

Current Affairs Capsule (15/July/2026)

National News

India Post Achieves Record First-Quarter Revenue Growth in FY2026-27

India Post recorded its highest-ever first-quarter revenue of ₹4,009 crore in Q1 FY2026-27, registering a 22% year-on-year growth. Announced during the Department of Posts' Quarterly Business Review Meeting chaired by Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, the achievement reflects India Post's transformation into a modern, customer-centric, and digitally empowered postal network. The Citizen Centric Services segment led growth with 86%, followed by Parcel Services (50%), Mail Services (42%), International Relations & Global Business (34%), PLI/RPLI (20%), and Post Office Savings Bank (10%). Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal emerged as the top-performing postal circles. Operational efficiency also improved significantly, with nil business transactions declining by over 92% in POSB, 97% in PLI/RPLI, and 99% in Speed Post and Parcel, indicating stronger customer outreach and better utilization of postal infrastructure.

State News

Uttar Pradesh Tops India's Cyber Fraud Complaints in 2026

Cyber fraud emerged as a major digital threat in India during the first half of 2026, with over 12.7 lakh complaints and financial losses exceeding ₹10,178 crore, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of complaints (1.85 lakh), followed by Maharashtra (1.58 lakh), Karnataka (1.21 lakh), Gujarat (97,937), and Bihar (93,137). Common cyber scams included digital arrest, fake investment schemes, OTP and banking fraud, UPI scams, fake customer care, job scams, courier fraud, and social media impersonation. Authorities advised citizens to never share OTPs or banking credentials, enable two-factor authentication, verify suspicious calls, avoid unknown links, use trusted banking apps, monitor transactions regularly, and immediately report suspected fraud to the national cybercrime helpline 1930.

Karnataka Launches India's First Government AI University Initiative

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced the establishment of India's first government-driven Artificial Intelligence (AI) University during Google I/O Connect India 2026 in Bengaluru. The initiative aims to create a centre of excellence for AI education, research, innovation, and industry collaboration while preparing skilled professionals for emerging AI-based industries. Along with the university, Karnataka will establish an AI Hub to support startups, research projects, incubation, and partnerships between academia, government, and businesses. The move aligns with Karnataka's vision of becoming an "AI-native State" by integrating artificial intelligence into governance, healthcare, education, agriculture, and public services. The Chief Minister also invited Google to expand collaboration in AI learning, startup support, climate resilience, urban mobility, and responsible AI development, strengthening Karnataka's position as a leading technology and innovation hub.

International News

PM Modi Showcases India's Heritage Through Indonesian Gifts

During his three-day official visit to Indonesia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented rare tea, traditional handicrafts, and decorative artworks to President Prabowo Subianto and Parliament Speaker Puan Maharani, highlighting India's cultural diversity and craftsmanship. The gifts included Manohari Gold Tea from Assam, Uttarakhand's Aipan art, Kashmiri Papier-Mâché bowl, Repoussé silver decorative plate, and Odisha Ikat silk. The Manohari Gold Tea showcased India's premium tea heritage, while Aipan art reflected spiritual traditions associated with Lord Shiva. Kashmiri Papier-Mâché and silver craftsmanship represented India's fine decorative arts, and Odisha

Ikat highlighted its rich handloom tradition. These carefully selected gifts symbolized friendship, shared cultural values, and centuries-old connections between India and Indonesia while promoting Indian artisans, traditional knowledge, and cultural diplomacy on the global stage.

PM Modi Showcases Indian Heritage Through Diplomatic Gifts

During his three-day official visit to Australia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a collection of traditional handicrafts, premium coffee, and cultural artefacts to Australian leaders, highlighting India's diverse heritage and craftsmanship. The gifts included a Dhokra boat sculpture, Premium Indian Coffee Box, Colonial Cousins vinyl record, Kashmiri embroidered stole, Madhubani painting, marble inlay work box, and Rajasthani wooden elephant sculpture. The Dhokra artwork represented unity and collective progress, while the coffee collection showcased India's specialty coffee traditions. The vinyl record celebrated India's musical innovation, and other handicrafts reflected regional artistry from Kashmir, Bihar, Rajasthan, and beyond. These carefully selected gifts promoted Indian artisans, indigenous traditions, agricultural excellence, and cultural connections, strengthening India-Australia relations through cultural diplomacy.

