

Weekly One Liners 20th to 26th July, 2026

What Is BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme? Cabinet Clears New Chemical Parks Initiative Scheme

The Union Cabinet led by Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consented to the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) Scheme. Introduced in the Union Budget 2026–27, this scheme endeavors to create three specialized Chemical Parks all around India with advanced infrastructure. This scheme has a total financial outlay of ₹3,030 crore. The program is expected to enhance India's competitive position in the chemical industry, attract national and foreign investment, create job opportunities, and promote Viksit Bharat 2047 and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

What Is the BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme?

The BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme is an initiative by the Central Government to set up three Chemical Parks with the requisite common infrastructure and utilities required for the chemical industry.

This initiative aims to develop integrated industrial ecosystems that cater to the entire chemical value chain, from upstream to downstream and auxiliary industries.

The Government intends to cut production costs and enhance efficiency in the chemical sector through the introduction of shared infrastructure.

Salient Features of BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme

Listed below are the key features of the BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme,

- Approved by the Union Cabinet on 24th July, 2026.
- Announced in the Union Budget for FY 2026-2027.
- Provide financial outlay of ₹3,030 crore.
- ₹3,000 crore for infrastructure development.
- ₹30 crore on administrative costs.
- Duration of the scheme FY 2026 to FY 2031.
- There will be three Chemical Parks to be established.
- Maximum assistance from the Center will be ₹1,000 crore per park.
- Minimum contribution by the State Government will be ₹500 crore.
- Park will be selected by a Challenge Route.

Funding Framework

The initiative operates on a co-funded model where both the central and state government funds are utilized.

Financial Support

- Support from the Central Government: Maximum ₹1,000 crore per Chemical Park.
- Contribution from State Government: At least ₹500 crore.
- Total Estimated Expenditure: ₹3,030 crore.

Through this joint funding mechanism the objective is to motivate the states to come forward and work for the creation of good industrial infrastructure.

Infrastructure Feature in Chemical Parks

Every Chemical Park has a plug-play infrastructure which makes it easy for the industries to set up their operations in the park.

- Common Infrastructure Facilities
- Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP)
- Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF)
- Hazardous Waste Management Facility
- Water supply and distribution system
- Steam generation and distribution system
- Solvent recovery and distillation facilities
- Interconnected pipeline system
- Logistics and warehousing facility

The sharing of facilities will assist the industry in saving on operational costs by ensuring conformity with the environmental regulations.

Eligibility and Land Requirements

Under the program, Chemical Parks will be established by State Governments.

Basic Requirements

- Land of at least 8 sq.km (approximately 2000 acres) not encumbered and contiguous.
- Eligibility for selection based on the competitive Challenge Route.
- Collaboration with the Central Government for development.

These large integrated parks are likely to host several chemical manufacturing facilities and allied industries.

Purpose of BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme

The objective behind the scheme is to enhance development of the chemical industry in India by means of development of supportive infrastructure and creation of industrial clusters.

Main Objectives

- Promoting integrated chemical production.
- Lowering logistics costs. Reduction in manufacturing expenses.
- Strengthening both upstream and downstream companies.
- Increasing the production capacity of the country.
- Providing incentives for import substitution.
- Increasing the level of exports.
- Attracting domestic and foreign investments.
- Increasing sustainability of the environment.
- Creating jobs.



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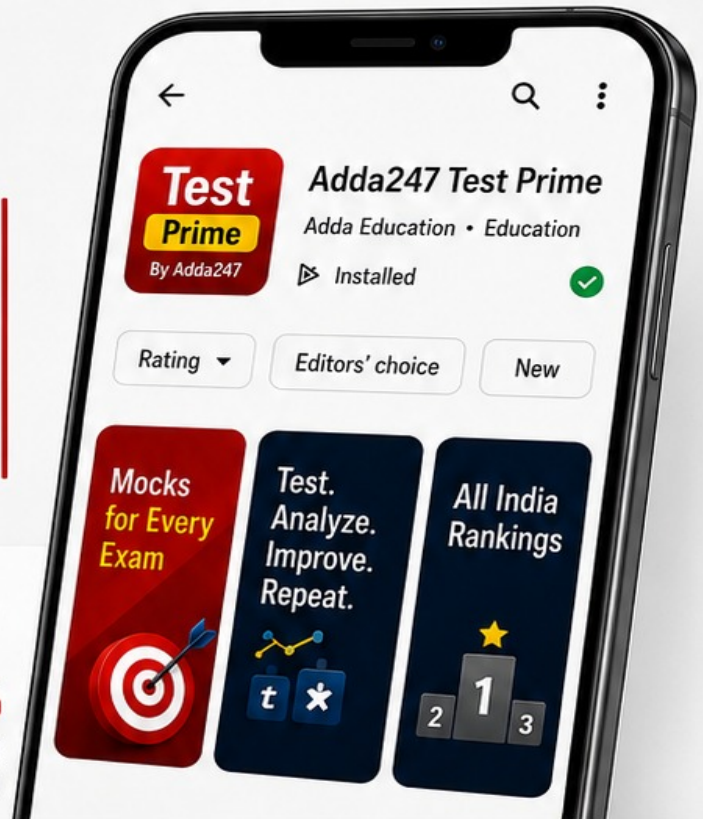


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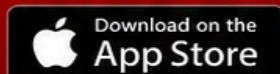


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Benefits for India's Chemical Sector

The chemical sector is highly important to the functioning of a number of manufacturing industries.

It is anticipated that the BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme will prove to be beneficial in the long term.

Increased Competitiveness

The shared infrastructures would significantly bring the expenses down and produce more productivity and competitiveness of Indian manufacturers in foreign markets.

Enhanced Integration within the Global Value Chains

The objective of the scheme is to improve India's status in global chemical supply chains and minimize the dependence on chemical goods from foreign countries.

Sustainable Industrial Development

Centralized waste disposal systems and environmental infrastructure will contribute to cleaner and sustainable industrial development.

Boosting Employment

The launch of big chemical parks is expected to create a number of jobs in manufacturing, logistics, etc.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Awards: Full List of Winners

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

Spain Victorious at FIFA World Cup 2026 Awards

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

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

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

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

Rodri Secures Adidas Golden Ball

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

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

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

Golden Ball Winners

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

Kylian Mbappé Obtains the Golden Boot

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

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

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

Main Players for the Golden Boot

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

Unai Simón Wins the Golden Glove

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

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

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

Pau Cubarsí Named FIFA Best Young Player

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

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

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

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

Netherlands Receives FIFA Good Behavior Award

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

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

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

The List of Winners of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Awards

The winners of the team awards

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

The Winners of Individual Awards

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

National Affairs

- **India** inaugurated **Shabdlok**, the country's first immersive **Language Museum**, at the **National Library, Kolkata**, to preserve its rich linguistic heritage. Inaugurated by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**, the museum uses **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), holograms, and interactive displays**. It showcases nearly **380 Indian languages**, diverse scripts, and literary traditions across **nine galleries**, tracing the evolution of communication from oral traditions to written literature. **Free entry until August 15, 2026**, aims to encourage public engagement with India's multilingual and cultural legacy.
- The **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, introduced in the **Lok Sabha** on **July 20, 2026**, proposes increasing the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from **33 to 37**, excluding the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**. Once enacted, the court will have **38 judges** in total. The move seeks to address nearly **92,385 pending cases**, improve judicial efficiency, and speed up case disposal. The amendment requires **Parliamentary approval and Presidential assent**, as it is an **ordinary law**, not a constitutional amendment.
- The **Aadhaar App**, developed by **UIDAI**, has crossed **4 crore downloads**, reflecting the rapid adoption of **Digital India** services. Users can update **addresses, mobile numbers, email IDs**, download **e-Aadhaar**, and manage **biometric**

lock/unlock features. The app has recorded **11.65 lakh address updates, 49 lakh mobile updates, 12.5 lakh email updates, and 1.91 crore biometric transactions**. To promote digital identity management, **email updates remain free until December 31, 2026**, strengthening secure, paperless, and citizen-friendly government services.

