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September 2026

NATIONAL

NEW APPS FOR INDIA POST

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched the **revamped Dak Sewa Application** and the **Dak MITRA (Mobile Interface for Transactions and Rural Assistance) application** of the **Department of Posts (DoP)** at Rang Bhavan in New Delhi.

These digital applications are designed to **modernise postal services and enhance last-mile delivery** across the country. He also inaugurated **14 renovated post office buildings** across **10 states**.

PMFME CONCLAVE 2026

Union Minister Chirag Paswan has inaugurated the **PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Conclave**, organised by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**, at the India Habitat Centre in **New Delhi**.

During the event, the **PMFME Bazaar** was also launched, showcasing micro food enterprises from **25 States and Union Territories (UTs)**. The MoFPI released a Coffee Table Book highlighting 30 PMFME success stories, along with its quarterly food processing magazine titled **"FoodNova Magazine"**.

To bolster market access and institutional linkages, MoFPI **signed MoUs** with the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, and **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Kisan Finance Ltd (NABKISAN)**.

WATER SHARING MOU

The state governments of **Bihar** and **Jharkhand** have signed an **MoU** for **sharing the water** of **Sone River**. The agreement was finalized in the presence of **Union Minister Amit Shah**.

This settlement resolves a **long-standing water dispute** in eastern India. It is expected to facilitate the **provision of irrigation water to millions of farmers** across rural regions of Bihar and Jharkhand.

BANAS BIO-CNG PLANT

The **Banas Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Model Plant**, a joint initiative of **Banas Dairy, Suzuki Motor Corporation, and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**, has been inaugurated in **Banaskantha, Gujarat**.

The plant is designed to promote clean energy, support a circular economy, and create additional income opportunities for livestock farmers. The facility processes **100 Metric Tonnes Per Day (MTPD)** of **cattle dung through anaerobic digestion** to generate **clean fuel and organic fertilizer**.

Additionally, **9 taxis** were flagged off under the **"Gramin Bharat Taxi" service**, which is the **first rural-level cooperative-model taxi service in India** where drivers own their vehicles.

CRITICAL MINERALS HACKATHON

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy has launched the **"Critical Minerals Innovation Hackathon 2026" (CMiH 2026)** to **promote innovation and technology-driven solutions for strengthening the critical minerals ecosystem of India**.

The hackathon is organised by the **Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC)**, located in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**. JNARDDC is an **autonomous body** under the **Ministry of Mines**.

INDIA-DENMARK JWG MEETING

The **4th meeting** of the **India-Denmark Joint Working Group (JWG)** was held in **Copenhagen, Denmark**, involving the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** and the **Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DKPTO)**.

The meeting focused on **strengthening bilateral cooperation** between the countries in the sectors of **MSME development**, **innovation**, and **Intellectual Property (IP)**.

NATIONAL CONCLAVE ON TRIBAL LANGUAGES

Union Minister of State Durgadas Uikey has inaugurated the **National Conclave on Tribal Languages & Museums** in **Mysuru**, organised by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)**. The conclave focused on the **documentation, preservation, and revitalization of tribal languages**.

During the event, participants signed the "**Mysuru Declaration**" to formalize commitments toward **tribal heritage and linguistic diversity**. MoTA also entered into an MoU with the **Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL)** for the systematic documentation and promotion of tribal languages.

The ministry introduced the upgraded "**Adi Vaani**" platform and the "**Jago**" **AI Conversational Assistant** to enhance digital access to tribal resources. Additionally, the "**Jenukuruba Primer**" and various tribal-language learning materials were released to support educational initiatives within tribal communities.

MISSION SAMRIDDH GAON

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched '**Mission Samriddh Gaon**' at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi to **establish a framework for rural transformation**.

The initiative, under the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**, aims to **create poverty-free and employment-rich villages** while **ensuring universal access to basic amenities**. A **pilot implementation** of the mission will be conducted in **Madhya Pradesh**. The successful models from the pilot phase will be **replicated across the country**.

MEDIATION COUNCIL OF INDIA

The **Department of Legal Affairs (DoLA)** under the **Ministry of Law & Justice (MoLJ)** has notified the establishment of the '**Mediation Council of India (MCI)**', headquartered in **New Delhi**. The council is formed to **promote domestic and international mediation** and to **strengthen the dispute-resolution framework** of India.

The MCI comprises a **Chairperson, 2 Members, 3 ex-officio Members, and 1 part-time Member** representing a commerce and industry body. The non-ex-officio Members are appointed for a **4-year tenure** and are eligible for reappointment. The age limit for the **Chairperson is 70 years**, while for **other Members, it is 67 years**.

INAUGURAL SESSION OF SAGAR SAMVAD

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has chaired the inaugural edition of '**Sagar Samvad**', organised by the **National Shipping Board (NSB)** at the Civil Services Officers Institute in New Delhi. The event was held under the theme "**Charting the Roadmap Towards Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**".

During the session, the official website of the NSB was launched. The Minister outlined a **5-point roadmap** for the maritime sector, focusing on **fiscal reforms, assured cargo support, competitive financing, regulatory simplification, and improved Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)**. He also stated that **100 new vessels** will be added to the foreign-dependent merchant fleet of India over the **next 5 years**.

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR MORTUARY INFRASTRUCTURE

India has introduced its **first national minimum standards** for **mortuary and post-mortem infrastructure**, finalized by the **National Council for Clinical Establishments (NCCE)**. The "**National Mortuary Standards 2026**" will **replace the existing fragmented system** of state-level medico-legal practices.

The guidelines mandate that mortuary facilities must be located on the **ground floor** and within designated waste zones. Cold storage units must maintain temperatures between **4°C and 8°C**, featuring a **unique identification (ID) system** and a specified minimum capacity. It is to be noted that the framework requires the establishment of a **4,000 sq ft autopsy facility**.

12 YEARS OF PM JAN DHAN YOJANA

The **PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**, launched in **2014** as the **National Mission for Financial Inclusion**, has completed **12 years** of implementation. The scheme, which is the largest financial inclusion initiative in the world, is managed by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**.

Its slogan is "**Mera Khata - Bhagya Vidhata**" (My Account - My Fortune). As of August 19, 2026, a total of **59.09 crore** accounts have been opened under the PMJDY, with aggregate deposits reaching **₹3.17 lakh crore**. **Women account holders** represent **55.7%** of the total accounts.

