

JULY 2026

THE HINDU REVIEW

- **Monthly capsule**
- **Current Affairs**
(हिन्दी)



Economy



Appointment



Awards



Ranking



Government Scheme



Summit



Partnership



GDP



Banking & Financial



Defence



Sports



Book and Author



Science and technology

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Index

No. of Chapter	Topic Name
Chapter 1	Appointment (National, International)
Chapter 2	Awards (National, International)
Chapter 3	Government Scheme/ campaign
Chapter 4	Summit/ Conference
Chapter 5	Partnership/ Agreement
Chapter 6	Ranking Index
Chapter 7	Mergers and Acquisitions
Chapter 8	Loan
Chapter 9	App/Website/Portal
Chapter 10	Important MoU
Chapter 11	GDP Forecasting
Chapter 12	Current Affairs (National) In Short
Chapter 13	Current Affairs (International)
Chapter 14	Banking & Financial
Chapter 15	Committee
Chapter 16	Defence News
Chapter 17	Sports News
Chapter 18	Book and Author
Chapter 19	Important Day
Chapter 20	Science & Technology
Chapter 21	Obituary

Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

(National)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
The Board of Directors of HDFC Bank has approved the appointment as an Additional Director (Independent Director) and Part-Time Chairman	Rajiv Kumar (Updated 1 July)
DRiV has appointed as its National Brand Ambassador	Mahendra Singh Dhoni (MS Dhoni) (Updated 1 July)
Assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) of the Indian Air Force	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit (Updated 2 July)
Assumed charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)	Anupam Misra (Updated 3 July)
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a one-year extension in the tenure of Foreign Secretary	Vikram Misri (Updated 3 July)
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed as its Executive Director	Ravi Shankar (Updated 3 July)
Re-appointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on a contract basis for six months	Ravi Agrawal (Updated 3 July)
The Government of India has appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Malaysia	Somnath Ghosh (Updated 3 July)
Assumed charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Shipyard Limited	Rear Admiral (Retd.) C. Raghuram (Updated 7 July)

About Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HAL) • Established- 1941 • Ministry- Ministry of Defence • Headquarters - Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh • HSL is a 'Miniratna Category-I' Central Public enterprise.	
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of Axis Bank About Axis Bank • Founded - 1993 • Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra • MD & CEO - Amitabh Chaudhary • Tagline - Badhti Ka naam Zindagi	N. S. Vishwanathan (Updated 9 July)
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment as the Managing Director & CEO of South Indian Bank (SIB)	Mahesh Muralidhar Pai (Updated 10 July)
The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed as India's next Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), commonly known as North Korea	Sanjeev Jain (Updated 10 July)
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment as Director of NCRB,	Amit Garg (Updated 10 July)
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment as Director General of BPR&D	Alok Kumar Mittal (Updated 10 July)
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the as Director of SVPNPA	Sujeet Pandey (Updated 10 July)
InsuranceDekho appointed as its Brand Ambassador	Sourav Ganguly (Updated 11 July)

Jio Platforms Ltd. (JPL) has appointed as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Pankaj Pawar (Updated 16 July)
The Centre has appointed internationally renowned oceanographer as the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)	Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala (Updated 16 July)
Appointed as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) by the Ministry of Minority Affairs	Harjit Singh Grewal (Updated 20 July)
Policybazaar has appointed as its new Brand Ambassador	Amitabh Bachchan (Updated 22 July)
Entrusted with the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of IRCTC	Rahul Himalian (Updated 22 July)
The Central Government has appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog <i>About NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)</i> • <i>Founded - 1st January 2015</i> • <i>Preceding - Planning Commission (15th March 1950)</i> • <i>Headquarters - New Delhi</i> • <i>Chairperson - Narendra Modi</i>	Anurag Jain (Updated 23 July)
Taken charge as the Interim President of FIDE (International Chess Federation)	Viswanathan Anand (Updated 26 July)
Assumed charge as the Union Education Minister after the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan	Pralhad Joshi (Updated 27 July)
Appointed as Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)	Satya Pal Kumar (2005-batch IRS, Income Tax cadre) (Updated 28 July)

Assumed charge as the Secretary, Ministry of Mines	Keshav Chandra (Updated 29 July)
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(International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
Peru has elected as President after she won the presidential runoff election	Keiko Fujimori (Updated 7 July)
Inducted into the global supervisory board of Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, subject to regulatory approval About Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) <i>Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication is a global financial messaging network that enables secure and standardised communication between banks and financial institutions for cross-border transactions.</i> <i>SWIFT was established in 1973 and is headquartered in La Hulpe, Belgium.</i> <i>It connects over 11,000 financial institutions across more than 200 countries and territories, facilitating international payments, securities transactions, and trade finance.</i>	Dilip Asbe (Updated 7 July)
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has appointed as its new Chief Economist and Economic Counsellor	Silvana Tenreyro (Updated 10 July)

Assumed office as the President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) About Financial Action Task Force (FATF) • <i>Founded - 1989</i> • <i>Headquarters - Paris, France</i> • <i>Membership - 40</i> • <i>President - Giles Thomson (United Kingdom)</i>	Giles Thomson (United Kingdom) (Updated 11 July)
Appointed as the Player Ambassador of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF), the governing body for tennis in Asia	Olympic medallist Leander Paes (Updated 11 July)
Ukraine's Parliament approved as the new Prime Minister following a nomination by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy About Ukraine • <i>Capital- Kyiv</i> • <i>Currency - Hryvnia</i> • <i>President - Volodymyr Zelenskyy</i>	Serhii Koretskyi (Updated 20 July)
Became the 59th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom About UK • <i>Capital: London</i> • <i>Currency: Pound sterling</i>	Burnham (Updated 22 July)
Elected as the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	Senegal President Bassirou Diomaye Faye (Updated 22 July)
Bangladesh President resigned, citing health reasons About Bangladesh • <i>Capital- Dhaka</i> • <i>Currency - Taka</i> • <i>Prime Minister - Tarique Rahman</i>	Mohammed Shahabuddin (Updated 27 July)

Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

(National)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
The prestigious Whitley Award, popularly known as the "Green Oscar"	Indian conservationists Parveen Shaikh and Barkha Subba	The award for protecting the endangered Indian Skimmer through the "Guardians of the Skimmer" initiative , launched with the Bombay Natural History Society along the Chambal River , where local volunteers safeguard bird nesting sites
The Gold Award in the "Innovation by Use of AI and Other New Age Technologies for Providing Citizen-Centric Services" category at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026	ICMR-MINDS, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) flagship AI-powered digital mental healthcare initiative	ICMR-MINDS uses an Artificial Intelligence-enabled Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) to assist frontline healthcare workers in screening, assessing, and managing mental and substance use disorders, while integrating mental healthcare with the treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
The 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation	Jestha Varna Mahavihar	The monastery was damaged in the 2015 Nepal earthquake and later reconstructed with the assistance of the Government of India under its post-earthquake reconstruction

		programme in Nepal's cultural heritage sector.
The 60th Jnanpith Award (2025)	Renowned Tamil poet, lyricist, and writer R. Vairamuthu	The award recognises Vairamuthu's outstanding contribution to Tamil literature , celebrated for its emotional depth, cultural richness, and distinctive poetic style developed over several decades.
The 72nd National Film Awards (2024) Best Feature Film Honour	Article 370	-
The Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026	National Security Adviser Ajit Doval	For his exceptional contribution to India's national security, counter-terrorism operations, covert missions, and border security , including his role in Operation Black Thunder, the Doklam negotiations, and the Balakot air strike .

(International)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
The AAPI Humanitarian Award	Nita Ambani	For her contributions to healthcare, education, sports, culture, and community development through humanitarian initiatives .
The 'Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of	PM Narendra Modi	The award recognises Prime Minister Modi's leadership and exceptional

Indonesia', Indonesia's highest civilian honour		contribution to strengthening India– Indonesia bilateral relations and enhancing strategic cooperation between the two countries.
The Fortune India Most Powerful Women Honour	Nita Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of the Reliance Foundation	Recognition of Leadership: The Fortune India honour recognises outstanding leadership, business excellence, and contributions to social impact
The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2026 in the Enabling Environment category	India's Samriddh Gram Initiative, launched by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the BharatNet Project	The initiative delivers integrated phygital services through Samriddhi Kendras, providing healthcare, education, agriculture support, governance, financial inclusion, e-commerce, telemedicine, digital classrooms, and high-speed broadband connectivity in rural areas.
The 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026	India Debadatta Priyadarshi (Odisha), Harshit Singla (Punjab), Kabeer Chillar (Delhi), and Sandeep Kuchi (Telangana).	Four team members winning gold medals for the first time

Awards 2026: Complete winners list

Nita Ambani Receives Fortune India Most Powerful Women Honour

- **Nita Ambani**, Founder and Chairperson of the Reliance Foundation, received the **Fortune India Most Powerful Women Honour at the Fortune India Most Powerful Women event held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
- **Top Women Leaders:** The Top Five Most Powerful Women in India include Nita Ambani (1st), Roshni Nadar (2nd), the Reddy Sisters of Apollo Hospitals (3rd), Savitri Jindal (4th), and Dr. Priti Adani (5th).
- **Recognition of Leadership:** The Fortune India honour recognises outstanding leadership, business excellence, and contributions to social impact, highlighting the achievements of India's most influential women leaders.

'Article 370' Tops the 72nd National Film Awards 2024 with Best Feature Film Honour

- The **72nd National Film Awards (2024)** were announced, with **Article 370** winning the **Best Feature Film** award and **Yami Gautam** receiving the **Best Actress** award for the same film.
- The **Best Actor** award was jointly won by **Mammootty** (*Bramayugam*) and **Kartik Aaryan** (*Chandu Champion*).
- **Rajkumar Periasamy** won the **Best Director** award for *Amaran*, while **Kalki 2898 AD** was adjudged **Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment**.
- **Randeep Hooda's Swatantrya Veer Savarkar** won the **Best Debut Film** of a Director, while **Captain Miller** received the award for **Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values**.
- In the **Non-Feature Film** category, **Bhangaar** won **Best Non-Feature Film**, **Ram-Nami** was named **Best Documentary**, and **Kenchanuru Pradeep Kumar Shetty** received the **Best Book on Cinema** award.

Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

SCHEME	PURPOSE
The 'Gyanodaya – Shiksharu Samruddhi' Scheme (Odisha)	To promote equitable access to education across the state .
'Gen Z Tech Loan'	To help undergraduate and higher-level students purchase laptops and tablets for educational purposes .

**Kerala State Cooperative
Bank (Kerala Bank)**

Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
The BRICS Women Working Group (WWG) Meeting	Kochi	The meeting is guided by India's BRICS Chairship theme, " Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability ," with discussions focusing on women in governance, digital & financial inclusion, entrepreneurship & skill development, and climate action, food security & nutrition.
The 36th North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Summit	Ankara, Türkiye	The summit brings together NATO member states and partner countries to discuss defence spending, strengthening collective deterrence and defence capabilities, continued support for Ukraine, and enhanced defence industrial cooperation and innovation.
The BRICS Women Ministerial Meeting	Kochi, Kerala	The meeting marked a major step in enhancing cooperation among BRICS member countries to promote women-led development and strengthen women's participation across social, economic, and leadership domains
The 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting	Chandigarh	Theme- " Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability "
The Laghu Udyog Bharati Pharma Conclave 2026	New Delhi	Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers J.P. Nadda inaugurated the Laghu Udyog Bharati Pharma Conclave 2026 highlighting the pharmaceutical sector's role in innovation, employment generation, and affordable healthcare.
The 2nd Bharat Green Hydrogen Summit 2026	New Delhi	Theme: Positioning India as a Global Hydrogen Hub

Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with the Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement	To engage two fellows under the Embark India Development Fellowship
The Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan signed the Yamuna Water Project Agreement in New Delhi	Under the agreement, around 580 Million Cubic Meters (MCM) of Yamuna water will be supplied to Rajasthan through three underground pipelines from the Hathnikund Barrage via the Western Yamuna Canal system during the monsoon season.
Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Mizuho Bank, the banking arm of Mizuho Financial Group (Japan), have entered into a strategic partnership	To strengthen collaboration in mergers and acquisitions (M&A) financing and related financial services.
CSIR and IP Australia signed an agreement	To provide IP Australia access to the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (CSIR-TKDL) during the 3rd India–Australia Annual Summit held in Melbourne in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.
India and New Zealand elevated their bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership	Signing 10 agreements and MoUs covering defence, trade, maritime security, disaster management, agriculture, tourism, sports, culture, scientific research, and education, along with the launch of the India–New Zealand Roadmap to 2030
India and New Zealand elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership	Both countries signed key agreements, including a reciprocal logistics support pact, a maritime security dialogue, and a roadmap to strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region

India and Romania signed three agreements	To strengthen cooperation in Science & Technology, Education, and Sports during delegation-level talks between President Droupadi Murmu and Romanian President Nicușor Dan in Bucharest.
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Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank
The Global Passport Index 2026	Global Citizen Solutions	125th	Sweden
The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Global Liveability Index 2026	-	120th New Delhi	Copenhagen (Denmark)
Investment Friendliness Index (IFI)	NITI Aayog	-	Gujarat

NITI Aayog Releases Investment Friendliness Index; Gujarat Tops Rankings with Four Other States

- NITI Aayog has launched the **Investment Friendliness Index (IFI)** to rank States and Union Territories based on the quality of their investment ecosystem.
- The IFI evaluates regions on key parameters including infrastructure, business climate, financial health, regulatory environment, and government policies.
- States and UTs are classified into four categories: **Top Performers (above 50)**, **Frontrunners (45–50)**, **Emerging Performers (40–<45)**, and **Aspiring States (below 40)**.
- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Odisha have emerged as the **Top Performers** in the Investment Friendliness Index.

Category	States / Union Territories
Top Performers	Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu
Frontrunners	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh

Category	States / Union Territories
Emerging Performers	Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Puducherry, Punjab, West Bengal
Aspiring States	Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim

- States and Union Territories were evaluated under three peer groups: Large States, Hilly & North-Eastern States, and Union Territories & City States.
 - Among the Large States, Gujarat secured the 1st rank in the Investment Friendliness Index.
 - Uttarakhand emerged as the top-ranked state in the Hilly and North-Eastern States category.
 - Goa ranked first among Union Territories & City States, followed by Delhi and Chandigarh.

Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Merger Company	About
Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) has announced the acquisition of Deutsche Bank India's retail banking, private banking, and wealth management business for ₹281.7 crore	The acquisition is expected to be completed by September 2027 , strengthening Kotak Mahindra Bank's presence in the retail and wealth management segments .
State Bank of India (SBI) will acquire National Housing Bank (NHB)'s 10% stake in RMBS Development Company (RDCL), a middle-layer NBFC dedicated to residential mortgage-backed securitisation (RMBS)	Following the transaction, NHB's shareholding in RDCL will reduce from 39% to 29% , while SBI's entry as a shareholder is expected to strengthen RDCL's role as a specialised intermediary for India's mortgage-backed securities market.
BNP Paribas Cardif to Acquire 26% Stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance from Warburg Pincus	BNP Paribas Cardif has signed a definitive agreement to acquire a 25.96% (around 26%) stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company from Warburg Pincus (Caramel Point Investments India Pvt. Ltd.) , subject to regulatory approvals.

IRDAI has approved the acquisition of Magma General Insurance by Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group from Adar Poonawalla-owned Sanoti Properties, clearing the deal valued at ₹4,500 crore	Under the share purchase agreement (SPA), Patanjali Ayurved will acquire a 73.56% stake, while DS Group will acquire a 24.50% stake in Magma General Insurance.
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Chapter 8: Loan

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	A USD 230 million	Chennai	The project aims to improve access to safe and reliable drinking water, strengthen sanitation services, enhance climate resilience, improve public health, and create a more efficient and financially sustainable urban water system

Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

Chapter 10: Important MoU

MoU	Between Which Countries
Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen public safety, traffic management, and urban mobility across the state	Gujarat Police with Bharat Taxi (Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited)
Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the digital promotion of India's tourism destinations	The Ministry of Tourism with Google India
Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conduct India's largest village-level telecom network performance survey	The Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications) and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
The MoU aims to promote joint technical research, standardisation activities, innovation, and collaborative studies in broadcasting technologies	The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the technical arm of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) with Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL).

Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the critical minerals sector	GAIL (India) Limited with Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL)
Signed an MoU to establish the ASCENT (Advanced Space Capability, Engineering and New-space Technologies) Centre at the MAHE Manipal campus, Karnataka	Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) and Dhruva Space
Signed an MoU to establish a Quantum Finance Innovation Hub at the Amaravati Quantum Computing Centre, becoming the first bank in India to partner with a state government for such an initiative	Punjab National Bank (PNB) with the Andhra Pradesh Quantum Mission
Signed an MoU to finance and promote green, climate-resilient, and sustainable infrastructure in rural India, with a special focus on Maharashtra	NABARD and Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology (MAHAPREIT)
Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote India as a preferred global tourism destination under the 'Incredible India' brand	The Ministry of Tourism with Air India

Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

IMF Revises India's FY2026-27 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.4%

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has revised India's **GDP growth forecast for FY 2026-27** downward by 0.1 percentage point (10 basis points) to 6.4%, according to its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO).
- The IMF has raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2027-28 to 6.7%, indicating stronger medium-term economic growth prospects.

Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

Herbalife India & IIT Madras Launch India's First Plant Cell Fermentation Centre

- **Herbalife International India Pvt. Ltd.** and **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** have jointly launched **India's first Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Plant Cell Fermentation Technology** to promote research in sustainable biomanufacturing and plant-based health solutions.
- The Centre will support the development of herbal biomass, enriched herbal extracts, and high-value plant compounds, while bringing together researchers,

students, entrepreneurs, and industry experts to translate scientific innovations into commercial applications.

IIT Bombay Signs LoI with SUNY Old Westbury

- **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay** and **State University of New York at Old Westbury** signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) in New York to enhance academic and research collaboration.
- The partnership aims to promote joint research and educational cooperation in engineering, Artificial Intelligence (AI), multidisciplinary research, and higher education, strengthening academic ties between India and the United States.

Foundation Stone Laid for Amber-Ascent-K Circuits Manufacturing Plant in Jewar

- **Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Bhupender Yadav**, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, laid the **foundation stone for the Amber-Ascent-K Circuits manufacturing plant in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The new manufacturing facility is expected to strengthen India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem and support the Make in India initiative by boosting domestic production.

Central Bank of India Opens IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City

- **Central Bank of India** has inaugurated its **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City** to strengthen its **international banking operations**.
- The new IBU will cater to the foreign currency funding requirements of corporate clients by offering services such as foreign currency loans, trade finance, treasury operations, and risk management solutions.

India's Industrial Output Grows 5.1% in May 2026

- **According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 5.1% year-on-year in May 2026**, up from 4.9% in April 2026, driven mainly by improved manufacturing activity.
- The strongest growth was recorded in the electricity and gas supply sector (9.9%), while manufacturing and water supply, sewerage & waste management each expanded by 5.5%. However, the mining and quarrying sector contracted by 1.6%.

JUMPP Receives NPCI Approval as UPI TPAP

- **JUMPP**, an AI-powered fintech platform, has received approval from the National Payments Corporation of India to operate as a **Third Party Application Provider (TPAP)**, enabling users to access UPI payment services directly through the JUMPP app.
- Founded in 2025 by Sarvjeet Singh Virk, JUMPP offers digital investment solutions, including Digital Gold, Mutual Funds (MFs), and Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs).

SBI Raises \$300 Million Through 3-Year Floating Rate Notes

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has successfully raised **\$300 million** by issuing **3-year senior unsecured floating rate notes** to attract foreign currency investments.
- The notes carry a coupon rate of **SOFR + 100 basis points (bps)** per annum, with interest payable quarterly in arrears, and have been issued under Regulation-S.

Go East Initiative: Odisha Launches Investment Acceleration Programme

- **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi** launched the **"Go East" initiative** to boost industrial investment in Odisha and eastern India through a dedicated investment facilitation mechanism.
- The initiative establishes a high-level Special Task Force, a **"Go East Cell"** within IPICOL, and a digital **"Go Swift"** platform for real-time monitoring of investment approvals and project implementation.

IIT Delhi and Sorbonne University Launch Joint Master's & PhD Programmes

- **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi** and **Sorbonne University** have launched a joint **Master's programme in Biological Science** and a joint **PhD programme** to strengthen academic collaboration, advanced research, innovation, and student mobility.
- A high-level IIT Delhi delegation led by Director Prof. Banerjee visited Sorbonne University to deepen bilateral cooperation and explore collaborations in Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, Robotics, Material Science, Informatics, and other interdisciplinary fields.

Union Cabinet Approves ₹30,000 Crore Additional Investment in NIIF

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved an **additional ₹30,000 crore investment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund**, increasing the Government of India's total commitment to **₹60,000 crore**.
- The additional investment will support the launch of NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, a successor to its flagship infrastructure fund, with a target corpus of around ₹30,000 crore for investments in transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, urban infrastructure, and e-mobility.

Centre notifies minimum wage ₹300/day under VB-G RAM G

- The **Central Government** has notified revised wage rates under the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-G RAM G)**, which came into force on 1 July 2026, replacing MGNREGA.
- The national average daily wage has been increased to ₹327.4 from ₹298.8 under the repealed MGNREGA, reflecting an average hike of over 10%.

Eight Traditional Products of Himachal Pradesh Receive GI Tag

- **Eight traditional products of Himachal Pradesh** have been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**, recognising their unique origin, authenticity, and cultural heritage.

- The newly GI-tagged products are: Seabuckthorn (Spiti), Salooni Safed Makka, Chamba Metal Art, Sirmauri Loiya, Kinnauri Topi, Sepuvadi, Kinnauri Apple, and Kinnauri Jewellery.

Maruti Suzuki Inaugurates Mega Vehicle Manufacturing Plant at IMT Kharkhoda, Haryana

- **Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.** inaugurated its **state-of-the-art vehicle manufacturing facility** at **IMT Kharkhoda, Haryana**, marking one of India's largest automobile production investments.
- The plant has an initial annual production capacity of 5 lakh vehicles, expandable to 10 lakh vehicles, with a planned investment of ₹35,000 crore.

India Represents at Funeral of Former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

- Minister of State for External Affairs **Pabitra Margherita** and **Bihar Governor Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain** represented India at the funeral ceremony of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran.
- They paid their respects on behalf of the Government and the people of India after Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in US-Israeli strikes on February 28, was laid to rest.

Digital India Programme Completes 11 Years with Focus on AI and Semiconductor Manufacturing

- The **Digital India Programme**, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 July 2015, **completed 11 years on 1 July 2026** and is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Digital India is built on three key visions: accessible and secure digital infrastructure for every citizen, on-demand digital government services, and promotion of digital literacy and universal digital access.

Odisha Cabinet Approves Deep Sea Fishing Mission

- The **Odisha Cabinet**, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, approved the **Deep Sea Fishing Mission with an outlay of ₹2,295.45 crore** to promote the Blue Economy and establish Odisha as a leading marine export hub.
- The mission will be **implemented during 2026-2036** by the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department to harness the state's offshore fisheries potential and boost marine exports.

DGCA Conducts India's 1st SLS Approach Trial on Airbus A320 Using GAGAN System at Udaipur, Rajasthan

- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** successfully conducted **India's first Satellite-Based Landing System (SLS) approach on an Airbus A320** at Udaipur using the GAGAN navigation system.
- The GAGAN (GPS-Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) system was jointly developed by ISRO and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and enables precision-like aircraft landings without requiring an Instrument Landing System (ILS).

India Approves First Pins Instrument Approach Procedure for Safer Helicopter Operations

- **India** has approved its **first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) instrument** approach procedure for helicopter operations at **Undavalli Heliport Andhra Pradesh**, enabling safe and precise satellite-based instrument approaches without conventional landing infrastructure.
- The PinS procedure, developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), enhances flight safety and ensures reliable helicopter operations, especially in adverse weather and areas lacking ground-based navigation aids.

Union Minister Inaugurates Common Incubation Centre in Maharashtra

- **Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan** inaugurated an advanced **Common Incubation Centre at the College of Food Technology, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (Maharashtra)** under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.
- The Common Incubation Centre will provide shared food processing infrastructure, entrepreneur training, product development, and quality testing facilities, enabling micro and small food processing enterprises to access modern technologies.

Ayushman Sarathi PM-JAY Chatbot Launched

- **Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda** launched the **Ayushman Sarathi PM-JAY Chatbot** in New Delhi. Developed by the National Health Authority (NHA), the WhatsApp-based chatbot provides 24×7 digital access to Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) services.
- The chatbot enables beneficiaries to check PM-JAY eligibility, apply for and download Ayushman Cards, complete eKYC, link Aadhaar, and lock or unlock PM-JAY cards, making health services more accessible and user-friendly.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates India's First Greenfield Refinery in a Decade at Rajasthan's Pachpadra

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (India's 24th Refinery) at Pachpadra, Balotra district, Rajasthan**, marking the commissioning of India's first greenfield refinery in a decade.
- Built at a cost of ₹79,459 crore, the refinery is expected to enhance India's refining and petrochemical production and support the country's expanding refining capacity.

Ministry of Law and Justice Concludes 'Reforms Utsav & Chintan Shivir 2026

- **Ministry of Law and Justice** successfully concluded the '**Reforms Utsav & Chintan Shivir 2026**', jointly organised by the **Legislative Department and the Department of Legal Affairs at Gyan Sarovar**.

- The event was inaugurated by Arjun Ram Meghwal, who addressed senior officials and emphasised reforms for strengthening India's legal and legislative framework.

Mukesh Ambani, Lakshmi Mittal & Sunil Bharti Mittal Join AI for Good Global Commission

- **Mukesh Ambani, Lakshmi Mittal, and Sunil Bharti Mittal** are the three Indian members of the **AI for Good Global Commission**, a global initiative promoting responsible and inclusive use of Artificial Intelligence.
- The Commission comprises over 40 founding members, including heads of state, government leaders, CEOs, senior executives, and UN agency heads, to develop practical pathways for trustworthy AI, wider access, and AI-driven solutions to global challenges.

Kirti Vardhan Singh to Represent India at Inaugural UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance

- **Kirti Vardhan Singh** will represent **India at the inaugural United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance, to be held in Geneva.**
- The United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance is a new forum established by the United Nations General Assembly to promote international cooperation and discussions on the governance and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

PM Narendra Modi Launches Viksit UDAN Scheme, Inaugurates New Terminal at Jodhpur Airport

- **Narendra Modi** launched the **Viksit UDAN Scheme**, the next phase of India's regional air connectivity initiative, to improve affordable air travel in Tier-2, Tier-3 cities and remote regions.
- The scheme has an **outlay of over ₹28,840 crore** and aims to develop 100+ new aerodromes and 200 helipads, significantly expanding regional aviation infrastructure across the country.

₹2,500 Crore Defence Manufacturing Plant to Be Set Up in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh

- **Jyotiraditya Scindia and Mohan Yadav** laid the foundation stone for a **₹2,500 crore defence manufacturing plant in Shivpuri, to be developed by Adani Group.**
- At the event, Jeet Adani announced that the Adani Group aims to create 1.20 lakh jobs in Madhya Pradesh by 2030, boosting employment and industrial development in the state.

Chandannagar's Famous Jalbhara Sweet Receives Geographical Indication Tag

- **Jalbhara (Jalbhara Sandesh)** from Chandannagar, Hooghly district, West Bengal, received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, recognising its 220-year-old confectionery heritage.

- In India, GI registration is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, and is administered by the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai.

Project SAMARTH Launched at IIT Gandhinagar to Boost India's Semiconductor Talent and R&D

- **Project SAMARTH** (Silicon and Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research and Training Hub) is being **established at IIT Gandhinagar**, Gujarat with a total budget of ₹190 crore to strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing, research, and skill development ecosystem.
- The project is a **joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat, and IIT Gandhinagar**, with construction work beginning on 2 March 2026.