- India launched **JAL-YAAN**, the country's first **solar-powered water purification van**, developed by **CSIR-CSMCRI** with **Rite Water Solutions**. Designed for **remote and disaster-hit regions**, it purifies water from **rivers, ponds, groundwater, and stored sources** using **Reverse Osmosis (RO) and Ultrafiltration (UF)** technologies. Operating independently through **solar power**, the mobile unit also provides emergency electricity during **floods, cyclones, earthquakes, and droughts**. The initiative supports **renewable energy, climate resilience, safe drinking water**, and sustainable public health across rural and humanitarian settings.
- The **Central Government** granted environmental clearance for the **1,000 MW Naying Hydel Project** in **Arunachal Pradesh**, located on the **Siyom River** near the **India-China border**. The **run-of-the-river** hydroelectric project received approval from the **Environment Ministry's Expert Appraisal Committee** after environmental studies and public consultations. It is expected to enhance **renewable energy generation**, improve **energy security**, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, strengthen **border infrastructure**, generate employment, improve connectivity, and accelerate socio-economic development in the remote districts of **Siang and Shi-Yomi**.
- The **Supreme Court of India** directed the **Central Government** to form a committee within **two weeks** to recommend **uniform post-retirement benefits** for retired **Chief Justices and High Court judges**. The committee will submit recommendations within **three months** covering **security, drivers, domestic assistance, medical reimbursement, telecommunications, and accommodation**. The Court emphasized equal treatment across states and questioned whether existing financial assistance of **₹45,000-₹50,000** is adequate, while the Centre agreed to constitute the committee.
- India approved its first **100 MWh Vanadium Redox Flow Battery Energy Storage System (VRFB BESS)** at **Khavda Solar Park, Gujarat**, marking the country's first **indigenous utility-scale non-lithium battery project**. Owned by **NTPC Renewable Energy Limited**, with **Bondada Engineering and Delectrik Systems**, the project is scheduled for **2027**. Using **vanadium-based electrolytes**, the technology offers long life, improved safety, and scalable energy storage, strengthening **grid stability**, supporting the **30 GW Khavda Renewable Energy Park**, and advancing **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and energy security.

- India hosted the **5th BRICS Working Group on Geospatial Technologies and its Applications** at IIT Tirupati from **20–22 July 2026**, organised by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**. Delegates discussed **GIS, Artificial Intelligence (AI), remote sensing, satellite imagery, Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT)**, and climate resilience. The meeting aims to produce the **Tirupati Recommendations (2026)** and **BRICS Action Plan (2026–27)**, strengthening international cooperation in geospatial innovation, disaster management, and interoperable digital infrastructure.
- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** is developing a **Digital Aviation Incident Reporting Platform** integrated with the **eGCA portal** to modernize aviation safety reporting. The platform will digitize **Mandatory Occurrence Reports (MORs)** submitted by airlines, airports, and maintenance organisations, replacing manual systems. It will enable online reporting, centralized record management, faster investigations, compliance monitoring, and quicker regulatory action. The initiative will improve **transparency, data accuracy, proactive risk management**, and strengthen aviation safety as India's aviation sector continues to expand.
- India unveiled the **Yantur 4.5 kN Turbofan Engine Programme**, developed by **Paninian India Private Ltd.**, to enhance indigenous aerospace capabilities under **Atmanirbhar Bharat**. Designed for **combat drones, cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial platforms**, the engine features **digital twin-based health monitoring**, scalable thrust up to **12.5 kN**, and advanced manufacturing technologies. Having entered subsystem testing and validation, the programme includes **five patent claims** and is expected to power the **Svayatt L1 platform**, reducing dependence on imported propulsion systems.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** launched **Digital Local Pass** and **MargMitra Help Centre** on the **RajmargYatra Mobile App** to improve highway travel. **Digital Local Pass** enables eligible commuters within **20 km** of toll plazas to obtain monthly toll passes digitally using **DigiLocker, VAHAN, FASTag, and GIS** verification. **MargMitra**, an **AI-powered multilingual assistant**, provides **FASTag support, toll information, complaint resolution, grievance tracking, and road safety assistance**, supporting India's **Digital India** initiative and smarter highway management.
- Central Know Your Customer (CKYC)** is a centralized KYC system managed by **CERSAI**, allowing customers to complete identity verification once and use it across **banks, NBFCs, mutual funds, and insurance companies**. After verification, users receive a unique **14-digit CKYC Identification Number (KIN)**. The system reduces repeated paperwork, accelerates financial services, improves transparency, and strengthens data security. Registration requires documents like **Aadhaar, PAN, identity proof, address proof, and photographs**, which authorised institutions upload to the centralized registry.
- The **Ministry of Coal** will sign a technical cooperation agreement with **Germany's GIZ** to promote **scientific mine closure**, environmental restoration, and sustainable post-mining land use. During the event, the Ministry will release the first **AAROH (Annual Report on Mine Closure)**, documenting the scientific closure of **42 coal mines** since Independence. The partnership will strengthen initiatives such as **RECLAIM, L.I.V.E.S., and SUVIKALP**, encouraging ecosystem restoration, land rehabilitation, water management, and long-term community development through global best practices.
- India launched the **Campus Biodiversity Register (CBR) Initiative**, jointly implemented by the **Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF)** and the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**, to help educational institutions document biodiversity on their campuses. Colleges and universities will record **plants, animals, birds, insects, and other species** using citizen science platforms such as **iNaturalist, eBird, and SeasonWatch**. Registrations remain open until **November 2026**, while documentation continues until **June 2027**, promoting conservation, ecological research, environmental awareness, and stronger biodiversity-based policymaking through active student participation.
- Killai village in Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu**, has become the state's first **Climate-Resilient Village**, adopting a community-based strategy to tackle **cyclones, floods, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and saltwater intrusion**. Located near the **Pichavaram Mangrove Forest**, the initiative combines **scientific planning, resilient infrastructure, ecosystem conservation, disaster preparedness, water management, and sustainable livelihoods**. By protecting fishermen, farmers, and local ecosystems, Killai demonstrates how community participation and nature-based solutions can build long-term climate resilience and serve as a model for other coastal regions.
- President Droupadi Murmu** unveiled a **bust of Mahatma Gandhi** at the **Museum of the City of Skopje in North Macedonia** on **22 July 2026**, in the presence of **President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova**. During the ceremony, she highlighted **Gandhi's principles of Satya (Truth) and Ahimsa (Non-violence)** as universal values promoting justice, peace, freedom, and dialogue. The memorial symbolizes growing **India–North Macedonia friendship**, cultural diplomacy, and a shared commitment to tolerance, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence amid contemporary global challenges.

- India's installed **wind power capacity** reached **57,443 MW** as of **30 June 2026**, with **6,057 MW** added during **FY 2025–26**, the highest annual addition in the past three years. According to the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, wind energy generation rose to **106 billion units**, while **Gujarat** remained the leading state with **16,086 MW** of capacity. Ranked **fourth globally** by the **Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)**, India continues expanding renewable energy through transmission reforms, offshore wind policies, and investment incentives.
- India achieved **99.6% electrification** of its **broad gauge railway network**, making **Indian Railways** the **world's second most electrified railway system** after **Switzerland**. Since **2014**, more than **48,000 route kilometres** have been electrified, significantly reducing diesel consumption from **293 crore litres** in **2015–16** to **108 crore litres** in **2024–25**. Rail transport emits nearly **89% less CO₂** per tonne-kilometre than road transport, while over **1,260 MW** of solar and wind capacity has been installed, supporting India's climate and energy goals.
- India will develop at least five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033** under the **Nuclear Energy Mission** with an investment of nearly **\$2 billion**. Designed by **BARC**, the programme includes **Bharat SMR, SMR-55, and HTGR** technologies to boost **clean energy**, support **hydrogen production**, and strengthen **energy security**. The modular reactors offer **enhanced safety, faster deployment, and lower costs**, while policy reforms encouraging **private sector participation** will accelerate innovation. The initiative supports India's target of **22 GW nuclear capacity by 2031–32** and **100 GW by 2047**, contributing significantly to **carbon emission reduction** and sustainable industrial growth.
- The Central Government** plans to introduce a **new law** to curb **examination paper leaks**, featuring **fast-track courts** and **strict penalties** for offenders. Announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, the legislation follows several high-profile paper leak cases that affected thousands of aspirants and undermined the credibility of competitive examinations. The proposed Bill will be reviewed by the **Union Cabinet** before being introduced in **Parliament**. It aims to ensure **speedy justice**, dismantle organised examination fraud networks, safeguard genuine candidates, improve **transparency and accountability**, and restore public confidence in India's recruitment and admission examination system.
- Maharashtra launched Bharat Taxi**, a **cooperative-based ride service**, at **Navi Mumbai International Airport** under the vision of "**Sahakar Se Samridhi**." Inaugurated by **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** and **Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol**, the platform treats drivers as **cooperative owners (Sarathis)** instead of commission-based partners. The service offers **fixed fares, no surge pricing, transparent charges, and improved passenger safety**, ensuring stable earnings for drivers. After successful implementation in **Delhi and Gujarat**, the initiative will expand across Maharashtra, strengthening the state's cooperative movement while providing **affordable and reliable transportation**.
- India launched the **Electric Boat Conversion Pilot Project** at **Namo Ghat, Varanasi** on **23 July 2026** to promote **clean and sustainable river transport** on the Ganga. Implemented by **VDA and GAIL**, the project converts fuel-powered boats into **electric boats** equipped with **15 kW motors, lithium batteries, GPS tracking, EV charging, and remote monitoring**. Initially, **20 boats** will be converted, reducing pollution, promoting **eco-tourism**, and supporting **green mobility**, while encouraging boatmen to adopt environmentally friendly technology.
- The **Weaves of India Festival 2026**, held from **24 July–7 August** at **CCIE, New Delhi**, showcases **116 traditional handloom weaves** under the **Ministry of Textiles**. Featuring **Banarasi Silk, Jamdani, Kanchipuram Silk, and Sambalpuri Ikat**, the event promotes **India's textile heritage**, supports artisans, boosts rural employment, and encourages the use of **indigenous handloom products**. It also celebrates the upcoming **12th National Handloom Day (7 August)**, commemorating the **Swadeshi Movement of 1905**.
- Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0** integrates **Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyaan, and the Scheme for Adolescent Girls** to improve **nutrition, early childhood care, and women's health**. With an allocation of **₹21,960 crore** for **FY 2025–26**, the mission modernises Anganwadi centres and strengthens digital governance. Over **10 lakh Anganwadi workers** have been trained under **Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi**, while **ICT-based systems** enable real-time growth monitoring and better policy implementation.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved amendments to the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024** to curb **exam paper leaks** and organised cheating. The proposal increases the **minimum imprisonment** from **3 to 5 years** and raises the **maximum fine** to **₹10 crore**. It also introduces **fast-track courts** and special investigation mechanisms to tackle offences such as **paper leaks, impersonation, fake websites, and organised fraud**, ensuring **fair and transparent examinations**.
- The **Right to Protest** is protected under **Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(b)** of the **Constitution**, allowing peaceful expression and assembly. However, it is subject to **reasonable restrictions** related to **public order, national security, and sovereignty**. Following the **Cockroach Janta Party** protest, debate has resumed over protest regulations. **Supreme Court rulings** have affirmed that demonstrations must remain peaceful and should not indefinitely block public spaces or disrupt public life.

