April, Grows 8.7% year-on-year

- According to government data, India's **gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue** reached a record **₹2.43 lakh crore** in **April**, marking an **8.7% year-on-year growth** over ₹2.23 lakh crore collected in April last year.

Cabinet Approves Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0) to Support MSMEs

and Businesses

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved the Emergency **Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0)** to address **short-term liquidity challenges** arising due to the **West Asia crisis**.

Department of Financial Services Approves Viability Plan 2.0 to Strengthen Regional Rural Banks

- The **Department of Financial Services** has approved **Viability Plan 2.0** for **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** to strengthen **financial stability**, **governance reforms**, and **operational efficiency**.

National Stock Exchange of India Introduces Electronic Gold Receipts to Boost Transparency in Gold Trading

- **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has launched the **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)** segment with approval from **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to create a **transparent and efficient gold trading ecosystem**.

Asian Development Bank Launches Financing Partnership Facility to Strengthen Critical Mineral Supply Chains in Asia-Pacific

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched a new financing facility titled **"Critical Minerals-to-Manufacturing Financing Partnership Facility"** to strengthen **critical minerals supply chains** across **Asia and the Pacific region**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Introduces Fast-Track Approval System for Private Placement Memoranda of Alternative Investment Funds

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced a **fast-track mechanism** for processing **Private Placement Memoranda (PPM)** of **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**.

Jio Payments Bank Partners with Ezeepay as Business Correspondent to Boost Last-Mile Digital Banking in Rural and Semi-Urban India

- **Jio Payments Bank Limited (JBPL)**, a subsidiary of **Jio Financial Services Limited (JSFL)**, has partnered with fintech platform **Ezeepay** as a **Business Correspondent (BC)** to strengthen **last-mile digital banking services** in rural and semi-urban India.

SBI Cards Sells ₹1,800 Crore Stressed Credit Card Pool to Integro Finserv

- **SBI Cards and Payment Services**, a listed subsidiary of **State Bank of India**, has sold a **stressed credit card receivables pool** worth around **₹1,800 crore** to **Integro Finserv**, a

Mumbai-based NBFC.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Final Revised Lending Norms for Urban Co-operative Banks to Simplify Credit Rules and Strengthen Risk Management

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **final revised lending norms** for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** to simplify **credit regulations** and strengthen **risk management**.

National Stock Exchange of India Crosses 13 Crore Registered Investors, Marking Strong Growth in Retail Participation

- The **National Stock Exchange of India** has crossed **13 crore unique registered investors**, with the latest **1 crore investors** added in just **7 months** (since September 2025).

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Major Regulatory Reforms for Online Bond Platform Providers to Strengthen Retail Bond Market Ecosystem

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed **major regulatory reforms** for **w (OBPPs)** to strengthen India's **retail bond market ecosystem**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Forms 'Cyber-suraksha.ai' Task Force to Address AI-Driven Cybersecurity Threats in Financial Markets

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted a dedicated task force named **"Cyber-suraksha.ai"** to assess **cybersecurity risks** arising from advanced **Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools** and strengthen **cyber resilience** in financial markets.

S&P Global Cuts India's FY27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast to 6.6%

- **S&P Global Market Intelligence** and **CRISIL Ratings Limited** jointly released a report titled **"India Forward – Emerging Perspectives"**, revising India's Gross Domestic Product **(GDP) growth forecast** for **FY27 downward by 50 basis points** to **6.6%** from **7.1%**.

Retail Investors Turn to Reserve Bank of India Retail Direct Platform for Safer Investment and Better Returns

- **Retail investors** are increasingly shifting towards the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Retail Direct platform** in search of **safer and better investment returns** in government securities.

Bihar Cabinet Clears World Bank Loan of USD 500 Million for Urban Transformation and Infrastructure Development

- The **Bihar State Cabinet**, chaired by **Samrat Choudhary**, approved a **USD 500 million (₹4,750 crore)** loan from the **World Bank** for the **Bihar Urban Transformation Programme**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Withdraws Investor Risk Reduction Access Platform for Stock Brokers

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has discontinued the **Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA)** platform for stock brokers with **immediate effect**.

Department of Financial Services Insurance Division Secures First Position in Group A Category of Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index Rankings for March 2026

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** receives more than **2.5 lakh grievances annually** and has consistently ranked among the **top 10 ministries/departments** in the **Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI)** since **November 2025**, reflecting strong **administrative responsiveness**.

Ministry of Finance launches performance-based framework under Special Assistance for State Capital Investment scheme to promote fiscal discipline among states

- The **Ministry of Finance** has introduced a **performance-based framework** under the **Special Assistance for State Capital Investment (SASCI)** Scheme to reward states showing stronger **fiscal discipline**.

Reserve Bank of India and European Central Bank Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Mutual Cooperation in Central Banking

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Governor **Shri Sanjay Malhotra** and **European Central Bank (ECB)** President **Christine Lagarde** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen cooperation in the field of **central banking**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on Yes Bank for Know Your Customer Non-Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹31.80 lakh** on **Yes Bank Limited** for non-compliance with **Know Your Customer (KYC)**

Reserve Bank of India Makes Reporting of Offshore Rupee-Linked Derivative Transactions Mandatory for Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a **new reporting framework** to strengthen monitoring of **offshore rupee-linked foreign exchange (FX) derivative transactions**.

Reserve Bank of India Levies ₹5 Lakh Penalty on Himachal Pradesh Gramin Bank for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹5 lakh** on **Himachal Pradesh Gramin Bank, Mandi** for violations related to **deposit regulations** and **statutory compliance**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases Final 2026 Directions on Capital Charge for Credit Risk under

Standardised Approach, Effective from April 2027

- The **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)** issued the final **Basel III framework** titled **"Basel III: Finalising post-crisis reforms"** in **December 2017** to ensure prudent and credible calculation of **Risk-Weighted Assets (RWAs)** for banks.

Public Sector Banks post record net profit of ₹1.98 lakh crore in FY26, extending profitability streak to fourth consecutive year

- **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** recorded **strong financial performance** during **FY 2025–26**, reflecting sustained business growth, **improved asset quality**, **record profitability**, and **strong capital position**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Revises Norms, Permits Use of Market Data for Educational Purposes with 30-Day Delay

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** revised rules to allow a **uniform 30-day time lag** for sharing and using **stock price data** for **educational and investor awareness activities**.

State Bank of India Research estimates India's Q4 FY26 Gross Domestic Product growth at 7.2%

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** released its latest **Ecowrap Research Report**, providing key projections on **India's economic growth outlook**.

Reserve Bank of India issues Master Direction on exchange of notes and coins under Banking Regulation Act, 1949

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated all **bank branches** to provide **universal cash services** without discrimination.

Reserve Bank of India issues Second Amendment Directions on Credit Risk Management for Commercial Banks, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued amendments to the **"Commercial Banks – Asset Classification, Provisioning and Income Recognition Directions, 2026"** under **Section 35A** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, in public interest.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation ties up with Airtel Payments Bank to launch RuPay 'On-The-Go' mobility cards

- **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** has partnered with **Airtel Payments Bank** to launch **co-branded RuPay 'On-The-Go' National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC)** for seamless **digital payments** and **metro travel** across India.

India Post records ₹15,296 crore revenue in FY26, says Union Minister Scindia

- **India Post** has added more than **11,000 post offices** in the last four years, expanding its reach to nearly **90% rural geography**, strengthening its role as a **last-mile logistics partner**.

Reserve Bank of India issues Master Direction on currency distribution incentives and penalties for banks and currency chests

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued a **Master Direction** on **incentives** for **currency distribution and exchange**, along with **penalties** for **deficiencies in customer service** and reporting by bank branches and currency chests.

Government of India and International Fund for Agricultural Development launch eight-year Country Strategic Opportunities Programme 2026–2033 strategy to boost rural livelihoods and resilience

- The **Government of India** in partnership with the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** launched a new **Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) 2026–2033** to enhance **rural incomes, resilience**, and **sustainable livelihood opportunities** across India.

Department of Financial Services Launches USD 1.5 Billion Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool Backed by USD 1.4 Billion Sovereign Guarantee Amid Middle East Tensions

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance** launched the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)** with a size of **USD 1.5 billion** and a **sovereign guarantee of USD 1.4 billion (₹12,980 crore)** to ensure uninterrupted **maritime insurance coverage** amid global geopolitical tensions.

Securities Exchange Board of India proposes GARUDA Green-Channel mechanism to fast-track launch and approval of Alternative Investment Funds schemes in India

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed a new regulatory framework called the **"Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement (GARUDA) mechanism"** to speed up the launch process of **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** schemes in India.

Finance Ministry Designates Principal Bench of Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal as National Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings

- The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** empowered the **Principal Bench** of the **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)**, New Delhi to function as the **National Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings (NAAAR)**.

Moody's Cuts India's Calendar Year 2026 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast to 6% in

Latest Global Macro Outlook Update

- Moody's **Ratings** released its **Global Macro Outlook – May 2026 Update**, revising **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast** for Calendar Year 2026 (CY26) downward by **80 basis points to 6%**, reflecting a weaker global and domestic economic outlook.

CMS Info Systems secures ₹400 crore, five-year ATM services contract from HDFC Bank

- **CMS Info Systems** has secured a **₹400 crore contract** from **HDFC Bank** for managing around **6,000 ATMs** for a period of **five years**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India proposes new rules on use of Investor Protection Fund income by depositories

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed allowing **depositories** to use up to **5% of the interest or income** earned from **Investor Protection Fund (IPF)** investments for **administrative and statutory expenses**.

Reserve Bank of India overhauls authorisation and renewal framework for forex dealers under Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced the **Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026** to rationalise **authorisation and renewal framework** for foreign exchange dealers.

Reserve Bank of India cancels banking licence of Mumbai-based Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the **banking licence** of **Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank Limited**, based in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**, under **Sections 22(4) and 56** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

Foreign Portfolio Investors Share in Indian Equities Falls to 14-Year Low Amid Sustained Selling Pressure

- **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** holding in Indian equities declined to **14% in June 2026**, marking the **lowest level in nearly 14 years**, indicating sustained **foreign selling pressure** in Indian markets.

Reserve Bank of India relaxes rules allowing banks to include quarterly profits in Common Equity Tier 1 capital for Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio calculation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued amended directions relaxing norms for inclusion of **quarterly profits** in **Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital** for calculating the **Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation releases uniform guidelines for compilation of Gross State Value Added estimates with base year 2022–23

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has directed all **States and Union Territories** to shift their **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) base year** from **2011–12 to 2022–23** by **FY27**.

AU Small Finance Bank launches four new credit cards with travel and lifestyle benefits to boost retail banking segment

- **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB)** has launched a new **credit card portfolio** comprising four cards — **AU Ananta, AU Laksya, AU Tejas, and AU Prathama** — to strengthen its **retail credit card business** across **Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities**.

Directorate General of Foreign Trade tightens rules for duty-free gold imports for gems and jewellery exports under Advance Authorisation scheme

- The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** has tightened regulations for **duty-free gold imports** under the **Advance Authorisation (AA) scheme** for the **gems and jewellery sector**.

Reserve Bank of India removes prior approval requirement for banks–fintech tie-ups for outward remittance services

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has removed the requirement of **prior approval** for **non-bank entities (fintechs)** to enter into **tie-up arrangements** for enabling **outward remittance services** through banks in India.

Securities and Exchange Board of India proposes gradual transition to physical settlement for select agricultural derivative contracts

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed allowing select **agricultural commodity derivatives contracts** to be initially **financially settled** before transitioning to **compulsory physical settlement**.

India's retail inflation rises to 3.48% in April, hits 14-month high on surge in food, gold and silver prices

- India's **retail inflation (CPI)** rose to **3.48% in April**, marking a **14-month high**, primarily due to increased prices of **food items, gold, and silver**.

CTBC Bank becomes first Taiwanese bank to open branch at GIFT City, Gujarat

- **CTBC Bank Co. Ltd.** has opened its new branch at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City**

(GIFT City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, becoming the **first Taiwanese bank** to establish presence in India's **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**.

Reserve Bank of India informs Supreme Court: 30 banks integrated with UDGAM portal to help trace deceased account holders' unclaimed funds

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** informed the **Supreme Court** that **30 banks** have been integrated into the **UDGAM portal** to help **legal heirs** trace **unclaimed funds** of deceased account holders.

National Statistics Office revises release schedule for Annual Gross Domestic Product Provisional Estimates and Fourth Quarter GDP data

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has revised the **release schedule** for India's **Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and **Fourth Quarter (Q4) GDP estimates**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Eases Norms, Allows Greater Flexibility in Borrowings for Infrastructure Investment Trusts and Special Purpose Vehicles

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has widened the permissible use of **fresh borrowings** by **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** where **net debt exceeds 49% of asset value**, aiming to improve **operational efficiency** and **asset performance**.

India's Wholesale Price Index inflation rises to 42-month high of 8.3% in April 2026

- India's **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation** surged to **8.3% in April 2026**, marking a **42-month high**, compared to 3.88% in March.

Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal Sets Up Nationwide Benches and Introduces Structured System for Listing GST Appeals

- **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)** formally operationalised benches across India and introduced a structured framework for **categorisation, scrutiny, and listing of GST appeals**.

ICICI Bank, in partnership with Visa, launches India's first USD-denominated debit card

- **ICICI Bank** has launched a **USD-denominated debit card** in partnership with **Visa**, aimed at helping **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** manage **offshore wealth** more efficiently.

Central banks become net gold sellers for the first time in 10 months

- According to the **World Gold Council (WGC)**, **central banks** became **net sellers of gold** in **March 2026** for the first time in 10 months.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹3.10 Lakh Penalty on IIFL Finance for Violating NBFC Scale Based

Regulation Norms

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a penalty of **₹3.10 lakh** on **IIFL Finance Limited** for violating the **NBFC Scale Based Regulation Directions, 2023**.

33rd Financial Stability and Development Council Sub-Committee Meeting Held at Reserve Bank of India Headquarters in Mumbai

- The **33rd meeting** of the **Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC)** was held at the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Mumbai**, under the chairmanship of **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.

RBL Bank Gets Regulatory Clearance for Emirates NBD's Nearly $3 Billion Investment

- **RBL Bank** has received all required regulatory and government approvals for the proposed strategic investment of around **USD 3 billion (₹26,850 crore)** by Dubai-based **Emirates NBD**.

Xflow Launches Pilot Programme to Enable Stablecoin-Based Cross-Border Payments for Indian Businesses

- **Xflow** has launched a pilot programme enabling Indian businesses to **accept international payments in stablecoins (USDC and USDT)** and convert them compliantly into **Indian Rupees (INR)**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India introduces framework to classify market benchmarks as significant indices based on Assets Under Management

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced a regulatory framework classifying certain market benchmarks as **"Significant Indices"** based on **Assets Under Management (AUM)** tracked by mutual fund schemes.

Unified Payments Interface Marks 10 Years of Transformational Growth, Emerges as World's Largest Real-Time Payment System Powering India's Digital Economy

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, launched on **11 April 2016** by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** under the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, has completed **10 years** and emerged as the **world's largest real-time payments platform**, becoming a backbone of **India's digital economy**.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurates India's first Artificial Intelligence - powered phygital banking branch of Slice Small Finance Bank in Guwahati

- Chief Minister (CM) of Assam, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** inaugurated India's **1st Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered "phygital" banking branch** of **Slice Small Finance Bank** in **Guwahati, Assam**.

IDFC FIRST Bank Introduces FD-Backed Business Multiplier Metal Credit Card for Startups, Founders and Entrepreneurs

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has launched the **'FD-backed Business Multiplier Metal Credit Card'** for founders, entrepreneurs, startups, MSMEs, and business owners in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Morgan Stanley Revises India's FY27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast Upward to 6.7% in Mid-Year Outlook Report

- **Morgan Stanley**, the American brokerage firm, released its latest **Mid-Year Outlook for India**, revising India's real **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for FY2026–27 (FY27) upward by 50 basis points (bps) to 6.7%**, compared to the earlier estimate of **6.2% (April 2026)**.

Reserve Bank of India decides against activating Countercyclical Capital Buffer at present

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided **not to activate** the **Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB)** at present, stating that current economic and banking conditions do not require its implementation.

Department of Financial Services Organises Workshop on Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act, 2026

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, **Ministry of Finance** organised a half-day workshop on the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act, 2026** in **New Delhi**.

SBI Ventures appointed to manage ₹20,000 crore Maritime Investment Fund

- The Government of India selected **SBI Ventures** as the fund manager for the **₹20,000-crore Maritime Investment Fund (MIF)** to promote investment in India's maritime sector.

Mahindra & Mahindra and DBS Bank India launch India's first sustainability-linked dealer financing programme

- **Mahindra & Mahindra** and **DBS Bank India** signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch India's **first sustainability-linked dealer financing programme** in the automotive sector on **19 May 2026**.

United Nations Revises India's Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast for 2026 to 6.4 Percent

- **The United Nations** revised India's **Gross Domestic Product growth forecast** for 2026 downward to **6.4 percent** from the earlier estimate of **6.6 percent**.

Reserve Bank of India Announces 5 Billion United States Dollar–Indian Rupee Buy/Sell Swap Auction

- The **Reserve Bank of India** announced a **5 billion United States Dollar–Indian Rupee buy/sell swap auction** to **inject long-term liquidity into the banking system.**

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Organises Atal Pension Yojana Annual Felicitation Programme in New Delhi

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** organised the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Annual Felicitation Programme** in **New Delhi**.

Bajaj General Insurance Unveils MHCP EDGE+ Health Plan Offering Coverage up to Rs 5 Crore

- **Bajaj General Insurance Limited (BGIL)** launched **'My Health Care Plan Edge+ (MHCP EDGE+)'**, a next-generation **health indemnity insurance plan** for individuals and families.

NCDEX Introduces 'RAINMUMBAI', India's First Exchange-Traded Weather Derivatives Contract

- **National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX)** launched India's first exchange-traded weather derivatives contract named **'RAINMUMBAI'**.

ICRA Cuts India's Financial Year 2026-27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Projection to 6.2%

- **ICRA Limited** (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) revised down India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for** Financial Year 2026-27 **(FY27) to 6.2%** from its earlier estimate of 6.5%.

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs High-Level Review Meeting at GIFT City, Gandhinagar

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**, chaired a high-level review meeting on the progress of **GIFT City at Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Forms Committee to Examine New Asset Classes for Enhancing Pension Returns

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** constituted a committee to explore the **long-term inclusion of new asset classes** in pension investments.

Reserve Bank of India Grants Prepaid Payment Instrument Issuer Authorisation to ZikZuk Technologies

- **ZikZuk Technologies Private Limited** received final authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer**.

Reserve Bank of India Levies ₹10.10 Lakh Monetary Penalty on City Union Bank Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹10.10 lakh** on **City Union Bank Limited**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Revised Loan Recovery and Recovery Agent Regulations Effective from October 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released final amendments to overhaul **loan recovery and recovery agent regulations**, which will come into effect from **1 October 2026**.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Launches $10 Billion Facility to Support West Asia-Affected Member Countries

- The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** established the **Energy, Food Security and Economic Resilience Facility**, aimed at supporting member countries affected by the **Middle East conflict**.

Reserve Bank of India Approves Record ₹2.87 Lakh Crore Surplus Transfer to Government for Financial Year 2025-26

- The **Reserve Bank of India** announced a record **surplus transfer of ₹2.87 lakh crore** to the Government of India (GoI) for Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26), during the **623rd meeting of the Central Board of Directors (CBoDs)**.

Unincorporated Establishments Cross 9 Crore, Driving Strong Economic Growth

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **Quarterly Bulletin on Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE)** for **January–March 2026**.

Karnataka Grameena Bank Honoured with National Award for Excellence in APY Enrolments

- **Karnataka Grameena Bank** received the **National Award** from the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** for outstanding enrolment performance under the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**.

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs TEXPROCIL Export Awards 2023–24 Ceremony in Mumbai

- **Nirmala Sitharaman**, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, presided over the **TEXPROCIL Export Awards 2023–24** ceremony held in Mumbai.

Eurobank Opens Its First Representative Office in India to Expand Trade and Investment Opportunities

- **Eurobank** will become the first European bank to enable **cross-border remittances** from **Greece and Cyprus** to **India** through the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

Reserve Bank of India Levies ₹3.10 Lakh Monetary Penalty on Mintifi Finserve Private Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹3.10 lakh** on **Mintifi Finserve Private Limited**.

Skydo Receives Payment Service Provider Licence at GIFT City and Reserve Bank of India Approval for Cross-Border Outward Payments

- **Skydo** received **in-principle approval** to operate as a **Payment Service Provider (PSP)** at the

International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City **(GIFT City)** in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Reserve Bank of India Data Shows India's Outward Remittances Declined by 2% to Nearly $29 Billion in FY26

- India's **outward remittances** under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** declined by **2%** in **FY26** due to global uncertainty and geopolitical tensions.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Launches New Retirement Income Schemes and Drawdown Facilities Under National Pension System

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** introduced new **Retirement Income Schemes (RIS)** and **drawdown options** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.

Reserve Bank of India Introduces Mandatory Three-Year Cooling-Off Period for Co-operative Bank Directors After 10-Year Tenure

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued final amendment directions for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** and **Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs)** to strengthen governance standards in the cooperative banking sector.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Reports Insurance Ombudsman Resolved 41,055 Complaints in FY26

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** reported that the **Insurance Ombudsman** resolved **41,055 grievances** during **FY 2025–26**.

Jumpp Secures Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Licence to Offer Digital Insurance Distribution Services

- Conversational fintech platform **Jumpp,** operated by Finvasia Group, received **Corporate Agency** and **Insurance Self Network Platform (ISNP)** licences from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹2.70 Lakh Monetary Penalty on Newa Investments Private Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹2.70 lakh** on **Newa Investments Private Limited**.

World Bank Report Identifies India as a Major Emerging Carbon Market; Carbon Pricing Now Covers 29% of Global Emissions

- The **World Bank Group** released the **13th edition** of the report titled **"State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2026"**.

Reserve Bank of India Forms 8-Member Expert Panel Under Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE) Initiative

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** constituted an Expert Committee on **"Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE)"**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Revises Household Savings Calculation Method, Raising India's FY25 Gross Savings-to-Gross Domestic Product Ratio to 34.94%

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** revised the methodology for calculating **household savings through securities markets**.

Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs Small Industries Development Bank of India's 37th Foundation Day Celebrations

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** launched a set of **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)-backed** strategic web portals and initiatives during the **37th Foundation Day celebrations** held in **Mumbai**.

Department of Financial Services Conducts Credit Outreach Programme in Udaipur, Tripura

- A **Credit Outreach Programme** was organised at **Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura** on **26 May 2026**.

India Records Historic Gross Foreign Direct Investment Inflows of $94.5 Billion in FY26 While Net FDI Stands at $7.6 Billion

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported that India's **gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows reached a record high of **USD 94.53 billion in FY 2025-26**, registering a **17% increase** over the previous year.

India's Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Marks a Decade Since Its Implementation in 2016

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, which came into force in **2016**, completed **10 years of implementation** in **2026**.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Introduces 'New Jeevan Sathi' Joint Life Insurance Plans for Couples

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** launched two new joint life insurance savings plans named **"LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium"** and **"LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium."**

Reserve Bank of India Nod for Expansion of Offline Payment Aggregator Services

- **One Mobikwik Systems Limited**, the parent company of **MobiKwik**, received **in-principle approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for a **Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P)**

licence.

Andhra Pradesh Government and Small Industries Development Bank of India Launch Deep-Tech Angel Fund Through Ratan Tata Innovation Hub to Boost Innovation Ecosystem

- The **Government of Andhra Pradesh**, in collaboration with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, announced the creation of a **Deep-Tech Angel Fund**.

Reserve Bank of India and State Bank of Vietnam Ink Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation in Digital Payments and Financial Innovation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **State Bank of Vietnam (SBV)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with an aim to strengthen bilateral cooperation in **financial innovation** and **digital payments** between India and Vietnam.

Department of Financial Services Introduces Unified Portal for Accessing Unclaimed Financial Assets

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, under the **Ministry of Finance**, launched the **Common Landing Portal for Unclaimed Financial Assets** on **29 May 2026**.

Department of Financial Services Secretary Reviews FY 2025–26 Performance and Operational Progress of Public Sector Banks

- **Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), M. Nagaraju**, chaired a review meeting of **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** to assess their performance during **FY 2025–26**.

Reserve Bank of India Data Shows Indians' Overseas Travel Expenditure Fell to USD 1.09 Billion in March 2026

- According to data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, **overseas travel spending** by Indians declined to **USD 1.09 billion** in **March 2026**.

AWARDS AND HONOUR

Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
Parveen Shaikh	Whitley Award 2026	Honoured for conservation of the endangered Indian Skimmer; award presented by Princess Anne at the

		Royal Geographical Society.
R. K. Anand, Suparna Sharma & Natalie Obiko Pearson	Pulitzer Prize 2026	Won for the Bloomberg project “trAPPed” on cyber fraud and digital surveillance.
Soma Mandal	Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards 2026	Recognised for environmental and climate change education and sustainability awareness.
Outstanding Nursing Professionals	National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026	Presented by President Droupadi Murmu; includes medal, certificate and ₹1 lakh cash prize.
Narendra Modi	Royal Order of the Polar Star	Sweden's prestigious honour recognising diplomacy, leadership and bilateral cooperation.
Narendra Modi	Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit	Norway's highest civilian honour for strengthening international relations.
Narendra Modi	FAO Agricola Medal	Recognised contributions to sustainable agriculture, food security and rural development.
Taiwan Travelogue (Author: Yang Shuang-zi; Translator: Lin King)	International Booker Prize 2026	First Mandarin Chinese translated work to win the International Booker Prize.
Tripti Mukherjee	Padma Shri	Honoured for preserving and promoting Kantha embroidery and empowering artisans.
Indian Space Research Organisation / Chandrayaan-	2026 Goddard Astronautics Award	Recognised for the historic soft landing near the Moon’s

3		south pole.
Manindra Agrawal	Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS)	Honoured for pioneering contributions to theoretical computer science and the AKS primality test.
Soumya Swaminathan	Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS)	Elected Fellow of the Royal Society, one of the world's most prestigious scientific academies.
Liesl Zühlke	L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Award 2026	Recognised for cardiovascular research on childhood rheumatic heart disease.
Salim Abdool Karim	Order of Mapungubwe (Gold)	Honoured for contributions to HIV/AIDS, TB research and public health.
Keertan Dheda	Order of Mapungubwe	Recognised for outstanding contributions to medical science.
Abhilasha Barak	United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award 2025	First woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army; recognised for gender advocacy in peacekeeping.
Medha Vishram Kulkarni	Sansad Ratna Award 2026	Recognised for outstanding parliamentary performance.
Smita Uday Wagh	Sansad Ratna Award 2026	Honoured for parliamentary performance and dedication despite health challenges.
Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board	Top 5 Global Utility Recognition	Ranked among the top five global utilities at the Global Water Summit 2026 for sustainable water

		management.
Sikkim Police	President's Police Colour	One of the highest honours for police forces; awarded for exceptional service and professionalism.
Harbhajan Singh	Dag Hammarskjold Medal	Awarded posthumously for sacrifice during UN peacekeeping operations.
Sujit Kumar Pradhan	Dag Hammarskjold Medal	Awarded posthumously for sacrifice during UN peacekeeping missions.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Name of the Person	Appointed As	Succeeds
Parminder Singh	Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited	-
Bharat Khera	Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)	-
Ashutosh Gowariker	Festival Director, 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)	-
Vishvajit Sahay	Secretary (Defence Finance), Ministry of Defence	-
Rohit Jain	Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	-
Anugraha Narayana Das	Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)	-

Anupinder Singh Grewal	President, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)	-
R. Balasubramaniam	Full-Time Member, NITI Aayog	-
Joram Aniya	Full-Time Member, NITI Aayog	-
Prasoon Joshi	Chairman, Prasar Bharati	-
Ravi K.	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited	D.K. Sunil
R. Vijay Anandh	Managing Director & CEO, City Union Bank	N. Kamakodi
Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)	Prasoon Joshi
Kumar Mangalam Birla	Non-Executive Chairman, Vodafone Idea	Ravinder Takkar
Priyanka Mittal	Co-Chair, Saudi-India Business Council (SIBC)	-
Krishna Swaminathan	Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)	Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
NS Raja Subramani	Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)	Anil Chauhan
Laura Virginia Fernández Delgado	President of Costa Rica	Rodrigo Chaves Robles
Ashok Kumar Panda	Chairman & Managing Director, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	Krishna Kumar Singh
Joseph Vijay	Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu	M. K. Stalin
Harvansh Chawla	Chairman, BRISEC Chamber of Commerce & Industry	-
Rumen Radev	Prime Minister of Bulgaria	Rosen Zhelyazkov

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R. Mukundan	President, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	Rajiv Memani
Peter Magyar	Prime Minister of Hungary	Viktor Orbán
Akash Ambani	Managing Director, Jio Platforms	-
Saurabh Vijay	Chief Executive Officer (CEO), UIDAI	-
Gunveer Singh	Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India	-
Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi	Prime Minister of Iraq	Mohammed Shia al-Sudani
Elias George	Part-Time Chairman, Federal Bank	-
T. D. Sivakumar	Deputy Managing Director, IIFCL (Recommended by FSIB)	-
P. Jawahar	Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)	D. V. Swamy
Ajay Kochhar	Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)	-
Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo	Prime Minister of Senegal	Ousmane Sonko

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Partners with Sikkim to Document Ru-Soam Indigenous Engineering

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has partnered with the **Government of Sikkim** to document the indigenous engineering practice of **Ru-Soam cane bridges** developed by the **Lepcha community** in the **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve**.

Reform-Linked Memoranda of Understanding Signed with Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Tripura under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** signed **reform-linked Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with

the states of **Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Tripura** under **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0**, following approval by the **Union Cabinet**.

Dhash Defense Systems and IIT Ropar Defence Research and Innovation Foundation Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Indigenous Defence Mobility

- **Dhash Defense Systems Private Limited** (DDS) and **IIT Ropar Defence Research and Innovation Foundation** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **indigenous defence mobility capabilities**

Confederation of Indian Industry and National University of Singapore Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Artificial Intelligence Leadership Programme

- **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and National University of Singapore – Institute of Systems Science** (NUS-ISS) have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance **digital leadership and governance in Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

D Y Patil International University Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Dassault Systèmes to Establish Digital Engineering Centre

- **D Y Patil International University** (DYPIU) has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Dassault Systèmes**

India and Vietnam Elevate Ties to Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

- **To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**, visited India on the invitation of **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**.

IndiaAI and Indian Council of Medical Research Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Artificial Intelligence-Based Healthcare Innovation

- **IndiaAI**, the Government of India's flagship Artificial Intelligence initiative under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to strengthen Artificial Intelligence-based healthcare innovation in India.

All India Football Federation and Department of Sports and Youth Services Sign Five-Year Memorandum of Understanding to Boost Youth Football Development

- **All India Football Federation and the Department of Sports and Youth Services**, Government **of Odisha**, have signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to expand their **elite youth football development partnership**

Afghanistan Signs 46 Million Dollar Deal with Indian Company for Customs Infrastructure

- The **Taliban administration in Afghanistan** has signed a **46 million United States dollar agreement** with Indian company TCRC to develop **customs laboratory infrastructure across Afghanistan**.

India and United Arab Emirates Sign Major Energy Agreements During Shri Narendra Modi's Abu Dhabi Visit

- **Shri Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited the **United Arab Emirates**.

Tata Electronics Signs Strategic Partnership with Advanced Semiconductor Materials Lithography for Dholera Semiconductor Fabrication Facility in Gujarat

- Tata **Electronics signed a strategic partnership agreement with ASML** (**Advanced Semiconductor Materials Lithography**) to support India's first commercial **300 Millimetre Semiconductor Fabrication Facility in Dholera.**

India and Italy Elevate Bilateral Relations to Special Strategic Partnership

- **India and Italy** upgraded their bilateral ties to a **Special Strategic Partnership** during the visit of **Shri Narendra Modi to Italy.**

Madhya Pradesh Partners with Google Cloud India for Artificial Intelligence-Powered Simhastha 2028 Management

- **Madhya Pradesh** partnered **with Google Cloud India** to introduce **Artificial Intelligence-powered solutions** for the management of **Simhastha Kumbh 2028** in **Ujjain**.

India and South Korea Strengthen Strategic Ties with Indian War Memorial Inauguration

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **Indian War Memorial** at **Imjingak Peace Park**, marking an important milestone **in relations between India and South Korea.**

India and Ethiopia Sign World Trade Organization (WTO) Accession Protocol to Strengthen Trade Relations

- **India and Ethiopia** have signed a **bilateral World Trade Organization (WTO) accession protocol** in Geneva to support Ethiopia's entry into the World Trade Organization.

India and Cyprus Upgrade Bilateral Ties to Strategic Partnership

- **India and Cyprus** have upgraded their bilateral relationship to a **Strategic Partnership** during the visit of **Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides to New Delhi**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Institute of Securities Markets and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Corporate Governance and Sustainability Initiatives

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Institute of Securities Markets, and Indian**

Institute of Corporate Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on **corporate governance, Environmental Social and Governance initiatives, and capital market-related programmes**.

Maharashtra Signs Memorandums of Understanding Worth Rs 6.5 Lakh Crore for Nuclear Energy Projects

- The Government of Maharashtra signed **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with **NTPC Limited**, **Adani Power Limited**, **Reliance Industries Limited**, and **Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited** in Mumbai.

Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association Launches "Bharat Digital Samvad" in New Delhi

- The **Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association** launched **"Bharat Digital Samvad"** at Shangri-La Eros New Delhi.

British International Investment and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners Launch "North Star" Renewable Energy Platform

- **British International Investment** partnered with **Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners** to launch a **300-million United States Dollar renewable energy platform** named **"North Star"**.

Delhi Government Signs Memorandum of Understanding with State Bank of India for e-Pay System

- The **Delhi e-Governance Society** under the **Information Technology Department of the Delhi Government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **State Bank of India**.

Department of Posts and Flipkart Sign Agreement for Last Mile Parcel Delivery Services

- The **Department of Posts** under the Ministry of Communications signed an agreement with **Flipkart India Private Limited** for **Last Mile Parcel Delivery Services**.

India and Canada Aim to Finalise Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement by 2026

- **India and Canada** have decided to strengthen economic relations with the aim of finalising the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement**, a broad-based **Free Trade Agreement, by the end of 2026.**

Steel Authority of India Limited Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Management Development Institute Gurgaon

- The Management Training Institute of **Steel Authority of India Limited** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Management Development Institute Gurgaon** to collaborate on executive education programmes aimed at **developing future-ready leaders within the company.**

Tata Power Partners with Druk Green Power Corporation for Clean Energy Skill Development in Bhutan

- **Tata Power** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Druk Green Power Corporation** to create a training framework supporting the development of **5,000 Megawatt clean energy capacity** in Bhutan.

Ayush Export Promotion Council and Spices Board of India Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Promote Ayush and Medicinal Spice Exports

- **Ayush Export Promotion Council** (**AYUSHEXCIL**) and **Spices Board of India** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen India's global position in traditional wellness and natural products.

India and United States Sign Bilateral Framework for Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements Cooperation

- **India** and the **United States of America (USA)** have signed a **bilateral framework** to strengthen cooperation in the **supply, mining, and processing of critical minerals and rare earth elements**.

National Skill Development Corporation Partners with Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation to Boost Skilled Workforce Mobility to Japan

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** has partnered with **Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation (FVCC), Japan**, to strengthen and facilitate **workforce mobility opportunities for Indian talent in Japan**.

Gujarat Government and Meta Platforms Inc. Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Provide WhatsApp-Based Government Services

- The **Government of Gujarat** and **Meta Platforms Inc. (Meta)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in **Gandhinagar** to provide **WhatsApp-based access to government services** across the state.

Odisha Government, Intel Corporation and 3D Glass Solutions Sign $3.3 Billion Semiconductor Manufacturing Agreement

- The **Government of Odisha**, **Intel Corporation**, and **3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGS)** signed a **tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**.

RANKING AND INDEX

Index / Report Name	Published By	India's Rank / Performance	Top 3 Ranks / Positions
World Press	Reporters Without	India – Rank 157	1. Norway (1)

Freedom Index 2026	Borders (RSF)		2. Netherlands (2) 3. Estonia (3)
World Migration Report 2026	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	India remained the world's largest remittance recipient in 2024 (USD 137.67 billion)	Top Remittance Recipients: 1. India 2. Mexico 3. Philippines
Henley Passport Index 2026	Henley & Partners (using IATA data)	India – Rank 78 (56 destinations)	1. Singapore 2. Japan 3. South Korea
World Cities Report 2026	UN-Habitat	Report highlighted global housing crisis; no India rank specified	Not a ranking report (Top 3 positions not applicable)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu lay foundation stone for Google Cloud AI Hub in Visakhapatnam

- **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting(MIB) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology(MeitY)) along with **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** laid the **foundation stone** for the **Google Cloud India Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hub** in **Tarluvada, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.

China National Space Administration Launches Pakistan's PRSC-EO3 Satellite Using Long March-6

- The **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** successfully launched **Pakistan's PRSC-EO3 (**Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite–Earth Observation-3) **satellite** aboard a **Long March-6 rocket** from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center**, placing it into its designated orbit.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy Flags Off Vikram-1, India's First Privately Built Orbital Rocket Developed by Skyroot Aerospace

- **A. Revanth Reddy**, Chief Minister of Telangana, flagged off the **flight hardware** of **Vikram-1**, India's **first privately built orbital rocket**, developed by **Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**.

Inauguration of Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART) Open-Field Observatory at

Andhra University, Visakhapatnam

- The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, an autonomous institute under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, Government of India, has established a **Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART)** at **Andhra University (AU)**, **Visakhapatnam**.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Launches Indigenous Silicon Photonics Solutions at CoE-CPPICS, IIT Madras, Chennai

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched two **indigenously developed Silicon Photonics technology solutions** at the **Centre of Excellence for Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuits and Systems (CoE-CPPICS)**, **IIT Madras**, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited Clears Joint Venture with Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited and ONGC Petro additions Limited to Streamline Petrochemical Marketing Operations

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)**, under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**, has approved the formation of a **Joint Venture (JV)** for **integrated petrochemicals marketing and trading**.

India Successfully Conducts Second Test of Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile with 1,500 km Range and Mach 10 Speed

- **India** has successfully conducted the **second flight test** of a **Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile (LR-AShM)** developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

Sigma Advanced Systems Inks ₹3,800 Crore Agreement with Rolls-Royce to Supply Aerospace Components

- **Sigma Advanced Systems Limited (SIGD)**, an Indian aerospace and defence company, has signed a **7-year long-term agreement** worth **₹3,800 crore (~300 million pounds)** with **Rolls-Royce (UK)**.

Indian Council of Medical Research Develops Priority Pathogen List for Syndromic Surveillance in India

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has developed a **Priority Pathogen List** for **Syndromic Surveillance** in India.

India's Defence Production Hits ₹1.54 Lakh Crore with 174% Growth, Defence Exports Rise to ₹23,622 Crore with 34-Fold Increase in a Decade: Dr. Jitendra Singh

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** stated that India has entered a **decisive phase** in its **defence transformation**, driven by **technology**, **indigenous innovation**, and **private sector participation**.

SpaceX Launches Falcon 9 Carrying South Korea's CAS500-2 Satellite and 45 Rideshare Payloads from California

- **SpaceX** successfully launched a **Falcon 9 rocket** from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base in **California**, United States of America (**USA**) .

Technology Development Board-Department of Science & Technology Backs NTF Energy Solutions for Commercial Production of Indigenous Type-IV CNG Cylinders to Promote Clean Mobility

- The **Technology Development Board** under the **Department of Science and Technology** signed an agreement with **NTF Energy Solutions Private Limited** for establishing a manufacturing facility for **Type-IV Composite CNG Cylinders**.

Indian Startups Pixxel and Sarvam AI Partner to Launch Space-Based AI Data Centre Satellite

- **Spacetech startup Pixxel** partnered with **Sarvam AI** to develop India's first **orbital data centre satellite**, named **Pathfinder**.

Unique Identification Authority of India and National Forensic Sciences University Sign 5-Year Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics Ecosystem

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** signed a **5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** to strengthen India's **cybersecurity** and **digital forensic ecosystem** for **Aadhaar infrastructure**.

O.P. Jindal Global University becomes first Indian Institute of Eminence to secure Data Science Council of America accreditation

- **P. Jindal Global University (JGU)**, Sonipat, Haryana, has become India's first **Institute of Eminence (IoE)** to receive accreditation from the **Data Science Council of America (DASCA)**.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum Observes Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav 2026 to Enhance IP Awareness in India

- **CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum** celebrated **Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav (RBSM) 2026** on **8 May 2026** to promote **Intellectual Property (IP) awareness** in India.

Pixxel wins United States National Reconnaissance Office contract for hyperspectral remote sensing development

- Indian space technology company **Pixxel** has secured a major contract from the **National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)**, United States under the **Commercial Systems Program Office (CSPO)** to develop advanced **hyperspectral remote sensing**

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Says India Advancing Rapidly in Quantum, AI and Emerging Technologies with Youth Key to Viksit Bharat 2047

- **Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy and Space**, inaugurated the **"Lakshya 2047" Centre for Future Skills**, **Cadaveric Centre**, and **Advanced Medical Simulation** facilities at **Parul University**.

Dr Jitendra Singh Reviews Department of Science & Technology-Supported Interdisciplinary Facility "SATHI" at BHU, Varanasi

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** visited **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** and reviewed the **Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institute (SATHI)** established with support from the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Jammu and Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Startup Ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir

- The **CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM)**, Jammu, through its **Technology Business Incubator (IIIM-TBI)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI)** to strengthen the **startup ecosystem** in Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Buyer–Seller Meet at CSIR Innovation Complex, Mumbai

- **Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space**, inaugurated a **Buyer–Seller Meet** organized by **CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM)** at CSIR Innovation Complex, Mumbai as a prelude to **Lavender Festival 2026**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh reviews preparations for Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign and India International Science Festival, stresses coordination and public participation

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh** chaired a high-level review meeting on preparations for the **"Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar (SSSS)"** campaign and the upcoming **India International Science Festival**,

emphasizing **coordination and public participation**.

Bureau of Indian Standards hosts international meeting on space systems standards in New Delhi for ISO/TC 20/SC 14 for the first time in India

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** under the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution organised the **35th Plenary and Working Group meetings** of **ISO/TC 20/SC 14 (Space Systems and Operations)** for the **first time in India**.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research marks National Technology Day with transfer of 13 indigenous CSIR-Central Building Research Institute technologies to industries

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** organised its monthly **Technology Transfer Event** at **CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi** on the occasion of **National Technology Day**.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announces India Meteorological Department AI-enabled systems for hyper-local weather forecasting

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched two advanced **AI-driven weather forecast products** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** to provide **hyper-local, impact-based and decision-support** weather services.

Indian Army inducts indigenous ULPGM and AGNIKAA VTOL-1 kamikaze drone systems developed by Adani Defence

- The **Indian Army (IA)** inducted two **indigenous combat systems** under the **Emergency Procurement-6 (EP-6)** programme — the **UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM)** and **AGNIKAA VTOL-1 First-Person View (FPV) Kamikaze Drone** — from **Adani Defence & Aerospace Limited** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Psyche spacecraft captures rare crescent view of Mars during flyby

- **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Psyche Mission** captured a rare image of **Mars** appearing as a **thin glowing crescent** during its deep-space journey.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science & Technology backs Helix Cell Therapeutics' Indo-Singapore project for advanced CAR-T therapy for Multiple Myeloma

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, has signed an agreement with **Helix Cell Therapeutics Private Limited, Hyderabad, Telangana** for a project on **dual-targeting CAR-T cell therapy** for **Multiple Myeloma**.

Samsung Electronics crosses $1 trillion valuation, becoming Asia's second company after TSMC to achieve milestone

- **Samsung Electronics** has crossed the **$1 trillion market valuation** mark, driven by strong global demand for **AI-related semiconductor chips**.

India's SVAMITVA scheme recognised as a model for developing countries

- The **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A)** presented the **SVAMITVA scheme** as a successful **governance and rural property mapping model** to the **World Bank**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh says Quantum & Artificial Intelligence sovereignty with indigenous ecosystems will shape India's next-generation growth

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, stated that **Quantum and Artificial Intelligence (AI) sovereignty** along with **indigenous ecosystems** will define India's next-generation growth.

National Health Authority, IndiaAI Mission and Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru conclude AB PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon Showcase 2026

- **National Health Authority (NHA)** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, in collaboration with the **IndiaAI Mission** and **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, concluded the **AB PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon Showcase 2026**.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates India's first integrated CCUS field laboratory facility at IIT Bombay

- **Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan**, Ministry of Education (MoE), inaugurated India's first **Integrated Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)** field laboratory facility under **"Bharat Innovates 2026"** at **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B)**, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh dedicates 200 MW Solar Module Manufacturing Line of Central Electronics Limited to the nation

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, dedicated the **200 MW Solar Module Manufacturing Line** of **Central Electronics Limited (CEL)** to the nation.

India and Norway strengthen science, technology and innovation cooperation through new bilateral agreements

- During the visit of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to Norway, the **Council of Scientific and**

Industrial Research (CSIR) and **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)**, Government of India signed a series of key agreements with Norwegian institutions in **Oslo** to strengthen **science, technology, innovation and sustainable development** cooperation.

United States Industry Delegation Engages with Dr. Jitendra Singh on Private Investment Opportunities in India's Nuclear Sector

- A high-level **United States (U.S.) industry delegation**, comprising representatives from the **Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)** and the **U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)**, held discussions with **Dr. Jitendra Singh** on **private investment and industry collaboration** in India's nuclear sector.

Scientists Discover Oldest Directly Dated Air Sample on Earth from Antarctica's Allan Hills Region

- Scientists working in **Antarctica** have discovered the **oldest directly dated ice and air sample on Earth** from the **Allan Hills region of East Antarctica**.

Nanogold-Embedded Ultrathin Flexible Films Enable Self-Powered Sensors and Advanced Wearable Electronics

- Researchers have developed a new **ultrathin flexible film** capable of efficiently converting **tiny temperature fluctuations into electrical signals**, enabling applications in **smart photodetectors, low-grade heat harvesters**, and flexible electronic systems.

CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute Discovers Ancient Buried River Channel Beneath Prayagraj–Kanpur Stretch in Uttar Pradesh

- Scientists from the **CSIR–National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad** have identified an **ancient underground river channel (palaeo-channel)** beneath the **Prayagraj–Kanpur stretch in Uttar Pradesh**.

Liberty Mutual Insurance increases shareholding in Liberty General Insurance Limited to 74%

- **Liberty Mutual Insurance** increased its stake in **Liberty General Insurance Limited (LGI)** to **74%** from **55.40%**, strengthening its presence in **India's insurance market**.

India Successfully Conducts Trials of 'Suryastra' Rocket System with 300 km Strike Range off Odisha Coast

- India successfully conducted consecutive trials of the **'Suryastra' Universal Rocket Launcher System**, achieving precise strikes on targets up to **300 kilometres (km)**.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science & Technology Backs Ansoz Creations for Commercialisation of Electronics and IT-Based STEM Learning Kits

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology**

(DST), Government of India, signed an agreement with **M/s Ansoz Creations Private. Limited., Bhopal**.

Anusandhan National Research Foundation Selects 10 Institutions to Establish Convergence Research Centres of Excellence

- The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** announced the selection of **10 Convergence Research Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** under its flagship Convergence Research Centres of Excellence Programme.

Russia Successfully Conducts Test of RS-28 Sarmat Intercontinental Ballistic Missile System

- **Russia** successfully conducted the test of the **RS-28 Sarmat Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** from the **Plesetsk Cosmodrome** in northern Russia.

New giant dinosaur species Nagatitan chaiyaphumensis discovered in Thailand, marked as the largest dinosaur found in Southeast Asia

- Researchers have discovered a new giant dinosaur species named **Nagatitan chaiyaphumensis** in **Thailand**, which is considered the **largest dinosaur ever found in Southeast Asia**.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Organise Three-Day Workshop to Enhance India's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Systems

- India submitted its first **Biennial Transparency Report (BTR-1)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)'s Central Rice Research Institute Creates 'Plant-OpenCRISPR1', the World's First AI-Based Genome Editing Platform for Crops

- Scientists at the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)'s Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI)** developed and validated **Plant-OpenCRISPR1 (POC1)** in **Cuttack, Odisha**.

India Conducts Successful Trials of Vayu Astra-1 Loitering Munition with 100 km Operational Range

- **NIBE Limited**, a defence manufacturing company, successfully conducted trials of its **Vayu Astra-1 Loitering Munition (LM)**.

India Successfully Conducts Agni-1 Short-Range Ballistic Missile Test at Chandipur, Odisha

- **India** successfully conducted the test-firing of the **Agni-1 Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**.

China Launches Shenzhou-23 Mission with Three Astronauts to Tiangong Space Station

- China launched the **Shenzhou-23** spacecraft carrying **three astronauts** to the **Tiangong Space Station** for scientific research and orbital operations.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Successfully Completes First-Ever All-Women Mount Everest Expedition

- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP)** successfully completed its first-ever **all-women international mountaineering expedition** to **Mount Everest**, the world's highest peak.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Announces USD 20 Billion Three-Stage Programme to Establish Permanent Lunar Base

- **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** unveiled a **USD 20 billion three-phased plan** to establish a **permanent base on the Moon**.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science and Technology Backs IDT Innovation Technologies Private. Limited. for Commercialisation of Indigenous Industrial AIoT Technologies

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, signed an agreement with **IDT Innovation Technologies Private. Limited., Nagpur**.

Department of Space Clears Two New Space Technology Facilities in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat

- The Department of Space approved the establishment of **Common Technical Facilities (CTFs)** in **Gujarat** and **Tamil Nadu (TN)** to strengthen India's space ecosystem.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Says 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' Reaches 2.71 Crore Citizens Across India

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)** implemented the nationwide **"Khet Bachao Abhiyan"** focusing on **soil health**, **balanced fertiliser use**, and **sustainable agriculture practices**.

New Light-Driven Nano-Catalyst Enables Cleaner and Cost-Effective Production of Medicines and Industrial Chemicals

- Researchers developed a novel **light-driven nano-catalyst** aimed at reducing the use of toxic solvents, high temperatures, and energy-intensive industrial processes.

Dr. Ronaldo Laishram Leads Discovery of 12.6-Billion-Year-Old "Loktak Protocluster" Ancient Galaxy Structure

- An international research team led by Indian scientist **Dr. Ronaldo Laishram** discovered a **12.6-billion-year-old cosmic structure** named the **"Loktak Protocluster."**

11th Quadrilateral Security Dialogue Foreign Ministers' Meeting Conducted in New Delhi

- The **11th edition** of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (QFMM 2026)** was held in **New Delhi**.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh to Launch the 4th Lavender Festival at Bhaderwah,Doda

- **CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM Jammu)** will organize the **4th Lavender Festival** on **6–7 June 2026** at **Government Degree College, Bhaderwah, Doda** under the theme **"Lavender goes global"**.

Google Launches 'Google for Education Schoolers' Free Artificial Intelligence Training Initiative for Teachers Across Maharashtra, Assam, Punjab and Other Indian Regions

- **Google** announced the **Google for Education Schoolers (GES)** programme at the **Education World Forum 2026** held in **London, United Kingdom**.

Indian Council of Medical Research Hosts "Medical Innovations Patent Mitra: Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect" Programme in New Delhi

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, under the **Department of Health Research (DHR)**, organised the **"Medical Innovations Patent Mitra: Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect"** event.

Nibe Group and Elbit Systems Partner to Establish Propellant Manufacturing Unit in India

- **Nibe Group** and **Elbit Systems** signed a **Joint Venture (JV)** agreement to establish advanced **energetic materials** and **propellant manufacturing facilities** in India.

DEFENCE NEWS

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited Enters Technology Transfer Pact with Defence Research and Development Organisation's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory for Gas Turbine Infrared Suppression System for Naval Vessels

- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has signed a **Licensing Agreement for Transfer of Technology (LAToT)** with **Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)**, marking a **key step** in **indigenous defence technology development**.

Indian Navy Receives Indigenous Project 17A Advanced Stealth Frigate 'Mahendragiri'

- **Mahendragiri (Yard 12654)**, the **sixth ship** of **Nilgiri-class (Project 17A)** and the **fourth ship** built at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL)**, was delivered to the **Indian Navy** in **Mumbai**.

Indian Army Contingent Leaves for India–Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise CINBAX-II 2026

- The **Indian Army contingent** has departed for the **2nd edition** of **India–Cambodia Bilateral**

Military Exercise CINBAX-II 2026, a joint **India–Cambodia Army Exercise**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Navy Achieve First-Ever Salvo Launch of Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Short Range

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in collaboration with the **Indian Navy (IN)** successfully conducted the **maiden salvo launch** of the **Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Short Range (NASM-SR)**.

Hon'ble President of India,Smt. Droupadi Murmu Visits Army Training Command (ARTRAC) Headquarters in Shimla

- The Hon'ble **President of India** and **Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces**, **Droupadi Murmu**, visited the **Headquarters of Army Training Command (ARTRAC)**, **Shimla**.

IG Defence Unveils Indigenous Weapon Systems KAL and JWALA at North Tech Symposium 2026 in Prayagraj

- **IG Defence** unveiled two **indigenous defence systems—KAL** and **JWALA**—at the **North Tech Symposium 2026** held in **Prayagraj**.

Visit of Royal Netherlands Navy Deputy Commander and HNLMS De Ruyter to Kochi Strengthens Maritime Cooperation

- The **Royal Netherlands Navy** ship **HNLMS De Ruyter (F804)**, a **De Zeven Provinciën-class frigate**, arrived at **Kochi**, marking an important step in **India–Netherlands maritime cooperation**.

Indian Ocean Ship Sagar Arrives at Yangon Harbour in Myanmar to Strengthen Maritime Cooperation

- The **Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar – INS Sunayna** entered **Yangon Harbour** as part of India's **maritime outreach** and **regional engagement**.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹1,476 Crore Contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems for Indian Army

- The **Ministry of Defence** signed a contract worth **₹1,476 crore** with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hyderabad** for procurement of five **Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems** for the **Indian Army**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Launches Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Field Training and Demonstration Centre at Burari Plains, Delhi

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** inaugurated the **Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Field Training and Demonstration Centre** at **Burari Plains, Delhi**.

Second Edition of Joint Commanders' Conference on "Military Capability in New Domains" to be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan

- The **Second Edition** of the **Joint Commanders' Conference** will be held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan** on **May 07–08, 2026**, focusing on the theme **"Military Capability in New Domains"**.

India–Algeria Joint Commission Holds First Meeting in New Delhi, Agrees to Expand Defence Cooperation

- The **inaugural Joint Commission meeting** between **India and Algeria** was held in **New Delhi**, marking a significant step in strengthening **bilateral defence cooperation**.

Indian Navy Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini Arrives at Mindelo Port in Cape Verde

- The **Indian Navy Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini** entered the **Port of Mindelo**, marking its **eighth port call** during the ongoing voyage.

Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Air Force Successfully Carry Out Maiden Flight Trial of Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation Weapon System

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted the **maiden flight-trial** of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)** weapon on **07 May 2026** off the coast of **Odisha**.

India's First International Ophthalmology Research Conference to be Inaugurated by Raksha Rajya Mantri in New Delhi

- The **Department of Ophthalmology, Army Hospital (Research & Referral), New Delhi**, in collaboration with the **All India Ophthalmological Society**, will host **India's first International Ophthalmology Research Conference** on **09–10 May 2026** at the **Manekshaw Centre**.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Establishes First International Centre in USA to Strengthen Deep-Tech Innovation and Startups

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Global Research Foundation** has announced its **first international centre** in **Menlo Park**, expanding India's **deep-tech innovation** presence into global ecosystems.

Skyroot Aerospace Becomes India's First Space-Tech Unicorn After Raising USD 60 Million

- **Skyroot Aerospace**, a private Indian space launch startup, has become **India's first space-tech unicorn** after raising **USD 60 million (₹570 crore)**.

ICGS Achal, Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel, commissioned into Indian Coast Guard at Goa Shipyard Limited

- The **ICGS Achal**, the latest **Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel**, was commissioned into the **Indian**

Coast Guard at **Goa Shipyard Limited**, marking a major boost to India's **maritime operational capability**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully conducts long-duration test of Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor for Hypersonic Missile technology

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** achieved a major breakthrough in **Hypersonic Missile technology** through a successful long-duration test of the **Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor**.

Steel Cutting Ceremony Held for Indian Navy's Fifth Fleet Support Ship at Hindustan Shipyard Limited Visakhapatnam

- The **'Steel Cutting' Ceremony** of the **5th and final Fleet Support Ship (FSS)** was held at **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL),Visakhapatnam** .

India and Australia Hold 10th Defence Policy Talks in New Delhi

- The **10th edition** of **Defence Policy Talks** between **India and Australia** was held in **New Delhi**.

Indian Air Force Conducts 88-Hour "Operation Sindoor" Commemorative Run from May 7 to 10, 2026

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted the **"Op Sindoor Commemorative Run"** for **88 hours** from **07 May to 10 May 2026** in **New Delhi**.

India successfully tests advanced Agni missile with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle system

- India successfully conducted the **flight-trial** of an advanced **Agni missile** equipped with **Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology** from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**.

Indian Air Force Maintenance Command and Centre for Airpower and Strategic Studies Organise Joint Aerospace Power Seminar in Nagpur

- **Headquarters Maintenance Command** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, in collaboration with the **Centre for Airpower and Strategic Studies (CAPSS)**, organised a one-day **Joint Aerospace Power Seminar** at **Nagpur**.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth to inaugurate Kalam & Kavach 3.0 focused on advancing JAI through I²

- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth** will inaugurate the third edition of **"Kalam & Kavach"** at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.

Raksha Mantri and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister lay foundation stones for Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre and Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** and **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** laid the **foundation stones** and presided over **grounding ceremonies** of **strategic aerospace and defence projects** at **Puttaparthi, Sri Sathya Sai district, Andhra Pradesh**.

INS Sagardhwani Leaves Malaysia After Successful Engagement with Royal Malaysian Navy

- Indian Navy's oceanographic research vessel **INS Sagardhwani** departed **Port Klang, Malaysia** after completing a successful engagement with the **Royal Malaysian Navy**.

Pakistani Navy commissions its first Chinese-built Hangor-class submarine at Sanya, Hainan Island

- The **Pakistani Navy** has commissioned its first **Chinese-built Hangor-class submarine** at **Sanya** on China's **Hainan Island**, a major naval facility.

Indian Navy Opens Premier Naval Sailing Node at Bhojtal in Bhopal

- **The Indian Navy** inaugurated its premier **Naval Sailing Node** at **Upper Lake (Bhojtal), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

Ministry of Defence issues stricter norms: Up to 5-year debarment for poor performance, 10-year ban for ethical misconduct

- The **Ministry of Defence** issued revised guidelines imposing **stricter penalties** on **defence suppliers** for **non-performance** and **ethical misconduct**.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to Visit Vietnam and South Korea on Official Tour to Strengthen Defence Cooperation

- Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** is undertaking an official visit to **Vietnam (May 18–19, 2026)** followed by the **Republic of Korea (May 19–21, 2026)** to strengthen India's defence and strategic partnerships in Asia.

India's Artificial Intelligence-Powered Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle'Kaal Bhairava' to Be Manufactured at First Overseas Facility in Portugal

- **Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA)**, a deep tech defence company, announced that its flagship Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) **"Kaal Bhairava"** will be manufactured at its **first international production facility in Portugal**.

Tonbo Imaging secures Indian Navy contract under ADITI 3.0 framework

- **Tonbo Imaging**, a Bengaluru-based defence technology company, has secured a contract from the **Indian Navy** under the **ADITI 3.0** innovation framework on **19 May 2026**.

India receives fourth squadron of S-400 Triumf air defence system

- India is set to receive the **fourth squadron** of the Russian-origin **S-400 Triumf**, strengthening its air defence capabilities.

Larsen & Toubro Limited Enters Strategic Tie-Up with France's Exail Technologies to Develop Unmanned Mine Countermeasure Systems for Indian Navy

- **Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T)** has entered into a strategic partnership with France-based **Exail Technologies** to deliver advanced **Unmanned Mine Countermeasure (MCM)** systems for the **Indian Navy (IN)**.

PRAGATI 2026 Multilateral Military Exercise Begins in Meghalaya

- **India launched the multilateral military exercise PRAGATI 2026** at the **Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya** with participation from armed forces of 12 friendly nations.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Launches INS Sanghmitra, First Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel for Indian Navy

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited** launched **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sanghmitra (Yard 3039)**, the **first of four Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs)** for the **Indian Navy (IN)**.

Indian Army and Indian Navy Sign Memorandum of Association on Affiliation to Strengthen Inter-Service Cooperation and Joint Operational Capability

- The **Indian Army (IA)** and the **Indian Navy (IN)** signed a **Memorandum of Association (MoA) on Affiliation** in **New Delhi, Delhi**, to enhance **inter-service cooperation, operational cohesion, and jointness** among the armed forces.

Maroon Beret Passing-Out Parade Held at Garud Regimental Training Centre, Air Force Station Chandinagar

- The **Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade** was held on **23 May 2026** at the **Garud Regimental Training Centre (GRTC), Air Force Station Chandinagar**.

Ahmedabad Hosts 138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee Meeting

- The **138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) Meeting** was held at **Ahmedabad**.

Ring Gantry-Based Linear Accelerator Commissioned at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi for Advanced Cancer Care

- A **Ring Gantry-based Linear Accelerator** was commissioned at the **Department of Radiation Oncology of Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi** on **25 May 2026**.

Indian Navy to Acquire 45 Ships in Next 3–4 Years, Receives Approval for 195 Additional Vessels

- The **Indian Navy** announced plans to acquire **45 new warships** over the next **3–4 years** to enhance maritime capability and operational preparedness.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Launches NIBE Limited Defence Manufacturing Facility at Shirdi in Maharashtra

- **Rajnath Singh**, Union Minister of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), inaugurated the **NIBE Group's private defence manufacturing complex** in **Shirdi, Maharashtra**.

INS Sudarshini Reaches Antigua and Barbuda Following Landmark Trans-Atlantic Voyage

- Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship (STS) **INS Sudarshini** arrived at **Antigua and Barbuda** as part of the ongoing **Lokayan 26 expedition**.

Ministry of Defence Releases Request for Proposal for India's Indigenous Fifth-Generation Stealth Fighter Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft Programme Project

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** issued the **Request for Proposal (RFP)** for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme** in **New Delhi**.