TAIWAN-INDIA INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION SUMMIT

The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**, in collaboration with the **Chinese National Federation of Industries (CNFI)**, has organised the **10th edition** of the "**Taiwan-India Industrial Collaboration Summit**" in **Bengaluru**.

The summit featured **three sub-forums** focusing on **Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) and Electronics Manufacturing, Green and Smart Technologies, and Smart Automotive Components**. The event concluded with the signing of **6 MoUs** to enhance industrial cooperation between the participating entities.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI):

President – Harsha Vardhan Agarwal

Director General – Anant Goenka

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1927

INDIA-MOROCCO JOINT COMMISSION MEETING

Union Minister of State Dr Jitin Prasada has co-chaired the **7th India-Morocco Joint Commission** meeting during a visit to **Morocco**. He also participated in the **Morocco-India Joint Business Forum** to enhance commercial engagement between the two nations.

It was highlighted that the **bilateral trade** between the countries exceeded **$4 billion** in 2025, with a target to **double it in the next 5 years**. A **Joint Working Group (JWG)** will be established to explore the feasibility of a **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)**.

The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** signed an MoU with the **National Office of Food Safety (ONSSA)** of Morocco to bolster cooperation in **food safety**. Both countries also signed a **Cultural Exchange Programme** for **2026-2030**. It is to be noted that the **8th session of the JCM** will be held in **New Delhi in 2027**.

MANDATORY IST FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES

The **Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)**, under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD)**, has notified the "**Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026**".

The rules mandate **Indian Standard Time (IST)** as the **sole and compulsory time reference** for all legal, administrative, commercial, and official purposes in India. The regulations will come into effect **180 days after their publication** in the Official Gazette.

JPC FORMED TO EXAMINE FCRA BILL

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has constituted a **31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** to conduct a **comprehensive examination** of the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill, 2026**.

The committee, consisting of **21 members from the Lok Sabha** and **10 from the Rajya Sabha**, will be chaired by **Sanjay Jaiswal** (BJP MP).

NTH CELEBRATES FOUNDATION DAY

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has inaugurated the state-of-the-art building of the **National Test House (NTH)** in **Bengaluru** to mark its **115th Foundation Day**. NTH functions under the **Department of Consumer Affairs** of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD)**.

During the event, he also virtually commissioned various facilities and initiatives across the national NTH network. The **"NTH Suvidha"** mobile app was launched to **streamline testing access** for industry stakeholders and **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.

SWACHH SAGAR SURAKSHIT SAGAR 5.0

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh has launched the **5th edition** of the '**Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 2026**' (**SSSS v5.0**) in New Delhi. The week-long ocean conservation campaign is scheduled from **12 to 19 September 2026**, and will culminate on **International Coastal Cleanup Day** on 17 September 2026.

As part of the 5th edition, the first-ever **National Ocean Olympiad** has been inaugurated. Digital platforms for the campaign include the official SSSS v5.0 website, an **ocean conservation pledge platform**, and the '**SAGAR PRAHARI**' mobile application.

The campaign aims to **increase awareness about marine pollution and sustainable use of ocean resources**. It is to be noted that the SSSS initiative was originally **established in 2022**.

PM INAUGURATES PROJECTS IN VADODARA

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development projects worth over **₹35,000 crore** in **Vadodara, Gujarat**, under the **'NaMo for Viksit Bharat'** initiative.

He dedicated three sections of the **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)**, covering **326 route km**, built at a cost of over **₹20,700 crore**. This expansion of WDFC provides direct port connectivity to the **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** in Mumbai. A new passenger train service between **Tanda Road and Vadodara (Pratapnagar)** was also launched.

Furthermore, foundation stones were laid for **three National Highway projects** in Gujarat with a total value of **₹1,780 crore**. Urban development projects like the **Vadodara City Command Control Centre** for **smart administration** and the **Waghodiya Regional Water Supply Scheme** were also dedicated to the public.

PM MODI VISITS KYRGYZSTAN

PM Narendra Modi has visited **Kyrgyzstan** to participate in the **26th meeting** of the Council of Heads of State (CHS) of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit**, at the invitation of **President Sadyr Japarov**.

During the visit, he also attended the opening ceremony of the **6th World Nomad Games**, a biennial traditional sports event held in **Bishkek**. PM Modi presented the President of Kyrgyzstan with a **10-volume English translation of the Mahabharata by Bibek Debroy** and a **Ladakhi Tsugdul Blanket** (a traditional woolen textile from Ladakh).

He gifted a **Dokra artwork** to Abdylbek Kasymaliev, the PM of Kyrgyzstan, and a **sandalwood Shata Tantri Veena** (**Santoor from Jammu & Kashmir**) to **Shavkat Mirziyoyev**, the President of Uzbekistan.

AI SKILLING PROGRAMMES

The **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)**, under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, has collaborated with **Intel India** to launch the "**Agentic AI Skilling Programmes**".

The initiative was officially introduced during the "**National Leadership Dialogue**" held at the **India Habitat Centre in New Delhi**. The objective of the program is to **develop a future-ready workforce by enhancing expertise in AI technologies**.

MISSION RANGEEN MACHHLI 2031

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan has released the '**Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031**', which serves as the **Strategic Action Plan for Ornamental Fisheries Development**.

The launch took place during the **Fisheries Outreach Programme**, organised by the **Department of Fisheries**,in **Agatti, Lakshadweep**. The initiative aims to establish a **uniform framework for the organised growth of the ornamental fisheries sector**.

ADOPTION AWARENESS 2026

The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)**, functioning under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)**, has launched the "**Adoption Awareness 2026**" theme titled "**Legal Adoption. Safe Childhood. Secure Future. Say No to Illegal Adoption!**".

The nationwide initiative is designed to promote **legal, safe, transparent, and child-centric adoption processes** while **preventing illegal adoption practices** to ensure a secure future for children.

CABINET APPROVES RAILWAY PROJECTS

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved **8 major railway multi-tracking projects** under the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP)**, with a total outlay of **₹20,804 crore**.

It is to be noted that the initiative will expand the Indian Railways network by **1,196 km** across **31 districts in 9 states** to enhance regional rail connectivity and operational efficiency. The projects are scheduled for **completion by FY30**.