PM Modi Presents Indian Handicrafts to Strengthen Cultural Ties

During his two-day official visit to New Zealand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented traditional Indian handicrafts and cultural artefacts to Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Opposition Leader Chris Hipkins, highlighting India's rich heritage and cultural diplomacy. The gifts included a Dhokra Tree of Life sculpture from Bastar, Chhattisgarh, a Traditional Uttarakhandi (Pahari) Cap, a signed hockey stick celebrating India's Women's Hockey Team victory, and a Zari Zardozi wall hanging from Lucknow. The Dhokra sculpture represented ancient metal craftsmanship and shared values of interconnectedness, while the Pahari Cap showcased Himalayan traditions. The hockey stick reflected India's sporting achievements, and the Zardozi artwork highlighted centuries-old embroidery skills. The initiative promoted Indian artisans, regional craftsmanship, and stronger people-to-people relations between India and New Zealand.

India and Maldives Complete First Round of FTA Negotiations

India and the Maldives successfully concluded the first round of negotiations for a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) from 29 June to 7 July 2026, marking a significant step toward strengthening bilateral economic ties. Conducted virtually, the discussions covered eight negotiating tracks, with both nations achieving broad convergence on several issues. The agreement aims to improve market access, increase investments, and expand cooperation in sectors such as tourism, digital payments, startups, and MSMEs. India and Maldives also agreed to accelerate talks on a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT). The negotiations coincide with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Bilateral trade reached USD 771.76 million in 2025-26, growing 13.54% from the previous year, highlighting the increasing economic partnership and opportunities for future collaboration.

India Supports Palestine's UN Bid and Announces Aid Initiatives

India reaffirmed its support for Palestine's application for full United Nations membership and reiterated its commitment to a two-state solution for achieving peace and stability in West Asia. During international meetings in Brussels and New York, India emphasized that dialogue and diplomacy remain essential for resolving regional conflicts. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar announced a new humanitarian and development assistance package for Palestine, including a specialty medical hospital, artificial limb fitting centre, and vocational training institute to support healthcare, rehabilitation, and skill development. India also pledged continued support to UNRWA, which provides education, healthcare, relief, and social services to Palestinian refugees. The initiative reflects India's long-standing partnership with the Palestinian people through humanitarian assistance, capacity building, and development cooperation.



Europe and Ukraine Form Missile Defence Coalition for Security

Europe and Ukraine have launched a new anti-ballistic missile defence coalition with nine European partners to strengthen regional security and develop advanced missile defence capabilities. Announced during the coalition's first meeting in Paris, the initiative aims to create a joint European capacity to counter increasing missile threats and reduce dependence on external defence suppliers. The coalition includes the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden along with Ukraine. Its short-term goals include developing common operational requirements, technical cooperation, defence industry partnerships, and missile interception research. A key project, Freyja, will combine Ukraine's battlefield experience with European technology to develop advanced defence systems. Ukraine's expertise in countering large-scale missile attacks is considered crucial for building a stronger European missile shield.

India Hosts 12th BRICS Labour Ministers' Meeting in Hyderabad

India is hosting the 12th BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting (LEMM) in Hyderabad on 15–16 July 2026 under its BRICS Chairship. Chaired by Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the meeting brings together labour ministers and senior officials from BRICS nations to discuss the future of work. Guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability (BRICS)", the discussions focus on social security and labour market formalisation, women's workforce participation, skills development and employability, and digital public infrastructure for worker welfare, particularly for gig workers. The meeting follows the Third BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) held on 13–14 July 2026, where member countries finalized a draft declaration outlining a shared roadmap for stronger labour and employment cooperation across BRICS nations.