Indian Army Introduces 'Q-FORCE' App to Enhance Logistics and Sustainment Operations

- The **Indian Army** launched **'Q-FORCE'**, an integrated **digital logistics application** designed to streamline logistics and sustainment management across varied operational terrains in India.

India and Singapore Discuss Expansion of Strategic Defence Cooperation at 16th Defence Policy Dialogue

- The **16th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue** was held in **Singapore** on **28 May 2026**.

Indian Coast Guard Carries Out Anti-Narcotics Operation Near Mundra Coast in Gujarat

- **The Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** seized approximately **115 kg of Cocaine** during a joint anti-smuggling operation conducted with the **Anti-Terrorism Squad Gujarat (ATS Gujarat)**.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited Acquires 51% Controlling Stake in Colombo Dockyard PLC in First Overseas Expansion

- **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** has acquired a **controlling 51% stake** in **Colombo Dockyard PLC (CDPLC)**, marking its **first international acquisition**.

Federal Bank to Acquire 4.5 Lakh Credit Card Portfolio from Standard Chartered Bank India

- **Federal Bank** is set to acquire a select **credit card portfolio** from **Standard Chartered Bank India** comprising around **4.5 lakh credit cards**.

Lakshmi N Mittal Family, Aditya Mittal and Adar Poonawalla to Acquire Stake in Rajasthan Royals

- A consortium led by steel magnate **Lakshmi N. Mittal's family**, along with **Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla**, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the **IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals** at a valuation of about **$1.65 billion**.

Kotak Mahindra Bank gets Reserve Bank of India approval to acquire up to 9.99% stake each in AU Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to acquire up to **99% stake (each)** in **AU Small Finance Bank** and **Federal Bank**, marking a key development in India's **banking sector consolidation**.

Fairfax India to Invest ₹2,000 Crore in IIFL Capital Services

- **Fairfax India Holdings Corporation**, led by billionaire investor **Prem Watsa**, plans to increase its stake in **IIFL Capital Services** to **at least 51%** through a **₹2,000 crore capital infusion**.

Competition Commission of India Approves Thriveni Earthmovers' 7.14% Stake Acquisition in Lloyds Engineering Works and Merger of Three Companies into Lloyds Engineering Works Limited

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition of a **7.14% stake** in **Lloyds Engineering Works Limited (LEWL)** by **Thriveni Earthmovers Private Limited (TEMPL)** along with the **merger of three entities** into LEWL.

Prudential plc to acquire 75% stake in Bharti Life Insurance Company Limited for ₹3,500 crore initial cash consideration

- **Prudential plc** has announced the acquisition of a **75% stake** in **Bharti Life Insurance Company Limited** for an initial value of **Rs 3,500 crore (around USD 389 million)**.

Google and Blackstone Launch $5 Billion Artificial Intelligence Cloud Venture

- **Google** and **Blackstone** have launched a new **$5 billion Artificial Intelligence cloud infrastructure venture** aimed at strengthening Artificial Intelligence computing capabilities and challenging the dominance of **Nvidia** in the global Artificial Intelligence chip market.

Bharat Forge to Set Up India's First Private Marine Gas Turbine Facility in Andhra Pradesh

- **Bharat Forge Limited** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Government of Andhra Pradesh** to establish **India's first private-sector Marine Gas Turbine facility** in

Visakhapatnam.

Government to Sell 8% Stake in Central Bank of India Following Strong Offer for Sale Demand

- The **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** announced that the **Offer for Sale (OFS)** of the **Central Bank of India** was oversubscribed **2.35 times** on the first day.

SBI Mutual Fund Raises Stake in Bandhan Bank Above 5%

- **SBI Mutual Fund** increased its stake in **Bandhan Bank** beyond **5%** of the bank's paid-up share capital.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Raises Shareholding in Central Bank of India to 6.06%

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** acquired **26.26 crore equity shares** of **Central Bank of India** through open market purchases.

Shivalik Small Finance Bank to Acquire ManiBhavnam Home Finance for ₹109 Crore to Boost Affordable Housing Lending

- **Shivalik Small Finance Bank** is in the final stages of acquiring **ManiBhavnam Home Finance** in a deal valued at around **₹109 crore**.

Adani Power Signs Deals to Acquire Stake in Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited and Churk Power Assets for Over ₹4,193 Crore

- **Adani Power** has signed definitive agreements with **Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL)** to acquire a **24% stake** in **Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited (JPVL)** along with the **180 MW Churk thermal power plant** in **Uttar Pradesh**.

APPS & PORTALS

App/Portal Name	Released By	Purpose
Khuarel App	Lalnilawma, Minister of Disaster Management & Rehabilitation (DM&R), Mizoram	Real-time disaster incident reporting and management system for disaster-prone regions; enhances disaster response and coordination.
Swasth Bharat Portal	J. P. Nadda, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare	Creates a unified digital public health ecosystem, integrates fragmented health systems, supports frontline

		health workers, and enables secure health record exchange.
Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal	Nidhi Chhibber, Interim CEO, NITI Aayog	Strengthens real-time governance, field-level monitoring, administrative responsiveness, and last-mile service delivery under ADP and ABP.
Unified Bharat e-Charge (UBC) Platform	D. Kumaraswamy	Provides a “One Nation, One App” system for EV charging, enabling users to locate, book, access, and pay for charging stations through a single interface.
Ayush Anudan Portal	Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State for Ayush	Streamlines submission, processing, approval, and monitoring of funding proposals under various Central Sector Schemes in the Ayush sector.
ShramMitra Application	Anil Vij, Haryana	Digitizes the labour hiring system by directly connecting workers and employers, reducing dependence on traditional labour chowks.
Bharat Tex 2026 Mobile App	Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles	Serves as a digital companion for Bharat Tex 2026, enabling event access, exhibitor discovery, meeting scheduling, venue

		navigation, lead capture, and real-time updates.
PM-AJAY Portal & Mobile App	Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment	Improves implementation of the PM-AJAY Scheme through enhanced digital governance, stakeholder coordination, accountability, and service delivery.
NeSDA 2025 Portal	Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)	Enhances e-governance assessment and online public service delivery through the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment framework.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Event	Location	Organiser (Full Form)	Key Points / Theme
From Patent to Product: Accelerating IP Commercialization in Electronics & IT	India Habitat Centre, New Delhi	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)	National conference to strengthen India's innovation and intellectual property ecosystem; discussed accelerating IP commercialization in Electronics & IT sector; launched IP Catalyst Initiative and digital platform; participation from policymakers, industry, startups, MSMEs, academia and R&D institutions.

India–Africa Forum Summit (Postponed)	Summit postponed (India–Africa engagement platform)	Government of India and African Partner Countries	Postponed due to Ebola virus outbreak affecting parts of Africa, especially Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda; apex institutional platform for India–Africa dialogue and cooperation; established in 2008 to strengthen trade, development and strategic partnerships.

ENVIRONMENT

Zoological Survey of India discovers two new spider species in Nagaland and completes revision of Indian whip scorpions after 100 years

- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has discovered two new **spider species** named **Psechrus ntu** and **Psechrus phenshunyu** in **Nagaland**.

Researchers Discover New Worm-Eating Snake Species 'Trachischium lalremsangai' in Mizoram

- Researchers discovered a new worm-eating snake species named **'Trachischium lalremsangai'** during biodiversity and herpetological surveys in the forest regions of **Mizoram and Myanmar**.

PERSON IN NEWS

Kami Rita Sherpa, Nepal's "Everest Man", climbs Mount Everest for a record 32nd time

- **Kami Rita Sherpa** created history by scaling **Mount Everest (8848.86 m)** for a record **32nd time**, breaking his own record for the highest number of Everest ascents.

SPORTS NEWS

India Settles for Bronze After Semifinal Exit in Thomas Cup 2026

- India's campaign in the **Thomas Cup 2026** ended with a **0–3 defeat against France in the semifinals**, resulting in a **bronze medal finish** in Horsens Denmark.

Badminton World Federation Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2026 Concluded in Denmark

- The **Badminton World Federation (BWF) Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2026** were held at **Horsens, Denmark**.

Rahul Dravid Becomes Owner of Dublin Franchise in European T20 Premier League

- **Rahul Dravid**, former Indian cricketer, has become the **owner of the Dublin franchise** in the **European T20 Premier League (ETPL)**

Apaar Saxena Earns International Master Title in Chess After Strong European Performances

- Indian chess player **Apaar Saxena** has been awarded the prestigious **International Master (IM) title** by the **Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)**.

International Olympic Committee Lifts Restrictions on Belarusian Athletes Ahead of Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has lifted restrictions on Belarusian athletes ahead of the **Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics**, while **Russia continues to remain under suspension**.

Faustino Oro Becomes Second Youngest Grandmaster in Chess History

- **Faustino Oro**, an Argentine chess prodigy, became the **second youngest Grandmaster in chess history** at the age of **12 years, 6 months, and 26 days**.

India's Women's Recurve Archery Team Wins Gold at Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai

- India's women's recurve archery team won a **historic gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 2** held in **Shanghai, People's Republic of China**.

Sahdev Yadav Elected President of South Asian Weightlifting Federation

- **Sahdev Yadav** has been elected as the **President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation**.

India Wins 27 Medals at Asian Boxing Under-15 Championships 2026

- **India delivered** an impressive performance at the **Asian Boxing Under-15 Championships 2026**, winning a total of **27 medals**, including **9 gold medals**.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Creates Indian Premier League History with Most Sixes by an Indian in a Single Season

- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** created history in the **Indian Premier League 2026** by becoming the Indian batter with the **highest number of sixes in a single season.**

Central Information Commission Rules Board of Control for Cricket in India Outside Right to Information Act

- The **Central Information Commission ruled that the Board of Control for Cricket** in India does

not fall under the scope of the **Right to Information Act, 2005**.

Italian Open 2026 Winners Announced

- **Elina Svitolina of Ukraine** won the **women's singles title** at the **Italian Open 2026** by defeating **Coco Gauff of the United States**.

East Bengal Win Indian Super League Title for First Time

- **East Bengal FC won** the **Indian Super League 2026 title** for the first time, ending a **22-year wait** for a top-tier **domestic league championship**.

Vijay Shankar Announces Retirement from Domestic Cricket and Indian Premier League

- Former **Indian all-rounder Vijay Shankar** has announced his retirement from **domestic cricket** and the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, bringing an end to a notable career in Indian cricket.

Gurindervir Singh Becomes Fastest Indian Sprinter with 10.09-Second Run

- Indian sprinter **Gurindervir Singh** became the fastest Indian ever in the men's **100-metre race** after clocking **10.09 seconds** at the **Federation Cup** in Ranchi.

Lionel Messi Joins Billionaire Club, Becomes Second Footballer to Cross $1 Billion Net Worth

- Football legend **Lionel Messi** officially entered the billionaire club and became only the **second footballer in history** after **Cristiano Ronaldo** to cross a **net worth of 1 billion United States Dollars**.

Swara Lakshmi Nair Becomes Karnataka's Second Women's International Master

- **Karnataka-based chess player Swara Lakshmi Nair** has earned the prestigious **Women's International Master (WIM)** title, becoming the **second player from Karnataka** to do so.

BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Title	Author	Key Details	Event Highlights
The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre	Tushar Mehta	Published by Rupa Publications India. Provides insights into legal practice, advocacy, and judicial proceedings through real-life experiences and anecdotes.	Released by Amit Shah at Bharat Mandapam.
The Lawful and the Awful	Tushar Mehta	Published by Rupa Publications India. Focuses on legal experiences,	Released by Amit Shah at Bharat Mandapam.

		courtroom proceedings, and advocacy-related anecdotes.	
Apnapan: Narendra Modi Sang Mere Anubhav	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Based on the author's decades-long political association and experiences with Narendra Modi.	Launched in New Delhi. Formally released by M. Venkaiah Naidu and H. D. Deve Gowda.

OBITUARIES

Name	Profession / Role	Native / Nationality
Gurbax Singh Grewal	Olympic Bronze Medal-winning Hockey Player	Indian
Vijay Kumar	Professional Golfer; Four-time Order of Merit Champion	Indian
Alex Zanardi (Alessandro Leone Zanardi)	Former Formula 1 Driver and Paralympic Champion	Italian
Ted Turner (Robert Edward Turner III)	CNN Founder, Media Mogul and Philanthropist	American
Mohan Singh	Former India Football Midfielder	Indian
Mal Anderson	Former World No. 2 Tennis Player	Australian
Sudhanshu Sil (Seal)	CPI(M) Leader and Former Member of Parliament	Indian
Shyam Lal Meena	Olympian Archer and Arjuna Award Recipient	Indian
Raja Randhir Singh	Shooter, Five-time Olympian and Sports Administrator	Indian

June Month Current Affairs

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme
1 June	World Milk Day	Theme 2026: Celebrating Women Farmers
1 June	Global Day of Parents	Theme 2026: Together for Parents
2 June	International Sex Workers' Day	Rights, dignity, safety, and working conditions of sex workers
2 June	Telangana Formation Day	Commemorates formation of Telangana as India's 29th state (2014)
3 June	World Bicycle Day	Theme 2026: Cycling for a Greener Future
4 June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	Raises awareness about children affected by violence and abuse
5 June	World Environment Day	Theme 2026: Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future.
7 June	World Food Safety Day	Theme 2026: From burden to solutions – safe food everywhere
8 June	World Brain Tumour Day	Theme 2026: A Closer Look
8 June	World Oceans Day	Theme 2026: Reimagining our Relationship with the Ocean
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour	Theme 2026: Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults
13 June	International Albinism Awareness Day	Rights, dignity, inclusion, and protection of persons with albinism
14 June	World Blood Donor Day	Theme 2026: One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives
15 June	Global Wind Day	Theme 2026: Our wind, our community
15 June	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Theme 2026: Beyond Awareness: Making Elder Abuse Prevention Work
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	Theme 2026: Restoring Land. Restoring Hope
18 June	Autistic Pride Day	Theme 2026: Recognition, Representation, and Reform

19 June	World Sickle Cell Awareness Day	Theme 2026: Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease.
19 June	World Sauntering Day	Encourages mindful walking, relaxation, and appreciation of nature
21 June	World Music Day	Celebrates music and promotes universal access to music
21 June	International Day of Yoga	Theme 2026: Yoga for Healthy Ageing
21 June	World Hydrography Day	Theme 2026: Transforming How Ocean Data Is Shared
23 June	International Widows' Day	Theme 2026: Invisible Women, Invisible Problems
23 June	United Nations Public Service Day	Theme 2026: Transforming Public Institutions: Advancing Innovation, Participation, and Inclusion
23 June	International Olympic Day	Theme 2026: You Can Do This! Let's Move
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	Theme 2026: World drug problem: persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses
30 June	International Asteroid Day	Theme 2026: Planetary Defence and Asteroid Impact Hazards.

BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

Centre Revises Export Duties on Petrol, Diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel for the Fortnight Starting June 1, 2026

- **Export levies** [Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) / Road and Infrastructure Cess (RIC)] on exports of **Petrol, Diesel, and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)** were introduced with effect from **27 March 2026**.

Government Grants Temporary Customs Duty Exemption on Cotton Imports Until October 31, 2026

- The Central Government has **temporarily exempted all customs duties on cotton imports** from **1 June 2026 to 31 October 2026**.

Taiwan Surpasses India to Emerge as the World's Fifth-Largest Stock Market

- **Taiwan Stock Exchange** surpassed **India** to become the **world's 5th largest stock market** by market capitalization in **2026**.

SEBI's National Institute of Securities Markets Collaborates with Galgotias University to Strengthen Industry-Oriented Financial Education

- **The National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM)**, an educational and capacity-building institution established by **SEBI**, has entered into a strategic partnership with **Galgotias University, Uttar Pradesh**, to strengthen learning in **securities markets, financial services, derivatives, fintech, and risk management**.

West Bengal Gramin Bank Partners with Canara HSBC Life Insurance to Expand Life Insurance Reach Across Rural and Semi-Urban West Bengal

- **West Bengal Gramin Bank (WBGB)**, one of India's largest Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), partnered with **Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited** to expand life insurance coverage across **rural and semi-urban areas of West Bengal**.

Bajaj Finserv Partners Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to Launch 'Finserv Intelligence' for Artificial Intelligence and Deep-Tech Innovation

- **Bajaj Finserv Limited (BFS)**, one of India's leading diversified financial services companies, in partnership with **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay**, has launched a new initiative called **"Bajaj Finserv Intelligence"** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Development Bank of Japan Joins Hands with HDFC Capital to Fund Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Projects in India

- Japanese financial institution **Development Bank of Japan (DBJ)** entered into a strategic partnership with **HDFC Capital Advisors Limited** to invest in **affordable and mid-income housing projects** in India.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Imposes ₹1 Crore Penalty on Nissan Renault Financial Services India for Violating Insurance Distribution and Motor Insurance Service Provider Norms

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** imposed a **penalty of ₹1 crore** on **Nissan Renault Financial Services India Private. Limited.** for violations related to **insurance distribution norms** and **Motor Insurance Service Provider (MISP) guidelines**.

Reserve Bank of India's FY26 Balance Sheet Grows 20.6% to Rs 91.97 Lakh Crore, Says Annual Report 2025–26

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released its **Annual Report 2025–26** and submitted it to the Central Government under **Section 53(2) of the RBI Act, 1934**.

Government of India Releases Provisional Unaudited Accounts for FY 2025–26

- The **Accounts of the Government of India** for the **Financial Year 2025–26 (Provisional/Unaudited)** have been consolidated and published, presenting key fiscal highlights.

Unified Payments Interface Extends Its Global Reach to Cambodia via KHQR Payment Integration

- **India and Cambodia** launched the **first phase** of a **cross-border QR payment linkage**, enabling Indian users to make digital payments in Cambodia using Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Karur Vysya Bank Introduces Four Premium Credit Cards on the Visa Network

- **Karur Vysya Bank Limited (KVB)** launched a new **premium credit card portfolio** on the **Visa platform** to strengthen its offerings for affluent and lifestyle-focused customers.

United States Becomes India's Second-Largest Foreign Direct Investment Source, Surpassing Mauritius with Over $11 Billion in Inflows

- The **United States (US)** overtook Mauritius to become the **second-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** into India in **FY 2025-26**.
- **Singapore** remained the **largest source of FDI** into India, accounting for nearly **one-third** of India's total equity inflows.

Government Unveils Reforms to Boost Foreign Portfolio Investment and Strengthen the Government Securities Market

- The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** announced a series of reforms to strengthen **India's position as a global investment destination**, deepen capital markets, and attract stable long-term foreign capital flows.

Asian Development Bank and Standard Chartered Partner to Boost Supply Chain Finance in India Through Risk-Sharing Agreements

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **Standard Chartered Bank** signed agreements to strengthen **Supply Chain Finance** in India through **risk-sharing arrangements**.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Revises India's FY27 GDP Growth Projection Upward to 6.3%

- **The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** released its latest report titled **"OECD Economic Outlook: Under Pressure – June 2026"**.

Reserve Bank of India's Currency Printing Expenditure Falls 23.5% to ₹4,875 Crore in FY26

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported that its **Currency Printing Expenditure declined by 23.5%**, falling from **₹6,372.8 Crore in FY25 to ₹4,875.2 Crore in FY26**.

State of India's Digital Economy 2026 Report Ranks India as the World's Fifth Most Digitalised Economy

- The **Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations–Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy (IPCIDE)** released the report **"State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) 2026"**.

BharatPe Introduces 'BharatPe Flex' Credit-on-UPI Service in Partnership with YES Bank

- **BharatPe**, a leading Financial Services and UPI Payments Company in India, launched **"BharatPe Flex"**, a new **Credit-on-UPI Solution**.
- **BharatPe Flex** is powered by **YES Bank Limited** and enables eligible customers to make UPI payments using a **pre-approved credit line**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹41.80 Lakh Monetary Penalty on Canara Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹41.80 lakh** on **Canara Bank** on **5 June 2026**.
- The penalty was imposed for **non-compliance** with RBI directions relating to **'Know Your Customer (KYC)' norms** and **'Unclaimed Deposits / Inoperative Accounts in Banks'**.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Introduces New 'StAR NPS' Solution for Efficient NPS Subscriber Onboarding

- **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, the statutory regulator under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, launched the **'StAR NPS' platform** to simplify and streamline the **National Pension System (NPS)** subscriber registration process.

Reserve Bank of India Maintains Key Policy Rates Unchanged in 2nd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Review

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** conducted the **61st and 2nd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Meeting** of **Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27)** from **3–5 June 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India to Expand Cross-Border Central Bank Digital Currency Pilots as Digital Rupee Trials Advance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** plans to expand **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** pilot projects in **FY27** by introducing new **Domestic and Cross-Border Use Cases**.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes One-Hour Cooling-Off Period for Digital Payments Above ₹10,000 to Curb Fraud

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed a **one-hour cooling-off period** for digital transactions **exceeding ₹10,000** to reduce online payment frauds.

₹500 Banknotes in Circulation Rise 11.2% in FY26, Reaching 7.05 Lakh Crore Pieces

- The volume of **₹500 denomination banknotes** in circulation **increased by 11.2% during FY26**, rising from 6,34,458 lakh pieces in FY25 to **7,05,482 lakh pieces**.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Holds Meeting with West Bengal Leader Suvendu Adhikari in New Delhi

- **Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman** met **Suvendu Adhikari** in New Delhi to discuss measures for accelerating **West Bengal's development** in line with the vision of Narendra Modi.

Government Unveils Reforms to Strengthen the Government Securities Market and Boost Foreign Portfolio Investor Participation

- The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** introduced major reforms to increase **Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI)** participation in **Government Securities (G-Secs)** and strengthen India's debt market.

State Bank of India Research Revises India's FY26 GDP Growth to 7.7% Following Strong Q4 Performance

- **State Bank of India (SBI) Research** released its latest **"Ecowrap" Report**, which projected **India's** Gross Domestic Product (GDP) **growth for** Financial Year 2025-26 **(FY26) at 7.7%**.

Reliance Industries Raises USD 625 Million Equivalent Through Samurai Loan

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** raised **JPY 91.9 billion (approximately USD 625 million)** through a **Samurai Loan**.

Reserve Bank of India Sets FY27 Regulatory Priorities on Customer Protection and Credit Ecosystem Enhancement

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has identified **Customer Protection** and **Strengthening the Credit Ecosystem** as its two key regulatory priorities for **FY27**.

India's Banking Sector Witnesses Sharp Increase in Fraud Value to ₹48,021 Crore in FY26

- India's banking sector reported **frauds worth ₹48,021 crore in FY26**, registering a **46% increase** over ₹32,694 crore in FY25, the **highest fraud amount recorded in the last three years**.

Reserve Bank of India Reports Robust Growth in Cash Transactions and Digital Payments During FY26

- An Reserve Bank of India (**RBI) survey** conducted among households and small retailers revealed that **cash remains the preferred mode of payment** in India despite the rapid growth of digital payment systems.

Reserve Bank of India Unveils Twin USD-Rupee Swap Schemes to Strengthen External Sector and Attract Forex Inflows

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced two special **USD-Rupee Forex Swap Facilities** to attract foreign currency inflows and support external financing in India.

International Finance Corporation-Led Investor Consortium Pledges USD 105 Million for Hygenco's Green Hydrogen Expansion

- The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, the private-sector investment arm of the World Bank Group, along with global investors, committed a total investment of approximately **USD 105 million** in **Hygenco Green Energies Private Limited**.

Reserve Bank of India Reports 20.6% Rise in Balance Sheet to ₹91.97 Lakh Crore

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported that its **balance sheet expanded by 20.6% to ₹91.97 lakh crore** as of **31 March 2026**, compared to ₹76.25 lakh crore a year earlier.

Government Mandates Directorate General of Foreign Trade Import Authorisation for Specified Silver Imports, Tightens Import Norms

- The **Government of India** has **tightened silver import regulations** by making a **valid import authorisation** from the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** mandatory for specified import channels.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs Expands Corporate Social Responsibility Framework Under Companies Act, 2013 to Include Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments

- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has brought **Social Stock Exchange (SSE) instruments** under the **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework**.

Viyona Fintech Receives National Payments Corporation of India Approval as Biller Operating Unit Under Bharat Bill Payment System

- **Viyona Fintech India Private Limited**, an National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)-certified Technology Service Provider, received certification as a **Biller Operating Unit (BOU)** under the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**.

Fitch Revises India's Financial Year 2026-27 Economic Growth Forecast Down to 6.4%

- **Fitch Ratings**, an American credit rating agency, released its **June 2026 Global Economic Outlook (GEO)** and revised **India's** Gross Domestic Product (**GDP) growth forecast**

for Financial Year 2026-27 **(FY27)** downward by **30 basis points (bps) to 6.4%**, from its earlier estimate of 6.7%.

Reserve Bank of India Recognises Sahamati Foundation as Self-Regulatory Organisation for the Account Aggregator Ecosystem

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** recognised **Sahamati Foundation** as the **Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)** for India's **Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem**, creating a formal industry-led governance framework for the country's **consent-based financial data-sharing network**.

India-Nepal Introduce Unified Payments Interface-National Payments Interface Cross-Border Remittance System to Enhance Financial Integration

- **India and Nepal** officially launched a **Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Cross-Border Remittance Mechanism** on **6 June 2026**.

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0 Surpasses One Lakh Guarantees, Extending Credit Protection of Over ₹48,000 Crore

- The **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0** was approved by the Union Cabinet on **05 May 2026** to provide additional credit support to businesses affected by the **West Asia Crisis**.

Government Prolongs Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 Tenure and Enhances Loan Ceiling for Microfinance Institutions

- The **Government of India (GoI)** has approved the extension of the **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions (CGSMFI-2.0)** until **31 August 2026** or until guarantees worth **₹20,000 Crore** are issued, whichever is earlier.

India Registers Current Account Surplus of US$7.1 Billion in January–March Quarter of FY26

- **India recorded a Current Account Surplus (CAS) of US$ 7.1 Billion**, equivalent to **0.7% of GDP**, during the **Fourth Quarter (Q4: January–March) of FY 2025-26**.

Reserve Bank of India Fines IIFL Samasta Finance ₹3.90 Lakh for Know Your Customer and Fraud Risk Management Violations

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **Monetary Penalty of ₹3.90 Lakh** on **IIFL Samasta Finance Limited** for violations of **Know Your Customer (KYC) Directions** and **Fraud Risk Management in NBFCs Directions**.

Bank of India Launches Strategic Business Branch in Mumbai to Boost Digital and Partnership-Based Financing

- **Bank of India (BOI)** inaugurated a dedicated **Strategic Business Branch (SBB)** at **Nariman Point, Mumbai, Maharashtra** to strengthen its **Digital and Partnership-Led Financing Business**.

Professional Forecasters Peg FY27 Economic Growth at 6.5%, Marginally Lower Than RBI Estimate

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Survey of Professional Forecasters (SPF)** projected **India's Real GDP Growth at 6.5% for FY 2026-27 (FY27)**.

Reserve Bank of India Introduces Swap Window for External Commercial Borrowings and Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) Deposits

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced **Two Major Liquidity Management Measures**: a **US Dollar–Rupee Swap Facility for External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)** and a **Swap Window for Fresh Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] Deposits**.

Reserve Bank of India Evaluating Proposal for Polymer Currency Notes, Final Decision Yet to Be Taken: Governor Sanjay Malhotra

- **Sanjay Malhotra**, **Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, stated that the proposal to introduce **Polymer Banknotes** in India is currently under consideration and is at a **Preliminary Evaluation Stage**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Grants Final Approval to Nuvama Wealth Management for Mutual Fund Operations

- **Nuvama Wealth Management Limited** received **Final Approval** from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to commence **Mutual Fund (MF) Operations** through its asset management arm, **Nuvama Asset Management Limited**.

World Bank Upgrades India's FY27 Economic Growth Projection to 6.6%

- The **World Bank (WB)** released the **Global Economic Prospects (GEP), June 2026** report and raised **India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026-27 (FY27)** by 10 basis points (bps) **to 6.6%**, up from 6.5% projected in January 2026.

Bandhan Bank Partners with Centrum Finverse to Launch Integrated 3-in-1 Banking, Demat and Trading Account

- **Bandhan Bank** has partnered with **Centrum Finverse Ltd** to launch an integrated **3-in-1 Account** that combines **Banking, Demat, and Trading Services** on a single platform.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Third Amendment Directions Revising Bank Lending Framework for Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Third Amendment Directions, 2026** to regulate **Bank Lending** to **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** while strengthening **Risk Management** and **Exposure Norms**.

National Stock Exchange Earmarks 10% of Corporate Social Responsibility Corpus for Social Stock Exchange-Listed Initiatives

- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has decided to allocate **10% of its annual Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) corpus** to projects listed on the **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes Six-Month Curbs on Mogaveera Co-operative Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed several **restrictions on Mogaveera Co-operative Bank Limited**, based in **Mumbai**, for a period of **6 months**.

India Receives Record USD 110.47 Billion in Remittances from Overseas Workers in FY26

- **Indian workers abroad** sent home a **record USD 110.47 billion** in remittances during **FY26 (2025–26)**, making India the **first country to receive more than USD 100 billion** in workers' remittances in a single year.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Updates Exchange Traded Funds Trading Rules, Replaces Fixed Limits with Dynamic Bands

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has revised the trading framework for **Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)** by introducing dynamic price bands, a new base price determination methodology, and a pre-open call auction mechanism.

Reserve Bank of India Survey Shows Decline in Consumer Confidence Across Urban and Rural India in May 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released its latest **Consumer Confidence Survey**, which showed a **decline in consumer confidence** in both urban and rural areas in **May 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Notifies Master Directions on Payment System Operator Authorisation Framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **Master Directions on Authorisation to Operate a Payment System** to create a comprehensive regulatory framework under the **Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007**.

YES Bank and Northern Arc Capital Join Hands to Expand Credit Access and Digital Lending

- **YES Bank Limited** (Indian private sector bank) and **Northern Arc Capital Limited** (a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC)) have formed a **strategic partnership** to expand **formal credit access, digital lending**, and **investment opportunities** in India.

Reserve Bank of India Introduces 'RBI Reelathon 2026' to Raise Cyber Fraud Awareness Among Students in Kerala

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** launched **"RBI Reelathon 2026"**, a statewide **cyber fraud awareness campaign** across approximately **150 colleges in Kerala**.

Bank of Baroda Launches 'bob Golden Goal Deposit Scheme' with Interest Rates up to 7.40%

- **Bank of Baroda (BOB)** has launched the **bob Golden Goal Deposit Scheme**, a **555-day retail term deposit scheme** for deposits **below ₹3 crore**.

Reserve Bank of India Eases Capital Requirements for Banks on Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0-Backed Loans

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **relaxed capital requirements** for banks under loans backed by the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0)**.

National Stock Exchange Indices Expands Portfolio with 11 New Sectoral Indices, Total Count Rises to 34

- The **NSE Indices Limited**, a subsidiary of the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, has expanded its index portfolio by launching **11 new sector-specific indices**.

National Financial Sector Launches ARIFAC Platform to Strengthen AML/CFT Framework in India

- India's financial sector has launched a national industry platform called the **Alliance of Reporting Entities in AML/CFT (ARIFAC)** to strengthen the country's **Anti-Money Laundering (AML)** and **Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT)** framework.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Introduces Faster Mechanism for Share Transfer to Deceased Investors' Heirs

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approved a set of **market reforms** aimed at improving efficiency, transparency, investor convenience, and regulatory compliance in India's capital markets.

Asian Development Bank Partners with Schoolnet India Limited for USD 10 Mn Digital Learning Infrastructure Project in India

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **USD 10 million financing package** with **Schoolnet India Limited (SIL)** to strengthen **digital learning infrastructure** in government schools across India.

Axis Bank–Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani Sign Agreement for ₹100 Crore Industry Research and Innovation Park in Hyderabad

- **Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani** and **Axis Bank Limited** signed an agreement to establish the **Axis Bank–BITS Industry Research, Technology and Innovation Park** at the **Hyderabad Campus, Telangana**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Forms 7-Member Artificial Intelligence Working Group Under Prof. Sandeep Shukla to Oversee AI Governance in Insurance Sector

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** constituted a **7-member Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (WG-AI)** under the chairmanship of **Prof. Sandeep K. Shukla, Director of IIIT Hyderabad**, to guide adoption, governance, and oversight of **AI technologies in the insurance sector**.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited Elevated from Miniratna-I to Navratna Status by Department of Public Enterprises

- The **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance (MoF)** has upgraded **Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)** from **Miniratna Category-I to Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) status**.

BSE Introduces India's First Ethical Investing Index 'BSE Saatvik 100' to Promote Value-Based Investing

- **BSE Index Services Private Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**, launched India's first **"Saatvik 100 Index"** to promote **ethical and value-based investing**.

Federal Bank Introduces FCNR Max Deposit Scheme Offering 6.25% Interest on USD Deposits for Non-Resident Indians

- **Federal Bank Limited** launched the **FCNR Max Deposit Scheme**, a special **Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposit product** for **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)**.

Reserve Bank of India Calls on Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies to Leverage Digital Public Infrastructure to Enhance Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Credit Access

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has urged banks and **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** to use India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** to expand **credit access to** Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Zerodha Fund House Launches India's First Target-Date (Lifecycle) Mutual Funds for 2036 and 2041

- **Zerodha Fund House**, India's first passive-only, direct-only Asset Management Company (AMC), launched **India's first Lifecycle (Target-Date) Mutual Funds**.

World Bank Approves $1.5 Billion Financing for India to Boost Private Sector Job Creation and Economic Growth Reforms

- The **World Bank's Board of Executive Directors** approved **$1.5 billion financing for India** to support **structural reforms for private sector-led job creation** and economic growth.

Launch Biodegradable Co-Branded Twin Credit Cards in India

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, a leading Public Sector Bank (PSB) of India, has partnered with **Zaggle Prepaid Ocean Services Limited** to launch biodegradable **"PNB–Zaggle Co-branded Twin Credit Cards"**.

Reserve Bank of India Exempts Collateral Requirement for Agriculture Loans up to ₹2 Lakh and Revises Lead Bank Scheme

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** directed banks to **exempt agricultural and allied sector loans up to ₹2 lakh** per borrower from **collateral security and margin requirements** under the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Revised Kisan Credit Card Framework for Uniform Implementation Across Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has revamped the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme**, introducing a **standardised crop season definition** to ensure **uniform loan processing and repayment**.

National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bharat Metal Exchange Partner to Boost Non-Ferrous Metal Derivatives Market in India

- The **National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Bharat Metal Exchange (BME)** to promote the development and adoption of **non-ferrous metal derivatives** in India.

International Finance Corporation Commits USD 371 Million to Sify Infinit Spaces for AI-Ready Green Data Centre Expansion in India

- The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, the private-sector arm of the **World Bank Group (WBG)**, pledged **USD 371 million** to **Sify Infinit Spaces Limited (SISL)**.

World Bank Sanctions ₹4,000 Crore Funding for Haryana's Jal Sanrakshit Haryana Water Conservation Project

- The **World Bank** approved a **₹4,000 crore loan** for Haryana's **'Jal Sanrakshit Haryana' Project**, aimed at making the state water-secure and self-reliant in the water sector.

Reserve Bank of India Introduces Updated Trade Receivables Discounting System Framework with Easier Entry for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Sellers

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **"RBI (Trade Receivables Discounting System) Directions, 2026"** to **simplify onboarding** for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** and strengthen **invoice financing**.

Reserve Bank of India Introduces New Compensation Framework for Digital Payment Fraud Victims Under RBI (Commercial Banks – Responsible Business Conduct) Third Amendment Directions, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued the **Responsible Business Conduct Third Amendment Directions, 2026** to introduce a **revised compensation framework** for victims of **fraudulent Electronic Banking Transactions (EBTs)**.

RBI Revises Non-Banking Financial Companies-Upper Layer Identification Norms and Includes Government-Owned NBFCs Under Upper Layer Framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has revised the **Scale-Based Regulatory (SBR) Framework** for **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** to simplify the identification of **NBFC-Upper Layer (NBFC-UL)** entities.

Skydo Becomes First Indian Cross-Border Payments Firm to Secure Canada Approval

- **Skydo**, an Indian **Business-to-Business (B2B)** cross-border payments platform, secured an **international payment license in Canada**, marking its first regulatory approval outside India.

S&P Global Cuts India's Financial Year 2026-27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast to 6.6%

- **Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings** released its **Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q3 2026** report titled **"AI (Artificial Intelligence)-Exposed Markets to Outperform."**

Reserve Bank of India Introduces Credit Derivatives Directions, 2026 with Expanded Risk Management Measures

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued the **"Master Directions – RBI (Credit Derivatives) Directions, 2026"** to deepen India's **corporate bond market** and expand the range of **credit risk-management tools** available to market participants.

Paisabazaar Partners with SBM Bank India to Launch SBM Paisabazaar Paisa+ Credit Card

- **Paisabazaar**, India's largest financial marketplace, in partnership with **SBM Bank (India) Limited**, has launched the **SBM Paisabazaar Paisa+ Credit Card**, a **Fixed Deposit (FD)-backed secured credit card**.
- The **SBM Paisabazaar Paisa+ Credit Card** is designed to help users **build or improve their credit profile** while earning **cashback rewards** on everyday spending.

LEXI Granted In-Principle Approval by International Financial Services Centres Authority to Offer Cross-Border Payment Services from GIFT-IFSC

- **LEXI Money IFSC Private Limited (LEXI)**, an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered trade and payments platform**, has received **in-principle approval** from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** to operate as a **Payment Service Provider (PSP)** at **GIFT-IFSC**.

National Payments Corporation of India Approves jUMPP as Third Party Application Provider for UPI Payments

- **jUMPP**, an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven fintech platform**, has received approval from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to operate as a **Third Party Application Provider (TPAP)**.

Goldman Sachs Upgrades India's 2026 Economic Growth Outlook to 6.8%

- **Goldman Sachs**, an American financial services firm, released its latest report titled **"India: Improved Macro Outlook after the United States–Iran Deal"**, raising India's **Calendar Year 2026 (CY26) Real** Gross Domestic Product **(GDP) Growth Forecast to 6.8%**.

Amazon Announces USD 48 Billion Investment in India to Boost Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Infrastructure

- **Amazon**, an American multinational technology company, announced an investment of **USD 48 billion** in India during **2026–2030** to strengthen its **e-commerce, Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and logistics** businesses.

Asian Development Bank Sanctions USD 42.2 Million for Bamboo Development in Northeast India

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a **USD 42.2 million Small Expenditure Financing Facility (SEFF)** to support the **bamboo industry** in India's **North Eastern Region (NER)**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Canada Proposes New Legislation to Ban Social Media Accounts for Children Below 16

- **Canada** has introduced new **digital safety legislation** that could prohibit **children below 16 years of age** from having **social media accounts** unless companies can demonstrate that their platforms are **safe for young users**.

Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal Concludes Official Visit to India, Strengthening Bilateral Cooperation

- **Shisir Khanal**, **Foreign Minister of Nepal**, paid a **3-day official visit to India** from **5–7 June 2026** at the invitation of **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, **Union Minister of External Affairs (MEA)**.

Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodríguez Visits India to Strengthen Energy Ties

- **Delcy Eloína Rodríguez Gómez, Acting President of Venezuela**, paid a **5-day working visit to India** from **3–7 June 2026** with a primary focus on strengthening **India–Venezuela energy cooperation**.

AUKUS Nations Launch Joint Underwater Drone Programme to Strengthen Maritime Defence Capabilities

- The **AUKUS security alliance** comprising **Australia**, the **United Kingdom (UK)**, and the **United States of America (USA)** launched a **joint underwater drone programme** under **AUKUS Pillar Two**.

United Nations General Assembly Elects Five New Non-Permanent Members to the UN Security Council

- The **United Nations General Assembly** elected **Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe** as **Non-Permanent Members** of the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**.

Government Constitutes High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes and Illegal Immigration

- **Government of India** constituted a **High-Level Committee** to study demographic changes arising from **illegal immigration and other abnormal reasons**, and recommend measures to address them.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Releases National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6)

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** released the **National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6)**, conducted during **2023-24**.

Kempegowda International Airport Becomes India's Second-Busiest Domestic Airport

- **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru** has overtaken **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai** to become **India's second-busiest domestic airport**.

Indian Railways Unveils New 18-Star Logo as South Coast Railway Becomes 18th Railway Zone

- **Indian Railways** unveiled a redesigned logo featuring **18 red stars**, marking the creation of **South Coast Railway (SCoR)** as India's **18th Railway Zone**, effective **1 June 2026**.

Supreme Court Constitutes Committee to Prepare Yamuna Action Plan

- Supreme Court Bench comprising **Justice Manoj Misra** and **Justice Manmohan** constituted a committee to prepare a **Yamuna Action Plan**.
- Committee to be headed by the **Union Home Secretary**.

India Provides Emergency Medical Assistance to Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention for Ebola Response

- India has provided emergency medical assistance to the **Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)** to support efforts against the ongoing Ebola outbreak in Africa.

West Bengal Government Begins Enrolment for Annapurna Yojana

- The **Government of West Bengal** has begun the enrolment process for the **Annapurna Yojana**.

Dr Jitendra Singh Participates in 150-Year Celebrations of Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science in Kolkata

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology **Dr Jitendra Singh** participated in the **150-year celebrations of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)** in Kolkata.

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances Launches Portal for National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment) 2025

- The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances** has launched the **Portal for National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment, 2025**

NITI Aayog Releases Roadmap for India's Semiconductor Industry Till 2035

- **NITI Aayog** has released a roadmap report titled **"Future of India's Semiconductor Industry"**, outlining a vision for the sector up to 2035.

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Becomes First Company Approved Under Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded Industrial Training Institutes Scheme

- **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India** has become the first company to receive approval for a **Strategic Investment Plan** under the **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded Industrial Training Institutes (PM-SETU) Scheme**.

Sarbananda Sonowal Launches Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) for FY25

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched the **Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) for FY25** during the 37th Foundation Day celebrations of the **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** in Mumbai.

Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi Scheme Completes Six Years of Implementation

- The **Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme** completed **six years of operation in June 2026**.

India to Host 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum 2026 in New Delhi

- **India** will host the **13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum** on **11–12 June 2026** in **New Delhi**.

India's Seafood Exports Reach Record High in Financial Year 2025-26

- India's **seafood exports** reached an **all-time high** in **Financial Year 2025-26**, recording **19,72,018 Metric Tonnes** valued at **₹73,890.46 crore (8.46 billion United States dollars)**.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Facilitates India's First Export of Botanical-Infused Millet Functional Foods to New Zealand

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated **India's first-ever export of botanical-infused ready-to-cook millet functional foods** to **New Zealand**.

Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary Becomes India's 100th Ramsar Site

- **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)** in **Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh**, has been designated as **India's 100th Ramsar Site.**

University of Liverpool Receives Approval to Establish Campus in Bengaluru

- The **University of Liverpool**, one of the United Kingdom's leading universities, has received a **Letter of Approval (LoA)** from the **Ministry of Education** to establish its campus in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

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Food Safety and Standards Authority of India Introduces Standardized Vegan Logo for Food Products

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has introduced a **standardized vegan logo** for approved vegan food products in India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates First World Yogasana Championship 2026

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **First World Yogasana Championship 2026** in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat** through a video message.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Launches 'Navachar Mantra' to Support Grassroots Innovators

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** launched **Navachar Mantra** at **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**.
- The initiative was launched by **Jayant Chaudhary**.

Chandigarh University Becomes First Private University to Establish IndiaAI Data Lab with Intel India

- **Chandigarh University** has become the **first private university in India** to establish an **IndiaAI Data Lab** in collaboration with **Intel India.**

World Economic Forum Features 9 Indian Companies in 2026 Technology Pioneers Group

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** released its **2026 Technology Pioneers Cohort**, recognizing **100 early-stage companies from 23 countries** for driving transformative innovations across multiple sectors.

Uzbekistan Becomes 10th Member and Shareholder of New Development Bank After Ratifying Articles of Agreement

- The **Republic of Uzbekistan** has officially become the **10th member and shareholder** of the **New Development Bank (NDB)** after ratifying the **NDB Articles of Agreement (AoA)**.

Highlights of 52nd G7 Summit Held in Évian-les-Bains, France (June 15–17, 2026)

- The **52nd Group of Seven (G7) Summit** was held from **15–17 June 2026** in **Évian-les-Bains, Haute-Savoie, France**, under the **French Presidency** led by **President Emmanuel Macron**.

15 Countries Adopt Mombasa Declaration to Strengthen Global Fight Against Illegal Fishing

- The **Mombasa Declaration** was adopted by **15 countries** from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific to strengthen global efforts against **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing**.

Bangladesh Becomes 27th Member of the International Big Cat Alliance

- **Bangladesh** joined the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** on **24 June 2026**, becoming the **27th member nation** of the alliance.

United States Announces USD 482.2 Million Support Package for India's Apache and M777A2 Systems

- The **Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)** of the United States of America (USA) notified the proposed sale of **sustainment support services and related equipment** for India's **AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters** and **M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers**.

35 Countries Adopt AI Statement to Strengthen Trusted Supply Chains at Pax Silica Summit

- **Thirty-five (35) countries**, including **India**, signed the **Statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, a **United States of America (USA)-led initiative** aimed at building **trusted and resilient supply chains** to support AI technologies.

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Ministry of Home Affairs Notifies Immigration and Foreigners (Amendment) Rules, 2026

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has notified the **Immigration and Foreigners (Amendment) Rules, 2026**, with immediate effect.

India Becomes World's Second-Largest Solar Growth Market in 2025: International Renewable Energy Agency Report

- According to the **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**, India became the **world's second-largest solar growth market** in 2025 for the first time.

Government Revises Wholesale Price Index Base Year to 2022-23; Introduces Producer Price Indices (PPI)

- The Government of India has approved the revision of the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** base year from **2011-12 to 2022-23**.

Gujarat Police Launches 'Operation Delta Hunt' Against Illegal Bangladeshi Nationals

- The **Gujarat State Police** launched **"Operation Delta Hunt"**, a statewide crackdown against illegal Bangladeshi nationals residing in the state.
- The operation was announced by **Harsh Sanghavi**.

Government Wheat Procurement Reaches 5-Year High of 35 Million Tonnes in 2026-27

- The **Government of India procured 35 million tonnes (MT)** of wheat during the **2026-27 Rabi Marketing Season (RMS)**, marking a **5-year high**.

India's First Model Border Village to be Developed at Chumur in Ladakh

- Lieutenant Governor **Vinai Kumar Saxena** laid the foundation stone for **India's first Model Border Village** at **Chumur** under the **Vibrant Village Programme (VVP)**.

New Regional Meteorological Centre Inaugurated in Lucknow

- Union Minister **Shri Jitendra Singh** and Chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, S**hri Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the new **Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC)** in Lucknow, Uttar pradesh.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan (PMSMA) Completes 10 Years

- The **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan (PMSMA)** has completed **10 years** of providing quality antenatal healthcare services to pregnant women across India.

Maternal Health Schemes

- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):** Promotes institutional deliveries
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK):** Provides free healthcare services for mothers and newborns

Indore to Host BRICS Agriculture Working Group and Ministerial Meeting 2026

- In**dore, Madhya Pradesh, w**ill host the **BRICS Agriculture Working Group and Agriculture Ministers Meeting** from **9–13 June 2026** under India's BRICS Presidency.

India Secures Continued European Union Market Access for Aquaculture Products, Honey, Eggs and Animal Casings

- India has secured continued market access to the **European Union (EU)** for **aquaculture products, honey, eggs, and animal casings** beyond **September 2026**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates New Terminal Building at NAMO Airport, Daman

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **new terminal building of NAMO Airport, Daman**.
- The project aims to enhance **air connectivity, passenger convenience, tourism, and economic development** in the Union Territory of **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu**.

Delhi Gets 18 Namo Oxygen Parks Under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign

- On **World Environment Day 2026 (5 June)**, **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav** and **Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta** inaugurated **18 Namo Oxygen Parks** across Delhi.

India's 7th Regional Meteorological Centre Inaugurated in Jammu

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC)** in **Jammu**.

India Launches E85 Fuel to Reduce Oil Imports and Promote Green Mobility

- India has launched **E85 fuel**, a petrol blend containing approximately **85% ethanol and 15% petrol**, to reduce dependence on imported crude oil and promote cleaner transportation.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute Report 2026: India Widens Nuclear Lead Over Pakistan with 190 Warheads

- The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2026** has reported that India's nuclear arsenal has increased to an estimated **190 warheads**, compared to Pakistan's estimated **170 warheads**.

West Bengal Set to Become 36th State/Union Territory to Implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- **West Bengal** is set to become the **36th State/Union Territory** to implement the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**.

National Zoological Park Launches 'NZP Saathi App' and Self-Ticketing Kiosks

- The **National Zoological Park (NZP), New Delhi**, has launched the **'NZP Saathi App'** and **Self-Ticketing Kiosks** to enhance visitor convenience and improve the overall zoo experience.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Visit France and Slovakia; Participate in G7 Summit and VivaTech 2026

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will undertake a **six-day visit to France and Slovakia from 13–18 June 2026** to strengthen India's strategic partnerships with European countries.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Launches Land Port Management System (LPMS) 'VINIMAY'

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the **Land Port Management System (LPMS) 'VINIMAY'** in New Delhi.

Uttar Pradesh Launches 'Project Ganga' to Expand Rural High-Speed Internet Connectivity

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** launched **'Project Ganga'** to provide high-speed internet connectivity in rural **areas and bridge the digital divide.**

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Flags Off First Commercial Export of Fresh Amrapali Mangoes from Jharkhand to the United Kingdom

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** flagged off the **first commercial**

consignment of fresh mangoes from Jharkhand to the United Kingdom (UK) at a ceremony held in Kolkata.

West Bengal Becomes Final State/Union Territory to Implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- The Government **of West Bengal** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Health Authority (NHA)** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** for the implementation of **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**.

Union Government Announces ₹95,692 Crore Interim Allocation Under Viksit Bharat – Gramin Bharat Initiative

- Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** chaired a meeting of State Rural Development Ministers through video conferencing regarding the implementation of **Viksit Bharat – Gramin Bharat (VBG)**.

11th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting Held Under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** chaired the **11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog** at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi**.

IIT Bhubaneswar Develops 'ArsenSafe' Portable Device for Detecting Arsenic in Drinking Water

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar** developed **'ArsenSafe'**, a portable device capable of detecting **arsenic contamination in drinking water without the need for laboratory facilities**.

Air India Launches First "Easy Connect" Flights Under Hub-and-Spoke Aviation Model

- **Air India** has launched its first **"Easy Connect" flights** under the Government of India's **hub-and-spoke aviation model**, with services from **Varanasi scheduled to commence on 25 June 2026**.

Assam Launches First "Blue Valley Cluster" for Flavours, Fragrances and AYUSH Sector

- **Assam's first "Blue Valley Cluster"**, an industrial hub focused on **flavours, fragrances, and AYUSH**, was launched in the presence of the **Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to India, Hervé Delphin**, and **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma**.

Andhra Pradesh Launches "Yogandhra-2026" Statewide Yoga Promotion and Awareness Campaign

- The **Government of Andhra Pradesh** launched **"Yogandhra-2026"**, a statewide **yoga promotion and awareness campaign**, at the **Veerabhadra Swamy Temple premises in Lepakshi, Sri Sathya Sai district**.

Ministry of Education Issues 3 Letters of Approval to Foreign Universities to Establish Campuses in India

- The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** has issued **3 Letters of Approval (LoAs)** to three globally reputed **Foreign Higher Education Institutions (FHEIs)—University of Bristol, University of York, and University of New South Wales (UNSW)**—to establish campuses in India.

Odisha Cabinet Approves Restoration of Original Odia Names for 64 Places

- The **Government of Odisha** approved the restoration of the **original Odia names of 64 places** spread across **26 districts** of the state.

Government Releases Draft Telecommunications (Television, Radio and Associated Services) Rules, 2026

- The **Government of India** released the **draft Telecommunications (Television, Radio and Associated Services) Rules, 2026** to establish a **common regulatory framework for television and radio broadcasting services** across the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron to Inaugurate Bharat Innovates 2026 in France

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and French President **Emmanuel Macron** are set to jointly inaugurate **Bharat Innovates 2026** at the **Palais des Expositions in Nice, France**.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research Launches India's First AI-Based WhatsApp Tool "Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra" for Farmers

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** launched India's first **AI-based WhatsApp tool "Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra"** to provide **timely, research-based advisory services to oilseed farmers in multiple languages**.

Ministry of Textiles Selects 96 Companies Under Third Round of Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Textiles

- The **Ministry of Textiles** has selected **96 companies** under the **third round of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles** with a total **investment commitment of ₹12,822.67 crore** and a projected **turnover of ₹58,294.18 crore**.

Four Traditional Products of Jharkhand Receive Geographical Indication Tag

- **Four traditional products of Jharkhand — Bhagaiya Silk, Kuchai Silk, Munda Jewellery and Jharkhand Bamboo Craft** — have received the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**.

Pluvicto: India's First Approved Radioligand Therapy for Advanced Prostate Cancer

- **India has entered a new phase of precision cancer treatment** with the launch of **Pluvicto**, the country's **first regulatory authority-approved Radioligand Therapy** for advanced prostate cancer.

Integrated Aqua Park and National Fisheries Development Board Regional Centre to Boost Fisheries in Bihar

- **Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh** and **Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Samrat Choudhary** will lay the foundation stone of the **Integrated Aqua Park at Bhojpur** and inaugurate the **National Fisheries Development Board Regional Centre at Patna**.

Department of Posts Launches Drone-Based Mail Delivery Service in Himachal Pradesh

- The **Department of Posts** has launched a **drone-based mail transmission service** in **Himachal Pradesh**, enabling the transport of mail and parcels between **Mandi Head Post Office** and **Rehardhar Branch Post Office**.

Great Indian Bustard Conservation Breeding Programme Reaches 94 Birds

- India's conservation efforts for the **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** achieved a major milestone with the addition of **three new chicks** to the **Project Great Indian Bustard conservation breeding programme**, announced by **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav**.

India Introduces First Railway Tunnel Hood Technology in Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project

- India's **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project** achieved a major engineering milestone with the deployment of the country's first **railway tunnel hood technology**.

16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers Meeting Concludes in Indore; Joint Declaration Adopted

- The **16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers Meeting** was held **in Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, under India's Presidency.

India and France Launch India-France Atal Tinkering Lab Bridge to Promote Young Innovators

- **India and France** launched the **India-France Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) Bridge** under the **India-France Year of Innovation 2026** to strengthen cooperation in innovation, education and entrepreneurship.

India Introduces Revised Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Series with Base Year 2022-23 and Launches Producer Price Indices (PPIs)

- **India has introduced** the revised **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** series with the base year **2022-23**, replacing the earlier **2011-12** series.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Temporarily Restricts Telegram Access Ahead of NEET (UG) 2026 Re-examination

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** temporarily restricted access to the **Telegram** messaging platform across India until **22 June 2026**.

19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2026 Begins in Mumbai

- The **19th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2026** commenced **in Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Navi Mumbai and Guwahati Airports Featured in Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airports List 2026

- **Navi Mumbai International Airport (Terminal 1)** and **Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati (Terminal 2)** have been included in the prestigious **Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airports List 2026**.

Odisha Approves ₹76,612 Crore Investment Proposals Across 20 Projects

- The **High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA)** of Odisha, chaired by Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi**, approved investment proposals worth **₹76,611.86 crore** across **20 projects**.

Government Approves ₹22 Crore Assistance for 9 Startups Under National Green Hydrogen Mission; Launches Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India

- The **Central Government approved ₹22 crore in financial assistance** for **nine startups** under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)**.

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet Clears Appointments for Chairperson and Members of National Statistical Commission

- The **National Statistical Commission (NSC)** was established in **2005** as a **nodal body** for coordinating all **core statistical activities in India**.

Prime Minister to Launch India's First Commercial Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Plant in Jharsuguda, Odisha

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will lay the foundation stone of a **₹25,016 crore Coal Gasification Project** at **Lakhanpur, Jharsuguda district, Odisha** on **20 June 2026**.
-

Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi Launches Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things-Enabled Smart Warehousing System to Modernise Foodgrain Storage in India

- The **Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)** under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched the **Smart Warehousing System** for foodgrain storage at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.

Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi to Lay Foundation Stone and Inaugurate New Testing Facilities at National Test House

- **The Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi** (Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; New & Renewable Energy) will visit the **National Test House (NTH), Western Region, Mumbai** on **19 June 2026**.

Maharashtra Approves High-Energy Medical Cyclotron Project in Nagpur

- The **Maharashtra Cabinet** has approved the establishment of the **High-Energy Medical Cyclotron Project (HEMCP)** in **Nagpur** with an estimated investment of **₹300 crore** to strengthen cancer diagnosis and treatment infrastructure in Central India.

Supreme Court Declares Right to Walk on Safe Footpaths a Fundamental Right

- The **Supreme Court of India** has ruled that the right to walk on safe and demarcated footpaths is a **Fundamental Right** guaranteed under the Constitution of India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Lay Foundation Stone of India's First Commercial-Scale Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project in Odisha

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to lay the foundation stone of India's first commercial-scale **Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project** at **Lakhanpur in Jharsuguda district, Odisha**.

National Highways Authority of India Launches Rajasthan's First Multi-Lane Free Flow Tolling System

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has launched Rajasthan's first **Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF)** tolling system at **Daulatpura Toll Plaza** on the **Delhi–Jaipur section of National Highway-48 (NH-48)**.

Four Traditional Products of Assam Receive Geographical Indication Tag

- Four traditional products of Assam — **Karbi Anglong Handloom Products, Assam Bihu Pepa, Assam Bamboo Crafts and Deuri Handloom Products** — have received the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**.

Ladakh Establishes Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature (SHAN) Conservation Society

- Lieutenant Governor **Vinai Kumar Saxena** approved the constitution of the **Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature (SHAN) Conservation Society** in Ladakh.

National Green Hydrogen Mission Approves ₹22 Crore Support for 9 Startups

- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution **Pralhad Joshi** approved the **first batch of ₹22 crore support** for **9 startups** under the **₹100 crore Startup Support Programme** of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)**.

Khurasani Imli of Madhya Pradesh Receives Geographical Indication Tag

- **Khurasani Imli** from **Mandu in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh**, has been awarded the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**.

West Bengal Budget 2026-27 Presented with Outlay of ₹4.38 Lakh Crore

- The **Government of West Bengal** presented a **₹4.38 lakh crore Budget for 2026-27**, focusing on employment generation, infrastructure development, women's welfare, education and social security.

India to Host BRICS National Security Advisers Meeting 2026

- **India will host** the **two-day BRICS National Security Advisers (NSA) Meeting** under its BRICS Presidency.

North East's Largest Organic Spice Processing Unit Inaugurated in Meghalaya

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** and Minister of Corporate Affairs, along with **Conrad K. Sangma**, Chief Minister of Meghalaya, and **Prem Singh Tamang**, Chief Minister of Sikkim, inaugurated the **North East's largest organic spice processing unit** at **Lumdaitkhla, Bhoirymbong, Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya**.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Approves ₹150 Crore for India's First Private Hybrid Second-Generation Ethanol Biorefinery

- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)** approved **₹150 crore** financial assistance for India's first private-sector **91 Kilo Litres Per Day (KLPD) Hybrid Second-Generation (2G) Ethanol Biorefinery** at **Wave Sugar, Dhanaura, Uttar Pradesh**.

India Becomes World's Leading Ship Recycling Nation in 2025

- The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** announced that India became the **world's leading ship recycling nation in 2025**.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority Emerges as Model for Sustainable Maritime Development

- Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPS&W**), announced that **V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VOCPA)** has emerged as a model for sustainable maritime development in India.

Bengaluru Hosts BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) Meeting 2026

- India is hosting the **BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) Meeting 2026** in Bengaluru, bringing together senior representatives and heads of space agencies from all **11 BRICS member countries**.

Rajasthan Constitutes Five-Member Committee to Draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

- The **Government of Rajasthan** has constituted a **five-member committee** to prepare a draft law for the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** in the state.

Kerala Government Presents Revised Budget for Financial Year 2026-27

- **Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan**, who also holds the **Finance portfolio**, presented the **Revised Budget for Financial Year 2026-27** in the **Kerala Legislative Assembly** at **Thiruvananthapuram**.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited Granted Navratna Status

- The **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** upgraded **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited** from **Miniratna Category-I** to **Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** status.

Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme in Focus over Tungabhadra Water-Sharing Dispute

- The **Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS)** is an interstate irrigation project built across the **Tungabhadra River**, a major tributary of the **Krishna River**.

Government Revises Passport Fees Effective from 1 July 2026

- The **Government of India** revised the **passport fee structure** with effect from **1 July 2026**, marking the **first revision since 2012**.

India Plans Seven New Bullet Train Corridors; National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited to Develop Indigenous B35 Train

- The **National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)** is planning to expand India's high-speed rail network through **seven proposed bullet train corridors** connecting major metropolitan cities.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Introduces New Regulations for Domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas Consumers

- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** introduced new regulations for domestic **Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)** consumers under the **Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Amendment Order, 2026** and the **Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026**.

Gujarat's Mukhyamantri Kisan Sahay Yojana Provides Financial Assistance to Farmers Affected by Natural Calamities

- The **Government of Gujarat** launched the **Mukhyamantri Kisan Sahay Yojana (MKSY)** in **2020** to provide financial assistance to farmers whose **Kharif crops** are damaged due to natural calamities.

India Hosts 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting 2026

- India hosted the **11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting** in **Gurugram, Haryana**, under its **BRICS Chairship 2026**.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Launches SHATAYU Dashboard for Elderly Care

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** launched the **SHATAYU (Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility) Dashboard**.

Ministry of Culture Commemorates 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas'

- The **Ministry of Culture** commemorated **'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas'** through a special programme organised by the **Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT)** at its campus in **New Delhi**.

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan Releases Book on Bhawaiya Folk Music

- **Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the book **"Sanskritir Ratna Bhandar: Bhaowaiyar Itibritto" (Bhawaiya: A Cultural Treasure and Its Historical Journey)** at **Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi**.

India Participates in 2nd Pax Silica Summit, Signs Joint Statement on AI Opportunity

- **India**, along with **34 other countries**, participated in the **2nd Pax Silica Summit** held in **Washington, D.C., United States (US)**.

Odisha Launches GO-EAST Policy to Boost Industrial Investments

- The **Government of Odisha** launched the **GO-EAST (Government of Odisha Eastern Investment Accelerator and Special Task Force)** policy along with amendments to the **Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) 2022**.