Tamil Nadu Becomes India's Fastest-Growing Merchandise Exporting State in FY26

- **Tamil Nadu** emerged as **India's fastest-growing merchandise exporting state in FY26**, recording total exports of \$59.3 billion, a 13.7% year-on-year (YoY) increase despite global trade tensions and geopolitical challenges.
- With nearly \$20 billion in electronics exports, Tamil Nadu accounted for 42% of India's total electronic goods exports in FY26, reinforcing its position as the country's leading electronics manufacturing and export hub.

MoSPI Report: Prayagraj and Patna Record Highest Unemployment Among India's Million-Plus Cities

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the report "**Labour Market Dynamics in Million-plus Cities**", based on the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025, covering 46 cities with a population of over 10 lakh, using data from more than 19,000 households and around 60,000 persons (aged 15 years and above).
- **Prayagraj and Patna recorded the highest unemployment rates (above 20%)**, whereas Ahmedabad and Kolkata reported the lowest unemployment rates (below 2.5%). The average unemployment rate across all 46 million-plus cities stood at 6.8%, broadly matching India's overall urban unemployment rate.

Government to Sell Up to 5.04% Stake in Cochin Shipyard Through Offer for Sale (OFS)

- The **Government of India** has announced an **Offer for Sale (OFS) to divest up to 5.04%** stake in Cochin Shipyard Ltd as part of its disinvestment programme.
- Under the base offer, the government will initially sell 2.52% of Cochin Shipyard's paid-up equity share capital.

Adani Enterprises and Abu Dhabi's IRH to Invest ₹1.08 Lakh Crore in Odisha's Greenfield Aluminium Project

- **Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL)** and **International Resources Holding (IRH), Abu Dhabi**, have signed an **MoU with the Government of Odisha** to develop

an integrated greenfield aluminium project with an investment of \$11.5 billion (₹1.08 lakh crore) through a 50:50 joint venture.

- The project includes a 4 MMTPA alumina refinery in Rayagada, a 2 MMTPA aluminium smelter, a 4,000 MW captive power plant, and a 1 MMTPA downstream manufacturing park in Sundargarh, with bauxite sourced from Odisha Mining Corporation and Adani-owned mines.

Delhi Government Approves ₹8,300-Crore 'Clean Air, Healthy Delhi' Project with World Bank Support

- **The Government of Delhi** has approved the **₹8,300-crore "Clean Air, Healthy Delhi" project**, a seven-year initiative (September 2026–August 2033) aimed at reducing air pollution, **with 65% funding from the World Bank and the remaining 35% from the Delhi government.**
- The project seeks to strengthen air quality management by establishing a Project Management Unit (PMU), enhancing air quality monitoring systems, improving data analytics, and creating an Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)-based monitoring framework.

DGCA Certifies Embraer's Larger E-Jets for Commercial Operations in India

- Embraer has received type certification from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the larger variants of its E-Jets, enabling their commercial entry into service in India.
- At present, around 50 Embraer civil and military aircraft operate in India. Star Air, Embraer's only airline customer in the country, currently operates eight E175 jets and plans to introduce two E190 aircraft following the DGCA approval.

IIM Bangalore to Establish Its First Overseas Campus in Indonesia

- **Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM Bangalore)** will establish its **first overseas campus at the Singhasari Special Economic Zone**, marking its first international expansion.
- The overseas campus will be developed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PT Intelegensia Grahatama, the managing and development entity of the Singhasari SEZ in Malang, East Java.

Sikkim Mountaineer Tshering Choden Climbs Mount Elbrus, Advances Towards Seven Summits Goal

- **Sikkim mountaineer Tshering Choden** has successfully scaled **Mount Elbrus (5,642 metres)**, the highest peak in Europe, adding another milestone in her pursuit of the Seven Summits challenge.
- The 37-year-old mountaineer from Chongay in Gangtok had earlier summited Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, in August 2025.

PM Narendra Modi Becomes First Indian Prime Minister to Address Indonesia's Parliament

- **Narendra Modi** became the **first Indian Prime Minister to address the Parliament of Indonesia**, where he called for a new era in bilateral relations

based on shared civilisational heritage, democratic values, and a common future vision.

- PM Modi highlighted the over 2,000 years of India–Indonesia civilisational ties through trade, culture, ideas, and maritime connections, and emphasized shared values such as “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (The World is One Family) and Indonesia’s motto “Bhinneka Tunggal Ika” (Unity in Diversity).

PM Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Inaugurate India-Supported Restoration Project at Prambanan Temple

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto** jointly inaugurated the **India-supported restoration and conservation project at the Prambanan Temple Compounds**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Indonesia, highlighting the two countries' shared civilisational heritage.
- The initiative reflects the commitment of India and Indonesia to strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through cultural diplomacy, heritage conservation, and deeper people-to-people ties.

Kamarajar Port Becomes India's Second Major Port with 18-Metre Operational Draft

- **Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL)**, Tamil Nadu, has become **India's second major port**, after Visakhapatnam Port, to **achieve an operational draft of 18 metres, enabling it to handle fully laden Capesize vessels carrying up to 1,70,000 DWT**.
- The project deepened the outer approach channel to 23 metres, the inner entrance channel to 22 metres, and increased the berth draft to 18 metres, enhancing the port's capacity to accommodate some of the world's largest bulk cargo vessels and strengthening India's maritime competitiveness.

Sirsa Kinnow Receives GI Tag, Becomes Haryana's First Exclusive GI-Tagged Fruit

- **Sirsa Kinnow** has been granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the Geographical Indications Registry under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- With this recognition, Sirsa Kinnow has become Haryana's first fruit and the state's first exclusive GI-tagged product.

Uttarakhand Becomes India's Sixth Fully Literate State Under NEP 2020

- **Uttarakhand** has become **the sixth fully literate State in India** after achieving the prescribed adult literacy benchmarks under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the ULLAS – New India Literacy Programme**.
- The declaration was approved by the Governor on 8 July 2026, following the fulfilment of literacy standards set by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

Centre Expands PM-SETU Scheme to 200 ITI Clusters, Approves ₹1,237.58 Crore Investment Plans

- The **Central Government** has approved the **nationwide expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)** scheme to 200 Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters, along with investment plans worth ₹1,237.58 crore.
- The approvals were cleared at the 4th meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), with implementation based on states' readiness and industry participation.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches 'Pragati' Project to Empower 20,000 Agricultural Entrepreneurs and 20 Lakh Farmers

- Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **PRAGATI (Promoting Regenerative Agriculture Through Agri-Entrepreneurship Initiative)** to empower over 20,000 agricultural entrepreneurs and benefit around 20 lakh farmers across the country.
- Under the initiative, the government will train 26,000 small agricultural entrepreneurs, who will work at the village level and collaborate with 100–200 farmers to improve agricultural productivity.

Union Minister Jual Oram Launches TribeX Digital Learning Platform to Preserve India's Tribal Heritage

- Union Tribal Affairs Minister **Jual Oram** launched the **TribeX digital learning platform** during the **National Workshop on Strengthening Tribal Research Institutes** in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- TribeX currently offers 20 free certificate courses on tribal paintings, handicrafts, and musical instruments, along with UGC-recognised postgraduate diploma programmes in tribal languages, art forms, crafts, and indigenous knowledge systems.

Novo Nordisk Launches Once-Weekly Insulin 'Awiqli'

- **Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk** has launched **Awiqli (Insulin Icodec)**, the **world's first once-weekly basal insulin** for adults with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.
- Awiqli (700-unit pack) is priced at ₹2,611 (₹3.73 per unit), making it around 30–40% cheaper than many currently available daily basal insulin options.

Tripura Makes Full Version of Vande Mataram and National Anthem Mandatory in All Schools

- **Tripura** has made the **full version of the National Song Vande Mataram** and the National Anthem Jana Gana Mana compulsory in all government, government-aided, private schools, and recognised madrassas.
- Under the new school assembly protocol, the day will begin with the full rendition of Vande Mataram followed by Jana Gana Mana, with students, teachers, and staff required to stand at attention during the performance.

Bhupender Yadav Inaugurates Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Launches National Conflict Portal

- **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav** inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (COE) on Human-Wildlife Conflict at the **Wildlife Institute of India-Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology** and Natural History (WII-SACON), Coimbatore.
- He also launched the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal, a digital platform aimed at strengthening the management and mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts across India.

World Bank Approves \$890 Million to Boost PM Surya Ghar Rooftop Solar Programme in India

- The **World Bank** has approved an **\$890 million financing package** to support India's PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, aimed at accelerating rooftop solar adoption across the country.
- The financing package **includes an \$820 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, a **\$60 million concessional loan from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF)**, and a **\$10 million grant from the IBRD's Livable Planet Fund**.

MoHFW Launches Monthly NHM Webinar Series to Promote Healthcare Innovation and Best Practices

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** launched a monthly webinar series under the National Health Mission (NHM) **on World Population Day 2026** to promote **healthcare innovation**, knowledge sharing, and strengthen public health systems across States and Union Territories.
- The inaugural webinar, themed **"Anemia, Child and Adolescent Health,"** showcased successful initiatives including Jharkhand's Anemia Mukh Bharat T4 App and HBNC/HBYC programme, Chhattisgarh's Chirayu Day (RBSK), and Madhya Pradesh's adolescent obesity initiative.

India Successfully Concludes 'Operation Amistad' Humanitarian Mission in Earthquake-Hit Venezuela

- **India** successfully concluded **Operation Amistad**, its **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission to earthquake-hit Venezuela**, reaffirming its commitment to supporting partner nations during humanitarian crises.
- Launched on 26 June 2026, the mission deployed a 41-member medical team from the Indian Army's 60 Para Field Hospital Unit aboard two Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, carrying two BHISHM Cubes, 6 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment, and 30 tonnes of emergency relief supplies.

Delhi Makes Pink Saheli Smart Card Mandatory for Free Bus Travel from August 1, 2026

- **Pink Saheli Smart Card** is a **digital travel card for women and transgender residents of Delhi (12 years and above)**, launched on 2 March 2026, and integrated with the One Nation, One Card (National Common Mobility Card - NCMC) framework.

- From 1 August 2026, the card will become mandatory for availing free travel on Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and cluster buses, while pink paper tickets will remain valid only until 31 July 2026.

ONGC to Build 1.75 MMT Strategic Petroleum Reserve in Mangalore to Strengthen India's Energy Security

- **ONGC** will build a **new 1.75 million metric tonne (MMT) Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in Mangalore, Karnataka**, to strengthen India's energy security and emergency crude oil storage capacity.
- India currently has 5.33 MMT of strategic crude oil storage at Mangalore, Padur, and Visakhapatnam (Vizag), managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. (ISPRL), with part of the capacity commercially leased.

Aero India 2027 to Showcase India's Defence Strength at Bengaluru's Yelahanka Air Force Station

- **Aero India 2027** will be the **16th edition of Asia's largest airshow**, to be held at **Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru, Karnataka**. It is a biennial event organised under the Ministry of Defence, with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) as the nodal agency.
- The Government aims to achieve ₹3 lakh crore in defence manufacturing and ₹50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029–30, with Aero India playing a key role in strengthening India's indigenous defence and aerospace ecosystem.

Rajasthan Becomes First Indian State to Sign Clean Energy Framework with International Solar Alliance

- **Rajasthan** became the **first Indian state to sign the Framework for Action – Advanced Clean Energy, Driven Sustainable Development with the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** to accelerate clean energy expansion and modernise its power sector.
- The partnership supports Rajasthan's target of 125 GW of clean energy capacity, focusing on renewable energy expansion, transmission upgrades, battery storage, smart grids, digitalisation, energy efficiency, and policy reforms during 2030–35.

Assam to Develop India's First State-Owned Earth Observation Satellite System 'AssamSAT'

- **Assam** will develop **AssamSAT**, India's first State-owned Earth Observation Satellite System, to provide real-time satellite-based data for governance and development.
- AssamSAT will support disaster management, flood monitoring, agriculture, and natural resource monitoring, enhancing data-driven planning and emergency response across the state.

Harela Festival Celebrated in Uttarakhand to Mark the Beginning of the Holy Month of Sawan

- **Harela**, one of the most significant traditional **festivals of Uttarakhand's Kumaon region**, is celebrated to mark the beginning of the holy month of Sawan (Shravan).
- The festival is dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and symbolizes prosperity, greenery, environmental conservation, and the arrival of the monsoon season.

ICMR to Establish High-Altitude Medicine Research Centre in Himachal Pradesh's Keylong

- Union Health Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda** will **lay the foundation stone of the ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research at Keylong, Himachal Pradesh.**
- The existing ICMR field station at Keylong will be upgraded into a multidisciplinary research hub to strengthen climate-resilient healthcare, biomedical research, and innovation in India's Himalayan region.

Union Cabinet Approves Additional ₹30,000 Crore Investment in NIIF

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved **an additional ₹30,000 crore investment** in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), increasing the Government of India's total commitment from ₹30,000 crore to ₹60,000 crore.
- The additional funding will **support NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, with a target corpus of around ₹30,000 crore, to invest in** transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, urban infrastructure, electric mobility, and other strategic sectors.

AustralianSuper Commits AU\$500 Million to India's NIIF, Boosting Infrastructure Investment

- Australia's largest pension fund manager, **AustralianSuper**, has announced an investment of **AU\$500 million (over ₹3,300 crore) in India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).**
- With this latest investment, AustralianSuper's total exposure in India across all asset classes has increased to AU\$3.3 billion, reflecting strong confidence in India's growth potential.

Lakhanpur in Jammu and Kashmir Selected for PM SVANidhi Street Food Hub Initiative

- **Lakhanpur in Kathua district, Jammu & Kashmir**, has been selected among the first towns in India **for the development of a Street Food Hub under the PM SVANidhi initiative.**
- **Led by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, the initiative aims to develop organised, hygienic, and modern vending spaces, while promoting local cuisine and supporting street vendors.

Gujarat's Unjha Cumin and Unjha Fennel Receive Geographical Indication Tags

- **Unjha Cumin (Jeera) and Unjha Fennel (Variyali)** from North Gujarat have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags by the **Geographical Indications Registry of India.** The registration has been made in the name of

the Unjha Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) under Class 30 (Spices).