AI MODELS BY BODHAN AI

Bodhan AI, a **Centre of Excellence (CoE) in AI for Education** at the **IIT Madras**, has launched **four foundational multilingual AI models** as **Digital Public Goods**.

The initiative was developed in partnership with **AI4Bharat** to strengthen the **national education ecosystem** through the establishment of **sovereign digital infrastructure**. The suite of models includes specialized capabilities for **speech recognition, Text-To-Speech (TTS), Machine Translation (MT), and Optical Character Recognition (OCR)**.

MONUMENT OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has officially designated the **Gollala Gudi Temple**, located in **Palampet, Telangana**, as a **Monument of National Importance**. The temple is situated in southwest of the **Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple**, which is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

With this addition, the total number of **centrally protected monuments in Telangana** has increased to **10**. It is to be noted that there are currently **3,693 centrally protected monuments** and archaeological sites of national importance across India.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):

Under – Ministry of Culture

Director General – Yadubir Singh Rawat

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1861

JITENDRA SINGH LAUNCHES BIO-NIVESH

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Jitendra Singh has launched "**BIO-NIVESH**", a **strategic platform to connect biotechnology startups with investors**.

The initiative aims to **facilitate the flow of private capital for innovations ready for scale-up and commercialization**. The platform was inaugurated during a joint roundtable session of biotechnology startups and investors in **New Delhi**.

ASEAN-INDIA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MEETING

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and **Francisco P Tiu Laurel of Philippines** have co-chaired the **9th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (9th AIMMAF)** in **New Delhi**. The agenda of the 9th AIMMAF focused on **climate-resilient farming**, with a specific emphasis on implementing **low-emission rice cultivation techniques**.

The participants endorsed the "**ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future**" roadmap and the "**ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026-2030**" to ensure environmental safeguards and food safety in the region. A symbolic "**Friendship Spike for Agriculture and Forestry**" was also unveiled to commemorate the cooperation between the nations.

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES PACT PLATFORM

The **NITI Aayog** has launched the "**Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport" (PACT)** and a "**Zero-Emission Truck" (ZET) marketplace** during the **5th** "**Electric-Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport" (e-FAST) India** Summit in **New Delhi**.

The **PACT** initiative aims to **aggregate freight demand**, while the **ZET marketplace** serves as an **interactive business-engagement platform** to facilitate stakeholder connections.

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India):

Chairman – PM Narendra Modi

CEO – Anurag Jain

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2015

REPORT ON INFORMAL ECONOMY

According to the first-ever district-level estimates of the "**Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises**" (**ASUSE**) released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, **Haryana** has emerged as the leading state in the **informal non-agricultural sector**.

It has **7 districts** in the top 50 nationally ranked by **Gross Value Added (GVA) per worker**. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana follow with 6 districts each. The report highlights that **33% of the informal sector activity** of India is concentrated in the 50 most productive districts, with 40 of these districts located in just 8 states.

The **national average GVA per worker** in the informal sector is **₹1.56 lakh**. **Satara (Maharashtra)** recorded the **highest productivity** at **₹8.7 lakh per worker**, followed by **Fatehgarh Sahib (Punjab)** and **Tonk (Rajasthan)**. **Telangana and the Northeastern states** recorded the **highest female participation** in the informal workforce.

GUIDELINES FOR LAND RECORD MODERNIZATION

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched the operational guidelines for the third phase of the **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP 3.0)**. The initiative has an allocated outlay of **₹565.5 crore** for the **2026-2031** period.

The programme aims to integrate land records, maps, and registration data through a **Geographic Information System (GIS)-based digital framework**. Under the initiative, every land parcel will be assigned a **14-digit Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)**, also known as "**Bhu-Aadhaar**", alongside the **georeferencing of cadastral maps**.

75 high-footfall sub-registrar offices will be modernized and rebranded as "**registration seva kendras**". The government will also focus on scanning legacy land records, establishing a centralized registration repository, and computerizing revenue courts. Additionally, the **NAKSHA initiative** will be used for **urban land mapping** to prepare and issue **urban property cards**.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR DINAMALAR

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan has released a **commemorative postage stamp** in **Chennai** to mark the **75th anniversary** of the publication of '**Dinamalar**', a **Tamil daily newspaper**.

The issuance of the stamp celebrates the 75-year history of the newspaper and its contributions to **journalism and public service**.

MAHE TO HOST US-INDIA FELLOWSHIP

Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), an **Institution of Eminence (IoE)** Deemed to be University, has been selected as one of the three Indian host institutions for the **US-India Fellowship** for the **2026-27 academic cycle**.

The fellowship is a **12-month programme** designed to **strengthen scientific and technological collaboration between India and the USA**. Selected fellows will receive a monthly stipend of **$1,650** to support their research and collaborative activities.

NEW SITES IN UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST

The **Permanent Delegation of India to the UNESCO** has announced the inclusion of **4 new cultural heritage sites** in the **Tentative List** of the **World Heritage Convention (WHC)**.

The newly added sites are the **Rangpur-Sivasagar Historic Ensemble (Assam)**, the **Colonial Penal Settlement (Andaman Islands)**, the **Nicobarese Cultural Continuity in the Central Group of Nicobar Islands**, and the **Painted Haveli Towns of Shekhawati (Rajasthan)**. With this, the total number of sites from India on the **UNESCO tentative list** has increased to **73**.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

Director General – Khaled El

Headquarters – Paris, France

Established in – 1945

Members – 194

RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAAH LAUNCHED

Union Minister **Annapurna Devi** has launched the **9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**. The month-long nationwide campaign is scheduled from **September 9 to October 8**, under the central theme "**Hamari Anganwadi Hamari Jimmedari**".

The initiative focuses on **5 key themes**: **dietary diversity, protein intake, fresh hot cooked meals, community accountability, and nutrition integrated with early childhood development**. It also commemorates **10 years** of the **PM Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** and features a **100% saturation drive**.

NEW CSR FRAMEWORK

The **Ministry of Coal**, in collaboration with **Coal India Ltd (CIL)**, has launched the "**Comprehensive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Framework for Indian Coal Companies**" in **New Delhi**. This marks the **first comprehensive framework** for the coal sector since the implementation of the **Companies Act, 2013**.

The framework was developed by the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**, under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, to **standardize CSR practices** across the coal sector.