India Commissions World's First Nuclear Process Heat-Based Hydrogen Production Facility

- India has commissioned the **world's first hydrogen production facility based on nuclear process heat** at the **Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Name of the Person	Appointed as	Succeeds
Janez Janša	Prime Minister of Slovenia (4th term)	Robert Golob
Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry	Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command	Air Marshal Balakrishnan Manikantan
Rajesh Kumar Singh	Chairman, DRDO & Secretary, Department of Defence R&D (Additional Charge)	Samir V. Kamat
Brajesh Kumar Singh	Managing Director & CEO, Canara Bank	Not Mentioned
Maj Gen Rachel Thomas	Additional Director General, Military Nursing Service	Maj Gen Lissamma P. V.
Neelkanth Mishra	Executive Director, World Bank	Parameswaran Iyer
D. K. Shivakumar	Chief Minister of Karnataka	Siddaramaiah
Prashant Sitaram Lokhande	Chairperson, CBSE	Rahul Singh
Khalilur Rahman	President, 81st United Nations General Assembly	Annalena Baerbock
Kumar Shanker	Managing Director, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)	Kamal Kishore Chatiwal
Han Seong-sook*	Prime Minister of South Korea (Nominated)	Kim Min-seok
Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth	Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)	General Upendra Dwivedi
Sanjay Lohiya	Director, RBI Central Board	Nagaraju Maddirala
Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi	Chairman-cum-Managing	Narayanan Ramaswamy

	Director, GIC Re	
Keki Mistry	Interim Part-Time Chairman, HDFC Bank (Extended)	Atanu Chakraborty
Bimal N. Patel	Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)	Neeru Chadha
Rajendra Kumar Saboo	Managing Director & CEO, UCO Bank (Additional Charge)	Ashwani Kumar
Mahesh Dixit	Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB)	Not Mentioned
Dr. U.P. Rajeev	Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)	Dr. A. Rajarajan
Sanjay Jaju	Chief Secretary, Telangana	K. Ramakrishna Rao

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
Late Dharmendra Singh Deol	Padma Vibhushan	Posthumously honoured for contribution to Indian cinema (Art).
Dr. N. Rajam	Padma Vibhushan	Honoured for contribution to Indian Classical Music.
Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Padma Bhushan	Awarded for contribution to Public Affairs.
Dr. R. Ganesh	Padma Bhushan	Recognised for contribution to Art.
Uday Suresh Kotak	Padma Bhushan	Honoured for contribution to Trade and Industry.
Dr. Kallipatti Ramasamy Palanisamy	Padma Bhushan	Awarded for contribution to Medicine.

Harmanpreet Kaur	Padma Shri	Recognised for excellence in Sports.
Taga Ram Bheel	Padma Shri	Honoured for contribution to Art.
Dr. Shaya Mohsin Zindani	WHO Director-General Special Award 2026	Recognised by WHO for outstanding contribution to tobacco control.
Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal & Avyana Mehta	The Earth Prize 2026	Developed "Plas-Stick" to remove microplastics; first Indian team to win the global award.
Valluvan (Tamil Nadu Farmer)	FAO Soil Farmer Hero	Recognised for sustainable agroforestry and soil conservation practices.
Indian Haj Mission	Two Labbaytum Awards	Won in Best Haj Coordination and Communication category for the first time.
Deendayal Port Authority	Sagar Aankalan Award	Best-performing port in Container Cargo (less than 0.5 million TEUs).
Paradip Port Authority	Sagar Aankalan Award	Top performer in Dry Bulk Cargo; third in Container Cargo performance.
Sikka Port and Terminals	Sagar Aankalan Award	Ranked first in Liquid Bulk Cargo category.
Visakhapatnam Port Authority	Sagar Aankalan Award	Second position in Liquid Bulk Cargo category.
Mundra Port	Sagar Aankalan Award	Highest-ranked port in Container Cargo (more than 0.5 million TEUs).
Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority	Sagar Aankalan Award	Second among major container ports.

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Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)	Guinness World Records Title	Highest number of users completing an online quiz in one week (390,812 participants).
Jammu and Kashmir Bank	Finacle Innovation Awards 2026 – Gold Award	Won under "Modern Technologies-led Innovation – Data Insights and Analytics Platform".
34 Gram Panchayats	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar	Awarded for excellence under Sustainable Development Goal themes.
8 Panchayats	Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar	Honoured for overall excellence in rural governance.
David Beckham	Hollywood Walk of Fame Star	Honoured under Sports Entertainment category ahead of FIFA World Cup 2026.
Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)	National e-Governance Awards 2026 – Gold Award	Won for Digital Transformation through Data Analytics.
51 Artistes	SNA Samman	Honoured by Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi for contributions to performing arts.
e-Jagriti Platform	National Awards for e-Governance 2026 – Silver Award	Recognised for technology-driven digital transformation in consumer grievance redressal.
Sudarsan Pattnaik	Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026	First Indian to win the prestigious international sand art award.
Ramlal Bareth, A.V. Anand, Rita Ganguly, Puru Dadheech, Chittaranjan	Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna)	Highest honour of Sangeet Natak Akademi for performing arts.

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Jyotishi, Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma & Sudharani Raghupathy		
Gautam Dey	EMBO Gold Medal 2026	Recognised for outstanding research in life sciences.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class)	Received Slovakia's highest national honour for strengthening India–Slovakia relations.
Jainendra K. Jain	Wolf Prize in Physics (2026)	First person of Indian origin to receive the prestigious Wolf Prize in Physics.
Jainendra K. Jain	Wolf Prize in Physics (2025)	Awarded for discovery of composite fermions; shared with James P. Eisenstein and Mordehai Heiblum.
Seven Chandigarh University Students	IndiaAI Fellowship 2025–26	Selected under IndiaAI Mission to support AI and ML innovation.
Parveen Shaikh & Dr. Barkha Subba	Whitley Awards 2026 (Green Oscars)	Honoured for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration.
Seven Indian Schools	World's Best School Prizes 2026 Finalists	India secured a record seven finalist spots, the highest by any country.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Air Force Collaborates with Indian Institute of Technology Bombay on AI Health Monitoring Technology for Su-30MKI Aircraft

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has signed **three contracts** with **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)** to develop an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Health Index System** for the engines of **Su-30MKI fighter aircraft** undergoing mid-life maintenance.

President Droupadi Murmu Awards 07 Kirti Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras and 29 Shaurya Chakras at Phase-I of Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026

- **President Droupadi Murmu** conferred **07 Kirti Chakras**, **15 Vir Chakras**, and **29 Shaurya Chakras** during Phase-I of the **Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026** held at **Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi** on **8 June 2026**.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Approves First-of-Its-Kind 250 MW Solar Power Project on Defence Land in Uttar Pradesh

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** approved the establishment of a **250 MW Solar Power Project** with an integrated **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** at **Sitapur,**Uttar Pradesh **(UP)**.

24 Indian Crew Members Rescued Safely After Attack on Merchant Vessel Near Oman Through Joint India–Oman Efforts

- **The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Mumbai** of the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** received information about a **missile attack** on the **Palau-flagged tanker MT Marivex** at approximately **1420 hours on 8 June 2026**.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh to Review Combined Graduation Parade at Air Force Academy, Dundigal on 13 June 2026

- The **Combined Graduation Parade (CGP)** of **217 Course** will be held at the **Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, Hyderabad** on **13 June 2026**, marking the successful completion of pre-commissioning training of **Flight Cadets** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹449 Crore Deal with Accord Software and Systems Private Limited to Procure 20 Indigenous Enhanced Capability Global Navigation Satellite System Jammers for the Indian Navy

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract with **Accord Software and Systems Private Limited (ASSPL), Bengaluru** for the procurement of **20 Enhanced Capability Global Navigation Satellite System (ECGNSS) Jammers** for the **Indian Navy**.

MSMEs and Start-ups to Participate in Defence Procurement,Innovations for Defence Excellence, Technology Perspective Capability Roadmap and Testing Procedures Workshop

- A **Workshop on Defence Procurement, Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), Technology Perspective Capability Roadmap (TPCR), and Testing Procedures for MSMEs & Start-ups** is being held at **Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt** on **11–12 June 2026**.

Indian Navy Successfully Extracts Unexploded Missile Warhead from Merchant Vessel Near Kochi

- The **Indian Navy** successfully completed a **High-Risk Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Operation** involving the recovery of an **Unexploded Missile Warhead** from the crude oil tanker **MT Olympic Life**.

First-Ever National Defence Academy-Trained Women Cadets Commissioned as Officers in the Indian Defence Forces

- **The First Batch of Women Cadets Trained at the National Defence Academy (NDA)** has been **Commissioned as Officers in the Indian Defence Forces**, marking a historic milestone in **Women's Participation in Military Service**.

INS Chilka Conducts Passing Out Parade for 3,011 Trainees of Batch 01/26 After Completion of Naval Training

- **INS Chilka** witnessed the **Passing Out Parade (POP) of Batch 01/26 on 12 June 2026**, marking the successful completion of **16 Weeks of Rigorous Ab-Initio Naval Training** by **3,011 Trainees**.

Raksha Mantri and Australian Deputy Prime Minister & Defence Minister Co-Chair 2nd India–Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi

- The **second edition** of the **India–Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue** was co-chaired by Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** and Australian Deputy Prime Minister & Defence Minister **Mr Richard Marles** at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi** on **01 June 2026**.

Indian Air Force Transports Sacred Buddhist Relics to Mongolia

- An **Indian Air Force (IAF) IL-76 strategic airlift aircraft**, **Gajraj**, transported the **sacred relics of Arahant Sariputta and Arahant Mahamoggallana**, the chief disciples of Gautama Buddha, from **Delhi to Mongolia** on **30 May 2026**.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Launch 'Nausena Shaurya Vatika' Naval Heritage Museum in Lucknow

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** and **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** jointly inaugurated **'Nausena Shaurya Vatika'** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** on **30 May 2026**.

Indian Air Force Carries Out Continuous Day-and-Night Aerial Firefighting Mission in Kasauli

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** received information about a **forest fire near Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh**, and immediately deployed a **Cheetah helicopter** to assess the situation.

Indian Army Conducts Trials of Divyastra Mk-1 for Intelligence and Surveillance Operations

- The **Indian Army** successfully completed operational trials of the **Divyastra Mk-1**, an indigenous **AI-powered tactical loitering munition system**, in **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Air Force Successfully Test-Fire Indigenous RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted flight-tests of the indigenously developed **RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile** from an airborne platform.

Indian Air Force Signs Pact with Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to Develop Artificial Intelligence-Based Predictive Maintenance for Su-30MKI Fleet

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** signed **three contracts** with **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)** for the indigenous development of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven predictive maintenance technologies**.

Border Roads Organisation Marks the 37th Raising Day of Project UDAYAK in Doomdooma, Assam

- **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** celebrated the **37th Raising Day of Project UDAYAK** on **01 June 2026** at **Doomdooma, Assam**, marking more than three decades of service in developing strategic infrastructure in North-East India.

India and Vietnam Finalise USD 629 Million BrahMos Missile Deal to Boost Defence Ties

- The **Government of India (GoI)** signed a **BrahMos missile export agreement** with **Vietnam** worth approximately **Rs 60 billion (USD 629 million)**, marking a significant milestone in India's defence exports.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh Approves Doubling of Financial Powers for Field Commanders to Enhance Operational Efficiency

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** released the revised **Delegation of Financial Powers for the Defence Services** on **4 June 2026**.

India and Zimbabwe Strengthen Defence Ties at First Joint Defence Committee Meeting

- The **inaugural meeting** of the **India–Zimbabwe Joint Defence Committee (JDC)** was held in New Delhi on **4 June 2026**.

INS Sharda Departs Colombo After Successful Bilateral Maritime Engagements

- **INS Sharda** departed from **Colombo, Sri Lanka** on **13 June 2026** after completing a successful **port call**, further strengthening **maritime cooperation and friendship** between India and Sri Lanka.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Carries Out Three Consecutive Tests of Multi-Layered Ballistic Missile Defence System

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** successfully conducted **three consecutive flight-tests** of India's **Integrated Multi-Layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) System** on **10–11 June 2026**.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Says India is Building a Multi-Tier Missile Defence Shield Under Mission Sudarshan Chakra

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** stated that **Mission Sudarshan Chakra**, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Independence Day Address on 15 August 2025, will become a **multi-level missile defence system** of modern India.

Ministry of Defence Increases National Cadet Corps State Directorates to 19 with Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand Units

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** approved the creation of **two new independent National Cadet Corps (NCC) State Directorates** in **Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand**, increasing the total number of NCC State Directorates from **17 to 19**.

Indian Armed Forces Launch Advanced Eye Care Camp Under Operation DRISHTI in Jharkhand

- **Operation DRISHTI** is a major healthcare outreach and humanitarian initiative undertaken by the **Indian Army** and **Indian Air Force (IAF)** to provide advanced eye care services.

Historic Milestone: 17 Women Cadets from National Defence Academy Commissioned as Armed Forces Officers

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** commissioned the **first batch of 17 women cadets** trained at the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** into the **Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN), and Indian Air Force (IAF)**, marking a historic milestone in gender inclusion in India's Defence Forces.

Indian Army Selects Israeli MEPRO X6 Day Sights for NEGEV Machine Guns; Bharat Electronics Limited Secures Supply Contract

- The **Indian Army** selected the **MEPRO X6 telescopic sight** as the dedicated daytime optic for its in-service **NEGEV 7.62×51 mm Light Machine Guns (LMGs)** on **15 June 2026**.

India's Defence Manufacturing Surges to Record ₹1.78 Lakh Crore in FY26

- India's annual defence production has reached an all-time high of **₹1.78 lakh crore in FY 2025–26**, marking a major milestone in the country's defence manufacturing sector.

India–Thailand Hold 10th Defence Dialogue, Agree to Deepen Industrial and Technological Cooperation

- The **10th Thailand–India Defence Dialogue** was held in **Bangkok on 16 June 2026** to review the full spectrum of **bilateral defence cooperation**.

Drogo Aerospace Hands Over First 41 JK 250e Drones to Indian Army Under ₹72-Crore Deal

- **Drogo Aerospace Private Limited** (formerly Drogo Drones Private Limited) delivered the first batch of **41 JK 250e drones** to the **Indian Army (IA) Southern Command** in **Nashik, Maharashtra**.

Indian Navy Retires Sea King Mk42B Helicopter Fleet After 36 Years of Service

- **Indian Navy (IN)** decommissioned its **Sea King Mk42B helicopters**, popularly known as the **"Flying Frigates"**, after **36 years** of distinguished operational service.

Indian Army Contingent to Depart for Multilateral Military Exercise KHAAN QUEST in Mongolia

- The **Indian Army contingent** is set to participate in the **Multilateral Joint Military Exercise "KHAAN QUEST"** scheduled in **Mongolia**.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh Emphasises Self-Reliance in Security Needs at Bhoomi Pujan of 10,000-Ton Aluminium Extrusion Press in Nagpur

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** performed **Bhoomi Pujan** of a **₹10,000-Ton Aluminium Extrusion Press** at **Ordnance Factory Ambajhari, Nagpur (Maharashtra)** on **19 June 2026**, in the presence of **Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis**.

Ministry of Defence Clears ₹500 Crore Military Drone Technology Hub at Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has granted in-principle approval for a **₹500 crore National Military Drone Technology Hub** at Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Indian Coast Guard Enhances Maritime Capability with Induction of Indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle

- The first of six **indigenous Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs)** for the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** was inducted into service in **Goa** on **18 June 2026**.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹425 Crore Contract for 12 Marine Gas Turbine Generator Sets for Indian Navy Under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Initiative

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract with **Bharat Forge Limited, Pune** for the acquisition of **12 sets of 1.25 MW Marine Gas Turbine Generators** for the **Indian Navy**.

Three Indigenous Naval Platforms to Be Commissioned by Indian Navy in Kolkata

- The **Indian Navy** is set to commission **three indigenously built frontline warships—Dunagiri, Sanshodhak, and Agray**—on **21 June 2026** in Kolkata, in a ceremony to be presided over by the **Hon'ble Prime Minister**.

Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited and AM General Enter Strategic Partnership for Development of Mounted 155 mm Artillery Systems

- **Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL)**, a subsidiary of **Bharat Forge Limited (BFL)**, signed a **strategic partnership** with **AM General (USA)** at **Eurosatory 2026, Paris** (15–19 June 2026) for **defence cooperation**.

Indian Coast Guard Marks 12th International Day of Yoga Through "Yoga Sangam 2026" Initiative

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** celebrated the **12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026** through its flagship initiative **"Yoga Sangam 2026."**

Indian Naval Ship Tarkash Reaches Port Louis, Mauritius on Operational Deployment in South West Indian Ocean Region

- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tarkash**, a stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, arrived at **Port Louis, Mauritius**, on **20 June 2026** during its operational deployment in the **South West Indian Ocean Region**.

Ministry of Defence Grants Defence Land Clearance for Gandhi Sarovar Project at Bapu Ghat in Hyderabad

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** granted working permission to the **Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL)** to utilise **83.814 acres of defence land** under the **Artillery Centre, Golconda, Hyderabad (Telangana)**.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth Chairs 15th Defence Information Technology Consultative Committee Meeting in New Delhi

- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth** chaired the **15th meeting** of the **Defence Information Technology Consultative Committee (DITCC)** on **23 June 2026** in **New Delhi**.

Indian Navy Eastern Fleet Warships INS Udaygiri and INS Kavaratti Reach Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

- **INS Udaygiri** is a **stealth frigate** of the **Indian Navy** and is **indigenously designed and constructed**.

Indian Air Force to Take Part in Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will participate in **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**, a major multinational air combat exercise hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.

Indian Air Force Strengthens Strike Capability as 40 Su-30MKI Fighter Jets Are Equipped with BrahMos Missiles

- As of **25 June 2026**, around **40 Indian Air Force (IAF) Su-30MKI fighter aircraft** have been integrated with **BrahMos-A supersonic cruise missiles**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Hands Over Final Operational Clearance of Indigenous Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control System to Indian Air Force

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** handed over the **Final Operational Clearance (FOC) certificate** of the indigenous **Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System** to the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited Lays Keel of Fourth Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel for Indian Coast Guard

- The **keel-laying ceremony** of the **4th Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)** for the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** was held on **25 June 2026** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Goa-Built ICGS Akshay Commissioned into Bharatiya Tatrakshak

- **Bharatiya Tatrakshak (Indian Coast Guard)** achieved another milestone in its force modernisation with the commissioning of the **ICGS Akshay**, a new-generation **Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)**, on **27 June 2026** at **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa**.

Indian Navy's INS Ikshak Arrives in Seychelles on Operational Deployment

- **INS Ikshak**, the Indian Navy's **indigenously built Survey Vessel Large (SVL)**, arrived at **Port Victoria, Seychelles**, on **26 June 2026** as part of its **operational deployment to the South West Indian Ocean Region**.

Indian Naval Ships Udaygiri, Kavaratti, and Shakti Arrive in Thailand as Part of South East Asia Deployment

- **Indian Naval Ships (INS) Udaygiri, Kavaratti, and Shakti** of the **Eastern Fleet** arrived at **Sattahip, Thailand**, as part of their **operational deployment to the South East Asia Region**.

INS Sudarshini Docks at Baltimore as Part of Landmark Lokayan 26 Voyage

- **Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship (STS) INS Sudarshini** arrived at the **Port of Baltimore, Maryland, USA**, on **26 June 2026** as part of the landmark **Lokayan 26 transoceanic expedition**.

Border Roads Organisation Celebrates 16th Raising Day of Project BRAHMANK

- **Project BRAHMANK** of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** celebrated its **16th Raising Day** on **29 June 2026** at **Ranaghat, Arunachal Pradesh**, marking **15 years** of dedicated service in developing **strategic infrastructure and connectivity**.
-

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh Introduces Delegation of Financial Powers-2026 to Improve Efficiency and Accountability in DRDO Projects

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** released the **Delegation of Financial Powers to DRDO (DFP-2026)** on **29 June 2026** to enhance the **efficiency, accountability, and timely execution** of strategic **Research & Development (R&D)** projects.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Ministry of Corporate Affairs Approves Incorporation of Mahindra Manulife Insurance Limited Under Mahindra–Manulife Joint Venture

- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** approved the incorporation of **Mahindra Manulife Insurance Limited (MMIL)**, a new life insurance joint venture between the **Mahindra Group** and **Manulife Financial Corporation (MFC)**.

Goldman Sachs, Citigroup and Societe Generale Acquire 1.34% Stake in Paytm

- **Global investment banks** and **Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)** acquired a **34% stake** in **One97 Communications (Paytm)** through open market transactions worth approximately **₹963 crore**.

Fidelity Acquires 1.85% Stake in GMR Airports from GQG Partners in ₹1,906 Crore Deal

- **GQG Partners**, a US-based investment firm, sold a **1.85% stake in GMR Airports Limited (GAL)** through **Open Market Operations (OMOs)**.

SoftBank Divests 3.25% Holding in Lenskart via ₹2,873 Crore Open Market Deal

- SoftBank Group, Japan-based investment giant through its affiliate **SoftBank Vision Fund II (SVF II) Lightbulb (Cayman) Ltd**, divested a **3.25% Stake** in Lenskart Solutions.

Oman India Joint Investment Fund II Sells 3.65% Holding in Capital Small Finance Bank to Lyptus Punch-Card Fund

- **Oman India Joint Investment Fund II (OIJIF II)**, a private equity fund promoted by the **sovereign wealth fund of the Sultanate of Oman** and the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, sold its **3.65% stake** in **Capital Small Finance Bank (SFB)**.

Competition Commission of India Clears Sanlam Emerging Markets' Acquisition of Stake in Shriram Life Insurance Company

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of a certain shareholding in **Shriram Life Insurance Company Limited** by **Sanlam Emerging Markets (Mauritius) Ltd. (SEMM)**.

President Droupadi Murmu Approves REC–Power Finance Corporation Limited Merger to Form a Unified Power Financing Giant

- **President of India Droupadi Murmu** approved the **merger of REC Limited (REC) into Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC)**, nearly seven years after PFC acquired the Government's majority stake in REC.

Abu Dhabi Investment Authority-Backed Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust to Sell 2.3% Stake in Lenskart Through ₹1,944 Crore Block Deal

- **Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust**, an investment vehicle backed by the **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**, announced plans to sell a **2.3% Stake** in **Lenskart Solutions Limited** through a **Block Deal**.

Competition Commission of India Approves TVS Group's Takeover of PGIM India Asset Management and Trustee Businesses

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the proposed combination involving the acquisition of **PGIM India Asset Management Private. Limited.** and **PGIM India Trustees Pvt. Ltd.** by **TVS Emerald Ltd.** and **TVS Venu Management and Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd.**

Competition Commission of India Approves Kedaara Capital Fund IV and Pearl Holding's Investment in Axis Finance

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the subscription of **equity shareholding in Axis Finance Limited** by **Kedaara Pearl Holding** and **Kedaara Capital Fund IV AIF**.

Competition Commission of India Clears Honda Motor's Acquisition of 21% Voting Stake in Astemo Ltd.

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of a **21% voting interest** in **Astemo, Ltd.** by **Honda Motor Co., Ltd.**

APPS & PORTALS

App / Portal Name	Released By	Purpose
Swachha App	Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar (Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs)	To promote citizen participation in urban cleanliness and sanitation through a geo-tagged digital platform.
BHAVYA Portal	Union Minister Piyush Goyal (Ministry of Commerce & Industry)	To operationalise the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) and provide a single digital platform for DPR submission, appraisal, monitoring, and reporting.
Yoga Park Portal	Union Minister of State (IC) Prataprao Jadhav (Ministry of Ayush)	To transform public parks into community wellness hubs promoting yoga, meditation, preventive healthcare, and healthy lifestyles.
Yoga Sangam Portal (Relaunched)	Ministry of Ayush	To strengthen the grassroots reach of yoga and support International Day of Yoga initiatives.
Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India (GHCI)	Union Minister Pralhad Joshi (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy)	To ensure transparent certification and regulatory compliance under India's Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme.
Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)	Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs	To strengthen cybercrime grievance handling and coordination among stakeholders.
Money Restoration	Indian Cyber Crime	To facilitate quicker

Module (MRM)	Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs	restoration of money lost in cyber fraud cases.
NAFEX.in	Union Home Minister Amit Shah (NAFED)	To provide an online auction platform for transparent agricultural commodity trading.
Aadhaar App	Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)	To provide Aadhaar-related services such as mobile number and address updates through smartphones.
Internet Exchange (IX) Portal	National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)	To improve the management and operation of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs).
myIRINN Portal	National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)	To simplify Internet number resource management and related services.
.IN Auction Portal	National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)	To facilitate transparent auction of premium .IN domain names.
AI-enabled WHOIS Screening Platform	National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)	To enhance domain registration monitoring using Artificial Intelligence.
PFRDA Pension Sahayak	Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)	To provide an AI-enabled, integrated grievance redressal platform for pension subscribers.
WT-MARUT (Wind Turbine Materials and Resources Utility Tracker)	Union Minister Pralhad Joshi (MNRE)	To strengthen India's wind turbine supply chain and improve supply-chain transparency.
AIR SUVIDHA 2.0	Ministry of Civil Aviation & Delhi International Airport	To strengthen passenger health surveillance at Points

	Limited (DIAL)	of Entry during the Ebola outbreak.
Pharma Jan Samadhan + Pharma Sahi Daam (Unified Portal)	National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)	To integrate medicine price information with grievance redressal services on a single platform.
Abhigyan	Union Home Minister Amit Shah (NCRB)	AI-based biometric identification for digital policing.
Criminal Procedure Identification (CrPI)	Union Home Minister Amit Shah (NCRB)	To strengthen criminal identification and investigation through digital records.
e-Prosecution 2.0	Union Home Minister Amit Shah (NCRB)	To improve digital prosecution management under the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS).
e-Forensics 2.0	Union Home Minister Amit Shah (NCRB)	To integrate forensic services into the digital criminal justice system.
Telecom Authorisation Portal	Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications	To accept applications for telecom authorisations and migration under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
AI-enabled Rural Internal Audit Portal	Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Ministry of Rural Development)	To enable end-to-end digital management of risk-based and compliance audits, enhancing transparency and accountability.

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BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Title	Author	Key Details	Event Highlights
India's Olympic Gold: Hockey Triumph at Amsterdam	K. Arumugam	Chronicles India's historic first Olympic Gold Medal in men's hockey at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics; released to mark the 98th anniversary of the achievement.	Released in New Delhi by IOA President P.T. Usha and Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey. Published by Hockey India and Stick2Hockey to commemorate India's first Olympic hockey gold medal.

ENVIRONMENT

4,000-Year Climate Reconstruction of World's Largest Inhabited River Island Offers Climate Adaptation Insights

- A new scientific study has reconstructed nearly **4,000 years of climate and vegetation history** of **Majuli Island**, the world's largest inhabited river island, located in **Assam**.

Zoological Survey of India Discovers New Lizard Species Mesalina bishnoi in Rajasthan, Marking First Indian Record of the Genus Mesalina

- Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** discovered a new **lizard species** named **Mesalina bishnoi** near **Gajner, Bikaner district, Rajasthan**.

Zojila Tunnel: 13.153-km High-Altitude Himalayan Road Tunnel Nears Completion

- The **Zojila Tunnel** is a **153-kilometre road tunnel** being constructed in the Himalayas at an altitude of approximately **11,578 feet** (about 3,000 metres above sea level).

Scientists Discover New Lynx Spider Species in Meghalaya Named Hamataliwa mawlyngot

- Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** and the **University of Calcutta, West Bengal** discovered a new **lynx spider species** named **Hamataliwa mawlyngot** in **Meghalaya**.

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment Scientists Discover Two New Microscopic Snail Species in Meghalaya's Limestone Caves

- **Scientists** from the **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)** discovered **two new microscopic snail species** in the **limestone caves of Meghalaya**.

Zoological Survey of India Identifies Two New Moth Species in the Western Ghats: Antaram idukki and Mimeusemia kali

- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Pune**, in collaboration with the **Natural History Museum, London**, discovered **two new moth species** in the **Western Ghats**, enriching the region's biodiversity records.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches CPGRAMS AI Voice Chatbot 'Samadhan Didi' to Democratize Public Grievance Redressal in India

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, **Jitendra Singh** launched the **CPGRAMS AI-enabled Voice Chatbot "Samadhan Didi"** at **Kartavya Bhawan, New Delhi**.

Red Balloon Aerospace Launches India's First Indigenous Stratospheric Super Pressure Balloon in Vijayawada

- **Red Balloon Aerospace Private Limited**, an Indian space startup, launched India's first indigenous **Stratospheric Super Pressure Balloon (SPB)** named **"VISTA"** under **Mission SANA** from **Indira Gandhi Stadium, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh (AP)**.

Dr Jitendra Singh Highlights ANRF's Role in Democratising Research Funding; Launches ₹200-Crore MAHA Water Mission for Startups in Water Sector

- The **₹200-crore ANRF–Ministry of Jal Shakti MAHA Water Mission** was launched to strengthen innovation and startups in the water sector, under the leadership of **Jitendra Singh and Shri C.R. Patil**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Indigenous Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition Facility and Research Entrepreneurship for Translation, Innovation and NAvigation Innovation Hub at Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) **Jitendra Singh** inaugurated two major initiatives – **Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition (PECVD) System** and **Research Entrepreneurship for Translation, Innovation and NAvigation (RETINA)** during the **150th**

anniversary celebrations of the **Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

Tata Consultancy Services Partners with Sweden's SKF in Multi-Million-Dollar Agreement to Drive Artificial Intelligence -Powered Manufacturing Transformation

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, India's leading Multi-National Company (MNC), signed a **multi-million-dollar agreement** with Swedish industrial manufacturing company **SKF**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Conducts High-Calibre Conventional Bomb Test at Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Haryana

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** under the **Ministry of Defence** successfully conducted a **high-calibre conventional bomb trial** at the **Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL)** located at **Ramgarh Range, Panchkula, Haryana**.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Inaugurates Advanced Circulating Water Tunnel Facility for Maritime and Hydrodynamic Research Near Chennai

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), Chennai, Tamil Nadu**, launched the **Circulating Water Tunnel Facility** at **Thaiyur near Chennai,TN** strengthening India's maritime research infrastructure.

Hindustan Unilever Limited Launches Its Third Global Fragrance R&D Hub in Mumbai, Maharashtra

- India's largest Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company, **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** inaugurated the **Unilever Fragrance Hub (UFH)** at the **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B)** campus in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Hosts India's First Doppler Orbitography and Radiopositioning Integrated by Satellite Ground Beacon

- **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur)** has become the host of India's first **DORIS (Doppler Orbitography and Radiopositioning Integrated by Satellite)** ground beacon, joining a global network of **high-precision geodetic stations**.

Dr Jitendra Singh Launches ANRF Portal for Patent Filing and Research Writing Support, Reviews Scientific Departments' Progress

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology** and **Earth Sciences**, announced an **ANRF-supported digital portal** for researchers, students, and innovators across India.

Technology Development Board Extends Support to Bioneemtec India for Commercialization of Green Chemistry-Based Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technologies

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** has extended support to **Bioneemtec India Private Limited, Chennai** for a project aimed at strengthening India's pharmaceutical manufacturing capabilities.

Technology Hub Launches Third ORBIT Space-Tech Accelerator Cohort with 13 Startups

- Startup incubator Technology Hub**(T-Hub)** launched the **3rd Cohort of ORBIT**, the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**-supported **Atal Innovation Incubation Centre (AIC)-T-Hub Space-Tech Accelerator Programme**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Air Force Successfully Conduct Flight Test of Indigenous RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted flight-tests of the **RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile (ASM)** from an airborne platform.

Microsoft Launches Artificial Intelligence-Assisted Majorana 2 Next-Generation Quantum Computing Chip

- **Microsoft Corporation** unveiled **Majorana 2**, its second-generation **topological quantum computing chip**, during the **Microsoft Build 2026** event.

BHASHINI Unveils VYOMA Innovation Challenge to Promote Multilingual Voice-First AI Solutions

- The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)**, functioning under the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)** of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, launched the **VYOMA Innovation Challenge**.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Launches Maruti Suzuki's Flex-Fuel Passenger Car, a First for India

- **Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** launched **India's first passenger Flex-Fuel Vehicle (FFV)**, the **Maruti Suzuki Wagon R**, in New Delhi.

India Joins Project Glasswing and Obtains Access to Anthropic's Claude Mythos AI

- **India** has joined **Project Glasswing**, a global cybersecurity initiative led by **Anthropic PBC** to strengthen cyber resilience and protect critical digital infrastructure.

CSIR-Central Road Research Institute and Haryana Government Partner to Implement Commission for Air Quality Management Framework for Road Dust Control and Sustainable Urban Roads

- **CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi** signed a **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** with the **Government of Haryana** for implementing the project titled **"Implementation of the Standard Framework for Paving and Greening of Urban Roads (Haryana State)"**.

Department of Biotechnology Celebrates Swachhata Pakhwada 2026 Across Its Institutions

- The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** under the **Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T)** observed **Swachhata Pakhwada 2026** from **1 May to 15 May 2026**.

Technology Development Board Backs TIEA Connectors for Commercialisation of Indigenous Advanced Connectors for Aerospace, Defence, Space and EV Sectors

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, has extended support to **TIEA Connectors Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru** for the project titled **"Commercialization of Airborne Connectors for Aerospace, Defense & Charging Connectors for EV."**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Declares MAVEN Mars Orbiter Mission Ended After Spacecraft Becomes Unrecoverable

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officially ended the MAVEN mission** after losing contact with the spacecraft on **6 December 2025**, and concluded after nearly six months of radio silence that the orbiter could not be recovered.

Scientists Study Uranus' Moons and Rings to Investigate Possible Lost Giant Planets in the Early Solar System

- **Scientists in June 2026** studied **Uranus' moon dynamics**, **ring structure**, and **planetary formation models** to examine whether the **early Solar System** contained **additional giant planets** that were later **ejected into interstellar space**.

Indian Chamber of Commerce Delegation Meets Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh to Discuss Investment and Development Initiatives

- An **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** delegation led by its President **Brij Bhushan Aggarwal** met **Jitendra Singh** in New Delhi.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates DST-Supported Central Instrumentation Facility and Three Research Clusters at IIT Gandhinagar

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** addressed the programme **"Advancing Research & Innovation Towards Viksit Bharat"** at the **Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT Gandhinagar)** and emphasized that the true value of scientific research lies in creating **societal and economic impact**, not just research publications.

Adani Ports Bags 10-Year USD 70 Million Marine Services Deal for Argentina Liquefied Natural Gas Venture

- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ)** secured a **10-year marine services contract** for **Argentina's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export project**, marking the company's entry into **South America**.

Russia Proposes Supply and Co-Production of Sukhoi Su-57 Fifth-Generation Stealth Fighters in India

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** offered **India** the advanced **Sukhoi Su-57 stealth fighter aircraft** and proposed its **joint production in India**, strengthening **defence cooperation** between the two countries.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Empanels Six Tech Firms to Deliver Artificial Intelligence,Machine Learning, and Data Science Solutions Across Government Departments

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, through the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**, has empanelled **Six Technology Companies** to develop and deploy **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **Machine Learning (ML)**, and **Data Science Solutions** across government departments.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Unveils Four-Member Artemis III Team for Spacecraft and Moon Lander Demonstration Mission

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** announced the **Four-Member Crew** for the **Artemis III Mission**, which is scheduled for a **Late-2027 Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) Mission**.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh Advocates Stronger Industry-Research Linkages to Boost Science-Based Development

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** emphasized the need for stronger collaboration between **Research Institutions, Industry, and Startups** to accelerate the conversion of scientific knowledge into **Market-Ready Solutions** and national development outcomes.

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research Organises Three-Day Training Programme on Basics of Koha Software in New Delhi

- **CSIR–National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)** successfully conducted a three-day offline **Skill Training Programme** on **"Basics of Koha Software"** from **10–12 June 2026** at Satsang Vihar, **New Delhi**.

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre Selects Three Space Startups for Support Under Technology Adoption Fund Scheme

- The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)**, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), selected the **first three Indian Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs)** for funding under its **Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) Scheme**.

India's Startup Ecosystem Creates Nearly 25 Lakh Jobs as Startup Count Rises from 350 to 2.3 Lakh: Dr. Jitendra Singh

- Addressing the **RISE Conclave 2026** in **Bengaluru**, **Dr. Jitendra Singh** highlighted the theme **"Innovation & Entrepreneurship Driven Growth for Viksit Bharat 2047"** and emphasized the role of innovation in nation-building.

IndiaAI Mission Unveils 'Varya', India's First Indigenous AI Video Story Generation Model

- **Avataar.ai**, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-native transformation company, launched **'Varya'**, **India's first indigenous distilled video story-generating AI model**, with support from the **IndiaAI Mission**.

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Licenses Seven Technologies to Industry; Unveils Bharatiya Nirdeshak Documents and Supplies Quantum Sensing Components to DRDO

- The **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** organized a **Technology Transfer** and **Bharatiya Nirdeshak Document (BND) Release Function** at **CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi**.

United States Launches Operational Phase of SOLAR-1 Space Weather Observation Mission

- The **United States (US)** activated **SOLAR-1** (**Space Weather Observations at L1 to Advance Readiness–1**), the country's **first dedicated space weather monitoring satellite** designed exclusively for continuous operational space weather observation.

Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus Fly First Locally Manufactured C295 Military Transport Aircraft

- **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** and **Airbus SE** successfully completed the first test flight of India's first domestically manufactured **Airbus C295 military transport aircraft** from the **Final Assembly Line (FAL)** at **Vadodara, Gujarat**.

Oil India Limited Collaborates with Canada's Petroleum Technology Research Centre to Explore Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage and Sustainable Energy Solutions

- **Oil India Limited (OIL)**, a **"Maharatna" Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**, signed a **collaboration framework agreement** with the **Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PRTC), Canada** to advance **clean energy technologies**.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Launches ANCHOR, an Advanced 3D Atlas of the Human Brainstem

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** released **ANCHOR** (**Atlas of Neurochemical Characterization of the Human Brainstem with 3D Reconstruction**), recognized as the **world's most detailed 3D atlas of the human brainstem**.

Indian Space Research Organisation–Department of Atomic Energy Develop Advanced Heating System to Extend Lunar Lander Mission Life up to 200 Days

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, in collaboration with the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, is developing an **advanced artificial heating system** to extend the operational life of lunar landers.

India Launches First "Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue" Digital Repository at Indian Space Congress 2026

- **India's first digital repository of space-sector capabilities**, named the **"Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue"**, was launched at the **5th Indian Space Congress (ISC) 2026** held in **New Delhi** (June 15–17, 2026).

Osmania University Becomes First Indian University to Secure Four ISO Management System Certifications at Once

- **Osmania University, Hyderabad (Telangana)** became the **first university in India** to receive **four ISO Management System Certifications simultaneously** from the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD).

India Tests Indigenous 120 mm Garudastra Vehicle-Mounted Mortar System in Madhya Pradesh

- India successfully tested **"Garudastra"**, an **indigenous 120 mm vehicle-mounted mortar system**, developed by **Nibe Limited**, at the **Infantry School, Mhow (MP)** under the Military Headquarters of War, for the **Indian Army (IA)**.

Teplizumab Approved as First Drug to Delay Type 1 Diabetes Progression on NHS

- **Teplizumab (brand name: Tzield)** is an **immunotherapy drug** for **Type 1 Diabetes** and is the **first medicine designed to delay the onset of symptomatic Stage 3 Type 1 diabetes**.

Central University of Rajasthan Develops Low-Cost Sensor for Detecting Lead Contamination in Drinking Water

- **Researchers at the Central University of Rajasthan (CURAJ), Jaipur** developed a **low-cost sensor** on 22 June 2026 to **detect minute amounts of toxic lead ions in drinking water**.

Researchers Use GRAPES-3 Telescope to Study Effects of Atmospheric Temperature and Solar Magnetic Field on Muons

- **GRAPES-3** (Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS Phase-3) is a **high-energy cosmic ray observatory** located in **Ooty, Tamil Nadu**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Prepares Swift Boost Mission to Save Aging Swift Space Telescope

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is preparing the **Swift Boost Mission** to **raise the orbit** of the **Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory**, a space telescope launched in **November 2004**.

Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research- Hyderabad Develops Smart Seed Coating Technology Capable of Increasing Crop Yields by Up to 37%

- The **Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (ICAR-IIOR), Hyderabad**, has developed and patented a **Biopolymer-Based Smart Seed Coating Technology** to improve seed quality, crop establishment, and resilience against biotic and abiotic stresses.

Department of Social Justice & Empowerment Launches Major Reforms and Digital Initiatives to Streamline Scholarship Access

- The **Department of Social Justice & Empowerment (DoSJE)** has introduced major reforms to simplify access to scholarships for **Scheduled Caste (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC)** students across India.

Defence Research and Development Organisation-Developed HELINA is India's Indigenous Third-Generation Fire-and-Forget Anti-Tank Missile

- **HELINA (Helicopter-launched Nag)** is an **indigenously developed, third-generation, fire-and-forget Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

Scientists Develop Advanced Electrolyte for Safer and Longer-Lasting Aqueous Batteries

- **Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali**, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), developed a **new electrolyte additive** to improve the performance of **Aqueous Zinc-Ion Batteries (AZIBs)**.

Kisan Sarathi Boosts Digital Agriculture with Integrated Advisory Services for Farmers

- **Kisan Sarathi** was launched in **July 2021** and is India's **largest integrated digital agro-advisory platform** providing timely, authentic, multilingual, and personalized agricultural advisories to farmers.

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

India and Myanmar Strengthen Strategic Partnership During Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing's Visit

- Myanmar President **Min Aung Hlaing** visited India from **30 May to 3 June 2026**, strengthening bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

RITES Limited and Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Data-Driven Infrastructure Solutions

- **RITES Limited** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL)** to jointly offer **integrated, data-driven infrastructure solutions** in India and overseas.

Odisha, Intel Corporation and 3DGS Inc. Sign MoU for Advanced Semiconductor Packaging Facility in Bhubaneswar-Khurda

- **Government of Odisha**, **Intel Corporation** and **3DGS Inc. (USA)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to set up an **Advanced Packaging Glass Core Substrate Manufacturing Facility** in **Bhubaneswar–Khordha region of Odisha**.

Tata Consultancy Services Enters Strategic Partnership with Mistral AI for Enterprise Artificial Intelligence Solutions

- **Tata Consultancy Services** has entered a strategic partnership with French artificial intelligence company **Mistral AI**.

India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Comes into Force from June 1, 2026

- The **India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** entered into force on **1 June 2026**.

Centre Signs Memorandums of Understanding with Five States and One Union Territory under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

- The **Central Government** has signed **Memorandums of Understanding** with **Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Puducherry** under **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0**,

India and United Kingdom Launch Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory

- **India and the United Kingdom** jointly launched the **India–United Kingdom Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)** in **New Delhi**.

West Bengal Legislative Assembly Joins National e-Vidhan Application Initiative

- The **West Bengal Legislative Assembly** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for the implementation of the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)**.

Reliance Industries and Meta Partner to Establish AI-Enabled Hyperscale Data Centre in Gujarat

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** and **Meta Platforms** have announced a strategic partnership to develop an **AI-enabled hyperscale data centre** in **Jamnagar**.

Himachal Pradesh Signs Memorandum of Understanding with United Nations Development Programme for Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Development

- The **Himachal Pradesh Government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** to promote **climate-resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development** across the state.

Air India and Riyadh Air Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Connectivity Between India and Saudi Arabia

- **Air India** and **Riyadh Air** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to establish a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing connectivity between **India, Saudi Arabia, and other global destinations**.

Sikkim Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation for Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

- The **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation** (DDWS) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) and the **Government of Sikkim** signed a reform-linked **Memorandum of**

Understanding (MoU) to strengthen rural water supply infrastructure under **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 (JJM 2.0)**.

Rapido Partners with Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for Rahveer Scheme Awareness

- **Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited**, operating under the brand name **Rapido** has partnered with the **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)** to promote nationwide awareness and citizen participation in the Government of India's **Rahveer Scheme**.

Invest India and Invest UP Partner to Boost Foreign Direct Investment in Uttar Pradesh

- **Invest India** and **Invest UP** signed a strategic partnership to attract higher **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** and accelerate industrial development in **Uttar Pradesh**.

Assam and Nagaland Sign Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding for Joint Oil and Natural Gas Exploration

- **Assam and Nagaland** signed a tripartite **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for the joint exploration and production of **crude oil and natural gas** along their shared border.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Next-Generation Telecom Technologies

- **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited** and the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** for joint research, development, testing, deployment, and commercialisation of **next-generation telecom technologies**.

Tata Consultancy Services Signs Multiyear Digital Transformation Agreement with Canada Life

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** signed a **multiyear transformation and managed services agreement** with **Canada Life**, a leading life and pensions insurer, to modernise its Information Technology (IT) infrastructure services across its European businesses.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Becomes the First Indian Prime Minister to Visit Slovakia; India-Slovakia Relations Elevated to Comprehensive Partnership

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** paid a historic State Visit to **Slovakia** at the invitation of Slovak Prime Minister **Robert Fico**.

India–United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Double Contribution Convention (DCC) to Come into Force on 15 June 2026

- The **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and the **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)** between **India and the United Kingdom** are set to come into force on **15 June 2026**.

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology–Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences Collaboration to Set Up Himalayan Climate Monitoring Station under Bharat Climate Observation Network

- **The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital** on **18 June 2026** through online mode.

Jeh Aerospace & Solestra Group Sign Multi-Year Agreement to Set Up Global Manufacturing Centre in Hyderabad

- **Jeh Aerospace Private Limited (India)** and **Solestra Group (USA)** signed a **multi-year, multi-million-dollar agreement** to establish a **Global Manufacturing Centre (GMC)** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

Essar Group and International Resources Holding Sign USD 500 Million Crude Oil and Product Sourcing Facility Agreement

- **The Essar Group (India)** and Abu Dhabi-based **International Resources Holding (IRH)** signed a **USD 500 million crude oil sourcing and product supply facility agreement**.

India and Japan Adopt Rules for Joint Crediting Mechanism under Paris Agreement

- **India and Japan** have adopted the **Rules of Implementation for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** under **Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement**, strengthening bilateral cooperation on climate action.

India and Canada Agree to Launch General Security of Information Agreement Negotiations and Accelerate Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Talks

- **India and Canada** have agreed to begin negotiations on a **General Security of Information Agreement (GSOIA)** and accelerate efforts to conclude the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** in **2026**.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Signs Agreements with Vehicle Manufacturers for Fleet Modernisation in Delhi-National Capital Region

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** signed two **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with leading **Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)** for implementing the Government of India's scheme to replace old trucks and buses in the **Delhi-National Capital Region (Delhi-NCR)**.

Gujarat Signs ₹1 Lakh Crore Infrastructure Financing Agreement with Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited

- The **Government of Gujarat** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO)** for long-term financial assistance of up to **₹1 lakh crore** over a period of **two years**, beginning from **May 2026**.

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Climate Observation Station in Himalayan Region

- The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, Maharashtra**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, Uttarakhand**, to establish a long-term climate observation station under the **Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON)**.

Maharashtra Signs MoU with Google for Education to Train Over 4 Lakh Teachers in Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technologies

- The **Maharashtra School Education Department** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Google for Education** to provide **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and digital technology training to more than **4 lakh teachers** across the state.

Himachal Pradesh Signs Agreements for 19 Hydropower Projects Worth Rs. 3,336 Crore

- The **Himachal Pradesh Government**, under **Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**, signed implementation agreements for **19 hydropower projects** in 2026.

Safran Electronics & Defence Partners with SatSure Analytics India for Geospatial Intelligence Solutions

- **Safran Electronics & Defence**, a France-based aerospace and defence company, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **SatSure Analytics India Private Limited**.

National Highways Authority of India Signs Memorandum of Understanding with National Council of Applied Economic Research

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)**.

Comptroller and Auditor General of India Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Supreme Audit Institution of Israel

- The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of Israel** to strengthen cooperation in **public sector auditing**.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay Signs Letter of Intent with State University of New York (SUNY) Old Westbury

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** and the **State University of New York (SUNY) Old Westbury** signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** in **New York, United States (US)** to strengthen academic and research collaboration.

RANKING AND REPORTS

Index / Report Name	Published By	India's Rank / Performance	Top 3 Ranks / Positions
Forbes Billionaires Ranking 2026	Forbes	No specific India rank mentioned	1. Elon Musk (USD 822.3 B), 2. Larry Page, 3. Larry Ellison
Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2025	World Bank & S&P Global Market Intelligence	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) ranked 22nd globally (Best-performing Indian container port); Pipavav Port – 28th; Mundra Port – 30th; Visakhapatnam Port – 104th	1. Fuzhou (China), 2. Dalian (China), 3. Salalah (Oman)
Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)	India – 127th (Score: 2.409)	1. Iceland, 2. New Zealand, 3. Switzerland
QS World University Rankings 2027	QS Quacquarelli Symonds	India ranked 5th globally by representation with 52 institutions	1. MIT (USA), 2. Stanford University (USA), 3. Imperial College London (UK)

Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026	World Economic Forum (WEF)	India's rank not mentioned	1. Sweden, 2. Finland, 3. Denmark
QS World Future Skills Index 2027	QS Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)	India – 13th (Score: 89.4/100)	1st–3rd positions not mentioned
Hurun India 500 Report 2026	Hurun India (in partnership with Axis Bank & Burgundy Private)	India-only ranking (Ranks India's 500 most valuable companies)	1. Reliance Industries, 2. HDFC Bank, 3. Bharti Airtel

SPORTS NEWS

Chandigarh and Bhubaneswar Awarded Hosting Rights for Asian Athletics Events

- The **Asian Athletics Association (AAA)** awarded hosting rights for the **Asian Relays 2027** to **Chandigarh** and the **Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2028** to **Bhubaneswar** during its Executive Council meeting in **Hong Kong, China**.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest Player to Score 600 Runs in an Indian Premier League Season, Breaks Chris Gayle's Sixes Record

- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi**, the **15-year-old Rajasthan Royals opener**, created history during the **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 Eliminator** against **Sunrisers Hyderabad** at the **Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium, New Chandigarh**.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Win Singapore Open 2026 Men's Doubles Title

- Indian badminton pair **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** won the **Singapore Open 2026 Men's Doubles title**, becoming the **first Indian doubles pair** to win the prestigious tournament.

India Wins Record 27 Medals at Under-23 Asian Wrestling Championships 2026 in Da Nang

- India's Under-23 wrestlers won a **record 27 medals** (11 gold, 7 silver and 9 bronze) at the **Under-23 Asian Wrestling Championships 2026** held in **Da Nang, Vietnam**.

Esha Singh Wins Gold in Women's 25 Metre Pistol Event at International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup 2026 in Munich

- Indian shooter **Esha Singh** won the **gold medal** in the **Women's 25 metre pistol event** at the **International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup 2026** held in **Munich, Germany**,

International Cricket Council Suspends Cricket Canada Membership Over Governance Breaches

- The **International Cricket Council** has suspended the membership of **Cricket Canada** with immediate effect due to serious breaches of governance and membership obligations.

India's Women Wrestlers Win 10 Medals at Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championships 2026

- India's **women's wrestling team** won a total of **10 medals** at the **Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championships 2026** held in **Da Nang, Vietnam**.

Indian-Origin Footballers Set to Feature in Fédération Internationale de Football Association World Cup 2026

- India failed to qualify for the **FIFA World Cup 2026**, finishing third in Group A during the second round of the Asian qualifiers behind **Qatar** and **Kuwait**.

R Praggnanandhaa Becomes First Indian to Win Norway Chess Tournament

- Indian chess prodigy **R Praggnanandhaa** became the **first Indian player to win the Norway Chess tournament**, one of the most prestigious events in world chess.

French Open 2026: Alexander Zverev and Mirra Andreeva Win Singles Titles

- The **French Open 2026 (Roland-Garros)** concluded in **Paris, France**, with several historic achievements across singles and doubles categories.

Kimi Antonelli Wins Monaco Grand Prix 2026, Extends Formula One Championship Lead

- **Kimi Antonelli** of **Mercedes** won the **Monaco Grand Prix 2026**, one of the most prestigious races in **Formula One**.

India Wins South Asian Football Federation Women's Championship 2026, Secures Record Sixth Title

- The **Indian Women's Football Team** won the **South Asian Football Federation Women's Championship 2026** by defeating **Bangladesh 3-1** in the final held at **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Margao, Goa**.

India Shines in World Boxing Rankings 2026; Jaismine Lamboria and Minakshi Hooda Attain World No. 1 Rankings

- **India maintained** a strong presence in the **World Boxing Rankings** released on **4 June 2026**, covering performances from **July 2024 to May 2026**.

India Emerges Champion at Inaugural World Yogasana Championship 2026

- India emerged as the champion at the **inaugural World Yogasana Championship 2026**, finishing at the top of the medal tally.

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India Wins 4 Medals at New Taipei City Athletics Open 2026

- India finished with **4 medals (2 gold and 2 silver)** at the **New Taipei City Athletics Open 2026** held at **Banqiao Stadium, Chinese Taipei**.

India Finishes Ulaanbaatar Open 2026 with 17 Medals

- India delivered an impressive performance at the **Ulaanbaatar Open 2026 Wrestling Tournament** held in **Mongolia**, securing a total of **17 medals**, including **8 gold and 9 bronze medals**.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest Player Selected for India Men's Cricket Team

- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi**, born on **27 March 2011** in **Tajpur, Samastipur district, Bihar**, became the **youngest player ever selected for the Indian men's cricket team** at the age of **15 years and 71 days**.

Kane Williamson Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- **Kane Stuart Williamson**, former captain of **New Zealand**, announced his retirement from **international cricket**, bringing an end to his illustrious **16-year international career** that began in **2010**.

Bengaluru's Srishti Kiran Becomes World No. 1 in Under-13 Category of International Tennis Federation Junior World Rankings

- **Srishti Kiran** from **Bengaluru, Karnataka** became the **World No. 1 in the Under-13 category** of the **International Tennis Federation (ITF) Junior World Rankings**.

Smriti Mandhana Becomes the Only Indian in TIME100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026

- Indian women's cricket vice-captain **Smriti Mandhana** has been included in the **TIME100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026** list, becoming the only Indian to feature in this prestigious global ranking.

Deepti Sharma Becomes Joint-Highest Wicket-Taker in Women's International Cricket

- Indian all-rounder **Deepti Sharma** created history by becoming the **joint-highest wicket-taker in women's international cricket**.

Lionel Messi Becomes First Footballer to Play in Six FIFA World Cups

- **Argentine football legend Lionel Messi** became the first player in history to appear in **six FIFA World Cups** after featuring in Argentina's opening match against Algeria in the **FIFA World Cup 2026**.

Harmanpreet Kaur Becomes First Cricketer to Play 200 T20 Internationals

- Indian captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** has created history by becoming the first cricketer, in both men's and women's cricket, to play **200 Twenty20 International (T20I)** matches.

India Wins International Hockey Federation Nations Cup 2026, Secures Promotion to Pro League

- The Indian women's hockey team won the **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Nations Cup 2026** after defeating **New Zealand 2-0** in the final.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Smashes Fastest Fifty in List A Cricket History

- India's teenage cricket sensation **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** created history by scoring the **fastest half-century in List A cricket**, reaching the milestone in just **11 balls** during the **Tri-Nation Series Final** between **India A** and **Sri Lanka A** at the **Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Sri Lanka**.

Neeraj Chopra and Parul Chaudhary Named Athletes of the Year at Inaugural Indian Athletics Awards 2025

- Olympic medal-winning javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** was named **Best Male Athlete of the Year**, while national record holder **Parul Chaudhary** received the **Best Female Athlete of the Year** award at the inaugural **Indian Athletics Awards 2025** held in **New Delhi**.

Lionel Messi Becomes Highest Goal Scorer in FIFA World Cup History

- Argentina captain **Lionel Messi** became the highest goal scorer in **FIFA World Cup** history during the 2026 edition jointly hosted by the **United States**, **Canada** and **Mexico**.

Argentina Unveils World's Tallest Statue of Lionel Messi

- Argentina has unveiled the **world's tallest statue of Lionel Messi**, celebrating his legacy as one of the greatest footballers in history and the all-time leading scorer in **FIFA World Cup** history.

Cristiano Ronaldo Becomes First Player to Score in Six FIFA World Cup Editions

- Portugal captain **Cristiano Ronaldo** created football history by becoming the **first player to score in six different FIFA World Cup tournaments**.

Ben Stokes Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- **England Test captain Ben Stokes** has announced his retirement from **international cricket** after the **third Rothesay Test** against **New Zealand** at **Trent Bridge**.

OBITUARIES

Name	Profession / Role	Native / Nationality
Dr. Bashir Badr	Urdu Poet, Author, Padma Shri Awardee	Indian (Born in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh)

K. P. Dhanapalan	Former MP, Senior Congress Leader	Indian (Kerala)
Suman Kalyanpur	Playback Singer	Indian (Born in Dhaka, present-day Bangladesh)
Marcia Lucas	Academy Award-winning Film Editor	American
Pahlaj Nihalani	Film Producer, Former CBFC Chairperson	Indian (Born in Karachi, present-day Pakistan)
Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap	Constitutional Scholar, Former Lok Sabha Secretary-General, Author	Indian
Salim Kumar	Malayalam Actor, National Film Award Winner	Indian (Kerala)
Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal	Shot Put Athlete, Asian Games Medallist	Indian
Bharathiraja	Film Director, Producer, Screenwriter, Actor	Indian (Tamil Nadu)
Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol	Princess, UN Goodwill Ambassador	Thai
Gavri Devi	Mand Folk Singer	Indian (Rajasthan)
Jaspal Rana	Shooter, Shooting Coach	Indian
David Hockney	Contemporary Artist	British
Lt Gen Vijay Oberoi	Former Vice Chief of Army Staff	Indian
Robert A. F. Thurman	Buddhist Scholar, Author, Educator	American
Francois Englert	Theoretical Physicist, Nobel Laureate	Belgian

K. Bhagyaraj (Krishnaswamy Bhagyaraj)	Film Director, Actor, Screenwriter	Indian (Tamil Nadu)

July Month Current Affairs

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme
1 July	Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day (India)	Theme 2026: Simple Tax System, Strong Nation
1 July	Chartered Accountants Day (India)	Commemorates the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on 1 July 1949 under the Chartered Accountants Act. 1 July 2026 marks the 77th anniversary.
1 July	National Doctors' Day (India)	Theme 2026: Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?
2 July	World Sports Journalists Day	Theme 2026: Championing Fair Play: Reporting with Integrity and Impact.
2 July	World UFO Day	Raises awareness about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), encourages scientific discussion on aerial phenomena, and promotes the search for extraterrestrial life.
3 July	International Plastic Bag Free Day	Theme 2026: Breaking Free from Single-Use Plastics: Towards a Sustainable Future

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme
4 July (First Saturday of July)	International Day of Cooperatives	Highlights the role of cooperatives in promoting peace, social cohesion, and sustainable development. **2026 Theme:** "Cooperatives for a Peaceful World".
6 July	World Zoonoses Day 2026	Theme 2026: One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses
11 July	World Population Day	Theme 2026: Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future
12 July	World Malala Day	Honours Malala Yousafzai and raises awareness about the right to education, women's empowerment, and children's rights. Declared by the UN in recognition of her contribution to girls' education.
15 July	World Youth Skills Day	Theme 2026: Skills for a Shared Future
17 July	World Day for International Justice 2026	Recognises and promotes the importance of the international justice system.
18 July	Nelson Mandela International Day 2026	Theme 2026: It is still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity
20 July	World Chess Day	Theme 2026: Celebrate, Create, and Make a Difference
20 July	International Moon Day	Theme 2026: One Moon, One Vision, One Future
22 July	World Brain Day	Theme 2026: Brain Health: Access for All

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme
23 July	National Broadcasting Day (India)	Commemorates the first-ever radio broadcast in India, which took place on 23 July 1927.
26 July	Kargil Vijay Diwas (India)	Honours the bravery, courage, and supreme sacrifice of Indian Armed Forces personnel during the Kargil War of 1999.
28 July	World Nature Conservation Day 2026	Creates awareness about the importance of conserving nature, protecting biodiversity, and preserving natural resources.
30 July	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	Theme 2026: Trapped behind the scam

BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

Reserve Bank of India Proposes New Master Directions to Regulate Call, Notice and Term Money Markets

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released **draft directions** to broaden participation in the **Term Money Market** by allowing **All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs), eligible Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), and companies** to participate.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Draft Master Directions for Secondary Market Transactions in Government Securities

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **draft directions** to simplify and consolidate regulations governing **secondary market transactions in Government Securities (G-Secs)**, including **'When Issued' (WI) trading, short selling, and Government Securities Lending (GSL)** under a **single regulatory framework**.

Cabinet Approves ₹30,000 Crore Additional Investment in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund to Boost Infrastructure Development and Mobilise Institutional Capital

- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved an **additional Government investment of ₹30,000 crore** in the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** to strengthen investments in infrastructure and other nationally important sectors.
- With this approval, the **Government of India's total commitment to NIIF** has increased from **₹30,000 crore to ₹60,000 crore**.

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Begins Four-Day Official Visit to France to Strengthen India–France Economic and Strategic Cooperation

- **Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**, embarked on an official visit to France to strengthen the **India–France Strategic Partnership** and promote economic cooperation, investment, technology collaboration, and innovation.

PayGlocal Introduces Google Pay Card Payments to Enable Seamless Global Transactions for Indian Merchants

- **PayGlocal**, an India-based cross-border payments platform, launched **Google Pay Card Payments** on its International Payment Gateway to simplify global digital payments for Indian merchants.

Kakinada Cooperative Town Bank Achieves Reserve Bank of India Tier-III Status with Deposits Crossing ₹2,000 Crore

- **Kakinada Cooperative Town Bank**, an Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) in Andhra Pradesh (AP), secured **Tier-III status** under Reserve Bank of India (RBI) norms after its total deposits crossed **₹2,000 crore**.
- The bank achieved Tier-III classification with **zero Net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)**, reflecting its strong financial health.

Reserve Bank of India Stress Tests Project Banks' Gross Non-Performing Asset Ratio to Rise Marginally to 1.9% by March 2028 Under Baseline Scenario

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released its **Financial Stability Report (FSR)**, highlighting **geopolitical fragmentation** and the rapid growth of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** as major **emerging risks** to the global economy and financial system.
- The **Gross Non-Performing Asset (GNPA) ratio** of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) **declined to a multi-decade low of 1.8% in March 2026**, reflecting significant improvement in banking sector **asset quality**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Approves Two New General Insurance Licences Following 100% Foreign Direct Investment Reforms

- **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) Chairman Ajay Seth** announced that the **IRDAI** has approved **two new general insurance licences** following the Government of India's decision to allow **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the insurance sector.
- The **FDI limit** in the insurance sector was **increased from 74% to 100% under the automatic route** in the **Union Budget 2026–27**, encouraging greater foreign investment.