- A Geographical Indication (GI) identifies products whose quality, reputation, or characteristics are linked to a specific geographical origin. In India, GI registration is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

Indian-Origin NASA Astronaut Anil Menon Begins First ISS Mission Aboard Soyuz MS-29

- **Indian-origin NASA astronaut Anil Menon** launched to the **International Space Station (ISS)** aboard **Russia's Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft**, marking his first spaceflight on an eight-month mission.
- The Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft lifted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, carrying Anil Menon (USA), Pyotr Dubrov (Russia), and Anna Kikina (Russia), and successfully docked with the ISS's Prichal module after a three-hour, two-orbit journey.

Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu Launches 'Pillale Sampada' Initiative

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** launched the '**Pillale Sampada**' (**Children are Wealth**) initiative on **World Population Day**, advocating a shift from population control to population conservation.
- The Andhra Pradesh Government announced measures to support families, including ₹15,000 per child under the Taliki Vandanam scheme, strengthened nutrition through Anganwadi centres, and improved maternal and child healthcare.

India, Poland Hold Bilateral Talks to Strengthen MSME Cooperation

- **India and Poland** held bilateral talks in New Delhi to **strengthen cooperation in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector**, with discussions on technology, innovation, digital transformation, and enterprise development.
- Both countries agreed to enhance institutional and business-to-business cooperation, while expressing confidence that the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will further boost bilateral trade and investment.

World-Famous Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra Begins in Puri, Odisha

- The world-famous **Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra began in Puri, Odisha**, marking one of India's most significant religious festivals.
- The Puri Shree Jagannath Temple Administration has made extensive multi-layered security arrangements, expecting lakhs of devotees to participate in the annual Rath Yatra.

Thailand Reduces Visa-Free Stay for Indian Travellers from 60 to 30 Days

- **Thailand** will continue its **visa-free entry policy for Indian passport holders**, allowing travel without obtaining a visa in advance.
- The maximum visa-free stay has been reduced from 60 days to 30 days for Indian travellers.

PM Modi Gifts Dhokra Tree of Life Sculpture and Uttarakhandi Cap to New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, during his visit to New Zealand, gifted a **Dhokra Tree of Life sculpture from Bastar (Chhattisgarh)** and an **Uttarakhandi (Traditional Pahari) Cap** to New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.
- The Uttarakhandi Cap, handcrafted from high-quality wool, symbolises Uttarakhand's cultural heritage, pride, dignity, hospitality, and Himalayan identity, and is commonly worn during festivals and ceremonies.

India and Australia Finalise Administrative Arrangement for Civil Nuclear Cooperation

- **India and Australia** finalised an **Administrative Arrangement** under their Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement during the **Third India–Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne**.
- The Arrangement operationalises the Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, which was signed in 2014 and came into force in 2015.

Madhya Pradesh Declares 2027 as the 'Year of Youth'

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav** announced that 2027 will be celebrated as the **"Year of Youth"** during the 'My Youth, My Pride' Conclave.
- The initiative aims to **engage more than 2 crore** youth in the state's policymaking and development process.

Bharat Tex 2026 Showcases India's Textile Strength with Global Participation

- **Bharat Tex 2026**, India's largest global textile event, was held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, marking its third edition**.
- International exhibitors from 14 countries, including the **United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Portugal, Spain, New Zealand, South Korea, South Africa, and Nepal**, participated in the event.
- The event aims to promote India's textile and apparel industry, boost textile exports, attract global investment, and encourage innovation and sustainability.

India Post Achieves Record ₹4,009 Crore Q1 Revenue in FY 2026-27

- **India Post** recorded its **highest-ever first-quarter revenue of ₹4,009 crore in Q1 of FY 2026-27**, registering a 22% year-on-year growth, as announced by Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia.
- India Post achieved 81% of its Q1 revenue target (₹4,009 crore against ₹4,951 crore) and has set an annual revenue target of ₹19,803 crore for FY 2026-27, reflecting its focus on modernisation, business transformation, and customer-centric services.

Mangaluru International Airport Receives ACI Level 5 Customer Experience Accreditation

- **Mangaluru International Airport** has received **Level 5 Accreditation** under the **Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Customer Experience**

Accreditation Programme, the highest global recognition for airport customer experience management.

- It has become the third airport in the Adani Airport Holdings Ltd. (AAHL) network, after Mumbai and Ahmedabad, to achieve this accreditation.

PM Modi Flags Off India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train, Setting a Global Benchmark

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first hydrogen-powered train** between Jind and Sonipat at Jind railway station.
- The hydrogen-powered train, **developed using indigenous technology**, marks a major step towards clean, sustainable, and zero-emission rail mobility, with water vapour as its only by-product.

MoHUA Approves Operational Guidelines for ₹9,585 Crore Parivartan Scheme to Replace Polluting Vehicles in NCR

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has approved the operational guidelines for the **Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions (PARIVARTAN) Scheme** to replace old, polluting trucks and buses in the National Capital Region (NCR) with BS-VI-compliant or electric vehicles.
- The scheme has a **total outlay of ₹9,585 crore, including ₹5,041 crore as Central Government support**, and will be **implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** through the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB).

Centre to Invest ₹200 Crore in Ather Energy Through India-Japan Fund

- The **Central Government** will invest **₹200 crore in Ather Energy** through the India-Japan Fund (IJF) as part of the company's proposed ₹1,200-crore preferential fundraising.
- The India-Japan Fund (IJF) is a \$600 million (around ₹4,900 crore) bilateral investment fund jointly established by the Government of India and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and is managed by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd. (NIIFL).

Navi Mumbai International Airport Launches First International Flight to Abu Dhabi

- **Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA)** launched its **first scheduled international flight with Air India Express' inaugural service to Abu Dhabi**, marking the start of its international operations.
- The Abu Dhabi route will operate three times a week, making NMIA the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's second international gateway and enhancing connectivity between India and the UAE.

Virendra Kumar Inaugurates 31st Divya Kala Mela in Kolkata to Promote Divyang Entrepreneurs

- Union Minister Virendra Kumar inaugurated the 31st Divya Kala Mela at Ravindra Sadan, Kolkata (West Bengal).
- The mela aims to promote and market products, handicrafts, and craftsmanship created by Divyang (persons with disabilities) entrepreneurs, encouraging their economic empowerment.

PM Modi inaugurates 75 redeveloped railway stations across country under Amrit Bharat Scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated 75 redeveloped railway stations across 20 states under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) at a cost of ₹1,570 crore.
- Major redeveloped stations include Jalandhar Cantonment, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Sri Muktsar Sahib, Sri Anandpur Sahib (Punjab); Pratapnagar, Godhra, Porbandar, Bhaktinagar (Gujarat); Barpali, Balangir, Paralakhemundi, Talcher, Kesinga, Bimalgarh, Baripada (Odisha), along with 9 stations under Southern Railway.

NITI Aayog Unveils Roadmap to Make India a Global BioEconomy Powerhouse by 2035

- NITI Aayog released the report titled "Roadmap for Building India as a Leading BioEconomy Powerhouse by 2035."
- India's BioEconomy has grown 16-fold, from US\$10 billion in 2014 to US\$195.3 billion in 2025, and currently contributes 4.8% to India's GDP.

India's Core Infrastructure Output Rises 5% in June

- India's core infrastructure sectors recorded a 5% year-on-year growth in June 2026, the highest in five months, compared to 1.1% in June 2025.
- The Index of Core Industries (ICI) has been revised with a new base year of 2022–23, replacing the previous base year of 2011–12.

India Commissions First Deep Geothermal Wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley

- India commissioned its first and deepest geothermal wells in Puga Valley, Ladakh. The two wells, each 1,000 metres deep, were inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena at an altitude of over 14,000 feet.
- The geothermal wells were developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and are linked to a 1 MW pilot geothermal power project, marking a significant step in India's renewable energy programme.

Operation Jal Rahat: Indian Army Launches Flood Rescue Mission in Assam

- Operation Jal Rahat has been launched by the Indian Army to support the Assam Government in rescue and relief operations amid severe floods affecting over 57,100 people across seven districts.

- Army and Assam Rifles teams have been deployed in the worst-hit districts of Charaideo, Sivasagar, and Jorhat, while the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been kept on standby for aerial assistance if required.

NHAI Expands RajmargYatra App with Digital Local Pass & MargMitra Help Centre

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has introduced a **Digital Local Pass facility and MargMitra Help Centre** on the RajmargYatra mobile application to enhance citizen-centric digital services under the Digital India initiative.
- The Digital Local Pass allows eligible residents living within a 20-km radius of a toll plaza to purchase a monthly unlimited travel pass online using DigiLocker, VAHAN, FASTag, and GIS-based verification, eliminating the need to visit toll plazas.

I&B Ministry Launches 'Gems of India Challenge' to Promote Grassroots Digital Creators

- **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** launched the pilot phase of the "Gems of India Challenge" to identify, nurture, and promote grassroots digital creators across India.
- The challenge invites citizens to submit 1–3 minute videos showcasing the unique stories, culture, and heritage of their districts through the MyWAVES section on the WAVES OTT platform from 1–31 August.

India's Debt-to-GDP Ratio Moderates to 58.2% in FY26; Capital Expenditure Continues to Drive Infrastructure Growth

- **India's debt-to-GDP ratio** moderated to **58.2% (provisional)** in FY26, down from 58.5% in FY25, reflecting an improvement in the country's fiscal position.
- As of 31 March 2026, the Central Government's total debt stood at ₹201.17 lakh crore (provisional), while the debt is projected to rise to ₹228.27 lakh crore in FY27.

PFRDA Opens Continuous 'On-Tap' Registration Window for New NPS Pension Fund Managers

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has opened an **'on-tap' registration window** for prospective Pension Fund Managers (PFMs) to manage the corpus under the National Pension System (NPS).
- The last 'on-tap' licensing window for Pension Fund Managers was opened by PFRDA in May 2022.

President Murmu unveils bust of Mahatma Gandhi in North Macedonian capital

- **President Droupadi Murmu** unveiled a bust of **Mahatma Gandhi** at the **Museum** of the City of Skopje during her state visit to North Macedonia, highlighting India's cultural and diplomatic ties with the country.
- Addressing the gathering, the President said that Mahatma Gandhi's message of truth and non-violence belongs to all humanity, emphasizing that his ideals of dialogue, compassion, and peaceful coexistence remain relevant in today's world.

France Becomes First EU Nation to Ban Social Media for Children Under 15

- **France's Parliament** approved a **law banning children under 15 years old from accessing social media**, making it the first European Union country to introduce a nationwide restriction on social media use by minors.
- The law will be implemented in phases: from 1 September 2026, children under 15 cannot create new social media accounts, and from January 2027, the restriction will also apply to existing accounts. Online encyclopedias, educational directories, and scientific directories are exempt from the ban.

Centre Launches ₹175-Crore Lakadong Turmeric Mission 'Golden Spice' to Boost Northeast Economy

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the **Lakadong Turmeric Mission – Golden Spice in New Delhi** along with Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma. The mission, launched under the Ministry of DoNER's Unlock the Economic Potential of India's Northeast (USP) initiative, has an outlay of over ₹175 crore.
- The mission aims to expand cultivation to 7,000 hectares, double farmers' incomes, create over 3,000 women-led jobs, and build a ₹100-crore Lakadong Turmeric economy by FY 2028–29.

Rajasthan Launches 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Suyog' Platform to Promote Youth Development and Sports

- **Rajasthan** launched the **Mukhyamantri Yuva Suyog platform** in July 2026 from Jaipur to promote sports, skill development, employment opportunities, and community engagement among youth at the panchayat and ward levels.
- The initiative has been launched on a pilot basis in the Bagru Assembly constituency and Baran district, with youth participation facilitated through the Yuva Suyog portal using a registration-based system.

Tamil Nadu Renames and Expands Breakfast Scheme as Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme

- **Tamil Nadu** renamed the **Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme** as the **Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme**. The scheme was originally

launched in September 2022 for students of Classes 1 to 5 in government primary schools.

- From 17 September 2026, the scheme will be expanded to students of Classes 6 to 8 in government and government-aided schools, with the launch date coinciding with the birth anniversary of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy.

Centre Approves Two Electronics Manufacturing Clusters in Tamil Nadu Worth ₹1,012 Cr

- The Centre has approved **two Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) in Tamil Nadu** with a combined investment of over ₹1,012 crore to strengthen the state's electronics manufacturing ecosystem and promote self-reliance.
- The Manallur EMC will be developed over 474.3 acres at a cost of ₹587.47 crore, while the Pillapaikkam EMC will cover 379.3 acres with an investment of ₹424.55 crore.

India Becomes the World's Second Most Electrified Major Railway Network with 99.6% Broad Gauge Electrification

- India has electrified **99.6%** of its broad gauge railway network, making it the **second most electrified major railway system in the world after Switzerland (100%)**. The remaining routes are currently under electrification.
- India now surpasses **several major railway networks** in electrification, including China (82%), Spain (67%), Japan (64%), France (60%), and the United Kingdom (39%).

Union Cabinet Approves ₹3,030 Crore BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme for Three Chemical Parks

- The Union Cabinet approved the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) scheme** with an outlay of **₹3,030 crore** to establish three dedicated chemical parks across India during **FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31**.
- Under the scheme, ₹3,000 crore has been allocated for common infrastructure development within the chemical parks, while ₹30 crore has been earmarked for administrative expenses. The Centre will provide up to ₹1,000 crore assistance for each park.

Andhra Pradesh Approves State's First Private Women's University

- The **Andhra Pradesh** Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has approved the **establishment of Vishnu Women's University**, the **first private women's university in the state**.

- The Cabinet approved a proposal to promulgate an ordinance amending the Schedule to the Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Act, 2016, to facilitate the university's establishment.

HCLTech to Set Up First AI Data Centre in Odisha

- HCLTech will establish its **first AI Data Centre in Odisha** with a planned investment of ₹14,257 crore at the upcoming Odisha Sovereign AI Park.
- The project will be developed through a collaboration between HCLTech, Indian AI startup Sarvam, and the Government of Odisha to strengthen India's AI infrastructure.
- The Odisha Sovereign AI Park is envisioned as a state-level AI infrastructure hub, integrating high-performance computing, Indian AI models, and real-world AI applications to provide AI services as a public utility.

