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NATIONAL

NEW GI TAGS FOR MP PRODUCTS

The **Geographical Indication (GI) Registry** in **Chennai** has granted the **GI tag** to **3 agricultural products** from **Madhya Pradesh (MP)**: **Khurasani Imli (Mandu)**, **Garadu Tuber (Ratlam)**, and **Balam Kakdi (Sailana)**.

These certifications are part of an **initiative to protect 12 distinct regional agricultural items** from the state.

PM AND PRESIDENT IN ODISHA

PM Narendra Modi and **President Droupadi Murmu** have visited **Odisha** and inaugurated/laid foundation stones for various **developmental projects worth over ₹47,600 crore** at **Rairangpur**.

They jointly laid the foundation stone for **India’s first commercial-scale ‘Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project’** at **Lakhanpur**. They also participated in a programme marking the **completion of 2 years of the Odisha government**, themed **‘Vikas ra Dhara, Odisha Sara’**.

During the visit, **60 projects were inaugurated** and **foundation stones were laid for 12 projects** across various sectors. **PM Modi** also announced that **Pahadpur** will be developed as a **‘Model Solar Village’**, ensuring **every household is equipped for solar power generation**.

LAUNCH OF TRL COMPASS PLATFORM

The **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (OPSA)**, in collaboration with the **Data Security Council of India (DSCI)**, has launched the **‘TRL Compass Platform’**.

The platform provides a **common national standard** for **evaluating projects seeking public funding** by standardizing **Technology Readiness Level (TRL) assessments** across sectors.

MINIRATNA STATUS TO MECON

The **Ministry of Steel** has granted **‘Miniratna Category-I’** status to **MECON Ltd**, a **Schedule ‘A’ Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)**.

This recognition is awarded due to the **consistent financial performance** of the company, which has reported **profits for the last 3 financial years**. Established in **1959**, the company is headquartered in **Ranchi**.

LAUNCH OF FCRA 2.0

Union Minister **Amit Shah** has launched the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) 2.0 Portal** and the **electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) Card** in New Delhi.

The **FCRA 2.0 portal** transitions the **regulatory framework for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)** into a **fully digital system**. Hosted on the **MeghRaj Government Cloud**, the portal supports **14,500 active FCRA-registered organizations** and manages up to **20,000 application cycles annually**.

MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** has highlighted that the **VO Chidambaranar Port Authority (VOCPA)** has achieved a **45% reduction in net carbon emissions**, emerging as a model for **sustainable maritime development**. The port has also been recognised as a **Scope-2 Emission Free Port**.

During the event, the minister dedicated **6 key initiatives**. The port released its **inaugural sustainability disclosure**, the **“VOCPA Sustainability Report 2026”** titled **“Towards a Green Maritime Future”**, along with a **case study by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta** titled **“The Hydrogen Pivot: Orchestrating the Green Transition at VO Chidambaranar Port Authority.”**

The port also inaugurated the **‘vidya pravesh’** (academic activities) for the **2026-27 academic year** at the **newly established Kendriya Vidyalaya** located at the **Port Colony in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**.

FSSAI BANS ASHWAGANDHA LEAVES

The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** and the **Ministry of Ayush** have **prohibited** the use of **leaves and leaf extracts** of the **Withania somnifera** plant in food products and supplements.

It is to be noted that the **roots and their extracts** remain **permitted** and are considered **safe for consumption**.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):

Chairman – PS Srivastava

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2008

VANDE MATARAM CAMP 2026

The **first Vande Mataram Camp 2026**, organised by **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, has concluded at **Brainware University in Kolkata**.

The event commemorated the **150th anniversary** of the National Song ‘**Vande Mataram**’. It hosted **150 youth delegates** from **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands** to promote **national integration, cultural exchange, and youth leadership**.

PRIVATE HELICOPTER PINS APPROACH

The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** has approved the **first private Point-in-Space (Pins) Instrument Approach Procedure** for **helicopter operations** in India at the **Undavalli Heliport in Andhra Pradesh**.

The procedure was developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and approved by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.

Airports Authority of India (AAI):

Chairman – Vipin Kumar

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1995

PM FAMILY CARE TRACKER LAUNCHED

Union Minister Amit Shah has launched the **Prime Minister Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT) pilot project** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. The initiative aims to **strengthen beneficiary identification** and ensure the **timely delivery of government welfare schemes**.

The PM-FCT serves as an **integrated digital platform** to **monitor the health, nutrition, education, and welfare benefits of children** from the **prenatal stage up to 18 years of age**.

NASHA MukT BHARAT SAPTAH

Union Minister Virendra Kumar has presided over the valedictory event of ‘**Nasha MukT Bharat Saptah (Drug-Free India Week)**’ in **Haridwar, Uttarakhand**. The event was observed under the theme “**Nasha MukT Bharat Abhiyaan – Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchaan**”.

During the event, the **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE)** signed MoUs with the **Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Pariwar** to strengthen the **Nasha MukT Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA)** by focusing on **awareness, community mobilisation, drug demand reduction, and senior citizen welfare**.

CCEA APPROVES INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved **2 major infrastructure projects**. The first is the construction of the **117.7 km Kanpur-Kabrai Access-Controlled Greenfield Highway**, a key segment of the **Bhopal-Kanpur Economic Corridor**, at an estimated cost of **₹7,145.14 crore**.

The second project involves the construction of an **8.1 km, 6-lane road tunnel** for **National Highway (NH)-148AE**, connecting the **Dwarka Expressway (NH 248 BB)** with **Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj** in Delhi. The tunnel project, estimated at **₹6,969.67 crore**, will be executed on the **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)**.

NEW QUALITY STANDARDS FOR PMGKAY RICE

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved a reform to **improve the quality of rice** distributed under the **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** and other welfare schemes.

Under the new policy, the **permissible limit for broken grains in raw rice** has been reduced to **10%** from 25%, and for **parboiled rice**, it has been limited to **5%** from 16%. The procurement of this improved-quality rice will be implemented across all states in a phased manner by the **Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2027-28**.

NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has unveiled a development pipeline of 63 projects worth ₹5,028.17 crore during the 154th foundation day celebrations of the Mumbai Port Authority (MPA). The event was held under the theme “Together We Can”.

SATELLITE BASED LANDING

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has successfully completed India’s first satellite-based landing system (SLS) approach on a commercial jet aircraft. The demonstration was conducted using an IndiGo Airbus A320 at Maharana Pratap Airport in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

The operation utilized the indigenous GAGAN (Global Positioning System (GPS) Aided GEO (Geostationary Earth Orbit) Augmented Navigation) system to execute a Localiser Performance with Vertical Guidance (LPV) approach.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation:
Director General – Vir Vikram Yadav
Headquarters – New Delhi
Established in – 2009

HERITAGE SITE STATUS

The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has designated the Borjuli wetland in the Sonitpur district of Assam as a ‘Biodiversity Heritage Site’. This initiative aims to conserve India’s wild rice genetic resources, specifically the ancestral species Oryza rufipogon.

The conservation is being carried out under the project ‘In-situ Conservation and Management of Wild Rice (Oryza rufipogon) of Assam’, which has been operational since 2022. The project is executed by scientists from the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR), New Delhi.

RECOVERY PLAN FOR TIGER RESERVES

The central government has identified 25 Tiger Reserves (TRs) across the country for priority recovery through science-led interventions. This decision is based on two reports released by Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, which focus on a roadmap for active tiger management and findings from the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.

It is to be noted that while the tiger population of India is growing at an annual rate of 6%, 25 of the 58 TRs in the country have been identified as potential recipient sites for priority recovery.

AI-ENABLED AUDIT PORTAL LAUNCHED

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched an AI-enabled Rural Internal Audit portal.

The digital platform aims to enhance financial oversight, audit efficiency, and governance across various programmes under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

PM MODI INAUGURATES REFINERY

PM Narendra Modi has dedicated the first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex of India to the nation at Pachpadra in Balotra, Rajasthan.

Additionally, the PM laid the foundation stone for Phase 2 of the Jaipur Metro Rail Project, which entails an investment of more than ₹13,000 crore.

AMIT SHAH CHAIRS NCORD MEETING

Union Minister Amit Shah has chaired the 10th Apex-Level Meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

During the event, he virtually inaugurated newly constructed Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) zonal offices in Jammu and Guwahati (Assam) to strengthen enforcement capabilities in these strategic regions.

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):
Director General – Anurag Garg
Headquarters – New Delhi
Established in – 1986

FILM INDUSTRY INITIATIVES

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has announced two initiatives to strengthen the Indian film industry: the constitution of a High-level Study Group and the development of Model State Cinema Regulations. This was finalized during a review meeting chaired by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Prasoon Joshi, the **Chairman of Prasar Bharati**, has been appointed as the chairperson of the High-level Study Group. The group is required to submit its report within **3 months**.

DECADE OF PMKSY

The **PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**, launched in **2015**, has completed **10 years** of advancing **irrigation-led agricultural transformation** in India. The scheme comprises 4 main components: **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)**, **Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP)**, **Watershed Development Component (WDC)**, and **Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)**.

As of **August 2025**, the PMKSY has **benefited over 27 million farmers** and **created or restored irrigation potential across 24.61 million hectares (ha)**, supported by a **budgetary allocation of ₹64,407 crore**. Since the inception of the **PDMC component**, **110.92 lakh ha of land** have been brought under **micro-irrigation**.

HEALTHCARE INITIATIVES

Union Minister JP Nadda has chaired the **16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW)** at **Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi**. During the conference, he launched the **‘SUMAN Roadmap 2030’**, a **strategic framework aiming to reduce the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to below 70 per 1 lakh live births by 2030**.

He also launched the **SSBSK**, a **unified programme integrating Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care for Young Child (HBYC) to provide home-based care for children from birth to 5 years**.

NEW GI TAGS

West Bengal has received **23 new Geographical Indication (GI) tags**, taking the **total count of the state to 59**. With this, the state has become the **third-highest GI-tagged state in India**. The new products include **Monohara from Janai, Santiniketan batik, Ektara from Birbhum, and traditional jewellery from Kolkata**.

Himachal Pradesh has secured **8 new GI registrations**, increasing the **total number of GI-tagged products of the state from 9 to 17**. The newly registered products include **Seabuckthorn (Chharma) of Spiti, Salooni Safed Makka (White Maize) of Chamba, Chamba Metal Art, and Sepuvadi of Mandi**.

NEW DIGITAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

Union Minister JP Nadda has launched a series of **digital health initiatives** in **New Delhi** to **strengthen the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Health** in India and **promote the adoption of interoperable digital health solutions nationwide**.

The initiatives include **Aarogya Setu 2.0**, the **Ayushman Application (app)**, the **Ayushman Sarathi WhatsApp Chatbot**, and the **National Health Claims Exchange (NHCX)**.

CCRAS LAUNCHES INITIATIVES

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary of the **Ministry of AYUSH**, has chaired the **5th Executive Committee (EC) meeting** of the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** in **New Delhi**.

During the meeting, **3 initiatives** were introduced: a **Research Methodology Textbook**, **‘CCRAS PRAYATNA 2026-27’**, and the **CCRAS Digital Ecosystem Dashboard**.

INVESTMENT PLAN FOR ITI UPGRADES

The **4th National Steering Committee** of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has approved **Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs)** worth **₹1,237.58 crore** to upgrade **Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** under the **‘PM-SETU’ scheme**.

The project adopts a **“hub-and-spoke” model** to upgrade **5 major ITI clusters** across **Odisha, Gujarat, and Telangana**. It is being implemented in collaboration with **private sector anchor partners: Jindal Naveen Avasar Ltd** in Odisha, **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India** in Gujarat, and **Apollo MedSkills Ltd, Sri Siddharth Infratech & Services, and Neuland Foundation** in Telangana.

AIRPORT FOR DRUG IMPORTS

The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** has authorized the import of drugs through the **Navi Mumbai Airport** in Maharashtra.

This **amendment to the Drugs Rules, 1945**, designates the airport as an authorized port for drug imports. With this addition, the **total number of designated ports of entry** (including road, rail, ship, and air routes) in India has reached **42**.

TRIBEX LAUNCHED

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched “**TribeX**”, a **digital learning platform** focused on **tribal arts, culture, traditional knowledge, and skill development**.

The platform was unveiled by **Union Minister Jual Oram** during the “**National Workshop on Strengthening Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)**” held in **Bhubaneshwar, Odisha**.

DIGITAL INDIA COMPLETES 11 YEARS

The **Digital India programme**, a **flagship initiative** of the **Government of India (GoI)** implemented by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, has completed **11 years** since its launch in **2015**.

Since the **inception of the initiative**, **internet connections in India have increased 4 times**, and the **cost of mobile data** has **declined** from **₹269 per GigaByte (GB)** to **₹8-₹10**.

DEEP WATER PORT

Kamarajar Port Ltd (KPL) in **Chennai** has completed the **Capital Dredging Phase VI** project at an investment of **₹440 crore**. The port has now achieved an **operational draft of 18.0 metres**, enabling it to accommodate **Capesize vessels** with cargo parcels of up to **1.7 lakh Deadweight Tonnage (DWT)**.

With this, **KPL** has become the **second major port in India** to offer an **18-metre draft**, after **Visakhapatnam Port**. This initiative aims to **reduce logistical costs** and **enhance operational efficiency** at the port.

NHM MIZORAM AS DESIGNATED REPOSITORY

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has designated the **Natural History Museum (NHM)** at **Mizoram University** in **Aizawl** as a **Designated Repository** under **Section 39** of the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.

It is to be noted that this is the **21st such repository** in India, which will **strengthen the biodiversity conservation and scientific infrastructure** of the nation.

13TH ASEAN-INDIA TRADE MEETING

India hosted the **13th ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee (JC)** and related meetings at **Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi**, to review the progress of the **AITIGA Review negotiations**. The meetings were conducted in a **hybrid format**.

The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** remains a significant trading partner, accounting for **11% of the global trade of India**. **Bilateral trade** between India and ASEAN reached **\$128 billion** during the **2025-26 period**. It is to be noted that ASEAN has 11 member states: **Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and India**.

NEW VIKSIT BHARAT MISSION LAUNCHED

Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu and **Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** have launched the ‘**Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Yojana (VB-G RAM G)**’ nationwide at **Mukkavaripalli village in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh**.

The centre has committed a **total financial outlay of ₹7.5 lakh crore** for the implementation of the scheme over a **5-year period**. The **annual outlay** for the scheme is **₹1.51 lakh crore**, with the **Centre contributing ₹95,692 crore** and the **States providing the remaining 40% of the funding**.

JAPANESE PM VISITS INDIA

Japanese PM **Sanae Takaichi** visited India to participate in the **16th India-Japan Annual Summit** at the invitation of PM Narendra Modi. Both leaders held a bilateral meeting at **Hyderabad House in New Delhi**.

During the summit, both countries announced **16 key outcomes** to expand bilateral cooperation. The leaders also attended the “**Japan-India Joint Economic Forum**,” hosted by the **Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO)** in New Delhi. The forum witnessed the inauguration of the **4th vehicle manufacturing facility of Maruti Suzuki** in **Kharkhoda, Haryana**.

GOVT APPROVES PROCUREMENT

The central government has approved the procurement of **Khopra** and **Totapuri mangoes** from farmers in **Tamil Nadu** under the **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)** to ensure **better price realization** and **protect producers from distress sales**.

Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has approved the procurement of **87,226 metric tonnes (MT) of Khopra** and **96,879 MT of Totapuri mangoes** at a price of **₹1,545.41 per quintal**.

LITERACY STATUS

Uttarakhand has become the **6th literate state** in India, with a **literacy rate of over 98%**. This milestone was achieved under the framework of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and the **Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS)** programme.

Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim are the other states that have attained this status.

LAUNCH OF PRAGATI PROGRAMME

Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has launched the **‘Promoting Regenerative Agriculture Through Agri-Entrepreneurship Initiative’ (PRAGATI)** in New Delhi.

The programme will be implemented in **8 states: Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan**. The initiative aims to **empower 20,000 agri-entrepreneurs** and **support 20 lakh smallholder farmers** across India by promoting **sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture**.

PRAGATI aims to **increase the income of farmers by at least 30%, improve the yields of major crops by 15-20%, promote regenerative agriculture among 20% of the participating farmers, and enable financial inclusion for 50% of the associated farmers**.

NEW COE ON HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav** has inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Human-Wildlife Conflict** at the **Wildlife Institute of India-Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (WII-SACON)** in **Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**.

During the event, he launched the **National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal** to **address issues related to the conflict**. He also released the inaugural report titled **‘Current Status of Human-Wildlife Conflict in India: An Overview’**, which **maps critical trends and identifies emerging challenge zones**. Additionally, he presided over the **28th meeting of the reconstituted Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Society**.

NATIONAL LAUNCH OF FISHERIES LOA

The **Department of Fisheries** has organised the national launch of the **‘Letter of Authorisation’ (LoA) for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas** in **Bhubaneshwar, Odisha**.

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan presided over the event and launched the **LoA for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas**. He also unveiled the **‘Odisha Deep Sea Mission Document’**.

WATER RESERVOIR INAUGURATED

Union Minister **HD Kumaraswamy** has inaugurated a new **84,000 cubic metre Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) Water Reservoir** at the **IISCO Steel Plant (ISP)** in **Burnpur, West Bengal**.

The reservoir is designed to meet the **operational water requirements** of the **Coke Oven Battery-10 (COB-10)** facility of the plant. It is also engineered to secure water safety for the **proposed 4.08 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) capacity expansion project** at the ISP.

GI TAG FOR SIRSA KINNOW

The **Geographical Indication Registry (GIR)** has granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** to **Sirsa Kinnow**, making it the **first fruit from Haryana** to receive this recognition.

The **certification** has been awarded to the **Kharisureran Farmer Producer Company Ltd**, based in the **Sirsa district of Haryana**.

INITIATIVES BY MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

Union Minister **Amit Shah** has launched various initiatives during the **5th Foundation Day Ceremony** of the **Ministry of Cooperation** held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. The event was organised in alignment with the vision of PM Narendra Modi of **“Sahakar Se Samriddhi”** (Prosperity through Cooperation).

He also announced that the centre plans to establish a **Cooperative Life Insurance Company** to expand the cooperative sector. Regarding infrastructure, **135 godowns were transferred, 85 were inaugurated**, and the foundation stone was laid for **47 grain-storage godowns**.

ARTIFICIAL RESERVOIR IN THAR DESERT

A **28-km long plastic-lined artificial reservoir** has been developed in the **Thar Desert near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**, under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** to provide a **consistent, year-round drinking water supply**.

Recognized as **one of Asia’s largest artificial desert reservoirs**, it has a **storage capacity of 1.41 billion liters** and a **depth of 13 meters**. The reservoir **captures rainwater and surplus monsoon water**, which is **channeled from the Indira Gandhi Canal** via a 1-km escape channel.

MEITY LAUNCHES NIDAR CHALLENGE

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, in collaboration with the **Drone Federation India (DFI)**, has launched the **second edition** of the ‘**National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research**’ (**NIDAR 2.0, 2026-27**) at Electronics Niketan, **New Delhi**, in a **hybrid mode**.

The challenge is conducted under the ‘**SwaYaan**’ initiative, which was **approved by MeitY in 2022** with a **total financial outlay of ₹89.87 crore** over a **five-year period**.

CABINET APPROVES SEMICON 2.0

The **Union Cabinet** has approved ‘**Semicon 2.0**’ with a total outlay of **₹1.27 lakh crore** to holistically develop the **semiconductor design and manufacturing ecosystem** in India.

The scheme is structured around **6 key pillars: Design, Machines and materials, setting up more fabs, strengthening the Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP) and Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) industry, Research & Development (R&D), and Talent development**.

To date, the government has approved **12 semiconductor manufacturing units** with a cumulative investment of over **₹1.64 lakh crore**. Additionally, **24 semiconductor design projects** from start-ups and **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** have been approved for financial support, and **105 entities** have been granted access to industry-standard **Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools**.

MOBILE PHONE MANUFACTURING SCHEME

The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, has approved the **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)** with a budgetary outlay of **₹62,500 crore**. The scheme will be implemented over **5 years**, from **FY27 to FY31**.

The **MPMS** aims to **scale up production, deepen domestic value addition, strengthen supply chain resilience, and enhance global competitiveness** in the mobile phone manufacturing sector. The scheme offers **incentive support** on eligible sales for manufacturing mobile phones in India at rates ranging from **2.25% to 5%**.

Additional incentives include up to **1.5% for domestic sourcing** of key components or sub-assemblies, and an extra **3% for product design and Research and Development (R&D)** to build Indian brands. Cumulative mobile phone production in India is expected to reach **₹39 lakh crore** during the scheme's tenure, alongside a projected increase in exports.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FOR VARANASI

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved **two infrastructure projects** to relieve **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**. The first project involves the development of a **43.218 km Link/Connector Corridor** connecting **National Highway (NH)-31** and the **Varanasi Ring Road** along the **Varuna River**, at a cost of **₹10,998 crore**.

The second project entails the development of a **46.039 km Link/Connector Corridor** between **NH-19** and the **Varanasi Ring Road** along the **Ganga River**, at a cost of **₹14,447 crore**. Both projects will be implemented by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** under the **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)**.

CABINET APPROVES NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved **2 multitracking projects** under the **Ministry of Railways** with an estimated cost of **₹3,907 crore**.

These projects, covering **145 km** across **4 districts** in **Odisha and Jharkhand**, include the **doubling of the Paradeep to Haridaspur line** and the **construction of a 4th line between Rajkharsawan and Dangoaposi**. The projects are scheduled to be completed by **FY31**.

STREET FOOD HUB IN LAKHANPUR

Lakhanpur in the Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir has been selected as one of the first towns in India for the development of a ‘Street Food Hub’ under the PM Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) initiative, overseen by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

It is to be noted that each approved Street Food Hub is allocated ₹4 crore, disbursed in three installments of 30%, 50%, and 20%. Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) possessing a notified Street Vending Plan are eligible for an additional incentive of ₹25 lakh. The initiative aims to establish up to 50 Street Food Hubs across the country.

MILESTONE IN FOOD STANDARDS

India has achieved a milestone at the 49th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in Geneva, Switzerland, with the adoption of three Codex standards for large cardamom, coriander, and vanilla. During the session, India was accepted as the Co-Chair of a newly constituted Electronic Working Group (EWG) focused on risk analysis for new food products.

It is to be noted that the CAC is an international body established jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the WHO. It develops science-based food safety and quality standards to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in international food trade.

World Health Organisation (WHO):

Director General – Dr Tedros Adhanom

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Established in – 1948

FOUNDATION STONE FOR NEW ICMR CENTRE

Union Minister JP Nadda has laid the foundation stone of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research at Keylong in Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh.

This will be India’s first dedicated institution for research on high-altitude medicine and public health.

FIRST HYDROGEN TRAIN

PM Narendra Modi has flagged off the first hydrogen-powered train in India, connecting Jind to Sonipat in Haryana. With this, India has joined a select group of countries that possess operational hydrogen-powered trains.

The train features a 10-coach configuration, making it one of the longest hydrogen-powered passenger trains developed to date. It is equipped with a 3,200 Horsepower (HP) propulsion system, making it one of the most powerful hydrogen-powered trainsets currently in operation.

ROOFTOP SOLAR

Uttar Pradesh has become the second-largest state in India for domestic rooftop solar installations under the ‘PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana’ with 6.75 lakh installations, surpassing Maharashtra.