Bank of Baroda and Japan's Mizuho Bank Forge Strategic Alliance to Strengthen Merger & Acquisition and Cross-Border Financing

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** and Japan's **Mizuho Bank** signed a **strategic partnership agreement** to strengthen cooperation in **Merger & Acquisition (M&A) financing**, **structured lending**, **cross-border financing**, and **corporate & investment banking services**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Sets Up Expert Working Group Led by Ananta Barua to Review Debenture Trustee Regulations

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** constituted an **Expert Working Group (EWG)** at **New Delhi, Delhi** to review the regulatory framework governing **Debenture Trustees**.
- The Expert Working Group (EWG) is **chaired by Ananta Barua**, Former SEBI Whole-Time Member (WTM), with **Rajnish Kumar**, Former Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI), serving as **Co-Chairperson**.

CGST Delhi South Marks GST Pakhwada 2026 with Taxpayer Outreach and Officer Felicitation

- **CGST Delhi South Commissionerate** observed **GST Day 2026** under the theme **"सुगम कर व्यवस्था, सशक्त राष्ट्र" (Simple Tax System, Strong Nation)**.
- The celebrations were organised as part of **GST Pakhwada 2026**, reaffirming the Commissionerate's commitment to **taxpayer facilitation** and **participative governance**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Grants Standalone Health Insurance Licence to Prudential HCL Health Insurance

- **IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)** granted a **Certificate of Registration** to **Prudential HCL Health Insurance Limited** to operate as a **Standalone Health Insurance (SAHI) Company** in India.
- The approval was granted during the **136th Authority Meeting of IRDAI** held on **29 June 2026**.

Punjab & Sind Bank Unveils Customer-Centric Digital Banking Initiatives on Its 119th Foundation Day

- **Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB)** celebrated its **119th Foundation Day** by launching **customer-centric digital banking initiatives**, a **new Vision & Mission Statement**, and **technology-driven banking solutions** at **New Delhi, Delhi**.

SBI Life and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay Join Hands to Establish AI & Cyber Innovation Hub for India's Insurance Sector

- **SBI Life Insurance Company Limited** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay**, Mumbai, Maharashtra, to establish the **"Bharat AI & Cyber Innovation Hub for Insurance."**

National Payments Corporation of India Partners with HSBC India and JP Morgan Payments for Real-Time Foreign Exchange Settlement in Cross-Border Unified Payments Interface Transactions

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** partnered with **HSBC India** and **JP Morgan Payments** to enable **real-time Foreign Exchange (FX) settlement** for **cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** transactions.
- The initiative aims to improve the **international payment experience** by providing **greater transparency, faster settlement**, and **real-time currency conversion** for Indian users.

India and France Hold High-Level Economic & Financial Dialogue in Aix-en-Provence

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and France's Minister of Economy, Finance, Industrial, Energy, and Digital Sovereignty **Roland Lescure** co-chaired the **India-France Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD)** in **Aix-en-Provence, France**.

Razorpay and NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited Launch Banking Connect to Transform Mobile-First NetBanking Payments

- **Razorpay**, in partnership with **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, launched **Banking Connect**, a **mobile-first NetBanking solution**, in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **Banking Connect** modernises **NetBanking** by offering **unified multi-bank integration**, along with **QR-based and intent-driven payment flows**, improving payment efficiency and customer experience.

Asian Development Bank Sanctions USD 182.89 Million Loan for Karnataka Public School Transformation

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **USD 182.89 million** (Japanese Yen equivalent) loan for **Karnataka** to strengthen the public school system under the **Strengthening Karnataka Public Schools Program**.
- The programme aims to establish **500 Integrated Karnataka Public School Clusters**, providing seamless education from **pre-primary to secondary level**.

Reserve Bank of India Levies Monetary Penalty on Bank of Baroda and GIC Housing Finance for Regulatory Violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a combined monetary penalty of **Rs. 66.7 lakh** on **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** and **GIC Housing Finance** for non-compliance with regulatory directions.
- The penalties were imposed for violations related to **Know Your Customer (KYC) norms**, **lending guidelines**, and the **Fair Practices Code for Lenders**.

Asian Development Bank Sanctions USD 230 Million Loan to Upgrade Chennai's Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a **USD 230 million (approximately Rs. 1,920 crore) loan** to modernise and expand Chennai's water supply and sanitation infrastructure in Tamil Nadu (TN).

Paytm Europe Receives Payment Institution Licence Approval from Luxembourg's Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier

- **Paytm Europe Payments S.A.**, the European arm of **One97 Communications (Paytm)**, secured a **Payment Institution (PI) Licence** from Luxembourg's financial regulator, **Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF)**.

Nine Years of Goods and Services Tax: Transforming India's Tax System and Driving Economic Growth

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** was launched on **1 July 2017** under the vision of **"One Nation, One Tax"**, replacing **17 indirect taxes and 13 cesses** with a unified indirect tax system.
- GST eliminated the **cascading effect of taxes (tax on tax)**, created a common national market, and strengthened the vision of **"Ek Bharat – Shreshtha Bharat."**

Reserve Bank of India Penalises Five Star Business Finance, Can Fin Homes, and Pahal Financial Services for Know Your Customer and Fair Practices Code Violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed **monetary penalties** on **Five Star Business Finance Limited**, **Can Fin Homes Limited**, and **Pahal Financial Services Private Limited** for violating **Know Your Customer (KYC) Directions** and the **Fair Practices Code**.
- **Five Star Business Finance Limited** was penalised **₹6.20 lakh** by the RBI.
- **Can Fin Homes Limited** was penalised **₹2.70 lakh** by the RBI.
- **Pahal Financial Services Private Limited** was penalised **₹3.10 lakh** by the RBI.

India's External Debt Reaches US$ 762.8 Billion at End-March 2026

- India's **external debt** increased to **US$ 762.8 billion** as of **31 March 2026**, registering an increase of **US$ 26.3 billion** over the previous year.
- The **external debt-to-GDP ratio** rose from **19.8% (March 2025)** to **20.8% (March 2026)**.
- The share of **short-term external debt** increased to **19.6%** of total external debt.
- The ratio of **short-term external debt to foreign exchange reserves** increased to **21.6%**, indicating higher short-term repayment obligations.
- **US dollar-denominated debt** remained the **largest component** of India's external debt, accounting for **55.5%** of the total.

Reserve Bank of India Penalises Repco Home Finance and True Credits for Regulatory Compliance Violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹70,000** on **Repco Home Finance Limited** for violating the **Fair Practice Code**.
- The RBI also imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹3.10 lakh** on **True Credits Private Limited** for non-compliance with **Know Your Customer (KYC) Directions**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases ₹3.19 Lakh Crore State Market Borrowing Calendar for July–September 2026 Quarter

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** expanded the **Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS)** from **9 States to 18 States and the Union Territory of Delhi** from **Q2 of FY 2026–27**.
- The expansion of the Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS) aims to **enhance transparency**, **improve price discovery**, and provide **greater clarity to investors** in **State Government Securities (SGSs)**.
- Under the Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS), **State Development Loans (SDLs)** are issued in **pre-announced benchmark maturity buckets** through a **fixed issuance calendar**.

Government Expands Additional National Pension System Investment Options for Central Autonomous Body Employees

- The **Government of India (GoI)** has extended **two additional investment choices** under the **National Pension System (NPS)** to employees of **Central Autonomous Bodies (CABs)** covered under NPS.
- The **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance**, extended the applicability of the **Department of Financial Services (DFS) Notification dated 13 November 2025** to NPS subscribers employed in Central Autonomous Bodies (CABs).

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0 Surpasses 4.11 Lakh Loan Guarantees, Covering Over ₹1.55 Lakh Crore

- **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0** was approved by the Union Cabinet on **5 May 2026** to provide **liquidity support** to businesses affected by the **West Asia geopolitical situation**.

Japan Bank for International Cooperation Sanctions JPY 80 Billion Green Loan to POWERGRID for Renewable Energy Transmission Project

- **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)**, a **'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the **Ministry of Power (MoP)**, secured a **Japanese Yen (JPY) 80 billion Green Loan** from the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Partners with Institute of Public Auditors of India to Curb Dark Patterns in Digital Insurance Platforms

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has launched a crackdown on **"Dark Patterns"** in digital insurance platforms to curb **mis-selling**, improve **transparency**, strengthen **consumer protection**, and enhance **public trust** in the insurance sector.

Department of Financial Services Insurance Division Achieves 2nd Position in Group A of May 2026 Grievance Redressal Assessment & Index Rankings

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance** (through its Banking and Insurance Divisions) receives **more than 2.50 lakh grievances annually**.
- The DFS has consistently featured among the **Top 10 Ministries/Departments** in the **Grievance Redressal Assessment & Index (GRAI)** rankings since November 2025.

Gujarat International Finance Tec-City and Vietnam's Da Nang Financial Centre Forge Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Bilateral Financial Cooperation

- **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**, India's **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Vietnam International Financial Center–Da Nang (VIFC-DN)** in **New Delhi, Delhi**.

Adani Group's Kutch Copper Receives London Metal Exchange (LME) Certification for Grade A Copper Cathodes

- **Kutch Copper Limited (KCL)**, a subsidiary of **Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL)**, secured **London Metal Exchange (LME) certification** for its **"Adani Copper" Grade A copper cathodes**.
- The **LME approval** allows Adani Copper Grade A cathodes to be delivered with warrants eligible for issuance against **LME Copper Futures Contracts** from **10 July 2026**.

NTPC Establishes Wholly Owned Mauritius Subsidiary to Develop Floating Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Project

- **NTPC Limited** has incorporated a **wholly owned subsidiary (WOS)** named **NTPC (Mauritius) Energy** in **Mauritius** to strengthen its international presence and expand its clean energy portfolio.

Reserve Bank of India Implements Revamped Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2026 from July 1,2026

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced the **Reserve Bank–Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2026**, replacing the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021, with effect from **1 July 2026**.

Asian Development Bank Revises India's FY27 Growth Outlook Down to 6.6% and Raises Inflation Projection to 5.2%

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** lowered **India's GDP Growth Forecast for FY2026–27 (FY27)** to **6.6%** from the earlier projection of 6.9% (April 2026).
- ADB retained India's GDP Growth Forecast for **FY2027–28 (FY28)** at **7.3%**, supported by policy measures, stronger exports, and improving global economic conditions.

International Monetary Fund Projects India's FY27 Economic Growth at 6.4% in July 2026 World Economic Outlook Update

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** released the **World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update – July 2026** titled **"Global Economy in Crosscurrents of War and Technology"**.
- The IMF projected **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth at 6.4% for FY2026–27 (FY27)**, slightly lower than the 6.5% forecast issued in April 2026.

- IMF revised **India's FY2027–28 (FY28) GDP Growth Forecast upward to 6.7%**, compared to the earlier estimate of 6.5%.
- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recorded a **7.7% Growth during FY2025–26 (FY26)**.

India's Financial Intelligence Unit–India Earns Best Egmont Case Award 2026 Runner-Up Recognition for Cyber Fraud Investigation

- **Financial Intelligence Unit–India (FIU-IND)** secured the **Runner-up position** at the **Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) 2026** during the **Egmont Group Plenary** held in **Baku, Azerbaijan**.
- The achievement came under the leadership of **Shri Amit Mohan Govil**, Director, FIU-IND.

National Stock Exchange Introduces India's First Animal-Friendly Stock Market Index – Nifty500 Ahimsa

- **NSE Indices Limited**, the index services subsidiary of the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, launched the **Nifty500 Ahimsa Index**.
- The **Nifty500 Ahimsa Index** is a **thematic index** that tracks companies from the **Nifty 500 universe** whose business practices follow the principles of **Ahimsa (non-violence)**.

World Bank Approves $890 Million to Expand India's Rooftop Solar Programme and Green Jobs

- The **World Bank Board of Executive Directors** approved an **$890 million financing package** for India's national rooftop solar programme on **9–10 July 2026**.
- The funding supports **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**, India's flagship residential rooftop solar scheme for rural and urban households.
- The scheme aims to install rooftop solar systems in **10 million households** across India, promoting **clean energy generation** and grid-connected electricity supply.

Reserve Bank of India Rolls Out Three Major Surveys to Support Monetary Policy Decisions

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** launched the **Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)**, **Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS)**, and **Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS)** to collect household feedback on inflation, economic conditions, employment, income, and spending.
- The surveys provide critical inputs for **monetary policy formulation** ahead of the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting** scheduled from **3–5 August 2026**.

AU Small Finance Bank Limited and Zaggle Launch Co-Branded Retail Credit Card with Visa, RuPay, and Unified Payments Interface Benefits

- **AU Small Finance Bank Limited (AU SFB)** partnered with **Zaggle Prepaid Ocean Services Limited (Zaggle)** to launch the **AU Zaggle Co-Branded Retail Credit Card** on the **Visa and RuPay payment networks** through the **zagg.money platform**.

IDFC FIRST Bank Introduces Digital EPFO Payment Facility for Online EPF Contributions

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has launched **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Payment Services** through integration with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
- The new service enables employers and establishments to make **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contributions digitally** by initiating payments through the **EPFO Portal** and completing them via IDFC FIRST Bank's **Retail and Corporate Internet Banking platforms**.

Bank of Baroda Agrees to USD 600 Million Settlement in NMC Health Lending Dispute

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has entered into a joint out-of-court settlement with **NMC Health PLC** and **NMC Healthcare Ltd**, agreeing to pay **USD 600 million (around ₹5,100 crore)** to resolve claims related to its lending exposure to the collapsed UAE-based NMC Group.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Forms Accelerated Scaling of Global Capital Ecosystem and NPS Development Committee to Boost National Pension System Through Global Pension Fund Investments

- **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has constituted the **ASCEND (Accelerated Scaling of Global Capital Ecosystem and NPS Development) Committee** to strengthen the **National Pension System (NPS)** by attracting **global pension fund investments** into India.

Central Public Sector Enterprises Required to Settle All Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Invoices Through Trade Receivables Discounting System Under New MSME Notification

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, through a notification issued on **30 June 2026**, mandated all operating **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** to settle MSME invoices for goods and services through **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platforms** authorised by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- The new mandate implements a key announcement of the **Union Budget FY2026–27**, aimed at strengthening **MSME financing** and ensuring **timely payments**.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Reviews Reserve Bank of India's FCNR(B), External Commercial Borrowings and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings Swap Schemes with Bank Chiefs

- **Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** reviewed the progress of **RBI's Swap Facility Schemes** for **FCNR(B) Deposits**, **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)**, and **Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs)** with MDs & CEOs of **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** and **Public Financial Institutions (PFIs)** in **New Delhi**.

Central Bureau of Narcotics Dismantles Illegal Mephedrone Lab in Pune Under Operation Vajra, Arrests Two Key Kingpins

- The **Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), Madhya Pradesh Unit**, dismantled a sophisticated **Mephedrone (MD) manufacturing laboratory** in **Pune, Maharashtra**, under **Operation Vajra**.

Five Indian States Achieve Upper-Middle-Income Status While India Remains a Lower-Middle-Income Economy: World Bank

- According to the **World Bank Country Income Classification (FY2027)**, **India** continues to be classified as a **Lower-Middle-Income Economy**.
- India's **Gross National Income (GNI) per capita** under the **Atlas Method** was **USD 2,760 (2025)**, and the country has remained in the Lower-Middle-Income category since **2009**.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development World Investment Report 2026: India Becomes the World's 11th-Largest Foreign Direct Investment Recipient

- According to the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) World Investment Report 2026**, India became the **11th-largest recipient** of **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the world in **2025**, improving from **13th position** in **2024**.
- **FDI inflows** into India increased by **44%**, rising from **USD 27.09 billion (2024)** to **USD 38.89 billion (2025)**.

Standard Chartered Becomes First Bank in India to Process SWIFT Retail Cross-Border Remittance in 37 Seconds

- **Standard Chartered** became the **first bank in the world** to successfully process a **cross-border remittance** under **SWIFT's new Retail Payments Framework**.
- The **first live cross-border transaction** was completed from **Australia to India** in just **37 seconds**, demonstrating **near real-time international payments**.

Bank of Maharashtra Unveils 'FinSpark'26' National Cybersecurity Hackathon

- **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)**, one of India's leading Public Sector Banks (PSBs), launched **"FinSpark'26"**, a national-level **cybersecurity hackathon**, under the theme **"Securing the Future of Banking"**.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Launches Gramodyam Programme to

Promote Rural Entrepreneurship in India

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** launched **Gramodyam**, an **entrepreneurship development programme for rural youth**, during its **45th Foundation Day celebrations**.
- **Gramodyam** aims to **identify, nurture, mentor, and empower aspiring rural entrepreneurs** by helping them establish **sustainable rural enterprises** and generate **employment opportunities**.

Indian Mercantile Co-operative Bank Removed from the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

- **Indian Mercantile Co-operative Bank Limited., Lucknow** has been **excluded from the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934**, through a notification dated **4 June 2026**, published in the **Gazette of India (Part III – Section 4)** on **22 June 2026**.
- With its removal from the **Second Schedule**, the bank loses its status as a **Scheduled Bank** under the **RBI Act, 1934**.
- **Scheduled Bank status** is granted under **Section 42 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**, subject to compliance with prescribed **regulatory requirements**.

Reserve Bank of India Organises 3rd Annual Internal Ombudsmen Conference in Mumbai

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** organised the **3rd Annual Conference of Internal Ombudsmen (IO)** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Axis Max Life Introduces 'Smart RISE' Retirement Plan Combining Guaranteed Income and NIFTY 50-Linked Annuity

- **Axis Max Life Insurance Limited** launched **Axis Max Life Smart Retirement Income with Sustained Earnings Plan (Smart RISE)**, a retirement-focused insurance product designed to provide stable post-retirement income.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry Reports India's Quarter 1 of Financial Year 2026–27 Exports at USD 232.73 Billion

- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)** released **India's Trade Data** for **Quarter 1 (Q1: April–June)** of **Financial Year 2026–27 (FY27)** and for the month of **June 2026**.
- According to the data, **India's total exports** during **Q1 FY27** stood at **USD 232.73 billion**, while **total imports** were estimated at **USD 270.15 billion**.
- **Merchandise exports** during **Q1 FY27** increased to **USD 129.32 billion**, compared to **USD 111.57 billion** in **Q1 FY26**, reflecting strong growth in **goods exports**.

- **Service exports** during **April–June FY27** were estimated at **USD 103.41 billion**, up from **USD 97.41 billion** during the corresponding period of **FY26**.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes One-Time Approval Framework for Institutional Investors to Hold Significant Stakes in Banks

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released a **draft amendment** proposing a **one-time approval mechanism** for eligible institutional investors to acquire and retain **major shareholding (5% or more)** in the same banking company without seeking repeated approvals.

Reserve Bank of India Approves Type-II NBFC Licence for Delhivery Financial Services

- **Delhivery Financial Services Private Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Delhivery Limited**, received **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approval for the grant of a **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** as a **Type-II Non-Banking Financial Company–Non-Deposit Taking (NBFC-ND)**.

Bloomberg Launches Electronic Trading Platform for Indian Government Bonds

- **Bloomberg** has facilitated the **first electronic trade** in **Indian Government Bonds (IGBs)** through its **Bloomberg Terminal** by integrating it with the **Negotiated Dealing System–Order Matching (NDS-OM)**.
- The new platform enables **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** to electronically execute, monitor, allocate, and settle trades in Indian Government Bonds (IGBs) with domestic and international banks through a **single integrated platform**.

Reserve Bank of India Mandates Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies to Auction Bad Loan-Acquired Immovable Assets Within Seven Years

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued final prudential norms for **Banks, Small Finance Banks (SFBs), and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** regarding **Specified Non-Financial Assets (SNFAs)** acquired while resolving stressed loans or **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)**.

Financial Action Task Force Removes Algeria and Namibia from Grey List After Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism Compliance Review

- **The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** released its updated **High-Risk Jurisdictions** and **Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring (Grey List)** following the **FATF Plenary Meeting** held from **17–19 June 2026**.
- Under the **High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action (Black List)**, **North Korea (DPRK)**, **Iran**, and **Myanmar** continue to remain on the list.

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- **Myanmar**, which was added to the High-Risk Jurisdictions list in **October 2022**, continues to remain under **enhanced due diligence** requirements as per the latest FATF review.

Digital India BHASHINI Division and Punjab National Bank Partner to Introduce Multilingual Artificial Intelligence Solutions for Inclusive Digital Banking

- **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)**, under the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**, **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** to develop **multilingual Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions** for inclusive banking under the **BHASHINI for Seva/Sanchalan** initiative.

Private Sector Banks Lead Non-Performing Assets Write-offs in FY2025–26, Surpassing Public Sector Banks

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Financial Stability Report (FSR)**, **Private Sector Banks** wrote off **49.7%** of their **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** in **FY2025–26**, compared to **24.3%** by **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**.
- **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** held the largest share of bad loans, accounting for **63.2%** of the total NPAs in the **Indian banking system**.

ICICI Prudential Life Board Approves Proposal to Rebrand as ICICI Life Insurance Limited

- The Board of **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** approved a proposal to rename the company as **ICICI Life Insurance Limited**, subject to approval from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Draft Foreign Investment Rules, 2026 to Modernise India's Foreign Investment Framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released the **Draft Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2026** for public consultation to modernise India's foreign investment regulatory framework.

Reserve Bank of India Releases FY26 Financial Inclusion-Index at 70 and Announces Final Specified Non-Financial Assets Prudential Framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)** for **FY 2025–26**, with the index rising to **70.0 in March 2026** from **67.0 in March 2025**.
- The improvement in the **FI-Index** was mainly driven by an increase in the **Usage sub-index**, reflecting the **deepening of financial inclusion** across India.

Government & Reserve Bank of India Enhance FinTech Regulations to Strengthen Consumer

Protection and Digital Finance

- The **Government of India (GoI)** continuously engages with financial sector regulators and other stakeholders to review issues related to the **FinTech ecosystem**, including **digital lending platforms** and **payment aggregators**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Framework for Self-Regulatory Organisation(s) in the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT Framework)** on **30 May 2024** to establish regulatory standards, promote **ethical conduct**, ensure **market integrity**, resolve disputes, and enhance **transparency and accountability** among FinTech entities.

Department of Land Resources and Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub Partner to Integrate Digital Land Governance with Digital Lending

- The **Department of Land Resources (DoLR)** under the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** held a high-level meeting with the **Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub (RBIH)** to strengthen the convergence of **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** for **land governance** and **digital lending**.

Government and Reserve Bank of India Enhance Digital Lending Oversight with Stronger Regulations and Consumer Protection Measures

- The **Government of India (GoI)** is continuously engaging with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and other regulators/stakeholders to curb the operations of **fake and illegal loan apps** in the country.
- The **RBI** operationalised the **Digital Lending Apps (DLAs) Directory** on its official website with effect from **1 July 2025** to help customers verify whether a **Digital Lending App (DLA)** is associated with an **RBI Regulated Entity (RE)**.

Government Strengthens Financial Inclusion Through Banking, Insurance, Pension and Credit Schemes

- The **Government of India (GoI)** launched the **National Mission for Financial Inclusion (NMFI)**, namely **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**, in **August 2014** to promote **financial inclusion** and provide **universal banking services** to every **unbanked household**.
- The **PMJDY** is based on the guiding principles of **"Banking the Unbanked, Securing the Unsecured, and Funding the Unfunded."**
- Under **PMJDY**, a total of **58.63 crore Jan Dhan Accounts** have been opened with total **deposits of ₹3,08,333 crore** as on **1 July 2026**.

Government of India Revises Windfall Tax: Raises Duty on Diesel & Aviation Turbine Fuel Exports, Cuts Petrol Export Tax

- The **Government of India (GoI)** increased the **windfall gains tax** on **diesel** and **Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)** exports, while **reducing the tax** on **petrol** exports.
- According to the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** notification, the revised tax rates came into effect from **16 July 2026**.

India's Total Exports Grow 11.37% to USD 232.73 Billion in Q1 FY27

- **India's total exports (Merchandise + Services)** increased by **11.37%** to an estimated **USD 232.73 billion** during **April–June FY2026–27**, compared to **USD 208.98 billion** in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.
- **Merchandise exports** grew by **15.92%** to **USD 129.32 billion**, reflecting strong performance in **manufacturing and value-added sectors**.
- **Non-petroleum exports** increased by **12.44%** to **USD 106.30 billion**, indicating **broad-based export growth** beyond petroleum products.

Reserve Bank of India Data Shows India's Outward Foreign Direct Investment Declined 47.9% to USD 3 Billion in June 2026

- According to provisional data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, India's **Outward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** declined by **47.9% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y)** to **USD 3 billion** in **June 2026**, compared to **USD 5.74 billion** in **June 2025**.
- On a **month-on-month basis**, Outward FDI also declined from **USD 4.5 billion in May 2026** to **USD 3 billion in June 2026**.
- Outward FDI comprises three components: **Equity Commitments**, **Debt (Loans) Commitments**, and **Guarantees**, all of which recorded a decline in June 2026.

National Stock Exchange Introduces Electronic Gold Receipts for Exchange-Traded Ownership of Physical Gold

- Electronic Gold Receipts (**EGRs**) are **exchange-traded securities** introduced by the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** that represent ownership of **physical gold** stored in **SEBI-regulated vaults**.
- The **NSE** launched the **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) Segment** in **May 2026** to provide a **regulated, transparent and secure platform** for buying and selling gold in electronic form.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Alerts Listed Companies and Regulated Entities Against Rising "Boss Scam" Cyber Fraud

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India** (**SEBI**) has warned regulated entities and listed companies against the rising "**Boss Scam**", a cyber fraud primarily targeting **finance and accounts departments**.
- In a **Boss Scam**, fraudsters impersonate **Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)**, **Managing Directors (MDs)**, or other **senior executives** to deceive employees into making **unauthorised fund transfers**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Commercial Banks–Governance Amendment Directions, 2026 Effective from 1 October 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued the **Commercial Banks–Governance Amendment Directions, 2026**, which will come into effect from **1 October 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Authorises EbixCash as India's First Authorised Dealer Category-II Entity to Offer Trade Remittance Services

- **EbixCash World Money Limited** became the **first Authorised Dealer Category-II (AD-II) entity in India** to receive **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** authorisation to offer **Trade Remittances** and **Family Maintenance Remittances**, a segment previously dominated by **banks**.
- Under the enhanced licence, **EbixCash** can facilitate **Trade Remittances up to ₹25 lakh per transaction**.

ICRA Projects India's Q1 FY27 Real Gross Domestic Product Growth at 6.4–6.6%

- **ICRA Limited**, a domestic credit rating agency, has projected **India's Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth** at **6.4–6.6%** for **Q1 (April–June) FY2026–27 (FY27)**.
- The projected growth is driven by **broad-based economic activity**, despite **elevated energy prices** and **limited input availability**, which continue to put pressure on **manufacturing margins**.
- **India's Real GDP** had grown by **7.8%** in **Q4 (January–March) FY2025–26 (FY26)**.

EnKash Launches India's First Unified Payments Interface-Enabled Meal Card for Employee Benefits

- **EnKash**, India's leading **business payments and spend management platform**, became the **first company in India** to launch a **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-enabled Meal Card**.
- The **UPI-based Meal Card** enables employees to make **direct payments** from their **meal balance** by scanning **eligible UPI QR Codes** at **food and grocery merchants**.

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister Report: India Accounted for 8.2% of Global

Gross Domestic Product in Purchasing Power Parity Terms in 2025

- According to a working paper published by the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**, **India** accounted for **8.2% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** in **2025** based on **Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)**.
- The report highlights that **India contributes more than 10%** of **global savings** and **global investment**, reflecting its increasing importance in the world economy.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Grants Approval to Carnelian Asset Management to Enter the Mutual Fund Business

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approved **Carnelian Asset Management & Advisors Private Limited** to launch its **Mutual Fund (MF) business**.
- The approval enables **Carnelian Asset Management** to offer **active and passive mutual fund schemes** across **equity**, **debt**, and **hybrid asset classes** to **retail investors**.

Reserve Bank of India Temporarily Closes Mumbai's RBI Monetary Museum for Renovation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced the **temporary closure** of the **RBI Monetary Museum** in **Mumbai** from **22 July 2026** for **renovation work** until further notice.
- The **RBI Monetary Museum** was established by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and is **India's first museum** dedicated to documenting, preserving, and showcasing the country's **monetary heritage**.

Punjab National Bank and Andhra Pradesh Government Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Establish India's First Bank-Led Quantum Finance Hub

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP)** to establish the **PNB Quantum Finance Hub** at the **Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV)** in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**.

DBS Bank Named World's Best Corporate Bank at the 2026 Global Bank Awards

- **DBS Bank Limited**, a **Singapore-based** multinational banking and financial services corporation, was named the **World's Best Corporate Bank** at the **2026 Global Bank Awards** presented by **Global Finance magazine**.
- **DBS Bank** became the **first Southeast Asian bank** to win the **World's Best Corporate Bank** title since the award category was introduced in **2005**.

London Stock Exchange to Introduce Extended Near-24-Hour Trading with LSE 24 Next Year

- The **London Stock Exchange (LSE)** announced the launch of **LSE 24**, a new **after-hours trading platform** designed to provide **near-continuous trading** for global investors.

- **LSE 24** will offer trading from **5:00 PM to 7:50 AM (London Time)**, significantly extending the exchange's **trading hours**.

Government Eases Foreign Direct Investment Norms for Export-Oriented Inventory-Based E-Commerce of Indian-Manufactured Goods

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)** relaxed the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy** by allowing foreign-funded e-commerce companies to operate an **inventory-based model** exclusively for the **export of goods manufactured or produced in India**.

SBI Life Insurance Becomes Principal Partner of India's Para Sports Team for the 2026 Season

- **SBI Life Insurance Company Limited**, one of India's leading private life insurers, entered into a **strategic partnership** with the **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)**.
- Under the partnership, **SBI Life Insurance** became the **Principal Partner** of the **Indian Contingent** for the **2026 Para Sport Season**.

Government Reports Gross Non-Performing Assets of Scheduled Commercial Banks Fall to 1.73% by March 2026

- **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPAs)** of **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** declined to **1.73% as of March 2026**, compared to **2.75% in March 2024**, indicating a significant improvement in the **asset quality** of India's banking sector.

Nepal Allows Indian and Nepali Citizens to Carry ₹200 and ₹500 Indian Currency Notes up to ₹25,000 Across the Border

- **Nepal** has permitted **Indian and Nepali citizens** to carry **Indian currency notes of ₹200 and ₹500 denominations** (issued on or after **9 November 2016**) into or out of Nepal up to a **maximum limit of ₹25,000 per person**.
- The decision was notified by the **Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB)**, the central bank of Nepal, to facilitate smoother **cross-border travel, tourism, trade, and business** between **India and Nepal**.

National Stock Exchange Launches India's First Domestic Benchmark-Based Indian Natural Gas Futures Contract

- **The National Stock Exchange (NSE)** announced the launch of **India's first exchange-traded energy derivative**, the **Indian Natural Gas Futures**, with trading commencing from **27 July 2026**.

- The **Indian Natural Gas Futures** contract is linked to a **domestic benchmark**, providing India's first exchange-traded natural gas derivative based on domestic gas prices.

VIYONA Fintech Secures Bharat Connect Approval to Operate as Customer Operating Unit

- **VIYONA Fintech**, a **Hyderabad, Telangana-based fintech infrastructure startup**, received approval from the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**, now known as **Bharat Connect**, to operate as a **Customer Operating Unit (COU)**.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Grants Customs Clearance to Vizhinjam International Seaport for Export-Import Cargo Operations

- **Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited (VISL)**, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, received final approval from the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** to commence **Export-Import (EXIM) cargo operations** from **18 August 2026**.
- The **CBIC** notified **VISL** as a **Customs Port** under the **Customs Act, 1962**, enabling the port to handle **direct EXIM cargo operations**.

State Bank of India to Become First Indian Bank to Issue Perpetual Bonds in 2026

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** is set to become the first Indian bank to issue **Basel III-compliant Additional Tier-I (AT-1) Perpetual Bonds** in **2026**.
- SBI plans to raise **₹5,000 crore** through the issuance of **AT-1 Perpetual Bonds**, with the issue expected within the next two weeks.
- The proposed AT-1 Perpetual Bonds will carry a **five-year call option**, allowing SBI to redeem the bonds after five years, subject to **regulatory approval**.

Government Approves Reserve Bank of India Proposal to Introduce ₹10 and ₹20 Polymer Banknotes for Field Trials

- The **Government of India (GoI)** has approved the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** proposal to conduct field trials of **1 billion (100 crore)** polymer banknotes each in the **₹10 and ₹20 denominations**, marking a major step towards introducing more durable and secure currency notes in India.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Demat-Only Securitisation Notes While Retaining ₹1 Crore Minimum Investment Limit

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released draft amendments proposing that all **Securitisation Notes (SNs)** must be issued, held, and transferred only in **dematerialised (demat) form** to enhance **transparency, efficiency, liquidity, and investor protection** in the securitisation market.

Delhi High Court Directs Winding Up of Paytm Payments Bank Following Reserve Bank of India Licence Cancellation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the banking licence of **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** with effect from **24 April 2026** under **Section 22(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- Following the licence cancellation, the RBI approached the **Delhi High Court** seeking the winding up of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) and the appointment of an **Official Liquidator**.

India Records All-Time High Exports of US$863.1 Billion in FY 2025–26, Led by Strong Merchandise and Services Trade

- India's total exports reached a record **US$863.1 billion in FY 2025–26**, comprising **Merchandise Exports of US$441.8 billion** and **Services Exports of US$421.3 billion**, reflecting strong growth in India's external trade.

Axis Finance Unveils 'Drishti' Platform to Enhance Retail and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Credit Operations

- **Axis Finance Limited (AFL)** launched **'Axis Finance Drishti'**, an in-house **Business Rules Engine (BRE)** and configurable digital platform to strengthen **credit decision-making, risk management, and lending efficiency** across **Retail and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) lending**.

OmniCard Introduces India's First Unified Payments Interface-Based Flexi Benefits Wallet for Employee Tax Savings

- **OmniCard Platform**, developed by **Eroute Technologies Private Limited**, launched India's first **Flexi Benefits Basket** on the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, providing a single employee-controlled digital wallet for **tax-efficient employee benefits**.

Edelweiss Mutual Fund Introduces India's First Real Estate Investment Trusts-Focused Passive Index Fund

- **Edelweiss Mutual Fund (MF)** launched the **Edelweiss Nifty REITs & Realty Index Fund**, India's first Real Estate Investment Trusts **(REITs)-oriented open-ended passive index fund**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to Replace Wholesale Price Index with Producer Price Index for Gross Domestic Product Deflation

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** announced that the **Output Producer Price Index (PPI)** will replace the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** as the **GDP**

deflator for quarterly and annual **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** estimates, wherever applicable.

Asian Development Bank Sanctions USD 850 Million to Support India's Prime Minister Surya Ghar Rooftop Solar Programme

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved an **USD 850 million loan** to support the **Government of India (GoI)** in accelerating rooftop solar adoption under the **Prime Minister Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSG-MBY)**.
- The funding is provided under **Subprogram 2** of the **Accelerating Affordable and Inclusive Rooftop Solar Systems Development Program**, which builds on **Subprogram 1** approved in **November 2025** that established the policy, institutional, digital, financing, and market framework for large-scale rooftop solar deployment.

Reserve Bank of India Penalises Six Companies, Including Muthoot Finance, for Violating Non-Banking Financial Company Regulatory Norms

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed **monetary penalties on six companies**, including **Muthoot Finance**, for non-compliance with various provisions of the **RBI Act** and **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** regulations.
- **Muthoot Finance** was fined **₹5.80 lakh** for failing to **periodically review the risk categorisation** of customer accounts and for not deploying **robust software** to effectively identify and report **suspicious financial transactions**.
- **Avail Financial Services** was penalised **₹6.20 lakh** because its **Managing Director** held **directorships in two other Middle Layer NBFCs**, and the company violated the prescribed **single-party exposure limit**.
- **Satya MicroCapital** was fined **₹3.10 lakh** for failing to classify certain **restructured accounts** as **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** in accordance with RBI regulations.
- **PAN Emami Cosmed** was also fined **₹3.10 lakh** for non-compliance with **RBI regulatory provisions**.
- **Dhani Loans and Services** and **Muthoot Vehicle and Asset Finance** were each penalised **₹2.70 lakh** for violating **RBI's regulatory norms**.

Piramal Finance and Muthoot Fincorp Partner to Expand Affordable Housing and Loan Against Property Financing Across India

- **Piramal Finance** entered into a **co-lending partnership** with **Muthoot Fincorp** to expand access to **affordable housing finance** and **Loan Against Property (LAP)** solutions across India.

Revolut Launches Revolut Bank Australia After Securing Full Banking Licence, Marking Its First APAC Banking Entity

- Global fintech company **Revolut** received a full **Authorised Deposit-taking Institution (ADI) licence** from the **Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA)**, officially launching as **Revolut Bank Australia**.
- With this approval, Revolut became the **first global fintech** to secure a full unrestricted ADI licence in **Australia**, marking its **first banking entity** in the **Asia-Pacific (APAC)** region.

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Launches Bharat Taxi in Gujarat

- **Union Minister for Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah** launched **Bharat Taxi** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- **Bharat Taxi** is a **cooperative-based mobility platform** developed under the **Ministry of Cooperation** with the vision of **"Sahakar Se Samriddhi" (Prosperity through Cooperation)**.

Union Home Minister Launches Pilot Project of PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT)

- **Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah** launched the pilot project of the **Prime Minister Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT)** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- The **Prime Minister Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT)** is an integrated digital platform designed to ensure that **pregnant women, mothers, and children** receive all eligible **government welfare benefits** through continuous monitoring.
- The platform tracks beneficiaries from **pregnancy to 18 years of age**, covering **health, nutrition, education, and social welfare** services.

Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge 2026 Concludes; Six Youth-Led Startups Selected

- The **8th edition of the Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge 2026** concluded with the selection of **six youth-led startups** for developing **scalable and high-impact solutions** to address sustainability challenges.

Ministry of Civil Aviation Launches AIR SUVIDHA 2.0 to Strengthen Public Health Surveillance at Airports

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** and **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)** launched **AIR SUVIDHA 2.0**, an upgraded **contactless Passenger Health Self-Declaration Portal**, to strengthen **public health surveillance** at points of entry.
- The portal has been launched in response to the ongoing **Ebola/Bundibugyo Virus Disease (BVD)** outbreak.

Maharashtra Approves India's First Offshore Airport Project

- **Maharashtra** has approved the development of **India's first offshore airport**, marking a major milestone in the country's aviation infrastructure.
- The project received **in-principle approval** from **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** following a proposal by the **Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC)**.

Union Health Minister Launches Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)

- **Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda** launched the **Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)** during the **16th Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) Meeting**.
- SSBSK is a **national child health initiative** that provides a **unified framework for home- and community-based care** for children from **birth to 36 months**.

Union Health Minister Launches 'Ayushman Sarathi' WhatsApp Chatbot for PM-JAY

- **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda** launched **Ayushman Sarathi**, the official **WhatsApp chatbot** for the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**.
- The chatbot has been developed by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** to provide **secure, real-time, and 24×7 access** to **PM-JAY** services through **WhatsApp**.
- **Ayushman Sarathi** enables beneficiaries to **check eligibility**, **apply for**, **download**, and **manage** their **Ayushman Card** using secure **Application Programming Interface (API)** integration.

Government Establishes Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)

- The **Government of India** has established the **Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)** under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** to strengthen maritime security.
- **BoPS** will serve as the **apex regulatory authority** for the security of **ships, ports, and port infrastructure**, including protection against **cyber threats**.
- The Bureau has been constituted through an **Official Gazette notification** and is modelled on the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**.

Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 Comes into Force from 1 July 2026

- The **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025** comes into force across India from **1 July 2026**.
- The Act strengthens the rural employment framework by increasing the **statutory wage employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days** for every eligible rural household.

India's Unemployment Rate Falls to Eight-Year Low of 3.1% in 2025: National Statistics Office

- **India's unemployment rate** declined to **3.1% in 2025**, the **lowest level in the last eight years**, according to the **National Statistics Office (NSO)**.
- The unemployment rate has steadily declined since **2017–18**, reflecting improvements in **employment generation**, **economic recovery**, and **labour market participation**.
- The decline supports India's commitment to achieving **full and productive employment by 2030** under the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- **States with the highest urban female unemployment (2025):**
  - **Arunachal Pradesh: 18.4%**
  - **Himachal Pradesh: 18.3%**
  - **Bihar: 16.8%**

Government Directs Meta to Pause WhatsApp Username Feature Rollout

- The **Government of India** has directed **Meta** to **temporarily pause the rollout of the WhatsApp Username feature** in India.

MECON Limited Granted Miniratna Category-I Status

- The **Ministry of Steel** has granted **Miniratna Category-I** status to **MECON Limited**, marking a significant milestone for one of India's leading engineering and consultancy **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.
- The recognition highlights MECON's **consistent financial performance**, including **continuous profitability during the last three financial years** and a **net worth of ₹535.42 crore** as on **31 March 2026**.
- The **Ministry of Steel** approved the grant of **Miniratna Category-I** status on **1 July 2026**.

Akashvani Launches 'Swar Prerna Veethika' to Celebrate 90 Years of Public Service Broadcasting

- As **Akashvani** completes **90 years of public service broadcasting**, it has launched **Swar Prerna Veethika**, a **permanent photo gallery** dedicated to India's legendary musicians.

- The initiative was inaugurated by **Padma Vibhushan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia** at the **Akashvani Rang Bhavan Auditorium, New Delhi**.
- The gallery celebrates **Akashvani's contribution to preserving and promoting Indian music** and forms part of its **year-long 90th anniversary celebrations**.

National Awareness Programme Marks Conclusion of 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Saptah'

- **Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar** led the concluding **National Awareness Programme** of **'Nasha Mukt Bharat Saptah'**, held at **Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya (DSVV), Haridwar, Uttarakhand**.
- The programme was organised to commemorate the **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**, observed annually on **26 June**.
- The week-long campaign was conducted under the theme **"Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan – Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchaan."**

Government Notifies Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 2026 with Revised Withdrawal Rules

- The **Central Government** has notified the **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 2026**, introducing significant changes to the **partial withdrawal rules** for members of the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**.
- The revised scheme came into effect on **29 June 2026**.
- The scheme introduces a **minimum balance requirement**, expands the list of **eligible purposes for partial withdrawals**, and supports the Government's **digital transformation** initiatives.
- Under the new rules, EPFO members must retain at least **25% of the balance** in their **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)** account before making any partial withdrawal.

Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Launched Nationwide

- **Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM (G)]** from **Mukkavaripalli village, Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The launch event was attended by **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** and **Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan**.
- The mission is being implemented under the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025**, which came into force from **1 July 2026**.

Gujarat Police Launch 'Operation Surakshit Cyberspace' to Enhance Cyber Safety for Women and Children

- **Gujarat Police** launched **'Operation Surakshit Cyberspace'**, a **28-day statewide campaign**, from **1 July to 28 July 2026** to strengthen cyber safety for **women and children**.
- The campaign combines **technology-driven policing**, **cyber awareness programmes**, **victim outreach**, and **coordinated enforcement** to prevent cybercrimes.
- The initiative is being implemented under the guidance of **Director General of Police G.S. Malik** and coordinated by the **Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Crime–Women Cell**.

Government Launches Electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) Card for Digital Travel Convenience

- The **Government of India** has launched the **Electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) Card**, enabling eligible **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** cardholders to carry a **secure digital version** of their **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** card on their smartphones.

Uttar Pradesh Rashtriya Parivarik Labh Yojana Provides ₹30,000 Financial Assistance to Bereaved Families

- The **Uttar Pradesh Rashtriya Parivarik Labh Yojana**, implemented under the **National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)**, provides **one-time financial assistance of ₹30,000** to **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** families following the death of their primary earning member.

West Bengal Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tags for Three Traditional Products

- **West Bengal** has received **Geographical Indication (GI)** registration for **three traditional products** from **Hooghly district—Chandannagar's Jalbhara Sandesh**, **Janai's Manohara**, and **Balagarh's Traditional Wooden Boats (Dingi Boats)**.
- **Jalbhara Sandesh**, one of Bengal's iconic sweets, was created in the **19th century** by renowned confectioner **Surya Modak** and is popularly known as **"Jamai Thokano Mishti"**.

Himachal Pradesh Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tags for Eight Traditional Products

- **Himachal Pradesh** has received **Geographical Indication (GI)** registration for **eight traditional products**, taking the total number of **GI-tagged products in the state to 17**.

India and Mali Launch India-Mali Forum for the Promotion of Exports

- **India** and **Mali** jointly launched the **India-Mali Forum for the Promotion of Exports** in **Bamako**, marking the **first institutionalised bilateral platform** to strengthen trade and commercial cooperation between the two countries.
- The **two-day forum** was organised under the theme **"Reinforcing Trade and Strategic Partnerships"** to promote collaboration in **trade, investment, manufacturing, infrastructure, and strategic sectors**.

National Commission for Women (NCW) Launches 24×7 Women Helpline 14490

- The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has launched a **24×7 toll-free Women Helpline (14490)** to provide **immediate assistance, complaint registration, psychological counselling, and grievance redressal** for women in distress.
- **Women and girls aged 18 years and above** can use the helpline to report cases related to **domestic violence, harassment, workplace exploitation, dowry-related issues, abuse, and other forms of gender-based violence**.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Launches Free Email ID Update Facility Through Aadhaar App

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has launched a new digital facility enabling **Aadhaar holders to add or update their email ID through the official Aadhaar App**, eliminating the need to visit an Aadhaar Seva Kendra or enrolment centre.
- The facility became available from **1 July 2026** and will be **free of cost for six months**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) Facility in Gujarat

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) Facility** at **Sanand, Gujarat**, marking a major milestone in India's semiconductor manufacturing journey.
- The facility has been developed under the **Semicon India Programme** to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem by expanding **chip assembly, packaging, and testing** capabilities.

Delhi Government Launches Mission Kayakalp to Modernise Government Schools

- The **Delhi Government** has launched **Mission Kayakalp**, a comprehensive initiative to modernise the infrastructure of **government schools** and provide students with a **safe, clean, inclusive, and technology-enabled learning environment**.

India to Chair Ninth Session of United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection

- **India** will chair the **Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy**, organised by the **United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**.
- The **three-day meeting** will be held at the **Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland**.

India Commemorates 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

- **India** commemorated the **125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee** on **6 July 2026**, honouring his contributions as a **statesman, educationist, lawyer, parliamentarian, and nationalist leader**.
- **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee** was born on **6 July 1901** in **Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal**.

Delhi Government Approves ₹8,300 Crore 'Clean Air, Healthy Delhi' Project

- The **Delhi Government** approved the **₹8,300 crore 'Clean Air, Healthy Delhi' Project** to combat **air pollution** and improve environmental quality in the national capital.
- The **seven-year project** will be implemented from **September 2026 to August 2033** and aims to accelerate Delhi's air pollution mitigation plan in line with the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**.
- The project will be supported by the **World Bank** and other **multilateral institutions**, with **65% of the funding** provided by the **World Bank** and the remaining **35%** contributed by the **Delhi Government**.

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Approves Renaming of Jalalabad as Parashurampuri

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet**, chaired by **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**, approved the proposal to rename **Jalalabad** town in **Shahjahanpur district** as **Parashurampuri**.
- The decision was taken after the **Central Government** conveyed **no objection** to the proposal, paving the way for the state government's approval.

West Bengal Approves Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana with ₹313.3 Crore Package

- The **West Bengal Government** approved the implementation strategy of the **Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana (PMCSPY)** to improve the socio-economic conditions of **tea garden workers** in **North Bengal**.
- The **state-level committee** approved a **special assistance package of ₹313.3 crore**, which is expected to benefit **over 3 lakh tea plantation workers and their families**.

Sirsa Kinnow Becomes Haryana's First Fruit to Receive Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- **Sirsa Kinnow** became the **first fruit from Haryana** to receive the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, recognising its unique quality and geographical origin.

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Approves Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy 2026

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet**, chaired by **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**, approved the **Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy 2026** to establish the state as a leading hub for **green and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled data centres**.
- The policy aims to attract **investments of over ₹2 lakh crore** and expand the state's **data centre capacity to 2 GW**.
- It replaces the **Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy 2021**, which expired in **January 2026**, with a renewed framework for advanced data centre infrastructure.

Gujarat to Construct Its First Two Air-Filled Rubber Dams Using South Korean Technology

- **Gujarat** is developing its **first two air-filled rubber dams** using **advanced technology from South Korea** to strengthen **water resource management** and modernise irrigation infrastructure.
- The two dams are being constructed on the **Heran River** at **Rajvasana** in **Chhota Udepur district** and on the **Ambika River** at **Pathakwadi** in **Tapi district**.

Ministry of Cooperation Celebrates Fifth Foundation Day; Announces Cooperative Life Insurance Company and Expansion of Bharat Taxi

- The **Ministry of Cooperation** celebrated its **Fifth Foundation Day** with major announcements to strengthen the **cooperative movement** in India.
- **Union Minister for Cooperation Amit Shah** announced the establishment of a **Cooperative Life Insurance Company** to enhance the cooperative sector's presence in the **life insurance industry**.

Government Raises Onion Procurement Price for Price Stabilisation Buffer by 13%

- The **Government of India** increased the **procurement price of onions** for the **Price Stabilisation Buffer (PSB)** by **13%**, from **₹1,875 per quintal** to **₹2,125 per quintal**, with effect from **4 July 2026**.
- The revised procurement price marks the **fifth upward revision** during the current procurement season, with prices increasing from **₹12.70 per kilogram** at the beginning of the season to **₹21.25 per kilogram**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates and Launches Major Development Projects in Rajasthan and Gujarat

- **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** visited **Rajasthan** and **Gujarat**, where he **inaugurated**, **dedicated**, and **laid the foundation stones** for several major infrastructure and connectivity projects.

- In **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**, the Prime Minister inaugurated the newly developed **₹480 crore terminal building at Jodhpur Airport**, designed to handle **up to 2 million passengers annually**.

29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2026 Held in Jaipur

- The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the **Government of Rajasthan**, organised the **29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2026** at the **Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur, Rajasthan**.

Natural History Museum of Mizoram University Notified as India's 21st Designated Repository

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has notified the **Natural History Museum (NHM), Mizoram University, Aizawl**, as **India's 21st Designated Repository** under **Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs Launches TribeX, India's First Digital Learning Platform for Tribal Heritage

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched **TribeX**, **India's first dedicated digital learning platform** for **tribal arts, culture, languages, and traditional knowledge**.
- The platform was launched by **Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram** during the **National Workshop on Strengthening Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)** held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visits Prambanan Temple Complex in Indonesia; ASI to Undertake Restoration Project

- **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** visited the **Prambanan Temple Complex** in **Yogyakarta, Indonesia**, reaffirming the centuries-old cultural and civilisational ties between **India and Indonesia**.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches PRAGATI Initiative to Promote Regenerative Agriculture

- **Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, launched the **PRAGATI (Promoting Regenerative Agriculture, Growth, Agri-Entrepreneurship and Transformative Innovation)** initiative.

Uttar Pradesh Launches ‘Guru Dakshina’ Cashless Medical Scheme for Teachers

- The **Government of Uttar Pradesh** launched the **Chief Minister Teacher Cashless Medical Scheme**, popularly called **"Guru Dakshina"**, to provide **cashless medical treatment** to teachers, **Shiksha Mitras**, instructors and their eligible family members.
- The scheme was announced by **Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath**, who described it as the government's **"Guru Dakshina"** to the teaching community in recognition of their contribution to nation-building.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** will bear the **entire annual insurance premium of around ₹447 crore** (about **₹3,000 per teacher annually**), ensuring beneficiaries receive treatment without paying any premium.

Government Notifies Navi Mumbai International Airport as Designated Port for Drug Imports

- The **Government of India** has notified **Navi Mumbai International Airport** as a **designated port for the import of drugs** under **Rule 43A of the Drugs Rules, 1945**.
- The notification was issued by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** on **8 July 2026** after consultation with the **Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)** under the provisions of the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Introduces EPFO 3.0 Reforms with New Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Withdrawal Rules 2026

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** introduced major reforms under its **EPFO 3.0** digital initiative to make **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)** withdrawals faster, simpler, and fully digital.
- The reforms include **3-day online claim settlement, an increased auto-settlement limit of ₹5 lakh, simplified withdrawal categories, a 12-month uniform eligibility period for most partial withdrawals, and a mandatory 25% minimum balance retention rule**.
- Eligible **Aadhaar-linked** and **Know Your Customer (KYC)-verified** online advance claims will now be settled within **3 working days**, compared to the earlier **7–20 days**.
- The **auto-settlement limit** for eligible advance claims has been increased from **₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh**, reducing manual intervention and speeding up claim processing.

Union Ministry of Education Releases All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) Reports 2022–23 and 2023–24

- The **Union Ministry of Education** released the **All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) Reports** for **2022–23** and **2023–24**, highlighting record growth in **higher education enrolment**, **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)**, **women's participation**, **Science, Technology, Engineering**

and Mathematics (STEM) education, and enrolment of **Scheduled Castes (SCs)**, **Scheduled Tribes (STs)**, and **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)**.

India Launches Letter of Authorisation (LoA) Regime for Sustainable High-Seas Fishing to Boost Blue Economy

- **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar** launched the new **Letter of Authorisation (LoA) regime** to promote **sustainable high-seas fishing**, enhance the income of fishing communities, and strengthen **India's Blue Economy**.

Jharkhand Unveils Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy 2026–31 Roadmap to Boost Digital Economy

- The **Government of Jharkhand** unveiled the **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy 2026–31 Roadmap** to position the state as a leading **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven governance** and **technology hub**.
- The roadmap was presented during the **National Stakeholder Consultation 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- The roadmap aims to attract **more than ₹10,000 crore** in **private investment**, establish **50+ Global Capability Centres (GCCs)**, support **1,000 Artificial Intelligence (AI) startups**, and create **over one lakh Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled jobs** during **2026–31**.

Uttar Pradesh to Implement Nishulk Boring Yojana 2026 for Free Borewell Installation

- The **Government of Uttar Pradesh** is set to implement the **Uttar Pradesh Nishulk Boring Yojana 2026** to provide **free borewell (boring) installation** and **subsidised pump sets** for eligible farmers to improve irrigation facilities and agricultural productivity.

Delhi Makes Pink Saheli Smart Card Mandatory for Free Bus Travel from 1 August 2026

- The **Government of Delhi** has made the **Pink Saheli Smart Card** mandatory for women to avail **free travel** on **Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC)** and **Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS) Cluster** buses from **1 August 2026**.
- The **Pink Saheli Smart Card** will replace the existing **paper-based pink ticket** system as part of the government's initiative to **digitise public transport services**, improve transparency, and prevent misuse of the free travel scheme.

Uttar Pradesh Implements Mahila Udyam Nidhi Yojana 2026 to Promote Women Entrepreneurship

- The **Government of Uttar Pradesh** is implementing the **Uttar Pradesh Mahila Udyam Nidhi Yojana 2026** to provide **affordable credit** to women entrepreneurs for establishing or expanding **micro and small enterprises**, with the objective of promoting **self-employment** and **financial independence**.

- The scheme, implemented through **Uttar Pradesh Mahila Nidhi**, was originally launched in **2016** to improve women's access to **institutional finance** and encourage entrepreneurship across the state.
- Under the scheme, eligible women can avail loans ranging from **₹50,000 to ₹10 lakh** at a concessional interest rate of around **4%**. **Collateral is not required** for loans up to **₹2 lakh**, making credit more accessible to first-time entrepreneurs.

Gujarat Launches 'Viksit Gujarat – Data Centre Policy 2026–29' to Promote Digital Infrastructure

- The **Government of Gujarat** launched the **'Viksit Gujarat – Data Centre Policy 2026–29'** to position the state as a leading hub for **hyperscale data centres**, **Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure**, **cloud computing**, and **digital services**.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to Establish Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research in Keylong, Himachal Pradesh

- **Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda** will lay the foundation stone of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research** at **Keylong, Himachal Pradesh**.

Ahmedabad Creates Guinness World Record by Planting 3.61 Lakh Saplings in One Hour Using Miyawaki Technique

- **Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC)** created a new **Guinness World Record** by planting **3,61,000 saplings in a single hour** through the **largest Miyawaki plantation drive in one hour**.

West Bengal Renames 'Khela Hobe Diwas' as 'Ayushman Diwas' to Promote Healthcare Awareness

- The **West Bengal Government** has announced that **August 16** will be observed as **'Ayushman Diwas'** instead of **'Khela Hobe Diwas'**, shifting the focus towards healthcare awareness and promotion of the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**.
- The announcement was made by **West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari** and coincides with the completion of the **first 100 days of the BJP-led government** in the state.

India Observes 3rd NAMASTE Day to Recognise Contribution of Sanitation Workers

- India is set to observe the **3rd NAMASTE Day**, marking **three years since the launch of the National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme**.

Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict and National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal Launched at WII-SACON, Coimbatore

- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav** inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Human-Wildlife Conflict** at the **Wildlife Institute of India–Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (WII-SACON), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**.

Kamarajar Port Limited Becomes India's Second Major Port to Achieve 18 Metre Operational Draft

- **Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL)** in **Tamil Nadu** has become the **second major port in India** to achieve an **operational draft of 18 metres**, after **Visakhapatnam Port**.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Launches Centralised IT Enabled Services (CITES 2.01) Platform for Unified Provident Fund Services

- The **Government of India** launched the upgraded **Centralised IT Enabled Services (CITES 2.01)** platform for the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**, migrating around **34 crore member accounts** from more than **120 decentralised databases** into a single **unified national system**.

Navi Mumbai International Airport Notified as Authorised Port for Drug Imports Under Drugs Rules, 1945

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** notified **Navi Mumbai International Airport, Maharashtra** as an **authorised port of entry for the import of drugs** under the **Drugs Rules, 1945**.
- The notification was issued through an amendment to **Rule 43A of the Drugs Rules, 1945** after consultation with the **Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)** under the provisions of the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- With the inclusion of **Navi Mumbai International Airport**, the total number of notified ports of entry for the import of drugs through **air, sea, road, and rail routes** has increased to **42**.

India Supports Palestine's Bid for Full United Nations Membership and Announces New Aid Package

- **India** has reiterated its support for **Palestine's application for full membership of the United Nations (UN)** and reaffirmed its commitment to the establishment of an **independent, sovereign, and peaceful Palestine**.
- India expressed its support during international meetings held in **Brussels, Belgium and New York, United States of America**, highlighting the importance of the **two-state solution** for achieving lasting peace in **West Asia**.

Central Vista Redevelopment Area Renamed as Kartavya Bhawan Area

- The **Government of India** has officially renamed the **Central Vista redevelopment area** as the **Kartavya Bhawan Area** (also referred to as the **Kartavya Bhawan Complex**).

Unjha Cumin (Jeera) and Unjha Fennel (Saunf) Receive Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- The **Geographical Indications Registry** has granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** to **Unjha Cumin (Jeera)** and **Unjha Fennel (Saunf)**, recognising them as unique agricultural products originating from **Unjha, Mehsana district, Gujarat**.

Directorate General of Foreign Trade Notifies Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) Allocation Procedure Under India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

- The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has notified the **Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) allocation procedure** under the **India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.

Centre Proposes Autonomous Hill Development Councils in Every District of Ladakh Under Article 371 Framework

- The **Central Government** has proposed the establishment of **Autonomous Hill Development Councils (AHDCs)** in **every district of Ladakh** to strengthen **local self-governance** while preserving the region's unique identity.
- At present, **Leh** and **Kargil** have Autonomous Hill Development Councils.
- The proposal extends the system to the newly created districts of **Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zanskar, and Drass**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Introduces India's First Trial Index of Services Production (ISP)

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has introduced India's first **trial version of the Index of Services Production (ISP)** to measure the monthly performance of the **formal services sector**.
- The **Index of Services Production (ISP)** has been launched with the **base year 2024–25** and provides a short-term indicator to track changes in the output of India's services economy.

Indian Grey Hornbill Successfully Reintroduced to Gir Forest After More Than 60 Years

- The **Gujarat Forest Department** has successfully reintroduced the **Indian Grey Hornbill** to the **Gir Forest**, marking the return of the species after an absence of more than **60 years**.

Karnataka to Establish India's First Government-Driven Artificial Intelligence (AI) University

- **Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar** announced that the state will establish **India's first government-driven Artificial Intelligence (AI) University** during **Google I/O Connect India 2026** held at the **Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bengaluru**.
- The initiative aims to position **Karnataka as an "AI-native State"** by promoting **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven education, research, innovation, and governance**.

International Gas Union (IGU) Releases World Liquefied Natural Gas Report 2026

- The **International Gas Union (IGU)** has released the **World LNG Report 2026**, providing a comprehensive review of the global **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** industry and market trends.
- **Global LNG trade** reached a record **437 million tonnes in 2025**, registering a **6.3% increase**, the strongest annual growth since **2022**.

India Launches Campaign for United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Non-Permanent Membership for 2028–29

- **India** has officially launched its campaign for election as a **Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for the **2028–2029** term.

Union Cabinet Approves Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with ₹62,500 Crore Outlay

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)** with a total outlay of **₹62,500 crore** to strengthen India's mobile phone manufacturing ecosystem.
- **MPMS** will be implemented for **five years**, from **FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31**, and will provide **performance-linked incentives** to eligible manufacturers.

Government Revises Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) on Petroleum Product Exports

- The **Government of India** has revised the **Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED)**, commonly known as the **windfall tax**, on the export of petroleum products with effect from **16 July 2026**.
- According to the **Ministry of Finance**, the revised rates will remain effective for the **fortnight beginning 16 July 2026** and will be reviewed in the next fortnightly revision.
- The revised **SAED** rates are:
    - **Diesel (Exports):** Increased from **₹8.5/litre** to **₹15.5/litre**
    - **Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) (Exports):** Increased from **₹7.5/litre** to **₹14.5/litre**
    - **Petrol (Exports):** Reduced from **₹4/litre** to **₹2.5/litre**

Kolkata Metro to Introduce Driverless Train Operations on Green and Purple Lines

- **Kolkata Metro** is set to introduce **driverless metro train operations** on the **Green Line** and **Purple Line**, marking a major milestone in India's urban public transport system.

Ministry of Heavy Industries Invites Global Bids for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Manufacturing Under PLI Scheme

- The **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** has invited **global bids** to establish **10 GWh of Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery manufacturing capacity** under the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for ACC Batteries**.

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

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the **National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026)** to promote **self-reliance in urea production** under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.

India and European Union Hold Third Trade and Technology Council (TTC) Meeting in Brussels

- **India** and the **European Union (EU)** held the **3rd India–European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC) Meeting** in **Brussels, Belgium**, to deepen cooperation in **trade, technology, innovation, and resilient supply chains**.