INDIA PHOTONICS ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED

The **India Photonics Association (IPA)**, which is the **first independent and ecosystem-led industry body of India dedicated to the photonics sector**, has been launched at the **India Habitat Centre** in **New Delhi**.

MOSPI LAUNCHES QPR PORTAL

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has launched the **Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) portal on Data Harmonisation**, aiming to **strengthen the National Data System (NDS)** and **promote the effective use and harmonisation of administrative data**.

The portal was formally inaugurated by **Shaktikanta Das**, **Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister**.

EPFO WAGE CEILING ENHANCED

The **Union Cabinet** has approved a proposal by the **Ministry of Labour & Employment** to increase the **monthly wage limit** for mandatory coverage under the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**. The **mandatory wage ceiling** under the EPFO has been enhanced from **₹15,000** to **₹25,000 per month**.

Employee's Provident Fund Organization (EPFO):

CEO – Ramesh Krishnamurthi

Under – Central Board of Trustees (CBT)

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1952

KISHAU MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT

The Chief Ministers of **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Haryana** have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the **₹15,000 crore Kishau Multipurpose Project**.

The agreement, signed during a meeting chaired by **Union Minister Amit Shah** and **Union Minister CR Patil** in **New Delhi**, has resolved an **eight-year deadlock** over cost-sharing and resource allocation among the basin states.

The central government has declared the initiative as a **"National Project"**, under which the **Centre will bear 90%** of the financial cost for the water component as central grants, while the **remaining 10%** will be shared among the beneficiary states.

As part of the project, a **232.6-metre-high concrete gravity dam** will be constructed across the **Tons River** (a primary tributary of the **Yamuna River**) on the border of **Dehradun district in Uttarakhand** and **Sirmaur district in HP**. The project features an installed capacity of **422 Megawatts (MW)** of clean hydroelectricity and a live storage capacity of **1,562 Million Cubic Metres (MCM)**.

The reservoir is designed to create an irrigation potential covering **97,000 hectares** of agricultural land across the upper Yamuna basin. Under the agreement, **Delhi and Rajasthan will fund the liabilities of Himachal Pradesh** for the power component in exchange for its allocated share of consumptive water.

It is to be noted that the Kishau project is the **third major storage dam framework** executed for the **Upper Yamuna Basin**, joining the under-construction **Lakhwar** and **Renukaji** projects.

INVESTMENTS APPROVED UNDER PM-SETU

The **fifth National Steering Committee (NSC)** meeting under the **PM Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)** has approved strategic investments worth **₹735.70 crore** for **three Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters**. With this, the cumulative sanctioned investment under the PM-SETU initiative has increased to **₹2,171 crore** across **nine ITI clusters**.

The approved **Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs)** are: **Rajasthan** (A SIP of **₹241 crore** submitted by **HG Infra Engineering Ltd**), **Telangana** (A SIP of **₹254.3 crore** submitted by **ZEN Technologies Ltd**) **Uttar Pradesh** (A SIP of **₹240.4 crore** submitted by the **National Skill Development Corporation**).

SIX YEARS OF PMMSY

The **PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** has **completed 6 years** of operation since its **launch in 2020**, aiming for the **sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector**.

The scheme is implemented by the **Department of Fisheries** under the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** with a total outlay of **₹20,050 crore**. It is to be noted that a record allocation of **₹2,500 crore** has been designated in the **Budgeted Estimates for 2026-27** to support the implementation of the scheme.

DOPPLER WEATHER RADAR

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh has virtually inaugurated the **51st state-of-the-art Doppler Weather Radar (DWR)** of India at **Sambalpur, Odisha**.

He highlighted that the **national DWR network** has expanded from **14 units in 2014** to the current 51. He also stated that **40 additional radars** are planned for deployment under the "**Mission Mausam**" initiative.

BRICS EVENTS

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has chaired the **Sports Ministers' Meeting of BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**. He, along with **Union Minister of State (MoS) Raksha Khadse**, also led the **BRICS Friendship Cycling Event** in Visakhapatnam.

Additionally, India has hosted the **18th BRICS Academic Forum** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**, under the theme "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**". The forum was organised as a part of the **BRICS Presidency of India in 2026**.

RAJNATH SINGH VISITS SRI LANKA

Union Minister Rajnath Singh has visited **Sri Lanka** to strengthen bilateral relations and expand cooperation in defense and regional maritime security. He held meetings with **President Anura Kumara Dissanayake** and **PM Harini Amarasuriya** in **Colombo** to discuss the partnership between the two nations.

During the visit, they virtually inaugurated **3 Bailey Bridges** constructed by the **Indian Defence Forces** in Sri Lanka. An **MoU** was signed to upgrade **6 40mm L70 anti-aircraft guns** for the **Sri Lankan Air Force** under a **grant from the Government of India (GoI)**. Two additional MoUs were signed to enhance institutional collaboration.

PM MODI IN GUJARAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated, dedicated to the nation, and laid the foundation stones for various development projects worth over **₹35,000 crore** in **Vadodara, Gujarat**.

During the event, he virtually inaugurated the final three sections of the **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)**. The corridor connects the **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)** in Navi Mumbai with **Dadri** in Uttar Pradesh. These three final sections of the WDFC, spanning across Maharashtra and Gujarat, were developed at an estimated cost of **₹20,700 crore**.

MGIS PORTAL FOR MANGROVE CONSERVATION

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav has launched the **"Mangrove Geographic Information System" (MGIS) Portal** during the **"Workshop on Mangrove Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Management"** held at **Bhuj in Gujarat**.

He also launched the **"Coffee Table Book on Kachchh Mangroves"** and the **"Mangroves Atlas of Gujarat"**. These publications highlight the ecology, distribution, and strategic conservation planning of mangroves.

DRYLAND CONGRESS 2026

The **Dryland Congress 2026** has been held in **New Delhi** under the theme "**Transforming Dryland Agriculture with South-South Cooperation**". The event led to the adoption of the '**Delhi Declaration on Drylands (3D)**' to promote **South-South and triangular cooperation** for **sustainable dryland agriculture**.

The congress also hosted the inaugural **International Solidarity for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA) Global Awards 2026**. It is to be noted that the awards received **170 nominations from 34 participating countries**.