Gujarat leads the ranking with 7.4 lakh installations, while Maharashtra ranks third with 6.74 lakh installations.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth over ₹4,700 crore in Chandigarh.

The projects focus on the expansion of healthcare, education, and road infrastructure. As part of the connectivity projects, the PM inaugurated the IT City-Kurali six-lane Greenfield Highway.

NEW REFORMS UNDER REFORM EXPRESS

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has implemented 8 additional structural reforms under the ‘Reform Express’ initiative at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi. This brings the total number of reforms implemented to 17, advancing the ministry’s strategic objective to execute 52 reforms within 52 weeks.

The newly introduced reforms (10 to 17) encompass Fly Ash Transportation, reforms in the Container Sector, Fertilizer Transportation, a policy for skilling artisans in railway projects and works, Construction reforms, a policy for wagon design approval, Petroleum Products Transportation, and the transportation of Foodgrains, Flour, and Pulses.

CCPA PENALTY FOR SPICEJET

The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**, led by **Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare** and **Commissioner Anupam Mishra**, has imposed a **penalty of ₹1 lakh on SpiceJet Ltd.**

The penalty was levied due to the airline's adoption of **deceptive design practices**, commonly referred to as '**dark patterns**', on its **flight booking platform**.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN HARYANA

PM Narendra Modi has dedicated development projects worth **₹14,700 crore** to the nation in **Haryana**, aimed at enhancing **road connectivity** and **medical infrastructure**.

During the event, he flagged off **India’s first hydrogen-powered train**. He also inaugurated the **157.92 km long, four-lane, fully access-controlled Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway**, developed at a cost of **₹9,680 crore**.

AI-INTEGRATED UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Sridhar Vembu, Co-founder of Zoho Corporation Pvt Ltd, has inaugurated the **Thiruvananthapuram campus** of the **VELS Institute of Science, Technology, & Advanced Studies (VISTAS)** in **Chennai**. It is to be noted that this facility is recognised as **India’s first AI-integrated vertical university campus**.

SEAFARER-FIRST INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the '**Seafarer-First**' initiative to **safeguard Indian seafarers** operating in the **Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman**.

The initiative is a response to the **escalating maritime security concerns in West Asia**. It will be implemented through the coordination of the **Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Navy, and the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS)**.

GI TAGS FOR UNJHA CUMIN AND FENNEL

The **Geographical Indications Registry (GIR)** has granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** to **Unjha Cumin and Fennel** from the **Unjha region of Gujarat**.

With this, the **total number of GI-tagged agricultural products from Gujarat** has increased to **6**.

PHASE 3 OF BRCP LAUNCHED

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh has launched **Phase-III** of the **Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP)**.

The programme has a total financial outlay of **₹1,500 crore**, comprising **₹1,000 crore** from the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** and **₹500 crore** from the **Wellcome Trust (WT), London**. The programme is jointly implemented by the **DBT and the WT** through the **DBT-WT India Alliance**, which is administered by a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)**.

PARIVARTAN SCHEME LAUNCHED

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has approved the operational guidelines for the '**PARIVARTAN**' (**Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions**) scheme.

The scheme aims to **replace old, highly polluting trucks and buses** operating in the **National Capital Region (NCR)** with **Bharat Stage (BS)-VI-compliant vehicles** or **Electric Vehicles (EVs)**.

172ND ANNUAL DAY

The **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)**, under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoH&UA)**, has celebrated its **172nd Annual Day** at **Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi**.

During the event, **Union Minister Manohar Lal** unveiled the '**SANKALP**' framework. He also released two publications, '**India’s Urban Transformation: Reflections from Policy and Practice**' and the MoH&UA’s coffee table book '**India’s Urban Momentum: Towards Making Our Cities Liveable**', which highlight the journey of urban development in India.

MOFPI LAUNCHES SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM

The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**, in collaboration with the **National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM)** in **Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu**, has launched a pilot '**Short-Term Skill Training Programme (STSTP)**'.

The programme offers an **Assistant Baking Technician Certificate Programme** under the **National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) Level 3**. It is being conducted at the **Imperial Tobacco Company of India- Integrated Consumer Goods Manufacturing and Logistics (ITC-ICML) facility** in **Trichy, Tamil Nadu**.

CAC49

The **49th Session** of the **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49)** was held in **Geneva, Switzerland**. During the session, **7 codex standards and guidelines** developed under the **chairmanship and co-chairmanship of India** were adopted.

The commission also approved a proposal by the **Government of India (GoI)** to initiate new work for developing a **codex standard for cashew kernels** under the **Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)**.

PM MODI IN PUNJAB

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for **rail and road infrastructure projects** worth over **₹5,470 crore** at **Jalandhar Cantonment in Punjab**.

This includes the inauguration of **75 redeveloped railway stations** across **20 states** under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**, executed at a cost of **₹1,570 crore**.

NEW EMCS IN TAMIL NADU

The **central government** has approved the development of **two new Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs)** in **Tamil Nadu** under the **‘EMC 2.0’** scheme to expand the **Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM)** ecosystem.

The projects, managed by the **State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamilnadu Ltd (SIPCOT)**, involve a **combined investment of ₹1,012.02 crore**. This includes the **Manallur EMC** in **Tiruvallur district** (474.3 acres) costing **₹587.47 crore**, and the **Pillapaikkam EMC** in **Kancheepuram district** (379.3 acres) costing **₹424.55 crore**.

MOHUA APPROVES URBAN PROJECTS

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has approved projects worth **₹2,719.80 crore** under the **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)** initiated by **PM Narendra Modi**. The funding is designated for **6 transformative urban development initiatives** in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

LAUNCH OF E-VSP PORTAL

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Arjun Ram Meghwal has launched the **electronic - Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan (e-VSP) portal**. It is a **digital platform** designed to provide **seamless access to legal books, publications, and educational resources**.

Developed in collaboration with the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** and the **Official Languages Wing**, the portal facilitates access to **legal publications in Hindi**.

National Informatics Centre (NIC):
Director General – Abhishek Singh
Headquarters – New Delhi
Established in – 1976

GEMS OF INDIA CHALLENGE

The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB)** has launched the **pilot phase** of the **‘Gems of India’ Challenge** to **identify, nurture, and promote grassroots digital creators** across the country.

The initiative is built upon **MyWAVES**, the **citizen creator platform under WAVES OTT**, which was launched by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** to enable citizens to **create, upload, and share original content** and strengthen the **digital creator ecosystem of India**. The ministry is **collaborating with YouTube and Meta** to mobilize creator communities and extend the outreach of the challenge.

SHIPBUILDING PROJECTS

The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** has granted in-principle approval for two **maritime infrastructure projects** in **Gujarat** under the **Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS)**.

The first project is a **Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster** at **Kuchhadi** in the **Porbandar district**, covering nearly **2,000 acres**. The second project is a **Ship Repair Facility** at **Vadinar** in the **Gulf of Kutch**, which will be developed at a cost of **₹1,570 crore** by **Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL)** and the **Deendayal Port Authority (DPA)**.

EXHIBITION ON MINE CLOSURE INAUGURATED

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated the **Exhibition on Mine Closure and Mine Repurposing** in **New Delhi**, showcasing initiatives by **Coal India Ltd (CIL)** and its subsidiaries.

During the event, he released the **‘AAROH – Annual Report on Mine Closure’**, developed by the **Coal Controller Organisation**. It provides India’s first comprehensive documentation on scientific mine closure and repurposing practices for **42 coal mines**. The Minister also virtually inaugurated **Coal NEER Plants** established by CIL through its subsidiaries.

During the event, the **Ministry of Coal** signed an Implementation Agreement with the German agency **Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** for technical cooperation on **‘To-be closed mines’**. The project, commissioned by the **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** and co-financed by the **European Union (EU)**, has a total volume of **€10 million** and will be implemented **until 2030**.

Additionally, **Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL)** and the **Jharia Rehabilitation and Development Authority (JRDA)** signed tripartite MoUs with **Hindalco Industries Ltd** and **Rajdhani Universal Fabrics Pvt Ltd** to establish an **Industry-Linked Skill Centre** in the **Dhanbad** region for **apparel manufacturing training**.

Coal India Ltd (CIL):

CMD – B Sairam

Headquarters – Kolkata

Established in – 1975

ROADMAP FOR VIKSIT KRISHI AND SAMRUDDH KISAN

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the roadmap for **‘Viksit Krishi and Samruddh Kisan’** as a key pillar of **‘Viksit Bharat 2047’** during the **98th Foundation Day** of the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** in **New Delhi**.

During the event, **43 new crop varieties**, **17 technologies/products**, and **14 publications** were released, and over **70 MoUs** were signed.

ICAR aims to establish **100 ‘Climate Smart Villages’** before its **centenary**. Under **‘Mission ICAR-100’**, **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)** will be transformed, with each KVK mandated to cover at least **100 villages**. Additionally, under the **‘One Institute–One Grand Innovation’** initiative, every ICAR institute is tasked to develop at least one transformational innovation within **2 years**.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR):

Director – Dr. Mangi Lal Jat

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1929

PRESIDENT INAUGURATES SEMINAR

President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated **‘Saushrutam 2026’**, an **international seminar on Ayurvedic surgery**, at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** in **New Delhi**. The seminar was held to commemorate **Sushruta Jayanti**, celebrated in honour of **Sushruta**, known as the **‘Father of Surgery’**.

During the event, the President released a study by the **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)** regarding the **professional careers of women Ayurveda graduates**.

INDIA HOSTS BRICS MEETING ON DRR

India hosted the **3rd BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** in **New Delhi** under its **BRICS Chairship**. The meeting was chaired by **Union Minister of State Nityanand Rai**.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the **‘BRICS Joint Statement on DRR’**. The statement reaffirms the commitment of BRICS nations to accelerate the **‘BRICS DRR Work Plan (2025–2028)’**.

INAUGURATION OF SHABDALOK MUSEUM

Union Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the first phase of **‘ShabdaloK (The Museum of Word)’**, which is **India’s first immersive language museum**.

Developed by the **National Library under the Ministry of Culture**, the museum is located at the **National Library campus in Kolkata** and was built at a cost of **₹41 crore**.

UNION CABINET APPROVES BHAVYA – RASAYAN SCHEME

The Union Cabinet has approved the ‘**Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan**’ (**BHAVYA – Rasayan Scheme**) to establish **3 dedicated Chemical Parks** in India. The scheme has a **total outlay of ₹3,030 crore (₹3,000 crore for infrastructure and ₹30 crore for administrative expenses)** and will be implemented over **5 years** from **FY27 to FY31**.

Under the scheme, the **central government** will provide a **grant of up to ₹1,000 crore per park**, while the respective **state government** must contribute a **minimum of ₹500 crore**.

AI BIRD SANCTUARY

The **Maharashtra government** has approved the establishment of the **first AI-powered bird sanctuary in India**, named ‘**Bhandup Bird Park**’, at the **Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (TCFS)** in **Mumbai**.

The project, estimated to cost **₹45 crore**, will be developed across **20.09 hectares** along the Thane Creek shoreline. The park will feature an **AI surveillance system** with a **1.5-km radius** to **track bird migration and identify species in real-time**.

TASK FORCE ON NTA REFORMS

PM Narendra Modi has announced the formation of a **high-powered task force** to suggest **reforms for the examinations conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA)**. The task force is chaired by **Nandan Nilekani (Infosys co-founder)**.

The committee members include **S Somanath** (former Chairman of the ISRO), **V Kamakoti** (Director of the IIT Madras), **Tapan Deka**, **Anita Karwal**, and **Amrit Lal Meena**.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, has been inscribed as the **45th UNESCO World Heritage Site of India**. The announcement was made during the **48th Session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC)** held in **Busan, South Korea**.

The site had been on the **UNESCO Tentative List since 1998**, marking the end of a **28-year wait** for this designation. This is the **4th UNESCO World Heritage Site in Uttar Pradesh**. With **45 sites**, **India now ranks 6th globally** in terms of the number of World Heritage properties.

COE FOR GREEN HYDROGEN

The **IIT Kanpur** in Uttar Pradesh has established a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** on **Innovative and Integrated Ecosystem for Green Hydrogen (ECOGEN)**. This initiative has been launched under the **UP Green Hydrogen Policy 2024**.

Dr Prabodh Bajpai has been appointed as the **Principal Investigator** to lead the **ECOGEN** initiative. The proposal for this CoE was approved by the committee constituted by the **Government of Uttar Pradesh** and sanctioned by the **UP New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA)**.

MISSION GOLDEN SPICE LAUNCHED

Union Minister **Jyotiraditya M Scindia** and Meghalaya CM **Conrad K Sangma** have launched the “**Mission Golden Spice – Integrated Lakadong Turmeric Value Chain Enhancement Project**” in New Delhi.

It is a **5-year roadmap (2025–2030)** with a total outlay of **₹175.45 crore**, aimed at transforming Meghalaya’s **Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Lakadong turmeric** into a **globally competitive premium spice**.

The mission is divided into two phases: **Phase 1 (Value Chain Strengthening)** and **Phase 2 (Expansion and Scale-up)**. The project funding is shared between the state government, the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare (MoA&FW)**, and the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)**, with **MDoNER contributing 50% of the budget**.

TASK FORCE FOR TOY SECTOR

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has announced the formation of a **task force to support the toy sector**, with the aim of achieving a **5% share in the global toy market by 2032**.

The announcement was made during the “**Team Up for Toys: Driving SCALE, Innovation and Exports**” stakeholder meet, organised by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** at **Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi**.

MAHARASHTRA QUALIFIES FOR RKVY INSTALLMENT

Maharashtra has become the **first state** to qualify for the **second installment of funds** under the **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)**.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan chaired a review meeting to assess the utilization of funds. The Government of India (GoI) had released **₹335 crore** as the first installment, of which Maharashtra utilized **₹260 crore, exceeding the mandatory 75% utilization benchmark** required for the release of the second installment.

ATMANIRBHAR PANCHAYAT PROGRAMME

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh has launched the ‘**Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme**’, ‘**SAMARTH Panchayat Portal**’, and the ‘**Model Own Source of Revenue (OSR) Rules**’ for **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi.

The ‘Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme’ aims to develop **350 projects** over **4 years** (**50 in the first year, and 100 in each of the subsequent 3 years**). **NABARD** and **HUDCO** are the **institutional partners** for the programme.

The ‘SAMARTH Panchayat Portal’ is a **digital initiative** by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** to **strengthen the financial capacity of Gram Panchayats** through technology-enabled management of **OSR**. The ‘Model OSR Rules’ serve as a **framework for States and Union Territories (UTs)** to **enhance the financial independence of PRIs**, incorporating recommendations from the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**.

STRICTER NORMS TO CURB EXAM PAPER LEAKS

The **Union Cabinet** has approved amendments to the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024** to **curb paper leak incidents**. The **minimum prison sentence** for those convicted has been increased from 3 years to **5 years**, while the maximum is **10 years**.

For **organized crimes**, the **financial penalty** has been increased to **₹10 crore** from the previous ₹1 crore. The legislation also mandates a **fast-track mechanism** to complete investigations, trials, and judgments within a **3-month timeframe**.

NIRDPR RECOGNIZED BY NCVET

The **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)** has **officially recognised** the **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)** as an **Awarding Body (Dual)**.

Under this, **NCVET** has approved **two custom-developed qualifications**: ‘**Industrial General Pest Management Technician**’ and ‘**Micro-Credential on Generation and Mobilisation of Own Source Revenue by Panchayats**’.

PRESIDENT COMPLETES FOUR YEARS

President Droupadi Murmu has completed **4 years** in office. To mark the occasion, she inaugurated and laid foundation stones for various initiatives at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan** and the **President’s Estate**.

She launched an **application-based e-Audio Guide** for visitors, available in **Hindi, English, and 14 other Indian languages**. She also launched the **3rd edition** of ‘**e-Upahaar**’, featuring **300 curated Presidential gifts** for **public auction**.

For children in the President’s Estate, she inaugurated the ‘**Bachpan Bal Parisar**’ initiative, which includes ‘**Kilkari**’ (a play zone) and ‘**Samarth Anganwadi-cum-Palna**’ (a facility for growth and development). She also launched the **Rashtrapati Bhavan Access And Heritage Interconnector (RAAHI)**, a **fare-free electric bus service** to promote **green mobility**.

She laid the foundation stone for a **service block** under the **Net Zero Energy Strategy**. She also inaugurated **accommodation facilities** at **Rashtrapati Niketan (Dehradun)** and **Rashtrapati Nilayam (Secunderabad)**, and laid the foundation stone for the **redevelopment of staff quarters** in the President’s Estate.

NEW FLIGHT HUB IN AMRITSAR

The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has launched **Hub & Spoke International Flight Operations** at the **Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport** in **Amritsar, Punjab**. The initiative was virtually inaugurated by **Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu**.

It is to be noted that **Amritsar** is the **second spoke airport** in India under this framework, following the **initial implementation in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

DAANVEER INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)** has launched the ‘**DAANVEER initiative**’, a **citizen participation framework** aimed at **upgrading digital infrastructure** across rural local bodies.

This initiative provides a **transparent system** for individuals, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), and organizations to **donate computer hardware and digital devices** to nearly **2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs)** across India. The initiative features the **‘Meri Panchayat’ App** and the **‘DigiHaat’ Marketplace**.

THEME FOR INDIA MOBILE CONGRESS 2026

Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** has unveiled **“Scale without boundaries”** as the **theme** for the **10th edition** of the **India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026**.

The event, recognized as the **largest digital technology forum in Asia**, is scheduled to be held in **October 2026** at **Yashobhoomi** (India International Convention & Expo Centre) in **New Delhi**. The 10th edition of the IMC is anchored around **four key pillars: Srishti, Suraksha, Sashakt, and Samvardhan**.

ECONOMY

GDP FORECAST

According to the report titled **“India: Improved Macro Outlook after the United States of America (USA)–Iran Deal”** released by **Goldman Sachs**, **India’s real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for Calendar Year 2026 (CY26)** has been raised to **6.8%**. The growth forecast for **FY27** is increased to **6.5%**.

The report also lowered **India’s retail inflation projection** for the current year to **4.4%** and reduced the **Current Account Deficit (CAD) projection** by **20 basis points (bps)** to **1.1% of GDP**.

LOAN FOR JOB CREATION

The **World Bank** has approved **\$1.5 billion (₹14,300 crore)** in financing to support India’s **structural reforms** aimed at accelerating **private sector-led job creation**.

This funding is provided under the **“Boosting Job Creation in the Private Sector Development Policy Financing (DPF) Operation”**. The initiative aims to generate quality employment opportunities for the **11 million young individuals** who enter the Indian workforce annually.

CABINET APPROVES INVESTMENT IN NIIF

The **Union Cabinet** has approved an **additional investment of ₹30,000 crore** in the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**, **doubling the total capital commitment** of the **Government of India (GoI) to ₹60,000 crore**.

NIIF operates as a **public-private entity**, with the **GoI holding a 49% equity stake**, while the remaining **51% is owned by domestic and global institutional investors**. It is to be noted that the NIIF attracts investments from **sovereign and pension funds** based in the **US, Japan, the UAE, Singapore, Canada, and Australia**.

INTEREST RATES UNCHANGED

The **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** has kept the **interest rates for all Small Savings Schemes (SSS) unchanged** for the **second quarter (Q2) of FY27**. This marks the **ninth consecutive quarter without a revision**. The interest rates were **last revised in December 2024**.

Since **2016**, the MoF has been reviewing SSS interest rates on a quarterly basis. The methodology for determining these rates was formulated by the **Shyamala Gopinath Committee** in **2023**, under which **SSS interest rates are maintained at 25 to 100 basis points (bps) higher** than the **prevailing government bond yields**.

ONION PROCUREMENT PRICE INCREASED

The government has increased the **procurement price of onions** for the **Price Stabilisation Buffer** by **13%**, raising it from ₹1,875 per quintal to **₹2,125 per quintal**, effective from **July 4, 2026**.

According to the **Second Advance Estimates** of the **Department of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare** for **2025–26**, the **production of onions** is estimated at **307.37 lakh metric tonnes (LMT)**.

FUNDING FOR SOLAR POWER

The **World Bank** has approved a financing package of \$890 million for India’s **rooftop solar programme**.

This financing is intended to support the implementation of the “**PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**”, which aims to install rooftop solar systems in **10 million** rural and urban households across India. Additionally, the World Bank will facilitate the mobilization of **\$4.2 billion** in private financing through commercial loans to support households in installing these systems.

World Bank:

President – Ajay Banga

Headquarters – Washington DC, USA

Established in – 1944

GDP FORECAST BY IMF

According to the “**World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update – July 2026**” report titled “**Global Economy in Crosscurrents of War and Technology**” released by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, **India’s GDP growth** is revised to **6.4%** for **FY27** from the 6.5%.

For **FY28**, the report has revised **India’s growth projection** to **6.7%** from the earlier estimate of 6.5%. The report also noted that **India’s GDP** recorded a growth of **7.7%** during **FY26**.

International Monetary Fund (IMF):

MD – Kristalina Georgieva

Headquarters – Washington DC, USA

Established in – 1944

INDEX OF SERVICES PRODUCTION

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has launched **India’s first trial Index of Services Production (ISP)** for **April 2026**. This **high-frequency monthly indicator** serves as the services-sector counterpart to the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.

The **trial series** uses **2024-25 as the base year** and is structured according to the **National Industrial Classification (NIC), 2025**. The **ISP covers 19 service sub-sectors**, with updates scheduled to be released on the **29th of every month**.

TRADE DATA FOR Q1 FY27

According to the trade data released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)** for the **first quarter (Q1) of FY27**, India’s **total exports** were valued at **\$232.73 billion**, while **total imports** were estimated at **\$270.15 billion**.

NITI AAYOG RELEASES BIOECONOMY ROADMAP

The **NITI Aayog** has launched the “**Roadmap for Building India as a Leading Bioeconomy Powerhouse by 2035**” at the National Media Centre in New Delhi.

The roadmap aims to scale the **bioeconomy of India** to **\$691 billion by 2035** and **\$2.6 trillion by 2047**. To achieve these objectives, it recommends the creation of **six National BioMissions: GeneIndia, AgriBio 2.0, BioX Foundry, One Health Grid, Marine Biotechnology, and BioPharmaNext**.

It also proposes the establishment of a **₹50,000 crore “BioEconomy Growth Fund”** for the **2026-2035 period**, to be allocated from the existing **₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) framework**. The roadmap was inaugurated by **Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh** and was developed by the **NITI Frontier Tech Hub (NITI-FTH)** in consultation with the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**.

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India):

Chairman – PM Narendra Modi

CEO – Nidhi Chhibber

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2015

DECLINE IN INDIA OUTWARD FDI

According to provisional data released by the **RBI**, **India’s outward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** declined by **47.9% year-on-year (Y-o-Y)** to **\$3 billion** in **June 2026**, compared to \$5.74 billion in **June 2025**.

The decline was observed across all three components of outward FDI commitments: **equity, debt, and guarantees**. In **June 2026**, **equity commitments** stood at **\$738 million**, **debt** at **\$469.87 million**, and **guarantees** at **\$1.78 billion**. The **largest FDI equity commitments** were recorded by **ONGC Videsh Rovuma Ltd (OVRL)**, followed by **Lenskart** and **GFCL EV products**.

REVISED INDEX OF CORE INDUSTRIES

The **Office of Economic Adviser (OEA)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)** has released a **revised series of the Index of Core Industries (ICI)**, transitioning the **base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23**.