Killai Becomes Tamil Nadu's First Fully Operational Climate-Resilient Village

- Killai has become **Tamil Nadu's first fully operational Climate-Resilient Village (CRV)** under the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission (TNCCM), serving as a model for sustainable coastal development.
- The project includes solar-powered e-boats, hybrid solar power systems, scientific beekeeping, and Buckingham Canal restoration, enhancing renewable energy use, biodiversity, and ecosystem health.

NFDC Invites Entries for the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026

- The **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** has invited entries for the **57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**, which will be held in Goa from 20–28 November 2026.
- Asia's oldest film festival, IFFI 2026 will feature the Indian Panorama section, showcasing 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films, along with awards for debut directors and digital web series.

PM Narendra Modi Constitutes High-Powered Task Force on Examination Reforms

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced the **formation of a high-powered task force on examination reforms, to be chaired by Nandan Nilekani**, with the aim of making examinations trustworthy, transparent, and technology-driven.
- The task force includes former IB Director Tapan Deka, former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath, IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti, former Education Secretary Anita Karwal, and logistics expert Amrit Lal Meena.

AI Holobox of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Inaugurated at Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya

- **An AI Holobox** of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was inaugurated at **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya**, offering visitors an

immersive 3D AI-powered interactive experience showcasing his life, leadership, vision, and legacy.

- To mark Kargil Vijay Diwas, the Sangrahalaya is hosting a special exhibition featuring microfilms, archival videos, photographs, and personal letters highlighting the courage and sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces during the 1999 Kargil War, fought under Vajpayee's leadership.

President Droupadi Murmu Conferred Honorary Doctorate by Romania's Bucharest University of Economic Studies

- President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the honorary title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania, in recognition of her distinguished public service, commitment to education, social inclusion, and efforts to strengthen India–Romania relations.
- Accepting the honour, President Murmu dedicated the award to the 1.4 billion people of India, described education as the greatest equaliser, and urged universities to ensure that advancements in artificial intelligence are guided by wisdom, ethics, and compassion.

UNESCO Adds Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath to World Heritage List; India's Total Rises to 45

- UNESCO has inscribed the Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh) on the World Heritage List during the 48th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Busan, South Korea.
- With the inclusion of Sarnath, India's total UNESCO World Heritage Sites has increased to 45, while Uttar Pradesh now has four World Heritage Sites—Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, and Sarnath.

NGT Seeks Centre and Bihar Government's Response Over Deteriorating Condition of Kanwar Lake

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to the Union Government and the Bihar Government over the deteriorating ecological condition of Kanwar Lake (Kabartal Wetland/Kabar Taal) in Begusarai district, Bihar.
- Kanwar Lake is widely regarded as Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake. An oxbow lake is a U-shaped water body formed when a meander of a river gets cut off from the main river channel.

India Develops First Indigenous 350 kg Thrust Expendable Turbo Jet Engine

- India has successfully developed its first indigenous Expendable Turbo Jet Engine in the 350 kg thrust class, designed by DRDO's Gas Turbine

Research Establishment (GTRE), marking a major milestone in indigenous aerospace propulsion technology.

- The engine was manufactured and assembled by Hyderabad-based Azad Engineering, GTRE's industry partner, and was successfully delivered on 22 July 2026, showcasing strong collaboration between India's scientific and industrial sectors.

Cabinet Approves DISHA 2.0 Scheme to Expand Technology-Driven Access to Justice

- **Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) 2.0** is a Central Sector Scheme with an approved outlay of ₹255 crore for 2026–31, aimed at improving access to justice across India through technology-driven legal services.
- DISHA 2.0 comprises four key components: **Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached**, **Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Programme**, **Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme (LLLAP)**, and **VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonised Legal Initiatives)-Sanjeevani**.

Government Approves RBI Proposal for Field Trials of ₹10 and ₹20 Polymer Banknotes

- The **Government of India** approved the **RBI's** proposal to conduct field trials of 1 billion **polymer banknotes** each in the **₹10 and ₹20 denominations**.
- The proposal was approved under **Section 25** of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, following a recommendation from the RBI Central Board.

India's Industrial Output Surges 7.3% in June, Highest Growth in 23 Months

- **India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** grew by **7.3%** in June 2026, marking the highest industrial growth in 23 months, according to government data.
- All four major sectors recorded positive growth, led by manufacturing (7.8%) and Electricity & Gas Supply (10.6%), while Water Supply, Sewerage & Waste Management expanded by 6.1%.

Amritsar Becomes India's Second Hub-and-Spoke Airport for International Flight Operation

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** inaugurated **Hub-and-Spoke international flight operations from Amritsar**, making it the **second airport after Varanasi** to join India's international Hub-and-Spoke framework.
- The Hub-and-Spoke model is a key part of India's International Aviation Hub Strategy, aimed at strengthening Indian airports as global transit hubs, generating 0.4 million jobs and contributing USD 30 billion to the economy by 2030.

Himachal Pradesh Launches 'Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana' for Fishermen

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the 'Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana' to provide financial assistance and social security to fishermen engaged in reservoir fisheries.
- Under the scheme, each eligible fisherman will receive a lump-sum financial assistance of ₹3,500 during the fishing ban period.

Delhi Government Approves 'Delhi Lakshmi Yojana' with ₹2,500 Monthly Assistance for Women

- The Delhi Government approved the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana to promote the economic empowerment and social security of women, under which eligible beneficiaries will receive ₹2,500 per month.
- The scheme, approved by the Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has been allocated ₹5,110 crore in the 2026–27 Delhi Budget, with the registration portal opening on 1 August 2026.

Government Allocates Record ₹95,692 Crore for VB-G RAM G Rural Employment Scheme in FY 2026–27

- The Government has allocated a record ₹95,692 crore for FY 2026–27 under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025, the highest-ever Budget Estimate allocation for any rural employment programme in India.
- The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 guarantees 125 days of wage employment per financial year to every willing rural household demanding work, increasing the entitlement from 100 days under MGNREGS.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj Launches 'DAANVEER' Initiative to Digitally Empower Gram Panchayats

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched DAANVEER, a citizen participation initiative to strengthen the digital infrastructure of Gram Panchayats, in New Delhi. The initiative was launched by Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj.
- DAANVEER, available through the Meri Panchayat mobile app, enables individuals and organisations to donate standardised, quality-verified computer bundles directly to eligible Gram Panchayats via integration with the DigiHaat marketplace.

PM Modi Launched 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat' Campaign

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyaan', a 100-week nationwide Jan Bhagidari movement to build a drug-free India.
- The campaign will be led by the MY Bharat Platform and will involve MY Bharat volunteers, NSS volunteers, Youth Clubs, schools, colleges,

universities, and over 125 spiritual organisations, making it one of India's largest youth-led anti-drug movements.

India Becomes World's Second-Largest Supplier of Seafarers: BIMCO-ICS Report 2026

- India has become the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers, contributing 311,936 maritime professionals, according to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026.
- The achievement marks a major milestone in India's maritime sector, with its global share of seafarers rising from 5.2% in 2015 and 6% in 2021 to 12.16% in 2026.

Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

FATF Updates Global Watchlists; Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq Added to Grey List

- FATF updated its monitored jurisdictions list after the June 17–19, 2026 Plenary, removing Algeria and Namibia from the increased monitoring (Grey List) while adding Bosnia and Herzegovina and Iraq.
- Myanmar continues on the High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action (Black List), while the status of Iran and North Korea (DPRK) also remains unchanged.

Venezuela Announces Withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC)

- Venezuela formally notified the United Nations on 24 July 2026 of its decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- Under Article 127 of the Rome Statute, a country's withdrawal from the ICC becomes effective one year after the UN receives the formal notification.

Burj Khalifa Becomes First UAE Tourist Attraction to Accept UPI for Online Ticket Bookings

- Indian travellers can now book tickets online for "At the Top, Burj Khalifa" using UPI before travelling to Dubai, making the booking process more convenient and seamless.
- Burj Khalifa has become the first tourist attraction in the UAE to accept UPI for e-commerce transactions, marking a significant milestone in the global expansion of India's digital payment system.

Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

India's Gross GST Collection Rises 13.9% to ₹1.95 Lakh Crore in June 2026

- **India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST)** revenue increased by 13.9% year-on-year to **₹1.95 lakh crore (₹1,94,812 crore) in June 2026**, compared to ₹1.71 lakh crore in June 2025.
- GST collections from domestic transactions rose 6.5% to ₹1,34,774 crore, while GST revenue from imports surged 34.6% to ₹60,038 crore, reflecting strong domestic demand and external trade.

UPI Transactions Moderate to ₹28.9 Lakh Crore in June 2026, Register 20% Annual Growth

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** transactions were **valued at ₹28.9 lakh crore** in June 2026, slightly lower than the record ₹29.9 lakh crore recorded in May 2026.
- In volume terms, UPI processed 22.72 billion transactions in June 2026, compared to 23.2 billion transactions in the previous month.

Four Public Sector Banks Pay ₹9,439 Crore Dividend to Government for FY 2025-26

- **Four leading public sector banks—Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, and Indian Bank—paid a combined dividend of ₹9,439 crore** to the Government of India for FY 2025-26.
- The dividend cheques were presented to Nirmala Sitharaman. Among the four banks, Bank of Baroda paid the highest dividend of ₹2,811 crore, followed by Punjab National Bank (₹2,416 crore) and Canara Bank (₹2,397 crore).

IRDAI Grants Registration to Prudential HCL Health Insurance as Standalone Health Insurer

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has granted a **Certificate of Registration to Prudential HCL Health Insurance** to operate as a standalone health insurance company in India.
- Prudential HCL Health Insurance is a joint venture in which Prudential Plc holds a 70% stake, while the HCL Group holds the remaining 30% stake through Vama Sundari Investments.

IFSCA Proposes 'One KYC' Framework for GIFT IFSC to Simplify Customer Onboarding

- The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has proposed a **'One KYC' framework for GIFT IFSC** to simplify and streamline customer onboarding.
- From 1 September 2026, all new customers in GIFT IFSC must be onboarded through the KYC Registration Agencies (KRA) system, while the KYC records of all existing active customers must be uploaded to the KRA by 30 October 2026.

HiWiPay Receives IFSCA In-Principle Approval to Set Up PSP Subsidiary at GIFT City

- **HiWiPay** has received in-principle approval from **the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** to expand its operations in India's international financial hub.
- The approval allows HiWiPay to establish a wholly owned Payment Services Provider (PSP) subsidiary at GIFT City (GIFT IFSC).

HDFC Bank Launches In-House AI Platform 'Neev' and Real-Time Fraud Detection System

- **HDFC Bank** has launched its in-house **generative AI platform, Neev**, along with a custom real-time fraud detection system to enhance operational efficiency, strengthen cybersecurity, and improve fraud prevention.
- By developing these technologies internally, HDFC Bank aims to reduce dependence on third-party vendors while tackling the growing threat of digital banking fraud and accelerating its technology-led transformation.

SEBI Constitutes Expert Group to Review Debenture Trustees Regulations

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted an **Expert Working Group to review and strengthen the regulatory framework governing debenture trustees under the SEBI (Debenture Trustees) Regulations, 1993.**
- The Expert Working Group is **chaired by Ananta Barua**, former Whole-Time Member of SEBI, and **co-chaired by Rajnish Kumar**, former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI).

PayGlocal Launches Google Pay Card Payments for International Transactions

- **PayGlocal**, India's leading cross-border payments platform, has launched **Google Pay Card Payments on its International Payment Gateway**, becoming one of the first payment platforms in India to enable Google Pay for international transactions.
- With Apple Pay already available on its gateway, PayGlocal now enables Indian merchants to reach over one billion customers across key global markets, including the US, UK, Australia, Canada, UAE, Singapore, and Western Europe.

IIT Bombay & SBI Life Establish 'Bharat AI & Cyber Innovation Hub for Insurance'

- **IIT Bombay and SBI Life Insurance** have partnered to establish the '**Bharat AI & Cyber Innovation Hub for Insurance**' to develop indigenous **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity solutions for India's insurance sector.**
- The hub aims to build AI-powered cyber defence systems that are designed, developed, and owned in India, supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and strengthening digital security in insurance.

RBI Imposes ₹66 Lakh Penalty on Bank of Baroda and GIC Housing Finance for KYC Violations

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **₹63.6 lakh penalty on Bank of Baroda (BoB)** for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Fair Practices Code for Lenders and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

- The RBI also levied a **₹3.1 lakh penalty** on GIC Housing Finance Ltd for non-compliance with certain provisions of the KYC guidelines.

Government Keeps Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes Unchanged for July–September 2026 Quarter

- The **Finance Ministry** has **kept interest rates unchanged** on all government-backed small savings schemes for the **July–September 2026 quarter** (Q2 of FY2026–27), providing stability for millions of investors.
- This is the **ninth consecutive quarter** in which the government **has not revised the interest rates**, with the same rates continuing from the April–June 2026 quarter.

UNCTAD Report: India's FDI Inflows Surge 44% to USD 39 Billion in 2025

- According to the 2026** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development World Investment Report (UNCTAD), **India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows increased by 44% in 2025 to USD 39 billion**, reinforcing India's position as a major global investment destination.
- Globally, FDI flows increased by 6% to USD 1.6 trillion in 2025, although United Nations Conference on Trade and Development cautioned that the 2026 outlook remains uncertain because of trade policy uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, and ongoing conflicts.

Year	Inward FDI Inflows (US\$ Billion)	Global Rank (FDI Destination)	Outward FDI Outflows (US\$ Billion)	Global Rank (FDI Home Economy)
2021	44.8	8th	17.3	25th
2022	49.4	8th	14.6	23rd
2023	28.1	16th	13.9	23rd
2024	27.1	13th	24.3	20th
2025	38.9	11th	35.7	18th

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

New RBI Ombudsman Scheme 2026 Comes into Effect from July 1

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced the Reserve Bank–Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2026, **effective July 1, 2026**, with revised rules to strengthen customer grievance redressal.
- The RBI Ombudsman can award compensation of up to ₹30 lakh for consequential financial loss and up to ₹3 lakh for loss of time, expenses incurred, harassment, or mental anguish suffered by the complainant.

IFSCA Approves Punjab & Sind Bank's IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City

- Punjab & Sind Bank** has received a **licence from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** to establish an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City, Gandhinagar.
- The IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) will provide foreign currency banking, trade finance, and other international financial services to corporates, financial institutions, importers, and global investors.