NEW RULES FOR E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS

The **Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)**, under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD)**, has notified the **Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) (Amendment) Rules, 2026**. The rules, which amend the **existing 2020 regulations**, are set to take effect in **January 2027**.

The amendments aim to **strengthen consumer protection and price transparency** while promoting the 'Ease of Doing Business'. E-commerce platforms are now mandated to **display both the reduced price and the 'prior price'** of goods. It is to be noted that the **'prior price' is defined as the lowest price offered for the product during the preceding 30 days**.

GLOBAL FINTECH FEST 2026

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **7th edition** of the **Global Fintech Fest (GFF 2026)** at the **Jio World Centre (JWC)** in **Mumbai**.

The event, organized by the **Payments Council of India (PCI), National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), and Fintech Convergence Council (FCC)**, was held under the theme "**Potential to Impact: Agentic AI | Tokenisation | Quantum: Trusted, Connected, Global Systems for Inclusive Finance**".

The **RBI** has recognized the **Unified Fintech Forum (UFF)** as the **second Self-regulatory Organisation (SRO)** for the fintech sector in India. The RBI also expanded multicurrency forex exchange services on the **Bharat Connect** platform by adding **5 new currencies**: **Euro, British Pound, Canadian Dollar, Swiss Franc, and UAE Dirham**, to the existing United States Dollar ($) services.

The **SEBI**) launched the "**Demat 2.0**" pilot project for the **tokenization of corporate bonds** using **Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)**. **NPCI**, in collaboration with **HDFC Bank Ltd**, introduced "**Finance Model for India (FiMI) Banking**", the **first sovereign AI compact model** for domestic retail banking.

PhonePe and **Visa Inc.** launched three payment solutions: Tap-to-Pay, **Cross Border Scan to Pay**, and Smart Accept. **PhonePe** became the **first Indian application to offer Cross Border Scan to Pay** for international transactions. **Mastercard and City Union Bank (CUB)** initiated a pilot for "Mastercard One Credential".

SBICAP Securities Ltd (SSL) partnered with **Appreciate Broking International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Pvt Ltd** for global market access via the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) IFSC. **Wibmo**, a PayU company, was recognized with the "Best Digital Banking Security Practices" award under the "Excellence in Banking Tech" category.

JOINT COMMISSION MEETING

India and Vietnam have designated **2027** as the '**Year of India-Vietnam Friendship**' to commemorate the **55th anniversary of diplomatic relations**. The announcement was made during the **19th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)** held in **New Delhi**.

Both nations have committed to achieving a **bilateral trade target** of **$25 billion by 2030**.

INDIA HOSTS BRICS SUMMIT

India has hosted the **18th edition** of the **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) Summit** at **Bharat Mandapam** in **New Delhi**, under the theme "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**". The summit was organized around these **four primary pillars**.

The event witnessed the launch of the **BRICS Integrated Early Warning System (EWS)** for infectious diseases, a **Logistics Supply Chain Cooperation framework**, a **Startup Innovation Fund**, and the **BRICS Incubator Network**. Other initiatives include a **MSME portal**, a **Digital Centre for Smart Grids and Energy Storage**, the **Urban Mobility Hub (UMH)**, and **CoEs for Agro-Ecology and Regenerative Agriculture**.

PM Narendra Modi released two **commemorative postage stamps** titled "**BRICS: Two Decades of Cooperation, 2006-2026**" to mark the **20th anniversary** of the forum. President of China Xi Jinping proposed a "**5-point action plan**", including the creation of an **open-source AI community**. The summit concluded with the unanimous adoption of the "**New Delhi Declaration**".

POSTAGE STAMP FOR SANT MALUKDAS

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has released a **commemorative postage stamp** issued by the **Department of Posts (DoP)** to honor **Sant Malukdas**. The release took place during the "**Sant Samagam**", a gathering organized in memory of the saint.

RBD AMENDMENT ACT NOTIFICATION

The **Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Amendment Act, 2026** will come into force on **October 1, 2026**. It strengthens **Section 13(3)** of the **RBD Act, 1969**.

Under the act, reporting births or deaths **after 1 year but within 2 years** requires approval from the **District Magistrate (DM)**, **Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM)**, or an authorized Executive Magistrate, subject to verification and fee. For registrations **delayed by more than 2 years**, an order from the **Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC)** is **mandatory to ensure judicial scrutiny**.

PORTAL FOR AERODROME DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHED

Union Minister **Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu** has launched the **Challenge Mode Portal for Aerodrome Development** in **New Delhi**, marking the implementation of the modified regional connectivity scheme, **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)**.

The challenge-based selection approach aims to **reduce the construction period of airports** to **18 months** from the current average of 3 years.

To facilitate infrastructure development, the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** and the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** have signed **21 MoUs** with participating states and Union Territories. The **Modified UDAN initiative** has a target outlay of **₹30,000 crore** over the next decade to develop **100 new airports**. It aims to provide connectivity to **120 new destinations**.

Airports Authority of India (AAI):

Chairman – Vipin Kumar

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1995

INDIAN RAILWAYS COMMISSIONS KAVACH 4.0

Indian Railways has commissioned **KAVACH Version 4.0** for the **first time** on the **South Central Railway (SCR)**. The project involved the **upgradation from KAVACH Version 3.2** to Version 4.0.

The implementation was completed on the **Malkajgiri-Kamareddi section** of the **Hyderabad Division**, covering a total distance of **108 Route Kilometres (RKm)**.

SOIL CARBON PAYMENTS

India has inaugurated its **first farm-level soil carbon payment initiative** at the **Punjab Agricultural University (PAU)** in **Ludhiana, Punjab**.

The payments are distributed as part of the **'Aadi' farmer carbon programme**, which was launched by **Grow Indigo** in **2019** under the technical guidance of the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**. A total of **2,550 smallholder farmers** from **Punjab and Haryana** will receive disbursements of over **₹2.9 crore** for implementing **verified regenerative agricultural practices**.

It is to be noted that the initial phase of the project covered **30,000 acres** and generated over **50,000 verified carbon credits**. Individual payouts to the farmers ranged from **₹3,000 to ₹15,000**, depending on the volume of verified carbon credits generated from the landholdings.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR):

Director – Dr. Mangi Lal Jat

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1929

AI CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has granted in-principle approval for the establishment of an **AI Centre of Excellence (AI CoE)** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. The AI CoE will function as a **national-level hub for AI innovation, startup incubation, and solution deployment**.

