

# Weekly One Liners 27<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2026

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

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

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

### India's Growing Success in Tiger Conservation

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

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

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

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

### NTCA Launches Integrated Eco-Tourism Webpage

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

#### Key Features

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

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

### Importance of Knowledge Sharing in Conservation

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

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

### Capacity Building and International Cooperation

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

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

### NTCA Awards Presented

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

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

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

### Nationwide Tiger Conservation Awareness Campaign

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

Special emphasis was placed on:

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

### Publications Released

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

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

5. **The Rehman Khera Tiger** by Chandra Prakash Goyal and Satya Prakash Yadav

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

#### Background: Global Tiger Day

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

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

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

#### Threats to Tigers

Despite conservation success, tigers continue to face several challenges:

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

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

#### Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) to Boost Floating Solar Energy

The Union Cabinet chaired by Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the approval to the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) which has a total outlay of ₹5,070 crore. The initiative was announced on 31st July 2026 and envisages installation of 5,000 MW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) projects in India integrated with Energy Storage Systems (ESS). The PM-SSY is aimed to harness solar energy using reservoirs and inland water bodies thus enhancing renewable energy capacity, improving grid stability and reducing carbon emissions and aiding the cause of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat vision.

#### What's the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)?

Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) is a major renewable energy initiative that aims to promote Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) projects in various water bodies, such as reservoirs, lakes, and dams, throughout India.

The initiative uses floating solar power stations with Energy Storage Systems (ESS) to provide reliable electricity and maintain stability in the electrical networks. This program is one of the largest in India developed specifically for floating solar technology.

The project will run from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, with financial support being provided until FY 2032-33.

#### Key Features of PM Scheme for Solar Energy

The PM scheme has a whole set of innovative initiatives for promoting India's renewable energy sector.

The key points are mentioned below,

- The total budget for the scheme is ₹5,070 crore.
- The capacity target is 5,000 MW of floating solar photovoltaic projects.
- In this regard, the energy storage system must have a minimum 10,000 MWh capacity (two hours).
- The scheme implementation will take place from FY 2026-27 through FY 2030-31.
- The financial assistance distribution will happen until FY 2032-33.
- The provision for Central Financial Assistance (CFA) is ₹1 crore per MW.
- The assistance in carrying out feasibility studies is up to ₹50 lakh.
- The scheme is to be implemented throughout India.

The scheme is likely to enhance India's floating solar capacity considerably along with decreasing the reliance on traditional energy sources.

#### Why is Floating Solar Important?

Floating solar installations are different from usual solar plants that are anchored on the ground since they are located on bodies of water.

This type of technology comes with some advantages such as,

- Saves valuable land.
- Makes use of existing natural water bodies.
- Helps prevent evaporation.
- Makes use of natural cooling effect of water which improves efficiency of solar equipment.
- Promotes sustainable development of infrastructure.

Floating solar energy solutions are gaining popularity across the globe, as there are ways of meeting the demand for energy without impairing farmland or urban areas.

#### The Energy Storage System (ESS): A Key Component

The Energy Storage System (ESS) is a critical element.

One of the main components of PM-SSY is that every floating solar power project must use ESS.

According to the plan, every project should have a minimum of two hours, which totals to 10,000 MWh of storage capacity.

The importance of energy storage systems is the,

- They are able to store the excess electricity produced during peak sun hours.
- They help provide energy during times when solar energy production is low.

- They help stabilize the grid.
  - They promote the use of renewable energy in the national electricity grid.
  - They help to eliminate fluctuations in power supply.
- The combination of solar and battery power makes the clean energy even more reliable.

#### Financial Assistance Under PM-SSY

To facilitate the execution of projects and minimize financial risks for projects, the Government is offering substantial assistance in the form of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) by means of financial aid.

#### Commissioning Support

Those floating solar power projects eligible for the scheme will get ₹1 crore for each MW after successful commissioning of the project.

#### Feasibility Study Aid

The project developers will be eligible to get, Upto ₹50 lakh for each project.

The assistance is valid for conducting the,

- Bathymetric studies.
- Hydrographic surveys.
- EC studies.
- Technical surveys.
- Other preparatory studies required to execute the project.

These measures are aimed at to minimizing project risks and hastening project implementation.

#### India's Floating Solar Potentials

The approval is based on assessment made by the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE).

According to the assessment,

- The estimated floating solar potential for India is approximately 102.18 GWp.
- The assessment includes reservoirs & inland water bodies which are suitable for the country.

Currently, India's established floating solar capacity is assumed to be around 700 MW.

With PM-SSY, India aims to scale this up to an additional 5,000 MW in floating solar capacity.

#### Cabinet Approves Revamped Khelo India Scheme and Enhanced ANSF Support with ₹36,441 Crore Outlay

The Union Cabinet, which chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the restructured Khelo India Scheme along with greater assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) for the period from 2026-27 until 2030-31. The restructured scheme, with a total financial outlay of ₹36,441 crore, has the distinction of being the biggest investment in sports development since independence. The revamped scheme seeks

to create a seamless path for athletes from the grassroots level to Olympic Games while promoting fitness, modern infrastructure, technology-based governance, and inclusive sports.

#### What Is the Revamped Khelo India Plan?

The revamped Khelo India Plan is the flagship sports development programme of the Government of India, which has been introduced for the detection, training and support of the sport talent of all levels.

The focus of the scheme is to make sure that no aspiring sportsperson gets deprived of opportunities due to limited access to appropriate facilities and financial constraints.

In compliance with Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 and the National Education Policy 2020, the plan merges sports with education, technology, fitness and high-performance training.

With this the Government of India intends to implement plans for the future, including preparation for the Commonwealth Games 2030 and its intention to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

#### Key Highlights of Khelo India scheme

Here are the key features of the Khelo India scheme:

Budget: ₹36,441 crores (Khelo India+ANSF) planned for the years 2026-27 to 2030-31.

- This is the biggest investment in sports ever made after freedom.
- The investment is about 8 times more than Khelo India investment previously made.
- The plan introduces various ways to develop and train athletes.
- Establishment of the Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIA).
- Introduction of Khelo India Feeder School (KIFS).
- Establishment of Khelo India Utkrisht Vidyalayas (KIUV).
- Creation of the National Coach Accreditation Board.
- Start of the Fit India movement.
- Development of the one-stop digital sports platform.
- Support provided to National Sports Federations (ANSFs) has been strengthened.

#### Strengthening Sports Facility in India

This project will widen and connect a national channel of sport centres.

The facilities includes,

- National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs)
- Khelo India Centres of Excellence (KICoEs)
- Sports Authority of India Training Centres (STCs)
- Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAAs)
- Khelo India Centres (KICs)
- Youth Sports Companies (YSCs) of the Armed Forces

All of these will give

- Professional coaching
- Modern infrastructure
- Sports science services
- Performance evaluation
- Nutrition and recovery support

### **National Coach Accreditation Authority (NCAA)**

Acknowledging the importance of coaches, the Government plans to set up a National Coach Accreditation Authority (NCAA).

The aims are,

- To mainstream the quality of coaching certifications,
- To upgrade the standard of coaching,
- To improve the methods of training coaches, and
- To increase the capacity of support staff.

Thereby, it is expected that the Board will make coaching more effective and professional throughout India.

### **Cabinet Approves 'Samudra Manthan' National Offshore Exploration Scheme with ₹84,084 Crore Outlay**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi passed 'Samudra Manthan,' the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, with an investment of ₹84,084 crore for implementation until FY 2030-31. It was announced on 31st July 2026, this Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas aims to enhance the India's vast offshore oil and gas resources by utilizing the advanced exploration technologies, infrastructural developments, and scientific research. This initiative is in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to enhance India's energy security, to reduce its import dependence, and to create a globally competitive offshore energy ecosystem under the broader aim of Viksit Bharat.

### **What Is the Samudra Manthan Scheme?**

The Samudra Manthan scheme is major Central Sector Scheme launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the purpose of stimulating offshore oil and gas exploration activities in all the maritime regions of the country.

With the help of this scheme, which has been inspired by the thoughts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who spoke of it in his speech on the occasion of Independence Day, in January 2025, the potential that India has in offshore hydrocarbons will be tapped and utilized through targeted public funding, advanced technology, and high-level infrastructure.

This method will also help India to increase energy security in the future.

### **Key Highlights of the Samudra Manthan Scheme**

The Samudra Manthan scheme includes all aspects of exploration and production in offshore exploration.

The government has set aside ₹84,084 crore for the success of the scheme. This sizable sum makes it one of the largest investments in offshore exploration in the nation.

The scheme will run until the Fiscal Year 2030-31, ensuring satisfactory amounts of investment in exploration, infrastructure, and technology.

The main objective of the program is to tap India's potential of offshore energy resources by using cutting-edge technologies and quick drilling operations.

### **Key Components of the Program**

Samudra Manthan incorporates various strategic initiatives to bolster India's offshore exploration capabilities.

- **Massive Seismic Data Acquisition:** The program provides for the extensive acquisition, processing, and interpretation of seismic data to locate possible hydrocarbon deposits.
- **Deepwater Exploration:** The program is tuned to fast-track exploratory drilling work in deep water and ultra-deepwater areas, believed to contain significant untapped energy reserves.
- **Scientific Drilling for Exploration in Frontier Basins:** Dedicated scientific drilling operation will be used in frontier offshore basins for better geological knowledge and future exploration.
- **Infrastructure for Offshore Production:** The program also includes establishing common offshore production and evacuation facilities to ensure effective extraction and transportation of hydrocarbons.
- **Oil and Gas Industry Production and Services Zone:** A manufacturing and service center will be constructed to support the domestic production of offshore equipment, engineering support service, and other related activities under the Make in India Campaign.

### **Technology and Capacity Building**

The emphasis of Samudra Manthan is on new technology adoption and enhancement of institutional capacity.

The program provides for the following,

- E-management of digital programs
- Adoption of technology
- Capacity building
- Involvement of stakeholders
- International collaboration and outreach activities

The intended objective is to establish an integrated ecosystem that can facilitate offshore exploration projects efficiently and sustainably.

### **Expected Benefits of the Initiative**

The expected results of Samudra Manthan by the authorities includes considerable economic and strategic gains.



### Discovery of Additional Energy Reserves

This initiative is likely to lead to the discovery of over 600 MMTOE of oil, thus greatly increasing hydrocarbon reserves in India.

### The advancement of Energy Security

Increased crude oil and gas output in the country will allow reduce reliance on foreign sources of energy thus contributing to energy security in the long run.