SBI to Sell 1.42% Stake in SBI Funds Management Through ₹1,655 Crore Pre-IPO Placement

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** will sell a **1.42% stake in SBI Funds Management (SBIFM)** for ₹1,655 crore through a pre-IPO placement, with 29 million shares being sold at ₹574 per share, the upper end of the IPO price band.
- SBI Funds Management, India's largest Asset Management Company (AMC) by assets under management, has launched an ₹11,693 crore IPO with a price band of ₹545–₹574 per share. The IPO is entirely an Offer for Sale (OFS) by SBI and Amundi India Holding.

AU Small Finance Bank & Zaggie Launch Co-Branded Retail Credit Card on Visa and RuPay Networks

- **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB)** and **Zaggie Prepaid Ocean Services Ltd (Zaggie)** have launched the **AU Zaggie Co-Branded Retail Credit Card** on both Visa and RuPay networks, giving customers the flexibility to choose their preferred payment network.
- The credit card offers a unique "Zagg Coins-to-Cashback" feature, allowing users to earn accelerated Zagg Coins on UPI and contactless transactions, along with higher cashback on achieving specified spending milestones.

Power Finance Corporation Raises USD 300 Million Through Floating Rate Bonds

- **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** has raised USD 300 million by issuing Floating Rate Notes (FRNs) under its USD 8 billion Global Medium Term Note (GMTN) Programme.
- The 3-year bonds, maturing in 2029, carry a floating coupon rate of SOFR + 110 basis points (bps) per annum, with interest payable quarterly.

India's Retail Inflation Rises to 4.4% in June

- **India's retail inflation**, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose to **4.4% in June 2026**, up from 3.93% in May 2026, crossing the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4% inflation target for the first time since January 2025.
- The rise in inflation was primarily driven by higher food and fuel prices, influenced by the West Asia crisis and a weaker-than-normal monsoon, making it the highest retail inflation level in 18 months.

Wholesale inflation in June surged to 9.9%

- India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation increased to **9.9% in June**, up from 9.7% in May, mainly due to higher fuel and food prices.
- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry released** the All India Wholesale Price Index (Base Year 2022-23).

NABARD Launches 'Gramodyam' Programme to Promote Rural Entrepreneurship

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** launched '**Gramodyam**', a rural entrepreneurship development programme, on the occasion of its 45th Foundation Day.

- The programme was launched by NABARD Chairman Shaji K.V. and is being implemented in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through the Institute for Industrial Development (IID).

Bank of Maharashtra Launches 'FinSpark'26 National Cybersecurity Hackathon

- **Bank of Maharashtra** launched 'FinSpark'26, a national-level cybersecurity hackathon for students and dropouts to develop innovative solutions for banking security challenges.
- The hackathon offers a prize pool of over ₹10 lakh and focuses on cyber risk, fraud prevention, AI-driven anomaly detection, and insider threat detection in digital banking.

IndusInd Bank Integrates with EPFO to Enable Seamless Digital PF Contributions

- **IndusInd Bank** has integrated with the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**, enabling organisations to make **Provident Fund (PF) contributions directly through the EPFO portal**.
- Employers can now select IndusInd Bank as the payment option on the EPFO portal and complete transactions using the Bank's Corporate Internet Banking and Mobile Banking platforms.

RBI Grants NBFC Registration to Delhivery Financial Services

- **Delhivery Financial Services Private Limited**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Delhivery Limited, has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a **Certificate of Registration (CoR)**.
- The approval allows the company to operate as a Type-II Non-Banking Financial Company – Non-Deposit Taking (NBFC-ND), enabling it to provide financial services without accepting public deposits.

MoSPI Releases India's First Trial Index of Services Production (ISP)

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released India's first Trial Index of Services Production (ISP), with the **first trial index covering April 2026**.
- 14 out of 19 sub-sectors recorded double-digit year-on-year growth, with the fastest-growing sectors being Accommodation & Food Services (37.2%), Retail Trade (30.8%), Administrative & Support Services (28.7%), Real Estate (27.7%), and Telecommunications (22.8%).

UPI User Base Crosses 55.49 Crore; FY26 Transactions Reach ₹314 Lakh Crore

- As of June 2026, **nearly 55.49 crore users** have been **onboarded on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, according to the government.
- During FY 2025–26, UPI recorded 24,162 crore transactions with a total transaction value of ₹314 lakh crore.

EPFO Launches VISHWAS 2026 Scheme

- **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has launched **VISHWAS 2026**, a one-time dispute resolution scheme for the amicable settlement of damages and penalty-related disputes between EPFO and employers.
- Under VISHWAS 2026, damages and penalties for defaults before 14 June 2024 will be recalculated at reduced rates, and applications can be submitted online through the EPFO Employer Portal using a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) or e-Sign.

Viyona Gets BBPS COU Approval

- **Viyona**, a Hyderabad-based fintech infrastructure start-up, has **received approval from the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to operate as a Customer Operating Unit (COU)**.
- The approval enables Viyona to provide BBPS-powered bill payment services for electricity, water, gas, broadband, mobile recharges, DTH, insurance premiums, loan EMIs, educational fees, and other approved bill payments.

NSE Launches Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) to Formalise Gold Market

- **The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has launched **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)** to bring greater transparency, efficiency, and formalisation to **India's gold market by providing a regulated trading platform**.
- EGRs are dematerialised securities representing ownership of physical gold stored in SEBI-accredited vaults, with each receipt fully backed by physical gold and tradable on the stock exchange.

Glomo Becomes India's First Non-Bank Acquirer to Receive Visa Principal Membership

- **Glomo**, a regulated **payment service provider operating from GIFT IFSC**, has become **India's first non-bank acquirer and the first GIFT IFSC-licensed payment service provider** to receive Visa Principal Member status.
- The membership enables Glomo to directly process Visa-powered card payments for merchants, facilitating secure cross-border payment acceptance and settlement through GIFT City while reducing dependence on multiple intermediaries.

EnKash Launches India's First UPI-Enabled Meal Card

- **EnKash** has launched **India's first Meal Card with UPI payment capability**, allowing employees to pay directly from their meal benefit balance by scanning eligible UPI QR codes at food and grocery merchants.
- With this launch, **EnKash** becomes the **first provider in India** to enable UPI payments directly from a meal benefit balance, expanding its prepaid payment infrastructure.

Finance Minister Inaugurates 'Aayakar Sindhu' Income Tax Office in Mumbai

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the new **Income Tax Department office complex, 'Aayakar Sindhu'**, at Nariman Point, Mumbai, stating that the nation's treasury is strengthened by the taxes contributed by every taxpayer.
- The Finance Minister urged Income Tax Department officials to simplify administrative processes, reduce unnecessary hurdles for citizens while ensuring compliance with rules, and uphold integrity and public service as their guiding principles.

DBS Becomes First Southeast Asian Bank Named 'World's Best Corporate Bank' by Global Finance

- DBS became the **first Southeast Asian bank to be named "World's Best Corporate Bank"** at the 2026 Global Bank Awards by Global Finance, marking the first time a bank from the region has won the award since the category was introduced in 2005.
- At the 2026 Global Bank Awards, DBS also received the titles of "Asia's Best Bank" and "Singapore's Best Bank", reflecting its strong performance, management excellence, and leadership in corporate banking.

Private Banks Collect ₹4,948.71 Crore in Minimum Balance Penalties During FY 2025-26

- **Private sector banks** collected **₹4,948.71 crore** as penalties for non-maintenance of **Minimum Average Balance (MAB)** in savings and current accounts during FY 2025-26.
- **Public sector banks** collected ₹2,137.92 crore as MAB penalties during the same financial year, significantly lower than private sector banks.

Private Sector Bank	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total (₹ Crore)
HDFC Bank	1,036.05	1,316.80	1,518.92	1,798.14	5,669.91
Axis Bank	878.23	826.45	1,001.29	1,081.33	3,787.30
ICICI Bank	400.45	433.06	391.28	353.50	1,578.29
Kotak Mahindra Bank	192.26	261.24	254.26	290.65	998.41
Yes Bank	59.75	69.66	119.89	195.05	444.35

Public Sector Bank	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total (₹ Crore)
State Bank of India (Current A/C only)	211.47	302.95	418.40	477.27	1,410.09

Public Sector Bank	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total (₹ Crore)
Bank of Baroda	387.52	443.30	441.35	394.10	1,666.27
Indian Bank	295.23	367.66	503.38	299.17	1,465.44
Canara Bank	390.85	358.67	277.71	213.48	1,240.71
Punjab National Bank	486.16	674.04	417.67	206.68	1,784.55

Axis Finance Launches 'Drishti' to Strengthen Digital Credit Decision-Making

- Axis Finance Limited (AFL) has launched 'Axis Finance Drishti', an in-house Business Rules Engine (BRE) to enable faster, automated, and data-driven credit decision-making across retail and MSME lending.

OmniCard Launches India's First Flexi Benefits Basket on UPI

- OmniCard (Erout Technologies Pvt. Ltd.) has launched India's first Flexi Benefits Basket on UPI, enabling employees to manage and spend multiple tax-efficient benefits through a single digital wallet.
- The Flexi Benefits Basket supports UPI scan-and-pay at any UPI-enabled merchant, allowing seamless payments at office canteens, food delivery apps, fuel stations, bookstores, and other outlets.

LIC Hands Over ₹12,207.25 Crore Dividend Cheque to Central Government

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) handed over a dividend cheque of ₹12,207.25 crore to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, representing the Central Government's share of the final dividend for FY2025-26.
- At its 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM), LIC shareholders approved a final dividend of ₹10 per equity share (face value ₹10 each) for the financial year ended 31 March 2026, with over 99.99% votes in favour.

Chapter 15: Committee

Committee	Headed by	Purpose
The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has constituted an Expert Committee on Energy Statistics	Rangan Banerjee	To audit and modernize India's energy data framework
National Commission for Women (NCW) has constituted a high-level Expert Committee	Justice Asha Menon (Former Delhi High Court Judge)	To review the regulatory framework governing IVF clinics, ART centres and gamete banks

Chapter 16: Defence News

Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet Ships Arrive in Singapore to Strengthen Maritime Cooperation

- **Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet ships Udaygiri, Kavaratti, and Shakti** arrived at **Changi Naval Base, Singapore** as part of the Navy's ongoing operational deployment in the South East Asia Region.
- The visit highlights the strong and long-standing ties between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

Indian Navy to Commission Indigenous Stealth Frigate INS Mahendragiri Under Project 17A

- The **Indian Navy** will commission **INS Mahendragiri (F38)**, the sixth indigenous stealth frigate under Project 17A, at **Visakhapatnam** on 11 July, further strengthening India's naval capabilities.
- **Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai**, the warship features a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system and has over 75% indigenous content, reflecting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

India and Japan Sign First-Ever Defence Co-Development Agreement for UNICORN Communication Mast

- **India and Japan** have signed their **first-ever Defence Co-Development Agreement**, marking a major milestone in bilateral defence cooperation and indigenous defence manufacturing.
- **The first project under the agreement involves the joint development and licensed production of the UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna)**, an advanced shipborne integrated communication mast developed by Japan.

India and Indonesia Sign Initial Agreements for BrahMos and Astra Missile Procurement

- **India and Indonesia** signed initial agreements for the procurement of **BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and Astra missiles**, marking a significant step in bilateral defence cooperation.
- The agreements were signed during Narendra Modi's official visit to Indonesia, highlighting the growing India-Indonesia strategic and defence partnership.

Indian Army Seeks 450 Indigenous Carl Gustaf M4 Rocket Launchers to Boost Infantry Firepower

- The **Indian Army** has issued a **Request for Proposal (RFP) for 450 Carl Gustaf Mark-IV (M4) 84mm lightweight rocket launchers**, a shoulder-fired, multi-role recoilless weapon system designed for anti-armour and infantry operations.
- Developed by Sweden's Saab, the Carl Gustaf M4 weighs less than 7 kg, making it significantly lighter than the earlier M2 (14 kg) and M3 (10 kg) variants, which have been in service with the Indian Army since the 1970s.

Indian Navy to organise Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 in Kochi

- The **Indian Navy** will host **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 at the Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, from 20–23 July 2026, in partnership with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) under the Indian Navy-led Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154).
- The four-day multinational training programme will include classroom sessions, simulator-based training, and practical exercises covering Maritime Law, Maritime Domain Awareness, Counter-Narcotics, Force Protection, Asymmetric Threats, maritime uncrewed systems, Damage Control, Firefighting, Survival at Sea, and Boarding procedures.

Indian Navy to Host Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 Maritime Exercise in Kochi

- **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2**, a multinational maritime security training exercise, will be **held at the Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, from 20–23 July 2026.
- The Indian Navy will conduct the four-day exercise in collaboration with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) under Combined Task Force (CTF) 154.

Indian Navy to Commission Indigenous Mahe-Class ASW Craft INS Malvan

- The Indian Navy will **commission INS Malvan** on 22 July 2026, the **second Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi.
- INS Malvan has over 80% indigenous content, showcasing India's growing self-reliance in naval shipbuilding under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Rajnath Singh Hails First-Ever Tri-Services All-Women Circumnavigation Expedition 'Samudra Pradakshina'

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** virtually flagged off the first-ever tri-services all-women circumnavigation expedition, '**Samudra Pradakshina**', onboard IASV Triveni.
- Led by Lieutenant Colonel Anuja Varudkar, with Squadron Leader Shraddha P. Raju as Deputy Expedition Leader, the expedition was flagged off from Gateway of India, Mumbai, on 11 September 2025 and successfully completed a 25,500+ nautical mile voyage around the globe.

DRDO Successfully Tests Indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile 'Kusha'

- **DRDO** successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenous **Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) Kusha** from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha, successfully intercepting a high-speed aerial target.
- Project Kusha is India's indigenous air and missile defence programme, aimed at building a multi-layered national air defence shield by 2035 to counter aircraft, UAVs, cruise missiles, and other aerial threats.