Union Cabinet Approves Semicon 2.0 with ₹1.275 Lakh Crore Outlay

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved **Semicon 2.0**, India's next-generation semiconductor policy, with a total outlay of **₹1,27,500 crore**.
- **Semicon 2.0** aims to strengthen India's **semiconductor design, manufacturing, packaging, research, innovation, and talent development ecosystem**, while building a **resilient semiconductor supply chain** and promoting **technological self-reliance**.
- The programme builds upon **Semicon 1.0** and seeks to establish a **comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem**, covering **chip design, fabrication, packaging, materials, equipment, research, and skilled workforce development**.

Uttar Pradesh Launches Kaushal Setu and Kaushal Sarathi Digital Platforms for Skill Development

- **Uttar Pradesh Government** launched two digital platforms, **Kaushal Setu** and **Kaushal Sarathi**, during the celebration of **World Youth Skills Day 2026** to modernise vocational training and improve skill development services in the state.

Karnataka Introduces Draft Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025

- **Karnataka Government** has released the draft **Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025 (KAOMA)** to modernise apartment management, strengthen the rights of apartment owners, and resolve long- standing disputes in the state's growing real estate sector.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Advanced Healthcare Facilities at Post Graduate

Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Advanced Mother and Child Centre** and the **Advanced Neurosciences Centre** at the **Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh**.
- Prime Minister also laid the **foundation stone for a 150-bed Modern Critical Care Block** under the **Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)**.

Maharashtra to Implement National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) for Digital Transformation of Legislature

- **Maharashtra Government** is set to implement the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** programme, a **Mission Mode Project** under the **Digital India Programme** initiated by the **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India**.

NITI Aayog Launches Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) to Assess Investment Readiness of States and Union Territories

- **NITI Aayog** has introduced the **Investment Friendliness Index (IFI)** to assess the readiness of **36 States and Union Territories (UTs)** in attracting and sustaining investments based on governance, economic, and infrastructure parameters.

Shabdalok: India's First Immersive Language Museum Inaugurated in Kolkata

- **Shabdalok (Museum of Words)**, India's **first immersive language museum**, was inaugurated by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** at the **National Library, Kolkata, West Bengal**.

National Highways Authority of India Launches Digital Local Pass and MargMitra Help Centre on RajmargYatra Mobile App

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** launched **Digital Local Pass** and **MargMitra Help Centre** on the **RajmargYatra Mobile App** to enhance digital services for **National Highway** users.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Celebrates 98th Foundation Day with Roadmap for Viksit Krishi and Samruddh Kisan

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** celebrated its **98th Foundation Day** at the **Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex, New Delhi**, where **Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan** presented a roadmap for **"Viksit Krishi and Samruddh Kisan"** under the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

Delhi Cabinet Approves Parivartan Scheme to Replace Old Commercial Vehicles with BS-VI and

Electric Vehicles

- The **Delhi Cabinet**, chaired by **Chief Minister Rekha Gupta**, approved the implementation of the **Parivartan Scheme**, a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**, to promote cleaner commercial transportation in the **National Capital Region (NCR)**.
- **Parivartan (Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets)** aims to replace **BS-IV and older commercial vehicles** with **BS-VI-compliant** or **electric vehicles (EVs)** to reduce vehicular emissions and improve air quality.

Mukhyamantri Swasth Bastar Abhiyan Improves Maternal and Child Health Outcomes in Chhattisgarh

- The **Mukhyamantri Swasth Bastar Abhiyan** has significantly improved **maternal and child healthcare** in **Bastar region**, particularly in **Sukma district**, one of **Chhattisgarh's** most **Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected** districts.

Supreme Court Directs Centre to Frame Uniform Post-Retirement Benefits Policy for Retired High Court Judges

- The **Supreme Court of India** directed the **Central Government** to constitute a **committee within two weeks** to recommend a **uniform post-retirement benefits scheme** for **retired Chief Justices and High Court judges** across the country.

India Approves First Dengue Vaccine 'QDENGA' for Public Use

- **India** has approved its **first dengue vaccine**, **QDENGA**, after receiving marketing authorisation from the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)**, marking a major milestone in the country's fight against **dengue**.
- **QDENGA**, developed by **Takeda Biopharmaceuticals (Japan)**, is a **live attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine** that provides protection against all **four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4)**.
- The vaccine is approved for individuals aged **4 to 60 years**, irrespective of whether they have had a previous dengue infection.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Approves ₹2,719.80 Crore Urban Development Projects for Ahmedabad under Urban Challenge Fund

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** approved **six transformative urban development projects** worth **₹2,719.80 crore** for **Ahmedabad, Gujarat** under the **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)**.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation Launches VISHWAS 2026 Scheme for Dispute

Resolution

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E)** launched **VISHWAS 2026**, a **one-time dispute resolution scheme** for the amicable settlement of damages and penalty-related disputes.
- The scheme is applicable to disputes under **Section 14B of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952** and **Section 128 of the Code on Social Security, 2020**.

India's First Deep Geothermal Wells Commissioned at Puga Valley, Ladakh

- **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh V. K. Saxena** commissioned **India's first two 1,000-metre-deep geothermal wells** at **Puga Valley, Ladakh**, developed by **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) Energy Centre**.

NITI Aayog Launches Roadmap to Make India a Leading Bioeconomy Powerhouse by 2035

- The **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)** launched the **"Roadmap for Building India as a Leading Bioeconomy Powerhouse by 2035"** at the **National Media Centre, New Delhi**.
- The roadmap was formally launched by **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh**, in the presence of **Prof. Gobardhan Das, Member, NITI Aayog**, and **Nidhi Chhibber, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NITI Aayog**.

Uttar Pradesh Launches Mini Nandi Farmer Prosperity Scheme to Promote Indigenous Dairy Farming

- The **Government of Uttar Pradesh** launched the **Mini Nandi Farmer Prosperity Scheme** to promote **scientific dairy farming** using **high-yielding indigenous cattle breeds** and enhance farmers' income through financial assistance.
- The scheme provides **50% subsidy up to ₹11.80 lakh** for establishing a **10-cow dairy unit** with an estimated project cost of **₹23.60 lakh**.
- The funding pattern includes **50% government subsidy**, **15% beneficiary contribution**, and **35% bank loan**.

Common Service Centres 4.0 Strengthen Digital Service Delivery and Rural Self-Employment

- The **Common Service Centres (CSC) Scheme**, launched under the **Digital India Programme**, has expanded digital public service delivery through **CSC 4.0**, enabling citizens in **rural and semi-urban areas** to access government, financial, and digital services.

Tamil Nadu's Killai Becomes State's First Climate-Resilient Village

- **Killai village** in **Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu**, has been recognised as the **first Climate-Resilient Village** in the State.

India Achieves 99.6% Broad Gauge Railway Electrification; Becomes World's Second Most Electrified Railway Network

- **Indian Railways** has achieved **99.6% electrification of its Broad Gauge (BG) railway network**, becoming the **second most electrified railway system in the world** after **Switzerland (100%)**.
- According to the **International Union of Railways (UIC)** report (June 2025), **India (99.6%)** ranks ahead of **China (82%)**, **Spain (67%)**, **Japan (64%)**, **France (60%)**, and the **United Kingdom (39%)** in railway electrification.

President Droupadi Murmu Unveils Mahatma Gandhi Statue in North Macedonia

- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated a **statue of Mahatma Gandhi** at the **Museum of the City of Skopje**, **Skopje, North Macedonia**, during her **three-nation visit to Europe**.

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Approves Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026

- The **Madhya Pradesh Cabinet** approved the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026**, making **Madhya Pradesh** the **fourth state** after **Uttarakhand, Gujarat, and Assam** to adopt a **Uniform Civil Code** framework.

Maharashtra to Develop India's First Artificial Intelligence-Powered Bird Sanctuary at Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary

- The **Government of Maharashtra** approved the development of **India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered bird sanctuary** at the **Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (TCFS)** with an investment of **₹45 crore**.
- The project will establish the country's **first Artificial Intelligence-based bird detection and monitoring centre**, integrating advanced technology with **wildlife conservation** and **eco-tourism**.

Maharashtra Launches Bharat Taxi Cooperative Taxi Service to Promote Driver Ownership

- The **Government of Maharashtra** launched **Bharat Taxi**, a **cooperative taxi service platform**, at the **Navi Mumbai International Airport, Maharashtra**, to provide **affordable, transparent, and reliable transportation services**.

India to Host International Type 1 Diabetes Summit 2026 in Jodhpur

- **India** will host the **International Type 1 Diabetes Summit 2026** from **30 July to 1 August 2026** in **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**, bringing together **leading medical experts, researchers, government officials, healthcare professionals, and patient representatives** from across the world.

Mission Golden Spice Launched to Promote Meghalaya's Lakadong Turmeric as a Global Premium Spice

- **Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, along with **Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma**, launched the **Mission Golden Spice – Integrated Lakadong Turmeric Value Chain Enhancement Project** at **Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi**.
- The mission is a **₹175.45 crore convergence-led initiative** to transform **Lakadong turmeric** into a **globally recognised premium spice** by strengthening its entire value chain.

India Accepts World Trade Organization Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies; Becomes 123rd Member

- **India** formally accepted the **World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**, becoming the **123rd member** to join the global agreement.
- **Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal** deposited India's **Instrument of Acceptance** with **World Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** at the **World Trade Organization Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland**.

Union Cabinet Approves Amendments to Public Examinations Act, 2024 to Introduce Stricter Penalties for Exam Paper Leaks

- The **Union Cabinet** approved amendments to the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024** to impose **stricter penalties** for **exam paper leaks** and other organised examination malpractices.
- Under the proposed amendments, the **minimum imprisonment** for offences related to **exam paper leaks** has been increased from **3 years to 5 years**.

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre Directs GitHub to Remove Bitchat Repositories over National Security Concerns

- The **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, directed **GitHub** to remove repositories related to **Bitchat**, a **decentralised peer-to-peer messaging application**, citing **national security** and **law enforcement concerns**.

Government of India Releases Factsheet Highlighting Cotton as India's 'White Gold'

- The **Government of India (GoI)** released a **factsheet** describing **Cotton** as India's **"White Gold"**, highlighting its significant contribution to the **agriculture, textile, and export sectors**.
- Cotton supports the livelihoods of nearly **6 million farmers** and **40–50 million people** across the **textile value chain**.
- **India ranks 1st globally** in **cotton cultivation area**, with **114.84 lakh hectares**, accounting for nearly **38% of the world's cotton cultivation area**.
- India is the **2nd largest producer** and **2nd largest consumer** of cotton globally.

Ministry of Coal Releases 'AAROH: Annual Report on Mine Closure' to Promote Scientific Mine Closure and Sustainable Land Reuse

- The **Ministry of Coal (MoC)** released **'AAROH: Annual Report on Mine Closure'** in **New Delhi, Delhi**, showcasing **India's progress in scientific mine closure, ecological restoration, and sustainable post-mining land utilisation**.

Government Constitutes High-Powered Exam Security Task Force to Strengthen Public Examination System

- The **Government of India** has constituted a **High-Powered Exam Security Task Force** to strengthen the country's examination system and prevent **paper leaks, impersonation, and examination malpractices**.
- The **six-member task force** will be chaired by **Infosys Co-founder Nandan Nilekani**.

Uttarakhand to Radio-Collar Elephants Ahead of Haridwar Kumbh Mela 2027 to Enhance Human-Wildlife Safety

- The **Uttarakhand Forest Department**, in collaboration with the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, has launched a **radio-collaring project** to monitor wild elephants ahead of the **Haridwar Kumbh Mela 2027**.
- The initiative aims to **minimise human-elephant conflict**, ensure the **safety of pilgrims**, and conserve wildlife by enabling **real-time tracking of elephant herds**.

HCL Technologies to Establish Artificial Intelligence-Optimised Data Centre and Global Technology Centre in Odisha

- **HCL Technologies (HCLTech)** announced plans to establish an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-optimised Data Centre** and a **Global Technology Centre** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- The project will be developed in collaboration with the **Government of Odisha** and **Sarvam AI**, with an estimated investment of **₹15,000 crore**.

Digital India BHASHINI Division Organises 'BHASHINI Rajyam: State Engagement Workshop' in

Goa to Promote Multilingual Artificial Intelligence

- The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)**, under the **Digital India Corporation** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, in collaboration with the **Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, Government of Goa**, organised the **'BHASHINI Rajyam: State Engagement Workshop'** in **Panaji, Goa**.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Launches "Gems of India" Challenge to Promote Grassroots Digital Creators

- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)** has launched the **Pilot Phase of the "Gems of India" Challenge**, a national initiative aimed at **identifying, nurturing and promoting grassroots digital creators** across India.

Gujarat Launches e-Zero First Information Report (e-Zero FIR) System for Faster Action Against Cyber Financial Frauds

- The **Government of Gujarat** launched the **e-Zero First Information Report (e-Zero FIR) System** to enable victims of **cyber financial fraud** to lodge complaints **without visiting a police station**.
- The system was launched by **Harsh Sanghavi**, **Minister of State for Home, Industries, Transport, Youth and Sports, Government of Gujarat**, in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

BRICS Science Academies Forum Meeting 2026 Held at Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, Telangana

- The **2nd BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Science Academies Forum Meeting 2026** was held at the **Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT Hyderabad), Telangana**.
- The theme of the forum was **"Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development and Strengthening Global South Cooperation"**.

Himachal Pradesh Launches Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana for Reservoir Fishermen

- **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**, **Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh**, launched the **Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana** to provide **financial assistance and social security** to fishermen engaged in **reservoir fisheries** during the annual fishing ban period.

Indian Railways Approves ₹163 Crore Project to Upgrade Electric Traction System on Parbhani–Mudkhed Section

- **Indian Railways** has sanctioned a **₹163 crore** project to upgrade the **electric traction system** on the **Parbhani–Mudkhed double line section** in the **Nanded Division** of the **South-Central Railway (SCR)**.
- The project includes the upgradation of the existing **1×25 Kilovolt (kV) electric traction system** to the **2×25 kV electric traction system** along **164 Track Kilometres (TKM)**, along with associated **power supply infrastructure**.

Assam Exports First International Consignment of Purabi Ice Cream to Bhutan

- **Assam** achieved a major milestone in its dairy sector by exporting the **first international consignment of 5,627 litres of Purabi Ice Cream** to **Bhutan**, marking the beginning of **value-added dairy exports** from the **North Eastern Region**.

Government Allocates Record ₹95,692 Crore for Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) in FY 2026–27

- The **Government of India** has allocated **₹95,692 crore** for the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM (G)] Act, 2025** during the **Financial Year 2026–27**.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav Launches National Tiger Conservation Authority Eco-Tourism Webpage

- **Global Tiger Day** was celebrated on **29th July 2026** by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** in **New Delhi** to promote **tiger conservation** and strengthen public awareness about protecting wildlife and natural habitats.

Gulf of Khambhat (Kalpasar) Project: Gujarat's Coastal Freshwater Reservoir Initiative

- The **Government of Gujarat** has proposed the ambitious **Gulf of Khambhat Project, also known as the Kalpasar Project**, as a major **water resources development initiative**.
- The project aims to create one of the world's largest **coastal freshwater reservoirs** through the construction of a dam across the **Gulf of Khambhat, Gujarat**.

India Becomes the World's Second-Largest Supplier of Seafarers: BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026

- 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** to the global shipping industry.
- India now accounts for **12.16% of the global seafaring workforce**, ranking **second** after the **Philippines**, and ahead of **China**, the **Russian Federation**, and **Indonesia**.

Delhi Government Approves Delhi Lakshmi Yojana to Provide Monthly Financial Assistance to Women

- The **Delhi Government** approved the **Delhi Lakshmi Yojana**, a welfare scheme aimed at the **economic empowerment and social security of women**.
- The decision was taken at a **Cabinet meeting** chaired by **Chief Minister Rekha Gupta** at the **Delhi Secretariat**.
- Under the scheme, **eligible women** will receive **financial assistance of ₹2,500 per month**.

India to Establish First Telecom Manufacturing Zone in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

- **Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, announced that **India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)** will be established in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**.

President Droupadi Murmu Marks Four Years in Office with New Citizen-Centric Initiatives at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- **President Droupadi Murmu** completed **four years in office**.
- To mark the occasion, she inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several citizen-centric and sustainable initiatives at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** and the **President's Estates** on **28 July 2026**.
- The President launched an **e-Audio Guide** for visitors to **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, available in **Hindi, English and 14 other Indian languages**, along with a **sign language module** to improve accessibility for visitors.
- She launched the **third edition of e-Upahaar**, featuring **300 curated Presidential gifts** for public auction. The auction will be conducted from **5 August to 5 September 2026**.

Chhattisgarh Launches DWEEPTI Yojana to Empower Women in the Renewable Energy Sector

- **Chhattisgarh** has launched the **DWEEPTI Yojana (Decentralised Women Empowerment on Energy and Policy for Transformative Inclusion)**, the country's **first women-led distributed renewable energy policy**, aimed at empowering **rural women Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** in the solar energy sector.

Lok Sabha Passes Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026

- The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026** by a **voice vote** to strengthen the legal framework against the use of unfair means in public examinations and protect the interests of students and job aspirants.
- **Key provisions of the Amendment Bill include:**

- Punishment for individuals using unfair means has been increased from **3–5 years** to **5–10 years** imprisonment, with the maximum fine raised from **₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh**.
- For **service providers** involved in examination malpractices, the maximum fine has been increased from **₹1 crore to ₹5 crore**, and the debarment period from conducting public examinations has been extended from **4 years to 8 years**.
- Punishment for **directors and senior management** of service providers has been enhanced to **5–10 years' imprisonment**, along with a maximum fine of **₹5 crore**.
- Punishment for **organised examination-related crimes** has been increased from **5–10 years** to **7–10 years' imprisonment**, while the maximum fine has been enhanced from **₹1 crore to ₹10 crore**.

10th India Mobile Congress 2026 to be Held in New Delhi with Theme "Scale without Boundaries"

- **Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** unveiled the theme **"Scale without Boundaries"** for the **10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026**, which will be held from **7–10 October 2026** at **Yashobhoomi (India International Convention and Expo Centre), New Delhi**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

United Arab Emirates Conducts Landmark Trial of First Inter-Emirate Etihad Rail Passenger Service

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** successfully completed the inaugural trial run of the first **Etihad Rail passenger train** from **Fujairah to Mohamed bin Zayed City Station, Abu Dhabi**, marking a major milestone in the country's transport infrastructure.
- The Etihad Rail passenger service represents the **UAE's first inter-emirate passenger railway network**, designed to provide seamless rail connectivity across the emirates.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Concludes Official United Kingdom Visit Ahead of India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement Implementation

- **Union Minister Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), undertook a **3-day official visit to London, United Kingdom (UK)** from **25–27 June 2026**.
- The visit was held ahead of the implementation of the **India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and the **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)**, both scheduled to come into force on **15 July 2026**.

Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal and Lakshmi N. Mittal Join International Telecommunication Union's Artificial Intelligence for Good Global Commission as Founding Members

- The **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, a **United Nations (UN)-backed agency**, launched the **Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Good Global Commission** in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- The AI for Good Global Commission was launched with **44 founding members** to strengthen **global AI governance, digital inclusion, trust, and innovation frameworks**.

Key Highlights of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's Official Visit to India

- Japanese Prime Minister **Sanae Takaichi** paid a **3-day official visit to India** from **1–3 July 2026** at the invitation of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to participate in the **16th India-Japan Annual Summit**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with PM Sanae Takaichi at **Hyderabad House, New Delhi**, focusing on **economic cooperation**, **resilient semiconductor supply chains**, and **critical technologies**.
- The **16th India-Japan Annual Summit** was held in **New Delhi**, where both countries announced **16 key outcomes** to deepen bilateral cooperation.

India Participates in Inaugural United Nations Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance Led by Kirti Vardhan Singh

- **Union Minister of State (MoS) Kirti Vardhan Singh** represented India at the **inaugural United Nations (UN) Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance** held in **Geneva, Switzerland**, from **6–7 July 2026**.
- Kirti Vardhan Singh represented both the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- India reaffirmed its **"AI for All"** vision, advocating **responsible, inclusive, human-centric AI**, human rights protection, regulatory oversight, and safeguards against the **misuse of AI**.

World Intellectual Property Organization Report 2026 Highlights India as a Global Innovation Leader with 7.9% Growth in Intangible Investment

- The **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** and **Luiss Business School (LBS)** jointly released the **3rd edition of the World Intangible Investment Report 2026**.
- The **World Intangible Investment Report 2026** highlights **India** as the **fastest-growing major economy in intangible investments** among the world's 15 largest economies.

- India recorded the **highest intangible investment growth of 7.9%**, surpassing **Japan (4.8%)**, the **Philippines (4.6%)**, and the **United States of America (USA) (4.4%)**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Concludes Historic New Zealand Visit, Strengthening Bilateral Strategic Partnership

- **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** visited **New Zealand** from **10–11 July 2026** as the final leg of his **three-nation tour**, which included **Indonesia**, **Australia**, and **New Zealand**.

India Enhances Global Role in Food Safety Standards at the 49th Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49)

- **The 49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49)** was held from **6–11 July 2026** in **Geneva, Switzerland**, where **India** achieved major success in the development of **science-based global food standards**.
- At **CAC49**, **seven Codex standards and guidelines** developed under **India's chairmanship and co-chairmanship** were officially adopted, highlighting India's growing leadership in the **global food safety framework**.

Ukraine and 9 European Countries Launch Anti-ballistic Missile Coalition to Strengthen Europe's Missile Defence

- **Ukraine and nine European countries** announced the formation of an **Anti-ballistic Missile Coalition** to strengthen Europe's defence against the growing ballistic missile threat.
- The announcement was made on the sidelines of the **Coalition of the Willing (CoW) Summit** held in **Paris, France**, which brought together over 30 countries and at least 25 Heads of State.

United Nations Issues First Global Scientific Artificial Intelligence Assessment, Calls for Stronger AI Governance

- The **United Nations (UN)** released the **Preliminary Report of the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, the **first UN-commissioned scientific assessment** of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- The panel is **co-chaired by Yoshua Bengio** (Turing Award laureate) and **Maria Ressa** (Nobel Peace Prize laureate).

SOFI 2026 Report: Global Hunger Eases Slightly, but SDG-2 Zero Hunger Target Remains Out of Reach

- The **United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** released the **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2026 report** titled **"Understanding and Addressing the High Cost of a Healthy Diet."**

- The report estimated that **645 million people** (**7.8% of the global population**) faced hunger in **2025**, showing a slight improvement from **8.1%** in the previous year.

Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi Pays Official Visit to India from 17–20 July 2026

- **President of Zanzibar** and **Chairman of the Revolutionary Council**, **Hussein Ali Mwinyi**, paid an **official visit to India** from **17–20 July 2026** at the invitation of **Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan**.

France Becomes First European Union Nation to Ban Social Media Access for Children Under 15

- **France** became the **first country in Europe** to approve a law **banning children below the age of 15** from accessing **social media platforms**, aiming to protect minors from **harmful online content**, **digital addiction**, **cyberbullying**, and **online abuse**.

President Droupadi Murmu Concludes State Visits to Moldova, North Macedonia, and Romania (19–25 July 2026)

- **President Droupadi Murmu** undertook a week-long **State Visit** to **Moldova, North Macedonia, and Romania** from **19–25 July 2026** to strengthen **bilateral cooperation** in **trade, technology, tourism, education, innovation, and strategic partnerships**.

Sarnath Recognized as India's 45th United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site

- The Ancient Buddhist Site of **Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh (UP)** was inscribed on the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (**UNESCO) World Heritage List** during the **48th Session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC)** held in **Busan, South Korea**.
- With this inscription, Sarnath became **India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS)** and the **4th UNESCO World Heritage Site in Uttar Pradesh**, after the **Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri**.

Confederation of Indian Textile Industry and European Apparel and Textile Confederation Launch EU–India Textile Dialogue to Facilitate India–EU FTA Implementation

- The **Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI)** and the **European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX)** jointly launched the **EU–India Textile and Apparel Dialogue (TAD)** to strengthen bilateral cooperation and support the effective implementation of the **India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.

- The **mandate for the EU–India Textile and Apparel Dialogue (TAD)** was signed on **14 July 2026** during **Bharat Tex 2026** in **New Delhi** by **Ashwin Chandran**, **Chairman of CITI**, and **Mario Jorge Machado**, **President of EURATEX**.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
R. Vairamuthu (Tamil poet, lyricist, and writer)	60th Jnanpith Award (2025)	India's highest literary honour. Conferred at a ceremony in New Delhi by Dr. Karan Singh. He became the third Tamil writer from Tamil Nadu to receive this award after a gap of 24 years.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi	'Bintang Adipurna'	Indonesia's highest civilian award. Conferred by President Prabowo Subianto at Istana Merdeka (Presidential Palace) in Jakarta. Recognises his contribution to strengthening India–Indonesia bilateral relations and international cooperation.
Nita Ambani (Founder and Chairperson, Reliance Foundation)	AAPI Humanitarian Award	Presented by Dr. Amit Chakrabarty at the AAPI Annual Convention 2026 in Tampa, Florida, USA. Recognises her contributions to healthcare, education, sports, culture, rural transformation, women's empowerment, disaster

Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
		response, and preservation of India's arts and heritage.
Acharya Ranchhodlal Goswami (Ahmedabad, Gujarat)	Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025	Announced by Sangeet Natak Akademi under the Ministry of Culture for the 2024–25 cycle. Honoured for his contribution to preserving and promoting Haveli Sangeet. He is the 16th-generation Acharya of the historic Goswami Haveli in Ahmedabad.
Department of Telecommunications (DoT) , Ministry of Communications	WSIS Prize 2026	Won for its flagship Samriddh Gram: Integrated Phygital Service Delivery Model enabled by the BharatNet initiative. Award presented at the WSIS Forum 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland, under Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi	'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential Honour	Conferred by President Dr. Patrick Herminie of Seychelles. He became the first recipient of this prestigious civilian honour instituted by the Republic of Seychelles.
Sunil Bharti Mittal (Founder and	2026 USISPF Leadership Award	Presented during the 9th US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Annual Leadership

Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
Chairman, Bharti Enterprises)		Summit in Washington, D.C. Honoured for his contribution to strengthening economic and commercial ties between India and North America.
Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)	Gold Award at National Awards for e-Governance 2026	Awarded under the category "Innovation through the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Other New Age Technologies to Deliver Citizen-Centric Services." Conferred for ICMR-MINDS, an AI-powered mental health management platform.
James Gray (American filmmaker)	Pardo alla Carriera (Honorary Career Leopard Award)	Will be honoured at the 79th Locarno Film Festival on 9 August 2026. The award will be presented before the screening of his latest film, Paper Tiger, at Piazza Grande in Locarno, Switzerland.
Ajit Doval (National Security Advisor)	44th Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026	Selected for his contribution to national security, counter-terrorism strategy, covert operations, and border management. Will be presented by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Pune on 1 August 2026 (106th death anniversary of

Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
		Bal Gangadhar Tilak). Award comprises a memento, citation,

APPS & PORTALS

App / Portal Name	Released By	Purpose
Online Portal Application for Registration of Coal Exchanges	Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy (in presence of MoS Satish Chandra Dubey and Coal Secretary Vikram Dev Dutt)	To invite eligible entities to apply for registration of Coal Exchanges under the regulatory oversight of the Coal Controller Organisation (CCO), marking India's transition to operational readiness for coal trading platforms.
e-VSP (Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan) Portal	Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal	To provide digital access to Hindi legal literature, including Supreme Court and High Court judgments, legal journals, reference books, Acts, and publications on a single platform for lawyers, judges, students, researchers, and citizens.
Aadhaar App	(Launched earlier; crossed 40 million downloads)	To serve as a one-stop digital platform for Aadhaar-related services, including

App / Portal Name	Released By	Purpose
		address update, mobile number update, email update, biometric lock/unlock, and e-Aadhaar download.
Fresh Application Module (on Notary Portal)	Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law & Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal	To enable eligible legal practitioners and advocates to submit online applications for appointment as Notary Public under the Notaries Act, 1952 and Notaries Rules, 1956.
Aarogya Setu 2.0	Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda	To transform the app into a Personal Health Record (PHR) and citizen-facing digital health platform under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) for long-term integration into India's digital health ecosystem.
FCRA 2.0 Portal	Union Home Minister Amit Shah	To simplify compliance under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) by providing end-to-end digital services for registration, renewals, annual returns, and other applications, eliminating

App / Portal Name	Released By	Purpose
		physical document submission.
e-OCI Card	Union Home Minister Amit Shah	To enhance digital governance, transparency, and citizen convenience for Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders.
National Career Service (NCS) Portal (Senior Citizen Re-employment Initiative)	Central Government	To promote active ageing and enhance employment opportunities for senior citizens by enabling experienced professionals to remain part of the workforce through registrations, employer participation, and job opportunities.
TrackChild Module	Implemented with support from MHA, Ministry of Railways, State Governments, UT Administrations, CWCs, JJBs, and NALSA	To support the care, protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration of Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) under Mission Vatsalya.
DeepDATA (mobile application)	ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI)	Developed under the Deep Ocean Mission of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in Kochi, Kerala.

App / Portal Name	Released By	Purpose
"Shark Aware" (mobile application and interactive e-learning module)	ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI); released by Kerala Fisheries Minister V. E. Abdul Gafoor	To enhance awareness, identification, and conservation of protected and endangered sharks and rays in India.
SAMARTH Panchayat Portal	Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying)	To strengthen the financial autonomy, digital governance, and revenue generation capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.
Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme	Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh	To strengthen the financial autonomy and revenue generation capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
Model Own Source of Revenue (OSR) Rules	Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh	To provide a framework for Panchayati Raj Institutions to enhance their own revenue generation capacity.

RANKING AND REPORTS

Index / Report Name	Published By	India's Rank / Performance (Only Rank/Metric)	Top 3 Ranks / Positions
Brand Finance India 100 – 2026 Report	Brand Finance	MRF: Most Valuable & Strongest Tyre Brand in India; 3rd Strongest Tyre Brand globally (BSI: 87.7/100)	—
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2026	United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)	94th (Score: 68.3/100)	1. Finland 2. Sweden 3. Denmark
Index of Services Production (ISP)	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)	Trial release on 14 July 2026; Base year: 2024–25	—
Happy City Index 2026	—	Jaipur – 6th (only Indian city in Top 10)	1. London (UK) 2. New York City (USA) 3. Paris (France) 4. Tokyo (Japan)

Index / Report Name	Published By	India's Rank / Performance (Only Rank/Metric)	Top 3 Ranks / Positions
Global Passport Index (GPI) 2026	Global Citizen Solutions	125th (Score: 45.1; slipped from 124th)	1. Sweden 2. Switzerland 3. Finland
U.S. News & World Report 2026 – Most Influential Countries	U.S. News & World Report	16th	1. United States 2. United Kingdom 3. Germany
Geographical Indication (GI) Registrations – FY 2025–26	—	125 new GI tags (Total: 822); Top state: MP – 26	Top 3 States: 1. MP – 26 2. WB – 24 3. HP – 13

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Fairfax Emerges as Preferred Bidder to Acquire 60.72% Stake in IDBI Bank

- Canada-based **Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited (Fairfax)** emerged as the **preferred bidder** to acquire a **60.72% stake** in **IDBI Bank Limited** from the **Government of India (GoI)** and **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**.
- The proposed acquisition is valued at **Rs. 52,932 crore (approximately USD 5.5 billion)**, making it one of the largest banking acquisition deals in India.

State Bank of India Joins Global Banking Consortium to Fund Sun Pharma's US$11.75 Billion Organon Acquisition

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** plans to join a consortium of global lenders to finance **Sun Pharmaceutical Industries'** acquisition of US-based **Organon & Co.** in an overseas deal valued at **US$11.75–12 billion**, subject to board approval.
- **SBI** is expected to commit up to **US$1 billion**, becoming the **only Indian bank** participating in the syndicated loan alongside global lenders such as **Citigroup**, **JPMorgan Chase**, and **Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG)**.

- Around **US$10 billion** of the acquisition cost will be **financed through debt**, while **Sun Pharma** will contribute approximately **US$1.75 billion as equity**.

State Bank of India Acquires National Housing Bank's 10% Stake in RMBS Development Company Limited.

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, India's largest and oldest **Public Sector Bank (PSB)**, acquired the **National Housing Bank's (NHB's) 10% stake** in **RMBS Development Company Limited (RDCL)**.
- **RDCL** is a **Middle-Layer Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** focused on developing the **Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities (RMBS)** market in India.
- Following the acquisition, **NHB's shareholding** in RDCL **declined from 39% to 29%**.

TPG and Partners Acquire Aseem Infrastructure Finance Limited to Strengthen Climate Infrastructure Finance

- **TPG Inc.**, a global alternative asset management firm, signed definitive agreements to acquire a **100% stake** in **Aseem Infrastructure Finance Limited (AIFL)** from the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** and other shareholders for an undisclosed amount.

Aviva to Become the First Foreign Company with 100% Ownership of an Indian Life Insurance Business

- **Aviva Plc (United Kingdom)** announced the acquisition of the remaining **26% stake** in **Aviva Life Insurance Company India Limited (Aviva India)** from its Joint Venture (JV) partner, **Dabur Invest Corp. (DIC)**.
- With this acquisition, Aviva Plc will increase its shareholding from **74% to 100%**, becoming the **first foreign insurer to achieve 100% ownership** of its Indian life insurance business.

State Bank of India Divests 1.42% Stake in SBI Funds Management Through Pre-Initial Public Offering Placement

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** sold a **1.42% stake** in its asset management subsidiary **SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFM)** through a **pre-Initial Public Offering (IPO) placement**, raising **₹1,655 crore**.
- SBI sold **2.88 crore equity shares** to **30 institutional investors** at **₹574 per share**, which was the upper end of the IPO price band.
- The pre-IPO placement was completed ahead of the **₹11,700 crore IPO**, which is scheduled to open on **14 July 2026**.

- The 30 institutional investors included **Tata AIG General Insurance**, **Go Digit General Insurance**, **360 ONE Funds**, and **Bennett Coleman**, among others.

Competition Commission of India Approves ₹16,660 Crore Acquisition of Royal Challengers Bengaluru by Aditya Birla-Led Consortium

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the **₹16,660 crore all-cash acquisition** of **Royal Challengers Sports Pvt. Ltd. (RCSPL)**, the owner of the **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** franchises in both the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the Women's Premier League (WPL).

Mediterranean Shipping Company Group to Acquire 49% Stake in Adani Vizhinjam Port for ₹13,220 Crore

- Switzerland-based **Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) Group**, the **world's largest container shipping company**, will acquire a **49% stake** in **Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt. Ltd. (AVPPL)** for **US$1.397 billion (around ₹13,220 crore)**, subject to regulatory approvals.
- The investment will be made through **Terminal Investment Ltd. (TiL)**, the **port operating and investment arm** of the MSC Group.
- The transaction values **Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt. Ltd. (AVPPL)** at approximately **US$2.85 billion (around ₹26,960 crore)**, making it one of the **largest foreign investments** in India's port sector.

Competition Commission of India Clears Anantam Highways Trust's Acquisition of Seven Special Purpose Vehicles and InvIT Unit Allotment to Build India Infrastructure Fund, Dilip Buildcon and DIPL

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the proposed combination involving the **acquisition of seven Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** by **Anantam Highways Trust (InvIT)** and the **issuance of InvIT units** to **Build India Infrastructure Fund (BIIF)**, **Dilip Buildcon Limited (DBL)**, and **DBL Infraventures Pvt. Ltd. (DIPL)**.
- The **seven SPVs** involved in the transaction are **DAK Package I Expressway Pvt. Ltd.**, **Bethamangala Expressway Pvt. Ltd.**, **Katra Expressway Pvt. Ltd.**, **Raipur-Visakhapatnam-CG-2 Highways Ltd.**, **Bangarupalem Gudipala Highways Ltd.**, **Poondiyankuppam Highways Ltd.**, and **Mehgama-Hansdiha Highways Ltd.**

Competition Commission of India Approves Two Major Acquisition Deals in India's Asset Management and Sports Sectors

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, approved **two major acquisition proposals** under the provisions of the **Competition Act, 2002**.
- **Approval 1**: Germany-based **DWS Group GmbH & Co. KGaA (DWS Group)** received approval to acquire a **40% stake** in **Nippon Life India Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) Management Limited (NIAIF)**.
- The **DWS Group–NIAIF transaction** is valued at approximately **₹733 crore**.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Signs Agreement to Acquire 40% Stake in Tiki Tar and Shell India Private Limited for ₹85 Crore

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, a **'Maharatna' Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**, signed a **Share Purchase Agreement (SPA)** to acquire a **40% equity stake** in **Tiki Tar and Shell India Private Limited (TTSIPL)**.
- The **acquisition value is ₹85 crore**, aimed at strengthening BPCL's presence in the **bitumen and road infrastructure materials** segment.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Announces ₹281.7 Crore Acquisition of Deutsche Bank India's Retail and Wealth Management Business

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)**, a private sector bank, announced the **acquisition of Deutsche Bank India's Retail Banking, Private Banking, and Wealth Management business** for **₹281.7 crore**.
- The transaction is expected to be **completed by September 2027**.
- The acquired business portfolio includes approximately **₹29,000 crore in loans**, **₹16,000 crore in deposits**, and **₹10,500 crore in Assets Under Management (AUM)**.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Completes ₹2,312 Crore Acquisition of IBV Brazil Petroleo, Becomes Sole Owner

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, through its overseas subsidiary **BPRL Ventures BV** (Bharat PetroResources Limited Ventures BV), acquired the remaining **34.6% stake** of **Videocon Energy Brazil Limited (VEBL)** in **IBV Brazil Petroleo Limitada**.
- With this acquisition, BPCL's shareholding in IBV Brazil Petroleo Limitada increased from **65.40% to 100%**, making it a **wholly owned subsidiary** of BPRL Ventures BV.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank to Divest 0.5% Stake in PNB MetLife to MetLife International for ₹120.1 Crore

- **Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Bank** signed a **Share Purchase Agreement (SPA)** to sell its **0.5% stake** in **PNB MetLife India Insurance Company** to **MetLife International Holdings, LLC** for approximately **₹120.1 crore**.
- Under the transaction, **J&K Bank** will divest **10.25 million equity shares** in **PNB MetLife** at a price of **₹117.20 per share**, taking the total transaction value to **₹120.1 crore**.
- After completion of the deal, **J&K Bank's shareholding** in **PNB MetLife** will reduce from **3.034% to 2.534%** (approximately **3% to 2.5%**).

Competition Commission of India Clears The Brink's Company's 100% Acquisition of NCR Atleos Corporation

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of **100% equity share capital** of **NCR Atleos Corporation** by **The Brink's Company**.
- The **Proposed Combination** involves the acquisition of **100% ownership** of **NCR Atleos Corporation (Target)** by **The Brink's Company (Acquirer)**.

Reserve Bank of India Clears Areion Group's ₹936 Crore Takeover of Aviom India Housing Finance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved **Areion Group's ₹936 crore acquisition** of **Aviom India Housing Finance**, marking a major step in the company's **insolvency resolution process**.
- The **RBI** also granted '**Fit-and-Proper**' approval to **Manish Lalwani**, promoter of **Areion Group**, which is mandatory for a **change in control** of a **regulated financial institution**.
- **Aviom India Housing Finance** entered the **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)** in **February 2025** due to **debt defaults** and **accounting irregularities**.

Odisha Initiates Land Acquisition for Indian Oil Corporation's ₹61,077 Crore Paradip Petrochemical Complex

- The **Government of Odisha** has initiated the **land acquisition process** for **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)'s ₹61,077 crore Paradip Petrochemical Complex**, marking **IOC's largest-ever single-location investment**.
- The **Paradip Petrochemical Complex** will be developed around a **1.5 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) dual-feed naphtha cracker**, supported by multiple **downstream petrochemical units** and the proposed **Paradip Plastic Park**.

Competition Commission of India Clears Go Digit Infoworks–Go Digit General Insurance Merger

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA)**, approved the proposed merger of **Go Digit Infoworks Services Private Limited (Infoworks)** with **Go Digit General Insurance Limited (GDGIL)**.
- The merger is the **first-ever merger** between an insurance company and a non-insurance holding company under the **Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025**, making it an important milestone in **India's insurance sector**.

Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund Crosses 5% Shareholding in South Indian Bank Through Open Market Purchase

- **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (KMAMC)** announced that **Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund (KMMF)** increased its stake in **South Indian Bank** to **more than 5%** through an **open market purchase**.
- Before the acquisition, **KMMF** held **12.04 crore shares (4.5981%)** in South Indian Bank and acquired an additional **1.47 crore shares (0.5614%)**, increasing its total holding to **13.51 crore shares (5.1595%)**.

ENVIRONMENT

Bihar's 700-Year-Old Banyan Identified as the World's Oldest Scientifically Dated Banyan Tree

- Scientists identified a **banyan tree in Munger district, Bihar**, as the **world's oldest accurately dated banyan tree**, estimating its age at around **700 years** using **high-precision radiocarbon dating**.
- The research was published in the journal **Quaternary Research** and is the **first scientific study** to determine the age of a banyan tree (*Ficus benghalensis*) using **scientific evidence** instead of folklore, historical records, or local traditions.
- The study was led by **Dr. Trina Bose** of the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, along with Dr. Mayank Shekhar and Dr. Akhilesh K. Yadava.

Scientists Develop Ultra-Sensitive Ammonia Sensor for Portable, Wearable, and Self-Powered Toxic Gas Detection

- **Scientists** have developed an **advanced ammonia sensing platform** capable of detecting ammonia gas at extremely low concentrations while operating efficiently at **room temperature**.

- The technology was developed by researchers at the **Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
- The sensor is based on a hybrid **Vanadium Oxide–Vanadium Sulfide (VOx/VS2) heterostructure**, engineered through a controlled surface transformation process.

Chitkara University Establishes ₹20-Crore Atal Incubation Centre to Boost Deep-Tech Startups

- **Chitkara University, Punjab** launched the **Atal Incubation Centre–Chitkara Incubation Foundation (AIC-CIF)** and **AIC-PRIDE Labs** to strengthen India's **deep-tech startup ecosystem**.
- The initiative involves a combined investment of **₹20 crore over a period of five years**.

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment Scientists Discover Two New Species of Rare Solitary Bees in Arunachal Pradesh's Siang Valley

- **Researchers from the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru (Karnataka)** discovered **two new species of rare solitary bees** during the **Siang Expedition** in the **Siang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh (AR)**.
- The newly discovered bee species are **Elaphropoda triangulata** and **Habropoda adi**, and the findings were published in the **European Journal of Taxonomy**.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav Inaugurates 4th Animal Taxonomy Summit (ATS 4.0) in Kolkata

- **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav**, Ministry of **Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, inaugurated the **4th Animal Taxonomy Summit (ATS 4.0)** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- **ATS 4.0** was held from **30 June to 2 July 2026** to commemorate the **111th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**.
- The summit highlighted India's **biodiversity research**, promoted **wildlife conservation**, and documented **709 new faunal records**.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Discovers New Deep-Sea Fish Species 'Cyttopsis indica' in Arabian Sea

- Researchers from the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI)** discovered a new deep-sea fish species named ***Cyttopsis indica*** **(Indian dory)**.
- The new species was discovered in the **Arabian Sea** off the **Kerala Coast**.
- The detailed findings of the discovery were published in the ***Indian Journal of Fisheries***.

- *Cyttopsis indica* was discovered in the eastern region of the **Lakshadweep Sea**.

High-Resolution Radio Survey Uncovers Hidden Weakly Active Black Holes in Nearby Galaxies

- Astronomers discovered a **hidden population of weakly active supermassive black holes** in nearby galaxies using **high-resolution radio observations**, revealing black holes that were previously difficult to detect.

Researchers Discover Five New *Allographa* Lichen Species in the Western Ghats

- A team of researchers discovered **five new species** of **lichen-forming fungi** belonging to the genus **Allographa** from the **Western Ghats of India**, a globally significant **biodiversity hotspot**.
- The **five newly discovered species** are:
    1. **Allographa keralensis** (named after Kerala)
    2. **Allographa nayakae** (named in honour of Dr. Sanjeeva Nayaka)
    3. **Allographa paraconsanguinea**
    4. **Allographa persistinspersa**
    5. **Allographa semicarbonisata**

Scientists Discover New Damselfly Species 'Lestes paloti' in the Western Ghats of Kerala

- A team of **Indian odonatologists** discovered a new species of spreadwing damselfly, **Lestes paloti**, from the **Western Ghats** in **Kerala**.
- **Lestes paloti** belongs to the **Lestidae family** under the **Order Odonata** (dragonflies and damselflies).
- The discovery was published in the **International Journal of Odonatology**, an internationally reputed peer-reviewed journal dedicated to research on dragonflies and damselflies.

Zoological Survey of India Identifies Two New Spider Species, *Simonia lawbah* and *Hamataliwa papikonda*

- Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** discovered and documented **two new spider species—Simonia lawbah** from **Meghalaya** and **Hamataliwa papikonda** from **Andhra Pradesh (AP)**—highlighting **India's rich and underexplored biodiversity**.

Researchers Discover New Bracket Fungus Species *Microporellus kolhapurensis* in Maharashtra

- Researchers from **Maharashtra** discovered a new **polypore (bracket) fungus species** named **Microporellus kolhapurensis** in **Bhudargad taluka, Kolhapur district, Maharashtra**, growing on **rotting wood** in the **Bediv area near the Ajra border**.
- The newly discovered fungus was named **Microporellus kolhapurensis** after **Kolhapur district** in recognition of the region's **rich biodiversity**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Name of the Person	Appointed as	Succeeds
Dilip Asbe	MD & CEO, NPCI (appointed to Supervisory Board of SWIFT)	-
Mahesh Muralidhar Pai	MD & CEO, South Indian Bank	P. R. Seshadri
Sourav Ganguly	Brand Ambassador, InsuranceDekho	-
Baldev Prakash	MD & CEO, SBICAP Securities	-
Prabhjeet Singh	MD for India Operations, OpenAI	-
Air Marshal Tejinder Singh	Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC)	-
Lt Gen Sandeep Jain	Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS)	-
Ravi Agrawal	Chairman, CBDT (reappointed)	-
Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS)	Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor
Anupam Misra	CMD, Hindustan Copper Limited	Sanjiv Kumar Singh
Biswanath Sinha	Chief Secretary, Kerala	Dr. A. Jayathilak
Mylswamy Annadurai	Chairman, Curriculum Design Committee for School Education, Tamil Nadu	-
Ravi Shankar	Executive Director, RBI	-

Name of the Person	Appointed as	Succeeds
Bijay Kumar Mohanty	CMD (additional charge), IREDA	-
Rajiv Kumar	Part-Time Chairman, HDFC Bank	Keki Mistry
Rear Admiral (Retd.) C. Raghuram	CMD, Hindustan Shipyard Limited	Captain Ganti Venkateswarlu
Keiko Fujimori	President of Peru	José María Balcázar
Raghuram Rajan, Raj Chetty, Asha Sharma	Members of US Fed Task Forces reviewing Monetary Policy Framework	-
Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala	Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences	-
Sergii Koretskyi	Prime Minister of Ukraine	Yulia Svyrydenko
Vivek Nishant Nath	Director (Commercial), NMDC Limited	-
Mindaugas Sinkevičius	Prime Minister of Lithuania	Inga Ruginienė
Amitabh Bachchan	Brand Ambassador, Policybazaar	-
Harjit Singh Grewal	Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities	Iqbal Singh Lalpura
Rahul Himalian	Additional CMD, IRCTC	Sanjay Kumar Jain
Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye	Chairman, ECOWAS	President Julius Maada Bio

Name of the Person	Appointed as	Succeeds
Andy Burnham	Prime Minister of the UK	Keir Starmer
Anurag Jain	CEO, NITI Aayog	B.V.R. Subrahmanyam
Kanishka Narayan	UK's first Minister for Artificial Intelligence (AI)	-
Keshav Chandra	Secretary, Ministry of Mines	Piyush Goyal
Ashiss Kumar Dash	CEO Designate, Infosys Limited	-
Viswanathan Anand	Interim President, FIDE	-
Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi	Union Minister of Education (additional charge)	-
Satya Pal Kumar	Director, FIU-IND	Pankaj Kumar Mishra

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Navy to Induct INS Mahendragiri, Sixth Indigenous Project 17A Stealth Frigate

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** is set to commission its **sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate**, **INS Mahendragiri (F38)**, at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, on **11 July 2026**.
- INS Mahendragiri is named after the **Mahendragiri mountain range** in the Eastern Ghats and is the **first Indian Naval warship** to bear this name.
- INS Mahendragiri has been designed in-house by the Indian Navy's **Warship Design Bureau (WDB)**.
- The frigate has been constructed by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai**.

India and Rwanda Strengthen Defence Cooperation at the 2nd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting

- The **2nd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) Meeting** between **India and Rwanda** was held in **New Delhi** on **6–7 July 2026**.

- The meeting focused on expanding **bilateral defence cooperation** in the areas of **military training**, **joint military exercises**, **medical cooperation**, and **defence industries**.
- Both countries agreed on an **Implementation Plan** with **defined timelines** for the action items arising from the JDCC meeting.

Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports Pahalgam Leads 22-Member Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Khyam Tso Massif in Ladakh

- The **Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports (JIM & WS), Pahalgam** successfully conducted a **22-member mountaineering expedition** to the **Mt Khyam Tso Massif** in the **Rumtse Phu region, Ladakh**.
- The expedition was **flagged off on 26 June 2026** by Team Leader **Col Hem Chandra Singh**.
- After a structured acclimatization programme in Ladakh, the team **successfully summited Peak Pt 5901M on 2 July 2026** despite extreme weather conditions.

Adani Defence to Establish ₹2,500 Crore Missile Production Facility in Madhya Pradesh

- **Adani Defence and Aerospace**, part of the Adani Group, invested **₹2,500 crore** to establish **South Asia's largest private-sector missile ecosystem** in **Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh (MP)**.
- The **foundation stone** of the facility was laid by **Mohan Yadav**, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, and **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, Union Minister for Communications.

Defence Research & Development Organisation Successfully Conducts Flight Test of Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket with 60 km Minimum Range

- **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted the flight test of the **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR)** at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**.
- The Pinaka LRGR was successfully tested for a user-defined **minimum range of 60 kilometres (km)**.

Bisleri International Joins Hands with Indian Coast Guard to Promote Coastal Sustainability

- **Bisleri International Private Limited** signed a **Letter of Association (LoA)** with the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG) (Kerala and Mahe)** to promote **plastic waste management** and environmental sustainability across coastal regions.
- The agreement is aligned with the Indian Coast Guard's mission – **"Plastic Free Oceans"**.

Indian Army to Acquire 450 Carl Gustaf M4 Launchers to Boost High-Altitude Firepower

- **Indian Army** issued a **Request for Proposal (RFP)** in **July 2026** to procure **450 Carl Gustaf Mark-IV (M4) 84 mm lightweight recoilless rocket launchers**.

- The **Carl Gustaf M4** is a **shoulder-fired, multi-role recoilless rifle system** designed for **infantry support**, **anti-armour operations**, **bunker destruction**, and battlefield combat.
- The Carl Gustaf weapon system is developed by **Saab, Sweden**, and has been in service with the Indian Army since **1974** through earlier **M2 and M3 variants**.

INS Sudarshini Joins Grand Parade of Sails at Sail Boston 2026 During Lokayan 2026 Voyage

- **Indian Naval Sail Training Ship (STS) INS Sudarshini** arrived at **Boston, United States of America (USA)** on **12 July 2026** after successfully participating in the **Sail4th 250 celebrations at New York**.
- INS Sudarshini participated in the **Grand Parade of Sails**, marking the commencement of **Sail Boston 2026**.

India and Japan Hold 8th Defence Policy Dialogue to Strengthen Strategic Defence Cooperation

- **India and Japan** held the **8th Defence Policy Dialogue** in **Tokyo, Japan**, on **13 July 2026** to strengthen bilateral defence and strategic cooperation.
- The Indian delegation was led by **Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh**, while the Japanese delegation was headed by **Vice Minister of Defence for International Affairs Mr. Kano Koji**.

Indian Navy's INS Surat and Japan's JS Takanami Conduct Joint Naval Exercise off Mumbai Coast

- The **Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF)** warship **JS Takanami (DD-110)** conducted a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with the Indian Navy warship **INS Surat** off the coast of **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- The PASSEX focused on **validating communication procedures, tactical manoeuvres**, and **enhancing interoperability** between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF).

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth Reviews Canteen Services Department at 80th Board of Control Canteen Services Meeting in Ranchi

- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth** reviewed the functioning of the **Canteen Services Department (CSD)** during the **80th meeting of the Board of Control Canteen Services (BOCCS)** held in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**, on **14 July 2026**.

Indian Navy to Conduct Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 at Kochi's Southern Naval Command

- **Indian Navy** will host **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2** at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi (Kerala)** from **20–23 July 2026** as a **four-day multinational maritime training engagement**.

- The exercise will be conducted in partnership with the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)** under the aegis of **Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154)**, the Indian Navy-led and CMF's dedicated **Training Task Force**.

Indian Navy to Commission INS Malvan, the Latest Indigenous ASW Shallow Water Craft

- **The Indian Navy** will commission **INS Malvan** on **22 July 2026**, the **second Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**.
- The commissioning ceremony will be presided over by **Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Chief of the Air Staff**, in the presence of **Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan**, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), **Western Naval Command**.
- **INS Malvan** has been built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi**, showcasing India's growing capability in **indigenous naval shipbuilding**.
- The warship has **over 80% indigenous content**, reflecting the success of the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative in the defence sector.

Indian Air Force Joins Australia's Exercise Pitch Black 2026 with Rafale Fighter Jets

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** is participating in **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**, the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)'s** premier **biennial multinational air combat exercise**, scheduled from **20 July to 7 August 2026** at **RAAF Base Darwin, Northern Australia**.
- **Exercise Pitch Black** derives its name from its focus on **night flying** over the vast unpopulated regions of **Northern Australia** and has a **45-year history** as one of the world's leading **multinational air warfare exercises**.

India Launches Operation Amistad for Earthquake Relief in Venezuela

- **India** launched **Operation Amistad**, a **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** mission, to assist **Venezuela** after devastating magnitude **7.2 and 7.5 earthquakes** caused heavy loss of life, injuries, and widespread destruction.
- The term **"Amistad"** is a Spanish word meaning **"Friendship"**, symbolizing India's support and cooperation with Venezuela during the crisis.

Indian Air Force Successfully Concludes the 5th Warfare & Aerospace Strategy Programme

- The **5th edition of the Capstone Seminar**, marking the successful culmination of the **Warfare & Aerospace Strategy Programme (WASP)**, was held on **29 June 2026**.
- The seminar was graced by **Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh** as the Chief Guest.

- **WASP** is jointly conducted by the **Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies (CAPSS), New Delhi**, and the **College of Air Warfare (CAW), Hyderabad**.

Indian Navy Joins 30th Edition of RIMPAC 2026 Maritime Exercise in Hawaii, United States of America

- **Indian Navy (IN)** participated in the **30th edition of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2026**, the world's largest multinational maritime warfare exercise, hosted by the **United States (US) Navy** under the U.S. Pacific Fleet at **Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH)**, Hawaii,United States of America(USA).
- RIMPAC 2026 is being conducted from **24 June to 31 July 2026** as a five-week biennial multinational maritime warfare exercise in and around the Hawaiian Islands.
- The theme of RIMPAC 2026 is **"Partners: Integrated and Prepared"**, highlighting collective defence readiness, interoperability, and a shared commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Defence Acquisition Council Clears ₹52,000 Crore Defence Procurement Proposals to Strengthen Armed Forces

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by Raksha Mantri **Rajnath Singh**, accorded **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** to multiple defence acquisition proposals on **3 July 2026**.
- The **total value of the AoN approvals is approximately ₹52,000 crore**.

General Dhiraj Seth Launches 'VIJAY' Roadmap to Transform the Indian Army into a Future-Ready Force

- **General Dhiraj Seth** assumed charge as the **31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** of the **Indian Army (IA)** and unveiled the **'VIJAY' roadmap** to build a technology-driven, future-ready military force.
- **VIJAY** stands for **Vigilance, Innovation, Jointness and Integration, Aatmanirbharta, and Yodha first**.
- The VIJAY roadmap is aligned with the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**'s **'Decade of Transformation (2023–2032)'**, focusing on transforming the Indian Army into a digitized, technology-enabled, self-reliant (**Aatmanirbhar**), and multi-domain-capable force.

United States of America Hands Over 21st MH-60R Seahawk to Indian Navy, Boosting Bilateral Defence Cooperation

- The **United States of America (USA)** delivered the **21st MH-60R Seahawk multi-role maritime helicopter** to the **Indian Navy (IN)** at **Kochi, Kerala**, further strengthening the **India–USA defence partnership** and enhancing India's **maritime security capabilities**.
- India signed a **Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Agreement** with the **USA** in **February 2020** to procure **24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters** at a total cost of **USD 2.6 billion**.

Indian Air Force Retains World's Third-Ranked Independent Air Force Position in World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft 2026 Rankings

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has retained its position as the **World's 3rd Most Powerful Independent Air Force** for the **5th consecutive year** in the **World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA) 2026 Global Air Power Rankings**.
- In the **Independent Air Force Rankings**, only the **United States** and **Russia** rank above the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, placing **India at 3rd position globally**.
- The **World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA)** assessed **129 air services** across **103 countries** using its **True Value Rating (TVR)** system.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Signs Two Strategic Industry Agreements to Advance the AEW&C Mk-II Programme

- **Centre for Air Borne Systems (CABS),** Defence Research and Development Organisation **(DRDO)** signed a contract with **AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL), New Delhi** for the conversion of **six Airbus A321 aircraft** from commercial to **green configuration** under the **Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) Mk-II Programme**.
- **CABS, DRDO** also signed a separate contract with **Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL), Ahmedabad** to serve as the **Development-cum-Production Partner (DcPP)** for the **Mission Systems** of the **AEW&C Mk-II Programme**.

Rajnath Singh Welcomes Completion of India's First Tri-Service All-Women Global Sailing Expedition

- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** flagged-in **'Samudra Pradakshina'**, the **first-ever Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition**, through **video conferencing** on **22 July 2026**.
- The expedition was carried out aboard the **Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni**, with **9 women officers** from the **Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force** successfully completing the historic mission.

- The expedition lasted **314 days**, covered nearly **25,500 nautical miles**, and traversed **4 oceans**, making it one of India's most significant **Tri-Service maritime expeditions**.

India Successfully Develops First Indigenous 350 kg Thrust Class Expendable Turbojet Engine

- India achieved a major milestone in **indigenous aero-engine technology** with the successful development of the country's **first indigenous Expendable Turbojet Engine** in the **350 kg thrust class**.
- The engine was designed and developed by the **Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE)** under the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- **Azad Engineering, Hyderabad**, was selected by GTRE as the **industry partner** for the **manufacturing and assembly** of the engine.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Conducts Maiden Flight Test of Indigenous Kusha Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the **'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)** from **APJ Abdul Kalam Island** off the coast of **Odisha**.
- The **M1 interceptor missile** is a **short-to-medium-range variant** capable of destroying aerial targets up to **150 km**.
- The **M2 interceptor missile** is a **medium-to-long-range variant** with an **operational range of 250 km**.
- The **M3 interceptor missile** is the **long-range variant**, capable of intercepting threats at distances of **350–400 km**, providing **extended air defence coverage**.

Raghu Vamsi Aerospace Announces ₹600 Crore Investment for Superalloy Manufacturing Plant in Telangana

- **Raghu Vamsi Aerospace Group** announced an investment of **over ₹600 crore** to establish an **integrated nickel-based superalloy manufacturing facility** in **Telangana**.
- The announcement was made during the **Farnborough International Airshow 2026** held in the **United Kingdom (UK)**, one of the world's leading **aerospace and defence exhibitions**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GalaxEye Loses Contact with World's First OptoSAR Satellite Drishti After Suspected Space Weather Anomaly

- **Bengaluru-based space startup GalaxEye** lost communication with **Mission Drishti**, the world's first **OptoSAR (Optical + Synthetic Aperture Radar)** Earth observation satellite, after an onboard anomaly.
- Mission Drishti was launched on **3 May 2026** aboard **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket**, marking a major milestone for India's private space sector.
- Drishti was the **world's first satellite to integrate Electro-Optical (EO) and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** sensors on a single platform.

India and Indonesia Sign Landmark Deal for Export of Astra Mk 1 Missiles

- **India and Indonesia** signed a **landmark defence agreement** for the export of the **Astra Mk 1 Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)**, making **Indonesia** the **first foreign country** to import India's indigenously developed Astra missile system.
- The **BrahMos Missile Defence System contract** was signed between **BrahMos Aerospace** and the **Ministry of Defence of Indonesia**.
- The **Astra Mk 1 export agreement** was signed between **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** and **Republikorp**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Phase-III of Biomedical Research Career Programme with ₹1,500 Crore Joint Department of Biotechnology–Wellcome Trust Funding

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched **Phase-III** of the **Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP)** with a total outlay of **₹1,500 crore** to strengthen India's biomedical research ecosystem.
- **Phase-III of BRCP** has funding support of **₹1,000 crore** from the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** and **₹500 crore** from the **Wellcome Trust, United Kingdom (UK)**.

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Successfully Completes Japan's First Reusable Rocket Lift-off and Landing Test

- The **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** successfully conducted the **first lift-off and landing test** of its **RV-X reusable rocket prototype** at the **Noshiro Testing Center, Akita Prefecture, Japan**.
- During the test, the **RV-X rocket** lifted off to approximately **10 metres (33 feet)**, remained airborne for about **40 seconds**, and completed a **safe vertical landing**.
- The test marked **Japan's first successful lift-off and landing demonstration** of a reusable rocket prototype.

- **RV-X** successfully demonstrated **Vertical Take-Off and Vertical Landing (VTVL)** technology, a key capability for future reusable launch vehicles.
- The **RV-X reusable rocket** was jointly developed by the **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** and **Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI)**.

Indian Space Research Organisation Successfully Conducts Three Critical Gaganyaan Crew Module System Tests

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted **three critical tests** of the **Gaganyaan Crew Module (CM)** systems as part of India's **Human Spaceflight Programme**.
- The first test validated the **Crew Module Uprighting System (CMUS)** through a **Float Inflation Test**.

Technology Development Board Supports K. N. Biosciences' Indigenous C-Phycocyanin Production Project Using Spirulina

- **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, has extended financial assistance to **M/s K. N. Biosciences (India) Private Limited, Hyderabad** for the project **"Production of C-Phycocyanin using Spirulina sp. as a Cell Factory."**

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Drone Federation India Launch National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research 2.0 to Promote Indigenous Chip-Based Drone Innovation

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, in partnership with the **Drone Federation India (DFI)**, launched the **2nd edition of the National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research (NIDAR 2.0)** for **2026–27** under the **SwaYaan Initiative** at **Electronics Niketan, New Delhi**.