### Creation of Jobs

The growth of offshore exploration will result in many job opportunities in the fields of exploration, engineering, production, transportation, etc.

### Support for the 'Make in India' Initiative

The construction of a cohesive manufacturing e-commerce platform will trigger the development of local technologies and equipment for offshore production thus ensuring the success of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

### Increase in Investments

It is expected that Samudra Manthan will lead to large scale investment in the exploration and production industry promoting the development of the industry.

### **Cabinet Approves Continuation of PM-KISAN Scheme Till 2030-31 with ₹3.15 Lakh Crore Outlay**

The Union Cabinet has given its nod to the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme, it reaffirms the government's promise to bring about farmers welfare and provide support for rural development. As per the approval, the scheme will cost ₹3.15 lakh crore and will continue providing for ₹6,000 annually for eligible landholding families. It was implemented in the year 2019, PM-KISAN became the largest of the income support schemes in India, assisting farmers in implementing their agricultural activities, lowering reliance on informal credit, and helping them earn a living in a transparent and technology-based manner.

### **What Is PM-KISAN Scheme?**

The PM-KISAN scheme is a scheme implemented by the government of India in February 2019 to facilitate income support to farmers.

Under this program, farmers will receive ₹ 6,000 directly into their bank accounts.

This program employs various means to keep the fund disbursal process transparent and efficient.

### **Centre Approves to Continue to PM-KISAN Running Until 2030-31**

The Union Cabinet has decided to extend the PM-KISAN scheme for another period of five years (from 2026 to 2030).

The financial provision for the scheme amounts to a total of ₹3.15 lakh crore till this period so as to provide uninterrupted income assistance to eligible farmers.

This initiative highlights the seriousness of the government in matters of farmers' income, investment in agriculture, and rural economy as a whole.

### **Major Takeaways from PM-KISAN Scheme**

Since its initiation, the program has met various important benchmarks.

#### Financial Support

- The scheme provides annual assistance of Rs. 6000/year to farmers who are eligible.
- Funds are channeled through direct bank transfer in three disbursements.

#### Total Amount Transferred

- An amount more than Rs. 447000 crore has been credited to farmers' bank accounts in 22 tranches.

#### Most Recent Disbursement

- The 23rd instalment helped 9.49 crore farmers.
- The amount paid in this instalment was Rs. 18984 crore.

#### Support during COVID-19

- In the times of pandemic, an amount of Rs. 171000 crore was disbursed to farmers and assist in agriculture.

#### Support to Women Farmers

- Women farmers received Rs. 106000 crore through PM KISAN scheme, with nearly one among four beneficiaries being a woman farmer.

### **Role of PM-KISAN in Supporting Farmers**

With the help of financial assistance from PM-KISAN, farmers can invest in the agricultural inputs at the right time and boost the productivity of farms with the support through this annual help. With the amount received annually, farmers can buy the,

- Quality seeds
- Fertilizers
- Irrigation equipment
- Farm machinery
- Other necessary input for farming.

By providing predictable financial assistance, the scheme makes farmers less reliant on informal sources of credit and stabilizes rural households financially.

### **Highlights of Independent Evaluation**

The independent evaluation recognizes the positive impact created by the PM-KISAN scheme.

As per the evaluation done by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) under NITI Aayog, it was found that,

- Over 92% of beneficiaries utilized the amount for agricultural operations and investment in farm activities.

- About 85% stated that their agricultural income increased and dependence on informal borrowing got reduced.

The findings suggest that PM-KISAN has been beneficial in creating opportunities for productive investment in agriculture

### Contribution to Agriculture Development

From 2020-21 to 2025-26, India's agriculture sector saw significant improvements.

In this period,

- Overall cultivated area increased by about 9.65%.
- Productivity in agriculture increased by around 10.53%.
- Total food grain production increased by nearly 21.18%.

According to government officials, this has been made possible by various support measures for farmers, including PM-KISAN, along with the betterment of agriculture in general.

### Digital India and Transparent Delivery

The concept of Digital India is exemplified through the program PM-KISAN.

With the support of the technology, such as digital verification based on Aadhaar, financial assistance can efficiently be delivered directly to beneficiaries without intermediaries.

Thus, the digital approach has improved transparency, reduced leakage of resources, enabled prompt payment, and enhanced the trust between farmers and the government

### Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath Inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List

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

### Sarnath Announced As World Heritage Site

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

Thus,

- Now India has 45 World Heritage Sites.
- Sarnath is on the list of the places with Outstanding Universal Value.

- The inscription acknowledges Sarnath's contribution to the history, culture, and religion of the world.

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

### What Makes Sarnath Significant?

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

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

The significance of this event lies in the following,

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

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

### Sarnath's Historic Monuments

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

The important monuments in the city include the following the,

Dhamek Stupa

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

Dharmarajika Stupa

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

Chaukhandi Stupa

The Chaukhandi Stupa commemorates the event of the Buddha meeting with his first disciples prior to giving his first sermon. It marked a key incident in the history of Buddhism.

These monuments represent what is known as the Deer Park (Mrigadava), the place where Buddhism began its journey as a world religion.

### UNESCO's Recognition and Outstanding Universal Value

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

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

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

#### UNESCO's Message About the International Value of Sarnath

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

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

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

### National Affairs

- The **Government of India** has constituted a high-powered **Exam Reform Task Force** under the chairmanship of **Nandan Nilekani**, co-founder of **Infosys**, to strengthen the credibility of India's examination system. The panel will recommend reforms to prevent **paper leaks**, curb **unfair practices**, enhance **transparency**, improve **technology-based monitoring**, strengthen **security mechanisms**, and modernize **exam management**. Other members include **Dr. S. Somnath**, **Tapan Deka**, **Prof. V. Kamakoti**, **Anita Karwal**, and **Amrit Lal Meena**. The initiative comes ahead of the proposed **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026**, which seeks stricter punishment for examination fraud.
- The **University of Leeds** and **IIT Kharagpur** signed a strategic **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to deepen cooperation in **research**, **education**, **innovation**, and **student mobility**. The partnership promotes **faculty and student exchange programmes**, **joint academic initiatives**, **entrepreneurship**, and **industry collaboration**. It also focuses on **technology transfer**, **intellectual property development**, **startup support**, and **research commercialization** to convert innovations into practical solutions. The agreement further strengthens **India-UK academic relations**, enhances **global talent development**, expands international research opportunities, and provides students with valuable **cross-cultural learning experiences**.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** received the honorary **Doctor Honoris Causa** degree from the **Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE)**, **Romania**, for her outstanding public service, commitment to **education**, **social inclusion**, and strengthening **India-Romania relations**. She dedicated the honour to the **1.4 billion people of India**, describing it as a symbol of enduring friendship between the two nations.

During her address, she called **education** the greatest equaliser, shared her inspiring journey from her village to the Presidency, and emphasized balancing **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** with **ethics**, **compassion**, **wisdom**, and **human values**.

- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** resigned following nationwide protests over alleged irregularities in the **NEET-UG examination**. In his resignation letter, he stated that the decision was taken in the best interests of students and to restore confidence in India's education system. He acknowledged students' concerns, emphasized the importance of **education** in nation-building, highlighted government action against **exam malpractice**, and thanked the Prime Minister and ministry officials. The controversy has accelerated discussions on **computer-based examinations**, stronger **digital infrastructure**, improved **monitoring systems**, and faster **grievance redressal mechanisms**.
- Following the resignation of **Dharmendra Pradhan**, **Pralhad Joshi** was entrusted with the additional charge of the **Ministry of Education**. The appointment was approved by **President Droupadi Murmu** on the advice of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** under **Article 75(2) of the Constitution of India**. Joshi will continue managing the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, and the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** alongside his new responsibility. A senior **BJP** leader and **Dharwad MP** since 2004, he also appreciated Pradhan's role in implementing the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- A state-of-the-art **AI Holobox** of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** was inaugurated at the **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, New Delhi**, on **26 July 2026**. The exhibit features a **hyper-realistic 3D AI avatar** capable of interacting with visitors using authenticated **historical records**, **speeches**, **writings**, and **archival materials**. The inauguration coincided with the **27th Kargil Vijay Diwas** and included a special exhibition showcasing **microfilms**, **historic photographs**, **archival videos**, **official documents**, and **personal letters**. The initiative demonstrates how **Artificial Intelligence** can preserve India's **political**, **historical**, and **cultural heritage** while creating immersive educational experiences.
- The **Government of India** has approved the **manufacture and agricultural use of anhydrous ammonia** as a fertilizer for **three years**, aiming to improve **nitrogen-use efficiency** and reduce dependence on **urea**. Containing about **82% nitrogen**, it provides a highly concentrated nutrient source but requires **specialized equipment**, **safe storage**, and **trained handling** due to its hazardous nature. The initiative

supports **sustainable agriculture**, aligns with the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, encourages **green ammonia** and **green urea** production, strengthens **fertilizer security**, reduces **import dependence**, and promotes environmentally friendly farming practices.

- The **Kosi–Mechi Intra-State Link Project** has been approved under the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana–Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP)** to improve **irrigation infrastructure** in Bihar. The project has a balance cost of **₹6,143.22 crore**, with **₹3,652.56 crore** as **Central assistance**, and is scheduled for completion by **March 2029**. It will transfer surplus water from the **Kosi River** to the **Mechi basin**, modernize the **Eastern Kosi Main Canal**, expand irrigation coverage, improve **water-use efficiency**, support farmers, enhance **agricultural productivity**, and promote sustainable **water resource management**.
- The **National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026** was introduced in the **Rajya Sabha** on **24 July 2026** to provide statutory protection to **Vande Mataram**, India's **National Song**, under the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**. The proposed amendment seeks to place it under the same legal framework as the **National Flag, Constitution**, and **National Anthem**, while prescribing penalties for intentionally preventing or disrupting its singing. Introduced during the **150th anniversary celebrations of Vande Mataram**, the Bill recognizes its historic contribution to **India's freedom movement** and awaits parliamentary approval.
- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** celebrated its **20th Foundation Day** on **27 July 2026** at **Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi**, showcasing two decades of achievements in **weather forecasting, ocean research, climate science, polar exploration, and disaster preparedness**. Established in **2006**, the Ministry has advanced programmes such as **Mission Mausam, Prithvi Systems**, and the **Deep Ocean Mission**. During the celebration, **AI-based coastal monitoring systems**, upgraded **cyclone warning facilities**, advanced **weather platforms**, and **13 Centres of Excellence** were launched, reinforcing India's commitment to scientific innovation and public safety.
- The **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** is transforming legislative functioning across India by replacing **paper-based procedures** with a secure **digital governance platform** under the **Digital India Programme**. Designed around the vision of "**One Nation, One Application**," NeVA digitizes legislative documents, proceedings, and administrative workflows. According to the latest update, **33 of 37 State and Union Territory Legislatures** have signed **MoUs**, while **21 Legislative Houses** have already become **fully digital**. The

platform improves **transparency, efficiency, accessibility**, and coordination among legislators, officials, and citizens while promoting **paperless governance** and continuous technological upgrades.