- **Indian Railways** launched an **AI-based linen stain detection pilot project** at mechanised laundries in **Pune, Jaipur, and Jodhpur** to improve hygiene in **AC coach bedrolls**. The system uses **computer vision, machine learning, image analysis, and high-resolution cameras** for automated stain detection. It complements existing quality checks such as **Whito-Meters, CCTV surveillance, and manual inspections**, aiming to improve **passenger satisfaction** and support **smart railway modernisation**.
- **Ravneet Singh Bittu**, Union Minister of State for **Railways and Food Processing Industries**, resigned after his **Rajya Sabha term** ended in **June 2026**. The resignation was accepted by **President Droupadi Murmu** under **Article 75(2)** of the Constitution. Bittu stated he intends to focus on **Punjab politics** ahead of the **2027 Assembly elections**. A former **Congress** leader, he joined the **BJP** in **2024** and previously represented **Ludhiana and Anandpur Sahib** in the Lok Sabha.
- The **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)** directed **GitHub** to remove repositories linked to **Bitchat**, a **Bluetooth-based decentralised messaging app** created by **Jack Dorsey**. The government cited concerns over **national security, cybercrime, misinformation, and anonymous communication**, invoking **Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000** and **IT Rules, 2021**. Earlier reports of **security vulnerabilities** also raised concerns about the platform's safety and misuse.
- The **Supreme Court of India** ruled that **court proceeding videos** cannot be uploaded, shared, or circulated online without prior approval from authorised officials. The order aims to prevent **misleading edits, AI-generated misinformation, and sensational content** that could undermine public confidence in the judiciary. The Court also sought the **Bar Council of India's** opinion on lawyers using courtroom clips for promotion and warned that continued misuse could lead to restrictions on **live-streaming access**.

States in the News

- **Amul** launched its **₹700 crore Bengal Dairy Project** at **Howrah Food Park**, featuring the **world's largest curd manufacturing plant**. The facility will process **30 lakh litres of milk daily** and produce **10 lakh kg of curd**, packaged milk, **UHT milk**, ice cream, paneer, ghee, sweets, and flavoured milk. The first phase will benefit around **1.2 lakh dairy farmers** through cooperative procurement and better income opportunities. Supporting **White Revolution 2.0**, the project also includes **breed improvement programmes** and farmer welfare initiatives.
- **APEDA** facilitated the first export of **Kashmir cherries and plums** to **Singapore**, marking a milestone for India's

horticulture exports. The shipment included **Areko cherries** and **Scentrose plums** from **Shopian and Pulwama** districts. Supported by **Osum Food Solutions LLP** and **Fruit Master Agro Fresh Pvt. Ltd.**, the produce underwent scientific harvesting, grading, hygienic packaging, cold-chain logistics, and phytosanitary checks. The initiative is expected to increase farmers' earnings by over **50%** while expanding exports to markets like **Singapore, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai**.

- **Maharashtra** has approved **India's first AI-powered bird sanctuary** at the **Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary** with an investment of **₹45 crore**. The project will establish an **AI-based bird detection and monitoring centre** capable of identifying bird species, tracking migration, and collecting ecological data in real time. Additional attractions include **birdwatching towers, nature trails, interactive exhibits, and educational facilities**. The initiative combines **artificial intelligence** with wildlife conservation to promote scientific biodiversity monitoring and sustainable eco-tourism near **Mumbai and Navi Mumbai**.
- The **Madhya Pradesh Cabinet** approved the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026**, becoming the **fourth Indian state** after **Uttarakhand, Gujarat, and Assam** to introduce such legislation. Based on **Article 44** of the Constitution, the Bill proposes common civil laws governing **marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, maintenance, and live-in relationships**. It mandates marriage registration, equal inheritance rights, and monogamy while prohibiting **polygamy, triple talaq, and nikah halala**. **Scheduled Tribes and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** remain exempt to preserve customary traditions.
- The **Government of India** and **Meghalaya** launched **Mission Golden Spice**, investing **₹175.45 crore** to strengthen the **GI-tagged Lakadong Turmeric** value chain. The five-year project aims to expand cultivation from **2,500 hectares to 7,000 hectares** by **2030**, benefiting over **17,500 farmers**, especially women. Known for its **7–12% curcumin content**, Lakadong Turmeric will receive better processing, branding, and export support. The mission targets a **₹100 crore turmeric economy** while increasing exports to markets including the **US, Europe, Japan, and Gulf countries**.
- The **Chhattisgarh Government** approved **10% reservation** for **Agniveers** in selected **Class-III government jobs** under the **Chhattisgarh Reservation of Vacancies in Class-III Civil Services for Agniveer Soldiers Rules, 2026**. Covering posts such as **Police Constables, Forest Guards, and Jail Warders**, the policy supports Agniveers after completing their **four-year service** under the **Agnipath Scheme**. Eligible candidates must possess a valid discharge certificate and domicile of Chhattisgarh, facilitating their transition into civilian public service.

- **Andhra Pradesh** launched the **Mee Bhoomi-Blockchain Pilot Project** to modernize land records using **Hyperledger Fabric blockchain technology**. Developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, the system integrates **revenue, survey, and registration records** across **seven mandals** and **89 re-survey villages**. It enables **auto-mutation, land subdivision, extent correction, and secure digital verification**, improving transparency, preventing tampering, reducing land disputes, and enabling faster services for government departments, banks, and financial institutions.
- **Jharkhand** signed an **MoU** with the **Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI)** to establish the state's first **Jharkhand Film and Television Institute (JFTI)** in **Ranchi**. Developed by the **Jharkhand Film Development Corporation Limited (JFDCL)**, the institute will initially offer certificate courses in **cinematography, direction, editing, animation, sound design, screenplay writing, and production**, with undergraduate programmes planned later. The initiative aims to strengthen regional storytelling, preserve cultural heritage, and support the state's expanding **film, OTT, and digital media industries**.
- **Rajasthan** launched the **Mukhyamantri Yuva Suyog Platform**, a digital initiative promoting **sports, employment, skill development, leadership, and community participation** among youth. Beginning with a pilot in **Bagru Assembly constituency** and **Baran district**, the platform enables registration through the **Yuva Suyog Portal**, organizes sports competitions, maps sports infrastructure, and establishes **District-level Yuva Suyog Clubs**. Integration with the **MY Bharat Programme** encourages volunteerism, civic participation, and nationwide youth engagement through structured government support.
- **Punjab** became the **first Indian state** to introduce **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** as a mainstream subject from **Class 1 to Class 12** under the **Sarbat.AI** initiative of the **Punjab School Education Board (PSEB)**. AI will initially be integrated into the **Computer Science curriculum** for **Classes VIII–XII** using live classes, projects, assessments, and digital learning tools. More than **12,000 Computer Science teachers** will receive specialised training with support from **Neev AI, Google, Intel, Canva, and FA-AI**, preparing students for future AI-driven careers.
- **Himachal Pradesh** has become the **third Indian state**, after **Uttarakhand** and **Madhya Pradesh**, to permit **regulated cannabis cultivation for medicinal and scientific purposes**. Under the **NDPS Amendment Rules, 2026**, cultivation is allowed only in secured **greenhouses or polyhouses** with strict monitoring through **geo-tagging, CCTV surveillance, certified seeds, and detailed record-keeping**. Recreational use remains prohibited, while manufacturers must obtain licences and invest at least **₹100 crore**. The policy aims to encourage **pharmaceutical research, medical innovation, investment, and cannabis-based product development**,

while ensuring strict government oversight to prevent misuse.