Scientists Develop Ultrafast Organic Anode Material for Next-Generation Rechargeable Batteries

- **Researchers from the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)** and **S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS)**, both under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, developed a new **porous organic anode material** for **high-performance lithium-ion batteries**.
- The newly developed material is a **Covalent Organic Framework (COF)**, a porous organic material designed to improve **energy storage capacity**, **fast charging**, and **battery durability**.

- The research team was led by **Dr. Urmimala Maitra (IACS)** and **Dr. Pradip Pachfule (SNBNCBS)**.

Kerala-Based HEX20 Successfully Launches Its Second Satellite 'KOYO' on SpaceX Transporter-17 Mission

- Kerala-based private spacetech startup **HEX20** successfully launched its second satellite, **KOYO (Kinetic Optical Yaw Observer)** aboard **SpaceX's Transporter-17 mission** from **Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, USA**.

CSIR-Central Road Research Institute Launches Platinum Jubilee Celebrations with Nationwide Rollout of Indigenous Road Technologies

- **CSIR–Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)** commenced its **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** from **16 July 2026 to 16 July 2027**, marking **75 years of scientific excellence** in road infrastructure research.
- As part of the celebrations, CSIR-CRRI launched the **first phase of nationwide implementation** of its advanced indigenous road infrastructure technologies across **16 towns/locations** in India.

Tata Consultancy Services Signs Expanded Artificial Intelligence-Driven Global Network Operations Deal with ABB

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** signed a **multi-million, multi-year agreement** with **ABB** to transform ABB's global network operations using **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries & National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management -Thanjavur Launch Pilot Baking Skill Training Programme at ITC-Trichy

- The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**, in collaboration with the **National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Thanjavur**, launched a pilot **Short-Term Skill Training Programme (STSTP)** on the **Assistant Baking Technician (NSQF Level 3) Certificate Programme** at the **ITC – Integrated Consumer Goods Manufacturing and Logistics (ITC-ICML) facility** in **Trichy, Tamil Nadu**.
- The programme was inaugurated by **Prof. V. Palanimuthu, Director, NIFTEM-Thanjavur**, in the presence of **Surjeet Singh Roria, General Manager (GM) & Head, ITC-ICML**, and **Padmanabhan T., Senior HR Manager, ITC-ICML**.

VELS Institute of Science, Technology, & Advanced Studies Launches India's First Artificial Intelligence-Integrated Vertical University Campus in Chennai

- **Padma Shri Sridhar Vembu**, Chief Scientist and Co-founder of **Zoho Corporation Pvt. Ltd.**, inaugurated the **Thiruvanmiyur campus** of **VELS Institute of Science, Technology, & Advanced Studies (VISTAS)** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- The newly inaugurated VISTAS Thiruvanmiyur campus is regarded as **India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-integrated vertical university campus**.

pi-labs and Google Cloud Join Hands to Develop Secure Artificial Intelligence Solutions for India

- **pi-labs**, an Indian **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and deepfake detection company**, entered into a **strategic partnership with Google Cloud** to develop secure, scalable, and mission-ready AI solutions for India.

Bharat Tex 2026 Showcases India's Textile Excellence and Global Business Opportunities

- **Bharat Tex 2026** showcases India's textile ecosystem by bringing together manufacturers, handloom cooperatives, traditional artisans, technology startups, and global buyers under one platform.
- The event is guided by the **5F Vision – Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign**, highlighting India's complete textile value chain from raw material production to global exports.

Skyroot Aerospace Launches India's First Privately Developed Orbital Rocket Vikram-1 Under Mission Aagaman

- **Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**, a **Hyderabad (Telangana)-based** private spacetech company, successfully launched **Vikram-1**, **India's first privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle**, under **Mission Aagaman (Arrival)** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.
- With this mission, **India** became the **3rd country** after the **United States (USA)** and **China** to achieve **private orbital launch capability**, following the **Indian Space Policy, 2023**.
- **Skyroot Aerospace** was founded in **2018** and previously created history by launching **Vikram-S**, **India's first private suborbital rocket**, in **November 2022**.

Jio Receives Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre Clearance to Launch Indigenous 1,600-Satellite Low Earth Orbit Broadband Constellation

- **Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Jio)**, the telecom arm of **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)**, received technical approval from the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** to deploy a **Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation** of around **1,600 satellites**.

India Commissions First-Ever Geothermal Wells in Ladakh to Power Geothermal Energy

Development

- **India** commissioned its **first-ever geothermal wells** at **Puga Valley, Ladakh**, marking a major milestone in the country's **renewable energy sector**.
- **Two geothermal wells**, each drilled to a depth of **1,000 metres**, have been successfully commissioned, making them the **deepest geothermal wells in India**.

Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi Launches White Rabbit Technology-Based Indian Standard Time Network in Bengaluru

- The initiative has been launched under the vision of **"One Nation, One Time"** to establish a uniform, highly precise, secure, and indigenous **Indian Standard Time (IST)** network, reducing India's dependence on **foreign GPS-based time sources** and strengthening **digital sovereignty**.

Indian Analog Astronaut Captain Aman Johri Completes Microgravity Mission to Advance Space Research on Maharashtra Crops

- **Captain Aman Johri**, an **Indian Analog Astronaut**, successfully completed a **microgravity research flight** under **Project Astra Farm**, marking a major milestone in **India's space biotechnology** and **sustainable space food systems**.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology Develops India's First Indigenous Technology to Produce HFO-1234yf Green Refrigerant

- **CSIR–Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Hyderabad** has developed India's first indigenous process technology for manufacturing **Hydrofluoroolefin-1234yf (HFO-1234yf)**, a next-generation **green refrigerant** for refrigeration and air-conditioning systems.
- **HFO-1234yf** is designed to replace **Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)** because it has **Zero Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP)**, **Very Low Global Warming Potential (GWP)**, and a short atmospheric lifetime of about **11 days**.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organization Approves Novo Nordisk's Wegovy for Treatment of Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis

- **India's drug regulator**, the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)**, approved **Novo Nordisk's Wegovy (Semaglutide Injection 2.4 mg)** for the treatment of **Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH)**.

Indian Space Research Organisation Successfully Tests SOLVE Launch Vehicle for Gaganyaan Crew Module Parachute System at Sriharikota

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted the **first static ground test** of the **Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments (SOLVE)**.
- The test was conducted at the **Static Test Facility** of the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)**, **Sriharikota**, **Andhra Pradesh**.

Indiahandmade: A Digital Marketplace for India's Traditional Crafts

- **Indiahandmade** is a dedicated digital marketplace for **handloom and handicraft products**, launched in **2023** under the **Digital India Initiative**.
- The platform was developed by the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)** under the **Ministry of Textiles** to promote India's traditional handloom and handicraft sector through digital commerce.
- **Women account for 71% of handloom weavers and 64% of total artisans** (as of August 2025), highlighting the sector's role in **women empowerment** and **rural employment**.

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences Unveils Three Key Initiatives to Advance Ayurveda Research and Digital Transformation

- **Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha**, Secretary, **Ministry of AYUSH**, chaired the **5th Executive Committee (EC) Meeting** of the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** in **New Delhi, Delhi**.
- **CCRAS** is the **apex research body** under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homeopathy).
- **Three major initiatives** were launched during the meeting: **Research Methodology Textbook**, **CCRAS PRAYATNA 2026–27**, and the **CCRAS Digital Ecosystem Dashboard**.

China Launches HY-2E Oceanographic Satellite to Strengthen Marine Observation

- **China** successfully launched its latest oceanographic satellite, **Haiyang (HY)-2E**, aboard a **Long March 4B rocket** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center**, Northwest China.
- The launch marked China's **47th space mission in 2026** and the **654th flight** of the **Long March rocket series**.
- **HY-2E** is designed to replace the **HY-2B satellite**, which was launched in 2018.

Poshan Tracker: India’s Digital Platform for Real-Time Nutrition Governance

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan (Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment)** is India’s flagship **National Nutrition Mission**, launched on **8 March 2018**, to improve nutrition outcomes through convergence, technology, and community mobilisation.

- POSHAN Abhiyaan functions under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)** and follows a **Jan Andolan (People's Movement)** approach with time-bound targets, digital monitoring, and a multi-ministerial framework.

Centre Forms ICAR Expert Committee to Address Issues of Totapuri Mango Growers in Andhra Pradesh

- **Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** directed **ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research)** to constitute a **high-level expert committee** to address the problems faced by **Totapuri mango growers** in **Andhra Pradesh**.

Indian Space Research Organisation Clears CE20 Cryogenic Engine with Successful Hot Test for Launch Vehicle Mark-3-M7 Launch

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted the **Flight Acceptance Hot Test** of the **CE20 Cryogenic Engine** for the **LVM3-M7 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3 Mission-7)**.
- The test was conducted at the **Main Engine & Stage Test Facility (MET)** of the **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**.

IBM Unveils World's First Sub-1 Nanometre Semiconductor Chip Technology

- **IBM** unveiled the world's first **sub-1 nanometre (0.7 nm / 7 angstrom) semiconductor chip technology**, marking a major breakthrough in next-generation computing and semiconductor manufacturing.
- The innovation moves chip manufacturing beyond the traditional nanometre era toward **atomic-scale (angstrom-level) engineering**, overcoming the physical limits of conventional chip scaling.
- The chip is built using IBM's **3D "Nanostack" transistor architecture**, the industry's first three-dimensional nanosheet-based transistor design.

Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization: Advancing Farm Productivity Through Modern Mechanization

- **The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)** was launched in **2014–15** as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** under the **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** to promote farm mechanization across India.

India and Australia Enhance Traditional Knowledge Protection Through CSIR-Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Pact

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and **IP Australia** signed an Agreement for access to the **CSIR–Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (CSIR-TKDL)** during the **3rd India–Australia Annual Summit** held in **Melbourne, Australia**, on **9 July 2026**.

Indian Space Research Organisation Completes IMAT-05 Main Parachute Airdrop Test for Gaganyaan G1 Mission in Madhya Pradesh

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted the **Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test-05 (IMAT-05)** for the **Gaganyaan G1 Mission** at the **Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) Drop Zone, Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh**.
- **IMAT-05** was conducted to validate the **Main Parachute System** under maximum expected load conditions for the first uncrewed Gaganyaan G1 Mission.

Centre for Studies of International Relations Launches International Centre for Civilizational Studies "Manas and Mahabharata" in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- **Centre for Studies of International Relations (CSIR), New Delhi**, in collaboration with the **Manas National Academy**, established the **International Centre for Civilizational Studies "Manas and Mahabharata"** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Astronaut Anil Menon to Embark on Maiden Mission to the International Space Station

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut Anil Menon** is scheduled to launch to the **International Space Station (ISS)** on **14 July 2026** aboard the **Roscosmos Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft**.
- The launch will take place from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan**.
- **Anil Menon** will travel with Roscosmos cosmonauts **Pyotr Dubrov** and **Anna Kikina** as part of **Expedition 74/75**.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Entrusts Indian Institute of Technology Madras and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing with Centralised National Bridge Health Monitoring Platform

- The **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** plans to centralise the **National Bridge Health Monitoring Software** by involving **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** and the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**.
- The software is linked to the **Bridge Health Monitoring System (BHMS)**, which uses **sensor-based technology** for **real-time monitoring** of bridges on the **National Highway network**.

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Chinese AI Startup DeepSeek Reportedly Developing Indigenous AI Inference Chip

- **DeepSeek** is a Chinese **Artificial Intelligence (AI) startup** headquartered in **Hangzhou, China**.
- In **July 2026**, DeepSeek was linked to the development of a **custom AI chip** designed for **AI inference workloads** and to reduce China's dependence on foreign semiconductor technology.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Plans to Repurpose PROMISE Mars Rover as Lunar Explorer for Artemis Mission

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** (**NASA)** is considering repurposing **PROMISE (Polar Rover for Observation, Mapping, and In-Situ Exploration)** into a lunar rover for the **Artemis Programme**.
- PROMISE is a **full-scale engineering model** that was originally built to support the **Curiosity and Perseverance Mars rover missions**.
- If approved, PROMISE will explore the **Moon's South Pole**, one of the key target regions of the Artemis Programme.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research Develops India's First Mobile Smart Algal Liquid Tree for Air Purification

- **Scientists at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR)**, Dhanbad, Jharkhand, developed India's first mobile "Liquid Tree", called the **Smart Algal Liquid Tree (SALT)**.
- **SALT (Smart Algal Liquid Tree)** is an innovative **air purification system** designed to improve air quality in densely populated urban and industrial areas where planting conventional trees is difficult.

South Korea to Launch Fourth Medium-Sized Earth Observation Satellite on SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket

- **South Korea** is set to launch its **4th next-generation medium-sized Earth Observation Satellite** aboard a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** from **Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, USA**.
- The satellite has been developed under the **Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA)**.
- After launch, the satellite will undergo **four months of in-orbit testing** before becoming fully operational in the **first half of 2027**.

Government of India Approves Dixon Technologies–Vivo Mobile India Joint Venture for Smartphone Manufacturing in India

- The **Government of India (GoI)** approved the formation of a **Joint Venture (JV)** between **Dixon Technologies (India) Limited** and **Vivo Mobile India Limited (VMI)** for the manufacturing of electronic devices and smartphones in India.

China Successfully Recovers Long March-10B Reusable Rocket Booster for the First Time

- **China** successfully achieved the first **controlled recovery of an orbital-class reusable rocket booster** following the maiden launch of the **Long March-10B carrier rocket** from **Hainan Province, China**.
- The **Long March-10B** was developed by the **China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT)** and successfully placed its payload into orbit, while its **first-stage booster** was recovered on a **sea-based net platform**.

AgniKul Cosmos and ICEYE Join Hands to Build India's End-to-End Synthetic Aperture Radar Satellite Ecosystem

- **AgniKul Cosmos Private Limited**, an Indian private space startup, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **ICEYE**, a Finland-based Earth observation company, to jointly develop an end-to-end **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** Earth-observation ecosystem from India.
- The MoU was signed during the **Bharat Innovates Summit**, held in **Nice, France**, from **30 June to 1 July 2026**.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission: Powering India's Digital Healthcare Ecosystem

- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** was launched in **September 2021** by the **Government of India** to create an integrated, citizen-centric national digital health ecosystem.

Indian Space Research Organisation Successfully Demonstrates High-Thrust Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted a **hot test** of the **Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA)** at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**.
- The hot test achieved **88% of the target thrust**, generating **175 tonnes of thrust**, marking a major milestone in the development of India's next-generation rocket propulsion system.
- The test was the **8th hot test in the PHTA test series**, following earlier successful tests at **47% (94 tonnes) and 60% (120 tonnes)** of full thrust.

Gautam Buddha University Collaborates with Space Kidz India and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre to Support World's First All-Girls Lunar Mission

- **Gautam Buddha University (GBU)** has entered into a strategic partnership with **Space Kidz India** and the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** to support **Mission ShakthiSAT**, the world's first all-girls international lunar mission.
- **Mission ShakthiSAT** aims to advance space technology, promote **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education**, and encourage **women-led leadership** in the space sector.

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Sorbonne University to Introduce Joint Master's and PhD Courses in Biological Science from 2026

- **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) and Sorbonne University, France** have expanded their strategic partnership by launching a joint **Master of Science (MSc) in Biological Science (Biol. Sci) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** programmes from **2026**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Four Advanced R&D Facilities and Unveils ₹44.46 Crore Hostel Project at CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology Hyderabad

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated **four Advanced R&D facilities** and laid the foundation stone of a **₹44.46 crore, 200-student hostel complex** at **CSIR–Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Hyderabad**.
- The four facilities inaugurated include the **Advanced R&D Facility for Fluorochemicals**, **Continuous Processing Platform for Industrial Chemicals**, **Sustainable Engineering Complex (SustEC)**, and the **500 KLD Decentralized Effluent Treatment Plant for the Siripuram Handloom Cluster**.

Technology Development Board Supports Puretronics India to Commercialise India's First Indigenous Contactless Programmable Load Measurement System

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** has provided financial assistance to **M/s Puretronics India Private Limited, Mumbai** for the project **"LMO – Load Measurement Overload Sensor (India's First Fully Contactless Programmable Load Measurement System)"**.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Successfully Conducts India's First Satellite-Based Landing System Approach on an IndiGo Airbus A320

- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** successfully conducted **India's first Satellite-Based Landing System (SLS) approach** on a commercial jet aircraft using an **IndiGo Airbus A320** at **Maharana Pratap Airport, Udaipur, Rajasthan**.

- The demonstration used **GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation)**, India's **indigenous Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS)**, marking a major milestone in satellite-guided precision landings in India.

CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory Launches Modernized State-of-the-Art Skill Development Centre

- **CSIR–National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune** inaugurated its newly renovated **State-of-the-Art Skill Development Center** to strengthen scientific and technical skill development.
- The **Skill Development Center** was inaugurated by **Dr. Ashish Lele, Director, CSIR-NCL**.

Self-Help Entrepreneur–Livelihoods and Enterprise Application for Prosperity and Sustainability: A Digital Platform to Empower Lakhpati Didis Across Rural India

- **SHE-LEAPS** stands for **Self-Help Entrepreneur–Livelihoods and Enterprise Application for Prosperity and Sustainability**.
- **SHE-LEAPS** is a **digital platform** designed to **empower women** associated with **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** across rural India.

MANAS: India's Digital Platform to Combat Drug Abuse and Trafficking

- **National Narcotics Helpline MANAS** stands for **Madak Padarth Nishedh Asoochna Kendra**.
- **MANAS** was launched on **18 July 2024** under the aegis of the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**, **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, in collaboration with the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**.
- **MANAS** integrates the vision of **Digital India** with the mission of **Nasha Mukt Bharat**.

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and Defence Research and Development Organisation Develop India's First Indigenous Tactical Aerostat with 20 km Surveillance Capability

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**, in collaboration with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and a domestic startup, developed **India's first indigenous tactical aerostat**.
- The indigenous tactical aerostat is a **low-cost, high-altitude, balloon-based platform** capable of carrying **surveillance and communication payloads** with an operational coverage of **up to 20 km**.

Ministry of Civil Aviation Clears India's First Private PinS Satellite-Based Instrument Approach Procedure for Helicopters

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** approved **India's first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedure** for helicopter operations at **Undavalli Heliport, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The **PinS Instrument Approach Procedure** was developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and approved by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.

National Commission for Women Launches 24×7 Women Helpline 14490 for Digital Complaint Registration and Support

- **National Commission for Women (NCW)** is the **apex statutory body** established to protect, promote, and safeguard the **rights and interests of women** in India.
- To support women in distress, NCW operates the **24×7 Women Helpline – 14490**, providing a **Digital Complaint Registration System** for women affected by violence and abuse.
- The **Women Helpline – 14490** is a **toll-free**, easy-to-remember short code linked to the existing **NCW Helpline – 7827170170**.

LokOS: Driving Digital Transformation of Rural Livelihoods and Self-Help Groups

- **LokOS (Lok = People, OS = Operating System)** is a web and mobile digital platform developed under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** for the **end-to-end digitization of Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** and their federations.
- **DAY-NRLM** is the Government of India's flagship **rural poverty alleviation programme**, promoting self-employment, skilled jobs, and sustainable livelihoods for poor rural households.

National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology to Set Up Two Centres of Excellence to Boost India's Semiconductor Skill Ecosystem

- **The National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)** announced the establishment of **2 Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** in **Ahmedabad (Gujarat)** and **Guwahati (Assam)** to strengthen **India's semiconductor ecosystem** through **specialised skill development**.
- The initiative supports the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0**, approved with an outlay of **₹1.28 lakh crore**, to build a **skilled semiconductor manufacturing workforce**.

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur to Set Up ECOGEN Centre of Excellence to Advance Green Hydrogen Research

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** announced the establishment of the **Centre of Excellence on Innovative and Integrated Ecosystem for Green Hydrogen (ECOGEN)** on **20 July 2026**.

- The proposal has been approved by the **Government of Uttar Pradesh** and sanctioned by the **Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA)** under the **Uttar Pradesh Green Hydrogen Policy, 2024**.

Indian Council of Medical Research Licenses Three Indigenous Biomedical Technologies to Indian Industry for Healthcare Innovation

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** licensed **three indigenous biomedical technologies** to Indian pharmaceutical and vaccine companies under its **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra** initiative.

United States Air Force's YFQ-44A Fury Successfully Conducts First Live Air Intercept Missile - 120 AMRAAM Missile Test

- The **United States Air Force (USAF)** successfully conducted the **first live missile launch** by a **Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA)** using the **YFQ-44A Fury drone** at **Edwards Air Force Base, California, USA**.
- The **YFQ-44A Fury** fired a live **AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM)** at a digital target over the **Mojave Desert**.

James Webb Space Telescope Discovers New Giant Exoplanet 'Beta Pictoris d'

- **Astronomers** using National Aeronautics and Space Administration **(NASA)'s James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** discovered a new giant exoplanet, **Beta Pictoris d**, located **63 light-years** from Earth and estimated to be about **23 million years old**.
- With the discovery of **Beta Pictoris d**, the **Beta Pictoris system** has become only the **second known planetary system** with at least **three directly imaged planets**.

Tata Consultancy Services and Google Cloud Launch Gemini Experience Centre in Kolkata to Accelerate AI Innovation for Consumer Businesses

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, in collaboration with **Google Cloud**, launched a **Gemini Experience Centre (GEC)** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**, to showcase **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-driven innovations for **consumer businesses**.
- The **Kolkata Gemini Experience Centre** is the **3rd GEC in India**, following the centres established in **Chennai** and **Bengaluru**.

Paninian India Unveils India's First Privately Developed Turbofan Engine Programme

- **Paninian India Private Limited**, a deep-tech and aerospace startup, launched the **Yantur 4.5 kilo-Newton (kN) Turbofan Engine Programme**, envisioned as India's first privately developed turbofan engine in its class.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Transfers Four Indigenous Technologies to Industry and Launches IoT-Based Rural Water Monitoring System

- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** organized a **Technology Transfer Event** at **CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi**, to promote **technology commercialization**, **industry collaboration**, and **indigenous innovation**.

Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology Scientists Pioneer Borophene-Based Bio-Lubricant Using Castor Oil

- Scientists from the **Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, achieved a major breakthrough by demonstrating the first-ever use of **Borophene (2D nanomaterial)** as a high-performance **lubricant additive in castor oil**.

Over 3.75 Lakh Beneficiaries Supported Under Department of Science and Technology's INSPIRE Programme in Five Years: Dr. Jitendra Singh

- The **Government of India** reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing scientific talent through the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** flagship **Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Programme**, which has supported **more than 3.75 lakh students and researchers** over the last five years.

Microsoft India and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi Launch UNNATI AI 2.0 to Boost India's Artificial Intelligence Innovation Ecosystem

- **Microsoft India**, in collaboration with the **Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT)**, **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**, launched **UNNATI AI 2.0**, the second phase of its flagship **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiative.
- **UNNATI AI** stands for **"Unnati se Pragati"**, meaning **"Progress through Growth."**

National Council for Vocational Education and Training Grants Awarding Body -Dual Recognition to National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to Strengthen Rural Skill Certification

- The **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)** signed an agreement with the **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)** under the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**, granting NIRDPR recognition as an **Awarding Body (AB-Dual)**.
- As of **July 2026**, NCVET has recognised **52 Standard Awarding Bodies** and **107 Dual Awarding Bodies** across India.

China Successfully Launches Sea-Based Gravity-1 Rocket, Deploys Nine Satellites into Orbit

- Chinese commercial aerospace company **Orienspace (ORIENSPACE)** successfully launched the **Gravity-1 Y4 carrier rocket** from a **sea-based launch platform** in the **East China Sea**, placing **9 satellites** into their designated orbits.
- The mission marked the **3rd flight** of the **Gravity-1 rocket** and its **first long-range (far-sea) maritime launch**, representing a major milestone in **China's commercial space programme**.
- The launch took place from a launch vessel operated by the **Oriental Aerospace Port** in **Haiyang, Yantai, Shandong Province**, **China's only commercial maritime launch base**.

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology and Semi-Conductor Laboratory Mohali Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Integrate India's Indigenous 1.2 µm Process Design Kit with eChipHub

- The **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)**, an Autonomous Scientific Society under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali, Punjab**, an autonomous organisation under **MeitY**, to make India's indigenous **1.2 micrometre (µm) Process Design Kit (PDK)** available through the **eChipHub platform**.

SpaceX Successfully Conducts 13th Starship Test Flight, Launches 20 Starlink V3 Satellites

- **SpaceX** successfully completed the **13th integrated test flight** of its **Starship launch system** from **Starbase, Texas, United States of America (USA)**.
- During the mission, **Starship** successfully deployed **20 next-generation Starlink Version 3 (V3) satellites** into orbit, marking the **first-ever deployment of Starlink V3 satellites**.
- The mission marked the **second test flight of Starship Version 3 (V3)** and represented another major milestone in **SpaceX's reusable launch vehicle programme**.

Bihar to Set Up Permanent National Skill Training Institute for Women Campus and Skill India International Centre in Patna

- The **Government of Bihar** and the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** announced the establishment of the **permanent National Skill Training Institute for Women (NSTI-W), Patna campus** and the **Skill India International Centre (SIIC), Bihar** to strengthen **women's skilling** and **global employment opportunities**.

National Forensic Sciences University Goa's Digital Forensics Laboratory Recognized as Examiner of Electronic Evidence Under the Information Technology Act

- The **Digital Forensics Laboratory at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), Goa Campus** has been notified as an **Examiner of Electronic Evidence under Section 79A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000** by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- NFSU Goa has become the **second laboratory under NFSU** and one of only **21 notified forensic laboratories in India** to receive this recognition.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Unveils Artificial Intelligence-Based PRAXIS Mission Concept for Direct Sampling of Saturn's Ring Particles

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has proposed an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered mission concept** named **PRAXIS (Planetary Rings Autonomous EXploration with In-situ Sampling)** under **Phase I of the NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) 2026 Program**.
- The **PRAXIS mission** aims to achieve the **first-ever direct collection and in-situ analysis of particles from Saturn's rings**, addressing one of the highest priorities in **planetary science decadal surveys**.

NVIDIA, Microsoft, International Business Machines Corporation Launch Open Secure AI Alliance to Enhance Artificial Intelligence Security

- **NVIDIA**, **Microsoft Corporation**, **IBM (International Business Machines Corporation)**, along with leading **technology companies** and **research institutions**, launched the **Open Secure AI Alliance (OSAA)** to strengthen the **security, trustworthiness, and resilience** of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** systems through **open collaboration** and **shared security standards**.

Ministry of Earth Sciences Marks 20th Foundation Day with Launch of New Weather, Ocean and Earth Science Initiatives

- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** celebrated its **20th Foundation Day** at **Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi**, marking 20 years of contributions in **weather forecasting, earth system science, oceanography, seismology, and polar research**.
- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** established **13 Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** to strengthen specialised meteorological research and enhance India's weather forecasting capabilities.

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

India–United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) Comes into Force

- The **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** between **India** and the **United Kingdom (UK)** came into effect on **15 July 2026**, marking a major milestone in bilateral economic and trade relations.
- The agreement aims to increase **bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030** from the current level of around **USD 55–60 billion**, while promoting **trade, investment, supply chain integration, employment generation, and long-term economic cooperation**.

Serum Institute of India Partners with Gates Medical Research Institute for Tuberculosis Vaccine Manufacturing

- **Serum Institute of India (SII)** has entered into an agreement with the **Gates Medical Research Institute (Gates MRI)** to establish manufacturing capacity for the **M72/AS01E Tuberculosis (TB) vaccine candidate**.
- Under the partnership, **Serum Institute of India** will manufacture and supply the **M72/AS01E Tuberculosis vaccine candidate** on a large scale, subject to the successful completion of **Phase III clinical trials** and necessary **regulatory approvals**.

India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) Comes into Force

- The **Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)** between the **Government of India** and the **Government of the State of Israel** came into force on **4 July 2026**.
- The agreement was **signed on 8 September 2025** in **New Delhi**.
- According to the **Ministry of Finance**, the **Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)** aims to strengthen **bilateral economic relations**, promote **cross-border investments**, and provide a **secure, transparent, and predictable investment environment**.

Adani Enterprises Limited and International Resources Holding Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Odisha Government for ₹1.08 Lakh Crore Greenfield Aluminium Project

- **Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL)** and **Abu Dhabi-based International Resources Holding (IRH)**, a **International Holding Company (IHC) Group** entity, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Government of Odisha** to develop a **USD 11.5 billion (around ₹1.08 lakh crore)** integrated **greenfield aluminium project** in Odisha.
- **Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL)** and **International Resources Holding (IRH)** will establish a **50:50 Joint Venture (JV)** to execute the project.
- The project is expected to become **Odisha's largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposal** and **India's largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the metallurgy sector**.

India and Australia Launch Roadmap for Sports Collaboration to Strengthen Bilateral Sports Cooperation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced the **India–Australia Roadmap for Sports Collaboration** during his visit to **Australia** to strengthen long-term cooperation in **coaching**, **sports science**, **athlete development**, **sports technology**, **major sporting events**, and **women in sports**.
- The roadmap builds upon the **2023 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Sports** and provides a comprehensive framework for collaboration in **skill development**, **capacity building**, **sports research**, **sports governance**, and **sports industry partnerships**.

Department of Posts (DoP) and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for India's Largest Rural Telecom Network Survey

- The **Department of Posts (DoP)** and the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to conduct **India's largest-ever rural telecom network performance survey** across **5.68 lakh villages**.
- The survey aims to assess the **availability**, **coverage**, and **quality** of mobile telecom services in rural India and provide scientific data to support **evidence-based policy decisions** and strengthen the country's digital infrastructure.
- The initiative will evaluate the performance of major telecom service providers, including **Bharti Airtel**, **Reliance Jio**, **Vodafone Idea (Vi)**, and **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)**.

India and New Zealand Upgrade Bilateral Ties to Strategic Partnership; Sign 10 Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)

- **India** and **New Zealand** upgraded their bilateral relationship to a **Strategic Partnership** by launching the **India–New Zealand Strategic Partnership Roadmap 2030** and signing **10 agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** during **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** official visit to **New Zealand**.

India and Australia Announce 18 Agreements and Initiatives at the Third India–Australia Annual Summit

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese** announced **18 agreements and initiatives** during the **Third India–Australia Annual Summit**, marking a major expansion of the **India–Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.

Air India Signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Singapore-Based SIA Engineering Company Limited (SIAEC) to Strengthen Aviation Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Sector

- **Air India** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Singapore-based SIA Engineering Company Limited (SIAEC)** to explore collaboration in the **Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)** sector.
- The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** aims to support the development of **India as a global aviation Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hub**.

Sharnbasva University Signs Five-Year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

- **Sharnbasva University**, **Kalaburagi, Karnataka**, signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City (IUH)**, **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**.
- The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** aims to strengthen **academic collaboration, collaborative research, faculty exchange, student exchange, and scientific and cultural cooperation** between the two universities.

Garuda Aerospace Signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Micron Instruments to Develop Indigenous Defence Drone Technologies

- **Garuda Aerospace**, a **Chennai-based drone technology company**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Micron Instruments**, a manufacturer of **precision fuzes, defence ammunition systems, and critical military components**.
- The partnership aims to develop **next-generation indigenous defence solutions** by combining expertise in **advanced manufacturing, defence engineering, and innovation**.

Four States Sign Payment Agreement for Narmada Projects

- The **States of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra** signed a **payment agreement** in **New Delhi** to resolve long-pending financial issues related to the **Narmada Project**.
- The agreement settles the **cost-sharing** of the **Sardar Sarovar Project** and the **Indira Sagar Project** in accordance with the **Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) Award**.

India and Australia Launch Australia-India Partnership for Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS) to Strengthen Strategic Technology Cooperation

- **India** and **Australia** launched the **Australia-India Partnership for Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS)** during the **third India- Australia Annual Summit** held in **Melbourne, Australia**, in the presence of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese**.
- The **Australia-India Partnership for Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS)** aims to strengthen cooperation in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, critical minerals, digital resilience, defence research, and resilient supply chains.

Herbalife India and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Launch India's First Centre of Excellence for Plant Cell Fermentation

- **Herbalife International India Private Limited** and the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** launched **India's first Centre of Excellence (CoE)** dedicated to **Plant Cell Fermentation Technology**.
- The **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** aims to promote **research in sustainable biomanufacturing** and develop **next-generation plant-based health and wellness products**.

India and Seychelles Sign 19 Agreements to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation

- **India** and **Seychelles** signed **19 agreements and initiatives** during **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit** to **Seychelles**.
- The agreements were announced after bilateral talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **President Dr. Patrick Herminie** in **Victoria**, the capital of **Seychelles**.
- The initiatives cover **maritime security, defence, digital payments, healthcare, education, agriculture, infrastructure, space cooperation, and financial assistance**.

Rajasthan and Haryana Sign Agreement for Yamuna Water Project

- The **Governments of Rajasthan and Haryana** signed an agreement for the **Yamuna Water Project** in **New Delhi**.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of **Union Minister for Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah** to resolve the **nearly 30-year-old Yamuna water dispute** between the two states.
- The project aims to supply **Rajasthan's allocated share of Yamuna River water** through an **underground pipeline network** from the **Western Yamuna Canal**.

Ministry of Tourism Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Google India to Boost Digital Tourism Promotion

- The **Ministry of Tourism** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Google India Private Limited** in **New Delhi** to enhance the **digital visibility of India's tourism destinations**.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of **Union Minister of Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**.
- The partnership aims to leverage **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **digital technologies**, **data-driven insights**, and **capacity building** to attract more **domestic and international tourists**.

ACME Group Signs Nearly US$1 Billion Green Methanol Supply Agreement with Mitsubishi Gas Chemical

- **ACME Group** has signed a **binding long-term agreement** worth nearly **US$1 billion** with **Mitsubishi Gas Chemical (MGC), Japan**, to supply **100,000 tonnes of green methanol annually** from its upcoming production facility at **Paradip, Odisha**.
- The agreement was announced during the **16th India-Japan Annual Summit** and strengthens **India-Japan cooperation in clean energy, sustainable industrial development, and resilient supply chains**.

Andhra Pradesh Partners with United Nations Human Settlements Programme for Sustainable Urban Development

- The **Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** to establish a long-term partnership for promoting **sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient urban development** in the state.

Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks Signs MoU with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research for National Knowledge Resource Consortium

- The **Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM)** and the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research- National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enable CGPDTM's participation in the **National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC)**.

Paras Semiconductors to Set Up ₹6,200 Crore Advanced Semiconductor Packaging Facility in Madhya Pradesh

- **Paras Semiconductors Private Limited**, a subsidiary of **Paras Defence and Space Technologies Limited**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Department**

of Science and Technology, Government of Madhya Pradesh, through the **Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (MPSeDC)**.

- The **Memorandum of Understanding** aims to establish a **greenfield Advanced Integrated Circuit (IC) Packaging and Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility** in the **Indore–Ujjain region of Madhya Pradesh**.

India–Sri Lanka Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) Strengthened with Principal Purpose Test (PPT)

- **India** has strengthened its **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Sri Lanka** by incorporating the **Principal Purpose Test (PPT)**, an internationally recognised anti-abuse provision under the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) framework**.
- The amendment was introduced through a **Protocol notified by the Ministry of Finance** and came into force on **19 June 2026** after completion of domestic legal procedures by both countries.
- The revised provisions will apply in **India for income derived from 1 April 2027**.

Visvesvaraya Technological University Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Google to Promote Artificial Intelligence and Industry-Oriented Skills

- **Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU)** entered into an **academic partnership** with **Google** through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance **skill development, practical learning, and employment opportunities** for engineering students.

Paralympic Committee of India and Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation of India Sign Memorandum of Understanding for India's Bid to Host 2029 World Abilitysport Games

- The **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** and the **Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation of India (CPSFI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in **New Delhi, Delhi** to jointly pursue **India's bid** to host the **2029 World Abilitysport Games**.

Engineers India Limited and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Critical Minerals Collaboration

- **Engineers India Limited (EIL)**, a public sector engineering consultancy company, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT), Bhubaneswar**, to strengthen collaboration in:
    - **Mineral processing**

- **Extractive metallurgy**
- **Critical and strategic minerals value chain**

SPORTS NEWS

Wimbledon 2026: Jannik Sinner and Linda Noskova Win Singles Titles

- **World No. 1 Jannik Sinner (Italy)** won the **men's singles title at Wimbledon 2026** for the **second consecutive year**, defeating **Alexander Zverev (Germany)** in a four-set final.
- With this victory, Sinner successfully **defended his Wimbledon title** and registered his **10th consecutive victory over Alexander Zverev**.

S. Aswath Becomes India's 98th Chess Grandmaster

- **17-year-old S. Aswath** from **Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu** became **India's 98th Chess Grandmaster (GM)** after securing his **third and final GM norm** at the **2026 Pune International Grandmaster Round Robin Tournament**.
- Aswath achieved the Grandmaster title requirement after defeating **United States' FIDE Master (FM) Kannan Vaidyanathan** with the **black pieces** in the final round.

Leander Paes Appointed Player Ambassador of Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)

- **Indian tennis legend Leander Paes** has been appointed as the **Player Ambassador of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)**.
- The announcement was made during a ceremony held on the sidelines of the **Wimbledon Championships in London**, in the presence of **ATF President Yuriy Polskiy**, senior officials, players, and members of the international tennis community.

India Wins Five Gold Medals at 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026

- **India** secured **5 gold medals** at the **56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026**, with **all five members** of the Indian team winning gold medals.
- With this achievement, **India** finished in **joint first place** along with **China, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea, and Taiwan**.
- The **56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026** was held in **Bucaramanga, Colombia**, with **381 students from 87 countries** participating.

Delhi Unveils 'Mayur' as Official Mascot for 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026

- **Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta** unveiled **'Mayur'**, the official mascot of the **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026**, at a special ceremony in **New Delhi**.
- The **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026** will be held from **27 July to 2 August 2026** at the **Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi**.

- The championship is expected to witness participation from **over 35 Commonwealth countries**, making it one of the largest editions of the tournament.

Rohit Sharma Becomes First Indian to Score a One-Day International Century at Lord's

- **India captain Rohit Sharma** became the **first Indian men's cricketer to score an One Day International (ODI) century at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, England**, during the **India–England ODI series**.
- Rohit Sharma scored his **34th One Day International century**, helping India chase **387/3** posted by **England**, led by **Ben Duckett's 141-run innings**.

PV Sindhu Wins BWF Japan Open 2026, Becomes First Indian to Clinch Super 750 Title

- **Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (PV Sindhu)** created history by winning the **BWF Japan Open 2026** title, defeating **World No. 3 Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)** in the final by **21-17, 21-17** at **Tokyo, Japan**.
- With this victory, **PV Sindhu became the first Indian badminton player to win a BWF Super 750 tournament**.

Lionel Messi Becomes the First Footballer to Play in Three FIFA World Cup Finals

- **Argentina's Lionel Messi** created history by becoming the **first footballer to play in three different FIFA World Cup finals** after featuring in the **2026 FIFA World Cup Final** against **Spain** at **MetLife Stadium, New Jersey, United States**.
- At **39 years of age**, Messi also became the **oldest outfield player** to play in **three FIFA World Cup finals**.

India Wins 1 Gold and 3 Silver Medals at the 37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026

- **India** created history by winning **1 Gold Medal and 3 Silver Medals** at the **37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026**, held in **Vilnius, Lithuania**.
- **All four members** of the Indian team won medals.
- **Medal Winners:**
    - **Bhavya Gunwal (Mahendragarh, Haryana) – Gold Medal**
    - **Soumil Maity (Howrah, West Bengal) – Silver Medal**
    - **Nishit Kalani (Pali, Rajasthan) – Silver Medal**
    - **Anmol Kumar (Mansa, Punjab) – Silver Medal**
- **IBO 2026** witnessed participation from **307 students representing 78 countries**. A total of **31 Gold, 61 Silver, and 91 Bronze Medals** were awarded.

India Wins Four Gold Medals at 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026

- **India** created history at the **58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026** by winning **four Gold medals**, becoming the **first country** to have **all four participants** win **Gold medals** in a single edition of the competition.
- The **58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026** was held in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**, from **10–19 July 2026**, with the participation of **363 students from 93 countries**, making it the **largest edition** of the Olympiad to date.

Spain Wins 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup; Rodri Named Golden Ball Winner

- **Spain** won the **2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup**, defeating **Argentina** in the final to secure its **second FIFA World Cup title**.
- **Rodri (Spain)** won the **FIFA World Cup Golden Ball**, awarded to the **Best Player of the Tournament**, for his outstanding performances throughout the competition.
- **Lionel Messi (Argentina)** finished as the runner-up for the **Golden Ball**, after scoring **8 goals** and providing **4 assists** during the tournament.

Indian Contingent to Wear Jute-Viscose Apparel at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Indian athletes and officials** will wear **jute-viscose blended apparel** during the **Commonwealth Games 2026** to be held in **Glasgow, Scotland**, from **23 July to 2 August 2026**.
- The eco-friendly apparel has been developed by the **National Jute Board (NJB)** under the **Ministry of Textiles** to promote **sustainable textiles, natural fibres, value-added jute products, and the Make in India initiative**.

Former India Captain Sourav Ganguly Inducted into International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame

- **Former India captain Sourav Ganguly** was inducted into the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame**, becoming the **12th Indian cricketer** to receive one of cricket's highest individual honours.

India Wins 5 Medals at Global Skills Challenge Australia 2026

- **India** won **five medals** at the **Global Skills Challenge (GSC) Australia 2026**, securing **three gold**, **one silver**, and **one bronze** medal.
- The competition was held in **Australia**, with participation from **16 WorldSkills member countries**.

- The **Global Skills Challenge (GSC)** is an international skill competition conducted as a **simulation of the WorldSkills Competition**, enabling participants to compete under global standards.

Harshavardhan G.B. Becomes India's 97th Chess Grandmaster

- **Harshavardhan G.B.**, a **22-year-old** chess player from **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**, became **India's 97th Chess Grandmaster (GM)**.
- He secured his **third and final Grandmaster norm** at the **2nd Chola Chess Grandmaster Norm Round Robin Tournament** held in **Chennai**.
- He is currently coached by **Grandmaster Deepan Chakkravarthy**.

India Tops Medal Tally at International Shooting Sport Federation Junior World Championship 2026

- **India** finished **first** in the medal standings at the **5th International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship 2026 (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun)** held in **Suhl, Germany**.
- The championship featured **over 800 shooters** from **70 national federations**, with **India fielding an 84-member contingent**.
- India won a total of **24 medals**:
  - **7 Gold**
  - **8 Silver**
  - **9 Bronze**

Cristiano Ronaldo Becomes Oldest Goalscorer in Men's FIFA World Cup Knockout History

- **Portugal** captain **Cristiano Ronaldo** became the **oldest player to score in a men's Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup knockout match** after converting a penalty against **Croatia** in the **Round of 32**.

Neymar Jr. Announces Retirement from International Football After 2026 FIFA World Cup

- **Brazilian football star Neymar Jr.** announced his retirement from **international football** following **Brazil's 2–1 defeat to Norway** in the **Round of 16** of the **2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup** at **MetLife Stadium**.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest Player to Represent India in International Cricket

- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the **youngest player to represent India in international cricket** after making his **Twenty20 International (T20I)** debut against **England** at **Old Trafford, Manchester**.

- He made his debut at the age of **15 years and 99 days**, surpassing the long-standing record of **Sachin Tendulkar**, who debuted for India at **16 years and 205 days** in a **Test match against Pakistan** at **Karachi** in **November 1989**.

Australia Wins Record Seventh International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Twenty20 (T20) World Cup Title

- **Australia** defeated host nation **England** by **7 wickets** in the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Twenty20 (T20) World Cup 2026 Final** at the **Lord's Cricket Ground, London** to win a **record seventh Women's T20 World Cup title**.

23rd Commonwealth Games 2026 to be Held in Glasgow, Scotland with 120-Member Indian Contingent

- The **23rd Commonwealth Games** will be held in **Glasgow, Scotland** from **23 July to 2 August 2026**, featuring participation from **74 Commonwealth countries** over **11 days**.
- The Games will include **10 sports disciplines** with **six para sports events**, making it the **largest inclusive para sports programme** in Commonwealth Games history.

Mascot and Anthem of Badminton World Federation World Championships 2026 Unveiled in New Delhi

- **Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya** and **Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, President of Badminton Association of India and Chief Minister of Assam**, unveiled the official **mascot 'Peacko'** and launched the championship anthem for the **Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships 2026** in **New Delhi, Delhi**.
- The **30th edition of the Badminton World Federation World Championships** will be held from **17–23 August 2026** at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi**.

Lovlina Borgohain Secures India's First Medal at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Lovlina Borgohain**, India's **Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist**, secured **India's first medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026** even before the **opening ceremony** of the event held in **Glasgow, Scotland**.
- Lovlina received a **direct entry into the semifinals** of the **women's 75 kg boxing event** due to the absence of seven participants in the category, confirming her medal position as per the **Commonwealth Games boxing rules**, where all semifinalists are assured of medals.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest Batter to Score a Fifty in Twenty20 International Cricket

- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the **youngest batter to score a half-century in Twenty20 International (T20I) cricket**, achieving the feat during the **first T20I against Zimbabwe** in **Harare, Zimbabwe**.
- At the age of **15 years and 118 days**, he reached his **fifty in just 19 balls**, becoming the **youngest player to score a fifty in international cricket**.

Mirabai Chanu Wins Gold; Raja Muthupandi Bags Silver at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **India's Mirabai Chanu** won the **Gold Medal** in the **Women's 48 kg weightlifting event** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** held in **Glasgow, Scotland**.
- **Mirabai Chanu** lifted a **total of 190 kg** (**85 kg in Snatch + 105 kg in Clean and Jerk**) to successfully defend her title.

Anahat Singh Becomes First Indian to Win World Junior Squash Championships Girls' Singles Title

- **India's Anahat Singh** won the **Girls' Singles title** at the **World Squash Junior Championships 2026**, becoming the **first Indian** to win the prestigious championship.
- In the final, **18-year-old Anahat Singh** defeated **Ruqayya Salem of Egypt** in **straight games (11–3, 11–7, 11–9)** to clinch the title.

Indian Grandmasters Rohith Krishna S and Raja Rithvik R Win Gold and Silver at Menuires International Chess Open Masters Tournament 2026

- **Indian Grandmasters Rohith Krishna S and Raja Rithvik R** secured the **gold and silver medals respectively** at the inaugural **Menuires International Chess Open - Masters Tournament 2026** held in **Les Ménuires, France**.

Sharmila Dhankar Wins Historic Gold Medal and Shilpa Shyla Secures Bronze Medal in Women's F57 Shot Put at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Sharmila Dhankar** won the **Gold Medal** and **Shilpa Shyla** secured the **Bronze Medal** in the **Women's F57 Shot Put** event at the **Commonwealth Games 2026**.
- The achievement marked a **historic milestone for India's Para Athletics**, as it became **India's first-ever Gold Medal in Para Athletics at the Commonwealth Games**.

Sarvesh Anil Kushare Wins Silver Medal in Men's High Jump at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Sarvesh Anil Kushare** won the **Silver Medal** in the **Men's High Jump** event at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** held in **Glasgow, Scotland**.
- The **Indian national record holder** cleared a **best height of 2.25 metres**, securing his **first-ever medal at a major multi-sport event**.

Ajaya Babu Wins Silver Medal in Men's 79 Kilogram Weightlifting Event at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Ajaya Babu** won the **Silver Medal** in the **Men's 79 Kilogram Weightlifting** event at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** held in **Glasgow, Scotland**.
- Representing **India**, the weightlifter from **Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh**, lifted a **combined total of 330 kilograms**, missing the **Gold Medal** by just **1 kilogram**.

India's Esha Singh Wins Gold and Manu Bhaker Secures Bronze in Women's 25 Metre Pistol Event at International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup 2026

- **Esha Singh** won the **Gold Medal** in the **Women's 25 Metre Pistol** event at the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2026** held in **Hangzhou, China**.
- **Manu Bhaker** won the **Bronze Medal** in the same event, giving **India two medals** in the competition.

Gulveer Singh and Harjinder Kaur Win Silver Medals as India's Medal Tally Reaches 12 at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Gulveer Singh** created history by becoming the **first Indian athlete to win a medal in the Men's 10,000 Metre race** at the **Commonwealth Games**, securing the **Silver Medal** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow, Scotland**.
- The **reigning Asian champion** clocked **27 minutes 49.78 seconds** to finish second behind **Ky Robinson (Australia)**, who won the **Gold Medal**.

India Wins Bronze in 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team Event at International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup

- **India's Sonam Uttam Maskar and Himanshu Dhillon** won the **bronze medal** in the **10m Air Rifle Mixed Team** event at the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup**.
- With this achievement, **India's overall medal tally** at the tournament reached **4 medals**, comprising **1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze**.

Ajinkya Rahane Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- **Senior Indian cricketer Ajinkya Rahane** has announced his **retirement from international cricket with immediate effect**, bringing an end to his international career across all formats.

India Secures Historic Gold and Silver in Men's 100m T47 Para Athletics at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **India created history at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow** by securing a **historic one-two finish** in the **Men's 100-metre T47 Para Athletics event**.

- **Dilip Mahadu Gavit** won the **gold medal**, clocking a **Games record and season-best time of 10.71 seconds**, while **Mohammed Basil Morssinganakath** claimed the **silver medal** with a **season-best time of 10.83 seconds**.

OBITUARIES

Name	Profession / Role	Native / Nationality
S. Janaki (Sistla Sreeramamurthy Janaki)	Legendary Playback Singer	India (Andhra Pradesh)
Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani	Former Emir of Qatar	Qatar
H. Hanumanthappa	Veteran INC Leader & Former MP	Karnataka, India
Poomani (Pulithurai Manickavasagam)	Tamil Writer & Novelist	Tamil Nadu, India
Moozhikkal Pankajakshi	Nokkuvidya Pavakkali Exponent	Kerala, India
Sir Garfield Sobers	Legendary West Indies Cricketer	Barbados (West Indies)
Teejan Bai	Pandavani Singer	Chhattisgarh, India
Girish Bharadwaj	Social Worker & Engineer ("Bridge Man of India")	Karnataka, India
Shapoor Zadran	Former Afghanistan Fast Bowler	Afghanistan
Alan Greenspan	Former Chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve	United States
Vijaya Mehta	Theatre & Film Director ("Bai")	Gujarat, India
Puviyarasu	Tamil Poet, Translator, Screenwriter & Actor	Tamil Nadu, India
M.M. Lakhera	Former Governor of Mizoram & Former Lt. Governor of Puducherry	Uttarakhand, India
Joseph Kevin Keegan	England Football Legend	England, United Kingdom

August Month Current Affairs

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day Observed As	Key Points / Theme
31 July 2026	World Ranger Day	Theme: “Rangers: Guardians of a Changing Planet”; honours rangers protecting natural heritage, wildlife and cultural resources.
1 August 2026	World Wide Web Day	Commemorates the invention of the World Wide Web by Sir Tim Berners-Lee in 1989; highlights web browsing and digital connectivity.
1–7 August 2026	World Breastfeeding Week	Theme: “Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works.” Promotes breastfeeding for the health and well-being of infants and mothers.
1 August 2026	World Lung Cancer Day	"Together Through Lung Cancer”
1 August 2026	World Fintech Day	Theme: “Potential to Impact: Trusted, Connected, Global Systems for Inclusive Finance.” Celebrates the role of FinTech in transforming the financial ecosystem.
4 August 2026	International Clouded Leopard Day	Theme: “Clouded Leopards: Guardians of the Forest.” Focuses on conservation of clouded leopards and forest ecosystems.
6 August 2026	Hiroshima Day	Promotes global peace and nuclear disarmament; commemorates the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on 6 August 1945.
7 August 2026	National Handloom Day	Honours India's handloom weaving community; commemorates the Swadeshi Movement of 1905.
7 August 2026	National Javelin Day	Commemorates Neeraj Chopra's Tokyo Olympics 2020 javelin gold, achieved on 7 August 2021; promotes javelin among youth.
8 August 2026	Quit India Movement Day	Commemorates the launch of the Quit India Movement in 1942; associated with Gandhi's “Do or Die” call.
9 August 2026	Nagasaki Day	Commemorates the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on 9 August 1945; bomb code-named “Fat Man.”
9 August 2026	International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples	Theme: “Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being.” Highlights Indigenous rights, culture, traditions and well-being.
10 August 2026	World Biofuel Day	Promotes awareness of biofuels and their role as alternatives to conventional fossil fuels.
10 August 2026	World Lion Day	Focuses on lion conservation, protection and ecological

		importance; scientific name: Panthera leo.
11 August 2026	World Steelpan Day	Highlights the cultural, historical and social significance of steelpan; proclaimed by UNGA in 2023.
12 August 2026	World Elephant Day	Theme: "Bringing the World Together to Help Elephants." Promotes elephant protection, conservation and welfare.
12 August 2026	International Youth Day	Theme: "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations." Highlights challenges faced by youth and their shared aspirations.
13 August 2026	World Organ Donation Day	Creates awareness about organ donation; highlights transplantation and India's NOTTO framework.
13 August 2026	International Lefthanders Day	Celebrates the uniqueness of left-handed people and raises awareness of challenges in a predominantly right-handed world.
14 August 2026	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day	Commemorates the sufferings, sacrifices and deaths resulting from the Partition of India in 1947.
15 August 2026	India's 80th Independence Day	Celebrates India's independence from British rule on 15 August 1947; marks the 80th Independence Day in 2026.
19 August 2026	World Humanitarian Day	Theme: "Honouring fallen humanitarians and calling for greater protection of health care." Honours humanitarian workers and promotes protection under IHL.
19 August 2026	World Photography Day	Theme: "HOME." Celebrates the art, craft, science and history of photography.
20 August 2026	Sadbhavana Diwas	Commemorates Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary; promotes national integration, communal harmony, peace and emotional unity.
20 August 2026	World Mosquito Day	Raises awareness about malaria and mosquito-borne diseases; commemorates Ronald Ross's 1897 discovery.
20 August 2026	Akshay Urja Day	Promotes renewable energy such as solar, wind, hydropower, biomass and geothermal energy.
21 August 2026	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	Theme: "Healing Through Memory." Honours victims and survivors and promotes recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration.
21 August 2026	World Senior Citizens Day	Recognises contributions and wisdom of older adults; promotes dignity, respect, social inclusion and healthy

		ageing.
22 August 2026	Madras Day	Marks the 387th anniversary of the founding of Madras in 1639 and celebrates Chennai's heritage and cultural identity.
22 August 2026	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	Condemns violence, terrorism and persecution based on religion or belief and honours victims.
23 August 2026	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	Theme: "Justice in Action: Shaping Future Narratives Joy as an act of resistance." Remembers the transatlantic slave trade and its consequences.
23 August 2026	National Space Day	Theme: "Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership." Commemorates Chandrayaan-3's Moon landing on 23 August 2023.
23–27 August 2026	World Water Week	Theme: "Water for People and Progress." Focuses on sustainable, equitable and climate-resilient water management.
26 August 2026	International Dog Day	Celebrates dogs and promotes dog welfare, responsible pet ownership and compassionate treatment.
26 August 2026	Women's Equality Day	Theme: Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls
27 August 2026	World Lake Day	Highlights lakes' importance for freshwater security, biodiversity, livelihoods and climate resilience.
29 August 2026	National Sports Day	Commemorates Major Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary and promotes sports, physical fitness and healthy lifestyles. Campaign theme: Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat (Tribute, Play, and Move)

BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

Maldives and India Launch Real-Time Cross-Border Payments Through Favara-Unified Payments Interface Integration

- The **Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA)** announced the successful go-live of the integration between Maldives Instant Payment System **"Favara"** and India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** on **30 July 2026**.

Public Sector Banks Record Zero Locker Theft Cases in FY26 After 40 Incidents, Reserve Bank of India Strengthens Locker Security Norms

- For the first time in five years, **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** in India reported **zero bank locker theft cases** in **FY 2025–26**.

Reserve Bank of India Directs Banks to Strengthen Fake Currency Detection at Border Branches

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** directed all banks to strengthen their systems for **detecting, impounding, and reporting Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs)** after observing that some banks were not adequately implementing counterfeit currency guidelines.

India Attains 99.92% Banking Coverage Across Inhabited Villages Through Jan Dhan Darshak App

- **India achieved near-universal banking coverage**, with **99.92% of inhabited villages** now having access to a banking outlet within a **5 km radius** as per data uploaded on the **Jan Dhan Darshak (JDD) App**.

Unified Payments Interface Achieves Record Monthly High in July 2026 with 23.66 Billion Transactions Worth ₹29.88 Lakh Crore

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** recorded its highest-ever monthly performance in **July 2026**, processing **23.66 billion transactions** worth **₹29.88 lakh crore (US$ 313.47 billion)**, according to the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

Reserve Bank of India Grants Perpetual Authorised Dealer-II Licences to Niyo Forex and GlobalPay

- **Niyo Forex** (operated through **Kanji Forex Pvt Ltd**) and **GlobalPay** (**WSFx Global Pay Limited**) received **perpetual** and **expanded perpetual Authorised Dealer Category-II (AD-II) licences** respectively from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** under the updated **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 2026 regulations**.

Bloomberg Delays Inclusion of Indian Government Bonds in Global Aggregate Index Under Fully Accessible Route

- **Bloomberg Index Services Ltd (BISL)** has again deferred the decision on including **Indian Government Securities (G-Secs)** under the **Fully Accessible Route (FAR)** in the **Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index**.

Cube Highways Trust Becomes India's Largest Listed Infrastructure Investment Trust After

Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange Debut

- **Cube Highways Trust** became **India's largest publicly listed Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)** after its units were listed on both the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** and the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** on **31 July 2026**.

Bajaj Finserv Announces Entry into Reinsurance Sector, Becomes Third Private Player in India

- **Bajaj Finserv's Board** has approved the company's entry into the **reinsurance business** through a **wholly owned subsidiary**, subject to approval from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

RBL Bank Receives First-Ever Baa2 Investment-Grade Rating from Moody's

- **RBL Bank** has received its **first-ever investment-grade credit rating** from **Moody's Ratings**, with a long-term issuer rating of **Baa2** and a short-term issuer rating of **P-2**.

National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited Introduces 'Nidhi' Mutual Fund Platform to Boost Investment Access in Rural India

- **The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX)** launched **"NCDEX Nidhi"**, a new **Mutual Fund (MF) transaction platform** aimed at increasing MF penetration in **rural and semi-rural India**.

SBI Card and Google Pay Introduce Co-Branded Credit Card with Unified Payments Interface-Enabled RuPay Variant

- **SBI Cards and Payment Services Limited (SBI Card)**, in partnership with **Google Pay**, launched a new co-branded credit card named **"Google Pay Flex SBI Card"** to make daily spending more rewarding for users.

Department of Financial Services Introduces Sovereign-Backed Protection & Indemnity Insurance Product Under Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, **Ministry of Finance** launched **India's first sovereign-backed Protection & Indemnity (P&I) insurance product** under the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)** in **New Delhi**.

Reserve Bank of India Postpones Basel III Disclosure Framework Implementation Until April 2027

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has deferred the implementation of its revised **Basel Pillar III**

Disclosure Framework by **six months**, with the new effective date fixed as **1 April 2027**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Approves New Reforms to Implement Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (SBSR) Act, 2025

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** approved a comprehensive reform package during its **137th Authority Meeting** held on **28 July 2026** to modernise the insurance sector and strengthen policyholder protection.

Asian Development Bank Sanctions USD 1 Billion for India's Urban Reform and Infrastructure Development Programme

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a **USD 1 billion loan** to support the **Government of India's (GoI)** urban reform agenda and accelerate urban transformation across the country.

State Bank of India Leads Debit Card Market with 25% Share, While HDFC Bank Tops Credit Card Segment in June 2026

- According to an analysis by **1Lattice** based on **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data, **State Bank of India (SBI)** remained India's largest debit card issuer with a **25% market share** in **June 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Permits Differential Interest Rates on Bulk Deposits Linked to Liquidity Coverage Ratio Run-off Rates

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks – Interest Rate on Deposits) Second Amendment Directions, 2026** to revise the framework for deposit interest rates of commercial banks.

National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited Revises CGSMFI 2.0 Guidelines to Enhance Utilisation of ₹20,000 Crore Credit Guarantee Scheme

- **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited. (NCGTC)** revised the **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions (CGSMFI 2.0)** to improve the utilisation of its **₹20,000 crore government-backed credit guarantee scheme**.

Government Sets Up India Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation with Reserve Bank of India Support to Combat Digital Payment Frauds

- The **Government of India**, in consultation with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, has established the **India Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC)** to strengthen the prevention and detection of **cyber financial frauds** in the digital payments ecosystem.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Inaugurates 'Aayakar Sindhu', New Income Tax Department Office Complex in Mumbai

- **Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated **"Aayakar Sindhu"**, the new state-of-the-art office complex of the **Income Tax Department** at **Nariman Point, Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Flipkart Partners with PayU Finance to Introduce 'Flipkart Pay Later' Digital Credit Facility Across Its Platforms

- **Flipkart Group** has partnered with **PayU Finance** to launch **"Flipkart Pay Later"**, a checkout-embedded digital credit facility across **Flipkart, Myntra, and Flipkart Minutes**.

State Bank of India Research Forecasts India's Q1 FY27 Gross Domestic Product Growth at Nearly 7% Amid Strong Economic Indicators

- **State Bank of India (SBI) Research** released a report titled **"Prelude to Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Meeting: August 3-5, 2026 – Peace in a piecemeal manner"**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Extends Accessibility Compliance Deadline and Launches GARUDA Framework to Streamline AIF Schemes

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** extended the deadline for **Regulated Entities (REs)** to complete the **Accessibility Audit** of digital platforms and **remediation of audit findings** to **31 October 2026**.

HDFC Bank Introduces Specialised 'Max for Seniors' and 'Max for Her' Savings Accounts

- **HDFC Bank Limited**, India's largest private sector bank, launched two new savings account variants named **"Max for Seniors"** and **"Max for Her"** to provide customised banking benefits for senior citizens and women customers.

Government Strengthens Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Credit Support Through SIDBI Initiatives and ECLGS 5.0 Scheme

- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has undertaken several initiatives during the last five years to improve **credit flow** to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** across India.

Reserve Bank of India Keeps Policy Rates Unchanged in 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Meeting of FY2026-27

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** conducted the **62nd and 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Meeting** of **FY 2026-27** from **August 3–5, 2026** under the chairmanship of **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.

Department of Financial Services Insurance Division Ranks 3rd in Grievance Redressal Assessment Index Group A Category for June 2026 Grievance Redressal Performance

- The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** released the **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) Monthly Report** for **June 2026**, analysing the types, categories and disposal status of public grievances.