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated the **first-ever air shipment** of Karnataka's **Neelam and Totapuri mangoes** to the **Maldives** on **30 July 2026**. Around **one metric tonne** of mangoes from **Kolar district** was exported by **Ashwini A of Ahalya Devi Ventures**. Flagged off by **APEDA Chairman Abhishek Dev**, the initiative enabled farmers to earn over **50% higher returns** through **premium export pricing**. Supported by **Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs)**, it promoted **women-led agri-business**, expanded **global horticulture exports**, and strengthened farmers' incomes.
- **Ahmedabad** inaugurated the **Amdavad Experience Centre** in **Glasgow** during the **Commonwealth Games 2026** to showcase its vision of hosting the **2030 Commonwealth Games**. Opened by **Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi**, the centre highlights **Ahmedabad's sports infrastructure, Gujarat's cultural heritage**, and preparations for the **centenary edition** of the Games. It attracted over **5,000 registrations** within a day from athletes, delegates, and sports officials. The launch featured a traditional **Garba performance**, while discussions with the **British Council** focused on strengthening future **educational and cultural partnerships**.
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** enabled the **first-ever sea shipment** of **value-added flavoured makhana (fox nuts)** from **Bihar** to **Canada**, marking a significant achievement for India's **agri-exports**. The **7-metric-tonne** consignment, processed by **Nutrivin Agro Private Limited**, was dispatched from **Darbhanga** through **Mundra Port** to **ZKV Foods, Canada**. Manufactured according to **international food safety and quality standards**, the initiative promotes **value-added agricultural exports**, improves **branding, packaging**, and **global market access**, while helping farmers earn over **50% higher incomes**.
- The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, extending **legal protection** to **Vande Mataram**, India's **National Song**. The amendment to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971** makes deliberate insults or obstruction during its rendition a **punishable offence**, placing it on par with protections available to the **National Flag, Constitution**, and **National Anthem**. After receiving approval from both **Houses of Parliament**, the Bill has been sent to the **President** for assent. Written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**, **Vande Mataram** played a vital role in **India's freedom movement**.



- The **Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs**, chaired by **Shashi Tharoor**, recommended appointing a dedicated **Polar Representative** to strengthen India's engagement in **Arctic and Antarctic** affairs. Presented in **Parliament** on **30 July 2026**, the report titled "**India's Role and Presence in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions**" emphasized enhancing **polar diplomacy, scientific cooperation**, and long-term strategic planning. It also called for the early construction of a new **Maitri Research Station** in Antarctica, noting that changes in polar regions significantly influence **India's climate, monsoon, sea levels, and coastal security**.
- **Indian Railways** introduced an **online personal luggage booking** facility for passengers holding **confirmed reserved tickets**, effective **31 July 2026**. Developed by the **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)**, the platform enables passengers to book **excess luggage online** while reserving tickets, eliminating the need to visit luggage counters. The system displays **free baggage allowances, permissible limits, charges, prohibited items**, and applicable penalties. Free luggage limits range from **35 kg in Second Class to 70 kg in AC First Class**, while oversized luggage must be booked separately in the **Brake Van**.
- To mark **four years of her presidency**, **President Droupadi Murmu**, the **15th President of India** and the **first tribal President**, launched several **citizen-centric and sustainability-focused initiatives** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi**. The initiatives include the **RAAHI (Rashtrapati Bhavan Access and Heritage Interconnector)** project, an **application-based e-Audio Guide**, the **third edition of e-Upahaar, Bachpan-Bal Parisar** for children, a **Net Zero Energy Strategy** for the Service Block, and upgraded infrastructure within the President's Estates. These initiatives aim to enhance **visitor experience, heritage conservation, digital governance, public engagement, and environmental sustainability**.
- **Vastra Utsav 2026**, organised by the **Friends of DakshinaChitra (FoD)** as a fundraiser for the **DakshinaChitra Museum** near **Chennai**, celebrates India's **handloom heritage, traditional crafts, and sustainable fashion**. The exhibition brings together **master weavers, artisans, designers, craft revivalists, and women entrepreneurs** from across the country. Featuring nearly **50 stalls**, it showcases **handwoven textiles, natural fibres, traditional dyeing techniques, SHG products, millet-based foods, and indigenous crafts**. The event promotes **artisan livelihoods, women's empowerment, ethical fashion, and the preservation of India's rich textile and cultural heritage**.
- India's **first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)** will be established in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**, to strengthen **domestic telecom and electronics manufacturing** under the **Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives. An **MoU** will be signed between the **Madhya Pradesh Government** and the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, followed by the formation of a **Special Purpose Company (SPC)**. Spread across **350 acres**, the project will manufacture **mobile phones, telecom equipment, optical fibre, semiconductors, 5G and 6G products**. Supported by **₹493 crore** in Central funding, it is expected to attract **₹12,000–15,000 crore** in investments and create around **5,000 direct jobs**.
- The **Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)**, India's **oldest scientific research institution**, completed **150 years** in **2026**. Established on **29 July 1876** in **Calcutta (now Kolkata)** by **Dr. Mahendralal Sircar**, the institution played a pioneering role in promoting **scientific research and nurturing Indian scientists**. During the **Bengal Renaissance**, IACS contributed significantly to **physics, chemistry, biology, and materials science**. Its most historic achievement was **Sir C. V. Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect** in **1928**, which earned him the **1930 Nobel Prize in Physics**. Currently functioning under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, IACS continues to promote **innovation and advanced research** in India.
- The Government of India allocated a record **₹95,692 crore** for rural employment under the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G Act]**, **2025** for **FY 2026–27**. Announced by **Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** in the **Lok Sabha**, it is the highest-ever Budget Estimate allocation for a rural employment programme. The Act replaced **MGNREGS** and guarantees **125 days of wage employment** annually to rural households. It focuses on **water security, rural infrastructure, livelihood assets, climate resilience**, and convergence with government schemes for sustainable rural development.
- **Indian Railways** achieved a major milestone on **31 July 2026** by successfully transporting India's first **live donor heart** through the **Mumbai Central–Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express**. The organ was moved from **Surat to Ahmedabad** and delivered to the **U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology & Research Centre** for a critical transplant procedure. Train No. **20901** completed the journey within the required **organ viability period**. A special **Green Corridor** was created from **Ahmedabad Railway Station** to the hospital with support from the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** and **Gujarat State Police**. The operation highlighted railway infrastructure's expanding role in **emergency healthcare logistics** and involved coordination among railway officials, doctors, security agencies, and transplant teams.

### States in the News

- The **Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA)** in **Puri, Odisha**, has obtained trademark approval for five sacred names associated with **Lord Jagannath—Jagannath Dham, Shree Kshetra, Mahaprasad, Nilachakra, and Koili Vaikuntha**. The move aims to prevent **commercial misuse** and safeguard the temple's **religious and cultural identity** under the **Trade Marks Act, 1999**. The initiative followed controversy over the use of the name "**Jagannath Dham**" for a temple in **Digha, West Bengal**. SJTA has also sought trademark protection for **29 sacred names, symbols, and cultural elements** linked to Jagannath heritage.
- The **Uttarakhand Forest Department**, in collaboration with the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, plans to **radio-collar herd-leading elephants** before the **Haridwar Kumbh Mela 2027** to reduce **human-elephant conflict** and improve **pilgrim safety**. Since **May 2026**, researchers have been studying **migration routes, herd size, and elephant behaviour** across the **Rajaji–Corbett elephant landscape**. Real-time tracking will help authorities issue **early warnings**, deploy mitigation teams, and prevent encounters near settlements. The proposal awaits approval from the **Union Environment Ministry**. Uttarakhand recorded **2,026 elephants** in the **2020 elephant census**.
- The **Rajasthan Government** launched the **Bharat Taxi** cooperative mobility platform in **Jaipur** under the vision of "**Sahakar Se Samridhi**", inaugurated by **Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma**. The platform promotes **cooperative ownership, profit-sharing, and direct transfer of trip earnings** to drivers known as **Sarathis**. Bharat Taxi currently has **8 lakh registered drivers, 41 lakh customers**, and operates around **11,000 trips daily**, with expansion planned to **500 cities**. In Rajasthan, over **30,000 Sarathis** and **7 lakh customers** are registered. The service also provides **₹5 lakh accident insurance** and supports **employment, tourism, and urban transport**.
- The city of **Madurai** celebrated the **107th birthday** of a historic **banyan tree** located near **Sellur–Kulamangalam Road**, emphasizing the importance of **urban biodiversity** and environmental conservation. Considered the last surviving **centenarian tree** in the **Meenakshipuram** locality, it provides shade, supports **bird habitats**, and strengthens the local ecosystem amid rapid urbanization. Organized under the **Green Nature Festival** by the **Water Body Protection Movement** and other groups, the event included **tree decoration, sapling distribution**, and awareness programmes, encouraging citizens to preserve **natural heritage** and ecological balance.
- **Maharashtra** became the first Indian state to qualify for the **second instalment** under the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)** after utilizing over **75%** of its initial allocation. Out of **₹335 crore** released earlier, the state successfully utilized nearly **₹260 crore**, reflecting efficient implementation of agricultural projects. The scheme supports sectors such as **agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, animal husbandry, farm mechanisation, digital farming**, and infrastructure development. Through **RKVY-RAFTAAR**, it also promotes **agri-startups, innovation, and entrepreneurship**, helping improve **farmer incomes, productivity, and sustainable agriculture**.
- The **National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR)** in **Leh** launched a **three-month, 400-hour Yoga Wellness Instructor Certificate Course** in collaboration with the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi**. Conducted as per **MDNIY guidelines**, the programme aims to promote **yoga education, holistic healthcare, and wellness** across **Ladakh**. The course was inaugurated by **Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena**, along with **Dr. Tashi Thinlas** and **Dr. Padma Gurmet**. It combines **theoretical and practical training**, integrating **traditional and modern healthcare systems** while creating new opportunities for **yoga professionals**.
- The **Gujarat Government** introduced the **e-Zero FIR** system on **27 July 2026** to simplify the reporting of **cyber financial fraud** cases and ensure faster police action. Launched by **Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi** in **Gandhinagar**, the platform automatically converts complaints received through the **1930 National Cybercrime Helpline** into **e-Zero FIRs**, which are electronically forwarded to the concerned police stations. Developed with the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, the initiative aims to improve **response time**, increase the chances of recovering **stolen funds**, strengthen **cybercrime investigations**, and promote **technology-driven policing**.
- The **Government of Gujarat** launched the **Shipbuilding and Repair Policy 2026** to establish the state as **India's leading maritime manufacturing hub**, with expected investments exceeding **₹27,000 crore**. Announced by **Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel**, the policy focuses on expanding **shipbuilding capacity**, attracting **private investment**, developing **green shipyards**, and generating large-scale **employment** through skill development. It proposes **two Integrated Mega Shipbuilding Parks** and a **Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster** in **Porbandar**, featuring modern shipyards, research centres, testing facilities, and logistics infrastructure. The initiative promotes **innovation, exports, sustainability, and self-reliance**, strengthening India's position as a global maritime power.