The revised ICI series now incorporates 'iron ore' as a core industry, increasing the **total count of core industries from eight to nine**. The other 8 core industries are **coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, and electricity**.

WINDFALL TAX ON FUEL REVISED

The **Government of India** has revised the **Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED)** on the export of **diesel, Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)**, and **petrol**, **effective from 16 July 2026**.

The SAED on **diesel exports** has been **increased to ₹15.5 per litre** from ₹8.5 per litre, and on **ATF exports** to **₹14.5 per litre** from ₹7.5 per litre. Meanwhile, the **export duty on petrol** has been **reduced to ₹2.5 per litre** from ₹4 per litre.

GDP GROWTH FORECAST BY ICRA

According to a report by **ICRA Ltd**, India’s **real GDP growth** for the **first quarter (Q1) of FY27** is projected at **6.4–6.6%**.

International Credit Rating Agency (ICRA):

MD & Group CEO – Ramnath Krishnan

Headquarters – Gurgaon, Haryana

INDIAN COTTON SECTOR

The government has designated cotton as “**White Gold**” due to its pivotal role in supporting the livelihoods of farmers and stakeholders across the textile value chain.

India ranks **1st globally in cotton cultivation area**, covering **114.84 lakh hectares (ha)** or **38% of the world’s total cotton area**, and holds the **2nd position in both cotton production and consumption**.

According to the **Ministry of Textiles (MoT)**, India’s **cotton production** is provisionally projected at **290.91 lakh bales or 4.95 MT** for the **2025–26 period**. India’s total **cotton exports** were valued at **\$11.49 billion** in **FY25**. It is to be noted that the **USA** is the **largest destination** for India’s cotton fabrics and made-up exports, accounting for **26.35%** of the total shipments.

PPI TO REPLACE WPI

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has announced plans to adopt the **Producer Price Index (PPI)** as a **deflator for quarterly and annual GDP estimates**, replacing the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** where applicable.

It is to be noted that in **June 2026**, **WPI inflation** rose to **9.87%** from 9.68% in May 2026, while **output PPI inflation** increased to **9.57%** from 9.38% during the same period.

BANKING

RBI ISSUES DIRECTIONS ON CREDIT DERIVATIVES

RBI has issued the “**Master Directions – RBI (Credit Derivatives) Directions, 2026**”, which will come into effect on **June 25, 2026**. These directions aim to **deepen the corporate bond market** in India and expand the range of risk-management tools for market participants.

The framework introduces new products, including **Total Return Swaps (TRS)** linked to corporate bonds and **derivatives on credit indices**. Additionally, the **RBI** has mandated the creation of a **Credit Derivatives Determinations Committee** under the **Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (FIMMDA)** to support market development.

NEW APPOINTMENT AT HDFC BANK

HDFC Bank has appointed **Rajiv Kumar** as the **part-time non-executive chairman** for a period of **3 years**. He succeeds the interim chairman **Keki M Mistry**.

Additionally, he has been appointed as an **additional independent director** for a **4-year term**, effective from **June 30, 2026**.

APPROVAL AT GIFT CITY

LEXI Money IFSC Pvt Ltd (LEXI), an **AI-powered trade and payments platform**, has received **in-principle approval** from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**.

This approval authorizes the platform to operate as a **Payment Service Provider (PSP)** at the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City International Financial Services Centre (GIFT-IFSC)** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

RBI REVISES FRAMEWORK

RBI has issued the ‘**RBI (Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) – Registration, Exemptions and Framework for Scale Based Regulation) Second Amendment Directions, 2026**’ to revise the framework for identifying **Upper Layer Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC-ULs)**.

Under the new rules, effective from **June 24, 2026**, any NBFC with an **asset size of ₹1 lakh crore or more** will be **automatically classified as an NBFC-UL**. This **replaces the previous parameter-based assessment model** with an **absolute asset-size criterion**.

The **asset size threshold** will be **reviewed every 3 years**, instead of the 5-year cycle proposed in the draft. Additionally, **government-owned NBFCs** that meet the eligibility criteria will now be considered for inclusion in the UL category.

LOAN FOR NE BAMBOO INDUSTRY

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **Small Expenditure Financing Facility (SEFF)** of **\$42.2 million** to support the **bamboo industry** in the **North Eastern Region (NER)** of India.

The facility is designed to support **community-based projects** across **6 states** in the NER (**Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura**).

LICENSE IN CANADA

Bengaluru-based **Skydo**, a **cross-border payments platform**, has secured an **international payment license** in **Canada**. With this, it has become the **first Indian cross-border company to obtain regulatory approval overseas**.

PAISABAZAAR LAUNCHES CREDIT CARD

Paisabazaar, in partnership with **SBM Bank Ltd**, has launched the “**SBM Paisabazaar Paisa+ Credit Card**”, a **Fixed Deposit (FD)-backed secured credit card**.

The card is designed to help consumers **build their credit profile** while offering **cashback on daily expenses**.

SEBI CONSTITUTES EWG

The **SEBI** has constituted an **Expert Working Group (EWG)** to review the **regulatory framework for debenture trustees** under the **SEBI (Debenture Trustees) Regulations, 1993**.

The group is chaired by **Ananta Barua**, a **former Whole-Time Member of SEBI**, and co-chaired by **Rajnish Kumar**, the **former Chairman of the SBI**.

TIER-III STATUS FROM RBI

The **Kakinada Cooperative Town Bank**, an **Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB)** in **Andhra Pradesh**, has secured **Tier-III status** under **RBI norms**. The bank achieved this status after its **deposits crossed the ₹2,000 crore mark** while maintaining **zero net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)**.

It is to be noted that the **RBI classifies UCBs into three categories** based on deposits: **Tier-I** (deposits below ₹100 crore), **Tier-II** (deposits up to ₹1,000 crore), and **Tier-III** (deposits between ₹1,000 crore and ₹10,000 crore).

GOOGLE PAY INTEGRATION LAUNCHED

PayGlocal, an **Indian cross-border payments platform**, has integrated **Google Pay Card Payments** into its **International Payment Gateway**.

This integration enables **Indian merchants** to access a **customer base of over 1 billion users** across **more than 90 countries** through a single integration.

LICENSE TO PRUDENTIAL HCL HEALTH INSURANCE

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has granted the **final (R3) Certificate of Registration (CoR)** to **Prudential HCL Health Insurance Ltd**. It is a **joint venture (JV)** between the **Prudential Group of the UK (70% stake)** and the **HCL Group of India (30% stake)**. With this, the company becomes the **8th standalone health insurer** in India.

It is to be noted that regulatory guidelines mandate a **minimum paid-up equity capital of ₹100 crore** for an Indian insurance company or a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) registered under the LLP Act, 2008.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

Chairman – Ajay Seth

Headquarters – Hyderabad

Established in – 1999

BANK OF BARODA PARTNERS WITH MIZUHO BANK

Bank of Baroda has signed a strategic partnership with Mizuho Bank, the banking arm of the Japanese Mizuho Financial Group, to enhance cooperation in Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) financing and other financial services.

NEW BANKING INITIATIVES BY PSB

Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) celebrated its 119th Foundation Day in New Delhi. During the event, the bank unveiled several digital banking initiatives, including the ‘Navjyoti’ mobile application and the ‘PSB Bharat Connect’ account. Additionally, the bank launched a revised Vision and Mission statement.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN RBI

The RBI has appointed Ravi Shankar as an Executive Director (ED), effective from 1 July 2026. He will oversee the Department of Statistics and Information Management (DSIM).

It is to be noted that the RBI currently has 15 EDs and one Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

RAZORPAY LAUNCHES BANKING CONNECT

Razorpay, in partnership with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL), a subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has launched “Banking Connect” in Mumbai.

It is a mobile-first NetBanking solution designed to modernize online banking. The platform facilitates unified multi-bank integration and utilizes Quick Response (QR)-based and intent-driven payment flows to enhance payment efficiency and user experience.

Razorpay:

Founders – Harshil Mathur and Shashank Kumar

CEO – Harshil Mathur

Headquarters – Bengaluru

Established in – 2014

NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL):

CEO – Noopur Chaturvedi

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 2013

ADB APPROVES LOAN FOR CHENNAI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of \$230 million (₹1,920 crore) to modernize and expand water supply and sanitation infrastructure in Chennai.

The project includes the introduction of a comprehensive ring-main water distribution system, making Chennai the first city in India to implement this model across its urban water network.

PAYTM EUROPE SECURES PAYMENT LICENSE

Paytm Europe Payments SA, the European arm of One97 Communications, has secured a Payment Institution (PI) licence from the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF), the financial regulator of Luxembourg.

The licence, effective from July 2, 2026, allows the company to offer regulated payment services across the European Economic Area (EEA).

SBI ACQUIRES STAKE IN RDCL

The State Bank of India (SBI) has acquired a 10% stake in the RMBS Development Company Limited (RDCL), an entity focused on residential mortgage-backed securitisation.

Following this transaction, the shareholding of the National Housing Bank (NHB) in the RDCL has declined from 39% to 29%.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN SOUTH INDIAN BANK

The RBI has approved the appointment of Mahesh Muralidhar Pai as the MD & CEO of the South Indian Bank (SIB) for a 3-year term, effective from October 2026. He succeeds PR Seshadri.

SBI SELLS STAKE IN ASSET MANAGEMENT ARM

The State Bank of India (SBI) has divested a 1.42% equity stake in its asset management subsidiary, SBI Funds Management Ltd (SBIFM), for ₹1,655 crore.

The stake was sold to 30 institutional investors through a pre-Initial Public Offering (IPO) placement.

TPG ACQUIRES ASEEM INFRASTRUCTURE

TPG Inc. has signed agreements to acquire a 100% stake in Aseem Infrastructure Finance Ltd (AIFL) from the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and other shareholders.

The acquisition is being executed through TPG Rise Climate, the climate investing platform of TPG. The transaction is undertaken in partnership with the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC) and ICICI Bank Ltd. Upon completion, ICICI Bank will hold an equity stake of up to 5% in AIFL.

ICICI Bank:

MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi
Headquarters – Mumbai
Established in – 1994

NEW TREDS MANDATE FOR CPSES

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has mandated that all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) must route the settlement of invoices related to procurement from MSMEs through the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS).

The TReDS mechanism has been progressively expanded, starting with mandatory onboarding for CPSEs and companies with a turnover above ₹500 crore in 2018. The threshold was lowered to ₹250 crore in 2024, and mandatory TReDS settlement will be implemented from June 30, 2026.

According to the Ministry of MSME, invoice financing through the TReDS platform has grown from ₹40,000 crore in FY22 to ₹3.47 trillion in FY26. It is to be noted that the TReDS is an electronic platform regulated by the RBI that facilitates the financing and discounting of trade receivables of MSMEs by multiple financiers.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

RBI has launched the July 2026 round of three household surveys to gather inputs for the upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. The Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) collects data on price movements from 19 major cities, covering current, 3-month-ahead, and 1-year-ahead inflation expectations.

The Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS) monitors qualitative responses from urban households in 19 cities regarding economic sentiment, including employment, income, spending, and the general economic situation.

The Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS) assesses economic confidence and expectations for rural and semi-urban households across 31 States and Union Territories (UTs).

VISHWAS 2026

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched a 6-month initiative named "VISHWAS, 2026" to amicably settle damages and penalty disputes. The scheme offers reduced penalty rates of 0.25% to 1% per month for defaults occurring before June 14, 2024

Employee’s Provident Fund Organization (EPFO):
CEO – Ramesh Krishnamurthi
Under – Central Board of Trustees (CBT)
Headquarters – New Delhi
Established in – 1952

NEW CREDIT CARD

AU Small Finance Bank Ltd (AU SFB) has partnered with Zaggie Prepaid Ocean Services Limited (Zaggie) to launch the 'AU Zaggie Co-Branded Retail Credit Card'.

The card will be available on both Visa and RuPay networks and will be accessible through the zagg.money platform.

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB):
Executive Director – Uttam Tibrewal
Headquarters – Jaipur
Established in – 1996

NABARD LAUNCHES GRAMODYAM

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched an Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) named 'Gramodyam' on its 45th Foundation Day to strengthen the rural enterprise ecosystem.

The programme is being implemented in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and adopts a digital-first hybrid model.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

Chairman – Shaji KV

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1982

FINS PARK’26

Bank of Maharashtra has launched a national-level cybersecurity hackathon named “FinSpark’26” with the theme “Securing the Future of Banking”. The hackathon offers a prize pool of over ₹10 lakh.

NEW RETIREMENT PLAN

Axis Max Life Insurance Ltd has launched a retirement-focused insurance product named ‘Axis Max Life Smart Retirement Income with Sustained Earnings Plan’ (Smart RISE). The plan integrates a Guaranteed Annuity with a Variable Annuity linked to the NIFTY 50 Index.

DELHIVERY FINANCIAL SERVICES GETS NBFC LICENSE

Delhivery Financial Services Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of Delhivery Ltd, has received the Certificate of Registration (CoR) from the RBI to operate as a Type-II Non-Banking Financial Company-Non-Deposit Taking (NBFC-ND).

RBI RELEASES FI INDEX

RBI has released the composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) for FY26, which increased to 70 in March 2026 from 67 in March 2025.

RBI has also issued new “Prudential Norms on Specified Non-Financial Asset (SNFA) acquired by Regulated Entities” to tighten regulations governing the resolution of distressed loans. This framework will come into effect on October 1, 2026.

UPI BASED MEAL CARD

Enkash, a business payments and spend management platform, has become the first company in India to launch UPI-based payments on meal cards.

This feature allows employees to make direct payments from their meal card balance by scanning eligible UPI Quick Response (QR) codes at food and grocery merchants.

DOLR AND RBIH EXPLORE LAND CREDIT ACCESS

The Department of Land Resources (DoLR) under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) held a meeting with the Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub (RBIH) to explore the integration of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for land governance and digital lending.

The initiative aims to create a secure land-credit ecosystem to improve institutional credit access for farmers and rural citizens. The meeting was chaired by DoLR Secretary Narendra Bhooshan and RBIH CEO Sahil Kini.

RBI APPROVES ACQUISITION

RBI has approved the acquisition of the fraud-hit Aviom India Housing Finance by the Areion Group for ₹936 crore, marking a milestone in the company's insolvency resolution process.

The RBI has also granted ‘fit-and-proper’ approval to Manish Lalwani, the promoter of the Areion Group. It is to be noted that this approval is mandatory for changing the control of a regulated financial institution.

INSURANCE PLANS FOR NRIS

Policybazaar has launched US dollar-denominated term insurance plans for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). These products are offered in collaboration with partner insurers and operate out of the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gujarat.

GLOBAL BANK AWARDS

DBS Bank Ltd, a Singaporean multinational banking and financial services corporation, was awarded the ‘World’s Best Corporate Bank’ at the 2026 Global Bank Awards by ‘Global Finance’ magazine. It is the first time a Southeast Asian bank has received this accolade since the category was established in 2005.

Other recognitions at the 2026 Global Bank Awards included Santander (Spain) being named ‘World’s Best Bank’ and the State Bank of India (SBI) being recognized as the ‘World’s Best Consumer Bank’.

NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR COOPERATIVE BANK

Union Minister Amit Shah virtually inaugurated ‘Sahakar Bhavan’, the new headquarters of the Jamnagar District Cooperative Bank in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The project was completed at a cost of ₹25 crore.

APPROVAL FOR MUTUAL FUND BUSINESS

SEBI has granted approval to the Mumbai-based Carnelian Asset Management & Advisors Pvt Ltd to commence its Mutual Fund (MF) business.

This authorization allows the firm to provide a wide range of active and passive equity, debt, and hybrid mutual fund schemes to retail investors.

RBI AUTHORIZATION TO EBIXCASH

EbixCash World Money Ltd has become the first Authorised Dealer Category-II (AD-II) entity in India to receive authorization from the RBI to facilitate trade and family maintenance remittances, a domain previously dominated by banks.

The enhanced licence permits EbixCash to process trade remittances up to ₹25 lakh per transaction. Furthermore, the entity has received authorization to maintain Nostro accounts, enabling the direct settlement of international transactions without routing them through intermediary correspondent banks.

AXIS FINANCE LAUNCHES DIGITAL PLATFORM

Axis Finance Ltd (AFL) has launched an in-house Business Rules Engine (BRE) and digital platform named ‘Axis Finance Drishti’.

It is designed to strengthen credit decision-making and risk management in the retail and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) lending sectors by enabling faster, data-driven, and scalable credit assessments.

AGREEMENTS

MORTH SIGNS MOU FOR VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has signed an MoU with Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicles (VECV), Force Motors, and Pinnacle Mobility Solutions. This agreement integrates these manufacturers into the Cabinet-approved Delhi-NCR Vehicle Replacement Scheme, which has a total outlay of ₹9,585 crore.

INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA SIGN WATER MOU

India and Saudi Arabia have signed an MoU to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of water resource management. The agreement was formalized during the inaugural edition of 'Saudi Water Week' held in Jeddah.

The collaboration aims to foster capacity building and exchange best practices in water resources planning, sustainable water management, and irrigation systems.

SAFRAN SIGNS MOU WITH SATSURE

France-based Safran Electronics & Defence and the Indian Earth intelligence firm SatSure Analytics India Pvt Ltd have signed an MoU to collaborate on Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) solutions for the Indian market.

This partnership is established under the 'France-India Year of Innovation' initiative, which aims to promote cooperation in aerospace and defence technology.

PARTNERSHIP FOR MISSION SHAKTHISAT

Gautam Buddha University (GBU) has partnered with Space Kidz India and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to support “Mission ShakthiSAT”.

The mission is the world’s first all-girls international lunar mission. The initiative aims to empower 12,000 young girls from 108 countries. Mahima Rajput, a student from Raipur, Chhattisgarh, has been selected to participate in this international space mission.

ICEYE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH AGNIKUL COSMOS

Finland-based ICEYE has signed a partnership agreement with Chennai-based AgniKul Cosmos to build, launch, and operate Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Earth observation systems from India. Both companies will collaborate to develop an end-to-end sovereign SAR Earth observation capability.

ASSOCHAM SIGNS MOU WITH ACCI

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has signed an MoU with the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) in New Delhi to enhance bilateral trade, investment, and business cooperation between the two nations.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM SIGNS MOU WITH GOOGLE

The Ministry of Tourism has signed an MoU with Google India to strengthen the digital promotion of tourism destinations across the country.

NPCI PARTNERS WITH HSBC AND JPMORGAN

The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has partnered with **HSBC India** and **JPMorgan Payments** to **simplify the UPI transaction process for Indian travelers abroad**.

These collaborations will introduce **real-time foreign exchange (FX) conversion and settlement**, allowing users to **view the exact transaction amount in ₹** before finalizing their payments.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):

MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 2008

IIT BOMBAY SIGNS LOI

IIT Bombay has signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** with the **State University of New York (SUNY) Old Westbury** to collaborate in the fields of **engineering, AI, multidisciplinary research, and higher education**.

GUJARAT POLICE SIGNS MOU WITH BHARAT TAXI

The **Gujarat Police** has signed an **MoU** with the multi-state cooperative society **Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd (Bharat Taxi)** to **enhance public safety, traffic management, and urban mobility through digital integration**.

IIT DELHI PARTNERS WITH SORBONNE UNIVERSITY

IIT Delhi and **Sorbonne University** of **France** have expanded their strategic partnership. The institutions are launching **joint Master of Science (MSc) in Biological Science** and **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes**, scheduled to commence in **2026**.

SBI LIFE INSURANCE SIGNS MOU WITH IIT BOMBAY

SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd has signed an **MoU** with the **IIT Bombay** to establish the ‘**Bharat AI & Cyber Innovation Hub for Insurance**’. This joint research and innovation centre aims to develop **indigenous deep-technology defence systems** for the **insurance sector**.

SBI Life Insurance:

MD & CEO – Amit Jhingran

Headquarters – Mumbai

MOU FOR SKILLING EX-SERVICEMEN

The **Indian Biogas Association (IBA)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Army Welfare Placement Organization (AWPO)** and **Reveille Energy LLP** to facilitate **skill development in the biogas sector**. The initiative aims to create employment opportunities for **50,000 Ex-Servicemen** across India.

NIFTEM-K SIGNS MOU WITH MASSEY UNIVERSITY

The **National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli (NIFTEM-K)** has signed an **MoU** with **Massey University, New Zealand** to **enhance academic and research collaboration** in the domains of **food technology, food processing, innovation, and higher education**.

MOU FOR CORPORATE MITRA SCHEME

The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** has signed an **MoU** with the **IIT Madras, IIT Pravartak, SWAYAM Plus**, the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**, the **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)**, and the **Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)** to launch the **Corporate Mitra Scheme**.

The primary objective of the scheme is to create a pool of **trained Corporate Mitras** to provide support to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.

YAMUNA WATER PROJECT

The **central government**, along with the governments of **Haryana** and **Rajasthan**, has signed a **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** in New Delhi to implement the **Yamuna Water Project** to resolve a **long-standing inter-state water dispute**.

The project, valued at **₹34,102 crore**, will facilitate the supply of **580 Million Cubic Metres (MCM)** of water from the **Yamuna River** to Rajasthan. Under this initiative, the water will be diverted from the **Hathnikund Barrage** and transported via the **Western Yamuna Canal**.

AGREEMENT FOR I-2SEA SUBMARINE CABLE

The **India-Southeast Asia (I-2SEA) Submarine Cable System** is a **3,600 km high-capacity undersea fiber-optic network** designed to facilitate **low-latency, AI, and hyperscale data traffic**.

The project is being developed through a Joint Build Agreement involving **Lightstorm, Microsoft, Singtel, and Tata Communications**, with **NEC Corporation** as the supplier and **ASEAN Cables** as the installer.

The system connects **Machilipatnam and South Chennai** in India to **Singapore and Kuala Lumpur**, bypassing congested routes to serve as **critical infrastructure for AI and cloud hubs**. It is scheduled to be operational by the **fourth quarter (Q4) of 2029**.

AIR INDIA SIGNS MOU WITH SIAEC

Air India has signed an MoU with the **SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC)** in **Mumbai** to explore collaboration in the **Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) sector**. The partnership aims to **strengthen the position of India as a global aviation MRO hub**.

Air India:

CEO & MD – Campbell Wilson

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1932

MOU FOR EV REPLACEMENT IN DELHI-NCR

The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has signed MoUs with **Olectra Greentech Ltd** and **Montra Electric (TI Clean Mobility Pvt Ltd)** to participate in the **PARIVARTAN scheme** of the Government of India.

The scheme aims to **provide discounts for the replacement of old trucks and buses** in the **Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR)**. It is to be noted that Montra Electric executed the agreement through its business units, **IPLTECH Electric Pvt Ltd** and **TIVOLT Electric Vehicles Pvt Ltd**.

NLDSL SIGNS MOU WITH PUNJAB GOVERNMENT

NICDC Logistics Data Services Ltd (NLDSL) has signed an MoU with the **Punjab government** to facilitate the **digital transformation of the logistics ecosystem** of the state through the **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)**.

SAI SIGNS MOU WITH SIC

The **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Safdarjung Sports Injury Centre (SIC)** to enhance cooperation in areas like **sports science, sports medicine, athlete rehabilitation, research, innovation, education, and capacity building**.