Bajaj General Insurance Collaborates with Swiss Re Corporate Solutions to Strengthen Commercial Insurance Services

- **Bajaj General Insurance Limited** (formerly Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company) signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Swiss Re Corporate Solutions** to explore a partnership in **India's commercial insurance segment**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Approves Manipal Health Enterprises' Proposed Initial Public Offering Backed by Temasek

- **Manipal Health Enterprises (MHE)**, backed by **Temasek**, has received approval from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** for its proposed **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.

Reserve Bank of India Updates 17 Non-Banking Financial Companies in Upper Layer List for 2026–27 Under Scale-Based Regulation Framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** identified **17 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** as **NBFC-Upper Layer (NBFC-UL)** for **2026–27** under its **Scale-Based Regulation (SBR)** framework, based on their financial position as of **31 March 2026**.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes 2026 Draft Directions to Strengthen Regulatory Framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies Lending Practices

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **Draft Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Credit Facilities) Amendment Directions, 2026** to strengthen the regulatory framework for **NBFC lending practices**.

NPCI International Payments Limited Enables UPI Online Payments for Burj Khalifa Bookings in Partnership with NEOPAY and Emaar Entertainment

- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** has enabled **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**

payments for online bookings at **"At the Top, Burj Khalifa"** in Dubai through a partnership with UAE-based **NEOPAY** and **Emaar Entertainment**.

SEBI Report: India Maintains Global Lead in Number of Initial Public Offerings

- According to **SEBI's Annual Report 2025–26**, **India** retained the **top global position** in the number of **Initial Public Offerings (IPOs)** and **ranked third globally** in **funds raised through IPOs**, highlighting the resilience of **India's capital markets** amid **global economic uncertainties**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India to Launch AI-Powered WhatsApp Investor Campaign and Project Jagrook in FY27

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has announced a comprehensive **FY 2026–27 roadmap** to simplify regulations, **deepen capital markets**, **reduce compliance burdens** and **strengthen investor protection** through **technology-driven reforms** and **financial literacy initiatives**.

Lok Sabha Passes Taxation Bill 2026, Enabling Government to Permit Charges on Unified Payments Interface and Other Digital Payments

- The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026** on **6 August 2026**, which includes amendments to the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** and enables the government to **permit charges on Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, **RuPay debit cards** and other **notified electronic payment modes**.

Reserve Bank of India Introduces New Framework for Loan Recovery and Engagement of Recovery Agents from January 2027

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **revised directions** governing **loan recovery practices** and the engagement of **recovery agents** to strengthen **borrower protection, transparency, and responsible recovery practices**.

Indian Bank Sanctions ₹500 Crore Micro Small Medium Enterprise Loans During 120th Foundation Day Credit Outreach

- **Indian Bank (IB)** approved nearly **₹500 crore in** Micro Small Medium Enterprise **(MSME) loans** for **128 beneficiaries** during a **Credit Outreach Programme** held in **New Delhi, Delhi**, as part of its **120th Foundation Day Fortnight Celebrations**.

International Financial Services Centres Authority Approves Standard Chartered to Provide Wealth Management Services from GIFT City

- **Standard Chartered Bank** received approval from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** to offer **wealth management products and services** through its branch at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

SBI Life and J&K Bank Join Hands to Expand Insurance Services Across India

- **SBI Life Insurance Company Limited** entered into a **Corporate Agency Partnership** with **Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited (J&K Bank)** to distribute and service SBI Life insurance products through J&K Bank's branch network across India.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Revised Credit Valuation Adjustment Framework to Strengthen Risk-Sensitive Capital Norms for Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed a **revised Credit Valuation Adjustment (CVA) framework** for **commercial banks** to make **capital requirements more risk-sensitive** and improve the **measurement of risks from derivative transactions**.

Reserve Bank of India Grants Muthoot FinCorp Perpetual Authorised Dealer Category-II Licence for Expanded Forex Services

- **Muthoot FinCorp** received a **perpetual Authorised Dealer Category-II (AD-II)** foreign exchange licence from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, allowing it to offer a wider range of regulated **foreign exchange (forex) services**.

Reserve Bank of India Allows Banks to Exclude Advances Against Fresh Non-Resident Indian Deposits from Adjusted Net Bank Credit for Priority Sector Lending Calculation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed banks to exclude advances backed by eligible **fresh FCNR(B) and NRE deposits** from **Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC)** while calculating their **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** targets.

Indel Remit Receives Perpetual Reserve Bank of India Licence to Provide Trade Remittance Services

- **Indel Remit**, the **foreign exchange division** of **Indel Money Limited**, has received a **perpetual Authorised Dealer–II (AD-II) licence** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

IndusInd Bank and EazyDiner Introduce Lifetime-Free RuPay Credit Card with Unified Payments Interface Payment Facility

- **IndusInd Bank Limited** and **EazyDiner** jointly launched the **'EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Platinum RuPay Credit Card'**, a **lifetime-free co-branded credit card**.

PSB Confluence to Unite Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions for Action-Oriented

Discussions on 17–18 August

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance** is organising **PSB Confluence**, a two-day ideation conclave on **17–18 August 2026** in **New Delhi**.

Reserve Bank of India's 101st Survey of Professional Forecasters Forecasts 6.6% Gross Domestic Product Growth for FY27

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released its **101st Survey of Professional Forecasters (SPF)**, conducted in **July 2026**, providing forecasts for **India's economic growth**, **inflation** and **external sector**.

India's Financial Inclusion Drive: Expanding Banking Access and Empowering Households

- **Financial inclusion** is central to India's vision of **equitable development**, with expansion in **banking, digital payments, credit, insurance, pensions** and **investment opportunities** supported by **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** and **citizen-centric reforms**.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Revised Bank Leverage Ratio Norms in Line with Latest Basel Committee on Banking Supervision Standards

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed revised **prudential norms on capital adequacy** for commercial banks through the **Draft RBI (Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Eleventh Amendment Directions, 2026**.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Premises and Launches Technology Initiatives for Urban Cooperative Banks

- **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah** inaugurated the new premises of the **National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC)** in **Mumbai** and launched **technology and cybersecurity initiatives** for the **Urban Cooperative Banking (UCB) sector**.

Periodic Labour Force Survey April–June 2026 Bulletin Released; Unemployment Rate Rises to 5.4%

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **Quarterly Bulletin** of the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** for **April–June 2026**.

State Bank of India Research Forecasts 8% Gross Domestic Product Growth for India in Q1 FY27

- The **Economic Research Department (ERD)** of **State Bank of India (SBI Research)** released

its latest **Ecowrap report**, projecting that **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)growth** could rebound to around **8% in Q1 FY2026-27 (April–June 2026)**.

International Monetary Fund Projects India's Economy to Reach $5 Trillion by FY 2028–29: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** informed the **Rajya Sabha** that, according to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, India's **nominal GDP** is projected to cross the **$5 trillion mark** in **FY 2028–29 (FY29)**, reaching around **$5.1 trillion**.

PMS Bazaar Partners with NDML to Simplify Securities and Exchange Board of India Accredited Investor Certification

- **PMS Bazaar**, a leading Indian alternative investments platform, announced a **strategic partnership** with **NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML Accreditation Agency)** to facilitate the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Accredited Investor certification** process for eligible investors and entities.

US Overtakes Singapore to Lead Foreign Portfolio Investors Equity Holdings in India with 31.04% Share

- **US-based Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** regained the top position in **Indian equity ownership** in the **June 2025 quarter**, despite continuing **India-US trade tensions**.

Fitch Affirms India's BBB- Rating with Stable Outlook, Highlights Fiscal Risks

- **Fitch Ratings** reaffirmed India's **sovereign credit rating at BBB- with a Stable Outlook**, marking the **20th consecutive year** that India has retained this rating.

Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited and National Institute of Securities Markets Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Establish Commodity Markets Research Centre

- The **Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM)** at the **Global Commodity Conclave 2026** to establish a dedicated **Commodity Markets Research Centre**.

Tamil Nadu-Led Five Southern States Hold Over 80% of India's Gold Loan Outstanding

- As of **31 March 2026**, five southern states — **Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Kerala** — together accounted for **more than 80%** of India's **gold-loan outstanding**, highlighting the strong concentration of **gold-backed lending** in South India.

Global Central Banks Buy Record 51 Tonnes of Gold in June 2026

- According to the **World Gold Council (WGC)**, central banks continued their gold-buying trend for the third consecutive month in **June 2026**, purchasing a net **51 tonnes of gold**, the highest monthly

purchase recorded in 2026 so far.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Unified Framework to Standardise Loan Pricing and Interest Rate Practices

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed draft rules making **external benchmark-linked loans optional** for **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** while aiming to ensure **fair and transparent interest-rate practices** across regulated entities.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹59.20 Lakh Penalty on IndusInd Bank for Regulatory Violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹59.20 lakh** on **IndusInd Bank**, for non-compliance with RBI directions on **Interest Rate on Deposits** and **Securitisation of Standard Assets**.

Government's FY26 Debt-to-gross domestic product Ratio Hits 58.2%, 210 bps Above Target

- The **Central Government's debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio** stood at **58.2% in FY26 (2025–26)**, which was **210 basis points higher** than the government's target of **56.1%**.

Logistics Data Bank Tracks 10 Crore EXIM Containers, Enhancing Visibility Across India's Logistics Network

- The Logistics Data Bank (LDB) has tracked **10 crore EXIM containers** since its launch in **2016**, marking a major milestone in India's technology-driven logistics sector.

DFS Explains Mechanism for Timely Resolution of Insurance Policyholders' Grievances

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has prescribed a strict, time-bound **Grievance Redressal Mechanism** for resolving policyholder complaints.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Declares Winners of National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, with support from the **Gates Foundation** and **Dalberg Advisors**, announced the winners of the **National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge**.

Frequently Asked Questions -Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA)

- **Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA)** is an additional mechanism for settling **international trade in Indian Rupees (INR)** and is different from the normal **Rupee Vostro Account (RVA)** provided under the **Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) Regulations, 2016**.

Frequently Asked Questions-Swap Facility for FCNR (B) deposits, External Commercial Borrowings and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings

- **Indian banks**, including their **overseas branches**, are permitted to **extend loans to non-**

residents or **issue Standby Letters of Credit (SBLCs)** in favour of overseas lenders against **FCNR(B) deposits** mobilised under the June 8, 2026 Circular on **"Swap Facility for FCNR(B) Deposits"**.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to Launch E-PRAAPTI by August 2026 to Help Subscribers Access Old Provident Fund Accounts

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** is expected to launch **E-PRAAPTI** by the end of **August 2026** to help subscribers trace, link and claim money lying in **old or inactive Provident Fund (PF) accounts**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Mandatory Colour-Coded Credit Risk Indicator for Debt Securities

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed introducing a mandatory colour-coded **Credit Risk-o-Meter** for debt securities to help investors assess and compare credit risk more easily before investing.

Public Sector Bank Fraud Value Rises 58% to ₹35,671 Crore in FY26

- Fraud involving **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** increased sharply by **58% in value** to **₹35,671 crore** in **FY 2025-26**, compared with **₹22,582 crore** in **FY 2024-25**.

Bank of Baroda Raises $700 Million Through Three- and Five-Year Bonds

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has concluded the issuance of **Senior Unsecured Fixed Rate Notes (FRNs)** with three-year and five-year maturities, raising a total of **USD 700 million** under **Regulation S**.

International Financial Services Centres Authority Approves Nexent Capital as Investment Banker in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) granted an **Investment Banking licence** to **Nexent Capital IFSC Private Limited (Nexent Capital)** to operate from **GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

S&P Global Ratings Gives IDFC FIRST Bank Its First International Investment-Grade Credit Rating

- **S&P Global Ratings** has assigned **IDFC FIRST Bank** its first **international investment-grade issuer credit ratings**, marking an important milestone for the bank.

South Indian Bank Launches 'Onam Orumayude Olam' Campaign Celebrating Kerala's Cultural Heritage

- **South Indian Bank** has launched its Onam campaign titled **"Onam Orumayude Olam"**, celebrating Kerala's spirit of togetherness and the collective effort to preserve the state's rich

cultural traditions.

Punjab National Bank Enters Three-Year Partnership with GYFTR to Enhance Credit Card Customer Engagement

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has signed a **three-year agreement** with **GYFTR Ltd** to create a dedicated digital rewards and offers platform for its credit card customers.

Bajaj General Insurance Launches Special Motor Insurance Plan for Defence Personnel

- **Bajaj General Insurance** has launched **ProShield**, a packaged motor insurance solution specially designed to meet the unique insurance needs of **defence personnel**.

Paramotor Digital Ties Up with NSDL Payments Bank for Prepaid Card Issuance

- **Paramotor Digital Technology Limited** has entered into a **co-branded partnership agreement** with **NSDL Payments Bank** to issue **prepaid cards** across India.

Karnataka Bank Launches KBL Finsurance Digital Portal to Streamline Insurance Lead Management

- **Karnataka Bank** has launched **"KBL Finsurance"**, a comprehensive digital insurance portal designed to streamline the creation, tracking and monitoring of insurance business leads across its branch network.

Income Tax Department Introduces Foreign Assets Disclosure Scheme to Promote Voluntary Disclosure

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has notified the **Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers – Disclosure Scheme (FAST-DS) Rules, 2026**, providing eligible taxpayers with a **one-time opportunity** to voluntarily disclose certain **previously undisclosed foreign assets and income**.

Wholesale Price Index Inflation Moderates to 9.78% in July as Food, Fuel and Power Prices Decline

- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation** in India **eased marginally to 9.78% in July 2026**, compared with **9.87% in June 2026**, mainly due to **cooling prices of fuel, power and food items**.

Qatar-India Postal Remittance Service Using Unified Payments Interface Launched in Doha

- The **Qatar-India Postal Remittance Service**, based on **PosTransfer powered by Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, was operationalised in **Doha, Qatar**, enabling faster, secure and cost-effective **cross-border remittances** between **Qatar and India**.

Bombay Stock Exchange and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry Partner to Boost Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Access to Capital Markets

- **BSE Limited**, formerly known as the **Bombay Stock Exchange**, and the **PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to improve

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)' access to **equity financing** through **capital markets**.

Retail Inflation Climbs to 19-Month High of 4.45% in July 2026 on Higher Food and Fuel Prices

- India's retail inflation (**CPI-based inflation**) rose to a **19-month high of 4.45% in July 2026**, driven mainly by **higher food and fuel prices**.

YES Bank Introduces 'YES Essence' Credit Card Tailored for Women

- **YES Bank Limited** launched the **'YES Essence Credit Card'**, a **women-focused** lifestyle and rewards credit card designed to address the evolving **lifestyle and healthcare needs** of women.

India Reduces Windfall Tax on Petrol Exports to Nil

- The **Ministry of Finance** reduced India's **windfall gains tax** on exports of **petrol, diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey Launches Two New Portals to Strengthen Securities Market Cybersecurity

- **Tuhin Kanta Pandey**, Chairman of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, launched two new cybersecurity portals, **'SEBI Incident Reporting'** and **'Cyber Suraksha'**, to strengthen **cybersecurity**, **cyber resilience** and **information sharing** across the **securities market ecosystem**.

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) Achieve Robust Credit Growth in FY 2025–26

- During **FY 2025–26**, **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** continued to strengthen rural economic development and financial inclusion by expanding credit delivery and maintaining a strong focus on **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)**.

ICRA Estimates India's Gross Domestic Product Growth at 7% in Q1 FY27

- The credit rating agency in India, **ICRA Limited** has estimated India's **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 7%** for **Q1 FY27 (April–June 2026)**.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Partners with HDFC Life to Broaden Insurance Offerings for Customers

- **Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited (J&K Bank)** has signed a **Corporate Agency Agreement (CAA)** with **HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited (HDFC Life)** to offer a wide range of customer-centric insurance products.

India's Forex Reserves Rise by $6.12 Billion to $682.35 Billion

- **India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves** increased by **$6.12 billion to $682.35 billion** in the week ended **July 24, 2026**, according to data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

Razorpay Launches Vulcan, India's First AI-Powered Payments Foundation Model

- **Razorpay**, a leading Indian fintech company, has launched **"Razorpay Vulcan"**, India's first **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered payments foundation model**.

Reserve Bank of India Proposes Uniform Interest Rate Framework Across Regulated Entities to Boost Loan Pricing Transparency

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed to **harmonise and standardise** the regulatory framework for **interest rates on advances** across all **Regulated Entities (REs)** to improve **loan-pricing transparency** and strengthen **consumer protection**.

India's Total Exports Rise 13.31% to USD 80.14 Billion in July 2026: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)** released India's foreign trade data for **July 2026** and **April–July 2026-27**.

Supreme Court Directs Reserve Bank of India to Frame Standard Operating Procedure for Banks to Combat Digital Arrests and Mule Account Frauds

- The **Supreme Court of India** directed the **Centre, States, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and telecom authorities** to strengthen measures against **"digital arrest" scams and cyber fraud**.

Periodic Labour Force Survey July 2026: India's Unemployment Rate Falls to 5.1% from 5.5% in June

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **Monthly Bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** for **July 2026**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Restricts Niva Bupa and Acko General Insurance from Opening New Branches for Six Months

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has barred **Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited** from opening any new place of business for **six months**, with the restriction effective from **19 August 2026**.

Ind-Ra Raises India's FY27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast by 10 Bps to 6.8%

- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Fitch Group**, has raised **India's** Gross Domestic Product (GDP) **growth forecast** for **FY 2026–27 (FY27)** by **10 basis points (bps)** to **6.8%**, from its earlier estimate of **6.7%**.

India and Asian Development Bank Ink $230 Million Loan Agreement to Upgrade Chennai's Water and Sanitation Infrastructure

- The **Government of India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **$230 million loan**

agreement to modernise and expand Chennai's water supply and sanitation infrastructure.

Paul Merchants Finance Launches India's First Exclusive Silver Loan Branches for an Non-Banking Financial Company

- **Paul Merchants Finance Private Limited (PMFPL)**, a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) and part of the **Paul Merchants Group**, has launched its **Loan Against Silver** product.

Public Sector Banks Seek 2% Climate Finance Sub-target Within Priority Sector Lending Framework

- **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** have proposed creating a separate **2% sub-target** for **climate and transition finance** within the existing **40% Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** requirement for **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)**.

State Bank of India Raises USD 500 Million Through Overseas Bond Issue Amid Strong Investor Demand

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has successfully raised **USD 500 million** through a public dollar bond issue from its **London branch**, demonstrating strong global investor confidence in **India's largest lender**.

IDFC FIRST Bank Makes Global Debt Market Debut with USD 500 Million Bond Issue

- **IDFC First Bank Limited** successfully completed its maiden **USD 500 million bond issuance** through its **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU)** at **GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Reserve Bank of India to End Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) Concessional Swap Facility on August 31, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to close the **concessional swap facility** for **Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposits** on **31 August 2026**, one month earlier than the original deadline of **30 September 2026**.

Bank Deposit Growth Rises to 15.4%, Highest Level Since December 2016: Reserve Bank of India Data

- According to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Bank deposit growth** accelerated to **15.4% year-on-year (Y-o-Y)** as of **31 July 2026**, the highest level since **December 2016**..

Wizzmoni and Oman Air Partner to Launch Wizz Voyager Multi-Currency Travel Card

- **Wizzmoni Financial Services Ltd.**, formerly known as **Unimoni**, an **Indian Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC)**, entered into a **strategic partnership** with **Oman Air**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Relaxed Debt Listing Rules and Higher International Securities Identification Numbers Maturity Limits

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed several changes to ease funding constraints and improve liquidity management for **debt issuers**.

India Records ₹26.75 Trillion in Investment Announcements During April 1–August 5, 2026

- According to a report by the **Bank of Baroda Economics Research Department**, **Investment announcements in India** totalled **₹26.75 trillion** between **April 1 and August 5, 2026**, during **FY 2026-27**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Expanded Foreign Portfolio Investors Participation in Non-Agricultural Commodity Derivatives

- **SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)** has proposed widening the participation of **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** in **Exchange-Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCDs)**.

Apple Pay Expected to Enter India by Late September or October 2026

- **Apple Pay** is expected to launch in India by **late September or October 2026**, although Apple has not officially confirmed the **launch timeline or feature set**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Remote Digital Know Your Client for Non-Resident Indians and Overseas Citizens of India to Invest in Indian Markets

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed changes to simplify the **Know Your Client (KYC) process** for eligible **overseas investors** in India's **securities market**.

State Bank of India Plans to Raise Funds Through Five-Year US Dollar Bond Issue

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, India's largest lender, is planning to raise funds through **five-year US dollar-denominated bonds**.

Directorate General of Foreign Trade Eases Rupee-Based Export Rules to Give Indian Exporters Greater Payment Flexibility

- The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**, functioning under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)**, has eased rules for **rupee-based export transactions** to provide **Indian exporters** greater flexibility in receiving export payments.

State Bank of India to Levy ₹15 Fee on Cash Withdrawals Exceeding Four Monthly Transactions from October 1, 2026

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, India's largest public sector bank, has revised the cash withdrawal charges for **Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD)** accounts opened through the branch channel.

Razorpay Launches Multi-Currency Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency Account to Help

Exporters Retain Foreign Earnings

- **Razorpay**, an omnichannel payments platform, introduced the **Multi-Currency Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) Account** to help exporters and international businesses retain their foreign-currency earnings without immediately converting them into **Indian Rupees (INR)**.

Bank of India New Zealand Launches "BOINZ – Freedom" Mobile Banking App

- **Bank of India (New Zealand) Limited (BOINZ)** launched a new mobile banking application named **"BOINZ – Freedom"** to strengthen its **digital banking services** and provide customers with greater **convenience and control**.

Asian Development Bank Provides ₹1,750 Crore Assistance to Develop 500 Karnataka Public Schools

- **Karnataka** has signed an agreement with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** for the comprehensive development of **500 government schools** as **Karnataka Public Schools (KPS)**.

Punjab National Bank Signs Exclusive Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Army to Offer Special Credit Cards to Serving Personnel

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** signed an exclusive **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Army** to provide specially designed credit cards with curated benefits to serving **Army personnel**.

Frequently Asked Questions on Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency Account

- **EEFC** stands for **Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency Account**, which is a **foreign-currency-denominated current account** maintained with an **Authorised Dealer Category-I bank** authorised to deal in foreign exchange.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Introduces IT Resilience Index to Strengthen Critical Systems of Market Infrastructure Institutions

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced the **Information Technology Resilience Index (ITRI)** framework to assess and strengthen the resilience of **critical IT systems** used by **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)**.

Tata Capital Partners with Japan's Resona Bank to Explore Business-Matching Opportunities in India

- **Tata Capital Limited.** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Japan's **Resona Bank** to explore **business-matching opportunities** and facilitate **business introductions** through **Tata Capital's** extensive network in India.

Citigroup and Axis Bank Join Hands to Leverage India's Rising Dollar Deposits

- **Citigroup** partnered with **Axis Bank** to provide **financing** to **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** who invest in **foreign-currency deposits** with **Axis Bank**.

VinFast India Partners with Federal Bank to Enhance Dealer Financing Support

- **VinFast India**, the Indian subsidiary of Vietnamese electric vehicle manufacturer **Vingroup JSC**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Federal Bank Limited** to provide **customised inventory financing solutions** for VinFast's **Authorised Dealer (AD)** network.

MakeMyTrip and Axis Bank Partner to Offer Exclusive Travel Discounts Through March 2027

- **MakeMyTrip** and **Axis Bank** partnered to provide exclusive **travel discounts** to **Axis Bank credit card holders** during selected **long weekends** and **peak holiday periods** from **October 2026 to March 2027**.

IDFC FIRST Bank and IIM Calcutta Innovation Park Launch IGNITE Programme to Support Sustainable Startups

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** partnered with **IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP)** to launch the pan-India **IGNITE Programme** to support startups developing **sustainable business solutions**.

Unified Payments Interface Completes 10 Years, Emerges as Backbone of India's Digital Payments Ecosystem

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** was launched on **25 August 2016** by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** under the regulatory oversight of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases House Price Index for Q1 FY2026-27 Covering 18 Major Cities

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **House Price Index (HPI)** for **Q1 FY2026-27**, covering **18 major cities** across India.

Reserve Bank of India Penalises Progfin and Shri Ram Finance for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **₹8.10 lakh monetary penalty** on **Shri Ram Finance Corporation Private Limited** on **19 August 2026** for non-compliance with RBI directions relating to **governance** and **Know Your Customer (KYC)**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Bars Pramerica and Edelweiss Life Insurance from Opening New Branches for Six Months

- **IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)** has taken enforcement action against **Edelweiss Life Insurance** and **Pramerica Life Insurance** for exceeding the permissible **Expenses of Management (EoM) limits** during **FY 2024–25**.

FTSE Russell Declares Bombay Stock Exchange Eligible for Inclusion in Its Equity Indices

- **FTSE Russell** announced that the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has fulfilled the required criteria to become an **eligible exchange** for inclusion of securities in **FTSE Russell Equity Indices**.

Bajaj General Insurance Launches Pet-Inclusive Health Cover for Families

- **Bajaj General Insurance Limited** launched **'My Family Complete'**, a health insurance plan that expands the definition of family to include **pet dogs and cats**.

Regional Rural Banks Post Record ₹10,176 Crore Net Profit as Total Business Surpasses ₹13.5 Lakh Crore in FY26

- The **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** recorded an all-time high **consolidated net profit of ₹10,176 crore** in **FY 2025-26**, compared with **₹6,820 crore** in **FY 2024-25**.

Small Industries Development Bank of India Conducts Regional Rural Banks Heads' Meet to Scale Up MSME Co-Lending Initiative

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** organized a conclave of Heads of **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** on **25 August 2026** in **New Delhi** to expand the **SIDBI–RRB MSME Co-Lending arrangement**.

India's Core Sector Growth Eases to 5.4% in July 2026 from 6% in June

- **India's core industrial sector growth** slowed to **5.4%** in **July 2026**, compared with **6.0%** in **June 2026**, according to official data released.

State Bank of India Uses Artificial Intelligence to Underwrite Nearly ₹1 Lakh Crore in MSME Loans in FY26

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, India's largest lender, used **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to underwrite nearly **₹1 lakh crore** of **MSME loans** during **FY 2025–26**.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana Marks 12 Years of Advancing Financial Inclusion in India

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **28 August 2014** as the **National Mission on Financial Inclusion**.

Foreign Direct Investment Boost: ₹4,896 Crore Invested in 29 Projects Under Revised 10% Chinese Ownership Rule

- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** reported that **29 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects** worth **₹4,895.65 crore** had been reported under India's revised **FDI framework** up to **20**

August 2026.

WhatsApp Pay's UPI Transactions More Than Double to 168 Million in July 2026

- **WhatsApp Pay**, the **UPI transaction service** of **Meta's WhatsApp** in India, processed **167.89 million UPI transactions** worth **₹12,957.07 crore** in **July 2026**.

India's Forex Reserves Surge by $14.14 Billion to $707 Billion

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, **India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves** increased by **USD 14.136 billion** to **USD 707.002 billion** during the week ended **7 August 2026**.

MobiKwik Shifts Entire Digital Lending Business to Wholly Owned Subsidiary MobiKwik Distribution Services Private Limited

- **Fintech firm MobiKwik** transferred its entire **digital lending business** to its wholly owned subsidiary, **MobiKwik Distribution Services Private Limited (MDSPL)**.

Finance Industry Development Council Seeks non-banking financial companies Industry Views on Reserve Bank of India's Proposed Curbs on Revolving Credit Products

- The **Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)**, the **Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)** for the **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) sector**, is collecting industry views on the **RBI's proposed restriction** on **revolving credit products**.

India's Current Account Deficit Rises to $6.2 Billion in June: Reserve Bank of India

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's Current Account Deficit (CAD)** widened to **USD 6.2 billion** in **June 2026**, compared with a **surplus of USD 1.2 billion** in **June 2025**.

Yes Bank Returns to Bond Market After 2020 Additional Tier 1 Debt Write-Off

- **Yes Bank Ltd.** is planning to return to the **international bond market** for the first time since its **Additional Tier 1 (AT1) debt write-off** in **2020**.

India's Gross foreign direct investment Inflows Reach 15-Year High of $30.7 Billion in Q1 FY2026-27

- **India** attracted gross **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows of **USD 30.7 billion** during **April–June 2026**, the **highest quarterly gross FDI inflow** in at least **15 years**.

Bank of Baroda Launches UPI Global Reverse Acceptance for International Visitors in India

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** launched **"UPI Global Reverse Acceptance"**, also referred to as **"UPI Global QR Payments"**, to enable **international visitors** to make **digital payments** to **Indian merchants**.

Reserve Bank of India Eases FCNR(B) Swap Access Norms for Transactions Exceeding USD 100 Million

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** relaxed **access norms** for its **dollar-rupee swap facility** linked to **Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposits**.

REC Limited Set to Become First Issuer of Tokenised Bonds Under Pilot Initiative

- **India** is set to launch **tokenised corporate bonds** as a **pilot project** to test whether **blockchain/Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)** can make **bond issuance and settlement** faster, more **transparent and efficient**.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Boost Long-Term Financing for Rural Infrastructure and Public-Private Partnership Projects

- **NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)** and **NaBFID (National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **financing support** for **rural infrastructure** and **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects**.

India and Singapore Discuss Expanding National Stock Exchange and Singapore Exchange Cooperation to Strengthen Capital Market Connectivity

- **India and Singapore** discussed expanding cooperation in **capital markets**, particularly through the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** and **Singapore Exchange (SGX)**, to strengthen **financial-market connectivity**.

India's Overall Trade Deficit Rises 31.5% to USD 15.03 Billion in July 2026

- **India's overall trade deficit** widened **31.5% year-on-year (YoY)** to **USD 15.03 billion** in **July 2026**, compared with **USD 11.43 billion** in **July 2025**, as imports grew faster than exports.

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Union Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) with ₹5,070 Crore Outlay

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the **Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)** for the development of **Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) Projects** with **Energy Storage Systems (ESS)**, with a **total outlay of ₹5,070 crore**.

Union Cabinet Approves Continuation of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme with ₹3.15 Lakh Crore Outlay (2026–31)

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the continuation of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme** for the period **2026–27 to 2030–31**

with a **financial outlay of ₹3.15 lakh crore**.

Expanded Khelo India Scheme & Enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations Approved with ₹36,441 Crore Outlay (2026–31)

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the **expanded Khelo India Scheme** and the **Enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs)** with a **combined outlay of ₹36,441 crore** for the period **2026–27 to 2030–31**.

Union Cabinet Approves 'Samudra Manthan' – National Offshore Exploration Scheme

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved **'Samudra Manthan' – the National Offshore Exploration Scheme**, a **Central Sector Scheme** of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, with an approved outlay of **₹84,084 crore** for implementation up to **Financial Year 2030–31**.

India Sets Target to Capture 5% of Global Toy Market Share by 2032

- **Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal** announced the formation of a **task force for the toy industry** to identify key interventions and strengthen India's toy manufacturing ecosystem with the aim of achieving a **5% share of the global toy market by 2032**.

India Allows Anhydrous Ammonia as Fertiliser to Reduce Dependence on Urea Imports

- The **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has allowed the use of **Anhydrous Ammonia** as a fertiliser for agricultural purposes, containing **82% Nitrogen (N)**, compared to **46% Nitrogen in conventional urea**.

Zoological Survey of India Completes First Comprehensive Catalogue of Indian Lepidoptera

- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, completed the **first comprehensive Catalogue of Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths) of India**, marking a historic milestone in India's biodiversity conservation and taxonomic research.

Indian Railways Launches Online Excess Luggage Booking Facility for Reserved Passengers

- **Indian Railways** has introduced an **online excess luggage booking facility** for passengers travelling on **confirmed reserved tickets**, allowing them to declare and pay for excess personal luggage while booking tickets through the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation**

(IRCTC) platform.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, Andhra Pradesh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport** at **Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh**, marking a major boost to aviation connectivity and infrastructure in **North Andhra**.

Gujarat's Pithora Painting Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- **Pithora Painting**, the traditional wall art of the **Rathwa tribal community** of **Gujarat**, has been granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**, strengthening the protection and promotion of India's tribal cultural heritage.

Indian Railways Approves ₹976 Crore Multitracking Project on Danapur–Fatuha Section in Bihar

- **Indian Railways** approved the **multitracking of the 29-kilometre Danapur–Fatuha section** of the **East Central Railway (ECR)** at a cost of **₹976 crore**.

Union Government Approves ₹2,117.85 Crore Advance State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) Assistance for Flood-Hit States

- **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah** approved the **advance release of ₹2,117.85 crore** from the **Central Share of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** to support **flood-affected States** during the **Southwest Monsoon 2026**.

Prime Minister Launches 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan'

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the **'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan'**, a nationwide campaign aimed at creating a **drug-free youth population** to support the vision of **Viksit Bharat@2047**.

Union Government Releases Additional Tax Devolution of ₹1,09,019 Crore to States (August 2026)

- The **Union Government** has released an additional instalment of **tax devolution amounting to ₹1,09,019 crore** to **State Governments**.

Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026 Comes into Force

- The **Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026** has come into force after receiving the **assent of President Droupadi Murmu**.

Government Approves 33 Projects under Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

- The **Government of India** has **approved or accorded in-principal approval to 33 projects** under the **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)**, according to **Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal**.

25 Years of Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) Celebrated; India Plans Upgraded Telescope at Hanle

- The **25th anniversary** of the successful operation of the **2-metre Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT)** at **Hanle, Ladakh** was celebrated through a **three-day conference**, showcasing its history, engineering achievements, scientific contributions, and future roadmap.

Government Introduces e-Zero FIR System for Cyber Financial Fraud Cases

- The **Government of India** has introduced the **e-Zero First Information Report (e-Zero FIR)** system for **cyber financial fraud cases** across **18 States and Union Territories (UTs)**.

India to Host Second BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting in Hyderabad

- The **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**, **Government of India**, will host the **Second Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG)** and the **Second Meeting of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**, on **4–5 August 2026** under **India's BRICS Presidency 2026**.

Department of Posts Releases Commemorative Postage Stamp on Birth Centenary of Renowned Artist Satish Gujral

- The **Department of Posts** released a **commemorative postage stamp** to mark the **birth centenary** of renowned Indian artist **Satish Gujral**.

Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh Becomes India’s 101st Ramsar Site

- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav** announced the designation of **Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh** as **India’s 101st Ramsar Site**.

Tamil Nadu Tops India in Deceased Organ Donation in 2025; Union Government Launches 'Jug Jug Jiyo Abhiyaan'

- **Tamil Nadu** recorded the **highest number of deceased organ donors** in **2025** with **266 donors**, followed by **Telangana (205)** and **Karnataka (198)**, according to the **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)**.

Karnataka Cabinet Expanded; 19 Ministers Sworn in, Cabinet Strength Reaches 33

- **Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot** administered the **oath of office** to **19 legislators** as Cabinet Ministers at **Lok Bhavan, Bengaluru**.

Central Government Announces Major Reforms to Expedite Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Staff Selection Commission (SSC) Recruitment Process

- The **Central Government** has introduced **technology-driven and administrative reforms** to make the recruitment process of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** and **Staff Selection Commission (SSC) faster, more transparent, and efficient**.

NITI Aayog Releases Report "Reimagining Care: Strategies for Empowering Caregivers in Viksit Bharat@2047"

- **NITI Aayog** released the report titled **"Reimagining Care: Strategies for Empowering Caregivers in Viksit Bharat@2047"** at **NITI Aayog, New Delhi**.

Central Government Releases ₹747.17 Crore Assistance to Uttar Pradesh Under PCR Act and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act Scheme

- The **Central Government** is implementing the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**.

Ministry of Tourism Launches 'As Seen on Netflix' Section on Incredible India Portal to Promote Cultural Tourism

- **Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, launched the **'As Seen on Netflix' section** on the **Incredible India portal**, developed through collaboration between the **Ministry of Tourism** and **Netflix India**.

27th Governing Body Meeting of Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) Held; Ministry of Ayush Launches Major Research & Digital Initiatives

- **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav**, chaired the **27th Governing Body Meeting** of the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** in **New Delhi**.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Approves ₹8,970.20 Crore Guwahati–Tezpur 4-Lane Access-Controlled Corridor in Assam

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi**, has approved the construction of the **135.871 km, 4-lane access-controlled**

Guwahati–Tezpur Corridor on **National Highway-15 (NH-15)** in **Assam**.

Union Cabinet Approves GOBARdhan – National Circular Bioenergy Scheme with ₹23,731 Crore Outlay to Boost Compressed Biogas (CBG) Production

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi**, approved the **GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) – National Circular Bioenergy Scheme** with a total outlay of **₹23,731 crore**.

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Deploys National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT) to Gujarat and Rajasthan to Contain Chandipura Virus Disease (CHPV) Outbreak

- The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** deployed a **National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT)** to **Gujarat** and **Rajasthan** to strengthen the response to the ongoing **Chandipura Virus Disease (CHPV)** outbreak.

Tamil Nadu Government Presents First Budget; Targets $1.5 Trillion Economy by 2031

- **Tamil Nadu Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson** presented the **first Budget of the TVK Government** in the **Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly**.

Madhya Pradesh Emerges as Leading Horticulture State; Becomes India's Largest Tomato Producer in 2025–26

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav** announced during the **Balram Krishi Mahotsav** in **Betul** that the state has emerged as a leading horticulture state, with a focus on **modern farming technologies** to enhance agricultural productivity, farmers' income, and exports.

Assam Launches Application Process for Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina and Nijut Babu Schemes; Announces Flood Relief for Schools and Students

- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched the **application process** for the **Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina Scheme** and **Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Babu Scheme**.

12 Rat Miners Conferred Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak for Heroic Role in Silkyara Tunnel Rescue Operation

- **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari** conferred the **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak** on **12 rat miners** for their **exceptional courage and selfless service** during the **Silkyara Tunnel Rescue Operation**.

Union Government Opposes Creamy-Layer Exclusion for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

- The **Union Government** has opposed petitions seeking the introduction of a **creamy-layer exclusion within the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)**, similar to the existing system applicable to **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)**.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 Passed by Parliament

- **Parliament passed the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, with the **Lok Sabha** approving it on august 6.

Ratusinh Na Muvada: Gujarat Village Emerges as a Chess Talent Hub

- **Ratusinh Na Muvada**, a small village in **Mahisagar district, Gujarat**, with around **100 households**, has emerged as an unexpected **nursery for young chess talent**, producing **120 trophies and 179 medals** in competitive chess.

India's First High-Altitude Wildlife Safari to Begin in Ladakh

- **Ladakh** is set to introduce **India's first-ever "High-Altitude Wildlife Safari"** on popular **snow-leopard and bird-watching trails** in its high-altitude regions.

Tenth BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting Concludes in Jaipur under India's BRICS Chairship 2026

- The **Tenth BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting** concluded in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**, under **India's BRICS Chairship 2026**, bringing together Industry Ministers and senior representatives from BRICS member countries for discussions under the **BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR)**.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Facilitates First-Ever Sea Shipment of GI-Tagged Mithila Makhana to Australia

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated the **first-ever commercial sea shipment of 18 Metric Tonnes of Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Mithila Makhana** from the **BIADA Industrial Area, Bihta, Bihar, to Australia**.

National e-Governance Division Partners with Association of Australian Education Representatives in India to Launch 'AAERI Verify'

- The **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and**

Information Technology (MeitY) has partnered with the **Association of Australian Education Representatives in India (AAERI)** to launch **'AAERI Verify'**, a digital platform aimed at simplifying and securing the verification of documents for Indian students seeking admission to **Australian universities**.

Meeting of Heads of BRICS Competition Authorities Held Under India's BRICS Chairship 2026

- Under **India's BRICS Chairship 2026**, the **Meeting of Heads of BRICS Competition Authorities** was organised by the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** in **Udaipur, Rajasthan**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates 'Param Pragya' AI-Powered Supercomputing Facility at IIT Delhi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **'Param Pragya'**, an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered high-performance supercomputing facility**, at the **Sonipat Campus of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)**.

Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 Passed by Parliament to Recognise Digital Banking Records

- **Parliament has passed the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026**, after the **Rajya Sabha** approved the Bill. The **Lok Sabha** had already passed it.

India Expands E-Visa Entry Network to 88 International Ports with 11 New Additions

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has added **11 more international ports** to the list of designated entry points for foreign nationals holding an **Indian e-Visa**.

National Scholarship Portal-Direct Benefit Transfer: ₹21.35 Crore Released to Over 6,000 Agriculture Students

- **Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan** released scholarship and fellowship funds for agriculture students through the **National Scholarship Portal (NSP)** at the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa, New Delhi**.

Karnataka Government Challenges High Court Ruling on Bike Taxis in Supreme Court

- The **Karnataka Government** has approached the **Supreme Court of India** against a **Karnataka High Court** ruling that paved the way for motorcycles to be registered and permitted as **bike taxis**.

E-Samudra Platform Launched to Strengthen Seafarer Welfare and Digitise Maritime Governance

- **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated **E-Samudra**, a comprehensive digital platform aimed at providing **single-window maritime services** to seafarers, shipping companies, ports and other maritime stakeholders.

Puducherry Police Conferred with Prestigious President's Colours

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** presented the prestigious **President's Colours** to the **Puducherry Police**, recognising the force for its **bravery, dedicated service, hard work and commitment** towards protecting the Union Territory and maintaining internal security.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority Becomes India's First Port to Receive ISO 50001:2018 Certification

- **V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority**, **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**, has become the **first port in India to receive ISO 50001:2018 certification** for its **Energy Management System (EnMS)**.

National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories Launches Accreditation Scheme for Mobile Food Testing Laboratories

- The **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)**, a constituent board of the **Quality Council of India (QCI)**, launched India's **first-of-its-kind Accreditation Scheme for Mobile Food Testing Laboratories**.

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Marks 10th Foundation Day with Focus on Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Public Procurement

- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** celebrated its **10th Foundation Day** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, with Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** calling for a **new, user-friendly and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled procurement platform**.

Government Sanctions ₹1,000 Crore Additional Funding for Electric Two-Wheelers under PM E-DRIVE Scheme

- The **Central Government** has sanctioned an additional **₹1,000 crore** specifically for **electric two-wheelers (e2Ws)** under the **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** scheme.

Parliament passes bill to improve efficiency and transparency in Tribunal system

- **Parliament passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026**, after the **Rajya Sabha** approved the legislation; the **Lok Sabha** had already passed it.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Release Ram Nath Kovind's Autobiography "Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles"

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will release the autobiography of former President of India **Ram Nath Kovind**, titled **"Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles"**.

Gujarat Government Approves Four Centres of Excellence for Natural Farming

- The **Gujarat Government** has approved the establishment of **four Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** to promote and expand **natural farming** across the state.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana: Rajasthan and Telangana Receive ₹605.71 Crore

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** approved major financial allocations for **Rajasthan and Telangana** under **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)** and **Krishonnati Yojana (KY)** for **2026–27**.

Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 Receives Presidential Assent

- **President Droupadi Murmu** gave her assent to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, converting it into law.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 Referred to Joint Parliamentary Committee

- The **Lok Sabha** approved a motion to refer the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** to a **31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** for detailed examination.

IIHT SUTRA 2026 – Inaugural National Conclave of Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology

- The **Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India**, organised **IIHT SUTRA 2026 – Inaugural National Conclave of the Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (IIHTs)** at **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi**.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) Holds India–Japan Stakeholder Consultation on Skill Development and Workforce Mobility

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, Government of India, convened the **India–Japan Stakeholder Consultation on Skill Development** in **New Delhi** to strengthen cooperation on **skill development and workforce mobility** between India and Japan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 80th Independence Day Address – Major Announcements (15

August 2026)

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** addressed the nation from the **Red Fort on 15 August 2026**, marking India's **80th Independence Day**.

Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 – Establishment of National Tribunals Commission

- The **Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026** aims to make India's tribunal system **more independent, transparent, efficient and professionally administered**, while reducing **executive discretion** and strengthening accountability.

India to Host BRICS Information and Communication Technologies Track 2026 in Pune

- As part of **India's BRICS Chairship 2026**, the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** will lead and organise the **BRICS Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Track** in **Pune from 17 to 21 August 2026**.

India Becomes World's Leading Ship Recycling Nation in 2025

- **India became the world's leading ship recycling nation in 2025**, with its global market share increasing from **30.1% in 2024 to 35.4% in 2025**.

India's Three Sanchar Mitras Selected as International Telecommunication Union Generation Connect Youth Envoys (2026–2030)

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India** facilitated the selection of **three Indian Sanchar Mitras (youth volunteers)** as **Generation Connect Youth Envoys (GCYE)** of the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** for the **2026–2030** period.

National Beekeeping and Honey Mission Boosts Scientific Beekeeping and Honey Production in India

- The **Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW)** is implementing the **National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)** as a **Central Sector Scheme** through the **National Bee Board (NBB)**.

Gujarat to Set Up Four New Centres of Excellence for Horticulture Development

- The **Gujarat Government** has decided to establish **4 new Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** to provide **advanced training and guidance to farmers in horticulture**.

India–Nepal to Complete Unmanned Aerial Vehicles -Based Cross-Border Land Mapping Within 3 Years

- **India and Nepal** have agreed to complete the **mapping of cross-border land occupation within three years**, addressing a long-standing technical issue along their shared boundary.

Karnataka Cabinet Approves 'Sandhya Kiran' Cashless Healthcare Scheme for State Pensioners

- The **Karnataka Cabinet** approved the **'Sandhya Kiran' cashless healthcare scheme** for **State Government pensioners below 70 years, family pensioners and eligible dependents**.

NITI Aayog Releases Report "Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub"

- **NITI Aayog** released the report titled **"Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub"**, identifying high-potential sectors that can help India become a **global manufacturing powerhouse**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a **Nationwide Sports Talent Identification Campaign for Children Aged 5–15 Years**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced a **nationwide sports talent identification campaign** for children aged **5–15 years** to identify and nurture young sporting talent across India.

Supreme Court Urges 19 States and Union Territories to Consider Declaring Cancer a Notifiable Disease

- The **Supreme Court of India** has asked the remaining **19 States and Union Territories (UTs)** to consider declaring **cancer as a "notifiable disease"** to facilitate **early detection, timely treatment and proper care** of cancer patients.

Gujarat Releases 20 Blackbucks into Banni Grasslands to Restore Native Wildlife

- The **Gujarat Forest Department** released **20 blackbucks** into the **Banni Grasslands of Kutch, Gujarat**, on **India's 80th Independence Day**, with technical support from the **Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (GZRRC), Vantara**.

India Constitutes High-Powered Committee to Review Teesta Barrage Project in West Bengal

- India has constituted a **12-member high-powered committee** to examine the **restoration and future management of the Teesta Barrage Project (TBP)** in **West Bengal**, including the strengthening of the barrage and associated infrastructure.

Meghalaya Inaugurates Centre of Excellence for Eri Silk Weaving on National Handloom Day 2026

- **Meghalaya** concluded its celebration of the **12th National Handloom Day** at **Risai, Integrated Textiles Tourism Complex (ITTC), Nongpoh, Ri-Bhoi district**.

West Bengal Becomes 36th State/Union Territory to Implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)

- **West Bengal became the 36th State/Union Territory** to implement **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**, completing the nationwide rollout of the scheme.

NITI Aayog Releases Report on Regulatory Framework for India's Professional Services Sector

- **NITI Aayog** released its latest report titled **"India's Services Sector: Insights on Regulatory Regime in Professional Services"** , examining India's regulatory framework for professional services and identifying opportunities to strengthen the sector's contribution to **exports, employment and economic growth**.

Jal Jeevan Mission Completes 7 Years of Transformative Progress in Rural Drinking Water Supply

- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**, the flagship rural drinking water programme of the **Government of India**, was launched by **PM Narendra Modi on 15 August 2019** with the objective of providing every rural household with **safe and adequate drinking water through a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)** on a regular and long-term basis.

Gujarat Approves Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari at Juna Deesa

- **Gujarat has** received approval for the **Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari** at **Juna Deesa in Banaskantha district**, marking a major addition to the state's wildlife and eco-tourism infrastructure.

India Launches First Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems

- India launched its **first-ever "Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems of India"** at the **17th Session of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of the Parties (COP17)** in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.

India Strengthens Semiconductor and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ecosystem to Build Technological Self-Reliance

- India is integrating **semiconductor and Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities** to strengthen technological self-reliance, supply-chain resilience, innovation and high-value employment, supporting the vision of **Viksit Bharat**.

Karnataka Launches Vidyarthi Sahayahasta Scheme for Rural Students

- **Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar** announced the **Vidyarthi Sahayahasta Scheme** during the **Independence Day celebrations in Bengaluru** to improve access to professional education for students from rural government schools.

Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India Launches Rural Diabetes Outreach Initiatives

- The **Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India** launched the **Diabetes Rural Outreach Digital Portal** and **VISHWAS (Diabetes Awareness Video Library)** to strengthen diabetes prevention and management in rural India.

Maharashtra Declares Snakebite a Notifiable Disease

- The **Maharashtra Government** has declared **snakebite a notifiable disease**, making it

mandatory for **all hospitals, medical colleges and healthcare professionals** to report every **suspected or confirmed snakebite case and death**.

SEMICON India 2026: India's Semiconductor Ecosystem and Global Technology Hub

- **SEMICON India 2026**, the **5th edition** of India's flagship semiconductor conference and exhibition, will be held from **17–19 September 2026** at **Yashobhoomi (India International Convention and Expo Centre), Dwarka, New Delhi**.

Tamil Nadu to Extend Maternity Leave to 365 Days for Women Government Employees Having a Third Child

- The **Tamil Nadu Government** has announced that maternity leave for **women government employees having their third child** will be increased from **12 weeks to 365 days (one year)**.

31st Southern Zonal Council Meeting to Be Held in Tamil Nadu

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** will chair the **31st Southern Zonal Council meeting** at **Kovalam near Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu**.

Cabinet Approves Four-Laning of Muzaffarpur–Sitamarhi–Sonbarsa Section of National Highway 22 in Bihar

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the **upgradation of the 82.578-kilometre Muzaffarpur–Sitamarhi–Sonbarsa section of National Highway 22 (NH-22)** to **four-lane standards** in Bihar.

Cotton Corporation of India Celebrates 56th Foundation Day with Focus on Cotton Farmers and Sustainable Cotton Production

- **Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI)**, a **Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Textiles**, celebrated its **56th Foundation Day** at **Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra**.

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana Completes One Year, Crosses 72 Lakh First-Time Employees

- **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)**, the Centre's employment-linked incentive scheme, completed **one year of implementation** in August 2026.

India's Makhana Sector: From Traditional Crop to Global Superfood

- **Makhana**, scientifically known as ***Euryale ferox***, is an **aquatic crop** whose edible seeds are processed and popped to produce the popular **fox nut snack**.

National Commission for Women Hosts 'Yashoda AI' Programme in Jalandhar to Advance Women's Digital Empowerment

- The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** organised the **"Yashoda AI – Women's Path to**

AI Empowerment" programme at **Lovely Professional University (LPU), Jalandhar, Punjab**.

Government Approves Incentive Scheme to Accelerate Domestic Piped Natural Gas Connections Across India

- The **Government of India** has approved an **incentive scheme** to accelerate the expansion of domestic **Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections** by encouraging **City Gas Distribution (CGD) companies** to activate **unbilled connections** and expand **PNG networks** into new areas.

Indian Semiconductor Start-ups Raise $206 Million Since 2022

- Indian semiconductor start-ups have raised approximately **$206 million across 51 funding rounds since 2022**, according to the **Indian Semiconductor Startup Landscape 2026** report released by **Speciale Invest** in partnership with the **Startup Policy Forum (SPF)**.

Indian Railways' Lease Payments to Indian Railway Finance Corporation Rise to ₹46,538 Crore in FY 2025-26

- **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** is the dedicated market borrowing arm of **Indian Railways (IR)** and primarily finances **rolling stock assets and railway infrastructure projects**, which are subsequently leased to Indian Railways.

West Bengal Government Launches Four Toll-Free Helplines Against Extortion and Illegal Activities

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** announced the launch of **four toll-free helplines** in West Bengal to enable citizens to directly report complaints related to **extortion, syndicate activities, illegal road and toll tax collections, and illegal liquor**.

Government Notifies Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with ₹62,500 Crore Outlay

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has notified the **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)** with a **budgetary outlay of ₹62,500 crore** to strengthen India's mobile phone manufacturing ecosystem.

India's First Soil Texture Map Developed by National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning

- The **National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP)**, headquartered in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**, and functioning under the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**, has developed **India's first soil texture map**.

Union Cabinet Approves High Court Bench in Ladakh

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the establishment of a **Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the Union Territory of Ladakh**.

Government Allows Duty-Free Import of 10 Lakh Metric Tonnes of Raw Sugar

- The **Government of India** has permitted **duty-free import of 10 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of raw sugar** under the **Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ)** system until **31 October 2026** to improve domestic availability and control rising sugar prices.

Uttar Pradesh Approves 180-Day Maternity Leave Twice During Service for Women Employees

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** on **22 August 2026** approved a policy allowing **female state government employees to avail 180 days of paid maternity leave twice during their service career**.

Andhra Pradesh Approves ₹31,387 Crore Green Artificial Intelligence Data Centre in Visakhapatnam

- The **Andhra Pradesh Government** has approved the proposal of **AM AI Factory Pvt. Ltd.** to establish a **512-Megawatt (MW) Green Integrated Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Centre** in **Visakhapatnam district**.

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan Inaugurates 'MALHAR 2026' to Promote Indian Classical Music Among Youth

- **Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated **'MALHAR 2026'**, a **youth-centric, monsoon-themed celebration of Indian classical music**, organised by **Antar Hriday Connect** in **New Delhi**.

Paradip Port Authority Inaugurates 7 Infrastructure Projects Worth ₹427.80 Crore and Signs ₹1,580.36 Crore Mechanisation Agreements

- **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated **7 major infrastructure projects worth ₹427.80 crore** at **Paradip Port Authority (PPA), Paradip, Odisha**.

India Launches First Indigenous Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid Seed

- **Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan** launched **India's first indigenous non-Genetically Modified Organism (non-GMO) high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed** at the Gourmet Popcornica facility in **Musunuru, Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh**.

India Reaffirms Commitment to Land Restoration and Bonn Challenge Targets at United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 17th Conference of the Parties

- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav** stated that **land restoration is a national priority for India**, supporting **sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation, climate action and rural development**.

Tamil Nadu Announces Annapoorani Super Six Scheme for Domestic LPG Cylinder Reimbursement

- The **Tamil Nadu Government** announced the **Annapoorani Super Six Scheme** in the **State Assembly on 24 August 2026** to provide **reimbursement for domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders** to eligible families.

NITI Aayog Report: 8.7 Crore Indian Youth Aged 15–29 Are Not in Education, Employment or Training

- According to the **NITI Aayog** report titled **"Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047"**, an estimated **8.7 crore Indians aged 15–29 years** are **Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)**.

National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums 2026 to be Held in Mysuru

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** is organising a **three-day National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums** in **Mysuru, Karnataka**, from **25 to 27 August 2026**.

Puducherry Chief Minister N. Rangasamy Presents ₹14,300 Crore Tax-Free Budget for Financial Year 2026–27

- **Puducherry Chief Minister N. Rangasamy**, who also holds the **Finance portfolio**, presented a **₹14,300 crore tax-free budget for Financial Year 2026–27 (FY27)** in the **Puducherry Legislative Assembly**.

ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT) Fish Powder Technology Recognised Under Assam's Matsya Paripushti Initiative

- The **ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT), Kochi**, has contributed to the Government of Assam's **Matsya Paripushti (Complete Nourishment through Fish)** initiative through its research on **nutrient-rich fish powder made from small indigenous fish**.

Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU) to Expand Campus by 500 Acres in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh

- The **Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU)** at **Fursatganj, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh**, will expand its campus with an additional **500 acres of land** to strengthen aviation and aerospace education, research and innovation.

Union Government Launches Mission Samriddh Gaon to Develop Poverty-Free and Employment-Rich Villages

- **Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched **Mission Samriddh Gaon**

at **Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi**, to develop **poverty-free, employment-rich villages** equipped with assured basic amenities.

Odisha Government Launches Bidesh Sikhyabruti Scheme for SC and ST Students to Pursue Higher Studies Abroad

- **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi** launched the **Bidesh Sikhyabruti Scheme** to provide opportunities for global higher education to eligible **Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students** of Odisha.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Authorises 1,800 km LPG Pipeline Infrastructure Across 6 States

- The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** has authorised around **1,800 km of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) pipeline infrastructure** involving an estimated investment of **₹7,000 crore** across **Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Goa**.

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Conclave 2026 Held in New Delhi

- The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)** is organising the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Conclave 2026** at the **India Habitat Centre, New Delhi**.

11 Airports of Airports Authority of India to be Leased under Public-Private Partnership Model

- The Government of India plans to lease **11 Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports** to private operators under the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** model.

Draft Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Rules, 2026 Released

- The **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** released the **Draft Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Rules, 2026** for public consultation in **August 2026**.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approves 4 Railway Multi-Tracking Projects Worth ₹9,450 Crore

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved **4 railway multi-tracking projects** of the **Ministry of Railways** with a total estimated cost of **₹9,450 crore**.

India's Fifth Generation (5G) Adoption Projected to Reach 62% by 2030: Groupe Spécial Mobile

Association (GSMA)

- India's **Fifth Generation (5G) adoption** is projected to reach **62% by 2030**, significantly higher than the **Asia-Pacific (APAC) average of 50%**, according to the **Groupe Spécial Mobile Association (GSMA) Mobile Economy Asia Pacific 2026 report**.

Digital Bharat Nidhi Signs Agreement for Amended BharatNet Programme in Chhattisgarh

- **Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)** under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has signed an agreement with the **Government of Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarh State BharatNet Infrastructure Limited, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** and **Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (CHiPS)** for implementing the **Amended BharatNet Programme** in **Chhattisgarh.**

Odisha Government Approves 14 Investment Proposals Worth ₹2,780.1 Crore Across 10 Districts

- The **Odisha Government** has approved **14 investment proposals** across **10 districts**, involving a cumulative investment of **₹2,780.1 crore** and generating an estimated **14,104 employment opportunities**.

Rajasthan Government to Operate 4 Major Haats Under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Model

- The **Rajasthan Government** has initiated the process to operate four major haats at **Alwar, Pushkar, Jaisalmer and Nathdwara** under the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**.

Uttar Pradesh Launches Startup Mission Portal and Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy 2026

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** launched the **Uttar Pradesh Startup Mission Portal** and unveiled the **Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy 2026** to strengthen the state's startup, innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Uttar Pradesh Government Approves Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yojana for Free Bus Travel for Women

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government**, chaired by **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**, approved the **"Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yojana"** to provide **lifelong free bus travel** to women aged **60 years and above** across the state.

Banas Bio-CNG Model Plant Inaugurated in Gujarat

- A new **Banas Bio-CNG Model Plant** was inaugurated at **Vinchhiwadi in Dhanera taluka, Banaskantha district, Gujarat**.

Hindalco Commissions India's First Superfine Precipitated Aluminium Trihydrate Plant

- **Hindalco Industries**, an **Aditya Birla Group** company, has commissioned a greenfield **Superfine Precipitated Aluminium Trihydrate (PPT ATH)** manufacturing plant in **Karnataka**.

National Shipping Board Organises First 'Sagar Samvad' to Strengthen India's Maritime Sector

- The **National Shipping Board (NSB)** organised its first **'Sagar Samvad'** in New Delhi to discuss the roadmap for **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV) 2047**.

Samtel HAL Display Systems Inaugurates Defence Avionics Manufacturing Facility in Gurugram

- **Samtel HAL Display Systems Limited (SHDS)**, a joint venture between **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and **Samtel Avionics**, inaugurated a new manufacturing facility at **Udyog Vihar, Phase IV, Gurugram, Haryana**.

Mizoram Declares 79 Sites as State Protected Monuments

- **Mizoram** has declared **79 monuments and archaeological sites** as **State Protected Monuments** under the **Mizoram Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 2001**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Venezuela Begins Exit Process from Rome Statute to Leave International Criminal Court Membership

- The Government of **Venezuela**, under **Interim President Delcy Eloína Rodríguez Gómez**, formally notified the **United Nations (UN)** of its decision to withdraw from the **Rome Statute**, initiating the process to leave the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**.

Saudi Arabia and 13 Nations Form Maritime Defence Coalition to Secure Strategic West Asian Waterways

- **Saudi Arabia** and **13 other countries** announced the formation of a **Multinational Maritime Defence Alliance** to strengthen maritime security and protect global shipping routes amid rising regional tensions.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds Begins Jewellery Exports to the United Kingdom Under the India–UK Trade Agreement

- **Malabar Gold & Diamonds** became one of the first Indian jewellery companies to export jewellery to the **United Kingdom (UK)** under the **India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)**, marking a major milestone for India's gem and jewellery exports.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Facilitates First Air Export of Karnataka's Neelam and Totapuri Mangoes to Maldives

- 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.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Enables First-Ever Sea Export of Value-Added Flavoured Makhana from Bihar to Canada

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated the first-ever sea shipment of value-added **flavoured Makhana (Fox Nuts)** from **Bihar to Canada**, marking a major milestone in India's agricultural exports.

Nauru Officially Changes Name to Republic of Naoero to Preserve Indigenous Identity and Cultural Heritage

- The Pacific Island country **Nauru** officially changed its name to the **Republic of Naoero** to reflect its traditional identity, indigenous language and cultural heritage.

United Nations Chief António Guterres Announces Methane Reduction and AI Transparency Initiatives at London Climate Action Week

- **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres** addressed the **London Climate Action Week** at **Guildhall, London** and announced two major initiatives — **Global Call to Action on Methane** and **AI Environmental Transparency Initiative**.

12th BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting Commences in Hyderabad to Strengthen Global Workforce Cooperation

- The **12th BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting (LEMM)** commenced in **Hyderabad** under **India's BRICS Chairship 2026**.

Global Biofuel Alliance Chooses 15 Early-Career Scientists for Advancing Sustainable Biofuel Research

- The **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)** selected **15 early-career researchers** from leading universities and research institutions worldwide for the inaugural **Global Biofuel Champion Fellowship (GBCF)**.

16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting Successfully Concludes in India with Focus on Global Health Cooperation

- The **16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting** was successfully concluded in **Chandigarh, India** under **India's BRICS Chairship 2026** to strengthen cooperation among BRICS countries on global health challenges.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Facilitates Uttarakhand's First Frozen French Fries Export to Iraq

- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, facilitated the first-ever export of **24 Metric Tonnes (MT)** of **Frozen French Fries** from **Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar district, Uttarakhand**, to **Iraq**.