- The **Chhattisgarh Government** launched the **DWEEPTI (Decentralised Women Empowerment on Energy and Policy for Transformative Inclusion) Yojana** in July 2026, becoming **India's first women-led distributed Renewable Energy (RE) policy**. Developed by the **Panchayat and Rural Development Department** with **Transform Rural India (TRI)**, the scheme aims to establish **5,000 women-led solar enterprises**, create **50,000 green jobs**, and provide **clean energy to 5 lakh families and 10,000 public institutions**. Implemented under the **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana** with **CSPDCL**, it trains "**Solar Didis**", empowers **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, and promotes **women-led solar entrepreneurship** and sustainable rural livelihoods.
- The **Kalpasar Project**, officially known as the **Gulf of Khambhat Development Project**, is Gujarat's ambitious **multipurpose water infrastructure initiative** aimed at improving **water security, irrigation, connectivity, and renewable energy generation**. The project involves constructing a **64-km-long dam** across the **Gulf of Khambhat** to create a coastal freshwater reservoir with around **13,000 Million Cubic Metres (MCM)** capacity. Fed by the **Sabarmati, Mahi, Dhadhar, and Narmada rivers**, it will provide irrigation to nearly **10 lakh hectares in Saurashtra**. The project also includes a **highway-cum-rail corridor**, reducing **Bhavnagar–Surat distance**, and plans for **2,470 MW hybrid renewable energy capacity** with support from the **Netherlands**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport** at **Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh** on **1 August 2026**. Built at a cost of **₹5,000 crore** by the **GMR Group**, the airport aims to become a major aviation hub for **North Andhra Pradesh**. Commercial operations are scheduled to begin on **17 August 2026**. The first phase will handle **6 million passengers annually**, with future expansion capacity of **40 million passengers**. Named after freedom fighter **Alluri Sitarama Raju**, the airport will boost **tourism, exports, industries, employment, and domestic-international connectivity**. During the visit, development projects worth over **₹17,900 crore** were also inaugurated or launched.
- The traditional **Pithora painting** of Gujarat has received the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**, providing legal protection and recognition to the sacred art form of the **Rathwa tribal community**. The centuries-old mural tradition is created on household walls as an offering to **Baba Pithora** and includes depictions of **deities, horses, nature, village life, and spiritual symbols**. The GI status prevents unauthorized imitation and ensures authenticity of original artworks. It is expected to improve market opportunities,

increase income for **tribal artisans**, reduce dependency on middlemen, and encourage younger generations to preserve this important part of India's **indigenous cultural heritage**.

### International Affairs

- During the **48th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee** held in **Busan, South Korea**, **Mount Olympus (Greece)** and the **D-Day Landing Beaches (France)** were added to the **UNESCO World Heritage List**. **Mount Olympus**, Greece's highest peak at **2,918 metres**, received recognition as a **Mixed World Heritage Site** for its exceptional **natural biodiversity** and **mythological significance**. The **D-Day Landing Beaches** in **Normandy**, including **Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, Sword Beaches, and Pointe du Hoc**, were inscribed for their historic role in **World War II**. UNESCO also highlighted concerns regarding **climate change, tourism, and sea-level rise**.
- According to the **Competere Foundation's** report, **India** improved its ranking in the **Market Distortions Performance Index** from **82nd in 2010** to **57th in 2023**, gaining **25 positions**. The report credits reforms such as the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**, **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, regulatory simplification, and **trade facilitation measures** for reducing market distortions. The index assesses **ownership rights, domestic competition, and international competitiveness**. The findings highlight India's progress toward a more **transparent, competitive, and investment-friendly economy**, while emphasizing the need for continued structural reforms to sustain long-term economic growth.
- A **U.S.-backed peace proposal** under **President Donald Trump's Board of Peace** seeks the phased **disarmament of Hamas** and other militant groups in **Gaza** as part of a broader **ceasefire and reconstruction plan**. While **Hamas** has reportedly accepted the proposal in principle, **Israel** has not yet granted formal approval, citing security concerns. Mediated by **Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey**, the plan includes **verified disarmament, phased Israeli troop withdrawal, deployment of an international stabilization force, establishment of a new Palestinian police force, and internationally supervised reconstruction, with implementation dependent on mutual compliance**.
- **Venezuela** has formally notified the **United Nations (UN)** of its decision to withdraw from the **Rome Statute**, the founding treaty of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**. Foreign Minister **Felix Plasencia** called the move "**firm and irrevocable**", citing concerns over alleged **geographical bias**



and unequal treatment by the court. Under **Article 127 of the Rome Statute**, withdrawal will become effective after **one year**, and it will not stop ongoing investigations, including the ICC probe into alleged **crimes against humanity** in Venezuela opened in **2021**. The ICC, headquartered in **The Hague, Netherlands**, investigates **genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression**, and Venezuela's exit adds to growing challenges facing the global justice system.

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** unveiled two major reforms for the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** on **29 July 2026** in **New Delhi** to promote **gender equality** and improve personnel welfare. The new policy introduces a **gender-neutral officer induction framework**, allowing women officers to join **Short Service Appointment (SSA)** and **Permanent Appointment (PA)**, while opening SSA for male candidates as well. The reforms also empower the ICG to declare personnel "**presumed dead**" in cases of disappearance at sea during duty, enabling faster release of **ex gratia compensation, terminal benefits**, and financial assistance to **Next of Kin (NoK)**. The initiatives strengthen **Nari Shakti**, inclusiveness, and operational efficiency in maritime security.
- India achieved a major milestone as its **first-ever direct commercial container freight train** reached **Nepal** carrying a consignment of **canola** under the revised **India-Nepal Rail Transit Protocol**. The train operated from **Kolkata Port (India) to Biratnagar (Nepal)** with **40 wagons** and eliminated **border transshipment** requirements. The initiative aims to reduce **transit time, logistics costs, and cargo handling**, while improving **supply chain efficiency**. The direct freight service strengthens **India-Nepal trade relations**, promotes **regional connectivity**, and supports sustainable rail-based transportation under the **Neighbourhood First Policy**.
- The Pacific island country previously known as **Nauru** officially changed its name to the **Republic of Naoero** after approval of a **constitutional amendment** by Parliament in **May 2026** and confirmation by President **David Adeang** on **31 July 2026**. The name change aims to restore the nation's **indigenous identity**, protect the endangered **Nauruan language (dorerin Naoero)**, and strengthen cultural heritage. The **United Nations** was informed on **26 June 2026** and began updating official records. The country's short name is now **Naoero**, while its code **NRO** remains unchanged. Located in **Micronesia**, the nation covers around **21 sq km**, has nearly **12,000 people**, uses the **Australian Dollar**, and has **Yaren District** as its administrative centre.

## Banking/Economy/Business News

- **India** has emerged as one of **Red Hat's top five global growth markets**, driven by rapid adoption of **Artificial Intelligence (AI), open-source software, cloud computing, and digital transformation**. According to **Navtej Singh Bal**, Vice President and General Manager for **India and South Asia**, the country has become a major **business, engineering, and innovation hub** for **Red Hat and IBM**. He emphasized that AI will enhance **productivity** rather than replace jobs, increasing demand for skills in **AI, cybersecurity, data science, and cloud technologies**, while highlighting challenges such as **infrastructure costs, AI deployment, and talent shortages**.
- The **Government of India** has approved the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** proposal to conduct field trials of **one billion ₹10 and one billion ₹20 polymer banknotes** to modernize the country's currency system. Announced by **Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary**, the initiative will evaluate the notes' **durability, security, and performance** under different climatic and usage conditions. Made from a **special plastic polymer**, these notes are more resistant to **moisture, dirt, and wear**, offer stronger **anti-counterfeiting features**, and reduce replacement costs. **Paper currency** will continue alongside polymer notes, while **digital payment systems** remain unaffected.
- **SBI Life Insurance Company Limited** has become the **Principal Partner** of the **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** for the **2026 Para Sports Season**, reinforcing its commitment to promoting **inclusive sports** and supporting **para-athletes**. Under the partnership, SBI Life will serve as the **Official Life Insurance Partner** for the **Commonwealth Para Games 2026 in Glasgow** and the **Asian Para Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya**. The collaboration aims to celebrate athletes' achievements, raise awareness about **para sports**, and encourage wider participation. It also continues the company's support following its association with Indian para-athletes during the **2024 Paris Paralympic Games**.
- The **Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA)** launched the **Favara-UPI Cross-Border Payment Corridor** on **30 July 2026**, enabling instant money transfers from **Maldivian mobile banking applications** to **UPI-linked bank accounts in India**. The system integrates the **Favara Instant Payment System** with **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, automatically converting **Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR)** into **Indian Rupees (INR)**. Initially available through **Bank of Maldives Plc** and **Maldives Islamic Bank Plc**, the initiative was developed with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, strengthening **digital financial connectivity** and **India-Maldives economic cooperation**.



- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has decided to replace the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** with the **Output Producer Price Index (PPI)** as the **GDP deflator** for quarterly and annual **GDP estimates**, wherever applicable. Released by **DPIIT** in **June 2026**, the **PPI** better reflects **producer prices** and aligns India with **international statistical standards**. The reform introduces the **Double Deflation Method**, updates the **GDP base year** from **2011–12 to 2022–23**, and will be implemented from **Q1 FY 2026–27**, improving **real GDP**, **GVA estimation**, and **economic policymaking**.
- **OmniCard**, developed by **Eroute Technologies Pvt. Ltd.**, has launched **India's first UPI-based Flexi Benefits Wallet**, called the **Flexi Benefits Basket**, built on an **RBI-licensed Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI)** platform. The wallet enables employees to manage **tax-efficient benefits** through a **single digital wallet** and make **UPI Scan-and-Pay** transactions at nearly **60 million UPI-enabled merchants**. Supporting categories like **meals, fuel, telecom, books, and gadgets**, it uses **Merchant Category Code (MCC)** controls for compliance. Aligned with the **Income-tax Rules, 2026** (effective **1 April 2026**), it offers tax-free benefits exceeding **₹2 lakh annually**, including **₹1,05,600** for meals.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **draft amendments** requiring all **Securitisation Notes (SNs)** to be issued, held, and transferred only in **dematerialised (demat) form** to improve **transparency, liquidity, efficiency, and investor protection**. The RBI has also retained the **minimum investment limit of ₹1 crore** at both **issuance and subsequent transfers**. The proposal mandates compliance agreements between **lenders and Special Purpose Entities (SPEs)** and aligns **public issue criteria** with **SEBI regulations**. The reforms aim to modernise India's **securitisation market**, strengthen the **debt market**, and boost investor confidence.
- **DBS Bank**, headquartered in **Singapore**, became the **first Southeast Asian bank** to win the **"World's Best Corporate Bank"** title at the **Global Finance Global Bank Awards 2026**, marking the first regional winner since the category was introduced in **2005**. The bank also received **"Asia's Best Bank"** and **"Singapore's Best Bank"** awards for its excellence in **corporate banking, digital innovation, and financial services**. Operating across **19 international markets**, DBS offers **AI-driven solutions** in **corporate finance, trade finance, cash management, and treasury services**, reinforcing **Singapore's global financial leadership** and Asia's growing prominence in banking.
- India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** has gained global recognition, with **24 countries** partnering to adopt **India Stack**, including **UPI, DigiLocker, Aadhaar, e-KYC, eSign**, and the **Account Aggregator** framework. **UPI** is now available for merchant payments in **10 international markets**, while **Kenya and Cuba** have begun implementing **DigiLocker**. India is also in discussions with **Laos, Seychelles, Venezuela, Armenia, Fiji, Guyana, and Colombia** to deploy digital platforms like **e-Sanjeevani, e-Office, and e-Hospital**, strengthening its leadership in **digital governance, financial inclusion**, and global **Digital Public Infrastructure** initiatives.
- Indian banks collected **₹7,086.63 crore** as penalties for non-maintenance of **Minimum Average Balance (MAB)** in **FY 2025–26**, according to the **Ministry of Finance** data presented in the **Rajya Sabha**. **Private sector banks** collected **₹4,948.71 crore**, accounting for nearly **70%** of total charges, while **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** collected **₹2,137.92 crore**. **HDFC Bank** and **Axis Bank** were the highest private-sector contributors. Meanwhile, **10 out of 12 PSBs** discontinued savings account penalties. **Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDAs)**, including **PM Jan Dhan Yojana accounts**, remain exempt from minimum balance requirements. RBI allows such charges under **transparent and board-approved policies**.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** is set to become the **first Indian bank in 2026** to issue **Basel III-compliant Additional Tier-I (AT-1) Perpetual Bonds**, aiming to strengthen its capital base. The bank plans to raise **₹5,000 crore** through the bond issue with a **five-year call option**, subject to approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and regulators. The issuance is part of SBI's larger **₹60,000 crore capital-raising plan** for **FY 2026–27** through **Infrastructure Bonds, AT-1 Bonds, and Tier-II Bonds**. AT-1 Perpetual Bonds help banks improve **Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)**, meet **Basel III norms**, absorb losses, and support future lending growth. **SBI**, founded in **1955**, is headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **Axis Finance Limited (AFL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Axis Bank**, launched **'Axis Finance Drishti'**, an in-house **Business Rules Engine (BRE)** and digital credit decision platform to enhance **retail and MSME lending**. The platform uses **advanced analytics, statistical scorecards, and multiple data sources** for faster, data-driven credit assessment and supports **real-time decision-making and Straight-Through Processing (STP)**. In **Phase-I**, Drishti was rolled out for **Personal Loans, Business Loans, Loan Against Property (LAP), and Disha Home Loans**. **AFL** is a **non-deposit-taking NBFC**, incorporated in **1995**, headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the winding up of **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** after approval from the **Delhi High Court**. RBI appointed **Girikumar Nair**, former **Chief General Manager of State Bank of India (SBI)**, as the **Official Liquidator** to manage the process. The action follows RBI's cancellation of PPBL's licence due to **serious regulatory violations**. The winding-up process will be conducted under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** and **Companies Act, 2013**. RBI assured that **depositors' funds are safe** and PPBL has sufficient liquidity to repay liabilities.
- India's **Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collections reached **₹2.11 lakh crore in July 2026**, registering a **15.4% year-on-year growth** due to improved **tax compliance**, strong economic activity, and better business performance. **Domestic GST collections** increased by **10.1%** to **₹1.45 lakh crore**, while GST from **imports** grew by **28.8%** to **₹66,511 crore**. After refunds of **₹29,968 crore**, net GST revenue stood at **₹1.81 lakh crore**, rising **15.8%** annually. During **April–July FY 2026–27**, total GST collections reached **₹8.43 lakh crore**. **Haryana** recorded the highest growth at **25%**, followed by **Gujarat and Telangana at 19%**. The strong revenue performance reflects healthy consumption, increased imports, efficient tax administration, and improved government fiscal capacity.
- India's **fiscal deficit** reached **₹3.1 trillion** during the **April–June quarter of FY 2026–27**, accounting for **18.2%** of the government's annual target of **₹16.96 trillion**. The increase was mainly due to higher government spending on **capital expenditure** and infrastructure projects. Compared with **₹2.8 trillion** during the same period last year, the deficit remained within the planned fiscal framework. Government finances received support from stronger revenue collections, with **net tax receipts** increasing to **₹6.4 trillion** from **₹5.4 trillion**, while **non-tax revenue** rose to **₹3.8 trillion**. Total government expenditure reached **₹13.6 trillion** during the quarter. The data indicates continued focus on **investment-led growth** while maintaining the FY27 fiscal deficit target of **4.3% of GDP**.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** increased by **\$6.12 billion** to reach **\$682.35 billion** during the week ending **24 July 2026**, according to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. The rise was mainly supported by growth in **Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs)** and higher **gold reserves**. FCAs increased by **\$4.87 billion** to **\$555.93 billion**, while gold reserves rose by **\$1.31 billion**. However, **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** declined by **\$53 million** to **\$18.62 billion**, and India's IMF reserve position fell by **\$11 million** to **\$4.75 billion**. Strong forex reserves help maintain **rupee stability**, support import payments, manage external obligations, and protect the economy from global financial uncertainties.

## Agreements News

- The **Ministry of Ayush** and the **IndiaAI Mission** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on **31 July 2026** to integrate **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** into India's traditional healthcare systems. The collaboration will promote **AI-driven research, digital healthcare, medicinal plant studies, drug administration**, and innovation across **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy**. Key initiatives include the **AIKosh platform**, **GPU-based high-performance computing**, and the **IndiaAI Innovation Challenge 2026**, supporting researchers, startups, and evidence-based healthcare.

## Appointments/Resignations

- **Shri Keshav Chandra**, a **1995 AGMUT cadre IAS officer**, assumed charge as the **Secretary of the Ministry of Mines** on **27 July 2026**. Soon after taking office, he chaired a review meeting to assess key programmes related to **mineral exploration, auction of mineral blocks**, and the development of **critical and strategic minerals**. He emphasized effective implementation of mining reforms, improved coordination among stakeholders, and strengthening **India's mineral security**. The Ministry is prioritizing minerals such as **lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite**, and **rare earth elements** to support **electric vehicles, renewable energy, defence**, and **advanced technologies**.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** appointed **Dr. K. Srikar Reddy**, currently **Consul General of India in San Francisco**, as the next **Ambassador of India to Qatar**. His appointment comes at a time when **India–Qatar relations** are expanding in **energy, trade, investment, technology**, and **strategic cooperation**. **Qatar** remains India's largest supplier of **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**, contributing **11.2 million tonnes**, or **41% of India's LNG imports in FY 2024–25**. Both countries elevated their ties to a **Strategic Partnership in February 2025** and aim to double bilateral trade from **\$14 billion to \$28 billion by 2030**, while Qatar continues to host over **8 lakh Indians**.
- **Varsha Ashok Aglawe** became the first woman to head the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** after taking charge as its **54th Director General** on **31 July 2026**. Her appointment marked a historic moment in the **176-year history** of GSI and highlighted women's growing contribution to India's scientific leadership. She succeeded **Asit Saha** and brings over **30 years of experience** in **geoscience, geological exploration, and administration**. Aglawe joined GSI in **1992** after working with the **Indian Bureau of Mines** and

previously served as **Additional Director General and Head of Department, Eastern Region, Kolkata**. A specialist in **palaeontology and palynology**, she contributed to identifying the **Salbardi-Ghorpend dinosaur nesting site** in Central India. Her leadership comes during India's expansion in **critical mineral exploration** for clean energy and advanced manufacturing.

- The Central Government extended the tenure of **K Rajaraman** as Chairperson of the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** until **24 October 2028**. The extension was announced through a **Ministry of Finance gazette notification** dated **30 July 2026**, adding **27 months** beyond his original three-year term that began in **2023**. Rajaraman, a senior **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer and former **Secretary of Department of Telecommunications**, will continue guiding the growth of the **GIFT International Financial Services Centre (GIFT IFSC)**, **Gandhinagar**. Established in **April 2020** under the **IFSCA Act, 2019**, the authority regulates international financial services including **banking, insurance, capital markets, and funds**. His continued leadership aims to attract global investment and strengthen India's position in international finance.

### Defence News

- **Bhargavastra** is an indigenously developed **anti-swarm drone defence system** designed to neutralize **enemy drones and loitering munitions**. It was showcased to the **Indian Army** on **24 July 2026** during the **Make-II project** launch in **Nagpur**. The mobile and cost-effective system integrates **radar, EO/IR sensors, passive RF detectors, and C4I systems** for real-time threat detection and tracking. It employs a **two-layer defence mechanism**, using **mini-rockets** against drone swarms and **smart mini-missiles** for precision strikes up to **2.5 km**. The system can detect **large UAVs** from **10 km** and **small drones** from **6 km**, while combining **soft-kill electronic warfare** with **hard-kill weapons** to strengthen India's layered air defence.
- **Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth** launched the indigenously developed **Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel** in **New Delhi** on **31 July 2026** to improve military mobility in **high-altitude and snowbound regions**. Jointly developed by the **Indian Army** and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, the specialized fuel operates efficiently at temperatures as low as **-42°C**, preventing **engine failures and fuel filter blockages**. Compatible with the Army's existing vehicle fleet, the fuel complies with **BS-VI emission norms** and **IS 1460:2025 standards**, strengthening **defence logistics, operational readiness, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in strategic border areas.