TEC SIGNS MOU WITH BECIL

The **Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd (BECIL)** to collaborate on **joint studies, technical contributions, and standardization** in the fields of **convergence and broadcasting technologies**.

NALCO AND NLCIL PARTNER FOR POWER PLANT

The **National Aluminium Company (Nalco)** and **NLC India Ltd (NLCIL)** have signed a joint venture agreement to establish a **1,080 MW captive thermal power plant** in **Angul, Odisha**.

The project will be developed through a **50:50 joint venture** and will consist of **four units of 270 MW each**. This project is aimed at supporting the **aluminium capacity expansion of Nalco**.

QCI AND NSIC SIGN MOU

The **Quality Council of India (QCI)** has signed an MoU with the **National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC)** to establish a **collaborative ecosystem** to **strengthen the quality, competitiveness, and market access** of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in India.

GIFT CITY SIGNS MOU WITH VIFC-DN

The **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Vietnam International Financial Center-Da Nang (VIFC-DN)** in New Delhi.

The agreement aims to **support the development of the international financial centre of Vietnam, promote cross-border investments, and strengthen financial and business linkages** between **India and Vietnam**.

BISLERI SIGNS LOA WITH ICG

Bisleri International Pvt Ltd has signed a **Letter of Association (LoA)** with the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG) (Kerala and Mahe)** to **promote plastic waste management**.

The partnership is facilitated through the flagship initiative of Bisleri, **‘Bottles for Change’ (BFC)**, and aims to support **environmental sustainability in coastal regions**.

DIBD SIGNS MOU WITH PNB

The **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** to collaborate on **advancing multilingual AI solutions**.

The partnership aims to **enhance inclusive banking and citizen-centric financial services** through the **‘BASHINI for Seva/Sanchalan’** initiative.

NCVET AND ASQA SIGN LOI

The **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** with the **Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)** to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the **regulation and quality assurance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**.

DOP SIGNS MOU WITH TRAI

The **Department of Posts (DoP)** have signed an **MoU** with the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** in to conduct the **largest village-level telecom network performance survey** in India.

The **one-year initiative** aims to assess the network performance of major telecom operators including **Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea (Vi), and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL)**. The survey will cover over **5.68 lakh villages** across the country using an **Android-based mobile application** developed by TRAI.

NMPB SIGNS MOU WITH DELHI UNIVERSITY

The **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)** under the **Ministry of Ayush** has signed an **MoU** with the **University of Delhi**, through the **Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences (BCAS)**.

The collaboration aims to promote the **sustainable utilization and conservation of medicinal plant resources** in India.

INDIA-UK CETA ENTERS INTO FORCE

The **India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and the **Agreement on Social Security** came into force on **July 15, 2026**. This agreement aims to **double bilateral trade to over \$100 billion** within the **next 5 years** by **removing critical market barriers** and **easing cross-border professional mobility**.

CETA provides **zero-duty access for nearly 99% of exports from India**. On the first day of the implementation of the agreement, **export consignments worth over \$140 million** were flagged off.

IPC SIGNS MOU WITH UPPPC

The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Uttar Pradesh Promote Pharma Council (UPPPC)** to **strengthen the pharmaceutical and medical device ecosystem**.

CGPDTM SIGNS MOU WITH CSIR-NISCPR

The **Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM)** has signed an **MoU** with the **CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)** to **integrate the former into the National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC)**.

TCS SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH ABB

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has signed a **multi-year agreement** with **ABB**, the **electrification and automation leader**, to **transform global network operations** of the latter using **AI**.

This collaboration marks the next phase of a **20-year partnership** between the two companies, with TCS now delivering **end-to-end AI-driven global network operations**.

CSIR SIGNS MOU WITH NALANDA UNIVERSITY

The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** has signed an **MoU** with **Nalanda University (NU)** to foster **institutional collaboration**.

The partnership aims to promote initiatives in **technology deployment, sustainability, rural development, skill enhancement, and scientific outreach**. It seeks to integrate the **indigenous technological capabilities of CSIR** with the **international academic ecosystem of NU**.

AKASA AIR PARTNERS WITH BPCL

Akasa Air has signed an **MoU** with **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** to promote the adoption of **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**. The partnership aims to **reduce carbon emissions from the aviation sector in India**.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL):
Chairman & MD – Sanjay Khanna
Headquarters – Mumbai
Established in – 1952

NIELIT AND SCL COLLABORATE ON CHIP DESIGN

The **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** has collaborated with the **Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL)** in **Mohali** to make the **indigenous 1.2 µm Process Design Kit (PDK)** available through **eChipHub**.

It is to be noted that **SCL** is an **autonomous organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. The **eChipHub platform** is managed by **NIELIT** under a **MeitY-funded project** titled ‘**Development of EdTech Platform in Semiconductor Space to Democratize Chip Design and Development Ecosystem for Masses**’.

NRDC SIGNS MOU WITH NCISM

The **National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)** has signed an **MoU** with the **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)** to **promote innovation, intellectual property (IP) management, technology transfer, and the commercialization of research outcomes in the Indian System of Medicine**.

AGREEMENT FOR SPACE MEDICINE RESEARCH

The **Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC)** of the **ISRO** has signed an **Implementing Agreement (IA)** with the **Thiruvananthapuram-based Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)** for collaboration in **space medicine and Bioastronautics research and training**.

Under this partnership, both institutions have launched **India’s first indigenous 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowship programme in Bioastronautics**.

NABARD SIGNS MOU WITH MAHAPREIT

The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has signed an **MoU** with **Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Ltd (MAHAPREIT)** to **jointly finance and promote green, climate-resilient, and sustainable infrastructure projects across rural India, with an initial focus on Maharashtra**.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):
Chairman – Shaji KV
Headquarters – Mumbai
Established in – 1982

AIR INDIA SIGNS MOU WITH SAUDIA

Air India has signed an MoU with **Saudia**, the **national flag carrier of Saudi Arabia**, to **expand strategic cooperation** between the two nations.

Air India:
CEO & MD – Campbell Wilson
Headquarters – New Delhi
Established in – 1932

VSSC SIGNS MOU WITH CSIR-IICT

The **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**, a unit of the **ISRO**, has signed an **MoU** with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT)** to **jointly develop indigenous technology for next-generation, environmentally sustainable blowing agents**.

SBI LIFE PARTNERS WITH PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

SBI Life Insurance has signed a strategic partnership with the **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** to become the **Principal Partner** of the Indian Contingent for the **2026 para sport season**.

Under this collaboration, the company will also serve as the **Official Life Insurance Partner** for the Indian Contingent at the **Commonwealth Para Games 2026** in **Glasgow, Scotland**, and the **Asian Para Games 2026** in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**.

SBI Life Insurance:
MD & CEO – Amit Jhingran
Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

IIPA AND ICAI SIGN MOU

The **Centre for Urban Studies (CUS)** at the **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** to **strengthen municipal accounting systems and enhance financial management through collaborative research, training, and institutional capacity building**. The agreement is valid for an **initial period of 3 years**.

MOU WITH AIR INDIA

The **Ministry of Tourism** has signed an **MoU** with **Air India** in **New Delhi** to **promote India as a preferred global tourism destination** under the **‘Incredible India’ brand**.

PNB SIGNS MOU FOR QUANTUM FINANCE HUB

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed an **MoU** with the **Andhra Pradesh government** to establish the **‘PNB Quantum Finance Hub’** at the **Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV)** in **Amaravati**.

This initiative marks the **first bank-led Quantum Finance Hub in India**, making PNB the **first bank to partner with a state government** to set up a **dedicated Quantum Finance Facility**.

PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE STAINLESS STEEL

The **Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA)** has partnered with the **Global Stainless Steel Expo (GSSE)** to **promote the use of stainless steel for clean energy transition and sustainable industrial growth** in India.

The collaboration aims to expand the application of stainless steel across sectors such as **green hydrogen, renewable energy, mobility, infrastructure, and industrial manufacturing**. It is to be noted that the stainless steel market of India is projected to reach **\$15.8 billion (₹1.36 lakh crore)** by **2030**.

VTU PARTNERS WITH GOOGLE

The **Bengaluru-based Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU)** has signed an **academic collaboration agreement** with **Google LLC** to provide **AI and other industry-relevant skill modules** to its students and faculty.

EIL SIGNS MOUS

Engineers India LTD (EIL) has signed an MoU with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT)** in **Odisha** to collaborate on **mineral processing, extractive metallurgy, and the value chain of critical and strategic minerals**.

Additionally, EIL has signed an MoU with the **Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA)**, formerly known as the **Directorate General of Shipping**, to provide **engineering and technical consultancy services for the development and modernisation of maritime projects**.

MOTA SIGNS MOU WITH CSIR-NBRI

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** has signed a **3-year** MoU with the **Lucknow-based Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI)** to promote **research and development for the conservation and ethnobotanical assessment of tribal bioresources** in India.

SONA COMSTAR SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH DENSO

Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd (Sona Comstar) has signed agreements with the **Japan-based DENSO Corporation** to establish **two Joint Ventures (JVs)** in India.

These JVs will **develop, manufacture, and market advanced electric and hybrid powertrain systems** for various vehicle segments.

ODISHA SIGNS MOU FOR AI DATA CENTRE

The **Odisha government** has signed an **MoU** with **HCL Technologies (HCLTech)** and **Sarvam AI** to set up the **first AI data centre** of the state.

The facility will be located at the **Odisha Sovereign AI Park** in **Bhubaneswar**, with a total project outlay of **₹14,257 crore**.

HCL Technologies Ltd (HCLTech):

Founder – Shiv Nadar

Chairperson – Roshni Nadar Malhotra

Headquarters – Noida

Established in – 1991

C-DOT PARTNERS WITH IISC BENGALURU

The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** has signed a **tripartite agreement** with the **IISc Bengaluru** and the **Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID)** to establish a **C-DOT Centre of Excellence (CoE)** at the FSID, **IISc Bengaluru**.

MORD SIGNS MOU WITH PCI INDIA

The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**, through the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, has signed a **non-financial MoU** with **Project Concern International (PCI) India** to **strengthen women-led enterprises (WLEs)**, particularly those operated by **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.

The partnership aims to facilitate **public procurement** and **market-linked enterprise development** for these businesses.

REPORTS

REVIEW OF MARITIME TRANSPORT

According to the “**Review of Maritime Transport 2025**” report released by the **UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, **India has become the world’s leading ship recycling nation** in **2025**. India increased its **global share in ship recycling to 35.4%** (up from 30.1% in 2024).

The **recycling volume reached 2.99 million gross tons (GT)**, marking a **nearly 60% increase** from 1.86 million GT. With this development, India has **surpassed its Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 target five years ahead of schedule**.

The **Ship-breaking Credit Note Scheme (SbCN)** offers **credits worth 40% of the scrap value**, which are usable up to 5% of the cost of a new vessel. Additionally, the government provided **₹53.5 crore in modernization support**, enabling the establishment of **115 Hong Kong International Convention (HKC)-compliant facilities**.

TOP500 SUPERCOMPUTER RANKINGS

The 67th edition of the **TOP500 Supercomputer Rankings** was released at the **International Supercomputing (ISC) High Performance 2026** conference in **Hamburg, Germany**. China’s ‘**LineShine**’ has emerged as the **world’s most powerful supercomputer**, displacing the USA’s ‘El Capitan’ from the top spot.

They are followed by ‘**Frontier**’ (USA), ‘**Aurora**’ (USA), and ‘**Jupiter**’ (Germany). The **USA leads the list** as the most represented country, with **161 systems** featured.

India is ranked 16th globally, with **7 supercomputers** included in the list, namely ‘**PARAM Siddhi-AI**’, ‘**Pratyush**’, ‘**Mihir**’, ‘**Aditya**’, ‘**SahasraT**’, ‘**Arka**’, and ‘**Param Bramha**’. India’s most powerful supercomputer, ‘**Shakti Cloud**’, secured the **32nd position** on the list with a performance of **84.31 petaflops**.

REPORT BY QUACQUARELLI SYMONDS

According to the “**QS World Future Skills Index 2027**” released by the **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)**, **India secured the 13th position globally** with a **score of 89.4**. It is **ranked 1st in the South Asia region** and is the **only country from the region to feature among the top 15**.

The report evaluated **89 countries**. India ranked **18th in Skills Alignment**, **22nd in Academic Readiness**, **5th in Future of Work**, and **14th in Economic Transformation**. The **USA led the overall rankings** with a **score of 99.2**, followed by **Australia** and the **UK**.

TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY SECTOR REPORT

The **Ministry of Tourism** and **NITI Aayog** have jointly launched a report titled “**Unlocking Growth in Tourism and Hospitality Sector: Recommendations for Non-Financial Regulatory Reforms**”. The report provides **49 recommendations** across **14 reform areas** to streamline the sector.

The strategic plan aims to expand **India’s tourism economy to \$3 trillion** and attract **100 million inbound international visitors** by **2047**.

It is to be noted that according to the **Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI)**, **India ranks 6th globally in Natural Resources** and **9th in Cultural Resources**. Despite this, **India ranks 39th overall** on the TTDI and currently accounts for **less than 1.5% of global international tourist arrivals**.

REPORT BY NITI AAYOG

According to the 8th edition of the ‘**Trade Watch Quarterly (TWQ)**’ released by the **NITI Aayog** for **Q4 FY26**, the **total merchandise and services trade of India** expanded by **5.4%** to **\$1.84 trillion**.

The report states that the **global pharmaceutical market** recorded a demand of **\$1.3 trillion** in **2025**. India’s **pharmaceutical sector** contributes over **1.7% to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and **7.2% to the manufacturing Gross Value Added (GVA)**.

THE SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT RATINGS 2026

According to the 8th edition of the “**Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026**” released by the **Times Higher Education (THE)**, the **University of Manchester (UK)** is **ranked top** in the **overall list**.

The **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)** secured the **first rank** in the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5**, which focuses on Gender Equality. It is to be noted that the report evaluated **1,646 universities globally**.

ROADMAP FOR AYURVEDA

NITI Aayog has released a report titled “**Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global**”, prepared in collaboration with **PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)**. The roadmap focuses on shifting from basic product exports to **global institution-building**, using a **three-pillar framework** of **Availability, Acceptability, and Propagation**.

It outlines plans across three horizons: **short-term goals up to 2029, medium-term objectives up to 2035**, and a **vision extending to 2047**. The report recommends creating a **Global Ayurveda Register (GAR)** and establishing a **World Federation for Ayurveda and Yoga** to facilitate global integration.

The **traditional medicine market of India** is estimated at **\$61 billion**. Global exports of traditional medicine have increased from **\$1.09 billion in 2014** to **\$2.16 billion**, currently reaching **150 countries**.

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India):

Chairman – Prime Minister Narendra Modi

CEO – Nidhi Chhibber

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2015

SDG STATISTICAL REPORT

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has released a series of publications tracking India's development milestones under the **National Indicator Framework (NIF)**.

Multidimensional poverty in India **declined to 14.96%** in 2019–21 from 24.85% in 2015–16, while **population coverage under structured social protection systems** surged to **65.3% in 2026**, from 22% in 2019.

Institutional deliveries overseen by skilled staff have grown to **91.3%** from 81.4%. The **Gross Enrolment Ratio for higher secondary schools** has reached **58.40%**, and **school internet connectivity** has increased to **84.2%**.

India has achieved **100% household electrification** under the ‘**Saubhagya**’ scheme. **Total internet subscriptions** rose to **969.10 million in 2025** from 302.36 million in 2015, with **national 4G population coverage** reaching **99.51%**.

The number of **functional waste recycling plants** expanded to **3,236 in 2025–26** from 829 in 2019–20. **Globally protected Ramsar sites** now constitute **8.66%** of India's total wetland landscape, an increase from 4.15% in 2016.

DATA ON GI REGISTRATIONS

According to the **Geographical Indications (GI) Registry**, the **total number of GI tags registered in India** stands at **822**. Between **April 2025 and March 2026, 125 GIs were registered** across the country, with **eastern states** recording a significant number of these registrations.

During this period, **Madhya Pradesh recorded 26 registrations**, followed by **West Bengal with 24**. **Uttar Pradesh** holds the **highest cumulative number of GI registrations at 79**, followed by **Tamil Nadu** and **West Bengal**.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

According to the 11th edition of the **Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2026** released by the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)**, **India is ranked 94th** among **167 countries** with a **score of 68.3** out of 100.

Finland topped the list with a **score of 87.4**, followed by **Sweden** and **Denmark**. The report projects that **India will achieve only 33.3%** of its **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets** by **2030**.

GLOBAL PASSPORT INDEX RANKINGS

According to the “**5th annual edition of the Global Passport Index (GPI)**” released by the **Global Citizen Solutions (GCS)**, **India is ranked 125th** among 197 countries with a **composite score of 45.1**.

Sweden holds the **top position** with an **overall score of 96.05**, followed by **Switzerland, Finland, Germany**, and the **Netherlands**. In the **GPI 2026**, India is ranked **136th in the Enhanced Mobility Index, 118th in the Quality of Life Index**, and **94th in the Investment Index**.

UDISE+ 2025-26 REPORT

According to the ‘Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2025-26’ report released by the Ministry of Education, the total number of teachers in India rose by 8.3% to 1.02 crore in 2025-26, from 94.8 lakh in 2022-23.

The report highlights that the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) stands at 10 for Foundational, 12 for Preparatory, 17 for Middle, and 21 for Secondary levels, which remains better than the National Education Policy (NEP) recommended ratio of 30:1. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the secondary level has increased to 71.7%.

PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX 2.0 RELEASED

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has released the ‘Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/Union Territories’ (PGI 2.0-S) and the ‘Performance Grading Index for Districts’ (PGI-D) for 2025-26.

For the consecutive year, no state or Union Territory (UT) achieved the highest performance grade in the assessment. It is to be noted that the PGI was introduced in 2017 by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) to measure the performance of states in the school education sector.

DIGITAL THREAT REPORT 2025-26

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released the second edition of the “Digital Threat Report 2025-26”. The report was developed in collaboration with the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), the Computer Security Incident Response Team in Finance (CSIRT-Fin), and SISA Information Security.

It outlines an 18-month roadmap for financial institutions to strengthen their cybersecurity. The report also introduces the “Anatomy of Cyber Failure - 4 layer Gap Archetype Framework”, which explains how a cyberattack progresses from initial system weaknesses to a full-scale security breach.

WORLD INTANGIBLE INVESTMENT REPORT 2026

According to the 3rd edition of the “World Intangible Investment Report 2026” released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Luiss Business School (LBS), Intangible investment in India reached \$78.2 billion in 2023, reflecting an annual growth of 7.9%.

It is to be noted that India recorded the highest intangible investment growth among the 15 largest economies globally.

GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX 2026

According to the latest edition of the “Global Liveability Index 2026” released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), New Delhi is the highest ranked Indian city, securing the 120th position globally with a score of 48.1.

Copenhagen (Denmark) is ranked first globally, followed by Vienna (Austria), Melbourne (Australia), Sydney (Australia), and Zurich (Switzerland). Damascus (Syria) is ranked as the least liveable city in the world at the 173rd position.

GLOBAL AIR POWER RANKINGS

According to the Global Air Power Rankings 2026 released by the World Defense Military Analysis (WDMMA), the Indian Air Force (IAF) is ranked as the 3rd most powerful air force globally.

The US Air Force leads the rankings with a TVR of 242.9 and a fleet of 5,004 aircraft, followed by Russia (2nd) and China (4th). When considering the combined air arms of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, the IAF holds the 6th position with a True Value Rating (TVR) of 69.4.

INVESTMENT FRIENDLINESS INDEX

NITI Aayog has released its first-ever “Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026”, unveiled by its Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri.

Gujarat emerged as the top overall performer with a score of 56.6, followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Odisha. Among large states, Gujarat is the leader, while Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal are the worst performers.

Uttarakhand is the leader among Hilly & Northeastern states, and Goa is the leader among City States & UTs. Lakshadweep recorded the lowest overall score nationwide, followed by Ladakh and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The index evaluates all 28 states and 8 Union Territories (UTs) based on 84 indicators across 8 economic pillars: Infrastructure, Business Climate, Government Policy, Resources, Regulatory Ease, Institutional Environment, Financial Health, and Environmental Resilience.

UN REPORT ON AI

The **United Nations (UN)** has released the **Preliminary Report of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI**, which is the **first UN-commissioned scientific assessment of AI**. The report was prepared by a **40-member panel** co-chaired by **Turing Award laureate Yoshua Bengio** and **Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Ressa**.

The assessment highlights a **global AI imbalance**, noting that the **USA leads** with **75% of global compute capacity** and **59 AI models**.

BRAND FINANCE REPORT

According to the ‘**Brand Finance India 100 Report 2026**’, **Tata Group** is ranked as the **most valuable brand in India** for the **10th consecutive year**, with a **brand value of \$33.6 billion**. It is followed by **Infosys** and **LIC Group**.

Adani Group is ranked **8th** in the list, becoming the **fastest company to enter India’s ‘Top 10 Most Valuable Brands’**. **Suzlon Energy** is the **fastest-growing Indian brand** in 2026, while **Taj Hotels** is ranked as **India’s strongest brand** for the **5th consecutive year**.

Brand Finance:
CEO – David Haigh
Headquarters – London

Tata Group:
Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran
Headquarters – Mumbai
Established in – 1868

PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

According to the 15th edition of the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Monthly Bulletin** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, the **overall unemployment rate** for individuals aged 15 and above remained **unchanged at 5.5%** in June 2026.

The **unemployment rate in rural areas** decreased from 5.1% in May 2026 to **5% in June 2026**, while the rate in **urban areas increased** from 6.4% to **6.6%**. The **Labour Force Participation Rate** for persons aged 15 and above stood at **54.4%** in June 2026, and the **Worker Population Ratio** at the all-India level was **51.4%**.

PAIMANA DASHBOARD UPDATE

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has released the quarterly update of the **Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring & Analytics for Nation-building (PAIMANA)** performance dashboard. It now includes **44 new indicators**, bringing the total to **165**.

In the **Civil Aviation sector**, **98,920 tonnes of cargo** were transported in April 2026, marking a **115% year-on-year increase**. The number of **aerodromes** has increased from **81 in 2014** to **165 at present**.

Regarding the **Road, Transport and Highways sector**, **9,360 kms of National Highways (NHs)** were constructed during **FY26**. **Electronic toll collection transactions** reached **₹88 crore**, a **39.7% year-on-year growth** up to May 2026.

In the **Power sector**, **storage requirements** are projected to increase **more than 10-fold**, rising from **87 Gigawatt-hour (GWh)** in 2027-28 to **888 GWh** by 2035-36.

REPORT OF PLI MANUFACTURING UNITS

The **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** presented data in the Lok Sabha regarding the establishment of manufacturing units under the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** for the **automobile and auto component industry**.

As of **March 2026**, **Maharashtra leads the country** with **66 manufacturing units**, followed by **Tamil Nadu with 38 units**, while **Haryana** and **Karnataka** account for **35 units each**.

UN REPORT ON FOOD SECURITY

According to the report “**The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2026): Understanding and Addressing the High Cost of a Healthy Diet**” released by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, **645 million people (7.8% of the global population) faced hunger in 2025**.