- **Rajasthan** launched the **State Water Plan 2047** to strengthen **water security, groundwater conservation, irrigation, and sustainable water management**. The plan integrates **Jal Jeevan Mission, AMRUT 2.0, and Atal Bhujal Yojana** while promoting **river-linking, rainwater harvesting, digital monitoring, and community participation**. Major initiatives include the **Ramjal Setu Link Project, Yamuna Water Agreement, and Devas III & IV projects**, along with **₹5,100 crore** under **AMRUT 2.0**.
- **HCL Technologies**, in partnership with **Sarvam AI** and the **Odisha Government**, will establish its first **AI-optimised data centre and Global Technology Centre** in **Bhubaneswar** with an investment of **₹15,000 crore**. Located in the **Odisha Sovereign AI Park**, the project is expected to generate **5,000 direct jobs** by **2028** and support **AI research, cloud computing, model training, and digital infrastructure**, strengthening **India's sovereign AI ecosystem**.

International Affairs

- **Andy Burnham** became the new **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom** on **20 July 2026** after being appointed by **King Charles III**, following **Keir Starmer's** resignation. Formerly the **Mayor of Greater Manchester**, Burnham secured parliamentary confidence and was invited to form a government under UK constitutional practice. In his first address outside **10 Downing Street**, he described his administration as a **"circuit breaker"** government and promised long-term reforms to restore **political stability, economic confidence, and public trust**.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** began the **first-ever State Visit** by an Indian President to **Moldova**, holding talks with **President Maia Sandu** in **Chisinau**. Both leaders discussed cooperation in **trade, investment, agriculture, healthcare, renewable energy, digital public infrastructure, Artificial Intelligence, innovation, and education**. India announced increased **ITEC training slots**, specialised AI and cyber diplomacy courses, and invited Moldova to join the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and the **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, strengthening bilateral ties.
- India became the **123rd WTO member** to accept the **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**, reinforcing its commitment to **sustainable fisheries** and marine conservation. The agreement, adopted at **MC12 (2022)** and effective from **15 September 2025**, prohibits subsidies supporting **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing**, overfishing, and depleted fish stocks. It applies only to **marine wild capture fisheries**, leaving **aquaculture and inland fisheries** unaffected. The move aligns with **PMMSY** and India's fisheries policies while protecting traditional fishers.



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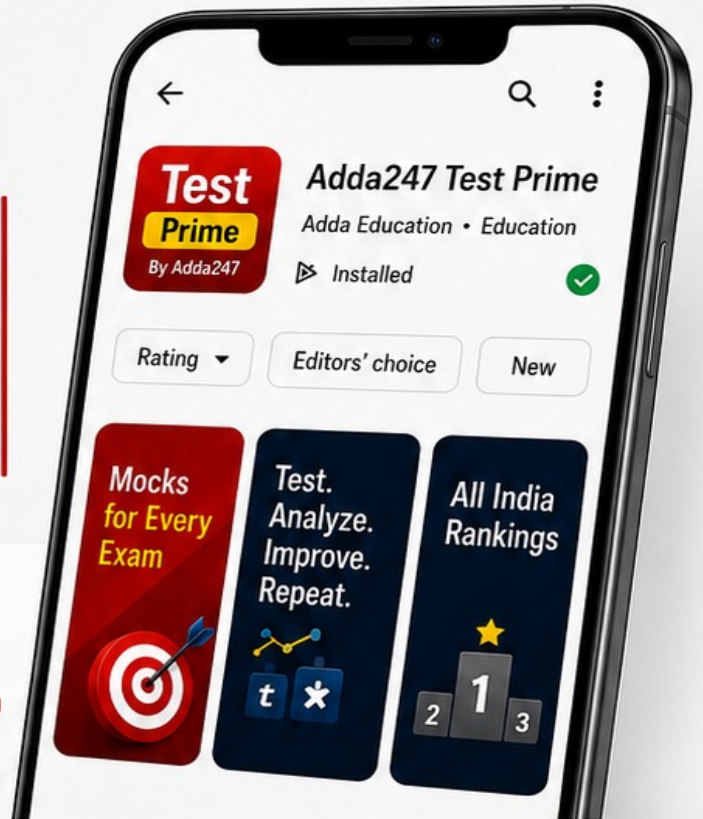


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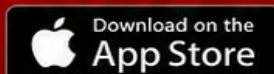


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- **Khalil al-Hayya** was elected the new overall leader of **Hamas**, succeeding **Yahya Sinwar**, who was killed during the **Gaza conflict** in **October 2024**. A senior Hamas leader and chief negotiator in indirect ceasefire talks mediated by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

- Spain is battling one of its **largest-ever wildfires**, with more than **32,000 hectares** destroyed in **Guadalajara** amid an intense **heatwave**. The blaze forced evacuations in **34 villages**, while over **200 firefighters**, helicopters, and aircraft continue firefighting operations. Officials described it as the **largest wildfire in Castilla-La Mancha** and the **second-largest in Spain's history**. Prime Minister **Pedro Sánchez** linked the disaster to **climate change**, stressing the need for stronger climate action as **heatwaves, drought, and extreme weather** continue to increase wildfire risks across Europe.
- During **President Droupadi Murmu's** visit to **Romania**, India signed **three agreements** covering **science and technology, Indian studies, and sports cooperation**. The countries also agreed to **double bilateral trade within three years** and declared **2028 as the India-Romania Year of Innovation**. The partnership aims to strengthen cooperation in **AI, renewable energy, healthcare, manufacturing, and education**, while marking **80 years of diplomatic relations**.
- India invited **Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman** as a **special guest** for the **BRICS Summit 2026** in **New Delhi**. Although Bangladesh is not a BRICS member, the invitation reflects stronger **regional cooperation** and support for the **Global South**. Under the theme "**Creating Resilience, Innovation, Collaboration and Sustainability**," India is promoting cooperation in **health, climate resilience, disaster management, digital transformation, and economic development**.
- India and **Israel** completed the **second round** of negotiations for a proposed **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** in **New Delhi**. Discussions focused on **trade in goods and services, customs, intellectual property, rules of origin, and investment**. With bilateral merchandise trade reaching **USD 3.93 billion** in **FY 2025–26**, the agreement aims to improve **market access, technology cooperation, investment, and supply chain resilience**.
- India's **Index of Core Industries (ICI)** recorded **5% year-on-year growth** in **June 2026**, according to the **Office of Economic Adviser (OEA), DPIIT**. The government introduced a revised **2022–23 base year** and added **Iron Ore** as the **ninth core industry**. **Iron Ore** recorded the highest growth at **43.9%**, followed by **Electricity** and **Cement** at **9.8%** each, while **Steel** grew **4.6%**. The April–June 2026 period registered **3.6% growth**, indicating stronger industrial momentum.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** attracted **\$20.72 billion** in foreign capital between **8 June and 17 July 2026** through temporary forex measures aimed at strengthening the **balance of payments**, supporting the **rupee**, and increasing **foreign exchange reserves**. The inflows comprised **\$17.41 billion** in **FCNR deposits**, **\$1.34 billion** through **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)**, and **\$1.97 billion** via **Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs)**. India's forex reserves stood at **\$675.1 billion** as of **10 July 2026**.
- EnKash** launched **India's first UPI-enabled Digital Meal Card**, integrating employee meal benefits with the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**. Available in both physical and virtual formats on the **RuPay network**, the prepaid card supports **tap, swipe, scan, and online payments** at over **5 lakh food and grocery outlets**, including **Swiggy, Zomato, and Blinkit**. Following revised **Income Tax Rules** effective **1 April 2026**, employees can receive tax-free meal benefits up to **₹8,800 per month**, promoting digital payments and cashless transactions.
- India's **fertiliser exports** increased by nearly **52%** between **FY24 and FY26**, rising from **0.31 million tonnes to 0.47 million tonnes**, driven mainly by exports of **potassium sulphate, superphosphates, organic fertilisers, and specialised products**. **Brazil** emerged as the largest importer during this period. Despite export growth, India continues to rely heavily on imports of **urea, DAP, and MOP**, with total imports reaching **28.17 million tonnes** in **FY26**, highlighting the need to reduce import dependence for long-term agricultural security.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** revived its **polymer banknotes initiative** by inviting a global **Expression of Interest (Eoi)** through **BRBNMPL** for security-grade polymer substrate sheets. The proposal focuses on introducing durable **₹10 and ₹20 polymer notes**, offering improved resistance to moisture, dirt, and tearing while incorporating advanced **anti-counterfeit features** such as transparent windows, holograms, and colour-shifting inks. Although more expensive initially, polymer notes have longer lifespans, reducing replacement costs and supporting currency modernization.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** launched **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)**, a **SEBI-regulated** digital system for trading physical gold electronically. **EGRs** represent ownership of standardized, high-purity gold stored with approved **vault managers**, allowing investors to buy, sell, hold, and redeem gold through **demat accounts** without physical storage. The system offers **secure storage, transparent pricing, standardized quality, and improved liquidity**. This initiative modernizes India's bullion market, strengthens organized gold trading, enhances price discovery, and boosts investor confidence in digital gold investments.