India-UK CETA Comes Into Force to Boost Bilateral Trade

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between India and the United Kingdom came into effect on 15 July 2026, marking a major milestone in bilateral economic relations. The agreement aims to increase two-way trade from the current USD 55–60 billion to USD 100 billion by 2030 by improving market access, strengthening supply chains, encouraging investments, and creating employment opportunities. Under CETA, Indian exporters in sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, jewellery, and plastics will receive zero-duty access in several categories, improving competitiveness in the UK market. The agreement also protects India's automobile sector through safeguards on EVs, hybrid vehicles, and hydrogen-powered vehicles. The India-UK Double Contribution Convention (DCC) will benefit over 75,000 Indian professionals by preventing double social security payments and saving businesses over USD 600 million annually.

Business News

EaseMyTrip Partners with Jharkhand to Boost Tourism Promotion

Online travel platform EaseMyTrip signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Tourism, Government of Jharkhand, on 14 July 2026 to promote the state's spiritual, cultural, and eco-tourism potential. The partnership aims to increase Jharkhand's visibility among domestic travellers through digital campaigns, technology-driven promotion, and EaseMyTrip's extensive travel network. Key attractions such as Shri Baidyanath Dham, ancient temples, waterfalls, forests, wildlife destinations, tribal culture, and agri-tourism experiences will be highlighted. EaseMyTrip will also use its spiritual tourism platform EasyDarshan to promote pilgrimage destinations and simplify travel planning. The initiative is expected to boost tourist arrivals, create employment opportunities, support local businesses, and strengthen Jharkhand's tourism economy by showcasing authentic and nature-based travel experiences across India.

MRF Named India's Most Valuable Tyre Brand in 2026



MRF Ltd., India's largest tyre manufacturer, was named the Most Valuable and Strongest Tyre Brand in India in the Brand Finance India 100 – 2026 report. It also secured the position of the third strongest tyre brand globally in the Brand Finance Tyres 25 – 2026 rankings, achieving a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 87.7/100. The rankings recognize MRF's strong financial performance, market presence, consumer trust, brand image, marketing effectiveness, and business growth. The report also highlighted that the combined brand value of India's top 100 brands exceeded \$236.5 billion in 2026. Established in 1946 and headquartered in Chennai, MRF manufactures tyres for cars, trucks, buses, bikes, agricultural machinery, trailers, and aircraft, while also contributing to sports and automotive development.

Economy News

MoSPI Launches India's First Monthly Services Production Index

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched India's first trial Index of Services Production (ISP) with 2024–25 as the base year to measure monthly performance of the formal services sector. Covering 19 sub-sectors that contribute nearly 60% of India's services economy, the index aims to provide timely data for economic monitoring, policymaking, and business decisions. The first ISP report for April 2026 showed strong growth, with 14 out of 19 sectors recording double-digit expansion. Accommodation and Food Services (37.2%), Retail (30.8%), and Administrative Services (28.7%) were among the fastest-growing sectors, while air transport and rail transport declined. Developed with support from the Technical Advisory Committee on ISP, the index uses GST data, administrative records, and survey-based information. MoSPI will release ISP data monthly on the 29th.

India's Net Direct Tax Collections Rise 16.4% in FY2026-27

India's net direct tax collections reached ₹6.51 lakh crore as of 13 July 2026, registering a 16.4% year-on-year growth compared to ₹5.59 lakh crore during the same period last year, according to the Income Tax Department. The growth was driven by stronger corporate earnings, rising individual tax contributions, improved compliance, and higher economic activity despite increased tax refunds. Net corporate tax collections rose to ₹2.40 lakh crore, while non-corporate tax collections increased to ₹3.85 lakh crore from individuals, HUFs, firms, and other entities. Securities Transaction Tax (STT) also grew significantly to ₹26,429 crore, reflecting higher market activity. Gross direct tax collections reached ₹7.74 lakh crore, while refunds increased 14.57% to ₹1.22 lakh crore, indicating a stronger fiscal position.