Under a **quick-recovery scenario**, the report projects that the number of **chronically undernourished people** could decrease to nearly **511 million by 2030**. It is to be noted that the report was prepared by **5 specialized UN agencies: FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), and WHO**.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):
Director-General – Qu Dongyu (China)
Headquarters – Rome, Italy
Established in – 1945
Members – 197

World Health Organisation (WHO):
Director General – Dr Tedros Adhanom
Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland
Established in – 1948

World Food Programme (WFP):
Executive Director – Cindy McCain
Headquarters – Rome, Italy
Established in – 1961

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF):
Executive Director – Catherine Russell
Headquarters – New York, USA
Established in – 1946

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX RANKING

According to the "**20th-anniversary edition of the Henley Passport Index (HPI)**" released by **Henley & Partners**, **India is ranked 81st** globally, declining from its previous **75th position**, sharing the rank with Mauritania and Algeria.

Singapore retains the top position with access to **192 destinations**, followed by **Japan, South Korea, and the UAE** in second place, and **Sweden** in third. **Indian passport holders** currently have access to **55 destinations**. **Afghanistan is ranked lowest** in the HPI, with access to only **22 destinations**.

INTERNATIONAL

BRICS NSA MEETING

The **16th BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) **National Security Advisers’ (NSA) meeting** was held in **New Delhi**.

The meeting was chaired by the **National Security Advisor (NSA) of India, Ajit Doval**. The summit was conducted under the theme '**Non-Traditional Security Challenges Confronting the World Today**'.

2ND PAX SILICA SUMMIT

The **2nd Pax Silica Summit** was held in **Washington DC, USA**. During the summit, **35 nations**, including **India**, endorsed a **Statement on AI**, an initiative spearheaded by the **USA** to establish **trusted and resilient supply chains for AI technologies**.

The **2-day event** was hosted by **Jacob Helberg**, Secretary of Economic Affairs at the US Department of State. The **Indian delegation** was headed by **S Krishnan**, Secretary of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.

The summit marked the expansion of the US-anchored tech security ecosystem, with new signatories including **Germany, Greece, and the Netherlands** (Europe); **Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, and Panama** (America); and **Kazakhstan** (Central Asia).

PIYUSH GOYAL VISITS LONDON

Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** visited **London** ahead of the official implementation of the **India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and the **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)**, which are scheduled to come into force on **July 15, 2026**.

During the visit, he held a high-level bilateral meeting with **Peter Kyle**, the **Secretary of State for Business and Trade of the UK**. **Piyush Goyal** was conferred with the '**Special award for Exceptional Leadership in Elevating India-UK Relations**'.

He also launched the '**UK-India CETA Business Utilisation Manual**', a guide for Indian and UK businesses, and announced the deployment of **1,000 advisory personnel** across India to assist businesses in maximizing the benefits of the **India-UK CETA**.

PM MODI VISIT TO SEYCHELLES

PM Narendra Modi visited **Seychelles** at the invitation of **President Dr. Patrick Herminie** and held a bilateral meeting in **Victoria, Mahe**. He attended the **Golden Jubilee celebrations** of the **National Day of Seychelles** as the **Guest of Honour**, marking **50 years of independence** of the nation.

During the visit, PM Modi was conferred with the honorary “**Guardian of the Blue Horizon**” title, the **highest distinction of Seychelles**. Both countries signed **9 MoUs** to strengthen bilateral relations. India extended a **Line of Credit (LoC) of ₹1,250 crore** for development projects and handed over a **Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)** named ‘**LESPWAR**’.

INDIA–MALI TRADE FORUM

The inaugural **India-Mali Forum for the Promotion of Exports** was held in **Bamako, Mali**, under the theme “**Reinforcing Trade and Strategic Partnerships**.”

It is to be noted that **bilateral trade** between **India and Mali** surpassed **\$326.6 million** in **FY26**, marking a **55% year-on-year growth** compared to the previous fiscal period.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR COLOMBIA

Jaime Abelardo, supported by the ‘**Defenders of the Homeland**’ alliance, has won the **presidential runoff election** in **Colombia**. He will serve as the **President** for the **2026–2030 term**, succeeding **Gustavo Petro**.

INDIA–COSTA RICA TRADE MEETING

The **first meeting** of the **Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)** between **India and Costa Rica** was held **virtually**. During the meeting, both nations reviewed **bilateral trade and investment relations** and exchanged views on their respective trade and investment regimes.

It is to be noted that the **bilateral merchandise trade** between India and Costa Rica reached **\$391 million** in the **2025–26 period**.

NEW OCEANOGRAPHIC SATELLITE

China has launched its latest **oceanographic satellite**, ‘**Haiyang (HY)–2E**’, aboard a **Long March 4B rocket** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center (JSLC)** in **Northwest China**.

This marks the **47th space mission of China in 2026** and the **654th flight of the Long March rocket series**.

AI FOR GOOD GLOBAL COMMISSION

The **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, a **UN-backed agency**, has launched the ‘**AI for Good Global Commission**’ in **Geneva, Switzerland**, to **strengthen global AI governance, inclusion, and innovation frameworks**.

The commission comprises **44 founding members** and is **co-chaired** by **Rwanda President Paul Kagame** and **Salesforce Chair and CEO Marc Benioff**. **India** is represented on the commission by **3 founding members**: **Mukesh Ambani** (CMD of Reliance Industries), **Sunil Bharti Mittal** (Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Ltd), and **Lakshmi N Mittal** (Executive Chairman of ArcelorMittal SA).

NEW PRESIDENT OF PERU

Keiko Fujimori, the leader of the **conservative Popular Force party**, has been declared the **winner of the 2026 presidential election** in **Peru**.

She will serve as the **10th President** of the country, succeeding **interim President José María Balcázar**.

GLOBAL BIOFUEL ALLIANCE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The India-led **Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA)** has launched its flagship **Global Biofuel Champion Fellowship (GBCF)** programme at the **India Habitat Centre in New Delhi**.

The GBA has selected **15 early-career researchers** from leading global universities and research institutions to serve as **GBA Ambassadors** for a **tenure of 2 years**. Each fellow will receive a **research grant of \$15,000**. The selected cohort includes **2 researchers from India**: **Ruchi Agrawal** from **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Delhi**, and **Abhishek Sahoo** from the **IIT Delhi**.

DIGITAL ARRIVAL SYSTEM

Australia is replacing its traditional paper arrival card system with a new **digital declaration system**.

The new “**Travel Declaration**” system allows **eligible international travellers** to submit **Customs and biosecurity information** online **before arrival**. This digital transition aims to **reduce paperwork** and **expedite entry procedures** for travellers.

PM MODI VISIT TO INDONESIA

PM Narendra Modi has visited **Indonesia** at the invitation of **President Prabowo Subianto** to strengthen bilateral ties and strategic cooperation between the two nations.

He became the **first Indian PM to address the Indonesian Parliament in Jakarta**, where he unveiled the “**Ganga-Mahakam Vision**” to foster a long-term strategic partnership. During the visit, he was conferred with the “**Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia**,” the **highest civilian honour of the country**.

PM Modi visited the **Prambanan Temple** and inaugurated its restoration project, which is proposed to be led by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**. India has agreed to establish a branch campus of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore in **Jakarta**. The visit resulted in **20 key outcomes**, including the signing of **14 MoUs and agreements**.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):
Director General – Yadubir Singh Rawat
Headquarters – New Delhi
Established in – 1861

PM MODI VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

PM Narendra Modi visited **Australia** at the invitation of **PM Anthony Albanese**, where he received a ceremonial welcome and met the **Governor of Victoria, Margaret Gardner AC** in **Melbourne**.

Both leaders addressed the **Australia-India CEOs Forum (established in 2012, relaunched in 2023)**. **AustralianSuper**, the **largest pension fund of Australia**, pledged an investment of **AUD 500 million** in the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** of India, raising its total investment in the country to **AUD 3.3 billion**.

The two nations launched the **Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies, and Supply Chains (PACTS)**, replacing the **2020 Framework Arrangement** on Cyber and Cyber Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation. PACTS is based on **5 pillars**: supply chain resilience, critical technology, cybersecurity, digital resilience, and defence research and collaboration.

India and Australia finalized the **Administrative Arrangement of the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement (signed in 2014)** and signed a **Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation (JDDSC)**, replacing the **2009 joint declaration on security**.

Australia also announced the voluntary repatriation of **3 Indian artefacts**: an **11th-12th century granite Nandi sculpture**, an **11th-century bronze trident of Goddess Bhadrakali**, and a **12th-century basalt sculpture of a six-headed Skanda (Karttikeya)**.

INDO-KYRGYZ CULTURAL CENTER

The **Centre for Studies of International Relations (CSIR), New Delhi**, in collaboration with the **Manas National Academy**, has established the **International Centre for Civilizational Studies ‘Manas and Mahabharata’** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.

The inauguration ceremony also marked the release of the **first Hindi translation** of the **Kyrgyz epic ‘Manas’**, translated by **Hem Chandra Pande and Ramakant Dwivedi**.

ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE ALLIANCE

Ukraine and **nine European nations** have established the **Integrated Anti-Ballistic Missile Coalition** in **Paris**.

The alliance aims to **consolidate European defense industries, research, and battlefield data** to create a **shared, integrated missile defense shield** capable of neutralizing adversarial ballistic strikes. The coalition comprises **Ukraine, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the UK**.

US FED APPOINTS INDIAN-ORIGIN EXPERTS

The **United States Federal Reserve (US Fed)** has appointed three **Indian-origin experts, Raghuram Rajan, Raj Chetty, and Asha Sharma**, to lead **three of its five task forces**.

These task forces are responsible for **reviewing the monetary policy framework** of the US Fed, under the leadership of **Fed Chair Kevin Warsh**.

PM MODI IN NEW ZEALAND

PM Narendra Modi has visited **New Zealand** at the invitation of **PM Christopher Luxon**, marking the final leg of his **3-nation tour** which also included **Indonesia and Australia**. He received a **traditional Maori powhiri** ceremonial welcome at the Government House in Auckland, followed by bilateral talks.

The meeting resulted in **18 major outcomes**, including the signing of **10 MoUs** and the elevation of India-New Zealand bilateral ties to a **Strategic Partnership (SP)**. Both nations also adopted the **‘Roadmap to 2030’**.

Key announcements included a target to **double bilateral trade** to **NZD 7 billion (₹35,000 crore) by 2030** and the establishment of a **Maritime Security Dialogue**. It is to be noted that New Zealand has nominated **Maritime Security** as a priority pillar under the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)** and has officially joined the **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, **led by India**.

BRICS MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

India hosted the **BRICS Women Ministerial Meeting (WMM)** in **Kochi, Kerala** under its **BRICS Chairship 2026**. During the meeting, member nations reached a consensus on two initiatives proposed by India: the **‘BRICS Digital Repository of Best Practices’** and **‘BRICS Digital Capacity Building’**.

India also hosted the **3rd BRICS Transport Ministers’ Meeting (TMM)** in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**, chaired by **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari**. The meeting concluded with the unanimous adoption of the **Ministerial Declaration**.

NEW PM FOR LITHUANIA

Mindaugas Sinkevicius, the leader of the **Lithuanian Social Democratic Party (LSDP)**, has been sworn in as the **20th Prime Minister (PM) of Lithuania**. He succeeds **Inga Ruginiene**.

NEW PM FOR UKRAINE

The **Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada)** has approved the appointment of **Sergii Korytskiy** as the new **Prime Minister (PM)**. He succeeds **Yulia Svyrydenko**.

INDIA JOINS WTO FISHERIES AGREEMENT

India has deposited its **Instrument of Acceptance** for the **World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS)**, becoming a party to the agreement. India is the **123rd member** to deposit its acceptance for the same.

The **AFS**, adopted at the **12th WTO Ministerial Conference** in **Geneva in 2022**, is the **first multilateral WTO agreement with an environmental sustainability objective**.

It **prohibits government support for illegal fishing and overexploitation of stocks**, contributing to the protection of marine life. It is to be noted that the agreement **entered into force in September 2025**, following acceptance by **two-thirds of WTO members**.

UNSC SEAT CAMPAIGN

Union Minister S Jaishankar has launched **India’s campaign** for election as a **non-permanent member** of the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for the **2028-29 term** at the **UN Headquarters in New York**. The campaign is **themed “SHANTI: Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity”**.

It is to be noted that the **UNSC comprises 15 members**, including **five permanent members** with **veto power** (China, France, Russia, UK, and USA) and **10 non-permanent members**. **India** has served as a non-permanent member of the UNSC **eight times**.

BRICS MEETINGS IN INDIA

India hosted the **BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) **Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies Meeting** in **Guwahati, Assam**.

During the meeting, member nations adopted the **‘Guwahati Declaration’**, and India proposed the establishment of a dedicated **BRICS Virtual Working Group (VWG)** to address evolving **drug trafficking trends** and enhance **cross-border training initiatives**.

India also organized the **‘GO-BRICS India-Russia Energy-o-thon 2026’** in **Bengaluru**, which is the **world’s first hackathon involving BRICS nations**. Additionally, the **BRICS Academic Thematic Conference**, themed **“Strengthening BRICS Connectivity: Fostering Cooperation”**, was jointly organized by the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)** and the **BRICS Expert Council Russia** in **Moscow, Russia**.

BRICS MEETINGS

The **16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting** was held in **Chandigarh** under the **BRICS Chairship of India for 2026**. The meeting was held under the theme **“Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”** to strengthen cooperation in public health priorities and global health architecture.

Additionally, under the **BRICS Presidency of India for 2026**, the **Ministry of Education** convened the **International Governing Board (IGB)** meeting of the **BRICS Network University (BRICS NU)** in a **virtual format**.

LAUNCH OF WAICO IN SHANGHAI

The **World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO)** has been officially launched in **Shanghai, China**. Proposed by **China**, it is an **intergovernmental body** designed to **foster global AI cooperation, develop civilian AI regulations, and bridge the technological compute divide**.

It is **headquartered in Shanghai**. A total of **29 countries**, including **Russia, Pakistan, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, and Malaysia**, have signed its founding convention.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF ECOWAS

Bassirou Diomaye Faye, the **President of Senegal**, has been appointed as the new **Chairman** of the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**.

He was elected during the **69th Ordinary Session** of the Authority of Heads of State and Government held in **Sierra Leone**. He **succeeds** the President of Sierra Leone, **Julius Maada Bio**, for a **one-year term**.

ZANZIBAR PRESIDENT IN INDIA

Hussein Ali Mwinyi, the **President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council**, visited India at the invitation of **Vice President CP Radhakrishnan**. The visit reinforced the **India-Tanzania Strategic Partnership**, focusing on bilateral trade, investment, and capacity building.

Mwinyi met **Union Minister S Jaishankar** to review development partnerships, including the **IIT Madras Zanzibar**, which serves as a **Centre of Excellence (CoE) for higher education in Africa**.

During the visit, he attended the **63rd convocation of IIT Madras** and unveiled the master plan for the **200-acre IIT Madras Zanzibar campus** at **Fumba Peninsula**. It is to be noted that this is the **first international IIT campus of India**.

NEW PM FOR UK

Andy Burnham has assumed office as the **59th Prime Minister (PM)** of the **United Kingdom (UK)**, succeeding **Keir Starmer** who resigned from the position.

He was invited by **King Charles III** at **Buckingham Palace** to form a new government in a traditional ceremony known as **“kissing hands.”**

SUCCESSFUL ROCKET LAUNCH BY ORIENSPACE

The Chinese aerospace company, **Orienspace**, has successfully launched its **‘Gravity-1 Y4’** carrier rocket from a **sea-based platform in the East China Sea**. The mission successfully deployed **9 satellites** into their intended orbits.

It is to be noted that this was the **3rd flight** of the rocket and its **1st long-range sea launch**.

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU VISITS ROMANIA

President Droupadi Murmu visited **Romania** at the invitation of **NicuSor Dan**, the President of Romania. She was conferred with the **‘Doctor Honoris Causa’** award by the **Bucharest University of Economic Studies (BUES)**.

India and Romania signed **3 MoUs** in the sectors of **science and technology, education, and sports**. Both nations declared **2028** as the **“India-Romania Year of Innovation”** to commemorate **80 years** of diplomatic relations.

FRANCE BANS SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CHILDREN

France has become the **first nation within the European Union (EU)** to officially **prohibit the use of social media platforms** for **children under 15 years of age**.

DEFENCE

US MILITARY SUPPORT PACKAGE

The **Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) of the USA**, which administers the **Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme**, has notified a **proposed sale of sustainment support services and equipment to India** at an **estimated cost of \$482.2 million**.

This includes **\$230 million** for the sustainment of **M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers** and **\$198.2 million** for the **AH-64E Apache helicopters**.

OPERATIONAL CLEARANCE FOR NETRA

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has received the **Final Operational Clearance (FOC)** from the **DRDO** for the **indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system** named '**Netra**'.

The system is integrated onto the **Brazilian modified twin-engine Embraer EMB-145I aircraft platform** and has a **radar detection range of 240-300 km** It is to be noted that the 'Netra' programme was **initiated in 2003** and sanctioned in 2004, with the IAF receiving the **Initial Operational Clearance (IOC)** in 2017.

RIMPAC 2026

The **Indian Navy** has participated in the **30th edition of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC 2026)**, the **world's largest multinational maritime warfare exercise**.

Hosted by the **US Navy**, the exercise was conducted at the **Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH)** in **Hawaii, USA**. The theme for the 30th edition of RIMPAC was '**Partners: Integrated and Prepared**'.

NEW BAILEY BRIDGE BY BRO

The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has completed the construction of a **180-foot triple-double reinforced Bailey bridge** in **Kurung Kumey, Arunachal Pradesh**.

Situated along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC) corridor**, this bridge restores vital connectivity along the **Hapoli-Sarli-Huri road network**. The project was executed under '**Project Arunank**' by the **756 Task Force** and **Team 85 Road Construction Company (RCC)**.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO):

Director General – Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1960

DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, has accorded **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for various acquisition proposals for the defence forces, estimated at **₹52,000 crore**.

For the **Indian Army**, the DAC approved the procurement of the '**AKASH TARANG**' **Anti-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Electronic Warfare System**, **Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Systems**, **Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) Weapon System**, **Very Short Range Air Defence System (V-SHORADS)**, **Active Protection System for Tanks**, and a **Jet-Based Kamikaze Drone System**.

For the **Indian Navy**, the council granted approval for the procurement of **Multi Influence Ground Mines (MIGM)**, **Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial Systems (NSUAS)**, and the establishment of a **Land Based Testing Facility (LBTF) for Electric Propulsion Systems**. For the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, approval was accorded for the procurement of **Fixed-Wing Based High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (FW-HAPS)**.

NAVAL SHIPS VISIT TO SINGAPORE

Indian Naval Ships (INS) **Udaygiri**, INS **Shakti**, and INS **Kavaratti** have concluded their port call at the **Changi Naval Base in Singapore**.

The deployment of these **Eastern Fleet** ships was led by **Rear Admiral Alok Anand**, the **Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF)**.

BAAZ BATTALIONS

The **Indian Army** has established **specialized drone units** designated as '**Baaz Battalions**' to bolster its **operational capabilities**.

These battalions are tasked with **centralized Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)** and the **execution of long-range precision strikes**.

INDIGENOUS TACTICAL AEROSTAT

The **IIT Delhi**, in collaboration with the **DRDO** and a **domestic startup**, has developed **India's first indigenous tactical aerostat**.

This **low-cost, balloon-based high-altitude platform** is designed to carry **surveillance and communication payloads**, providing operational coverage of **up to 20 km**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Chairman – Rajesh Kumar Singh

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1958

SUCCESSFUL TEST OF PINAKA ROCKET

The **DRDO** has successfully conducted a flight-test of the **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR)** at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** in **Chandipur**. The rocket was tested for a **user-defined minimum range of 60 km** and successfully demonstrated all **planned in-flight manoeuvres**.

The **Pinaka LRGR** was designed by the **Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)** in collaboration with the **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)**.

INS SUDARSHINI AT US NAVAL REVIEW

INS Sudarshini, an **indigenous three-masted sail training barque** of the **Indian Navy (IN)**, has represented India at the ‘**Sail4th 250**’ and the ‘**United States International Naval Review 250**’ celebrations held in **New York Harbour**.

The festival was organised to commemorate the **250th anniversary of the independence of the United States**.

INDIA-JAPAN DEFENCE POLICY DIALOGUE

The **8th Defence Policy Dialogue** between **India** and **Japan** was held in **Tokyo, Japan**. The **Indian delegation** was led by **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh**.

Both countries reviewed the progress in **bilateral defence cooperation** and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the **India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership**.

OPERATION SOUTHERN READINESS

‘**Operation Southern Readiness 26-2**’ has commenced at the **Southern Naval Command** in **Kochi**. The exercise is hosted by the **Southern Naval Command** under the the **Indian Navy-led Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154)**, in partnership with the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**.

The engagement involves **254 participants from 26 countries**. It is to be noted that the **CTF 154**, which functions as the **dedicated Training Task Force** of the **CMF**, is currently commanded by the Indian Navy under the leadership of **Commodore Milind M Mokashi**.

EXERCISE PITCH BLACK

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has participated in the **45th edition** of the biennial multinational air combat exercise ‘**Pitch Black 2026**’, hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)** at **RAAF Base Darwin** in northern Australia. The exercise witnessed the participation of air forces from **20 nations**.

ALL-WOMEN SAILING EXPEDITION

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** has flagged-in ‘**Samudra Pradakshina**’, the **inaugural Tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition**, via video conferencing.

The team, comprising **nine women officers from the three Services**, sailed aboard the **Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni**. They returned to **Mumbai** after completing a **314-day voyage**, covering nearly **25,500 nautical miles across four oceans**.

INS MALVAN COMMISSIONED

INS Malvan, the **second indigenously designed and built Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, has been **commissioned at Karwar, Karnataka**.

It is the **2nd of 8 Mahe-class ASW-SWCs** being constructed by **Cochin Shipyard Ltd** and the **6th of 16 ASW-SWCs** to be commissioned into the **Indian Navy (IN)**. The ship features **over 80% indigenous content**.

Named after the **coastal town of Malvan in Maharashtra**, it honours the maritime heritage of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** and carries the legacy of its predecessor, an **inshore Indian Naval Minesweeper** that remained in service until 2003.

DRDO CONTRACTS FOR AEW&C MKII PROGRAM

The **Centre for Air Borne Systems (CABS)** under the **DRDO** has signed a contract with **AI Engineering Services Ltd (AIESL)**, New Delhi, for the conversion of **six A321 aircraft** from commercial to green configuration. This process is crucial for the development of the **Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) MKII Programme**.

Additionally, a separate contract has been signed with **Adani Defence Systems and Technologies (ADSTL)**, Ahmedabad, designating the company as the **Development Cum Production Partner (DcPP)** for Mission Systems under the **AEW&C MKII Programme**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Chairman – Rajesh Kumar Singh

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1958

DRDO TESTS KUSHA MISSILE

DRDO has successfully conducted the **maiden flight-test** of the ‘**Kusha**’ **Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM)** from the **APJ Abdul Kalam Island** off the **Odisha coast**. The test involved the **successful interception** of an electronic target simulating a **high-speed and high-altitude aerial threat**.

Additionally, **DRDO** has developed the **first indigenous Expendable Turbo Jet Engine** of **350 kg thrust class**. The engine was designed by the **Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE)** and manufactured in collaboration with the **Hyderabad-based Azad Engineering**.

US DRONE FIRES LIVE MISSILE

The **United States Air Force (USAF) YFQ-44A Fury drone** has successfully executed its **first live firing** of an Air Intercept Missile (AIM)-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) at a **digital target**.