The initiative will be implemented by the **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** under MeitY, in collaboration with **Blue Cloud Softech Solutions** as the **industry partner**.

100 WEEKS NASHA MUKT YUVA ABHIYAN

PM Narendra Modi has launched the '100 Weeks Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan' (NMBA) in **August 2026**. The campaign is initiated by the **Department of Youth Affairs (DoYA)** under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS)** through the 'Mera Yuva Bharat' (MY Bharat) and the **National Service Scheme (NSS)**.

The initiative officially started with the nationwide '**Rashtriya Sankalp Samaroh**' on **September 18, 2026**. It features a **'Youth Pledge'** and a **'Signature Drive'** to promote a **drug-free lifestyle** and has mobilized over **4 lakh participants** across more than **1,000 locations** nationwide.

GUIDELINES FOR GOBARDHAN SCHEME

The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)** has released component-wise operational guidelines for the **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) scheme** to **strengthen the Compressed Biogas (CBG) sector**.

The guidelines detail **6 strategic components**: **a CBG offtake assurance mechanism, a pricing framework, capital assistance, pipeline infrastructure development, credit guarantee support, and a CBG ecosystem challenge fund**.

It is to be noted that **City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities** supplying Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) are required to meet **mandatory CBG purchase targets**. The targets are set at **3% for FY27**, **4% for FY28**, and **5% for FY29** and subsequent years.

PM VISHWAKARMA SCHEME

The **PM Vishwakarma Scheme** has completed **3 years** of implementation and reached a milestone of **30 lakh registrations**. The scheme provides end-to-end support to **traditional artisans and craftspeople** in **18 identified trades** through skill development, modern tools, and market access.

Beneficiaries are eligible for a **collateral-free Enterprise Development Loan (EDL)** of up to **₹3 lakh**, which is disbursed in **two separate tranches** to provide affordable credit support.

AADHAAR AUTHENTICATION FOR LPG CONSUMERS

The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** has mandated **Biometric Aadhaar Authentication (BAA)** for **domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) consumers**, effective from **October 1, 2026**. The **BAA** is necessary for **booking refills at the regulated Retail Selling Price (RSP) and for receiving the applicable subsidy**.

It is to be noted that consumers who do not complete the authentication can still **register through the digital platforms of the Oil Marketing Company (OMC)** to receive **5 kg or 10 kg cylinders at market prices**, without any subsidy.

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, along with **CM of Gujarat Bhupendrabhai Patel**, has inaugurated the **World Circular Economy Forum 2026** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. It is to be noted that this makes **India** the **first South Asian nation to host the forum**.

The event was organised by the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** in collaboration with **Finland**, under the theme **"Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity"**. During the inaugural session, two publications were released: **"Best Practices for Reuse of Treated Sewage"** and **"Driving Sustainability - A Guide to India's Circular Economy and EPR Initiatives"**.

SWACHHATA HI SEVA 2026 CAMPAIGN

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)** have jointly launched the nationwide 'Swachhata Hi Seva' (SHS) 2026 campaign. The launch was marked by a plantation drive under the '**Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam**' initiative at Children's Park in New Delhi.

The SHS 2026 campaign is structured around **5 central pillars**: **transformation of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs)** and clean public places, '**Swachh Paathshala - Yuva for Swachhata**' program, '**SafaiMitra Suraksha Evam Samman Shivir**', '**Jan Bhagidari for Swachhata**', and '**Swachhata Se Samriddhi**'.

PM UNVEILS SWAMIJI CENTENARY LOGO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the logo for the **birth centenary celebrations** of **Yatikula Chakravarti Vishwesha Tirtha Swamiji** in **New Delhi**.

It is to be noted that the latter was **posthumously awarded** the **Padma Vibhushan** in **2020** for his contributions to the field of **social work**.

3RD NATIONAL ANTF CONFERENCE

Union Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the **3rd National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF)** Heads of States and UTs in **New Delhi**. The event was organized by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** under the theme "**United Resolve, Shared Responsibility**".

During the conference, he launched the **revamped official website** of the NCB and released **4 anti-narcotics Television Commercials (TVCs)** to increase awareness. He also laid the foundation stones for **two new zonal complexes** of the NCB in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** and **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.

It is to be noted that the government aims to achieve a **drug-free India by December 2029** and dismantle drug networks as per the "**Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026-2029)**".

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):

Director General – Anurag Garg

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1986

CSIR LAUNCHES SCIENCE MAGAZINES

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has launched **5 new popular science magazines** on the occasion of the **85th Foundation Day** of the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.

The magazines are published in **5 regional languages** including **Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Bengali, and Assamese**. It is to be noted that they are published by the **CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)**.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR):

Director General – Dr N Kalaiselvi

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1942

PMKKKY SCHEME COMPLETES 11 YEARS

The **Ministry of Mines** launched the **PM Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)** in **2015** to ensure that **mining-affected communities** receive developmental benefits.

The scheme has completed **11 years** since its inception, with more than **4.7 lakh projects** sanctioned at a total valuation exceeding **₹1 lakh crore**. Implementation of the scheme is managed through **District Mineral Foundations (DMFs)**.

COOPERATIVE AND AGRICULTURE INITIATIVES

Union Minister Amit Shah has launched several cooperative and agricultural initiatives at **Kollam in Kerala**, organised by the **National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF)**.

He inaugurated the **'Vanitham - She Mart Store'**, a **women-led cooperative venture** to link women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and rural entrepreneurs with consumers.

A tripartite agreement was signed to establish over **300 She-Mart stores** across **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka**. These outlets will sell locally sourced goods and subsidized commodities under the newly launched **'Janah' brand**. Additionally, an MoU was signed with the **Bharatiya Matsya Pravartak Sangham** to integrate coastal fisheries products into the supply chain under the Janah brand.

Under the **'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses'**, **free seed kits for urad and gram** were distributed to women farmers to mark the **International Year of the Woman Farmer**. The **NAFED-Kalyan Scholarship Scheme** also provided financial aid to the daughters of registered farmers, benefiting **2,000 families**.

ISRO RADAR FACILITY IN ASSAM

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has laid the foundation stone for the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) **Advanced Radar Research Facility (IARRF)** at **Chandrapur** in **Kamrup Metropolitan district, Assam**.