Awards News

R. Vairamuthu Becomes Third Tamil Jnanpith Award Recipient

Renowned Tamil poet, lyricist, and writer R. Vairamuthu received the 60th Jnanpith Award (2025), India's highest literary honour, at a ceremony in New Delhi. Presented by Dr. Karan Singh, the award recognizes Vairamuthu's outstanding lifetime contribution to Tamil literature. He became the third writer from Tamil Nadu to receive the honour, following Akilan (1975) and Jayakanthan (2002), ending a 24-year gap. The award includes a ₹11 lakh cash prize, a bronze statue of Goddess Vagdevi, and a citation. Vairamuthu is celebrated for his poetry, novels, essays, and Tamil film lyrics, with notable work Kallikattu Ithikasam, which won the Sahitya Akademi Award (2003). The Jnanpith Award, instituted in 1961 by Bharatiya Jnanpith, honours exceptional lifetime contributions to Indian literature in Eighth Schedule languages.

Books & Authors News

Vice-President Releases Book on Justice B.R. Gavai's Constitutional Vision

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released *The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks* at Uprashtrapati Bhavan on 14 July 2026. The book, edited by Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar and published by Thomson Reuters with the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA), compiles speeches and reflections of former Chief Justice Justice B.R. Gavai on constitutional governance, judicial philosophy, social justice, and the rule of law. During the event, the Vice-President described the Constitution as a living document that upholds democracy, accountability, and citizens' rights while emphasizing the judiciary's role in safeguarding constitutional values. He also urged legal professionals to expand pro bono legal services to improve access to justice for disadvantaged sections and praised Justice Gavai's lifelong commitment to constitutional principles and judicial integrity.

Sports News

Spain Reaches FIFA World Cup 2026 Final After Semifinal

Spain secured a place in the FIFA World Cup 2026 final after defeating France 2-0 in the first semifinal at AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas. The match saw Spain dominate possession and create better scoring opportunities despite both teams having equal shots. Mikel Oyarzabal's penalty opened the scoring after Lamine Yamal's attacking effort forced a foul, while Pedro Porro doubled the lead through a well-executed combination with Dani Olmo. Spain's disciplined defence prevented France from launching dangerous counter-attacks and maintained a clean sheet. With this victory, Spain reached the World Cup final for the first time since their 2010 triumph. They will face the winner of England versus Argentina semifinal. The tournament final is scheduled for 20th July 2026, with anticipation.

Delhi Unveils Mayur Mascot for Commonwealth Table Tennis 2026

Delhi unveiled 'Mayur', the official mascot for the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026, ahead of the tournament scheduled from 27 July to 2 August 2026 at Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi. Inspired by India's national bird, the peacock, the mascot represents unity, diversity, friendship, sportsmanship, and international cooperation. Its colourful feathers incorporate elements reflecting the flags of Commonwealth nations, highlighting the global character of the event. Around 35 countries are expected to participate in the championship, making it one of the largest editions of the tournament. Unveiled by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the event is jointly organized by the Delhi Government and the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI). The mascot launch reflects Delhi's ambition to strengthen sports infrastructure and establish itself as a major international sporting destination.

Important Days News

World Youth Skills Day 2026 Promotes Future-Ready Skills Globally

World Youth Skills Day 2026 will be observed worldwide on 15 July 2026 with the theme "Skills for a Shared Future." Organized by the United Nations (UN), the day highlights the importance of equipping young people with technical, digital, vocational, and life skills needed in a rapidly evolving world. The 2026 theme emphasizes lifelong learning, inclusive education, and collaboration among governments, industries, and educational institutions to build a future-ready workforce. Established by the UN General Assembly in 2014 and first observed in 2015, the day promotes Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to improve employability, encourage entrepreneurship, reduce unemployment, and support sustainable development. It also focuses on AI, digital transformation, green economy skills, innovation, soft skills, and achieving key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through youth empowerment.