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** recorded **24,161.69 crore transactions** worth **₹314.23 lakh crore** during **FY 2025–26**, according to the **Ministry of Finance**. Operated by **NPCI**, the platform had **55.49 crore users** by **June 2026**, significantly improving upon the previous financial year. To strengthen cybersecurity, authorities introduced **risk-based transaction limits**, enhanced authentication, and the **Comprehensive UPI Information Security Framework (CUI SF) 2025**. UPI also expanded internationally, enabling merchant payments in countries including **Bhutan, Singapore, and the UAE**.
- **NRI deposit inflows** declined **29.25%** to **\$1.33 billion** during **April–May FY27**, according to **RBI** data, mainly due to slower growth in **FCNR(B)** and **NRE deposits**. Outstanding NRI deposits stood at **\$165.96 billion** in **May 2026**, while **NRO deposits** recorded a modest increase. Following the decline, the RBI introduced a **concessional swap facility** for fresh **FCNR(B)** deposits, resulting in **\$17.4 billion** of fresh inflows between **8 June and 17 July 2026**, strengthening foreign currency reserves.
- **Infosys** has appointed **Ashiss Dash** as its next **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD)**, effective **1 April 2027**, after **Salil Parekh's** second term concludes. Dash, who joined Infosys in **1995**, becomes the company's **first internally promoted CEO** and brings nearly **three decades of experience** across global business operations. His appointment comes as the IT industry undergoes rapid transformation driven by **artificial intelligence, automation, and digital innovation**. The leadership transition is expected to support Infosys' continued growth, technological advancement, and long-term competitiveness.
- **India** is emerging as a **fast-growing consumer market** for **European investors**, driven by its **rapid economic growth, expanding middle class, skilled workforce, and business-friendly reforms**. According to **Euractiv**, sectors such as **technology, renewable energy, healthcare, manufacturing, automobiles, and financial services** present significant investment opportunities. Compared with challenges faced in **China**, India offers stronger long-term growth potential through infrastructure expansion, digital transformation, and policy reforms. The trend is expected to strengthen **India-Europe trade, investment, technology partnerships**, and India's position as a leading global investment destination.
- **India** successfully exported **12.5 tonnes of Dashehari and Langra mangoes** from **Uttar Pradesh** to **Dubai** through the **sea route**, marking a breakthrough in agricultural exports. Developed by **ICAR-CISH** and **APEDA**, the export used **METWASH treatment, advanced post-harvest technology, and uninterrupted cold-chain logistics**, ensuring nearly **90% marketable quality** after a **25-day journey**. The sea-based protocol reduces dependence on expensive air freight and

increased farmers' earnings by **₹15–20 per kg**, creating new opportunities for expanding **Indian mango exports** to international markets.

- India's **foreign exchange reserves** increased by **\$1.08 billion** to **\$676.24 billion** for the week ending **17 July 2026**, according to the **RBI**. The rise was driven mainly by higher **Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs)**, although **gold reserves** declined. Strong reserves enhance **rupee stability**, support imports, strengthen investor confidence, and help India withstand **global financial uncertainties**.
- India will launch its first **benchmark-based Natural Gas Futures Contract** on the **NSE** from **27 July 2026** after **SEBI approval**. Traded under **NATGASIND**, the contract is linked to the **IGX Dahej Hub benchmark** and enables **producers, traders, and consumers** to hedge against **gas price volatility**. The initiative improves **price discovery, transparency, risk management**, and supports India's transition towards a **gas-based economy**.

Appointments/Resignations

- The **Government of India** appointed senior **BJP** leader **Harjeet Singh Grewal** as the new **Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**. Established under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**, the statutory body safeguards minority rights, monitors constitutional protections, and advises the government on welfare measures. Grewal becomes the **third Sikh** and **second person from Punjab** to head the Commission and receives the status of a **Union Cabinet Minister**. A **BJP** member since **1986**, he previously founded and led the **BJP Kisan Morcha**.
- Global real estate investment firm **Hines** appointed **Amit Diwan** as the **Head of Asia-Pacific and Middle East Operations**. Previously leading **Hines India**, Diwan brings nearly **25 years** of experience in real estate investment and development. He will oversee regional investments, partnerships, strategic expansion, and cross-border operations across high-growth markets. Succeeding **Jon Tanaka**, who will focus on Japan and Korea, Diwan's appointment highlights the growing influence of **Indian professionals** in global leadership and international real estate markets.
- **Rahul Himalian**, Director (**Tourism & Marketing**) of **IRCTC**, has been given additional charge as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** following the resignation of **Sanjay Kumar Jain**. A **1999-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS)** officer with over **26 years** of experience, Himalian has served on the **IRCTC Board** since **February 2024**. He will continue overseeing tourism and marketing while ensuring leadership continuity at the **Miniratna PSU** responsible for ticketing, catering, tourism, Rail Neer, and hospitality services.

- Senior IAS officer **Anurag Jain** has been appointed the new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **NITI Aayog** after approval by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. A **1989-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre** officer, Jain brings extensive experience in **governance, infrastructure, industrial policy, and public administration**. He will serve for **two years** or until further orders, supporting policy reforms under the **Viksit Bharat@2047** vision and strengthening initiatives such as the **Investment Friendliness Index 2026**.
- **Naresh Pal Gangwar**, a **1994-batch IAS officer** of the **Rajasthan cadre**, has been appointed as the new **Secretary, Department of Higher Education**, under the **Ministry of Education** as part of a major government reshuffle. Approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, he succeeds **Vineet Joshi**, who has been transferred to the **Department of Panchayati Raj**. Gangwar will oversee **higher education policy implementation, institutional reforms, university coordination, and regulatory affairs**. With extensive administrative experience at both the **state and central levels**, he is expected to strengthen governance and reforms in India's higher education sector.
- The **Union Government** appointed **Satya Pal Kumar**, a **2005-batch IRS officer**, as the new **Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-India)**. The appointment, approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, strengthens India's efforts against **money laundering, terror financing, financial fraud, and suspicious transactions**. **FIU-India** plays a key role in collecting and sharing **financial intelligence** with enforcement agencies.
- **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval** has been selected for the **Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026** by the **Tilak Smarak Trust** for his exceptional contributions to **India's national security**. The award will be presented on **1 August 2026** in **Pune** by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**. A former **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer and veteran of the **Intelligence Bureau**, Doval is being honoured for his leadership in **counter-terrorism, intelligence coordination, strategic planning, and safeguarding India's national interests** through decades of distinguished public service.
- **India scripted history** with **Samudra Pradakshina**, the country's **first tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition**, completed by **nine women officers** from the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force** aboard the indigenous **IASV Triveni**. The **314-day voyage** covered nearly **25,500 nautical miles**, crossed the **Equator twice**, the **International Date Line**, all meridians, and rounded **Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn, and the Cape of Good Hope**. The mission showcased **Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Nari Shakti**, indigenous shipbuilding, maritime excellence, and seamless tri-service cooperation.
- The **Indian Navy** commissioned **INS Malvan**, the **second Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, at **Karwar Naval Base** under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative. Built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited** with over **80% indigenous content**, the vessel is designed for **anti-submarine warfare, underwater surveillance, mine warfare, and coastal security operations**. Named after **Malvan** in **Maharashtra**, the warship strengthens **maritime domain awareness**, enhances shallow-water operational capability, and reinforces India's growing **self-reliance in defence manufacturing**.
- **DRDO** signed two major contracts to advance the **indigenous AEW&C Mk-II Programme**, boosting India's air defence capabilities under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**. **CABS** partnered with **AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL)** to convert **six Airbus A321 aircraft** into airborne surveillance platforms, while **Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL)** will develop advanced mission systems. The project will provide **long-range surveillance, early warning, secure communications, and command-and-control capabilities**, strengthening **indigenous aerospace manufacturing** and the **Indian Air Force's operational readiness**.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and **Safran Aircraft Engines** signed a long-term agreement to manufacture **superalloy turbine ring forgings** for the globally used **CFM LEAP aircraft engine**. Production will take place at HAL's **Foundry and Forge Division in Bengaluru**, supplying components for aircraft such as the **Airbus A320neo, Boeing 737 MAX, and COMAC C919**. The partnership enhances **India's aerospace manufacturing ecosystem**, expands exports of high-value components, strengthens **global supply chain integration**, and supports India's ambition to become a **global aerospace manufacturing hub**.