- The **Indian Navy** launched **Machilipatnam**, the **seventh** of eight **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)** built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**, enhancing India's **coastal security and maritime defence** capabilities. With over **80% indigenous content**, the vessel supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative and is designed for **Underwater Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and Mine Warfare**. Named after the historic port city of **Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, the craft will strengthen **maritime domain awareness**, protect strategic sea lanes, and improve operational readiness in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- The **Government of India** notified the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Recruitment Rules, 2026**, reserving **50% of Constable (General Duty) vacancies** for **ex-Agniveers** who complete their service under the **Agnipath Scheme**. The new rules provide major recruitment relaxations, including exemption from the **Written Examination, Physical Standard Test (PST), and Physical Efficiency Test (PET)**, while retaining **document verification and medical examination** requirements. Former Agniveers will receive **5 years age relaxation** for the first batch and **3 years** for subsequent batches. The reform aims to support post-service employment opportunities and strengthen the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**. SSB operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and guards India's borders with **Nepal and Bhutan**.
- **Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja** has been appointed as the **Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAfMS)**, the highest medical position in the **Indian Armed Forces**, effective from **31 August 2026**. He will succeed **Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin** after her retirement. Thareja previously served as **Director General Medical Services (Air)** and brings nearly **four decades of experience** in **military medicine, healthcare administration, and operational medical support**. A graduate of **AFMC Pune**, he holds an **MD in Medicine** and a **DM in Gastroenterology** from **AIIMS New Delhi**, where he received the **Best DM Student Award**. He has commanded major military hospitals, served as **Commandant of AFMC**, and contributed to healthcare preparedness for missions like **Gaganyaan** and the **BHISHM Cube initiative**. As DGAfMS, he will oversee healthcare policies, medical readiness, and services across the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**.
- **Air Marshal A K Bharti, Deputy Chief of Air Staff (DCAS)** of the **Indian Air Force**, retired on **31 July 2026** after a distinguished military career spanning several decades. He



gained national recognition as the public face of India's tri-service media briefings during **Operation Sindoor**, launched after the **2025 Pahalgam terror attack**. During his tenure as **Director General Air Operations (DGAO)**, he played a significant role in planning and executing important air operations and strengthening operational preparedness. He represented the **Indian Air Force** during joint briefings with senior officers from the **Army and Navy**, explaining strategic developments and military operations. Before retirement, he served in one of the IAF's highest leadership positions as **DCAS**. As part of his farewell ceremony, he paid tribute to fallen soldiers at the **National War Memorial, New Delhi**, honouring the values of service and sacrifice.

### Awards and Recognitions

- Former **DRDO Chairman Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy** received the prestigious **EMESCO–Dr. B.V. Pattabhiram Changemaker-2026 Award** in **Hyderabad** for his exceptional contributions to **defence research, scientific innovation, and technological self-reliance**. The award was presented by actor and politician **Chiranjeevi**. Dr. Reddy highlighted India's growing capabilities in **indigenous defence technologies**, which have significantly reduced dependence on foreign nations for critical military systems. As a member of the **National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)**, he continues to inspire students and young scientists through **science outreach, lectures, and innovation-driven initiatives**.
- **Prem K. Vora**, President of the **Electric Merchants Association (EMA)** for **2025–26**, was honoured with the prestigious **Rashtriya Ashok Samman (Bharat Samman)** during the **National Leadership Conclave** held in **New Delhi** in **July 2026**. The award recognizes his outstanding contribution to the **electrical trade sector, ethical business practices, MSME development, and sustainable industrial growth**. Under his leadership, EMA has promoted **digital transformation, the Green Electricals initiative, innovation, and modernization** within the industry. He has previously received honours such as the **Global Youth Ambassador Award** and the **Iconic Emerging Leader in the Electrical Industry Award**.
- The **Fields Medal 2026**, considered the **highest honour in mathematics**, was awarded to **Hong Wang, Yu Deng, John Pardon, and Jacob Tsimerman** at the **International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) 2026**. The award recognizes exceptional mathematical achievements and future potential. **Hong Wang** was honoured for contributions to **harmonic analysis and geometric measure**

**theory**, while **Yu Deng** received it for work in **partial differential equations (PDEs)**. **John Pardon** was recognized for **symplectic geometry and topology**, and **Jacob Tsimerman** for advances in **arithmetic geometry**. The **Fields Medal** is awarded every four years by the **International Mathematical Union (IMU)** to mathematicians **under 40 years of age**.

- **National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval** received the **Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026** on **1 August 2026** in **Pune, Maharashtra** for his outstanding contribution to **national security and strategic affairs**. The award was presented by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** during a ceremony organized by the **Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust** on the **106th death anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak**. Doval was recognized for his decades-long service in **intelligence operations, counter-terrorism, border security, and security policymaking**. A **1968-batch Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer, he is India's longest-serving **National Security Adviser**. The honour included a **memento, citation, and ₹1 lakh cash prize**, recognizing his role in strengthening India's security framework and protecting national interests.

### Ranks & Reports News

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



## Sports News

- India's **Anahat Singh** scripted history by becoming the **first Indian** to win the **girls' singles title** at the **World Junior Squash Championships 2026**. The **18-year-old** from **New Delhi** defeated **Egypt's Ruqayya Salem 3-0 (11-3, 11-7, 11-9)** in the final. She dominated the tournament by losing only **two games** in six matches and ended **Egypt's 13-year winning streak**, becoming the **first non-Egyptian champion since 2010**. Anahat, who initially played **badminton** before switching to **squash**, surpassed **Joshna Chinappa's** previous best performance in **2005**, marking a historic milestone for Indian squash.
- Indian weightlifting star **Mirabai Chanu** clinched the **gold medal** in the **women's 48 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026**, securing her **third consecutive Commonwealth Games title** after victories in **2018, 2022, and 2026**. The **31-year-old** lifted a total of **190 kg**, comprising **85 kg in snatch** and **105 kg in clean and jerk**, to earn **India's first gold medal** of the Games. **Nigeria's Ruth Asuquo Nyong** claimed silver, while **Malaysia's Irene Jane Henry** won bronze. With an **Olympic silver medal** and multiple **World Championship medals**, Mirabai continues to inspire Indian sport.
- Indian weightlifter **Raja Muthupandi** won the **silver medal** in the **men's 65 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow** with a combined lift of **286 kg**. He finished behind **Malaysia's Aznil Bin Bidin Muhamed**, who won gold with a **Commonwealth Games record** total of **299 kg**, while **Papua New Guinea's Morea Baru** secured bronze. Raja displayed remarkable determination after recovering from a difficult **snatch** attempt and a failed **clean and jerk** lift. His comeback from previous injuries further strengthened **India's weightlifting campaign** at the Games.
- Rishikanta Singh Chanambam** became the first Indian medallist at the **Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026** after winning **silver** in the **men's 60 kg weightlifting** event. The athlete from **Imphal West, Manipur**, created a new **Commonwealth Games record** by lifting **121 kg in snatch**, followed by **143 kg in clean and jerk**, for a total of **264 kg**. **Malaysia's Mohamad Aniq Kasdan** won gold with **273 kg**, while **Joshua Amunga Mboya** claimed bronze. Previously, Rishikanta had won **gold** at the **2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships**, showcasing his consistency on the international stage.
- Nyck de Vries** secured victory for **Mahindra Racing** in the second race of the **Tokyo E-Prix** of the **ABB FIA Formula E World Championship**, strengthening the team's championship campaign. Starting from **fifth position**, he expertly managed changing **wet-to-dry track conditions**, strategically used **Attack Mode**, and maintained his lead after a late **red flag** restart. The victory marked his **second win of the 2026 season** and Mahindra Racing's **second triumph** of the year, their first **multi-win season since 2017–18**. The team collected **38 points** during the Tokyo double-header to move **fourth** in the **Teams' Championship** with **210 points**, while teammate **Edoardo Mortara** equalled the season's **pole-position record**.
- Indian athlete **Sarvesh Anil Kushare** won the **silver medal** in the **men's high jump** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow**, achieving a best jump of **2.25 metres** on his final attempt. Although he narrowly missed clearing **2.28 metres**, his performance earned India its **best-ever result** in the event, surpassing the previous **bronze medal** achievement. **Jamaica's Romaine Beckford** secured the **gold medal** on countback, while **Scotland's Jack Kimani** won **bronze** with **2.20 metres**. The achievement adds to Kushare's impressive form following his **national record jump of 2.31 metres** at the **Inter-State Athletics Championships**.
- Indian weightlifter **Ajaya Babu** secured the **silver medal** in the **men's 79 kg** event at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** with a combined lift of **330 kg**, comprising **149 kg in snatch** and **181 kg in clean and jerk**. He narrowly missed the **gold medal** by just **1 kg**, as **Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad** won with a **Commonwealth Games record** total of **331 kg**, while **England's Chris Murray** took **bronze** with **325 kg**. Ajaya's medal became **India's sixth weightlifting medal** at the Games, further strengthening the country's reputation in international weightlifting competitions.
- Indian weightlifter **Gyaneshwari Yadav** secured the **silver medal** in the **women's 53 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026**, becoming **India's fourth weightlifting medallist** and **fifth overall medallist** at the Games. She lifted **88 kg in snatch** and **111 kg in clean and jerk**, setting **Commonwealth Games records** before **Nigeria's Onome Omolola** surpassed them to win **gold**, while **Canada's Rebeka Groulx** claimed **bronze**. An **Assistant Sub-Inspector in the Chhattisgarh Police**, Gyaneshwari has also won medals at the **Asian Weightlifting Championships** and holds a **national record**, highlighting her consistent success in international competitions.
- Indian shooter **Esha Singh** won the **gold medal** in the **women's 25m pistol** event at the **ISSF World Cup 2026** in **Hangzhou, China**, defeating **China's Zhang Yueyue** by **40–37** in the final. The victory also secured her direct qualification for the **ISSF World Cup Final 2026** in **Rome**. Fellow Indian shooter and Olympian **Manu Bhaker** earned the **bronze medal** with **28 hits** after a closely contested shoot-off. The

outstanding performances by both athletes further strengthened **India's reputation in international shooting**, particularly in **women's pistol events**, showcasing the country's growing dominance on the global stage.