The facility is being developed under the **Network for Space Object Tracking and Analysis (NETRA)** programme. The initial system at the site will be a **cloud-research radar**, which is scheduled to be commissioned and become operational by **February 2027**.

ICAI ISSUES SUSTAINABILITY ASSURANCE STANDARD

The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** has issued the '**Standard on Sustainability Assurance (SSA) 5000 - General Requirements & Framework for Sustainability Assurance Engagements**'.

The SSA 5000 provides a **principle-based framework covering climate, labour practices, and biodiversity**, aligned with the **International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) International Standard on Sustainability Assurance (ISSA) 5000**. The standard will become applicable from **April 1, 2027**.

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI):

Under – Ministry of Corporate Affairs

President – Charanjot Nanda

Established in – 1949

MANDATORY BIS FOR SCREEN PROTECTORS

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has mandated **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification** for **smartphone screen protectors** under the **Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirement of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2021**, effective from **April 1, 2027**.

With this, smartphone screen protectors become the **66th product category** under the compulsory registration framework and must conform to the **Indian Standard (IS) 19348:2025** before being manufactured, imported, or sold in India. A **transition period** is granted until **March 31, 2027**, for manufacturers and importers to meet the prescribed standard.

GOVERNMENT DISSOLVES DCC

The central government has dissolved the **Digital Communications Commission (DCC)**, which served as the **apex inter-departmental decision-making body** under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** of the **Ministry of Communications**.

It is to be noted that the body was originally established as the **Telecom Commission** in **1989** and later renamed the DCC in **2018**, functioning for nearly **37 years** before being dissolved.

SWACHH SEVA AANKALAN LAUNCHED

Union Minister CR Patil has launched "**Swachh Seva Aankalan (SSA)**", an **annual digital self-assessment framework for monitoring rural sanitation service delivery** under the **Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen 2.0 (SBM(G) 2.0)**. The initiative was developed by the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)**.

LOAN FOR TOBACCO GROWERS

The **central government** has approved a **one-time, interest-free loan** of **₹50,000 per barn** for the **Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco growers** in **Andhra Pradesh**. The assistance is provided under the "**Interest-Free Working Capital Assistance Scheme**" with a total financial outlay of **₹220 crore**.

INDIA-UAE AND INDIA-FIJI MEETINGS

Union Minister Piyush Goyal and **Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, the MD of **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**, have co-chaired the **14th meeting** of the **India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments (HLJTFI)** in **Mumbai**. It is to be noted that the HLJTFI was **established in 2013**.

Additionally, the **second India-Fiji Bilateral Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting** was held in **New Delhi**, with both nations discussing various areas of mutual interest.

INDIA NEW ZEALAND FTA

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has announced that the **India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** will come into force on **October 20, 2026**, following the completion of ratification and domestic processes in both countries.

From the date of implementation, **100% of exports from India to New Zealand** will receive **duty-free access**, benefiting key sectors such as **textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and processed foods**.

FIRST PRAMAAN CERTIFICATES

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav has distributed the **first PRAMAAN certificates** under the **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)** in **New Delhi**.

The certificates were awarded to the **Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC)** for its plantations covering **33,000 hectares**, and to **Govind Mohapatra**, a farmer associated with the **Odisha Bamboo Development Agency (OBDA)**.

ECONOMY

MOBILE PHONE MANUFACTURING SCHEME

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has notified the "Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme" (MPMS) with a total financial outlay of **₹62,500 crore** to enhance global competitiveness, deepen **Domestic Value Addition (DVA)**, and strengthen manufacturing capabilities within the mobile phone production sector.

The tenure of the MPMS is **5 years**, spanning from **FY27 to FY31**. The scheme comprises two **Target Segments (TS)**. **TS1** focuses on providing **incentives ranging from 2.25% to 5%** for mobile phone manufacturing. **TS2** is designed to support Indian mobile phone brands with a **5% incentive**, plus an additional **3% incentive for Indian design and Research & Development (R&D)**.

GDP FORECAST BY SBI RESEARCH

According to a report by the **Economic Research Department (ERD) of the SBI**, the **GDP growth of India for FY27** is **revised upwards** to **7.3%** from the earlier estimate of 6.6%

The report further projects the **quarterly real GDP growth** for **Q2, Q3, and Q4** at **7.3%, 7.2%, and 6.9%** respectively.

TRIAL INDEX OF SERVICES PRODUCTION

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has released the **trial Index of Services Production (ISP)** of India, which provides a monthly measure of short-term activity in the **formal services sector** for the first time.

The ISP covers **19 sub-sectors** and uses **2024-25 as the base year** for its calculations. It is to be noted that **Real Estate** has emerged as the **fastest-growing services sub-sector**, recording a Year-on-Year growth of **24.7%**.

NCDEX LAUNCHES RAINFALL BASED DERIVATIVES

The **National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX)** has launched "**RAINCHNNAI**", a **rainfall-based weather derivatives contract** in **Chennai** to help market participants **hedge risks** associated with the **Northeast (NE) monsoon**.

The contract uses a **cash-settled futures model** to track rainfall deviations in Chennai between **September and December**. It is to be noted that the NE monsoon, also known as the **retreating monsoon**, contributes nearly **70% of the annual rainfall** in Chennai.

GDP GROWTH AT 7.8%

According to the **Quarterly Estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, the **Real GDP of India** grew by **7.8%** in **Q1 FY27** (**April-June 2026**), compared to **6.9% in Q1 FY26**.

This is the first release to use the **revised base year of 2022-23** for the **National Accounts Statistics (NAS)**. The **GDP at Constant Prices (2022-23)** for Q1 FY27 is estimated at **₹81.36 lakh crore**, while it stood at ₹75.46 lakh crore in Q1 FY26. The **GDP at Current Prices** is estimated at **₹88.27 lakh crore** (against ₹80 lakh crore in Q1 FY26), reflecting a **growth rate of 10.3%**.

JCR UPGRADES INDIA RATING

According to a report by the **Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCRA)**, the **Foreign Currency and Local Currency Long-term Issuer Ratings of India** were upgraded to **"A-" from "BBB+"** with a **stable outlook**. This upgrade comes after a gap of **35 years**.