Defence News

- **Paras Semiconductors Pvt. Ltd.**, a subsidiary of **Paras Defence and Space Technologies**, signed an **MoU** with the **MP State Electronics Development Corporation** to establish a **₹6,200 crore OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test)** facility in the **Indore-Ujjain** region. Supporting the **India Semiconductor Mission**, the project will use advanced technologies including **3D integration, chiplet integration, hybrid bonding, wafer bumping, and flip-chip assembly**. Expected to create over **2,500 direct jobs**, the facility will initially serve the **defence, space, sensor, and optical sectors** before expanding into **AI chip packaging**.
- The **Indian Navy** launched **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2** at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, marking the **first time** the multinational maritime exercise has been hosted in India. Conducted under **Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154)** of the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**, the exercise involves **254 participants from 26 countries**. Through practical training, simulator exercises, and discussions, it aims to enhance **maritime cooperation, interoperability, operational readiness, and regional security** in the **Indian Ocean Region**.

- **DRDO** successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the **indigenous Kusha Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)** from **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**, on **23 July 2026**. The missile accurately intercepted a high-speed aerial target, proving its advanced **air defence** capability. Equipped with **advanced radars, command-and-control systems, and indigenous technologies**, the system can counter aircraft, missiles, and UAVs. The successful trial strengthens **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, enhances India's integrated air defence network, and marks significant progress toward operational deployment.
- India developed its first **indigenous expendable turbojet engine** in the **350 kg thrust category**, designed by **GTR-DRDO** and manufactured by **Azad Engineering**. Delivered within **24 months**, the engine is intended for **missiles, UAVs, and anti-drone systems**. The achievement boosts India's **indigenous propulsion technology**, reduces dependence on foreign engines, and highlights successful collaboration between the **public and private sectors**. It is a major milestone in strengthening **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and India's advanced aerospace and defence capabilities.

Awards and Recognitions

- India achieved a historic milestone at the **58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026** in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**, with all four participants winning **gold medals** for the first time. **Debadatta Priyadarshi, Harshit Singla, Kabeer Chillar, and Sandeep Kuchi** secured golds, placing India among the top-performing nations alongside **China, Vietnam, and Russia's Individual Participants Group B**. Organized with **363 students from 93 countries**, the competition tested advanced chemistry concepts and laboratory skills. The achievement reflects the excellence of **HBCSE's** rigorous scientific training.
- India won **one gold and three silver medals** at the **37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026** held in **Vilnius, Lithuania**. **Bhavya Gunwal** earned the **gold medal**, while **Soumil Maity, Nishit Kalani, and Anmol Kumar** secured **silver medals**, ensuring every Indian participant won an award. The event featured **307 students from 78 countries**, assessing theoretical and practical knowledge in **genetics, molecular biology, ecology, and physiology**. Guided by **HBCSE-TIFR**, India further strengthened its reputation in global science competitions.
- Renowned American filmmaker **James Gray** will receive the **Pardo alla Carriera (Honorary Career Pardo Award)** at the **79th Locarno Film Festival** on **9 August 2026**. The honour recognizes his outstanding contribution to world cinema and will be presented before the screening of his latest film, **Paper Tiger**. Gray is acclaimed for films including **Little Odessa, We Own the Night, The Immigrant, The Lost City of Z, Ad Astra, and Armageddon Time**, celebrated for exploring identity, family, immigration, and human values.

Schemes News

- The **Delhi Government** approved the **Parivartan Scheme** to replace **BS-IV and older commercial vehicles** with **BS-VI or electric vehicles**, reducing air pollution across the **National Capital Region (NCR)**. The scheme offers incentives including **10-year motor vehicle tax exemption**, registration fee waiver, interest subsidy, manufacturer discounts, fuel vouchers, and waivers of pending taxes and fines. Around **2.7 lakh truck and bus operators** are expected to benefit, supporting the **Delhi EV Policy 2026** and cleaner public transport.
- The **Mukhyamantri Swasth Bastar Abhiyan**, launched by the **Chhattisgarh Government** under **Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai**, has significantly improved maternal and child healthcare in **Sukma**. The initiative focuses on preventive healthcare, early disease detection, institutional deliveries, antenatal care, vaccination, and doorstep medical services. Institutional deliveries have increased to **98.6%**, while maternal and infant mortality have declined. The programme has expanded healthcare access across remote **tribal, forest, and Naxal-affected areas**, improving healthcare outcomes.
- Karnataka's **Gruha Jyothi Scheme** provides up to **200 units of free electricity per month** to eligible domestic consumers, including homeowners and tenants. The initiative aims to reduce household electricity expenses and improve living standards by allowing families to redirect savings toward education and healthcare. Applicants must link **Aadhaar** with electricity account details and meet prescribed consumption limits. Applications are submitted through the **Seva Sindhu Portal** or **ESCOM websites**, promoting affordable electricity access across Karnataka.
- **Rajasthan's Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya Yojana (MAAY)** provides **cashless health insurance coverage of up to ₹25 lakh per family annually**. Previously known as the **Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana**, it covers over **1,700 medical and surgical procedures**, accident insurance, and pre- and post-hospitalisation expenses. All members listed on the **Jan Aadhaar Card**, including newborns, are eligible without any age limit. The scheme reduces healthcare costs, improves medical access, and protects families from financial hardship caused by serious illnesses.
- The **Common Service Centre (CSC) Scheme** under the **Digital India Mission** enables individuals to become **Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs)** and operate digital service centres from home. Under **CSC 4.0**, more than **500 government and private services** are available, including **Aadhaar, PAN, Ayushman Bharat, banking, insurance, bill payments, and certificates**. Applicants need **Class 10 qualification, basic computer knowledge, internet connectivity, and TEC certification**. The initiative promotes **digital inclusion, rural entrepreneurship**, and income opportunities, with potential monthly earnings exceeding **₹30,000**.

- The **Mini Nandi Farmer Prosperity Scheme** supports scientific dairy farming by providing financial assistance for establishing **10-cow dairy units** using indigenous breeds such as **Gir, Sahiwal, and Tharparkar**. The scheme offers a **50% government subsidy** of up to **₹11.80 lakh**, with **15% beneficiary contribution** and **35% bank loan support**. At least **50% of beneficiaries are women**, encouraging rural entrepreneurship and women's empowerment. The initiative aims to increase **milk production**, conserve **indigenous cattle breeds**, and improve **farmers' livelihoods** through transparent online applications.
- The **Karnataka Udyogini Scheme** supports **women entrepreneurs** by offering **collateral-free loans up to ₹3 lakh** through banks with government subsidies. Managed by the **Karnataka State Women Development Corporation (KSWDC)**, it covers businesses in retail, tailoring, manufacturing, food processing, and services. Beneficiaries also receive **Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)** training. The scheme provides **50% subsidy for SC/ST women** and **30% for others**, encouraging self-employment, financial independence, and sustainable livelihoods across Karnataka.
- The **Thayi Bhagya Scheme** provides **free cashless maternity care** to **economically weaker pregnant women** in Karnataka. It covers **normal and cesarean deliveries, medicines, transportation, antenatal and postnatal care**, and treatment at government and registered private hospitals. Eligible **BPL, SC, and ST women** can avail benefits for their first two deliveries. By promoting **institutional deliveries** and quality healthcare, the initiative aims to reduce **maternal and infant mortality** while ensuring safe childbirth without financial burden.
- Rajasthan's **Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana (MMYSY) 2026** aims to create **one lakh entrepreneurs annually** by providing **interest-free, collateral-free loans up to ₹10 lakh**. Running until **31 March 2029**, the scheme supports manufacturing, services, IT, food processing, textiles, and trading sectors. The government bears the **entire interest cost** and reimburses **credit guarantee fees**. Eligible residents aged **18–45 years** also receive **entrepreneurship training** through **RSLDC**, encouraging youth to become job creators instead of job seekers.
- The **Karnataka Krushi Aranya Protsaha Yojane (KAPY)** encourages farmers to adopt **agroforestry** by providing incentives for maintaining tree seedlings over **three years**. Farmers receive **₹35, ₹40, and ₹50 per surviving seedling** in successive years. The scheme promotes **biodiversity, carbon sequestration, climate-resilient agriculture**, and additional income through **timber, fruits, fodder, and forest products**, while expanding the state's **green cover**.