- **India** achieved a historic double by winning both the **men's** and **women's team titles** at the **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships** held at the **Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi**, on **30 July 2026**. The **men's team** defeated **Malaysia 3–2**, with **Manush Shah** winning two crucial singles matches, including the deciding encounter. The **women's team** remained **unbeaten** throughout the tournament and defeated **Malaysia 3–0** in the final through victories by **Swastika Ghosh, Sreeja Akula**, and **Yashaswini Ghorpade**. Conducted from **27 July to 2 August**, the championship earned India a **USD 10,000 prize purse** and reinforced its status as one of the **Commonwealth's strongest table tennis nations**.
- Indian weightlifter **Lovepreet Singh** secured the **silver medal** in the **men's +110 kg** category at the **Commonwealth Games 2026**, narrowly missing the gold by just **one kilogram**. The **28-year-old** lifted a combined total of **388 kg**, including a **Commonwealth Games record 176 kg snatch** and **212 kg clean and jerk**. **New Zealand's David Liti** claimed the **gold medal** with a record **389 kg** total after lifting **223 kg** in clean and jerk, while **Lovepreet** failed to clear **217 kg** in his final attempt. His medal helped India conclude a successful **weightlifting campaign with eight medals**, while **Martina Devi Maibam** finished **fifth** in the **women's +86 kg** category.
- Indian athlete **Seema Kaliramna** won the **bronze medal** in the **women's discus throw** at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow**, securing her **first major international medal** with a best throw of **58.66 metres**. **Jamaica's Samantha Hall** claimed **gold** with **61.66 metres**, while **Canada's Julia Tunks** won **silver** with **60.67 metres**. A **27-year-old PhD scholar** and **mother of a four-year-old son**, **Seema** made an inspiring comeback after a **two-year break**, achieving a **personal best of 59.73 metres** earlier in 2026. Her bronze increased **India's athletics medal tally to four**, highlighting her determination and perseverance.
- Former **India captain Ajinkya Rahane**, popularly known as "**Jinx**", announced his retirement from **international cricket** after an illustrious career that began with his debut in **2011**. The **Dombivli (Thane), Maharashtra-born** batter shared the announcement through an **Instagram** video, thanking the **BCCI, Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)**, his teammates, family, and wife **Radhika** for their support. Renowned for his **calm leadership, solid technique**, and **match-winning overseas Test performances**, **Rahane** also captained India in Tests. He indicated that he plans to remain associated with cricket through **coaching, mentoring, or commentary**.

- **India** concluded the **ISSF World Cup 2026** with **four medals—one gold, one silver, and two bronze**—demonstrating its growing strength in international shooting. The final medal came in the **10m Air Rifle Mixed Team** event, where **Sonam Maskar** and **Himanshu Dhillon** won **bronze** with **441.2 points**. **Esha Singh** claimed **gold** in the **Women's 25m Pistol**, **Sainyam Vij** secured **silver** in the **Women's 10m Air Pistol**, and **Manu Bhaker** earned **bronze** in the **Women's 25m Pistol**, highlighting India's consistent performance across rifle and pistol events.
- **India** strengthened its medal tally at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in **Glasgow, Scotland**, by winning **one gold** and **two silver medals** in athletics. **Dilip Mahadu Gavit** clinched **gold** in the **Men's 100m T47** with a **Commonwealth Games record** time of **10.71 seconds**, while **Mohammed Basil Morssinganakathi** won **silver** in **10.83 seconds**, giving India its **first-ever one-two finish** in the event. **Murali Sreeshankar** secured **silver** in the **Men's Long Jump** with a leap of **8.09 metres**, narrowly missing gold by **6 cm**, earning his **second consecutive Commonwealth Games silver medal**.
- Indian athlete **Tejaswin Shankar** created history by winning a **bronze medal in men's decathlon** at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games**, becoming the first Indian to secure a Commonwealth medal in the event. The **27-year-old** scored **7,976 points** across the challenging **10-event competition** despite suffering from **chronic patellar tendinitis**. He remained among the top performers throughout the event, finishing strongly in the final **1,500m race** to secure the podium position. **Grenada's Lindon Victor** won gold with **8,096 points**, while **Canada's Damian Warner** secured silver with **8,036 points**. This was **Tejaswin's second Commonwealth Games medal** after his **2022 high jump bronze**, making him the first Indian athlete to win Commonwealth medals in two different athletics disciplines.
- **Harsh Singh** became the first Indian male judoka to win a **Commonwealth Games gold medal in judo** after defeating Australia's **Joshua Katz** in the **men's 60kg final** at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games** on **31 July 2026**. The **23-year-old athlete** displayed strong tactical skills and composure to secure India's first-ever men's judo gold at the Games. Ranked among the **top 100 judokas by the International Judo Federation (IJF)**, **Harsh** has represented India at major international competitions, including the **Zagreb Grand Prix** and **Qazaqstan Barysy Grand Slam**. His achievement came on the same day as **Asmita Dey's gold medal victory**, marking India's best-ever Commonwealth Games performance in judo and highlighting the country's growing strength in the sport.

- **Asmita Dey** created history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win a **Commonwealth Games gold medal in judo** after defeating Canada's **Heidi Quach** in the **women's 48kg final** at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games** on **31 July 2026**. The 23-year-old secured victory through the **Golden Score** system after a closely contested final, showing excellent tactical ability and mental strength. She reached the final after defeating **Scotland's Eva Ewing** in the quarterfinal and **Sarah Adlington** in the semifinal. Her victory ended India's previous best record of **five silver and six bronze medals** in Commonwealth Games judo. The historic win also gave India its first judo medal at the Glasgow Games and is expected to inspire greater participation and development of judo across the country.
- India recorded a historic achievement at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** as **Neeraj Chopra** won a **silver medal** and **Yash Vir Singh** secured a **bronze medal** in the men's **javelin throw final**, creating India's first-ever **double podium finish** in the event. Neeraj delivered a **season-best throw of 85.83 metres**, while **Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage** won gold with a **Games record throw of 89.75 metres**. Yash Vir Singh produced a career-best performance with a **personal-best throw of 85.41 metres** in his final attempt to claim bronze. Their success helped India reach **23 medals** by the end of Day 8, including **5 gold, 12 silver, and 6 bronze medals**, highlighting India's rising strength in athletics and international sports competitions.

### Summits & Conferences News

- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** unveiled the theme "**Scale without Boundaries**" for the **10th India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026**, to be held from **7–10 October 2026** in **New Delhi**. Organised by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)**, Asia's largest digital technology forum will focus on four pillars—**Srishti, Suraksha, Sashakt, and Samvardhan**. The event will showcase **5G, 6G, AI, IoT, Satellite Communications, Quantum Technologies**, and **Green Technologies**, while highlighting initiatives like the **Bharat 6G Alliance, PLI Scheme**, and **Sanchar Saathi Portal**, reinforcing India's vision as a global digital technology leader.

### Schemes News

- The **Himachal Pradesh Government** launched the **Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana** to provide financial assistance to **reservoir fishermen** affected

by the annual fishing ban. Announced by **Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**, the scheme provides **₹3,500 annually** to eligible fishermen through the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** system. Around **3,700 fishing families** are expected to benefit, with an annual allocation of nearly **₹1.20 crore**. Eligible beneficiaries must be **licensed reservoir fishermen**, members of **registered Fisheries Cooperative Societies**, and possess an **NFDP registration number**. The scheme covers **Gobind Sagar, Pong Dam, Kol Dam, Chamara, and Ranjit Sagar** reservoirs while promoting **livelihood security and sustainable fisheries conservation**.

- The **Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MJPJAY)** is a flagship **health insurance scheme** of the **Maharashtra Government**, launched in **2012** and implemented by the **State Health Assurance Society**. Previously known as the **Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana**, it offers **cashless treatment** worth **₹1.5 lakh per family annually**, with coverage up to **₹2.5 lakh for organ transplants**. Families also covered under **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY** can avail combined health coverage of **₹5 lakh**. The scheme provides treatment across **996 medical procedures in 34 specialties**, including **cardiology, oncology, neurology, critical care**, and **major surgeries**, ensuring affordable healthcare for economically weaker families.
- The **Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree Yojana**, launched by the **Maharashtra Government** on **1 August 2017**, aims to improve the **social, educational, and financial status of girl children**. Implemented by the **Women and Child Development Department**, the scheme seeks to prevent **female foeticide**, promote **girls' education**, encourage **family planning**, and improve the **child sex ratio**. Eligible families with **one daughter** receive a **₹50,000 fixed deposit**, while families with **two daughters** receive **₹25,000 for each child**. The deposits mature when the girl reaches **18 years of age**. Families with an **annual income below ₹7.5 lakh** can apply offline with the required documents.
- The **Delhi Government** approved the **Delhi Lakshmi Yojana** to provide financial assistance and promote **women's empowerment**. Under the scheme, eligible women will receive **₹2,500 per month through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**. The government allocated **₹5,110 crore** in the **Delhi Budget 2026–27** for implementation. The scheme is expected to benefit over **17 lakh women**. Eligibility includes **Delhi residency, age between 21–60 years, and annual family income up to ₹2.5 lakh**. The **online registration portal** will start from **1 August 2026**. The scheme focuses on **economic security, education, healthcare, skill development, and financial inclusion**.