Indian Navy Inducts INS Malvan, Second Mahe-Class ASW Shallow Water Craft

- The Indian Navy inducted INS Malvan, the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) of the Mahe class, at Karwar, Karnataka, marking a major milestone in India's indigenous warship-building programme.
- Armed with RBU-6000 rockets, DRDO-developed torpedoes, and a German-Indian sonar suite, INS Malvan will strengthen India's coastal maritime security and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

Indian Navy Launches 'Machilipatnam', Seventh Indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

- **Machilipatnam**, the 7th of 8 Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited for the Indian Navy, was officially launched.
- The warship is equipped for Underwater Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and Mine Warfare, enhancing coastal defence and maritime domain awareness.

Chapter 17: Sports News

Indian Women's Cricket Team Qualifies for LA 2028 Olympics

- The **Indian women's cricket team** has secured **qualification for the 2028 Summer Olympics**, becoming one of the first teams to book a place in the women's T20 cricket competition alongside Australia, Great Britain, and South Africa.
- The women's qualification was decided through the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup, where the best-performing eligible team from each continent earned a direct Olympic berth, unlike the men's event, which is based on ICC T20 rankings.

135th Durand Cup to Begin on 25 July 2026

- **The Durand Cup** will be held from **25 July to 23 August 2026** across **Kolkata, Ranchi, Imphal, Shillong, and Guwahati**, with Kolkata serving as the tournament's main hub.
- For the first time, Ranchi will host Durand Cup matches, with the Birsa Munda Stadium staging league matches and one quarter-final, marking the city's debut as a tournament venue.

Harshavardhan G.B. Becomes India's 97th Grandmaster

- **Harshavardhan G.B.** from Chennai became **India's 97th Grandmaster (GM)** after achieving his final GM norm at the 2nd Chola Chess GM Norm Round Robin Tournament in Chennai.
- He also crossed the 2500 FIDE Elo Rating, fulfilling the final requirement to earn the prestigious Grandmaster title.

Ancy Sojan Breaks 22-Year-Old National Record in Women's Long Jump

- **Ancy Sojan** created history by **breaking Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old National Record** in the women's long jump at the 2026 National Inter-State Athletics Championships.
- Ancy recorded a 6.88-metre jump, surpassing the previous National Record of 6.83 metres set by Anju Bobby George.

Stan Wawrinka Announces Retirement After Illustrious Tennis Career

- **Swiss tennis legend Stan Wawrinka** has announced that he **will retire from professional tennis** after a remarkable career spanning more than 20 years on the ATP Tour.
- Wawrinka won three Grand Slam singles titles—the Australian Open, French Open, and US Open—cementing his place among tennis greats.

Australia Clinches Record 7th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Title

- **Australia** clinched the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 title**, defeating hosts England by 7 wickets in the final at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, to claim a record-extending seventh championship.
- Beth Mooney starred with 64 runs off 49 balls and was named Player of the Match as Australia successfully chased 151, finishing at 153/3 with 17 balls to spare.

Charles Leclerc Wins 2026 British Grand Prix, Secures Ferrari's Historic 250th Formula One Victory

- **Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)** won the **2026 British Grand Prix** held at Silverstone Circuit, United Kingdom.
- The victory marked Ferrari's historic 250th Formula One Grand Prix win, making it the first team to achieve this milestone.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest-Ever Indian to Debut in International Cricket

- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the **youngest player to debut for India in international cricket at the age of 15 years and 99 days**, making his debut in the second T20I against England at Old Trafford.
- Sooryavanshi **surpassed the long-standing record of Sachin Tendulkar**, who made his international debut at 16 years and 205 days against Pakistan in 1989.

Telangana to Host 8th Khelo India Youth Games 2026 in November

- **Telangana** will host the **8th Khelo India Youth Games 2026**, scheduled to be held in November 2026, as announced by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya.
- The multi-sport grassroots event is expected to witness the participation of over 8,000 athletes, coaches, support staff, and officials, making it one of India's largest youth sporting events.

Aswath S Becomes India's 98th Chess Grandmaster

- **17-year-old Aswath S from Kanyakumari** became **India's 98th Grandmaster (GM)** after securing his final GM norm at the 2026 Pune International Grandmaster Round Robin.
- Aswath earned the title by defeating USA's FM Kannan Vaidyanathan with the black pieces in the final round, finishing the tournament with 7 points from 9 rounds (6 wins, 2 draws, 1 loss) to secure second place.

Tammy Beaumont Announces Retirement

- **England batter Tammy Beaumont** has announced her **retirement from international cricket**, with her final match set to be the first-ever women's Test at Lord's against India.
- Beaumont ends her international career with 7,325 runs and 14 centuries, and is only the second woman to score a century in all three international formats (Tests, ODIs, and T20Is).

Linda Noskova Wins Maiden Grand Slam Title at Wimbledon 2026

- **Linda Noskova (Czech Republic)** won her maiden **Grand Slam** title by defeating fellow Czech Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 in the Wimbledon 2026 Women's Singles Final at Centre Court, London.
- At 21 years of age, Noskova became the third Czech woman in four years to win the Wimbledon women's singles title, following Marketa Vondrousova (2023) and Barbora Krejčíková (2024).

Manipur CM Inaugurates 19th Governor's Taekwondo Cup 2026 in Imphal

- Manipur Chief Minister **Yumnam Khemchand Singh** inaugurated the **19th Governor's Taekwondo Cup, Manipur 2026**, at Khuman Lampak Indoor Stadium, Imphal. The championship is being organised by the All Manipur Taekwondo Association and will continue until 15 July 2026.
- The tournament has attracted 1,141 athletes from 29 units, including 691 men and 450 women, making it one of the largest taekwondo championships in the state.

India Wins Five Gold Medals, Secures Joint Top Rank at International Physics Olympiad 2026

- **India won five gold medals** at the **56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026, held in Bucaramanga, Colombia.**
- The gold medal winners are Kanishk Jain (Pune), Riddhesh Anant Bendale (Indore), Rishit Garg (New Delhi), Shresth Suraiya (Mumbai), and Svarit Joshi (Ahmedabad).

Sourav Ganguly, Anjum Chopra and Kevin Pietersen Inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

- **The International Cricket Council (ICC)** inducted **Sourav Ganguly (India), Anjum Chopra (India), and Kevin Pietersen (England)** into the **ICC Hall of Fame** during a ceremony held in Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Sourav Ganguly became the 10th Indian men's cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, joining legends such as Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Sachin

Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, Virender Sehwag, Vinoo Mankad, Bishan Singh Bedi, and MS Dhoni.

England Women's Cricket Legend Heather Knight Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- **Former England Women's captain Heather Knight** has announced her **retirement from international cricket**, ending a distinguished 16-year international career.
- Heather Knight became the first England cricketer (male or female) to score centuries in all three international formats—Tests, One-Day Internationals (ODIs), and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).

Jannik Sinner Retains Wimbledon Title, Becomes First Italian to Win Back-to-Back Championships

- **World No. 1 Jannik Sinner** defeated Alexander Zverev in the **Wimbledon 2026 men's singles final to successfully defend his Wimbledon title**.
- Sinner became the first Italian and only the ninth player in the Open Era (since 1968) to win the Wimbledon men's singles title in consecutive years.

Delhi Unveils 'Mayur' as Official Mascot for Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026

- **Delhi unveiled 'Mayur'**, inspired by India's national bird (the peacock), as the official **mascot of the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026**.
- The championship will be held at Thyagaraj Stadium, Delhi, from 27 July to 2 August 2026, under the joint organisation of the Delhi Government and the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).

India Scripts History with 270-Run Victory over England in First-Ever Women's Test at Lord's

- **India** created history by **defeating England by 270 runs in the first-ever women's Test match at Lord's Cricket Ground**, after bowling England out for 186 while defending a target of 457.
- Sneha Rana starred with figures of 4/42, while Deepti Sharma claimed two crucial wickets as India's spinners dismantled the England batting line-up.

Animesh Kujur Clocks Fastest-Ever 100m by an Indian on Foreign Soil

- **Indian sprinter Animesh Kujur** recorded the fastest-ever 100m time by an Indian on foreign soil at the Fast Arms Fast Legs Meet, a **World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger event**.
- He finished second in the men's 100m final with a personal best timing of 10.14 seconds.

Spain Defeats Argentina to Win FIFA World Cup 2026 Title

- **Spain** won the **FIFA World Cup 2026**, defeating Argentina in the final to claim their second FIFA World Cup title, having previously won in 2010.
- The FIFA World Cup 2026 was jointly **hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico**, marking the first 48-team edition of the tournament.

PV Sinhu Creates History, Becomes First Indian to Win Japan Open Title

- PV Sindhu became the **first Indian shuttler** to win the **Japan Open** title by defeating Japan's Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-17 in the final.
- The 31-year-old clinched her maiden BWF Super 750 Japan Open title, ending a more than two-year title drought.

Peacko Unveiled as Official Mascot of BWF World Championships 2026

- Union Sports Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** and Badminton Association of India (BAI) President **Himanta Biswa Sarma** unveiled the official mascot "**Peacko**" and launched the official championship anthem for the BWF World Championships, New Delhi 2026.
- The 30th edition of the BWF World Championships will be held in New Delhi from 17–23 August 2026, featuring over 400 players from more than 50 countries.

Pakistan to Host 14th South Asian Games in March 2027 Across Three Cities

- **Pakistan** will host the **14th South Asian Games (XIV South Asian Games)** from 23–31 March 2027, with competitions to be held in Lahore, Islamabad, and Faisalabad, featuring over 3,500 athletes from eight South Asian nations across 27 sports.
- The South Asian Games are a regional multi-sport event organized by the South Asian Olympic Council (SAOC) for member countries under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) sporting framework.

V.S. Rathnvel Becomes India's 99th Chess Grandmaster

- **V.S. Rathnvel** from **Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**, became **India's 99th Grandmaster (GM)** after crossing the 2500 Elo rating mark at the Guwahati Smart City International Open 2026.
- Although Rathnvel had completed his three Grandmaster norms in 2022, he achieved the GM title only after fulfilling the 2500 Elo rating requirement, overcoming years of perseverance and mental resilience.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest Player to Score a T20I Fifty

- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the **youngest player to score a T20I fifty**, achieving the feat at the age of 15 years and 118 days against Zimbabwe in Harare on 23 July 2026.
- The previous record was held by Gibraltar's Louis Bruce, who scored a T20I fifty at the age of 16 years and 56 days against Malta in August 2021. Sooryavanshi broke the record by more than 300 days.

The Oval to Host ICC World Test Championship Final 2027

- **The Oval, London**, has been confirmed as the venue for the **ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final 2027**, which will be held from 9–13 June 2027. It will be the second time The Oval hosts the WTC Final after 2023.
- The ICC has designated England as the host of the 2027, 2029, and 2031 WTC Finals, with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) responsible for selecting the venue for each final.

23rd Commonwealth Games 2026 Begins in Glasgow

- **The 23rd Commonwealth Games** commenced in **Glasgow, Scotland**, with a grand opening ceremony, featuring participation from 74 nations in a 10-day sporting event.
- India's 125-member contingent, led by Mirabai Chanu (flag bearer) and Lovlina Borgohain (ceremonial baton bearer), received a warm welcome during the opening ceremony.

Mirabai Chanu Wins India's First Gold at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Mirabai Chanu** won India's **first gold medal at the 2026 Commonwealth Games** in Glasgow, **clinching the women's 48kg weightlifting** title with a Commonwealth Games record total lift of 190 kg (85 kg snatch + 105 kg clean & jerk).
- The victory marked Mirabai Chanu's third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal, following her triumphs at the 2018 Gold Coast Games and the 2022 Birmingham Games.

Anahat Singh Creates History at World Squash Junior Championships 2026

- India's top-seed **Anahat Singh** became the **first Indian squash player to win the World Squash Junior Championships title**, defeating Egypt's Ruqayya Salem 3-0 (11-3, 11-7, 11-9) in the girls' singles final at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada.
- The 18-year-old ended Egypt's 16-year dominance in the girls' singles event by winning the championship without dropping a single game throughout the tournament.

Jhandu Kumar Wins Bronze, Opens India's Medal Account at Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026

- Indian para powerlifter **Jhandu Kumar** won the **bronze medal in the men's heavyweight** para powerlifting event at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026.
- Jhandu Kumar's bronze medal also opened India's medal account at the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

U Mumba TT Defends Ultimate Table Tennis Season 7 Title with Thrilling Comeback Victory

- **U Mumba TT** successfully **defended their Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7** title by defeating Dempo Goa Challengers 8–5 in a thrilling final, ending Goa's unbeaten run in the tournament.
- Trailing 4–2 after the first two matches, U Mumba TT staged a remarkable comeback, led by captain Manush Shah and Anna Hursey, whose mixed doubles victory and Manush's singles win over Alvaro Robles proved decisive.

Sharmila Dhankar Creates History with Commonwealth Games Gold in Women's Shot Put F57

- India's **Sharmila Dhankar** won the **gold medal in the women's shot put F57 event** at the 2026 Commonwealth Games with a season-best throw of 9.81 metres.
- With this victory, Sharmila Dhankar became India's first para-athlete to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal in athletics.

Raja Muthupandi Wins Silver in Men's 65 kg Weightlifting at Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026

- India's **Raja Muthupandi** won the **silver medal in the men's 65 kg weightlifting event** at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026, with a combined lift of 286 kg.
- The medal marked Raja Muthupandi's third consecutive Commonwealth Games podium finish, following his gold medals at Gold Coast 2018 and Birmingham 2022.

Esha Singh Wins Gold, Manu Bhaker Bags Bronze at ISSF World Cup in Hangzhou

- India's **Esha Singh** won the **gold medal in the women's 25 metre pistol event** at the ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) held in Hangzhou, China.
- Manu Bhaker claimed the bronze medal, giving India a double podium finish in the women's 25 metre pistol **event**.

Gulveer Singh Creates History, Harjinder Kaur Wins Silver as India Shines at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Gulveer Singh** created history by **winning the silver medal in the men's 10,000 metres** at the Commonwealth Games 2026, becoming the first Indian athlete to win a medal in the event with a timing of 27:49.78.
- Harjinder Kaur won the silver medal in the women's 69 kg weightlifting event with a combined lift of 227 kg, earning her second consecutive Commonwealth Games medal after winning bronze at Birmingham 2022.