Sports News

- **Spain won the FIFA World Cup 2026**, defeating **Argentina 1–0** after extra time at **MetLife Stadium, New Jersey**. **Ferran Torres** scored the winning goal in the **106th minute**, securing Spain's **second World Cup title** after 2010. Under coach **Luis de la Fuente**, Spain conceded only **one goal** throughout the tournament, setting a defensive record for champions. The expanded **48-team tournament**, hosted across the **USA, Mexico, and Canada**, attracted billions of viewers and showcased Spain's tactical dominance.
- **Kylian Mbappé** became the **highest goal-scorer in FIFA World Cup history**, finishing the **2026 tournament with 22 goals**, surpassing **Lionel Messi's 21-goal** record. Achieving the milestone across **three World Cups**, the French star overtook legendary players including **Miroslav Klose, Ronaldo Nazário, Gerd Müller, Pelé, Harry Kane, and Cristiano Ronaldo**. At only **27 years of age**, Mbappé has several opportunities to extend his remarkable record, strengthening his place among football's greatest-ever players.
- **Rohit Sharma** became the **first Indian men's cricketer** to score an **ODI century at Lord's** on **July 19, 2026**. His **34th ODI century**, achieved at **39 years and 80 days**, made him India's **oldest international centurion**, surpassing **Sachin Tendulkar's** record. Rohit also became the most successful visiting batter in a single country with **eight ODI centuries in England**. Alongside **Virat Kohli**, he shared a **113-run partnership** in their **400th international match**, creating another significant milestone.
- **Lionel Messi** became the **first footballer** to appear in **three FIFA World Cup finals**, reaching the landmark during the **2026 final** against **Spain**. His previous final appearances came in **2014** and **2022**, surpassing **Cafu**, who played in only two finals. Although **Argentina** lost **1–0** after extra time, Messi enjoyed an outstanding tournament with **eight goals and four assists**, reinforcing his legacy as one of football's greatest players despite missing the opportunity for consecutive World Cup titles.
- **PV Sindhu** won the **BWF Japan Open 2026**, becoming the **first Indian badminton player** to claim a **BWF Super 750 title**. She defeated **Akane Yamaguchi 21–17, 21–17** in Tokyo, marking her first major title since the **2019 World Championships**. At **31 years**, Sindhu also became the **oldest woman** to win a Super 750 event. The victory improved her world ranking from **18th to 9th**, confirming her resurgence ahead of the **BWF World Championships**.
- The **FIFA World Cup 2030** will celebrate the tournament's **100th anniversary** with a historic **multi-continent** format. **Spain, Portugal, and Morocco** will serve as the main hosts, while **Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay** will stage centenary opening matches. Scheduled from **June 8–July 21, 2030** (subject to FIFA confirmation), the event will feature an expanded **48-team** format, including **six automatic host berths**. It will become the first men's World Cup hosted across **three continents and six countries**.

- The **23rd Commonwealth Games 2026** will be held in **Glasgow, Scotland**, from **23 July to 2 August 2026**, featuring **74 Commonwealth nations, 10 sports, and 215 gold medal events**. India has announced a **120-member contingent**, with leading medal hopes including **Neeraj Chopra, Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Srihari Nataraj, and Murali Sreeshankar**. **Mirabai Chanu** and **Lovlina Borgohain** will serve as India's **flag bearers**, while competitions will take place across major Glasgow sporting venues.
- India dominated the **Menuires International Chess Championship 2026** in **Les Menuires, France**, with **Grandmaster S. Rohith Krishna** winning the **gold medal** and **Grandmaster Raja Rithvik** securing the **silver medal**. Both remained **undefeated**, scoring **7 points** from nine rounds, with Rohith clinching the title on a superior **tie-break score**. Rithvik's victory over **Maxime Lagarde** in the final round was a tournament highlight, reinforcing India's growing strength and international reputation in competitive chess.
- **Finnie**, inspired by **Scotland's national animal—the unicorn**, has been unveiled as the official mascot of the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games**. Named after Glasgow's iconic **Finnieston Crane**, the mascot represents Scottish culture, folklore, creativity, and community spirit. Finnie will promote the Games through educational programmes, public engagement activities, and tourism campaigns while creating a memorable identity for the event and connecting local traditions with athletes and spectators from across the Commonwealth.
- Indian **Grandmaster S. Rohith Krishna** won the **gold medal** at the **Menuires International Chess Championship 2026** in **France**, while **Grandmaster Raja Rithvik** secured the **silver medal**. Both players remained **undefeated**, scoring **7 points** from **9 rounds**, with Rohith claiming victory through a superior **tie-break score**. Rithvik's final-round win over **Maxime Lagarde** was a major highlight. Their outstanding performances further reinforce **India's growing dominance in international chess** and the country's emergence as a global chess powerhouse.
- **Viswanathan Anand** assumed charge as **Interim President of FIDE** after **Arkady Dvorkovich** stepped aside following **EU sanctions**. As **FIDE Deputy President**, Anand will oversee the organisation until the **September 2026 presidential elections in Samarkand**. The leadership transition ensures continuity in global chess administration while maintaining ongoing development initiatives. Anand's appointment marks a historic milestone, making the Indian chess legend responsible for guiding the world's governing body for chess during an important transition period.
- India's **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the **youngest batter** to score a **T20I fifty** at just **15 years and 118 days** during the first T20I against **Zimbabwe**. He smashed a **19-ball half-century** with an exceptional strike rate above **263**, breaking **Louis Bruce's** previous record. The young left-hander also became the **youngest Indian** and the youngest player from an **ICC Full Member nation** to achieve the milestone, showcasing India's emerging cricket talent.
- **Lovlina Borgohain** secured **India's first medal** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** by reaching the **women's 75 kg boxing semifinals in Glasgow**. With only five participants in the category, all semifinalists were assured medals. This became Lovlina's **first Commonwealth Games medal** after missing the podium in **2018** and **2022**. Entering the event in excellent form, she will face **Tarona Taafaki** with an opportunity to upgrade her guaranteed medal by reaching the final.
- The **Commonwealth Games 2026** officially opened in **Glasgow, Scotland**, with a colourful ceremony celebrating **Scottish culture and heritage**. **Mirabai Chanu** and **Lovlina Borgohain** led the Indian contingent as **flag bearers**, while **King Charles III** and **Queen Camilla** attended the event. Competitions will be held across **four venues**, although sports like **badminton, shooting, and wrestling** are absent. The official mascot **Finnie**, inspired by Scottish heritage, represents the spirit and identity of the Games.

Science and Technology News

- India approved **QDenga (TAK-003)**, the country's first **dengue vaccine**, after clearance by the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)** on **July 20, 2026**. Developed by **Takeda Biopharmaceuticals, Japan**, the **live-attenuated tetravalent vaccine** protects against all **four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4)** and is approved for people aged **4–60 years**, regardless of prior infection. **Biological E** will manufacture the vaccine domestically with an annual capacity of **50 million doses**, supporting India's fight against dengue and reducing severe infections.
- India commissioned the **White Rabbit Technology-based Indian Standard Time (IST) Dissemination Network**, advancing the **One Nation, One Time** initiative. Developed by the **Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-NPL, and ISRO**, the indigenous system delivers **UTC (NPLI)-traceable IST** with **sub-nanosecond accuracy** over fibre-optic networks. It ensures secure and precise time synchronization for **banking, financial markets, telecommunications, power grids, cybersecurity, and transportation**. Successful demonstrations involving **RRSL Bengaluru** and the **National Stock Exchange** highlighted its reliability and strengthened India's technological self-reliance.