### Science and Technology News

- India has announced that future **space launch vehicles** will be equipped with **indigenously developed semiconductor chips**, marking a significant step toward **technological self-reliance**. **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced the initiative after **Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1** successful orbital test flight, highlighting the rapid growth of India's **private space sector**. These **space-grade semiconductors** power critical systems such as **navigation, flight control, telemetry, onboard computers, and communication**, while withstanding extreme **radiation, vibrations, and temperature variations**. The move strengthens **supply-chain security**, reduces **import dependence**, and supports **ISRO's** plan to develop indigenous processors and mission electronics within **four years**.
- Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** have discovered two new spider species—**Simonia lawbah** from **Meghalaya** and **Hamataliwa papikonda** from **Andhra Pradesh**—expanding India's documented **biodiversity**. The discoveries were published in the scientific journals **Zootaxa** and **Records of the Zoological Survey of India**. **Simonia lawbah**, discovered inside **Krem Lawbah Cave**, is India's first recorded species of the **Simonia** genus and is a **cave-adapted ray spider**. **Hamataliwa papikonda**, found in **Papikonda National Park**, is an **active hunting lynx spider**. These findings highlight the importance of **taxonomy, wildlife surveys, and biodiversity conservation** in India.
- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** completed the country's first comprehensive **Lepidoptera inventory**, documenting **13,703 species** of **butterflies and moths** after **12 years** of research. Led by **Dr. Navneet Singh** and **Dr. Rahul Joshi**, the project involved extensive **field surveys, museum collections, specimen verification, and literature review**, resulting in a **22-volume catalogue** published in **Zootaxa**. The inventory records **3,705 genera, 102 families, 240 subfamilies, and 31 superfamilies**, while identifying India as a global hotspot for **Geometroidea moth diversity** with **2,205 species**, significantly supporting **taxonomy, biodiversity conservation, and climate research**.
- IBM** and Indian AI startup **Sarvam** announced a strategic partnership to accelerate the development of **sovereign artificial intelligence (AI)** solutions for India's governments and regulated sectors. The collaboration aims to create **secure, multilingual, and governance-focused AI systems** for areas including **banking, healthcare, public administration, and critical infrastructure**. IBM will provide its **Sovereign Core platform** to support **data security, AI**

**governance, compliance, and infrastructure control**, while Sarvam will contribute India-specific technologies such as **multilingual language models, voice AI, and locally developed reasoning models**. The initiative focuses on shifting organisations from AI experimentation to large-scale implementation while ensuring control over **data, models, and operations**. The partnership is expected to improve **citizen services, grievance handling, document processing, and administrative efficiency** through secure AI solutions designed for India's linguistic diversity and regulatory environment.

- Scientists discovered a new freshwater hillstream catfish species named **Pseudolaguvia khairii** in the **Budhabalanga River of Mayurbhanj district, Odisha**. The discovery was officially published in the international scientific journal **Zootaxa** on **26 July 2026**, adding to India's freshwater biodiversity records. The species belongs to the **Pseudolaguvia** genus, which is commonly found in fast-flowing rivers of **South Asia** and acts as an indicator of healthy aquatic ecosystems. Researchers identified the species through unique physical characteristics, including a distinctive **fleshy protuberance at the base of its dorsal fin**. The species was named after **Khairi**, the famous orphaned **Royal Bengal tigress** associated with conservationist **Saroj Raj Choudhury**, highlighting Odisha's wildlife conservation legacy. The discovery also emphasizes the ecological importance of the **Similipal landscape** and surrounding river ecosystems.

### Important Days News

- CRPF Foundation Day** is observed annually on **27 July** to commemorate the establishment of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, India's largest **Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)**. In **2026**, the force celebrated its **87th Foundation Day**, recognizing its vital role in **internal security, counter-terrorism, Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) operations, election security, VIP protection, and disaster relief**. Originally established as the **Crown Representative's Police** in **1939**, it was renamed **CRPF** after the enactment of the **CRPF Act, 1949**. The force is also remembered for the **1959 Hot Springs sacrifice**, where **10 personnel** laid down their lives while defending the nation's borders. Today, with over **246 battalions** and specialized units such as **CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action)** and the **Rapid Action Force (RAF)**, the CRPF continues to play a crucial role in maintaining national security and has also contributed significantly to **United Nations Peacekeeping Missions**.



- **Kargil Vijay Diwas** is observed every year on **26 July** to commemorate **India's victory** in the **Kargil War of 1999** and to honour the courage and sacrifice of the **Indian Armed Forces**. In **2026**, the nation marked the **27th anniversary** of this historic victory achieved through **Operation Vijay**, supported by the **Indian Air Force's Operation Safed Sagar**. The conflict began in **May 1999**, when **Pakistani soldiers and infiltrators** occupied strategic positions along the **Line of Control (LoC)** in the **Kargil sector of Ladakh**. After intense battles, including the successful recapture of **Tololing** and **Tiger Hill**, Indian forces regained control of the occupied peaks. The day also pays tribute to brave soldiers such as **Captain Vikram Batra (PVC)**, **Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey (PVC)**, and **Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav (PVC)**, whose extraordinary valour continues to inspire generations and symbolizes **patriotism, sacrifice, and national pride**.
- **World Hepatitis Day** is observed every year on **28 July** to spread awareness about **viral hepatitis**, a major cause of **liver disease** and preventable deaths worldwide. The **2026 theme**, **"Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down,"** focuses on eliminating barriers to **testing, vaccination, treatment**, and quality healthcare while reducing **stigma** and improving **health equity**. Led by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the campaign supports the global goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a **public health threat by 2030** and emphasizes **early diagnosis, safe healthcare practices**, and wider public awareness.
- **World Nature Conservation Day** is observed annually on **28 July** to emphasize the conservation of **natural resources, biodiversity**, and sustainable development. The **2026 observance** highlights the need to protect **forests, wildlife, water resources, soil**, and ecosystems threatened by **climate change, pollution, deforestation, and habitat loss**. Inspired by global initiatives such as the **1972 Stockholm Conference** and the **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, the day encourages governments and citizens to adopt **eco-friendly practices**, recognizing that healthy ecosystems are essential for **food security, clean water, climate stability**, and long-term economic development.
- **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** is observed annually on **30 July** to raise awareness about **human trafficking**, protect victims' rights, and strengthen global action against this crime. Proclaimed by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in **2013**, the **2026 theme**, **"Trapped Behind the Scam,"** highlights trafficking through **fake overseas job offers** that force victims into **cyber-enabled financial scams**. Led by the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, global efforts focus on **victim protection, cross-border cooperation, anti-trafficking investigations**, and prosecution of offenders, while addressing links between **organized crime, cybercrime, money laundering, and human trafficking**.
- **International Day of Friendship** is observed every year on **30 July** to promote **peace, mutual understanding, and solidarity** among individuals, communities, and nations. Proclaimed by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in **2011**, the observance encourages **intercultural dialogue, respect for diversity, and global cooperation**. Inspired by **UNESCO's Culture of Peace** initiative, it highlights the role of **youth** in fostering friendship and resolving conflicts through empathy and understanding. The day is marked through **cultural exchange programmes, peace dialogues, community activities, and awareness campaigns**, reinforcing friendship as a foundation for a more **inclusive and peaceful world**.
- **World Lung Cancer Day 2026** was observed on **1 August 2026** to spread awareness about **lung cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment**. The theme for 2026, **"Together through Lung Cancer,"** focuses on collaboration among **patients, healthcare professionals, researchers, and communities** to fight the disease with compassion and support. The observance highlights the importance of **screening programmes, medical research, healthy lifestyles, and reducing stigma** associated with lung cancer. The day was first observed in **2012** through efforts by organisations including the **Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS)**, **International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC)**, and **CHEST**. Since lung cancer remains one of the leading causes of **cancer-related deaths worldwide**, the campaign promotes improved healthcare access, innovative treatments, and better survival outcomes for patients.
- **World Wide Web Day 2026** was observed on **1 August 2026** to commemorate the invention of the **World Wide Web (WWW)** by **Sir Tim Berners-Lee** in **1989**. Developed at **CERN**, the web transformed global communication by providing easy access to information, education, healthcare, banking, entertainment, and digital services. The foundation of the modern internet experience was built on technologies such as **HTML (HyperText Markup Language)**, **HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol)**, and **URLs (Uniform Resource Locators)**. Over time, the web evolved from simple static pages to interactive platforms and advanced **AI-driven digital ecosystems**. The day emphasizes the importance of **digital inclusion, cybersecurity, responsible internet usage, and technological innovation**. World Wide Web Day recognizes how the web connects billions of people globally and continues to shape modern society through digital transformation.

**Obituaries News**

- Veteran **Congress leader** and former **Uttarakhand Minister Hira Singh Bisht** passed away on **26 July 2026** in **Dehradun** at the age of **85** following a **cardiac arrest**. A **three-time MLA** representing **Doiwala** and **Rajpur**, he served as a **Cabinet Minister** in the **N.D. Tiwari Government**, handling portfolios such as **Transport, Labour, and Technical Education**. Beyond politics, he contributed significantly to **sports administration** as a founder member of the **Cricket Association of Uttarakhand**, supported the development of **Raipur Cricket Stadium**, and worked for **labour welfare** through his leadership in **INTUC**.
- Former **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Vishwa Nath (V.N.) Sharma** passed away in **New Delhi** on **31 July 2026** at the age of **95**, concluding an illustrious military career spanning over **four decades**. He served as the **14th Chief of the Army Staff** from **1 May 1988 to 30 June 1990** and became the **first post-Independence commissioned**

**officer** to rise to the Army's highest position. Commissioned into the **16th Light Cavalry** in **1950**, he played a key role during the **1987 Sumborong Chu stand-off** with China. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** and **Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth** paid tribute to his outstanding service and contribution to India's defence preparedness.

- Legendary Italian footballer **Franco Baresi** passed away at the age of **66**, with **AC Milan** confirming the news on **31 July 2026** after earlier dismissing false rumours. Widely regarded as one of the greatest **defenders** in football history, Baresi spent his entire **20-year professional career** with **AC Milan**, making over **700 appearances**, captaining the club for **15 seasons**, and winning **six Serie A titles** and **three European Cups**. He also won the **1982 FIFA World Cup** with **Italy** and captained the national team to the **1994 FIFA World Cup Final** despite recovering from knee surgery. His **leadership, defensive excellence, and loyalty** left an enduring legacy in world football.

**Static Takeaways**

| Aspect         | Details                                                                |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Uttarakhand    | CM: Pushkar Dhami, Governor: Gurmit Singh , Capital: Dehradun (Winter) |
| Rajasthan      | CM: Bhajanlal Sharma, Governor: Haribhau Bagade, Capital: Jaipur       |
| Gujarat        | CM: Bhupendra Patel, Governor: Aacharya Devvrat , Capital: Gandhinagar |
| Andhra Pradesh | CM: Chandrababu Naidu, Governor: Abdur Nazeer, Capital: Amravati       |
| Assam          | CM: Hemanta Sarma , Governor: Laxman Prasad Acharya, Capital: Itanagar |
| Maharashtra    | CM: Devendra Fadnavis, Governor: Jishnu Dev Verma, Capital: Mumbai     |
| Chattisgarh    | CM: Mohan Majhi, Governor: Ramen Deka, Capital: Raipur                 |
| Tamil Nadu     | CM: Joseph Vijay, Governor: R Arlekar, Capital: Chennai                |
| USA            | President: Donald Trump                                                |
| Venezuela      | President: Delcy Rodriguez                                             |
| Nepal          | PM: Balen Shah                                                         |
| RBI            | Governor: Sanjay Malhotra                                              |
| DBS Bank       | CMD & MD: Rajat Verma                                                  |