The test was conducted at the **Edwards Air Force Base in California, USA**. This marks the **first live missile launch performed by a US Collaborative Combat Aircraft**.

OPERATION JAL RAHAT

The **Indian Army** has launched ‘**Operation Jal Rahat**’ in **Assam** as a large-scale **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** mission to assist the state government. The operation was spearheaded by the **Red Shield Division** under the **Spear Corps**.

INDIAN NAVY RECEIVES SEAHAWK HELICOPTER

The **United States of America (USA)** has delivered the **21st MH-60R Seahawk multi-role maritime helicopter** to the **Indian Navy** in **Kochi, Kerala**.

Manufactured by **Lockheed Martin Corporation**, these helicopters are part of a **Foreign Military Sales (FMS) agreement** signed in **2020** to procure **24 units** at a total cost of **\$2.6 billion**. The induction of these helicopters is intended to **replace the ageing Sea King fleet**.

NEW TURBOFAN ENGINE BY PANINIAN

Paninian India Pvt Ltd, a **deep-tech and aerospace startup**, has launched the **Yantur 4.5 kilo-Newton (kN) Turbofan engine** programme. This is **India’s first privately developed turbofan engine in this class**. The engine is designed to power the ‘**Svayatt L1**’, a **long-range autonomous cruise missile platform** developed by the company.

LAUNCH OF ASW VESSEL

Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) has launched the ‘**Machilipatnam**’ (**BY 529**), the **7th of 8 Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)** vessels being built for the **Indian Navy**.

The vessel has **over 80% indigenous content** and is named after the historic port city of **Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh**. It is equipped for **Underwater Surveillance, ASW operations, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO)**, and **Mine Warfare**.

BUSINESS

PFC AND REC MERGER APPROVED

The **Board of Directors of Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC)** and **REC Ltd (REC)** have approved a **merger scheme** to integrate **REC into PFC** under **Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013**.

This **consolidation** will create a **financing entity** with an **aggregate loan book exceeding ₹11 lakh crore**.

HERBALIFE PARTNERS WITH IIT MADRAS

Herbalife International India, in collaboration with the **IIT Madras**, has launched the **first Centre of Excellence (CoE) on plant cell fermentation technology** in India at the **IIT-M Research Park**.

HIGHEST PAID CEO

Shankh Mitra, **CEO of Welltower Inc.**, has been ranked as the **second-highest-paid CEO in the world** for **FY25**.

According to **The Wall Street Journal**, he received a compensation package of **\$821 million (₹7,744 crore)**. Tesla chief **Elon Musk** topped the list with a compensation of **\$158 billion**.

STAKE ACQUISITIONS

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the proposal of **Honda Motor Co Ltd** to acquire an **additional 21% stake** in **Astemo Ltd** from **Hitachi**. With this, the stake of Honda in Astemo Ltd will increase to **61%**, making it a **subsidiary**, while Hitachi and JIC Capital will retain 19% and 20% stakes, respectively.

In another acquisition, **Bharti Airtel** has acquired a **16.3% stake** in **Airtel Africa** from **ICIL** for **₹28,200 crore**. This transaction increases the total shareholding of Bharti Airtel in Airtel Africa to **79%**.

INVESTMENT IN INDIA

Amazon, a **US-based multinational technology company**, has announced an investment of **\$48 billion** in **India** for the period between **2026 and 2030**.

The investment aims to strengthen the **e-commerce, AI, cloud computing, and logistics businesses** of the company in India.

Amazon:

Founder – Jeff Bezos

CEO – Andy Jassy

Headquarters – Seattle, Washington, USA

Established in – 1994

MAJOR ACQUISITION PROPOSALS

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, has approved **two major acquisition proposals**.

Germany-based DWS Group has received approval to acquire a **40% stake** in **Nippon Life India Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) Management Limited (NIAIF)** for approximately **₹733 crore**.

An **Aditya Birla Group-led consortium** has acquired a **100% stake** in **Royal Challengers Sports Pvt Ltd (RCSPL)**, the owner of the **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** franchise, from **United Spirits Ltd (USL)** in an **all-cash deal** worth **₹16,660 crore**. Following the acquisition, **Aryaman Vikram Birla**, Director at the Aditya Birla Group, has been appointed as the **Chairman of the RCB franchise**.

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

Chairperson – Ravneet Kaur

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2003

BPCL ACQUIRES STAKES IN TWO COMPANIES

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has signed a share purchase agreement to acquire a **40% equity stake** in **Tiki Tar and Shell India Pvt Ltd (TTSIPL)** for **₹85 crore**.

In a separate development, the company, through its overseas arm **Bharat PetroResources Ltd Ventures BV (BPRL Ventures BV)**, has acquired the **remaining 34.6% stake** of **Videocon Energy Brazil Ltd (VEBL)** in **IBV Brazil Petroleo Limitada**. With this, **BPCL** has increased its shareholding in **IBV Brazil Petroleo Limitada** to **100%** in a deal valued at **₹2,312 crore**.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL):

Chairman & MD – Sanjay Khanna

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1952

ACQUISITION OF DEUTSCHE BANK INDIA

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (KMBL) has announced the acquisition of the **retail, private banking, and wealth management business** of **Germany-based Deutsche Bank** in India for **₹281.7 crore**.

The transaction is expected to be completed by **September 2027**, subject to regulatory approvals.

ADANI TO SET UP ALUMINIUM PLANT IN ODISHA

Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) and **International Resources Holding (IRH)**, a part of the **International Holding Company (IHC) group**, have signed an MoU with the **Odisha government** on setting up an **integrated greenfield aluminium project** with an investment of **\$11.5 billion (₹1.08 lakh crore)**.

LME CERTIFICATION FOR KUTCH COPPER

Kutch Copper Ltd (KCL), a subsidiary of **Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL)**, has received the **London Metal Exchange (LME) certification** for its “**Adani Copper**” **Grade A cathodes**.

SEMICONDUCTOR FACILITY INAUGURATED IN GUJARAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Sanand, Gujarat. This facility marks the commencement of commercial chip production.

GREEN LOAN FROM JAPAN

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID) has secured a green loan of ¥80 billion from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to finance the Khavda-Nagpur High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission project.

The project is designed to evacuate renewable energy from the Khavda Renewable Energy Park in Gujarat to Nagpur, Maharashtra.

CCI FINES HP INDIA AND RESELLERS

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty of ₹126.87 crore on HP India and a combined fine of ₹1.22 crore on 5 of its resellers for operating a cartel in the sale and supply of personal system products like laptops, desktops, and accessories.

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

Chairperson – Ravneet Kaur

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2003

INSTAMART PARTNERS WITH HPCL

Instamart, a quick commerce platform, has partnered with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to launch an on-demand Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder delivery service.

This marks the debut of the next-generation 10 kg composite LPG cylinder named ‘HP Navya’ from HPCL on the platform. Initially available in Bengaluru, the ‘HP Navya’ cylinder is designed to be lighter and corrosion-resistant.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL):

CMD – Vikas Kaushal

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1974

AVIVA ACQUIRES INDIAN UNIT

UK-based Aviva Plc has acquired the remaining 26% stake in Aviva Life Insurance Company India Ltd (Aviva India) from its Joint Venture (JV) partner, Dabur Invest Corp. (DIC).

With this, Aviva Plc has become the first foreign insurer to fully own its life insurance business in India.

DIXON AND VIVO FORM JOINT VENTURE

The Government of India (GoI) has approved a Joint Venture (JV) between Dixon Technologies (India) Ltd and Vivo Mobile India Ltd (VMI) for the manufacturing of electronic devices and smartphones in India.

Dixon Technologies will hold a 51% stake, while Vivo Mobile India will hold the remaining 49% stake. The entity will be established with an initial paid-up capital of ₹5 crore, contributed by both entities in proportion to their shareholdings.

INCUBATION CENTERS

Chitkara University in Punjab has launched the Atal Incubation Centre-Chitkara Incubation Foundation (AIC-CIF) and AIC-PRIDE Labs. The initiative involves an investment of ₹20 crore over 5 years.

It aims to strengthen the deep-tech startup ecosystem in India by supporting startups in drone technologies, agritech, and renewable energy.

GEMINI EXPERIENCE CENTRE

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has launched a Gemini Experience Centre (GEC) in Kolkata in collaboration with Google Cloud. The centre aims to showcase AI-led innovations for consumer businesses.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS):

MD & CEO – K Krithivasan

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1968

SATELLITE CONSTELLATION LAUNCH

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (Jio) has received technical approval from the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to deploy a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation consisting of 1,600 satellites.

The company intends to file for **global orbital slots** under the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** to launch **India’s first home-grown satellite broadband constellation**. The project aims to provide a **capacity of 4.5–5 Tbps**, supported by **20–22 ground stations in India**.

Jio:
Chairman – Akash Ambani
MD – Pankaj M Pawar
Headquarters – Navi Mumbai
Established in – 2007

BHARAT TEX 2026

Union Minister **Giriraj Singh** inaugurated the **3rd edition** of **Bharat Tex**, **India’s flagship global textile event**, at **Bharat Mandapam** in **New Delhi**.

During the event, the **Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI)** established a **bilateral industry platform** in collaboration with the **European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX)**. The event generated **business enquiries worth \$2.8 billion** and secured **investment commitments of ₹14,300 crore** across various states. Additionally, participating states signed **over 30 MoUs**.

PI-LABS PARTNERS WITH GOOGLE CLOUD

pi-labs, an **Indian AI and deepfake detection company**, has partnered with **Google Cloud** to **deliver secure, scalable, and mission-ready AI solutions in India**.

GITHUB TO REMOVE BITCHAT

The **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, has directed the code repository platform **GitHub** to **remove and disable access to the source code** of ‘**BitChat**’, a **peer-to-peer messaging platform** that functions without an internet connection by utilizing **Bluetooth mesh technology**.

LAUNCH OF E-COMMERCE COUNCIL OF INDIA

The **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** has launched the **Electronic Commerce Council of India (ECCI)** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

The ECCI is a **nationwide platform** designed to **strengthen the digital commerce ecosystem of India** through collaboration among the industry, government, and other stakeholders. It has already **onboarded 70 to 80 members**.

INFOSYS FINED IN FRANCE

Infosys has been fined **€175,000** by a **French labour authority** because the **employee working time recording system** of the company was found to be **non-compliant with the legal requirements** of the country.

OPEN SECURE AI ALLIANCE

Nvidia, in collaboration with **Microsoft, SpaceX, Palantir**, and other technology companies, has launched an **AI safety initiative** named the '**Open Secure AI Alliance**'.

The **primary objective** of this alliance is to **develop and share open-source AI security tools**. This initiative was launched following a recent disclosure by **OpenAI** that an **autonomous agent** had compromised the infrastructure of the startup **Hugging Face**.

MICROSOFT LAUNCHES UNNATI AI 2.0

Microsoft India, in collaboration with the **Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT)** at the **IIT Delhi**, has launched **UNNATI AI 2.0**.

It is the **second phase** of the flagship **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative** of Microsoft India, with the name signifying 'Unnati se Pragati' (progress through growth). The program aims to **democratise access to AI technologies** to strengthen the AI talent pipeline in India, with a special focus on fostering startups and innovation in **Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities**.

Microsoft:
Founders – Bill Gates and Paul Allen
Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella
Headquarters – Washington, USA
Established in – 1975

CCI APPROVES BUSINESS DEALS

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the **amalgamation** of **Go Digit Infoworks Services Pvt Ltd** with **Go Digit General Insurance Ltd**, with the latter remaining as the **surviving entity**.

Additionally, the **CCI** has approved the **acquisition of units** of **Oaktree Capital Group Holdings, LP (OCGH)** and **Oaktree Equity Plan, LP (OEP)** by **Brookfield Asset Management Ltd (BAM)**.

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

Chairperson – Ravneet Kaur

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2003

RAGHU VAMSI AEROSPACE TO INVEST RS 600 CRORE

Raghu Vamsi Aerospace Group has announced an investment of over ₹600 crore to set up an integrated nickel-based superalloy manufacturing facility in Telangana.

The plant, to be built on a 50-acre site near Hyderabad, will have an annual production capacity of 5,000 tonnes. The announcement was made at the Farnborough International Airshow 2026, held in the UK.

NSE LAUNCHES INDIAN NATURAL GAS FUTURES

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has announced the launch of ‘Indian Natural Gas Futures’, the first exchange-traded energy derivative of India.

The contract is linked to a domestic benchmark and will be traded under the symbol ‘NATGASIND’. Following the approval from the SEBI, trading is scheduled to commence on 27 July 2026.

National Stock Exchange (NSE):

Chairman – Srinivas Injeti

MD & CEO – Ashishkumar Chauhan

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1992

SCIENCE

NEW MOTH SPECIES DISCOVERED

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Pune, in collaboration with the Natural History Museum, London, has discovered 2 new moth species in the country.

The tiger moth species ‘Antaram idukki’ was discovered in Idukki, Kerala, and published in the ‘Journal of the Lepidopterists’ Society’. The forester moth species ‘Mimeusemia kali’ was discovered in the Kali Tiger Reserve, Karnataka, and documented in the journal ‘Zootaxa’.

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI):

Under – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Director – Dr Dhriti Banerjee

Headquarters – Kolkata

Established in – 1890

ISRO TESTS SOLVE FOR GAGANYAAN

The ISRO has successfully conducted the first ground test of the Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments (SOLVE) at the Static Test Facility in the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

The test validated the solid motor intended for integrated parachute trials of the Gaganyaan Crew Module. It is to be noted that SOLVE is a solid motor-based test vehicle designed to simulate deceleration at altitudes between 10 km and 17 km, which is essential for upcoming human spaceflight missions.

LIQUID TREE TECHNOLOGY

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR) has developed the Smart Algal Liquid Tree (SALT), a mobile liquid tree designed to purify air in crowded urban areas.

The patented technology functions as a photobioreactor that uses microalgae to absorb carbon dioxide, release oxygen, and reduce dust concentrations. It is currently deployed at the CSIR-CIMFR facility in Dhanbad, Jharkhand, and at Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh.

GAGANYAAN PARACHUTE TEST SUCCESSFUL

The ISRO has successfully conducted the Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test-05 (IMAT-05) for the Gaganyaan G1 mission at the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) drop zone in Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh.

The test aimed to validate the Main Parachute System under maximum expected load conditions for the first uncrewed Gaganyaan G1 mission. It is to be noted that the Gaganyaan Crew Module uses a system of 10 parachutes of 4 distinct types.

NEW REFRIGERATION TECHNOLOGY

The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT)** in **Hyderabad** has developed **India’s first indigenous process technology** for **Hydrofluoroolefin-1234yf (HFO-1234yf)**.

This technology, now **ready for industry transfer**, is designed to **replace Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)** in **refrigeration and air-conditioning (AC) systems**.

CHINA RECOVERS REUSABLE ROCKET BOOSTER

China has successfully executed the **first controlled recovery of an orbital-class reusable rocket booster** following the **maiden launch** of the **Long March-10B carrier rocket** from **Hainan Province**.

It is to be noted that this comes **over a decade after SpaceX** became the first entity to recover an orbital-class rocket booster in **2015**.

GAGANYAAN SYSTEM TESTS

ISRO has successfully conducted **3 critical tests** of the **Gaganyaan Crew Module (CM)** systems as part of the **human spaceflight programme of India**.

These tests included the **float inflation test** for the **Crew Module Up-Righting system (CMUS)**, the **Umbilical Separation Testing** of the **Connect-Disconnect System (CS-CDS)**, and the **crew module structure qualification test** for **Apex Cover separation loads**.

VIKRAM-1 LAUNCHED

Skyroot Aerospace has successfully launched ‘**Vikram-1**’, **India’s first privately developed orbital-class rocket**, into a **450 km Low-Earth Orbit (LEO)**. The mission, titled ‘**Mission Aagaman**’ (meaning arrival), marks **India as the third nation with private orbital launch capabilities**, following the US and China.

The **4-stage, 7-storey-tall rocket**, named after **Vikram Sarabhai**, the father of India’s space programme, has a **payload capacity of up to 350 kg**. It was launched from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)** in **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.

The mission successfully deployed technology demonstrators from **Grahaa Space, Cosmoserve, DCubed, and the SCOPE satellite**. It also carried symbolic payloads, including an **18-karat gold rocket**, an **artistic lab-grown diamond**, and a **handwritten postcard from PM Narendra Modi** bearing the message ‘Vande Mataram’.

Skyroot Aerospace:
Co-Founder and CEO – Pawan Kumar Chandana
Headquarters – Hyderabad
Established in – 2018

NEW NETWORK FOR INDIAN STANDARD TIME

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has launched a **White Rabbit technology-based demonstration network** at the **Regional Reference Standard Laboratory (RRSL)** in **Bengaluru** to **securely distribute Indian Standard Time (IST)** across the country.

The project is a collaborative effort between the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)**, and the **ISRO**.

The network uses an advanced **Precision Time Protocol (PTP)-based Ethernet network extension** to deliver **sub-nanosecond accuracy and microsecond-level synchronization** over long distances. It is to be noted that the time signal is traceable to the **Coordinated Universal Time (NPLI) (UTC (NPLI))**.

RUSSIA LAUNCHES CREWED MISSION

Russia has successfully launched the ‘**Soyuz MS-29**’ **crewed mission** to the **International Space Station (ISS)** from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in **Kazakhstan**. The mission was executed using the **Soyuz-2.1a** launch vehicle.

The crew includes the **NASA astronaut Anil Menon** and the **Roscosmos cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov** and **Anna Kikina**.

JAXA CONDUCTS REUSABLE ROCKET TEST

The **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** has successfully conducted the **inaugural lift-off and landing test** of its **reusable rocket prototype, ‘RV-X’**, at the **Noshiro Testing Center** in **Japan**.

The prototype is developed in partnership with **Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI)**. It measures **7.3 m in length** and **1.8 m in diameter**, featuring an **enhanced-durability engine** and **4 shock-absorbing landing legs**.

DENGUE VACCINE

The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has granted **marketing authorisation** for the **Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine (Live, Attenuated)**, known as “**Qdenga**”. This is the **first dengue vaccine to be approved in India** for the prevention of the disease.

Manufactured by **Takeda GmbH, Germany**, and imported by **Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India Pvt Ltd**, the vaccine is indicated for individuals **aged between 4 and 60 years**. It is produced in **Vero cells**. It is to be noted that the vaccine has already received regulatory approval in **42 countries**.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO):

Drug Controller General of India – Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1940

HEX20 LAUNCHES KOYO SATELLITE

HEX20, a **Kerala-based space startup**, has successfully launched its **second satellite** named **KOYO (Kinetic Optical Yaw Observer)** onboard the **SpaceX Transporter-17 mission** from **Vandenberg Space Force Base, California**.

The satellite acts as a **multi-payload test platform** carrying **81 payloads** to facilitate **in-orbit technology validation** and the **commissioning of international payloads**.

GEOTHERMAL WELLS IN LADAKH

VK Saxena, the **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**, has commissioned **India’s first and deepest two 1,000-metre geothermal wells** at **Puga Valley, Ladakh**. These wells, executed by the **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) Energy Centre**, are critical for the **1 Megawatt (MW) Pilot Geothermal Power Plant**.

This project is **India’s first demonstration-scale geothermal power project** situated at an **altitude of over 14,000 feet**. It is to be noted that the wells reached a maximum temperature of **135°C at a depth of 400m**.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC):

Chairman – Arun Kumar Singh

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1956

GIANT EXOPLANET DISCOVERED

Astronomers using the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** of **NASA** have discovered a new **giant exoplanet** named ‘**Beta Pictoris d**’. Located **63 light-years** from the Earth, the planet is estimated to be **23 million years old**.

With a **mass of at least 2 times that of Jupiter**, it is the **smallest among the 3 known giant planets** in the **Beta Pictoris system**. It is to be noted that this makes the Beta Pictoris system the **second known planetary system to feature at least 3 directly imaged planets**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):

Administrator (acting) – Sean Duffy

Headquarters – Washington DC, USA

Established in – 1958

MICROGRAVITY RESEARCH

Indian Analog Astronaut **Captain Aman Johri** has successfully completed a **microgravity research flight** under ‘**Project Astra Farm**’.

The mission focused on studying the **behavior of onions and potatoes** grown in **Maharashtra** under **microgravity conditions**. The research was conducted using a **passive microgravity payload** in collaboration with the **National Research Council Canada (NRC-CNRC)**.

CSIR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER EVENT

The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** organized a **Technology Transfer Event** at its headquarters in **New Delhi**. The programme was coordinated by the **CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIR-CSIO)**, Chandigarh.

During the event, **4 indigenous technologies** were transferred to the industry, and an **Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled rural water service delivery, measurement, and monitoring system** was commercially launched. The event also recognized the **royalty received from Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)** for the licensed production of **indigenous defence technologies**.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR):

Director General – Dr N Kalaiselvi

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1942

ICAR-CMFRI LAUNCHES DEEPDATA APP

The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI)** has launched a mobile application titled **“DeepDATA”** in **Kochi, Kerala**.

Developed under the **“Deep Ocean Mission”** of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, the application provides **scientifically verified information regarding deep-sea fish species**.

AI MISSION CONCEPT FOR SATURN

Researchers from the **NASA** have proposed an **AI mission concept** named **“Planetary Rings Autonomous EXploration with In-situ Sampling (PRAXIS)”**. It has been proposed under **Phase I** of the **NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) 2026 program**.

The mission aims to enable the **first-ever direct collection and analysis of particles from Saturn’s rings**. It is designed to deliver direct observations of **millimetre- to centimetre-sized ring particles**, addressing a key priority identified in planetary science decadal surveys. The project is led by **Dr. B Marco Quadrelli**.

STATE

KERALA PRESENTS REVISED BUDGET

The **Kerala** government has presented the **revised Budget for the FY27** in the state assembly. The budget estimates **revenue receipts** at **₹1.7 lakh crore** and **revenue expenditure** at **₹2 lakh crore**.

NEW CHIEF SECRETARY FOR TELANGANA

Sanjay Jaju has been appointed as the **Chief Secretary** of **Telangana**. He succeeds **K Ramakrishna Rao**.

GI TAG FOR JOLBHORA SANDESH

The iconic **Jolbhora (Jalbhora) Sandesh** from **Chandannagar** in **West Bengal** has been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.

This tag designates **Chandannagar (Hooghly district)** as the unique place of origin for the sweet, **safeguarding its authentic recipe and cultural heritage**.

NEW CHIEF SECRETARY FOR KERALA

Biswanath Sinha has assumed charge as the **Chief Secretary of Kerala**, succeeding **Dr. A Jayathilak**. His tenure is scheduled to extend until **September 2028**.

CYBER SAFETY CAMPAIGN

The **Gujarat Police** has launched a statewide cyber safety campaign named **‘Operation Surakshit Cyberspace’** on **July 1, 2026**. The initiative is aimed at **protecting women and children from rising digital threats**.

AIR-FILLED RUBBER DAMS IN GUJARAT

The **Gujarat** government is constructing its **first two air-filled rubber dams** to **enhance water storage and flood management**, utilizing **technology from South Korea**. The project involves an investment of **over ₹162 crore**.

The two dams are the **Rajvasana Rubber Dam** in the **Chhota Udepur district** and the **Pathakwadi Rubber Dam** in the **Tapi district**. These structures feature **Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)-based automation** and are designed to have a **service life of 30 years**.