- IIT Kanpur is establishing the **Centre of Excellence on Innovative and Integrated Ecosystem for Green Hydrogen (ECOGEN)** under the **Uttar Pradesh Green Hydrogen Policy 2024**, with support from **UPNEDA**. The centre will focus on the complete **green hydrogen value chain**, including production, storage, utilisation, and system integration. It aims to develop affordable hydrogen technologies, improve storage solutions, encourage industrial applications, reduce fossil fuel dependence, strengthen renewable energy adoption, and support India's long-term **net-zero** and clean energy goals.
- India approved **QDENG**, developed by **Takeda Biopharmaceuticals**, as its **first dengue vaccine** for public use. Cleared by the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)**, the vaccine protects against all **four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4)** and is approved for people aged **4–60 years** without requiring pre-vaccination screening. Supported by global clinical trials involving over **28,000 participants**, including India's **TIDES Phase III study**, the vaccine significantly reduces dengue infections and hospitalisations, strengthening India's disease prevention strategy.
- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** transferred three indigenous healthcare technologies to **Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd.** and **Biological E Ltd.** under the **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra** initiative. These include **SHetA2** for treating **HPV-related cervical precancer**, a **fusion protein-based typhoid vaccine**, and a **recombinant multivalent vaccine** targeting **Salmonella typhi**, **Salmonella paratyphi**, and **Shigella**. The technology transfer promotes **Make in India**, strengthens biotechnology innovation, supports affordable healthcare, and accelerates commercialization of indigenous medical research.
- IIT Kanpur is establishing the **Centre of Excellence on Innovative and Integrated Ecosystem for Green Hydrogen (ECOGEN)** under the **Uttar Pradesh Green Hydrogen Policy 2024**. The centre will focus on **green hydrogen production, storage, utilisation, and system integration**, supporting cost-effective clean energy technologies and industrial applications. By encouraging research, industry collaboration, and skill development, ECOGEN aims to reduce carbon emissions, strengthen renewable energy adoption, support India's **net-zero goals**, and position **Uttar Pradesh** as a major green hydrogen innovation hub.
- Scientists from **MACS Agharkar Research Institute, Pune**, discovered **five new Allographa lichen species** in the **Western Ghats**, marking the region's first comprehensive molecular study of the genus. The newly identified species—**Allographa keralensis**, **A. nayakae**, **A. paraconsanguinea**, **A. persistinspersa**, and **A. semicarbonisata**—were confirmed using **field surveys, DNA sequencing, chemical analysis, and morphological studies**. Since lichens are important **bioindicators of environmental health**, the discovery strengthens biodiversity research, ecosystem monitoring, and conservation in one of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots.
- A reported **AI-assisted mathematical breakthrough** involving **Claude Fable 5**, **Harvard mathematician Levent Alpöge**, and **Anthropic** has challenged the long-standing **Jacobian Conjecture** proposed in **1939**. The AI reportedly identified a **counterexample**, later verified using **SymPy** and the **Lean proof assistant**. If confirmed through independent peer review, the discovery could transform **algebraic geometry, polynomial mapping**, and computational mathematics while demonstrating the growing role of **Artificial Intelligence** in mathematical research, theorem exploration, and formal proof verification.
- IIT Madras will host the **3rd Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) Symposium 2026** on **1–2 August** in collaboration with **MeitY** and **RISC-V International** under the theme **"Empowering Bharat's Semiconductor Future."** The symposium will bring together **policymakers, researchers, startups, industry leaders, investors, and students** to discuss **RISC-V architecture, semiconductor design, AI, secure computing, and hardware innovation**. A major attraction will be the **DIR-V Grand Challenge Hackathon**, supporting India's semiconductor mission, fostering **open-source processor development**, startup innovation, and skilled workforce creation.
- India will host the **International Type 1 Diabetes Summit 2026** in **Jodhpur** from **30 July–1 August**. Organised by **Friends of Mewar, Breakthrough T1D**, and the **William J. Clinton Foundation**, the summit will bring together global experts to discuss **affordable insulin, insulin pumps, digital health, mental health, continuous glucose monitoring**, and research collaboration. The event aims to improve **Type 1 diabetes care**, strengthen international partnerships, and promote innovative healthcare solutions for better patient outcomes worldwide.
- India's **private space sector** attracted **USD 618.5 million** in cumulative investment by **31 March 2026**, reflecting strong growth driven by reforms and investor confidence. More than **400 space startups** now operate in satellite manufacturing, launch services, and Earth observation. **IN-SPACe** has issued **105 authorisations**, while policies like the **India Space Policy 2023** and relaxed **FDI norms** encourage innovation. The expansion strengthens India's commercial space ecosystem, high-tech manufacturing, employment, and global competitiveness.

- China's private aerospace company **Orienspace** successfully launched the **Gravity-1** rocket from a **maritime platform** in the **East China Sea**, placing **nine satellites** into orbit. The mission marked China's first commercial far-sea launch from the **Yangtze River Delta** and the rocket's **third successful flight**. The satellites support **Earth observation, agriculture, forestry, mineral exploration, and environmental monitoring**. The launch strengthens China's commercial space ambitions while advancing future **Gravity-2** and **Gravity-3** programmes.

Important Days News

- World Brain Day 2026** was observed on **22 July** with the theme **"Brain Health: Access for All."** Led by the **World Federation of Neurology (WFN)**, the campaign promotes awareness of **neurological disorders**, early diagnosis, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and equitable access to brain healthcare. Highlighting conditions such as **stroke, epilepsy, and migraine**, the observance encourages governments and healthcare systems to strengthen neurological services and reduce inequalities. **World Brain Day** has been celebrated annually since **2014**.
- National Flag Day 2026** was observed on **22 July** to commemorate the adoption of **India's National Flag (Tiranga)** by the **Constituent Assembly** on **22 July 1947**. The observance celebrates the Tiranga as a symbol of

independence, sovereignty, unity, and constitutional values, while honouring the sacrifices of India's freedom fighters. The **saffron, white, and green tricolour**, with the **Ashoka Chakra** at its centre, represents courage, peace, prosperity, and progress, promoting awareness about respecting the national flag and its historical significance.

- Lokmanya Tilak Jayanti** is observed every year on **23 July** to commemorate **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, one of India's greatest freedom fighters and pioneers of the nationalist movement. Known for the slogan **"Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it,"** Tilak championed **self-rule, Swadeshi, national education**, and mass public participation. He founded institutions such as the **Deccan Education Society** and **Fergusson College**, edited **Kesari** and **The Mahratta**, popularised the **public Ganesh festival**, promoted **Shivaji celebrations**, and led the **Home Rule Movement** with **Annie Besant**, leaving a lasting legacy in India's freedom struggle.
- Income Tax Day 2026** was observed on **24 July**, marking **167 years** since **Sir James Wilson** introduced income tax in **1860**. Celebrated by the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** since **2010**, the day recognises taxpayers' contribution to nation-building and promotes **tax compliance**. It also highlights India's transition from paper-based administration to **digital taxation**, featuring **online ITR filing, faceless assessments, pre-filled returns**, and faster refunds under the **Income-tax Act, 1961**.





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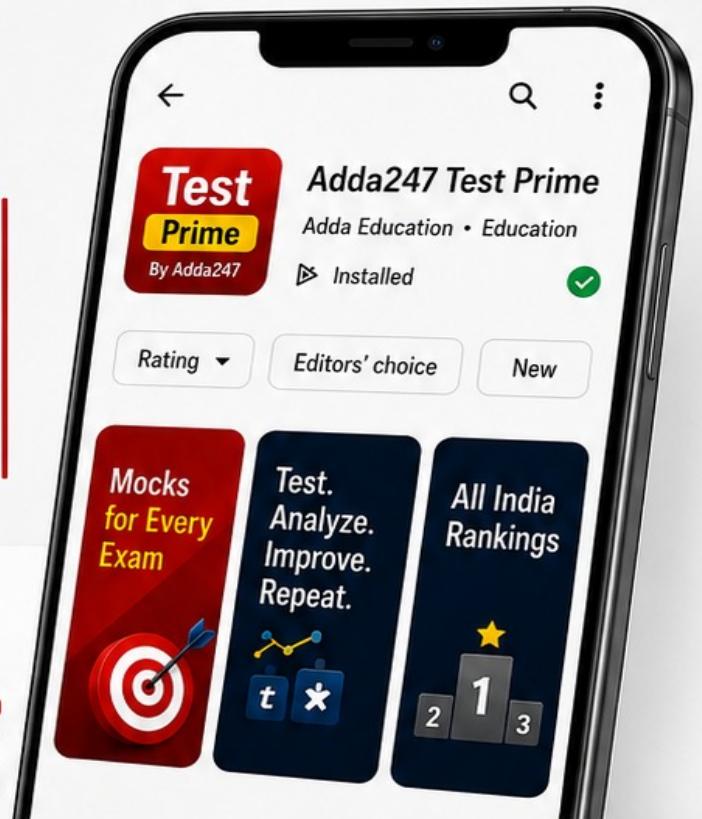


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