Bangladesh Inaugurates July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum at Former Prime Minister Residence

- **Bangladesh** inaugurated the **July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum** at the former official residence of former Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina**, marking **one year** since the **2024 student-led uprising** that led to the collapse of her government.

India and South Africa Move to Expedite Southern African Customs Union Preferential Trade Agreement

- **India** and **South Africa** held bilateral talks on the sidelines of the **BRICS 2026 Trade Ministers' Meeting** in **Jaipur** to strengthen **economic cooperation**, **trade** and **investment ties**.

India Donates Five Peacocks, Including Rare White Male, to United Nations Office at Geneva

- The **Government of India (GoI)**, through its **Permanent Mission to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva**, donated **five peacocks** to the **United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland**.

Tripura's Dergang Farmer Producer Organisation Sends First Mustard Honey Shipment to Dubai, Opening Global Market Opportunities

- Tripura's **Dergang Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)** has exported **1 metric tonne of mustard honey** to **Dubai**, marking the **first-ever international shipment** of mustard honey from the region.

Poland Unveils and Consecrates Europe's Tallest Virgin Mary Statue in Konotopie at 55.6 Metres

- **Poland** has unveiled a giant **Virgin Mary statue** in the village of **Konotopie**, located about **190 km north-west of Warsaw**, the capital of Poland.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Ethiraj College Collaborate to Promote Refugee Education and Inclusion

- The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, **Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI)** and **Ethiraj College for Women (Autonomous), Chennai, Tamil Nadu** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to promote **refugee self-reliance and inclusion** in India.

India and Singapore Strengthen Comprehensive Strategic Partnership at 4th Ministerial Roundtable

- **India** and **Singapore** reinforced their **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** during the **4th India–Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)** held in **Singapore**.

World Health Organization Confirms Closure of Poliovirus Type 2 Outbreaks in Five African Countries

- The **World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa** confirmed the closure of **poliovirus type 2 outbreaks** in **Burundi**, **Ghana**, **Guinea-Bissau**, **Republic of the Congo** and **Uganda**.

Union Minister of State Jitin Prasada Undertakes Official Visit to Morocco from August 24–25, 2026

- **Dr. Jitin Prasada**, **Union Minister of State (MoS)**, **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, undertook a two-day official visit to **Morocco** from **24–25 August 2026**.

United States-based financial services company,Charles Schwab Launches Schwab India with 345,000-Sq-Ft Technology Hub in Hyderabad

- **Charles Schwab**, a United States (US)-based financial services company, announced the opening of **Schwab India**, a new **3.45 lakh square feet** technology capability centre in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage Recognises 140-Year-Old Parichha Weir in Jhansi as World Heritage Irrigation Structure

- The **International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)** designated the **140-year-old Parichha Weir (Parichha Dam)** in **Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh (UP)** as a **World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS)**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Name of the Person	Appointed As	Succeeds
Varsha Ashok Aglawe	54th Director General, Geological Survey of India (GSI)	Asit Saha
Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja	Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS)	Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin
Vice Admiral Manish Chadha	Director General Naval Operations (DGNO), Indian Navy	Not Mentioned
Monisha Chakraborty	Executive Director, RBI	Not Mentioned

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Vice Admiral AN Pramod	Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (DCNS), Indian Navy	Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti
A. S. Rajeev	Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)	Praveen Kumar Srivastava
N S Vishwanathan	Non-Executive (Part-Time) Chairman, Axis Bank	Not Mentioned
Prasanta Mahapatra	Executive Director, SEBI	Not Mentioned
Air Marshal Tejpal Singh	Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS), IAF	Not Mentioned
Tewolde Gebremariam	CEO & Managing Director, Air India	Campbell Wilson
T. V. Somanathan	Cabinet Secretary of India — one-year service extension	Rajiv Gauba*
Rahul Jain	Senior Adviser to the Executive Director (India), IMF	Not Mentioned
Archana Varma	Secretary, Department of Water Resources, RD & GR	V. L. Kantha Rao
Andras Baka	President of Hungary	Tamás Sulyok
Ashish Singh	Managing Director & CEO, Manappuram Finance	V. P. Nandakumar
Manohar Lal Paliwal	Part-Time Non-Official Director, UCO Bank	Not Mentioned
Shabnam Sinha	Chairperson, Airtel Payments Bank	Sunil Bharti Mittal
Gautam Rangarajan	Expert Adviser on Structure and Process to UK Prime Minister	Not Mentioned
Dr. Eluri Sreedhar	Honorary Advisor, BRICS CCI	Not Mentioned
Yogesh Sharma	National Advisor, BRICS CCI	Not Mentioned
Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir	23rd President of Bangladesh	Mohammed Shahabuddin
S. Somanath Sreedhara Panicker	Part-time Non-official Director, RBI Central Board	Not Mentioned
Anand Gopal Mahindra	Part-time Non-official Director, RBI Central Board	Not Mentioned
Annie George Mathew	Part-time Non-official Director, RBI Central Board	Not Mentioned
Janmejaya Kumar Sinha	Part-time Non-official Director, RBI Central Board	Not Mentioned
Syed Akbaruddin	Part-time Non-official Director, RBI	Not Mentioned

	Central Board	
Ketan Merchant	Interim MD & CEO, Fino Payments Bank — tenure extended	Not Mentioned
Vibha Padalkar	MD & CEO, HDFC Life Insurance Company — reappointed	Not Mentioned
Samir Sawhney	Executive Director, Slice Small Finance Bank	Not Mentioned
Ramesh Kumar	Independent Director, Slice Small Finance Bank	Not Mentioned
Yandra Haragopal	Managing Director, NABFINS	Not Mentioned
Yuko Keicho	Vice President & Auditor General, World Bank Group	Not Mentioned
Justice Biswaroop Chowdhury	Permanent Judge, Calcutta High Court	Not Mentioned

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Name of the Person / Organisation	Name of the Award	Key Points
Ajit Doval	Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026	Conferred on NSA Ajit Doval; instituted in 1983.
Prof. Annapurni Subramaniam	COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026	4th Indian and 1st Indian woman to receive the medal.
Deepak Dhar	2026 Dirac Medal	Honoured for contributions to statistical mechanics and theoretical physics.
115 Artists	Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships & Awards 2024–25	Recognises outstanding contributions to performing arts.
Police, Fire & Other Service Personnel	Gallantry and Service Medals 2026	1,057 medals announced on Independence Day 2026.
7 Mahouts from Jaldapara National Park	Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026	Honoured for elephant conservation and flood-rescue operations.
General Dhiraj Seth	Honorary General Rank of Nepal Army	Conferred Honorary General of Nepal Army; tradition dates to 1950.
National Sports Awardees 2025	National Sports Awards 2025	Recognises excellence and contribution to Indian sports.
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	Overall Industry Champion – PM	Recognised for contribution to

	Internship Scheme Industry Awards 2026	internships and youth engagement.
Lakshmanan Meyyappan	Guinness World Record – Youngest Male CA	Recognised as the world's youngest male Chartered Accountant at 16 years 141 days.
48 School Teachers	National Teachers' Awards 2026	48 teachers selected for excellence in school education.
Dr. Ashutosh Parida	47th Sarala Puraskar 2026	Selected for poetry collection 'Bishwas De Pruthwi'; prize ₹7 lakh.
Dr. Jal Ratanji Patel & Dr. Jal Dhaybho-Koo	Nishan-e-Imtiaz	Nominated by Pakistan for maintaining confidentiality about Jinnah's illness.
Kaziah Liz Mejo	Miss Universe India 2026	First woman from Kerala to win the national title.
Publications Division, Ministry of I&B	FIP Awards for Excellence in Book Production 2026	Won 7 awards—4 Second Prizes and 3 Third Prizes.

MOUS & AGREEMENTS

India and Sri Lanka Review Bilateral Power Sector Cooperation; Discuss HVDC Interconnection and Sampur Solar Power Project

- **Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal** and **Sri Lanka's Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation & Minister of Energy Anura Karunathilake** held a **bilateral meeting** in **New Delhi** to review cooperation in the power sector.

India and Bhutan Strengthen Energy Partnership; Hold Bilateral Talks on Hydropower and Cross-Border Electricity Cooperation

- **Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal** held a **bilateral meeting** with **Bhutan's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Lyonpo Gem Tshering**, in **New Delhi**.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Signs Memoranda of Understanding with Industry Leaders to Strengthen Startup Ecosystem

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** signed strategic **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with **Cashfree Payments India Private Limited, Darwin Dynamics LLP, Vultr India Private Limited, Cars24 Services Private Limited, and Council for Startup India (CSI)** to strengthen India's startup

ecosystem.

Lohia Aerospace Systems and Massivit Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Large-Format 3D Printing Technology in India

- **Lohia Aerospace Systems Private Limited** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Massivit**, an **Israel-based large-format additive manufacturing company**, to introduce advanced **large-format 3D printing technology** for composite tooling and critical aerospace components in India.

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and Bureau of Indian Standards Sign 100th Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Ayurveda Standards

- The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**, the apex research organisation under the **Ministry of Ayush**, and the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, India's National Standards Body, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **quality standards, conformity assessment, scientific research and capacity building** in the Ayush sector.

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Promote Geographical Indication Products

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** and the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to accelerate the **commercialisation and global market access of India's Geographical Indication (GI) products**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Signs Two Memoranda of Understanding with Institute of Data Engineering, Analytics and Science Foundation

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** signed **two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with the **Institute of Data Engineering, Analytics and Science Foundation (IDEAS), Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata** for undertaking **research studies**.

India and Southern African Customs Union Sign Terms of Reference for Preferential Trade Agreement Negotiations

- **India and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU)** signed the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** for negotiations towards a **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)**.

Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy and Indian Pharmacopoeia

Commission Renew MoU for "One Herb, One Standard" Initiative

- **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)**, under the **Ministry of Ayush**, and **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)**, under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**, renewed their **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for implementing the **"One Herb, One Standard"** initiative.

Digital India BHASHINI Division and NITI Aayog Sign Statement of Intent for Multilingual Artificial Intelligence-Based Governance

- **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)**, under **Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, and **NITI Aayog** signed a **Statement of Intent (SoI)** to advance **multilingual, voice-first Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions** for inclusive governance and citizen-centric public service delivery.

National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage – Sevadhi Museum & Indological Research Institute: Memorandum of Understanding for Digitisation of Medical Manuscripts

- **National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad**, under the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Sevadhi Museum & Indological Research Institute (SEMIRI), Kumaranalloor, Kottayam, Kerala**.

India and Nepal Sign Memoranda of Understanding for 8 Development Projects under High Impact Community Development Projects

- The **Embassy of India in Nepal** and various **Government of Nepal bodies** signed **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** for the implementation of **8 development projects** in **education, health and agriculture**.

Andhra Pradesh Signs Memorandum of Understanding for Lithium-Gallium Exploration and Mining Technology Development

- The **Andhra Pradesh Government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI)** for detailed exploration of **lithium and gallium deposits** in the **Vempalle area of the Kadapa Basin**.

Sigma Advanced Systems and Indrajaal Secure ₹155 Crore Anti-Drone Order

- **Sigma Advanced Systems**, in partnership with **Indrajaal Autonomous Defence Systems**, secured a **₹155 crore order from the Ministry of Home Affairs** for deploying **Indrajaal Ranger mobile anti-drone patrol vehicles**.

India and Armenia Sign Defence Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding

- **India and Armenia** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in Yerevan to strengthen cooperation in **research, development, innovation and shared production in the defence sector**.

Odisha Signs ₹3,384.82 Crore Agreement for Amended BharatNet Programme

- The **Odisha Government** signed a tripartite agreement with **Digital Bharat Nidhi, Department of Telecommunications and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited** for implementing the **₹3,384.82 crore amended BharatNet programme** in the state.

IndiaAI and Ministry of AYUSH Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Promote Artificial Intelligence in Traditional Medicine

- **IndiaAI**, under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy)** to accelerate the adoption of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** across India's traditional medicine ecosystem.

India and Bhutan Approve 12 New Development Projects under 13th Five-Year Plan

- **India and Bhutan** reviewed the progress of their development partnership under **Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan (2024–29)** during the **5th India–Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks** held in **Thimphu, Bhutan**.

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Geological Survey of India (GSI) Sign MoU to Strengthen Geoscience, Mineral Exploration and Disaster Management

- The **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** signed an **Umbrella Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** to strengthen collaboration in **geoscience, mineral exploration and disaster management** through advanced next-generation technologies.

Andhra Pradesh and Australia Sign Four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to Strengthen Cooperation in Clean Energy, Education and Skill Development

- The **Government of Andhra Pradesh** and the **Government of Australia** signed **four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** in **Amaravati** to enhance cooperation in key sectors.

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) Signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Esri India Technologies to Strengthen Defence Sector through Geographic Information System (GIS) and GeoAI Solutions

- **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a **Navratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** under the **Ministry of Defence**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Esri India Technologies Private Limited**.

REC and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Provide ₹26,850 Crore Loan for 2,400 Megawatt (MW) Meja Thermal Power Project Expansion in Uttar Pradesh

- **REC Limited** and **Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC)** have signed a **Common Loan Agreement** to provide **₹26,850 crore** to **Meja Urja Nigam Private Limited (MUNPL)** for the **Stage-II expansion of Meja Thermal Power Project** in **Uttar Pradesh**.

Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Signs Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Business France and India & Arab Countries Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (IACCIA) to Promote Trade and Investment

- **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)** signed **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with **Business France** and **India & Arab Countries Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (IACCIA)** to strengthen **trade and investment relations**.

Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) Signs MoU with Norway's Noemi Aerospace (Elfly AS) to Explore Electric Seaplane Technologies

- **Pawan Hans Limited (PHL)**, a **Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of Civil Aviation**, signed a **Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Noemi Aerospace (Elfly AS), Norway** to explore collaboration in **next-generation sustainable aviation technologies**, with a special focus on **electric seaplane solutions**.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Partners with PhonePe and Shell India to Strengthen Support for Startups

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** signed **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with **PhonePe** and **Shell India Pvt. Ltd.** to strengthen support for **DPIIT-recognised startups**.

Jindal Steel and Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Establish Centre of Excellence for Advanced Steel Solutions

- **Jindal Steel** and **Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT Hyderabad)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to establish the **Jindal Steel Centre of Excellence (CoE)** at the **IIT Hyderabad campus**.

India–Mauritius Sign Five-Year Fuel Supply Agreement with Indian Oil Corporation Limited

- **India and Mauritius** agreed to strengthen their **energy partnership**, with **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** set to meet **Mauritius' entire import requirement of petrol, diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)**.

Chhattisgarh Signs Memorandums of Understanding to Strengthen PM GatiShakti-Based Infrastructure Planning

- **Chhattisgarh Government** signed two **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with the **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N)** and **National Logistics Data Services Limited (NLDSL) in Raipur**.

TVS Supply Chain Solutions Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Japan's Sankyu Inc. for Supply Chain and Engineering Cooperation

- **TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **Sankyu Inc.**, a Japan-based company, to jointly explore opportunities in **supply chain services and engineering services**.

Himachal Pradesh Forest Department Signs MoU with Indian School of Business for Forest Economy

- **Himachal Pradesh Forest Department** signed a **5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business (ISB-BIPP)** to develop the state's forest and pastoral economy through **science, technology and data-driven governance**.

Maharashtra–Hesse Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Economic Cooperation

- **Maharashtra** and **Hesse**, a state of **Germany**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen cooperation in **investment, industry, innovation, employment and skill development**.

Uttar Pradesh and Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture Sign Four Memorandum of Understandings to Strengthen Investment, Skills and Tourism Cooperation

- The **Government of Uttar Pradesh** and **Yamanashi Prefecture of Japan** signed **four Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** to strengthen cooperation in **skills, technical training, tourism, technology and investment**.

Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) and Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Promote Safe Pharmaceutical Exports

- The **Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN)** under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**, and the **Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL)**, set up

by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to promote legitimate pharmaceutical exports while preventing the **diversion of controlled substances** for illicit use.

Andhra Pradesh and United Kingdom Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Develop Amaravati as Smart City

- The **Government of Andhra Pradesh** and the **United Kingdom (UK)** signed a **government-to-Government (G2G) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to transform **Amaravati into a world-class smart city** and strengthen urban infrastructure across the state.

RANKING AND ORDERS

Index / Report Name	Published By	India's Rank / Performance	Top 3 Ranks / Positions
Market Distortions Performance Index (MDPI) 2023	Competere Foundation	57th in 2023; improved by 25 places from 82nd in 2010	1. Not specified 2. Not specified 3. Not specified
Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026	Yale University, YCELP, Columbia University CIESIN & Yale Center for Geospatial Solutions	176th out of 177 countries; score 22.46	1. Estonia 2. Luxembourg 3. United Kingdom
Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List 2026	Hurun India / Candere	Meena Bindra – 1st position	1. Meena Bindra 2. Tushara Shankar 3. Rajni Bector
Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2026 – India	Randstad India	Google – 1st as India's Most Attractive Employer Brand	1. Google 2. Tata Group 3. Amazon
Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026	Times Higher Education (THE)	MAHE – 1st globally in SDG 5 (Gender Equality); overall global band 101–200	1. University of Manchester (Overall) 2. Not specified 3. Not specified
Brand Finance India 100 2026	Brand Finance	Tata Group – 1st; India's most valuable brand for 10th consecutive year	1. Tata Group 2. Infosys 3. LIC Group
Global Liveability Index 2026	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	New Delhi – 120th, Mumbai – 121st, Chennai – 123rd, Bengaluru – 127th	1. Copenhagen 2. Vienna 3. Melbourne
Hurun India Most	Barclays Private Clients	Ambani Family – 1st with	1. Ambani Family 2. Birla

Valuable Family Businesses 2026	Hurun India	Reliance Industries valued at ₹25,82,800 crore	Family 3. Jindal Family
Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2025	Kroll	Shah Rukh Khan – 1st; brand value USD 177.9 million	1. Shah Rukh Khan 2. Ranveer Singh 3. Virat Kohli
International Workplace Group (IWG) Work from Anywhere Index 2026	International Workplace Group (IWG)	Mumbai – 50th globally, score 77; only Indian city included	1–3 not specified in the provided content

DEFENCE NEWS

Union Minister Rajnath Singh Launches India's First Dedicated Military Medicine Department at Lucknow Command Hospital

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** virtually inaugurated the **Department of Military Medicine** at the **Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.

Cochin Shipyard Launches Seventh Mahe-Class Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft 'Machilipatnam' for Indian Navy

- **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** launched **Machilipatnam (Yard BY 529)**, the **seventh of eight Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, for the **Indian Navy (IN)**.

Indian Navy Receives Indigenous Diving Support Vessel 'Nipun' from Hindustan Shipyard Limited

- The **Indian Navy** received the second Indigenous **Diving Support Vessel (DSV) 'Nipun'** from **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)** on **30 July 2026** at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.

Indian Army Chief Launches Indigenous Xtreme Weather Grade Diesel for Extreme Cold Operations

- **General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)**, launched the indigenously developed **Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel** in **New Delhi** on **31 July 2026**.

Chief of Defence Staff General N.S. Raja Subramani Delivers Keynote Address at 4th Tri-Services Future Warfare Course

- The **Fourth Edition** of the **Tri-Services Future Warfare Course** commenced on **03 August 2026** at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.

National Cadet Corps Conducts Cyclothon 2026 to Mark 79th Anniversary of India's Independence

- **National Cadet Corps (NCC)** organised **Cyclothon 2026** on **02 August 2026** in **New Delhi** to commemorate **79 years of India's Independence**.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth Chairs Indian Air Force–Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers 'SANKALP' Seminar to Promote Defence Indigenisation

- **Raksha Rajya Mantri (RRM) Sanjay Seth** chaired a seminar on indigenisation titled **'SANKALP'** on **30 July 2026** in **New Delhi**.

Indian Air Force Holds 'ROTOR CLAP-III' Exercise in Rajasthan to Strengthen Counter-UAS and Anti-Drone Preparedness

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted the **3rd edition** of **Exercise ROTOR CLAP-III** at the **Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan** on **1–2 August 2026**.

Indian Navy Launches Final Diving Support Craft 'DSC A24' to Strengthen Maritime Operations

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** launched **'DSC A24'**, the **5th and final ship** of the **Diving Support Craft (DSC) Project**, at **Titagarh, Kolkata, West Bengal**.

India Successfully Test-Fires Nuclear-Capable Agni-4 Ballistic Missile from Odisha

- **India** successfully conducted a **user trial** of the **Agni-4 Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM)** on **6 August 2026** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**.

Indian Air Force Completes Kasauli Forest Firefighting Operation Using Mi-17 V5 Helicopters, Drops 62,500 Litres of Water

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, along with the **Indian Army** and **Himachal Pradesh state authorities**, successfully concluded a **forest firefighting operation** in **Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh**.

Indian Navy and United States Navy Begin 8th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise in Kochi

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** and **United States Navy (USN)** commenced the **8th Edition** of **Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026** at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi, Kerala**.

Independence Day 2026 to Celebrate 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram' and Youth Power for Viksit Bharat @2047

- India will celebrate its **80th Independence Day** on **15 August 2026**, with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** leading the celebrations from the historic **Red Fort, New Delhi**.

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye Sign Mecca Joint Defence Pact to Boost Security Cooperation

- **Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye** signed the **Mecca Joint Defence Agreement** to strengthen **defence and security cooperation** amid rising tensions in the **Middle East** and the escalating conflict involving **Iran**.

`Indian Navy Launches Second Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Shruti' at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Kolkata

- The **Indian Navy's** second **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)**, **Yard 3037 'Shruti'**, was launched on **11 August 2026** at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

India Optel Launches Indigenous GARUD High-Resolution Binoculars for Civilian Use

- **India Optel Limited (IOL)**, a Mini Ratna Category-I Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) under the **Department of Defence Production**, launched the indigenous **'GARUD' High Resolution Binoculars** for the civil market.

Cochin Shipyard Delivers Second HS EcoFreighter Multi-Purpose Vessels 'MS Maria' to Germany's HS Schiffahrts

- **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** delivered **MS Maria**, the second of eight **HS EcoFreighter series Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs)**, to Germany-based shipping company **HS Schiffahrts UG (haftungsbeschränkt) & Co. KG**.

Indian Air Force and Royal Malaysian Air Force Begin 3rd Edition of Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 in Malaysia

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)** commenced the 3rd edition of **Exercise Udara Shakti 2026** at **Subang Air Base, Selangor, Malaysia**, from **10 to 14 August 2026**, with the flying phase from **11 to 13 August**.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹1,577 Crore Contracts with Tata Advanced Systems Limited and NIBE for Indian Army's Loiter Munition Systems

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed contracts worth approximately **₹1,577 crore** with **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** and **NIBE Private Limited** for the procurement of **Loiter Munition Systems** for the **Indian Army (IA)**.

Ministry of Defence Signs Contract with General Atomics to Lease Two MQ-9B Sea Guardian Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems for Indian Navy

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract with **General Atomics Aeronautical Systems,**

Inc. (GA-ASI) to lease two **MQ-9B Sea Guardian High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)** for the **Indian Navy**.

India-Thailand Joint Exercise MAITREE-XV Commences to Enhance Defence Cooperation

- The **Indian Army (IA)** contingent has departed for **Thailand** to participate in the **15th edition** of **India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-XV (2026)**.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Launches All India Girls High Altitude Trek 'Aparajita – Parang La 2026'

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** flagged off the All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek **"Aparajita – Parang La 2026"**, a flagship adventure activity of the **National Cadet Corps (NCC)**, in **New Delhi, Delhi**.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat: Defence Ministry Announces 6th Positive Indigenisation List Covering 405 Key Items

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, through the **Department of Defence Production (DDP)**, has notified the **6th Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)** comprising **405 strategically important defence items**.

Indian Army's Territorial Army Unveils 'Terrier Cyber Quest 2026'

- The **Territorial Army**, in collaboration with **CyberPeace**, has launched **Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 (TCQ 3.0)**, a national-level hackathon focused on developing innovative solutions for contemporary **defence, cybersecurity and information-domain challenges**.

Cochin Shipyard Limited Kochi Delivers 'Mangrol', the Third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

- **'Mangrol'**, the third **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi**, was delivered to the **Indian Navy** on **21 August 2026**.

Japan Defence Minister Shinjirō Koizumi's India Visit: Key Highlights of August 19–20, 2026

- **Shinjirō Koizumi**, **Defence Minister of Japan**, undertook a **two-day official visit** to India from **August 19–20, 2026**, marking his **first-ever visit to India**.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and West Bengal Chief Minister Perform Bhumi Pujan for Five Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited and Yantra India Limited Expansion Projects

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh**, along with West Bengal Chief Minister **Suvendu Adhikari**, presided over the **Bhumi Pujan ceremony** for **three expansion projects** of **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE)** and **two projects** of **Yantra India Limited (YIL)** on **23 August 2026**.

Indian Air Force Completes Major Multinational Exercises Pitch Black and Udara Shakti 2026

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully concluded its participation in two major international air exercises: **Exercise Pitch Black 2026** in **Australia** and **Exercise Udara Shakti 2026** in **Malaysia**.

Indian Defence Startup D-Propulse Demonstrates First Indigenous 5 kN Air-Breathing Rotating Detonation Engine

- **D-Propulse Aerospace Pvt. Ltd.**, an **Indian defence propulsion startup**, successfully demonstrated **India's first indigenously developed 5 kilo-Newton (kN) air-breathing Rotating Detonation Engine (RDE)** integrated with an **aerospike nozzle**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation's Naval Science & Technological Laboratory Signs Two Technology Transfer Agreements to Strengthen Indigenous Defence Production

- The **Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL)**, a laboratory of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** located in **Visakhapatnam**, **Andhra Pradesh**, signed two **Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LAToT)** to strengthen **indigenous defence manufacturing**.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Approves Defence Research and Development Organisation Missile Technology Transfer to Indian Defence Industry for Indigenous Production

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** approved the **Transfer of Technology (ToT)** of all **conventional missile systems** developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** to eligible **Indian defence manufacturers**.

Goa Shipyard Limited Delivers Indian Coast Guard Ship Ajit to Indian Coast Guard

- **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** handed over **ICGS Ajit (Yard 1277)**, a state-of-the-art **Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)**, to the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.

Indian Navy to Induct Second Indigenous Diving Support Vessel 'Nipun'

- The **Indian Navy** is set to commission **Nipun**, the **second Diving Support Vessel (DSV)** of the **Nistar class**, on **31 August 2026** at the **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai**.

India and Vietnam Conduct 2nd Edition of Joint Coast Guard Exercise 'Sahyog HOP TAC' in Chennai

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, in collaboration with the **Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG)**, hosted the **2nd edition** of the **India–Vietnam Joint Exercise 'Sahyog HOP TAC'** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)**.

T-Hub Joins Hands with Army's Central Command to Boost Defence Startup Deployments

- **T-Hub (Technology Hub)** partnered with the **Central Command of the Indian Army (IA)** to create

a direct pathway for **defence startups** to develop, validate and deploy technologies addressing **real-world military challenges**.

Indian Navy Receives Its First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel, 'Samarthak'

- **'Samarthak'**, the first **indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)** of the **Indian Navy**, was delivered on **27 August 2026**.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Bank of America to Take Up to 49.9% Stake in Jio Credit for ₹18,268 Crore

- **Bank of America Corporation (BofA)** and **Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL)** entered into a **Joint Venture (JV) Agreement** for investment in **Jio Credit Limited (JCL)**.

Competition Commission of India Approves Tata Steel's Acquisition of Additional 23% Stake in TM International Logistics

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved **Tata Steel Limited's** acquisition of an additional **23% equity stake** in **TM International Logistics Limited (TMILL)**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Clears Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group's Magma General Insurance Acquisition, Grants Licence to ProTec General Insurance

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** approved the acquisition of **Magma General Insurance** by **Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group** from **Sanoti Properties (owned by Adar Poonawalla)** for **₹4,500 crore**.

Government Initiates Historic 6.5% Life Insurance Corporation of India Stake Sale Through Largest-Ever Offer for Sale Disinvestment

- The **Government of India (GoI)** launched an **Offer for Sale (OFS)** to divest up to **6.5% stake** in **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**, making it the largest OFS-based disinvestment in India's history.

Competition Commission of India Approves Prudential Corporation Holdings' Acquisition of Stake in Bharti Life Insurance Company

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, approved the proposal of **Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited** to acquire a **majority stake** in **Bharti Life Insurance Company Limited**.

Reserve Bank of India Allows Life Insurance Corporation of India to Raise Stake in HDFC Bank Up to 9.99%

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** to acquire

an aggregate holding of up to **9.99%** of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of **HDFC Bank Limited**.

Google Wins Bid to Acquire Spirit Airlines' Business Data for Artificial Intelligence Development

- **Google**, a subsidiary of **Alphabet Inc.**, emerged as the winning bidder in a **bankruptcy auction** to acquire a portion of **Spirit Airlines'** internal enterprise data and software assets.

Tata Consultancy Services to Acquire Porsche's IT Consulting Arm MHP for EUR 320 Million

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** announced the acquisition of **MHP Management- und IT-Beratung GmbH (MHP)**, the management and IT consulting subsidiary of **Porsche AG**.

SoftBank Sells 2.58% Stake in Lenskart for Around ₹2,888 Crore Through Block Deal

- **SoftBank Group**, through its affiliate **SVF II Lightbulb (Cayman) Ltd**, sold a **2.58% stake** in **Lenskart Solutions** for approximately **₹2,888 crore** through **open-market block deals**.

Prudential Plc to Offload 2% Stake in ICICI Prudential AMC for Around $333 Million

- **Prudential Plc**, a London-based British insurer, plans to sell up to a **2% stake** in **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company (ICICI Prudential AMC)** through an **open-market sale** on **27 August 2026**.

Government Announces Sale of Up to 6% Stake in Hindustan Copper Through Offer for Sale

- The **Government of India** announced the sale of up to **6% stake** in **Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)** through an **Offer for Sale (OFS)**.

APPS & PORTALS

App / Portal Name	Released By	Purpose
TRAI MyCall App	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)	Enables consumers to assess and report voice call quality and provide real-time feedback.
Gramin Gyan Setu App	Union Minister Amit Shah	Connects libraries across Gandhinagar and promotes reading, learning and knowledge access in rural areas.
India Code Portal	Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal	Provides digital access to the Constitution, Central Acts, State Acts and other legislation with AI-assisted search.
AppCoMS 2.0	Central Information Commission (CIC); inaugurated by Raj Kumar Goyal	Streamlines processing of Second Appeals and Complaints under the RTI Act, 2005.
e-Shram Portal	Ministry of Labour and	Creates a national database of

	Employment	unorganised workers and strengthens their access to social security schemes.
Dak Sewa App	Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Modernises postal services and strengthens last-mile delivery.
Dak MITRA App	Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Provides a unified platform for digital postal and financial services through Branch Post Offices.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Adani Navbharat Developers Private Limited Launches Artificial Intelligence-Powered "Dharavi Didi" to Support Dharavi Redevelopment Project

- **Adani Navbharat Developers Private Limited (ANDPL)**, the **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** implementing the **Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP)**, launched **"Dharavi Didi"**, an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered conversational assistant** for project-related information.

IBM and Sarvam AI Partner to Advance Sovereign AI Solutions in India

- **IBM** and Indian AI startup **Sarvam** have announced a strategic partnership to accelerate the development and deployment of **sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI)** solutions for **central and state governments**, **public sector organisations**, and **regulated industries in India**.

Institute of Nano Science and Technology Mohali Scientists Develop Light-Controlled Nanobot for Precision Breast Cancer Treatment

- Researchers from the **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, developed an advanced **light-driven multifunctional nanobot** for **targeted breast cancer therapy**.

Government Says ISRO's NavIC Cannot Currently Provide Standalone Navigation Services

- For the first time, the Government informed Parliament that **India's NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)** currently **cannot provide standalone positioning services** because **only three navigation satellites are operational**, whereas at least **four satellites are required for independent navigation**.

CSIR-Central Road Research Institute Presents Indigenous MSS+ Road Technology to Rajasthan Government

- **CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi** presented its indigenously

developed **Modified Mix Seal Surfacing Plus (MSS+) Technology** to **V. Srinivas, IAS**, Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, at the Rajasthan Secretariat.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates First-of-Its-Kind CSIR-NBRI Eco-Educational Hub in Lucknow

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Vice-President, CSIR, dedicated the first-of-its-kind **CSIR-NBRI Eco-Educational Hub 'Prakriti Gyan Dham'** to the nation at the **Maharishi Parashar Bioresource Centre (MPBC), Banthra, Lucknow**.

University of Hyderabad Secures Patent for HYDERACENE Material for Defence and Space Rocket Propellants

- **University of Hyderabad (UoH)** secured **Indian Patent No. 596319** for **HYDERACENE**, a novel polymer-based material developed for **solid rocket propellants** used in **defence and space applications**.

WHO-South-East Asia Regulatory Network Recognizes Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission as Centre of Excellence in Pharmacovigilance and Pharmaceutical Quality

- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)**, under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**, participated in the **10th Anniversary Meeting** of the **South-East Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN)** held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**, on **4–5 August 2026**.

ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases Bhopal Develops India's First Indigenous Live Attenuated Vaccine Against African Swine Fever

- **ICAR–National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD), Bhopal** has developed India's **first indigenous MA-104 cell line-based live attenuated vaccine** against **African Swine Fever (ASF)**.

Astrobase Space Technologies Launches India's First Privately Developed 800 kN FFSC Rocket Engine 'EVEREST'

- **Astrobase Space Technologies Private Limited**, a **Bengaluru-based Indian space startup**, unveiled **EVEREST**, **India's first privately developed 800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) rocket engine**, on **7 August 2026**.

Scientists Detect Unusual Ozone Concentration Over North Bay of Bengal

- Scientists have detected an **unusually high concentration of ozone** in the upper atmosphere over the **North Bay of Bengal**, providing new insights into the **transport of ozone through the**

stratosphere.

Microsoft Opens Hyderabad Data Centre, Expanding India's Cloud Regions to Four

- **Microsoft** has launched its **largest data centre region in India**, the **India South Central region**, in **Hyderabad, Telangana**, to meet the growing demand for **Cloud Computing** and **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** services.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Astronauts Anil Menon and Jessica Meir Complete Spacewalk for International Space Station Upgrades

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** astronauts **Anil Menon** and **Jessica Meir** successfully completed a **6-hour 27-minute spacewalk** outside the **International Space Station (ISS)** to carry out structural and power-system upgrades.

Vietnam's VinSpace Signs Agreement with SpaceX to Launch First Satellites in 2027

- **VinSpace**, the aerospace unit of **Vingroup**, Vietnam, has signed a launch agreement with **SpaceX** to deploy its first satellites through a **Transporter Rideshare Mission in 2027**.

Adani Airport City Incorporates AACL Global IFSC as Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Adani Airport Holdings

- **Adani Airport City Limited (AACL)**, a step-down wholly-owned subsidiary of **Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL)**, has incorporated **AACL Global IFSC Limited** as a new wholly-owned subsidiary of **Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL)**.

Airtel Business and ITI Limited Collaborate to Boost Enterprise Digital Transformation in India

- **Airtel Business**, the enterprise arm of **Bharti Airtel**, and **ITI Limited, Bengaluru**, have entered into a strategic collaboration to accelerate **enterprise digital transformation** and strengthen **India's digital infrastructure**.

S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences and Ashoka University Develop Artificial Intelligence Framework to Detect Hidden Cancer Stem-Like Cells

- Researchers from **S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS)**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, in collaboration with **Ashoka University**, have developed a new **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** framework to identify **hidden cancer stem-like cells**.

Skyroot Aerospace and HEX20 Ink Deal for Three Dedicated Vikram-Series Missions

- **Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**, a Hyderabad-based Indian private space startup, signed a **Multi-Launch Agreement (MLA)** with **HEX20**, a Thiruvananthapuram-based spacetech startup, for three dedicated **Vikram-series missions**.

International Business Machines Partners with Manipal Institute of Technology-Bengaluru and Christ University to Set Up Artificial Intelligence Centres in India

- **International Business Machines (IBM Corporation)** has partnered with **Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT) Bengaluru** and **CHRIST (Deemed to be University)** to establish Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-focused centres** in India.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Invites Indian Space Research Organisation to Participate in Lunar Moon Base Programme

- **NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)** has invited the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to participate in its **Moon Base Programme**, marking an expansion of **India–US space cooperation** from Earth observation and individual missions towards **long-term lunar exploration and human spaceflight**.

Sarla Aviation Secures Design Organisation Approval from Directorate General of Civil Aviation

- **Sarla Aviation** received **Design Organisation Approval (DOA)** from the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Revives Su-30MKI Production Line at Nashik Facility for Indian Air Force

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has revived the **Su-30MKI fighter aircraft production line** at its **Nashik facility in Maharashtra** for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

Pakistan Joins Lunar Exploration Race with "Jinnah-1" Rover for South Pole Mission

- **Jinnah-1** is Pakistan's first-ever planned **lunar rover** and has been named by the **Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO)**.

Meta Launches Muse Glimmer, a 30-Billion-Parameter Open-Weight AI Model for Consumer Devices

- **Meta** has released **Muse Glimmer**, a new **30-billion-parameter open-weight AI model** designed to perform **advanced agentic tasks** directly on **consumer devices** such as laptops and personal computers.

Scientists Investigate Black Hole Stars as an Explanation for Little Red Dots

- Astronomers have proposed a new class of cosmic object called a "**black hole star" (BH)**, according to a study published in **Nature.**

Leonardo DiCaprio and Jeff Bezos Launch $200 Million Phoenix Species Project to Save 100 Threatened Species

- Leonardo DiCaprio's conservation organisation **Re:wild** and the **Bezos Earth Fund**, led by **Jeff Bezos**, have launched the **Phoenix Species Project**.

National Company Law Tribunal Introduces Digital e-Inspection and e-Certified Copy Services

- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** launched its electronic **(e)-Inspection** and **e-Certified Copy Services** in **New Delhi, Delhi** to provide faster digital access to judicial records.

Fractal Analytics Beta Launches India's First Healthcare AI Model Under IndiaAI Mission

- **Fractal Analytics** has launched **Vaidya AI**, an **India-focused healthcare reasoning model** under the **IndiaAI Mission**, with beta testing beginning in **Mumbai**.

JSW Neo Energy and DGPC Sign Pact to Develop 920 MW Punatsangchhu-III Hydroelectric Project

- **JSW Neo Energy Limited (JSWNEL)**, a subsidiary of **JSW Energy**, and Bhutan's **Druk Green Power Corporation Limited (DGPC)** have signed an agreement to jointly develop the **920 MW Punatsangchhu-III Hydroelectric Project**.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and Norway's Hystar AS Partner for Local Proton Exchange Membrane Electrolyser Manufacturing in India

- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** and Norway-based **Hystar AS** entered into a strategic collaboration for the phased **indigenisation** and **local manufacturing** of **Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) electrolyser systems** for **green hydrogen projects** in India.

Indian Space Promotion and Authorization Centre Approves India's First Indigenous Commercial Earth Observation Satellite Constellation Under Public Private Partnership Model

- **Union Minister of State (MoS) Dr. Jitendra Singh**, **Department of Space (DoS)**, informed the Lok Sabha that **Indian Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)** has approved and signed an agreement for India's first **indigenous, fully commercial Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation** under the **Public Private Partnership (PPP) model**.

Kawa UAV Successfully Completes Maiden Flight of Divyastra Mk3 Loitering Munition

- **Kawa UAV Pvt. Ltd. (HoverIt)** successfully conducted the maiden flight of **Divyastra Mk3**, described as **India's first indigenous jet-powered loitering munition**.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi Launches Central Bank Digital Currency-Based Food Subsidy Transfers for Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana Beneficiaries in Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli

- Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi**, who holds the portfolios of **Education, Consumer Affairs, Food**

& Public Distribution, and New & Renewable Energy, formally inaugurated the **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** of food subsidies under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**.

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology Launches Cyber Kushti 2026 National Cybersecurity and AI Hackathon to Assess Human Decision-Making Skills

- The **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched **Cyber Kushti 2026**, a national-level **Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hackathon**.

SpaceX Sets New Record with Two Falcon 9 Launches in Just 38.5 Minutes

- **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX)** launched two **Falcon 9** rockets carrying separate missions from **Florida and California, USA**.

Principal Scientific Adviser Launches National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development's RSVC-AMRIT Platform to Boost Rural Innovation and Technology Transfer

- **Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government of India (GoI), **Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood**, launched the **RSVC-AMRIT platform** on **15 August 2026**, the **80th Independence Day of India**.

Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited Becomes India's First Company to Receive GE Aerospace's S400 Laboratory Approval

- **Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI)**, a state-owned defence and aerospace materials manufacturer under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, became the first Indian company to secure **S400 approval** from **GE Aerospace**, a leading American aerospace company.

Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru Launches SraVaani Open-Source Multilingual Speech-Recognition Model

- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** released **SraVaani** as an **open-source multilingual speech-recognition model**.

Tata Power and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay Sign Master Research Agreement to Advance Next-Generation Clean Energy Technologies

- **Tata Power Company Limited** and the **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)** signed a **Master Research Agreement (MRA)** to accelerate the development, scaling and commercialisation of **next-generation energy technologies** and **clean energy solutions**.

CDSL Investor Protection Fund and Amar Chitra Katha Launch Film to Promote Financial Awareness and Informed Investing

- **CDSL Investor Protection Fund (CDSL IPF)** has launched a multilingual investor education film

titled **"The Garden of Prosperity"** to promote **financial awareness, thoughtful financial planning and informed investing**.

Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 Seeks to Extend Protection to Vande Mataram Under Section 3

- The **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026** amends **Section 3** of the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**.

National Skill Development Corporation Partners with AVPL International to Set Up 350 Drone Technology Skill Centres Across India

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and **AVPL International** entered into a strategic collaboration to establish **350 Advanced Skill Centres (ASCs)** for **Drone Technology** across India over the next **three years**.

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre Issues New Norms for Planned Re-entry of Space Objects

- The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** introduced new guidelines titled **"Norms, Guidelines and Procedures for Implementation of Indian Space Policy-2023 in respect of Authorisation for Undertaking Planned Re-entry of Space Objects"**.

Australia's University of New South Wales Launches Bengaluru Campus as Its First Educational Hub in India

- Australia's **University of New South Wales (UNSW)** launched its **first international campus in India** at **Manyata Business Park, Bengaluru, Karnataka**, with academic operations commencing in **August 2026**.

Flipkart Partners with Netflix to Offer OTT Subscription Benefits to Flipkart Plus Members from August 1

- **Flipkart** has partnered with **Netflix** to offer a **Netflix Mobile subscription** as a reward under the **Flipkart Plus loyalty programme**, marking **Netflix's first partnership with an Indian e-commerce platform**.

NAKSHA Launched to Modernize Urban Land Records Through GIS-Based Mapping Initiative

- **NAKSHA (National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations)** is a **GIS-based urban land parcel mapping initiative** launched by the **Department of Land Resources (DoLR)** under the **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme**

(DILRMP) to modernize urban land records.

Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science Celebrates 150 Years as India's First Indigenous Scientific Research Institution

- **Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)** is celebrating its **150th anniversary in 2026** as India's first national institution dedicated to **scientific research by Indians**.

CSIR–Central Road Research Institute Launches Indigenous Network Survey Vehicle to Enhance Urban Road Assessment in Delhi NCR

- **CSIR–Central Road Research Institute (CSIR–CRRI), New Delhi** flagged off the newly procured **Indigenous Network Survey Vehicle (NSV)** to advance sustainable urban road infrastructure and improve road asset management.

Agharkar Research Institute Pune Scientists Develop Nanocarrier-Based Gene Therapy Approach for Targeted Breast Cancer Treatment

- Scientists from the **Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, developed an innovative **nanocarrier-based gene-silencing strategy** for **breast cancer treatment**.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research Creates First Fully Annotated Telomere-to-Telomere Genome Map of Pigeonpea Variety 'Asha' in India

- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** developed India's first fully annotated **Telomere-to-Telomere (T2T) reference genome** of **pigeonpea (*Cajanus cajan* L. Millsp.)** variety **'Asha'**.

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad and Crimson Energy Introduce 'ANUGYAN', India's First Industry-Academia Nuclear Technology Training Initiative

- **Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT Hyderabad), Telangana**, in collaboration with **Crimson Energy Experts India Private Limited (CEEPL)**, launched **'ANUGYAN' – Nuclear Technology Orientation Programme (NTOP)**, India's **first industry–academia programme in nuclear technology**.

Jupiter Wagons Joins Hands with Lucchini RS to Establish India's First Integrated Private Railwheel Manufacturing Facility

- **Jupiter Wagons Limited (JWL)** partnered with Italy-based **Lucchini RS Holding S.p.A.** and **SIMEST (Italian Society for Enterprises Abroad) S.p.A.** to establish **India's first fully**

integrated private-sector railwheel manufacturing platform.

Air India and Azerbaijan Airlines Partner to Boost India–Azerbaijan Air Connectivity

- **Air India** and **Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL)**, a part of **AZCON Holding**, entered into a **codeshare partnership** to enhance air connectivity between **India and Azerbaijan** and strengthen **business, tourism and cultural relations** between both countries.

Reliance Industries Limited Partners with Rolls-Royce to Develop Indigenous Engine for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft Programme

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** entered into a strategic partnership with **Rolls-Royce Limited**, a British luxury car company, to design, develop, manufacture, and deliver a sovereign indigenous **combat engine** for India's **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme**.

AkinAnalytics Unveils Indigenous NIKA2 Kisan Medium Drone for Agricultural Applications

- **AkinAnalytics**, a **women-led DeepTech and Defence Technology startup** based in **Hyderabad, Telangana**, launched its indigenous **NIKA2 Kisan Medium Drone** to provide **technology-driven solutions** for farmers and field-intensive industries.

Astronomers Discover 170-Million-Year-Old Giant Exoplanet 'GJ 523b' or 'Mega-Earth'

- Astronomers discovered a **170-million-year-old giant exoplanet** named **GJ 523b**, which has been informally nicknamed **"Mega-Earth"** because of its extremely large size and mass compared with Earth.

Indian Defence Startup Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace Technologies Private Limited Unveils 'FWD Supreme Lite', India's First AI-Piloted Fighter Jet Programme

- **Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace Technologies Private Limited (FWDA)**, an **Indian defence startup**, unveiled **'FWD Supreme Lite'**, described as **India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-piloted fighter jet programme**.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Plans National Coach Accreditation Board to Standardise Sports Coaching in India

- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** announced plans to establish a **National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB)** to standardise coaching quality and strengthen **India's sports ecosystem**.

Ministry of Rural Development Introduces National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II Under DAY-NRLM

- The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** launched the **National Campaign on**

Entrepreneurship-II under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.

French European Space Agency Astronaut Sophie Adenot Becomes First French Woman to Conduct Spacewalk

- **Sophie Adenot**, an astronaut of the **European Space Agency (ESA)** from **France**, became the **first French woman** to conduct a **spacewalk**.

National Skill Development Corporation and Cultus Education Launch Nationwide Cloud and Artificial Intelligence Skilling Initiative with Amazon Web Services

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** and **Cultus Education** launched a nationwide **Cloud and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Skilling Initiative** in collaboration with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**.

India Successfully Test-Fires First Fully Indigenous AK-203 'Sher' Assault Rifle in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh

- **Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)**, located at **Korwa, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh**, successfully produced and test-fired the first **100% indigenised AK-203 'Sher'** assault rifle using entirely **Indian components and materials**.

United States Navy Unveils AIM-424 Malice Long-Range Air-to-Air Missile With 463 km Strike Range

- The **United States (US) Navy** unveiled the **AIM-424 Malice**, a next-generation **Long Range Air-to-Air Missile (LRAAM)** developed by **Raytheon**, a subsidiary of **RTX Corporation**.

All India Institute of Ayurveda Introduces "GARBHINI MITRA" Course to Enhance Ayurveda-Based Maternal Wellness Support

- The **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi**, under the **Ministry of Ayush**, launched the **Garbhini Mitra Course** for the **2026–27 academic session** on **24 August 2026**.

United Nations Development Programme India and Hindustan Unilever Limited Launch New Partnership Phase to Promote Inclusive Plastic Circular Economy

- **The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India** and **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** launched a new phase of their partnership to strengthen an **inclusive circular economy for plastics** in India.

ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources Grants National Recognition to Kerala's Indigenous Periyar Cow Breed

- **ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBAGR)** has officially recognised

and registered **Periyar Cow** as an **indigenous cattle breed of Kerala**.

IIT Mandi Develops Sea Urchin-Inspired Coating for Antibacterial 3D-Printed Bone Implants

- Researchers at **IIT Mandi** have developed a **sea urchin-inspired bio-coating** for **3D-printed bone implants** that can **mechanically disrupt bacteria** and improve **implant–bone integration**.

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research Scientists Develop Smartphone Platform to Detect Alzheimer's Biomarker Amyloid-β

- Scientists at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)** developed a **smartphone-integrated platform** for detecting the **Alzheimer's disease (AD)** biomarker **amyloid-β (Aβ)**.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories Launches Three Indigenous Gas Turbine Engines for Defence Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

- **CSIR-NAL (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–National Aerospace Laboratories)** unveiled three indigenous **micro and small gas turbine engines** on **25 August 2026** at the **SSB Auditorium, CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi, Delhi**.

WAE Limited Partners with United Nations Global Compact Network India for Sustainable Water Solutions

- **WAE Limited**, an Indian sustainability-led water technology and engineering company, entered into a strategic partnership with the **United Nations Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI)**.

Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, University of Chicago Scientists Conduct Major Study on South Asian Gut Microbiome

- Scientists from the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP)**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, along with the **University of Chicago** and collaborating institutions, conducted a large study on the **South Asian gut microbiome**.

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission Holds First Interactive Meeting with Central Drugs Laboratory Kolkata to Strengthen Medicine Quality Standards

- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)**, under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**, launched **7 Indian Pharmacopoeia Nitrosamine Impurities Reference Standards** for the first time.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Tests Indigenous High-Altitude Military Combat Parachute System in Ladakh

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully tested the **Military**

Combat Parachute System (MCPS), an indigenous **high-altitude parachute**, at the **Nyoma-Mudh Drop Zone, Leh, Ladakh**.

SpaceX Announces USD 100 Billion Rocket Launch Complex in Southern Louisiana

- **SpaceX** announced an investment of **USD 100 billion** to build its largest **rocket launch complex** in **southern Louisiana, USA**.

Air India Enters Interline Partnership with Drukair to Boost India-Bhutan Connectivity

- **Air India**, the **Tata Group-owned global airline**, entered into an **interline partnership** with **Drukair – Royal Bhutan Airlines**, the **national flag carrier of Bhutan**, to strengthen connectivity between **India, Bhutan and international destinations**.

Indian Institute of Creative Technologies and Netflix Announce Scholarships for 100 Students and Professionals Under Storytelling Initiative

- The **Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT)** and **Netflix** announced scholarships for **100 students and working professionals** across India under the **Netflix India Storytelling Initiative**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Set to Launch Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is preparing to launch the **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**, a next-generation **flagship space observatory**, on **30 August 2026**.

Chinese Humanoid Robot Ro-But Beats Human 100m World Record with 9.39-Second Sprint

- **China's World Humanoid Robot Games 2026** were held in **Beijing**, showcasing China's rapid progress in **advanced humanoid robotics**.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Safran Sign Agreement to Jointly Develop and Manufacture Next-Generation Helicopter Engine

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and France-based **Safran Helicopter Engines** signed a final contract to jointly **design, develop, manufacture, supply and provide lifecycle support** for the next-generation **Aravalli helicopter engine**.

ENVIRONMENT

New Freshwater Catfish Species 'Pseudolaguvia khairii' Identified in Odisha's Budhabalanga River

- A new **freshwater catfish species**, **Pseudolaguvia khairii**, was discovered in the **Budhabalanga River** in **Mayurbhanj district, Odisha**.

Kerala Researchers Discover New Seahorse Species 'Hippocampus amandavincentae'

- Researchers from the **Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)** identified a new seahorse species, **Hippocampus amandavincentae**, resolving a **150-year-old taxonomic confusion** surrounding the **thorny seahorse (Hippocampus histrix)**.

University of Delhi Scientists Discover Three New Cascade Frog Species in Northeast India

- Scientists led by **Prof. S. D. Biju** of the **Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi** discovered **three new species of cascade frogs** in the biodiverse forests of **Northeast India**.

Himalayan Plant 'Impatiens nimspurjae' Named After Mountaineer Nirmal Purja

- The Himalayan plant species **Impatiens Nimspurjai** was named in honour of legendary Nepali mountaineer **Nirmal "Nimsdai" Purja** for his outstanding contributions to **mountaineering** and **high-altitude environmental conservation**.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology Discovers New Sunflower-Family Species 'Doronicum sanctum'

- The **Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT)**, under the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, discovered a new **sunflower-family plant species** named **'Doronicum sanctum'**.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Union Minister of State Anupriya Patel Addresses IIMA Healthcare Summit 2026 on Advancing AI in Healthcare

- **Union Minister of State (MoS) Anupriya Patel**, **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (MoCF)**, addressed the **3rd IIM Ahmedabad Healthcare Summit 2026** in **Ahmedabad**, **Gujarat**.

GENESIS Entrepreneur-in-Residence Cohort-3 Launched at NextGen Startup Summit in Coimbatore

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, through **MeitY Startup Hub (MSH)**, launched the **3rd cohort** of the **GENESIS Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Programme**, known as **GENESIS EIR 3.0**.

BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Title	Author	Key Points	Event Highlights
Bringing the Cheetah Back to India: How Diplomacy Made Conservation's Big Mission Possible	Prashant Agrawal	Documents the diplomatic, logistical and ecological efforts behind Project Cheetah.	Published by Hachette India; focuses on cheetah reintroduction in India.
Africa Before America	Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri	Explores African history, civilisation, economic development and global inequality.	New book launched by management thinker, author and education entrepreneur Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri.
Kaho Kalidasa!	Yugul Joshi	Focuses on Kalidasa and his literary/cultural significance.	Launched by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at Samvet Auditorium, New Delhi; published by Manjul Publishing House; event organised by IGNCA's Kala Nidhi Division.

SPORTS NEWS

Lovepreet Singh Wins Silver in Men's +110 kg Weightlifting at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **India's Lovepreet Singh** won the **Silver Medal** in the **Men's +110 kg Weightlifting** event at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** held in **Glasgow, Scotland**.

India Creates History with Double Podium in Men's Javelin Throw at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Neeraj Chopra** won the **silver medal**, while **Yashvir Singh** secured the **bronze medal** in the **Men's Javelin Throw** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow, Scotland**.

India Wins Historic Double Gold in Judo at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Asmita Dey** and **Harsh Singh** won **gold medals** in **Judo** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow, Scotland**, marking a historic achievement for India.

Tejaswin Shankar Wins Historic Bronze in Men's Decathlon at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Tejaswin Shankar** won the **bronze medal** in the **Men's Decathlon** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow, Scotland**, becoming the **first Indian** to win a medal in the decathlon

event at the Commonwealth Games.

Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026: India Wins Six Titles in New Delhi

- **India** won **six out of seven titles** at the **Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026** held in **New Delhi**, missing only the **men's doubles** title.

India Finishes Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2026 Glasgow Campaign with 39 Medals; Ranks Fourth Overall

- **India** concluded its campaign at the **Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2026** held in **Glasgow, Scotland** with a total of **39 medals**, including:
  - **13 Gold medals**
  - **17 Silver medals**
  - **9 Bronze medals**

R. Praggnanandhaa Wins Maiden Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026 Title

- **Indian Grandmaster (GM) R. Praggnanandhaa** won his **first Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz title** in the **2026 Grand Chess Tour (GCT), United States**.

India's First Gold Medal at FISU World University Squash Championships 2026

- **Suraj Kumar Chand** created history by becoming the **first Indian to win a gold medal** at the **FISU World University Squash Championships**, defeating **Hungary's Benedek Takács** in the men's final by **5–11, 11–8, 11–5, 6–11, 11–4**.

Gitika Talukdar Becomes Only Indian Female Photojournalist Accredited for FIFA World Cup 2026

- **Gitika Talukdar**, a sports photojournalist from **Northeast India**, became the **only Indian female photojournalist accredited to cover the FIFA World Cup 2026**.

Charles Leclerc Wins British Grand Prix 2026

- **Charles Leclerc of Ferrari** won the **British Grand Prix 2026** at the **Silverstone Circuit**, securing his first Formula One victory since 2024.

England Fast Bowler John Turner Retires from Professional Cricket at 25

- **John Turner**, England's fast bowler, announced his retirement from **professional cricket at the age of 25**, citing persistent injury problems.

Ariha Pangambam Becomes First Indian to Win Gold in Senior Women's Individual Aerobic Gymnastics at Asian Championships

- **Ariha Pangambam**, a **22-year-old gymnast from Manipur**, created history by becoming the **first Indian ever to win a gold medal in the Senior Individual Women's event** at the **Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships**.

India Wins Gold and Three Bronze Medals at International Linguistics Olympiad 2026

- **India won 1 Gold Medal, 3 Bronze Medals and 1 Honourable Mention** at the **International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) 2026**, held in **Romania**.

Magnus Carlsen Wins Esports World Cup Chess Title for Second Consecutive Year

- **World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway** won the **Esports World Cup (EWC) Chess Championship** for the **second consecutive year**, defeating **Belarusian Grandmaster (GM) Denis Lazavik 2–0** in the final in **Paris, France**.

Asian Junior Chess Championship 2026 – India Wins Both Blitz Titles

- **India made a strong start** to the **Asian Junior Chess Championship 2026**, with **Vignesh Vermula** and **Saranya Devi** winning the **Open Blitz** and **Girls' Blitz** titles, respectively.

65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2026 Begins in New Delhi

- The **65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2026** commenced at **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi**.

Ahmedabad to Host 2nd Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships 2026

- **Ahmedabad, Gujarat** will host the **2nd Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships** in **October 2026** at the **Veer Savarkar Sports Complex**.

Lando Norris Wins Dutch Grand Prix 2026; Kimi Antonelli Extends Formula 1 Championship Lead

- **Lando Norris** of **McLaren** won the **2026 Dutch Grand Prix** at **Zandvoort**, securing his **second consecutive Formula 1 victory**.

Indian Women Wrestlers Win Three Medals at Under-20 World Championships 2026

- **India won three medals** in women's wrestling at the **Under-20 World Championships 2026** held in **Slovakia**.

India's Men's Kabaddi Team Announced for Asian Games 2026

- **India has announced its 12-member men's kabaddi team** for the **2026 Asian Games**, to be held in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**.

Mitchell Starc Becomes Leading Wicket-Taker in ICC World Test Championship History

- **Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc** became the **leading wicket-taker in International Cricket Council (ICC) World Test Championship (WTC) history**, surpassing teammates **Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon**.

Pranesh M Wins Group A Title at Kanizsa Open 2026 in Hungary

- **Indian Grandmaster (GM) Pranesh M** won the **Group A title at the Kanizsa Open 2026** held in **Nagykanizsa, Hungary**.

Treesa Jolly–Gayatri Gopichand Win Historic Bronze at Badminton World Championships

- **Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand** won the **bronze medal** in the **women's doubles** event at the **Badminton World Championships**, creating history for Indian badminton.

East Bengal FC Wins Record-Equalling 17th Durand Cup 2026

- **East Bengal Football Club (FC)** defeated arch-rivals **Mohun Bagan Super Giant 4–1** in the final to win the **135th IndianOil Durand Cup 2026** at **Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium), Kolkata**.

17-Year-Old Apoorv Kamble Wins FIDE-Rated Rapid Chess Tournament in Bengaluru

- **17-year-old Apoorv Kamble** won the **Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)-rated rapid chess tournament** held in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

Karn Sharma Announces Retirement from All Formats of Competitive Cricket

- Indian leg-spinner **Karn Sharma** announced his retirement from **all formats of competitive cricket** at the age of **38**, bringing his nearly **two-decade-long professional career** to an end.

2028 India Open to be Hosted in Guwahati Due to Republic Day Security Arrangements

- The **2028 India Open badminton tournament** will be held in **Guwahati, Assam**, marking a **one-year relocation from New Delhi**.

R Praggnanandhaa Becomes First Indian to Win Grand Chess Tour Title

- **Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa** became the **first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) title**, defeating **Fabiano Caruana of the United States** in the grand finale at the **Saint Louis Chess Club**.

OBITUARIES

Name	Profession / Role	Native / Nationality
Glen Hansard	Irish singer-songwriter, musician, actor; co-founder of The Frames	Ballymun, Dublin, Ireland / Irish
Kailash Chandra Pant	Hindi writer, lecturer; Padma Shri recipient	Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India / Indian
Franco Baresi	Italian footballer; former AC Milan captain and defender	Travagliato, Lombardy, Italy / Italian

General Vishwa Nath Sharma	Former Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Indian Army	India / Indian
Nirmal Purja	Mountaineer; former Gurkha and Royal Navy Special Boat Service specialist	Myagdi, Gandaki Province, Nepal / Nepali-British
Dr. Dnyandeo Yashwantrao (D. Y.) Patil	Educationist; former Governor of Tripura and Bihar; Padma Shri recipient	Kasba Bawda, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India / Indian
N. S. Ramakanth	Civic activist; sustainable solid waste management activist	Bengaluru, Karnataka, India / Indian
Justice Manmohan Singh Liberhan	Former Chief Justice of Madras High Court and Andhra Pradesh High Court	Near Chandigarh, India / Indian
M. P. Parameswaran	Nuclear scientist, science communicator, writer and people's science activist	Kiralur, Thrissur, Kerala, India / Indian
Don Nelson	Former NBA basketball player and coach	Muskegon, Michigan, USA / American
Zhu Rongji	Former Premier of China; economic reform architect	Hunan Province, China / Chinese
Sumit Sarkar	Historian and scholar of modern Indian history	India / Indian
Major General Sunil Kumar Razdan	Retired Indian Army officer; Kirti Chakra & VSM recipient	Happy Valley, Shillong, Meghalaya, India / Indian
Chandrashekhar Y. Shilpi	Sculptor and master craftsman; National Award-winning artisan	Kakkera, Yadgir, Karnataka, India / Indian
Raja Sen	Bengali filmmaker and three-time National Film Award winner	Kolkata, West Bengal, India / Indian
William F. Rasmussen	Co-founder of ESPN; sports television pioneer	Chicago, USA / American
Sowcar Janaki	Veteran Indian actress; Padma Shri recipient	Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, India / Indian
Nanda Malini	Sri Lankan singer and musician	British Ceylon (Sri Lanka) / Sri Lankan
Sajjan Kumar	Former Indian National Congress MP	Delhi, India / Indian
Dolly Rebecca Parton	American singer, songwriter, actress and philanthropist	Sevier County, Tennessee, USA / American
Sonya Gill	Women's rights activist; former Maharashtra Secretary of AIDWA; co-founder/trustee of PARI	India / Indian