NEW HEALTH AND CLEANLINESS DRIVES

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has launched the **‘Namo Swachhta Abhiyan’** and **‘Amrutpan Abhiyan’** in **Gandhinagar**.

The **‘Namo Swachhta Abhiyan’** is a **cleanliness drive for government hospitals and healthcare institutions**, while the **‘Amrutpan Abhiyan’** is a **health initiative focused on the well-being of mothers and children**.

ADB LOAN FOR KARNATAKA SCHOOLS

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **loan of \$182.89 million (in Japanese Yen equivalent)** to **Karnataka** for the “**Strengthening Karnataka Public Schools Program**”. The program aims to **strengthen the public school system** by establishing **500 integrated school clusters**.

Additionally, the program will receive a **\$10 million grant** and a **\$25 million guarantee** from the **International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd)**.

JALALABAD TOWN RENAMED IN UP

The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** has approved a proposal to rename **Jalalabad town** in the **Shahjahanpur district** to **Parashurampuri**. The **municipal body** of the town will also be renamed as the **Parashurampuri Nagar Palika Parishad**.

INITIATIVE FOR CLEAN AIR

The **Delhi** government has announced the “**Clean Air, Healthy Delhi**” programme with an **outlay of ₹8,300 crore** to **mitigate air pollution** in the **national capital**. The project will be implemented with the support of the **World Bank**.

DELHI RENAMES REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The **Delhi government** has renamed the **Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation** as the **Indraprastha Virasat Punarvikas Nigam (IVPN)**. The corporation was established to **oversee the conservation and redevelopment of Old Delhi**.

FINANCIAL AID FOR TEA GARDEN WORKERS

The **West Bengal** government has announced special financial assistance of **₹313 crore** for **tea garden workers** in the state under the ‘PM Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana’ (PMCSPY).

ASSAM STATE BUDGET PRESENTED

Assam Finance Minister **Jayanta Malla Baruah** has presented the **State Budget for the FY27** in the **Assam Legislative Assembly in Dispur**. The budget has a total outlay of **₹2.85 lakh crore**.

AI UNIVERSITY

Karnataka government is set to establish **India’s first government-driven AI University** in **Bengaluru**. The initiative was announced by **CM DK Shivakumar** at the ‘**Google I/O Connect India 2026**’ event.

The university will feature a **100-acre main campus** in Bengaluru, with provisions to establish **satellite campuses** in other cities.

UP RENAMES TOWNS IN AYODHYA

The **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** government has renamed **Bhadarsa** town in the **Ayodhya district** to ‘**Bharat Nagar**’ to honour its **cultural and spiritual significance** related to Bharat Kund.

The state government has also renamed the ‘**Khiloni-Suchitaganj nagar panchayat**’ in the **Ayodhya district** as ‘**Maa Jwala Ji Nagar Panchayat**’.

NALAM TN PLATFORM

The **Tamil Nadu** government has launched the ‘**Nalam TN**’ **integrated digital platform** to facilitate **fast and remote Outpatient (OP) registration and appointments** at government hospitals across the state.

It has also introduced the **Tamil Nadu Health Foundation (Nalam TN) portal** under the **Health & Family Welfare Department**, which allows individuals and corporate entities to **transparently sponsor medical equipment** or make **direct donations** to specific government hospitals.

RAJASTHAN BANS ENERGY DRINKS

The **Rajasthan** government, through the **Food Safety and Drug Controller Commissionerate**, has **banned the sale, storage, marketing, and display of 8 major energy drink brands** in the state.

The ban was imposed due to the **high levels of caffeine and sugar** in these products, as well as **misleading marketing claims** that pose **health risks** to consumers.

MP TECH GROWTH CONCLAVE 3.0

Madhya Pradesh CM Dr. Mohan Yadav has inaugurated the ‘**MP Tech Growth Conclave 3.0: GCC – Data Centres and Semiconductors**’ in **Bhopal**. The summit has secured **investment commitments worth over ₹40,000 crore**.

Notably, **Submer India (Spain)** has proposed an **investment of ₹19,000 crore (\$2 billion)** for **hyperscale data centre infrastructure** in Bhopal. Furthermore, the state government signed an **MoU with Google Play** to focus on **digital innovation, startup growth, and developer capacity building**.

PILLALE SAMPADA INITIATIVE

Andhra Pradesh CM **N Chandrababu Naidu** has launched the ‘**Pillale Sampada**’ (Children are Wealth) initiative in **Vijayawada** on **World Population Day (July 11)**.

Under this scheme, eligible families will receive **financial assistance of ₹30,000 for the birth of a third child** and **₹40,000 for the birth of a fourth child**. The initiative aims to address the challenges of **declining fertility rates** and an **ageing population** in the state.

GOOGLE SIGNS MOU WITH TRIPURA

Google India has signed an MoU with the **Tripura government** to **enhance AI capabilities, strengthen cloud infrastructure,** and **modernize citizen services** in the state.

MOU FOR RIVER KINETIC ENERGY PROJECT

The **Arunachal Pradesh** government has signed an MoU with **Norway-based Tidal Sail AS** to implement a **500 kW River Kinetic Energy Demonstration Project**.

Being executed under the **India-Norway Green Partnership** through the **Centre for Earth Sciences & Himalayan Studies (CES&HS)**, this initiative marks the development of the **first River Kinetic Energy Demonstration Plant in India**.

TELANGANA SIGNS MOU WITH MICROSOFT

The **Telangana** government has signed an MoU with **Microsoft** to establish a **Green Skills Centre of Excellence (CoE)** in **Hyderabad**.

The initiative aims to **equip students and professionals** with **industry-relevant green skills** to support **sustainable workforce development**.

BHARAT TAXI IN MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra CM **Devendra Fadnavis** has launched the ‘**Bharat Taxi**’ service at the **Navi Mumbai International Airport**.

The service operates on an **equitable cooperative mobility model** that **recognizes service providers as owners, members of the cooperative institution, and partners in its progress**.

ANNUAL BUDGET

Sikkim CM and Finance Minister **Prem Singh Tamang** has presented the **Annual Budget for the FY27** in the **Sikkim Legislative Assembly at Gangtok**. The budget has a total financial outlay of **₹19,215 crore**.

BHASHINI RAJYAM WORKSHOP IN GOA

The **Digital India BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India) Division (DIBD)**, in collaboration with the **Goa government**, has organised the ‘**BHASHINI Rajyam: State Engagement Workshop**’ in **Panaji, Goa**.

The workshop aimed to **promote multilingual AI, strengthen the Konkani language ecosystem,** and **expand AI-powered multilingual access to citizen-centric government services**.

MUKHYAMANTRI MACHHUARA SAMMAN NIDHI YOJANA

The **Himachal Pradesh** government has launched the ‘**Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana**’ to provide **financial assistance and social security** to **fishermen** engaged in **reservoir fisheries** during the **annual fishing ban period**.

Under the scheme, eligible fishermen will receive a **lump-sum grant of ₹3,500**. The initiative has an **estimated annual expenditure of ₹1.20 crore**.

PARAS SEMICONDUCTORS SIGNS MOU WITH MPSEDC

Paras Semiconductors Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of **Paras Defence and Space Technologies Ltd (PDST)**, has signed an MoU with the **Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation (MPSeDC)** to establish a **greenfield Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility** in the **Indore-Ujjain region** of **Madhya Pradesh**. The project involves an investment of **₹6,200 crore**.

EV TAX EXEMPTIONS

The **Haryana** government has approved a **full exemption from motor vehicle tax** for new **Electric Vehicles (EVs) priced up to ₹30 lakh**. This applies to **battery-operated two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers** at the time of registration. For **EVs priced above ₹30 lakh, a 50% tax exemption** is provided.

Additionally, the state has announced a **1% motor vehicle tax rebate on non-transport vehicles registered in the name of women**. The **existing 20% tax rebate on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles** remains unchanged.

APPOINTMENTS

MAHESH DIXIT APPOINTED AS IB DIRECTOR

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the appointment of **Mahesh Dixit** as the **Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB)** for a tenure of **2 years**. He succeeds **Tapan Kumar Deka**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN DEFENCE

Air Marshal Tejinder Singh has assumed the position of **Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC)**.

He succeeds **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit**, who has been appointed as the **Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS)** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

CBDT CHAIRMAN TENURE EXTENDED

The **Union government** has **extended the tenure** of **Ravi Agrawal**, the **Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, by **6 months**.

His term is now scheduled to conclude in **December 2026**. He was initially appointed as the CBDT chief for a **1-year term** in **June 2024**.

NEW DIRECTOR OF VSSC

Dr UP Rajeev has been appointed as the **Director** of the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** in **Thiruvananthapuram**. He succeeds **Dr A Rajarajan**.

NEW CMD FOR HINDUSTAN COPPER LTD

Anupam Misra has been appointed as the **CMD** of **Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL)**. He succeeds **Sanjiv Kumar Singh**.

NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALAYSIA

Somnath Ghosh has been appointed as the new **High Commissioner of India to Malaysia**. He succeeds **B Nagabhushana Reddy**.

M ANNADURAI AS CDC CHAIRMAN

The **Tamil Nadu government** has appointed **Mylswamy Annadurai**, a **former ISRO scientist**, as the **Chairman of the Curriculum Design Committee (CDC)** for School Education for a **3-year tenure**.

NEW CMD FOR HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD

Rear Admiral C Raghuram has been appointed as the **CMD** of **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)** in **Visakhapatnam**. He succeeds **Captain Ganti Venkateswarlu**.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN IREDA

Bijay Kumar Mohanty has assumed the **additional charge** as the **CMD** of the **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA)** for a period of **3 months**, effective from **July 2026**.

He **succeeds Pradip Kumar Das**. He continues to serve as the **Director (Finance)** and **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of **IREDA**.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN NCRB

Amit Garg has been appointed as the **Director** of the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**. He succeeds **Alok Ranjan** and will serve in this position until **October 2027**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has appointed **Alok Kumar Mittal** as the **Director General (DG)** of the **Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D)** until **June 2029**.

The ACC has also appointed **Sujeet Pandey** as the **Director** of the **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA)** until **July 2028**.

ATF AMBASSADOR

Leander Paes, a **former Indian professional tennis player and Olympic medallist**, has been appointed as the **Player Ambassador** of the **Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)**.

POLICYBAZAAR AMBASSADOR

Policybazaar, an **online insurance marketplace in India**, has appointed veteran actor **Amitabh Bachchan** as its **brand ambassador**.

He will spearhead a nationwide awareness campaign titled “**Parivaar Sabse Pehle**” (Family Comes First), which was developed by **MagicCircleon Communications**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN NCM

Harjit Singh Grewal has been appointed as the **Chairman** of the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** for a **tenure of 3 years**. He succeeds **Iqbal Singh Lalpura**. **S Munawari** has been appointed as the **Vice-Chairperson** of the NCM.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN IRCTC

Rahul Himalian has been appointed as the **additional Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC)**. He **succeeds Sanjay Kumar Jain**.

INFOSYS NAMES CEO DESIGNATE

Infosys has appointed **Ashiss Kumar Dash** as the **CEO designate**. He will assume the role of CEO for a **5-year tenure** starting from **April 1, 2027**, following the conclusion of the **second term** of the current CEO, **Parekh**.

NEW AMBASSADOR TO QATAR

Dr K Srikar Reddy has been appointed as **India's next Ambassador to the State of Qatar**. He succeeds **Vipul**, who has been reassigned as **India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia**.

NEW FIU-IND DIRECTOR

Satya Pal Kumar has been appointed as the **Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)** for a tenure of **5 years**. He **succeeds Pankaj Kumar Mishra**.

NEW UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

Pralhad Joshi has assumed charge as the **Union Minister of Education**. He succeeds **Dharmendra Pradhan**, who resigned from the post following nationwide protests regarding the **National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) paper leak controversy**.

NEW CEO FOR NITI AAYOG

Anurag Jain has been appointed as the **CEO** of the **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** for a **tenure of 2 years**. He succeeds **Nidhi Chhibber**.

NEW CFO FOR INDIGO

Kiran Thadimarri has been appointed as the **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of **IndiGo**, the **largest airline of India**, effective from **July 28**. He succeeds **Gaurav Negi**.

AWARDS

GLOBAL SKILLS CHALLENGE

Team India has won **5 medals (3 Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze)** at the **Global Skills Challenge (GSC) Australia 2026**.

The **Gold medalists** include **Pavan Bhadravati Suresha** (Karnataka) for **Additive Manufacturing (3D printing)**, **Mausam Kumar Giri** (Bihar) for **Cloud Computing**, and **Vishnupriya Sunil** (Delhi) for **Health and Social Care**. **Harsh Ramesh Pawar** (Maharashtra) won the **Silver medal** in **3D Digital Game Art**, and **Muskan** (Haryana) secured the **Bronze medal** in **Painting and Decorating**.

WHITLEY AWARD 2026

Parveen Sheikh and **Barkha Subba**, two **Indian conservationists**, have been named among the 6 global recipients of the **2026 Whitley Award**, commonly known as the “**Green Oscar**”.

The former was honoured for her **community-led efforts to protect the Indian Skimmer** across river systems in India. The latter, a conservationist from the **Darjeeling Himalayas**, was recognised for her work in **safeguarding the rare Himalayan salamander and its wetland habitat**.

Each recipient receives **£50,000** in project funding for **one year**. The other recipients of the 2026 Whitley Award include **Moreangels Mbizah** (Zimbabwe), **Issah Seidu** (Ghana), **Marina Kameni** (Cameroon), and **Paola Sangolqui** (Ecuador). **Farwiza Farhan** was honoured with the **Whitley Gold Award**.

YOUTH CO:LAB CHALLENGE

The **8th Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge 2026** was hosted at the **Technology Hub (T-Hub)** in **Hyderabad**. The challenge was organised by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India** in partnership with the **Citi Foundation** and the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, and implemented by the **T-Hub Foundation**.

The winners, **NavaPrayoga Labs LLP (Grassip)** from Hyderabad, **UnBubble** from Gurugram (Haryana), and **Ecorenova Solutions Pvt Ltd** from Bengaluru were awarded a **seed grant of ₹3.5 lakh each**.

71ST IMO PRIZE

The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has named **French meteorologist Dr. Florence Rabier** as the recipient of the **71st International Meteorological Organization (IMO) Prize**.

The award, often called the “**Nobel Prize of meteorology**”, carries a **cash prize of 10,000 Swiss Francs (CHF)**.

- World Meteorological Organization (WMO):**
- President – Abdulla Al Mandous**
- Secretary General – Celeste Saulo**
- Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland**
- Established in – 1950**

WORLD BEST SCHOOL PRIZES

Seven Indian schools have been shortlisted by the **UK-based T4 Education** for the ‘**World’s Best School Prizes 2026**’.

This marks the **highest number of schools from any single country** to be shortlisted in a year since the **inception of the awards in 2022**.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR E-GOVERNANCE 2026

The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** organized the **29th edition** of the **National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026** in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**. The event was held under the theme “**Viksit Bharat 2047: AI-Enabled, Data-Driven and Secure Digital Governance**”.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh conferred **17 awards** across **7 categories**, comprising **10 Gold, 6 Silver, and 1 Jury award**. The NAeG provides a **cash prize of ₹10 lakh** for **Gold award winners** and **₹5 lakh** for **Silver award winners**.

Notable **Gold award winners** include the **ICMR-MINDS project** for **AI-enabled mental and substance use disorder screening**, the **Panchayat Advancement Index** for **utilizing data analytics for rural planning**, and the **Kadepur Gram Panchayat** in **Maharashtra** for implementing a **paperless, blockchain-based e-office**.

Other recognized initiatives include **e-Aarogya Dhamni, e-Jagriti** (Ministry of Consumer Affairs), **Agri Stack** (Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare), **AI Clinical Support in eSanjeevani Telemedicine**, the **Mahakumbh 2025 Digital Initiative**, the **District Court Case Management System (DCMS)** by the **High Court of Kerala**, and the **Blood Bag Traceability Portal**.

The **Jury Award** was presented to the **Survey of India** for its project titled “**Real-Time Precise Positioning Services through CORS Network**”.

LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR SUNIL MITTAL

The **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)** has presented the **2026 Leadership Award** to **Sunil Bharti Mittal**, the **founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises Ltd**.

NEW HONOUR FOR NITA AMBANI

Nita Ambani, the **Founder and Chairperson of the Reliance Foundation**, has been conferred with the **American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) Humanitarian Award**. She was also presented with the **Key to the City of Tampa**.

UNESCO AWARD

The **Jestha Varna Mahavihar**, a **historic Buddhist monastery** located in **Lalitpur, Nepal** (also known as **Jyaba Bahi** or **Chakrabahil**), has been conferred with the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award 2025**. The award recognises the outstanding **conservation and restoration work** undertaken following the damage caused by the **2015 Gorkha earthquake**.

It is to be noted that the **restoration project** was supported by the **Government of India (GoI)** through its **post-earthquake cultural heritage reconstruction grant**, with financial assistance of **NPR 13.78 crore**.

WSIS PRIZE 2026

The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has been named the global winner of the **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2026**. The award was conferred under **Action Line C6 - Enabling Environment** for its flagship project, ‘**Samriddh Gram: Integrated Phygital Service Delivery Model Enabled by BharatNet**’.

The recognition was presented during the **WSIS Forum 2026** held in **Geneva**. The WSIS Prizes, instituted by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, honour **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) projects** that advance **sustainable development**.

INDIA WINS GOLD AT PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

India achieved a **perfect golden sweep** at the **56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026**, held in **Bucaramanga, Colombia**.

The **Indian contingent**, comprising **Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Bendale, Rishit Garg, Shresth Suraiya, and Svarit Joshi**, secured a **joint No.1 World Rank** alongside **China, Russia, Kazakhstan, South Korea, and Taiwan**.

FORTUNE INDIA HONOUR

Nita Ambani, the **Founder and Chairperson** of **Reliance Foundation**, has been honoured with the ‘**Fortune India Most Powerful Women (MPW)**’ award at an event held in **Mumbai**. **Roshni Nadar**, the **CEO** of **HCL Technologies**, has been ranked **second** in the list.

BECA 2026

The **Anti-Money Laundering Division (AMLDD) of Taiwan** has won the **Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) 2026**, which is one of the **highest honours of the Egmont Group**.

The **Financial Intelligence Unit - India (FIU-IND)** was named the **runner-up**.

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIADS

India has won **4 gold medals** at the **58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026** held in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**. The gold medallists are **Debadatta Priyadarshi** (Bhubaneshwar, Odisha), **Harshit Singla** (Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab), **Kabeer Chillar** (Delhi), and **Sandeep Kuchi** (Hyderabad).

India also achieved **1 gold and 3 silver medals** at the **37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026** held in **Vilnius, Lithuania**. **Bhavyaa Gunwal** from **Mahendragarh, Haryana**, won the gold medal.

NATIONAL FILM AWARDS 2024

The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB)** has announced the winners of the **72nd National Film Awards 2024**. The Hindi film ‘**Article 370**’ won the **Best Feature Film** award, and **Yami Gautam** was honoured with the **Best Actress (Leading Role)** award for her performance in the same film.

The **Best Actor** award was jointly conferred upon **Mammootty** for ‘**Bramayugam**’ and **Kartik Aaryan** for ‘**Chandu Champion**’. **Rajkumar Periasamy** won the **Best Direction** award for the **Tamil film ‘Amaran’**, and **Randeep Hooda** was recognised as the **Best Debut Director**.

BHARAT SAMMAN 2026

Dr. Nandini Azad, the President of the **Working Women’s Forum (India) (WWF-I)** and the **Indian Cooperative Network for Women (ICNW)**, has been conferred with the **Bharat Samman 2026**.

AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Gujarat has been honoured with the ‘**Agriculture Leadership Award 2026**’ for its performance in the **horticulture sector**.

The award was presented by **Union Minister Rajnath Singh** at the **17th Agriculture Leadership Conclave-2026** held in **New Delhi**.

NEW PAGEANT WINNERS

Akanksha Choudhary from **Ajmer, Rajasthan**, has been crowned **Mrs India 2026** at a ceremony held in **Jaipur**.

In another achievement, **Dr. Priyanka Sharma** has won the title of **Mrs. Earth International Elite 2026**.

NATIONAL AWARD FOR AJIT DOVAL

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has been selected for the **Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026**. The award will be presented to him by **Union Minister Amit Shah** on **August 1**.

WINNERS OF 2026 FIELDS MEDALS

The **2026 Fields Medals** have been awarded to four mathematicians: **Yu Deng**, **John Pardon**, **Jacob Tsimerman**, and **Hong Wang**. It is to be noted that **Hong Wang** has become the **third woman to receive this prestigious award**.

Often referred to as the “**Nobel Prize of Mathematics**”, the **Fields Medal** is awarded **every four years** to researchers **under the age of 40** for exceptional mathematical achievement. Each laureate receives a **gold medal featuring the ancient Greek mathematician Archimedes** and a cash prize of \$15,000 (Canadian Dollar – CAD).

RASHTRIYA ASHOK SAMMAN

Prem K Vora, the **President of the Electric Merchants Association (EMA) for 2025–26**, has been honoured with the ‘**Rashtriya Ashok Samman**’ (Bharat Samman) at the **National Leadership Conclave** held in **New Delhi**.

TELECOM EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia has conferred the ‘**Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Excellence Awards– 2025**’ to **Amantya Technologies Pvt Ltd** and **Finaara** for their **contributions in telecom technology**.

The awards were instituted by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** under the **Ministry of Communications** to promote **innovations in the telecom sector**.

SPORTS

ISSF JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

India topped the **medal tally** at the **5th edition** of the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship Rifle / Pistol / Shotgun 2026** held in **Suhl, Germany**. **India** secured a total of **25 medals**, including **7 gold, 8 silver, and 10 bronze**.

Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) finished **second** with 14 medals, followed by **Italy** with 10 medals.

International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF):
President – Luciano Rossi
Headquarters – Munich, Germany
Established in – 1907

NEW CHESS GRANDMASTERS

Ethan Vaz from **Goa** has become **India’s 96th Chess Grandmaster (GM)** after securing his **final GM norm** at the **Sarajevo GM Mix Tournament** in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**.

Harshavardhan GB from **Chennai** has become **India’s 97th GM** after earning his **final GM norm** at the **2nd Chola Chess GM Norm Round Robin Tournament** held in **Chennai**.

INDIA SECURES OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION

The **Indian women’s cricket team** has secured **direct qualification** for the **Los Angeles (LA) 2028 Olympic Games**, following the group stage of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Women’s T20 World Cup in England.

Other teams that have qualified for the tournament include **Australia** (representing **Oceania**), **South Africa** (representing **Africa**), and **Great Britain** (represented by **England in ICC events**). The **USA** is anticipated to receive the host quota for the Olympic tournament.

International Cricket Council (ICC):
Chairman – Jay Shah
CEO – Sanjog Gupta
Headquarters – Dubai, UAE
Established in – 1909

IIT MADRAS INTRODUCES OMEGABALL

The **IIT Madras** has officially introduced **OmegaBall** to **India** by hosting a grand launch event and an inter-college tournament at its **Chennai campus**.

OmegaBall is a **high-intensity, fast-paced variant of football** that redefines traditional gameplay by featuring **three teams on the pitch simultaneously**.

BEN STOKES RETIRES FROM CRICKET

Ben Stokes, the **England Test captain**, has **announced retirement from all formats of international cricket** during the **third Rothesay Test match against New Zealand**. He concluded his international career with **7,273 Test runs** and **252 wickets**.