Ladakh Scouts Win 6th Lieutenant Governor's Cup Horse Polo Tournament 2026

- The 6th Lieutenant Governor's Cup Horse Polo Tournament concluded at the Goshan International Polo Stadium in Drass, Ladakh, with 18 teams, including three women's teams, participating in the event.
- Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta announced enhanced prize money, increasing the winner's prize to ₹1 lakh for 2026 and ₹2 lakh from next year, while reaffirming efforts to promote horse polo as Ladakh's cultural heritage, adventure tourism, and women's participation in sports.

India Finishes ISSF World Cup 2026 with Four Medals, Esha Singh Wins Gold

- India concluded its campaign at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2026 in Hangzhou, China, with a total of four medals—one gold, one silver, and two bronze.
- Esha Singh won the gold in the Women's 25m Pistol event, while Sainyam claimed silver in the Women's 10m Air Pistol. Manu Bhaker secured bronze in the Women's 25m Pistol, and the duo of Sonam Maskar and Himanshu Dhillon won bronze in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event.

RCB Becomes First IPL Franchise to Cross US\$300 Million Brand Value

- Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) has become the first Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise to achieve a brand value of over US\$300 million, reaching US\$312 million with a 16% year-on-year increase.
- According to a report by US-based investment bank Houlihan Lokey, the IPL's overall business value has grown to US\$20.6 billion, with RCB retaining its position as the league's most valuable franchise.

Rank	Franchise	Brand Value
1	Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)	US\$312 million
2	Mumbai Indians (MI)	US\$264 million
3	Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)	US\$245 million
4	Chennai Super Kings (CSK)	US\$244 million
5	Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)	US\$168 million
6	Rajasthan Royals (RR)	US\$161 million
7	Punjab Kings (PBKS)	US\$158 million
8	Gujarat Titans (GT)	US\$157 million
9	Delhi Capitals (DC)	US\$156 million
10	Lucknow Super Giants (LSG)	US\$122 million

Chapter 18: Book and Author

Book	Author
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Book "The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks"

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan

Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
1 July	National Doctors' Day	Theme 2026 - Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers
1 July	Chartered Accountants' Day	Institute of Chartered Accountants of India was established on 1 July 1949 as the statutory body responsible for regulating the Chartered Accountancy profession in India and is one of the world's largest professional accounting bodies.
1 July	National Postal Workers' Day	To recognise and appreciate the dedication and hard work of postal employees who ensure the timely delivery of letters, parcels, and essential services, even under challenging conditions.
1 July	State Bank of India	State Bank of India celebrated its 71st Foundation Day on 1 July , marking over seven decades of service as India's largest public sector bank.
2 July	World UFO Day	To raise awareness about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) , encourage scientific inquiry into unexplained aerial phenomena, and promote discussions on the possibility of extraterrestrial life.
2 July	National Anisette Day	Anisette is made by infusing anise seeds or star anise with alcohol and sugar, giving it a distinctive liquorice-like flavour. It is commonly served as an after-dinner digestif or used in cocktails and desserts.

2 July	World Sports Journalists Day	Theme 2026 - Championing Fair Play: Reporting with Integrity and Impact
3 July	National Fried Clam Day	The day recognizes the popularity of crispy, deep-fried clams, a traditional coastal dish that is especially famous in the United States, particularly in New England
4 July	International Day of Cooperatives	Theme 2026 - Cooperatives for a peaceful world!
6 July	World Zoonoses Day	The day commemorates Louis Pasteur's successful administration of the first rabies vaccine on 6 July 1885 , marking a milestone in medical science.
6 July	World Rural Development Day	The day promotes inclusive development, focusing on better agriculture, education, healthcare, infrastructure, employment, and poverty reduction in rural areas.
7 July	World Chocolate Day	The day is believed to mark the introduction of chocolate to Europe in 1550, making 7 July a symbolic date in chocolate's global history
7 July	Global Forgiveness Day	The day highlights the importance of compassion, reconciliation, and peaceful relationships in families, communities, and society
7 July	World Kiswahili Language Day	The day was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote linguistic diversity, multilingualism, and the cultural heritage associated with Kiswahili.
10 July	National Fish Farmers Day	To honour the contributions of fish farmers and promote the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

10 July	Global Energy Independence Day	The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Nikola Tesla , the renowned inventor and electrical engineer whose innovations in alternating current (AC) electricity revolutionised modern power systems .
11 July	World Population Day	Theme 2026 - Realising the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future
11 July	World Horse Day	The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through a resolution adopted in 2025 , acknowledging the vital role of horses in agriculture, transportation, sports, tourism, and cultural heritage .
15 July	World Youth Skills Day	Theme 2026 - Skills for a shared future .
16 July	World Snake Day	Theme 2026 - Respect, Don't Fear: Protecting Nature's Silent Guardians
17 July	World Day for International Justice	Theme 2026 - Promoting Justice, Accountability, and Human Rights Worldwide
17 July	World Emoji Day	The day encourages creativity, highlights the evolution of digital expression, and recognizes emojis as a universal language connecting people across cultures .
18 July	Nelson Mandela International Day	It encourages people to dedicate 67 minutes of community service, symbolising Mandela's 67 years of public service in promoting peace, justice, equality, and human rights .
20 July	International Chess Day	The day commemorates the establishment of the International

		Chess Federation (FIDE) on 20 July 1924 in Paris, France
21 July	National Flag Adoption Day	The Indian National Flag was designed by Pingali Venkayya , and its final form was approved before India's independence.
21 July	International Moon Day	The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2021 to promote international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and sustainable use of outer space .
22 July	World Brain Day	Theme 2026 - Brain Health: Access for All
22 July	National Mango Day	India is the largest producer of mangoes in the world, contributing around 40% of global mango production , with major producing states including Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar, and Maharashtra .
24 July	National Thermal Engineer Day	The day highlights the vital role of thermal engineers in the design, operation, maintenance, and innovation of thermal power plants , heating and cooling systems, and energy technologies.
25 July	World Embryologist Day	Theme 2026 - Creating Hope, Advancing Fertility, Transforming Lives .
25 July	World Drowning Prevention Day	To raise awareness about drowning as a major but preventable cause of death and to promote life-saving water safety measures .
25 July	International Day for Women and Girls of African Descent	The day aims to promote gender equality, combat racism and discrimination , and advance the rights, empowerment, and inclusion of women and girls of African descent .

25 July	International Day on Judicial Well-being	The day highlights the importance of a healthy, independent, and efficient judiciary, recognizing that judicial well-being is essential for ensuring fair and effective justice delivery.
26 July	Kargil Vijay Diwas	To honour the bravery and supreme sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces.
26 July	International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem	Theme 2026 - Healthy Mangroves for Sustainable Blue Economy and Climate Resilience
27 July	World Head and Neck Cancer Day	The day promotes prevention by encouraging people to avoid major risk factors such as tobacco use, excessive alcohol consumption, and HPV infection.
27 July	CRPF Foundation Day	The day honours the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of CRPF personnel in maintaining internal security, counter-insurgency operations, anti-Naxal missions, election duties, and disaster response across India.
28 July	World Hepatitis Day	Theme 2026 - Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down
28 July	World Hepatitis Day	The day marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Baruch Samuel Blumberg , who discovered the Hepatitis B virus and developed the first Hepatitis B vaccine.
29 July	International Tiger Day	The day was established in 2010 during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia, with the objective of reversing the global decline in tiger populations.
30 July	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	2026 Theme: Trapped Behind the Scam

31 July	World Ranger Day	The day was established by the International Ranger Federation (IRF) in 2007 and is observed globally with support from conservation organizations.
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Chapter 20: Science & Technology

Mission ShakthiSAT: World's First All-Girls International Lunar Mission

- **Gautam Buddha University**, the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA), **Space Kidz India**, and **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre** have **partnered to support Mission ShakthiSAT**, the **world's first all-girls international lunar mission.**
- The mission seeks to empower 12,000 girls from 108 countries through hands-on training in satellite development, space technology, and scientific research, fostering the next generation of women space leaders.

Skyroot Aerospace Unveils Vikram-1, India's First Privately Developed Orbital Rocket

- **Skyroot Aerospace** has **unveiled Vikram-1**, India's first privately developed orbital rocket, named in honour of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme.
- The rocket's maiden launch mission, named "Aagaman" (a Sanskrit word meaning "Arrival"), is **scheduled to be launched** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota.

Skyroot's Vikram-1 to Carry Mission Embrace for World's First Soft Robotic Space Debris Capture Demonstration

- **Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1**, India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket, will carry Mission Embrace, the **first orbital technology demonstration mission** by Indian startup Cosmoserve Space, **during Mission Aagaman.**
- Mission Embrace aims to demonstrate the world's first soft robotic capture in orbit, a breakthrough technology for Active Debris Removal (ADR) to tackle the growing problem of space debris.

Neymar Jr Announces International Retirement After Ending Career as Brazil's All-Time Top Scorer

- **Neymar Jr.** announced his **retirement from international football** after Brazil's 2-1 defeat against Norway in the Round of 16 of the FIFA World Cup 2026.
- Neymar concluded his international career as Brazil's all-time leading goal scorer, scoring 80 goals in 130 appearances for the national team.

ISRO Successfully Conducts Main Parachute Airdrop Test for Gaganyaan G1 Mission

- **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.
- During the test, a simulated Crew Module payload was dropped from an altitude of 2.5 km using an Indian Air Force IL-76 transport aircraft, successfully demonstrating the parachute system's performance.

JAXA Successfully Conducts First Test Flight of Reusable RV-X Rocket

- The **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** successfully conducted the first test flight of its experimental reusable rocket, **Reusable Vehicle eXperiment (RV-X)**, at the **Noshiro Testing Center, Akita Prefecture**, where the rocket lifted off, hovered, moved horizontally, and landed safely.
- The RV-X is a 7.3-metre-long, 1.8-metre-diameter reusable rocket equipped with a high-durability engine and four shock-absorbing landing legs, developed jointly by JAXA and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to demonstrate reusable launch technology.

Dhruva Space Becomes First Recipient of ₹60 Crore Investment from Antariksh Venture Capital Fund

- **Hyderabad-based Dhruva Space** became the **first company to receive investment from the ₹1,600 crore Antariksh Venture Capital Fund, securing ₹60 crore.**
- The ₹60 crore investment is part of Dhruva Space's ₹275 crore pre-Series B funding round and will be used to expand satellite manufacturing, space infrastructure, and critical technology development. The company currently has an order book exceeding ₹500 crore.

China Successfully Tests Reusable Rocket Retrieval System with Long March 10B

- **China** successfully tested an experimental rocket-retrieval system, **recovering the Long March 10B booster** with a net mounted on an offshore platform, marking a major step toward reusable rocket technology.
- The test marked China's first successful retrieval of an orbital-class rocket. The Long March 10B also successfully placed a satellite into its preset orbit before the booster was recovered.

Kerala-Based HEX20 Launches Second Satellite 'KOYO' Aboard SpaceX Transporter-17 Mission

- **Kerala-based private spacetechnology startup HEX20** successfully launched its second satellite, **KOYO (Kinetic Optical Yaw Observer)**, aboard **SpaceX's Transporter-17 mission.**
- The launch took place from **Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, USA**, marking another milestone for India's private space sector.

India Achieves Historic Milestone with Successful Launch of Private Orbital Rocket Vikram-1

- India's first privately developed orbital rocket, **Vikram-1**, built by **Skyroot Aerospace** under Mission Aagaman, successfully reached a 450 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO) after launching from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- With the successful launch of Vikram-1, India became the third country in the world to achieve private orbital launch capability, marking a major milestone for the country's private space sector.

China Launches Gravity-1 Y4 Rocket, Successfully Places Nine Satellites into Orbit

- **China** successfully launched the **Gravity-1 Y4 commercial rocket** from the East China Sea, placing nine satellites into orbit and conducting one payload experiment, marking the first far-sea launch by a privately developed commercial rocket.
- Developed by **ORIENSPACE**, the 30-metre, 405-tonne Gravity-1 rocket lifted off from a launch vessel operated by the Oriental Aerospace Port under the direction of the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center.

Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
Lt Gen (Retd.) Madan Mohan Lakhera, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, former Governor of Mizoram and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry	For his exceptional service to the nation , he was honoured with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) , Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) , and Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) . He also played key roles during Operation Blue Star (1984) and in restoring peace during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Kanpur .
Renowned Tamil Poet and Two-Time Sahitya Akademi Awardee Puviyarasu	He received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2007 for "Puratchikaran" , the Tamil translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's The Revolutionary
Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr Teejan Bai	She broke social barriers by becoming one of the first women to perform the traditionally male-dominated Kapalik style of Pandavani , inspiring generations of folk artists .
Former Afghanistan Fast Bowler Shapoor Zadran	Zadran played 44 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 36 T20 Internationals (T20Is) for Afghanistan,

	making significant contributions to the country's cricket journey.
Veteran playback singer S. Janaki, popularly known as the "Nightingale of South India" and affectionately called "Janaki Amma"	S. Janaki recorded songs in multiple Indian languages and sang the highest number of songs in Kannada , earning the popular title "Gaana Kogile" (Songbird of Karnataka) .
Former Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani	Sheikh Hamad played a pivotal role in transforming Qatar into a major global energy and diplomatic hub, driven by the expansion of its natural gas industry and an active foreign policy .
Sahitya Akademi Award-Winning Tamil Writer Poomani	Poomani received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2014 for his acclaimed novel 'Agnaadi' , which depicts the Kazhugumalai (1895) and Sivakasi (1899) communal riots .
Pulitzer-Winning Political Cartoonist Pat Oliphant	Born in Adelaide, Australia , Oliphant won the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning in 1967 and became one of the world's most influential political cartoonists, with his work syndicated in hundreds of newspapers.
Cricket Legend Sir Garfield Sobers	Sobers represented the West Indies from 1954 to 1974, playing 93 Test matches, scoring 8,032 runs at an average of 57.78, taking 235 wickets, and famously becoming the first cricketer to hit six sixes in a single over in first-class cricket.
Veteran Sports Journalist Jaswinder Singh Sidhu	During his illustrious career, he worked with leading media organisations, including Amar Ujala, Hindustan Times, Dainik Jagran, and Hindustan, making significant contributions to sports reporting in India.