He is the **second cricketer in history**, after **Jacques Kallis of South Africa**, to achieve the ‘**Test double**’ of **7,000 runs and 250 wickets**.

AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX

George Russell, a British national racing for Mercedes, has won the Formula One (F1) Austrian Grand Prix 2026.

US OPEN BADMINTON

The Yonex US Open 2026 badminton tournament was held at California State University, USA.

Su Li-yang of Chinese Taipei won the men's singles title by defeating Kidambi Srikanth of India. Line Christophersen of Denmark claimed the women's singles crown.

YOUNGEST INDIAN CRICKET DEBUTANT

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, a 15-year-old from Bihar, has become India's youngest international cricket debutant at the age of 15 years and 99 days. He made his Twenty20 International (T20I) debut against England at Old Trafford, Manchester.

With this, he surpassed the record of Sachin Tendulkar (16 years and 205 days in 1989) and Shafali Verma (15 years and 239 days in 2019). It is to be noted that Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is associated with the Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

ICC WOMEN T20 WORLD CUP 2026

Australia, captained by Sophie Molineux, has won the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup, marking their 7th championship victory. They defeated the hosts England by 7 wickets in the final held at the Lord's cricket stadium in London.

The 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup featured 12 teams, marking an expansion in participation for the first time. Danni Wyatt-Hodge of England emerged as the top run-scorer with 302 runs, while N Shree Charani of India was the leading wicket-taker with 14 wickets. Beth Mooney of Australia was named the Player of the Match in the final.

8TH KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced that Telangana will host the 8th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) in November 2026.

The 7th edition of the KIYG was hosted by Bihar, where Maharashtra emerged as the overall champion. It is to be noted that the Khelo India Programme was launched in 2018.

WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Jannik Sinner of Italy won the men's singles title of the 2026 Wimbledon Championships by defeating Alexander Zverev of Germany.

Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic won the women's singles title after defeating Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic in the final.

In the doubles categories, the pair of Guo Hanyu (China) and Kristina Mladenovic (France) won the women's doubles title. Harri Heliovaara (Finland) and Henry Patten (UK) successfully defended their men's doubles title. Marcelo Arevalo (El Salvador) and Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia) emerged victorious in the mixed doubles event.

BRITISH GRAND PRIX

Charles Leclerc, a Monacan national racing for Ferrari, has won the Formula One (F1) British Grand Prix (GP) 2026.

NEW MEMBERS IN ICC HALL OF FAME

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has inducted former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly into the ICC Hall of Fame during its Annual Conference held in Edinburgh, Scotland. He becomes the 12th Indian overall and the 10th Indian male cricketer to be inducted.

Kevin Pietersen (England) and Anjum Chopra were also inducted into the Hall of Fame. Anjum Chopra, the former captain of the women cricket team of India, is the first female player from India to play 100 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and score 1,000 runs in the format. It is to be noted that the total count of ICC Hall of Fame members has reached 125.

International Cricket Council (ICC):
Chairman – Jay Shah
CEO – Sanjog Gupta
Headquarters – Dubai, UAE
Established in – 1909

MASCOT FOR TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta has unveiled 'Mayur' as the official mascot for the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026, which is scheduled to be held at the Thyagaraj Stadium in New Delhi.

The mascot is inspired by the Indian Peacock (Pavo cristatus), the national bird of India.

VICTORY FOR INDIAN WOMEN

The **Indian Women Cricket Team**, captained by **Harmanpreet Kaur**, **defeated England by 270 runs** in the **first ever Women Test match** held at the **Lord’s Cricket Ground** in **London**.

Yastika Bhatia (**113 runs**) became the **first woman to record a Test century** at this venue. Debutant **Kranti Gaud** was awarded the **Player of the Match** for her performance, taking **12 wickets** in the match, including a **five-wicket haul**.

RECOGNITION FOR JUDO

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** has granted **conditional recognition** to the **Judo Federation of India (JFI)**, allowing the body to **resume governance of the sport** and participate in national and international competitions.

It is to be noted that the **JFI** had been operating under the **supervision of a court-appointed administrator since 2022**. An **interim Executive Committee** has been elected to lead the federation, with **Mukesh Kumar** as **President**, **Banee Brata Das** as **Secretary General**, and **Shailesh Shrikant Tilak** as **Treasurer**.

ASIAN U23 ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

India finished **4th in the medal tally** with **16 medals** (**3 gold, 4 silver, and 9 bronze**) at the **inaugural Asian Under-23 (U23) Athletics Championships** held at the Ordos Sports Development Center Stadium in **Ordos, China**. The championship was organized by **Asian Athletics**.

China topped the medal standings with **52 medals**, including 23 gold, followed by **Japan and Uzbekistan**. The **gold medals for India** were secured by the **Mixed 4x400m Relay team**, the **Women’s 4x400m Relay team**, and **Anand Singh** in the **Men’s Javelin Throw** event.

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

The **Spain** football team, captained by **Rodri**, has won the **2026 FIFA World Cup**, defeating **Argentina** by **1-0** in the final held at the **New York New Jersey Stadium (MetLife Stadium), USA**. The tournament, which featured **48 participating teams**, was co-hosted by the **USA, Canada, and Mexico**.

Ferran Torres scored the match-winning goal in the **106th minute** and was named the **Man of the Match**, while **Luis de la Fuente** became the **oldest manager** to win a FIFA World Cup.

Individual tournament awards: **Golden Ball - Rodri (Spain)**; **Golden Glove - Unai Simon (Spain)**; **Best Young Player - Pau Cubarsi (Spain)**; **Golden Boot - Kylian Mbappe (France)** with **10 goals (first back-to-back winner)**; and **FIFA Fair Play Award - Netherlands**. The tournament prize money structure awarded **\$51 million** to the champions.

FIFA (International Association Football Federation):
President – Gianni Infantino
Headquarters – Zurich, Switzerland
Established in – 1904

JAPAN OPEN 2026

PV Sindhu has won the **women’s singles title** at the **Japan Open 2026**, becoming the **first Indian player** to win this tournament. She defeated the **3-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi** of Japan in the final held at the **Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium**. She received a **prize money of \$66,500** for this victory.

In the **men’s singles category**, **Christo Popov** of **France** claimed the title by defeating **Koki Watanabe** of Japan.

FORMAT CHANGES FOR ICC WORLD CUPS

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has approved format changes for the **Men’s One Day International (ODI) World Cup** and the **Men’s Twenty20 (T20) World Cup** during its annual board meetings held in **Edinburgh, Scotland**.

From **2027**, the **14-team ICC Men’s ODI World Cup** will transition to a **4-stage format**, increasing the total number of matches from 48 to **57** and introducing a ‘**Super 7**’ round-robin stage. The **20-team ICC Men’s T20 World Cup** will feature **5 groups of 4 teams**, followed by a ‘**Super 10**’ stage (replacing the Super 8) and **Eliminators**.

International Cricket Council (ICC):
Chairman – Jay Shah
CEO – Sanjog Gupta
Headquarters – Dubai, UAE
Established in – 1909

DEAF WOMEN T20I SERIES

The **Indian Deaf Women’s Cricket Team** has won the **inaugural Women’s Twenty20 International (T20I) series** against the **Sri Lanka Deaf Women’s Cricket Team** with a **5–0 victory**. The series was held at the **De Soysa International Cricket Stadium** in **Moratuwa, Sri Lanka**.

Shradda Vaishnav was named the ‘**Player of the Final**’, while **Reddy Jyoshna** was adjudged the ‘**Player of the Series**’.

MASCOT AND ANTHEM UNVEILED

Union Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** and **Badminton Association of India (BAI)** President and Assam CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma** have unveiled the official mascot ‘**Peacko**’ and the championship anthem for the **Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships 2026** in **New Delhi**.

The mascot ‘**Peacko**’ is inspired by the **Indian Peafowl**. The **30th edition** of the **BWF World Championships** will be hosted at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium** in **New Delhi**.

Badminton World Federation (BWF):
President – K Patama Leeswadtrakul
Headquarters – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Established in – 1934

ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

India secured **29 medals** including **5 gold, 13 silver, and 11 bronze** at the **inaugural Asian Under-19 (U-19) & U-23 Boxing Championships 2026** held in **Jakarta, Indonesia**. **India** finished **third in the medal tally**, while **Uzbekistan** topped the table with **33 medals (21 gold)**, followed by **Kazakhstan**.

The **gold medalists** for India include **Chandrika Bhoresh Pujari** (U-19, 51 kg), **Prachi** (U-19, 57 kg), **Nisha** (U-23, 54 kg), **Vishvanath Suresh** (U-23, 50 kg), and **Ganga** (U-23, 55 kg).

MOUNTAINEER SCALES MOUNT TOUBKAL

Iya Krish, an **8-year-old mountaineer** from **Kerala**, has become the **youngest person from Asia** to scale **Mount Toubkal (4,167 m)**, the **highest peak in North Africa** located in the **Atlas Mountains**.

She completed the **42 km trek** during a **3-day expedition** organized by **Greenway Adventures Travel & Tourism LLC**.

SAF GAMES IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan is set to host the **14th edition** of the **South Asian Federation (SAF) Games** in **March 2027**. The **multi-sport event** is expected to feature athletes from **8 South Asian nations**.

It is to be noted that the **SAF Games** were **established in 1981** in **New Delhi** to promote friendship and goodwill among the member countries of the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**. The **SAARC member countries** include **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**.

WINNERS IN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Grandmaster (GM) S Rohith Krishna from **Tamil Nadu** has won the **gold medal** at the **inaugural Menuires International Chess Championship 2026**, held at **Le Break des Menuires, France**. **GM Raja Rithvik** from **Telangana** secured the **silver medal** at the event.

MOU FOR 2029 GAMES BID

The **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** and the **Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation of India (CPSFI)** have signed an **MoU** in **New Delhi**, to jointly pursue the bid to host the **2029 World Abilitysport Games** in **India**.

Chennai and **Bhubaneswar (Odisha)** are under consideration as potential host cities for the event.

NICOLAS OTAMENDI RETIRES

Nicolas Otamendi, an **Argentine footballer**, has announced his **retirement from international football** at the age of **38**, concluding a **17-year-long career**.

He made **139 appearances** for the national team. He will continue his professional club career, having joined **Club Atletico River Plate**.

INTERIM FIDE PRESIDENT

Viswanathan Anand, a **5-time World Chess Champion** and the **Deputy President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE)**, has **assumed charge as the Interim President of FIDE**.

He takes over following the **voluntary suspension of duties by the incumbent President, Arkady Dvorkovich**.

BOOKS

NEW BOOK ON BHAWAIYA MUSIC

Vice President **CP Radhakrishnan** has released a book titled “**Sanskritir Ratna Bhandar: Bhaowaiyar Itibritto**” (Bhawaiya: A Cultural Treasure and Its Historical Journey) at **Uprashtrapati Bhavan** in **New Delhi**.

The book is authored by Lok Sabha MP **Jayanta Kumar Roy** and **Sangita Roy**. It documents the cultural heritage of **Bhawaiya**, a **traditional folk music genre** from **North Bengal (West Bengal)**, **Assam**, and adjoining regions, reflecting the rural lifestyle and cultural legacy of the **Koch Rajbanshi community**.

BOOK ON STAMPS AND COINS

Mintage World, the **world’s first online museum for coins, stamps, and banknotes**, has released a **200–page coffee table book** titled “**Stamps, Coins, and Banknotes Issued During the Premiership of Narendra Modi**” in **New Delhi**.

The book, conceptualized and curated by **Sushilkumar Agrawal** (**CEO of Mintage World**), features a compilation of stamps with diverse designs, coins minted at facilities in **Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Noida (Uttar Pradesh)**, along with currency notes printed across Indian security printing presses.

MEMOIR BY SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA

Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Amar Preet Singh, the **Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)**, has released the memoir of **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** titled “**The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts**” in **New Delhi**.

Published by **Vintage Books** under **Penguin Random House India**, the book chronicles the journey of Shukla. The release commemorates the **first anniversary** of the **Axiom–4 mission** to the **International Space Station (ISS)**.

BOOK ON JUSTICE BR GAVAI

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan has released a book titled “**The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks**” at **Uprashtrapati Bhavan**.

The volume, edited by **Prof. S Sivakumar**, compiles the speeches, lectures, and reflections of **Justice BR Gavai**. It is published by **Thomson Reuters** in association with the **Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA)**.

NEW BOOK BY SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA

Indian Air Force (IAF) Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has launched his **debut book** titled “**The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts**” in **Bengaluru**. The book is published by **Penguin Random House India**.

OBITUARY

VIJAYA MEHTA PASSED AWAY

Vijaya Mehta, a **veteran Marathi filmmaker and actor**, passed away at the age of 91. She was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** award in **1986**.

TAMIL POET PASSED AWAY

Puviyarasu, a renowned **Tamil poet**, passed away at the age of 96. He was a two-time recipient of the **Sahitya Akademi Award**, receiving it for **Translation in 2006–07** for “**Puratchikaran**” and for **Original Poetry in 2009–10** for his collection “**Kaiyoppam**”.

TEEJAN BAI PASSED AWAY

Teejan Bai, a **legendary Pandavani folk singer**, passed away at the age of 70. She was one of the first women to perform Pandavani in the **Kapalik style**.

She was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** in 1988, **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** in 1995, **Padma Bhushan** in 2003, **Fukuoka Prize** in 2018, and **Padma Vibhushan** in 2019.

GIRISH BHARADWAJ PASSED AWAY

Girish Bharadwaj, a **social worker** known as the ‘**Bridge Man of India**’, passed away at the age of 76. He was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** in 2017.

MM LAKHERA PASSED AWAY

Lieutenant General (Retired) MM Lakhera, a **former Governor of Mizoram** and **Lieutenant Governor (Lt Gov) of Puducherry**, passed away at the age of 88.

FORMER QATAR AMIR PASSED AWAY

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the **Father Amir of Qatar**, passed away at the age of 74.

He was the founder of the **Al Jazeera television network** and **governed Qatar** from 1995 until his **voluntary abdication** in 2013.

TAMIL WRITER POOMANI PASSED AWAY

Poomani, a renowned **Tamil writer and novelist**, passed away at the age of 79. He was a recipient of the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in **2014** for his novel ‘**Agnaadi**’.

H HANUMANTHAPA PASSED AWAY

H Hanumanthapa, a **veteran leader of the Indian National Congress (INC)**, passed away at the age of 94. He served **3 terms** as a **Member of Parliament (MP) in the Rajya Sabha**, representing **Karnataka**.

SIR GARFIELD SOBERS PASSED AWAY

Sir Garfield Sobers, a legendary **West Indies cricketer** and one of the greatest all-rounders in the history of the sport, passed away at the age of 89.

He was the first cricketer to hit **six sixes** in a single over in **first-class cricket**. The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** honours his legacy through the ‘**Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy**’, awarded annually to the ‘**ICC Men’s Cricketer of the Year**’.

MOOZHIKKAL PANKAJAKSHI PASSED AWAY

Moozhikkal Pankajakshi, a renowned exponent of the **traditional puppetry art form Nokkuvidya Pavakkali**, passed away at the age of 90. She was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** in 2020.

KEVIN KEEGAN PASSED AWAY

Joseph Kevin Keegan, a **former professional footballer and manager from England**, passed away at the age of 75. He remains the **only English player to have won the Ballon d’Or award twice**.

DAYS

WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY

Day – June 21
Theme 2026 – “Transforming how ocean data is shared”
Observed since – 2006

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

Day – June 21
Theme 2026 – “Yoga for Healthy Ageing”
Observed by – Ministry of AYUSH
Observed since – 2015

WORLD MUSIC DAY

Day – June 21
Theme 2026 – “Music for Peace”
Observed since – 1982
Initiated by – Jack Lang and Maurice Fleuret from France

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC DAY

Day – June 23
Theme 2026 – ‘You Can Do This. Let’s Move’
Observed since – 1948
Commemorating – The day commemorates the founding of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 1894 in Paris led by Baron Pierre de Coubertin

SAMVIDHAAN HATYA DIWAS (CONSTITUTION MURDER DAY)

Day – June 25
Observed since – 2024
Commemorating – The declaration of the Emergency in India in 1975

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY

Day – June 24
Theme 2026 – "Diplomacy for All"
Observed since – 2023

PASSPORT SEVA DIVAS

Day – June 24
Observed by – Ministry of External Affairs
Observed since – 2013
Commemorating – The enactment of the Passports Act, 1967

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Day – June 26

Theme 2026 – “World Drug Problem: Persisting Issues, New Challenges, Innovative Responses”

Observed by – UN

Observed since – 1989

NATIONAL INSURANCE AWARENESS DAY

Day – June 28

NATIONAL STATISTICS DAY

Day – June 29

Theme 2026 – “Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data”

Observed since – 2007

Commemorating – Birth anniversary of Professor PC Mahalanobis, known as the Father of Modern Statistics in India

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PARLIAMENTARISM

Day – June 30

Theme 2026 – “The Future of Human Rights is Written in Parliaments”

Observed since – 2018

Commemorating – The founding of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), established in 1889 in Paris, France

NATIONAL CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS DAY

Day – July 1

Commemorating – Establishment of the Institutes of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in 1949

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST) DAY

Day – July 1

Observed since – 2018

NATIONAL DOCTOR’S DAY

Day – July 1

Theme 2026 – “Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?”

Observed by – Indian Medical Association (IMA)

Observed since – 1991

Commemorating – The birth and death anniversary of Dr BC Roy, a renowned Physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COOPERATIVES

Day – 1st Saturday of July (July 4 in 2026)

Theme 2026 – “Cooperatives for a Peaceful World”

Observed since – 1923

WORLD ZONOSSES DAY

Day – July 6

Observed since – 2007

Commemorating – The first Rabies vaccine on a patient named Joseph Meister by the French microbiologist Louis Pasteur

WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY

Day – 15 July

Theme 2026 – “Skills for a Shared Future”

Observed since – 2015

WORLD POPULATION DAY

Day – July 11

Theme 2026 – “Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future”

Observed since – 1990

PI APPROXIMATION DAY

Day – July 22

Pi symbol designed by – Leonhard Euler

NATIONAL FLAG ADOPTION DAY

Day – July 22

Commemorating – Constituent Assembly’s adoption of the tricolour in its current form in 1947

INTERNATIONAL MOON DAY

Day – July 20

Observed by – UN

Observed since – 2022

Commemorating – First human landing on the Moon (Apollo 11 mission) by Neil Armstrong in 1969

NATIONAL BROADCASTING DAY

Day – July 23

Commemorating – The establishment of the private radio station ‘Indian Broadcasting Company’ (IBC) (now All India Radio) in Mumbai in 1927

INCOME TAX DAY (AAYKAR DIWAS)

Day – July 24

Observed since – 2010

Commemorating – Introduction of Income Tax in India in 1860 by Sir James Wilson

WORLD EMBRYOLOGIST DAY: (WORLD IN VITRO FERTILIZATION DAY)

Day – July 25

Commemorating – The birth anniversary of Louise Joy Brown, the first baby to be born through 'In vitro fertilization' (IVF)

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Publication Guide

Volume

#1.8

Issue

#D1

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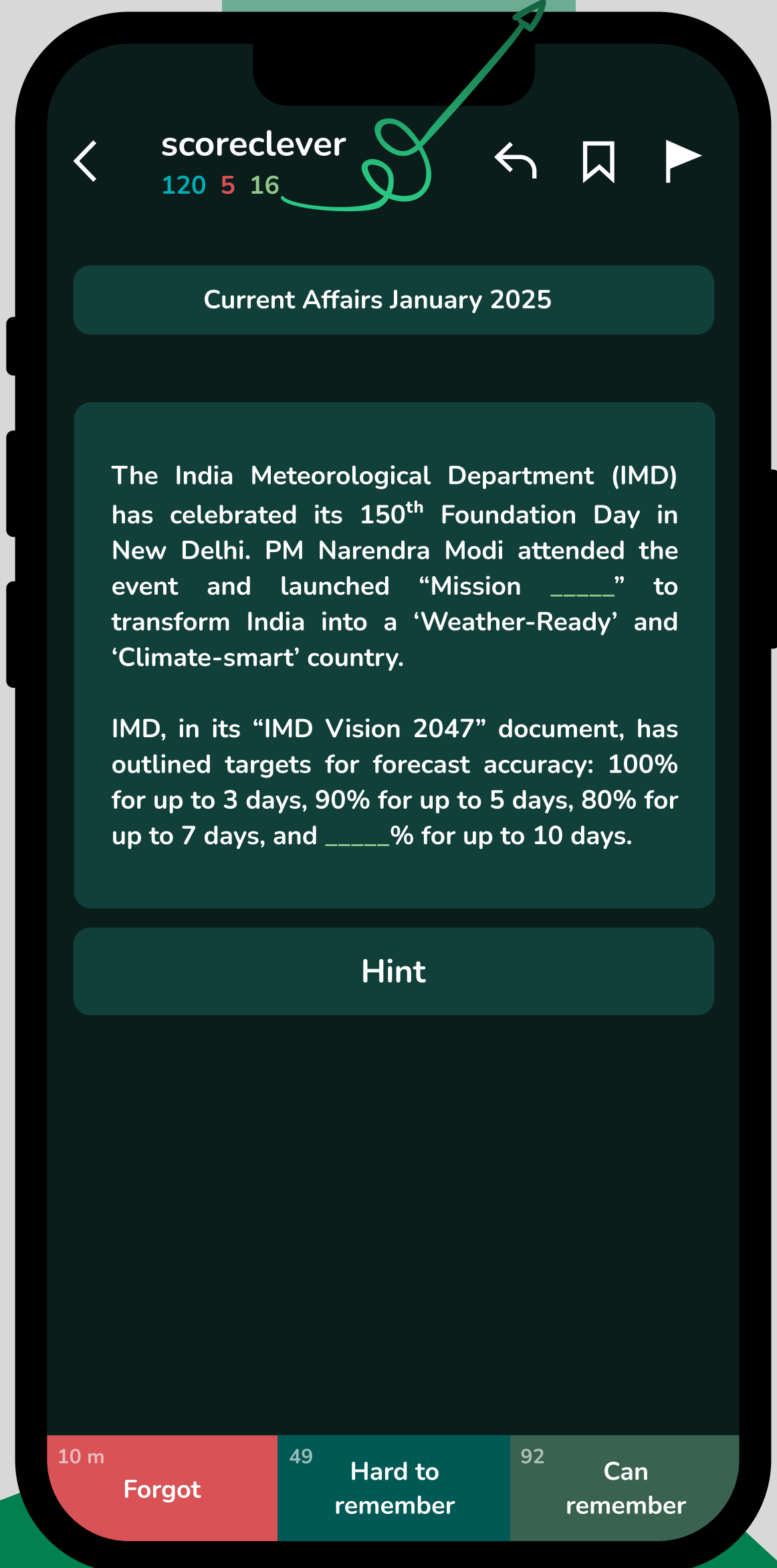
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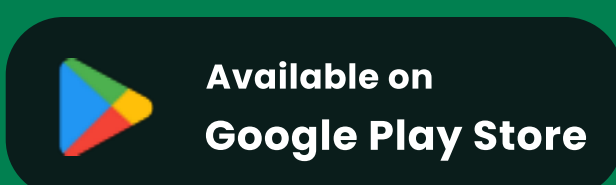
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