JCRA also upgraded the **country ceiling** for India to **"A"**. The report projected the **fiscal deficit** of the **Central Government** to decrease from **4.7% in FY25** to **4.4% in FY26**.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS STATISTICS 2026

According to the **"National Accounts Statistics (NAS) - 2026"** publication released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, **FY23** has been adopted as the **base year for national account estimates**.

The publication consists of **60 statements** derived from the **updated Final estimates for FY23 and FY24**, and the **First Revised Estimate for FY25**. The revised estimates incorporate new series for the **Producer Price Index (PPI)**, **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, and **Banking Services Price Index (BkSPI)**, all of which use the **2022-23 base year**.

GDP FORECAST BY ADB

According to a report by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, the **GDP growth forecast of India** for **FY27** is revised to **7%** from the earlier **estimate of 6.6% in July**.

GDP FORECAST BY MOODYS

According to a report by **Moodys Ratings**, the **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast of India** for the **FY27** is **revised upwards** to **7%** from the earlier estimate of 6%. The **inflation rate for FY27** is projected at **4.8%**.

TOKENISED BOND ISSUANCES

The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has facilitated the **first tokenized bond issuances** in India worth **₹1,000 crore** on its **Electronic Bidding Platform (NSE EBP)** under the **SEBI "Regulatory Sandbox Framework, 2020"**.

National Stock Exchange (NSE):

Chairman – Srinivas Injeti

MD & CEO – Ashishkumar Chauhan

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1992

GDP FORECAST

According to the report "**Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q4 2026: Exports, Domestic Demand Will Shore Up Growth**" released by **S&P Global Ratings**, the **GDP growth of India for FY27** is revised upwards to **7%** from 6.6%.

The **growth for FY28, FY29, and FY30** is projected at **7.2%, 7%, and 6.8%** respectively.

GDP FORECAST BY OECD

According to the "**OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report September 2026: Weathering Successive Shocks**" released by the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of India** for **FY27** is revised upwards by **80 basis points (bps)** to **7.1%** from the earlier 6.3%.

The growth for **FY28** is projected at **6.5%**. The report also estimated the **inflation of India** for **FY27 and FY28** at **4.7%** and **4.2%** respectively.

BANKING

IDFC FIRST BANK LAUNCHES IGNITE

IDFC First Bank has partnered with the **Indian Institute of Management Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP)** to launch '**IGNITE**', an **incubation programme** with a total outlay of **₹2 crore**.

It will provide financial and operational support, including a **direct startup grant corpus of ₹1.36 crore** to **16 selected startups**.

IDFC First Bank:

MD & CEO – V Vaidyanathan

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 2015

MY FAMILY COMPLETE

Bajaj General Insurance Ltd has launched "**My Family Complete**", which is the **first health insurance policy in India to include pet dogs and cats** as insured family members under a **single integrated plan**.

The policy provides comprehensive protection for **adults (18 years and above)**, **children (3 months to 30 years)**, and **pets (from 3 months of age with no upper age limit)**.

Bajaj General Insurance:

MD & CEO – Tapan Singhel

Headquarters – Pune

RBI RELAXES DOLLAR-RUPEE SWAP NORMS

The **RBI** has **relaxed access norms** for the **dollar-rupee swap facility** under **Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) (FCNR(B)) deposits** to **boost foreign exchange reserves** and **stabilize the Indian Rupee**.

Banks are now authorized to execute swaps for **inflows exceeding $100 million** on any business day, **replacing the earlier rule that restricted transactions to a single weekly window**. It is to be noted that the **total inflows in the swap facility currently stand at $72.85 billion**, with **FCNR(B) deposits holding the largest share of $65.40 billion**.

ZERODHA GETS MERCHANT BANKING LICENSE

The **SEBI** has granted a **Category-I merchant banking licence** to **Zerodha Corporate Advisors**, a subsidiary of Zerodha, to enter the **investment banking sector** focusing on capital market services.

As per the new regulations by SEBI, **Category-I merchant bankers** are authorised to **manage main-board public issues** and perform **underwriting activities**. It is to be noted that the **minimum net worth requirement for Category-I** is increased to **₹50 crore** from ₹5 crore, and the **underwriting capacity** for these entities is capped at **20 times their liquid net worth**.

Zerodha:

Founders – Nithin Kamath and Nikhil Kamath

CEO – Nithin Kamath

Headquarters – Bengaluru

Established in – 2010

NEW PLANS FROM LIC

LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India) has launched **two new non-linked, non-participating insurance plans** named '**LIC Bima Platinum**' (Plan 770) and '**LIC Jeevan Raksha**' (Plan 894) on the occasion of the **70th anniversary** of LIC in Mumbai.

It is to be noted that the 'LIC Bima Platinum' requires a minimum **Basic Sum Assured (BSA)** of **₹3 lakh** with no upper limit. The 'LIC Jeevan Raksha' provides a **BSA** ranging from **₹5 lakh to ₹24 lakh**.

NEW CAMPAIGN BY KISSHT

Kissht, a **RBI registered Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**, has launched a brand campaign titled "**Loans Without Any Hiccups**" featuring former cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar**.

PHONEPE LAUNCHES UPI 123PAY

PhonePe has launched '**UPI 123Pay**', a service enabling **feature phone users** to conduct UPI transactions **without internet connectivity**. The service uses a **Short Message Service (SMS)-based system** to ensure secure transactions even in low network coverage areas.

This initiative aims to promote **financial inclusion** by providing digital payment capabilities to the **non-smartphone user demographic** in India.

ICICI BANK INCREASES STAKE IN ICICI PRU LIFE

ICICI Bank Ltd has acquired an **additional 2% stake** in its life insurance subsidiary, **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance**, for **₹1,470 crore** through the stock exchange. With this, the **total shareholding** of the bank in the insurance venture has **increased from 50.84% to 52.8%**.

ICICI Bank:

MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1994

Tagline – Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka

NEW APPOINTMENT IN RBI

The **RBI** has appointed **Suman Ray** as the **Executive Director (ED)**. In his role as the ED, he will oversee the operations of the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** and the **Premises Department**.

AXIS BANK LAUNCH CREDIT CARD

Axis Bank has partnered with travel fintech **Scapia** to launch a **co-branded credit card** named **"Scapia Axis Bank Credit Card"**. The card is designed to cater to the requirements of **digitally native and travel-focused consumers**.

WHATSAPP LAUNCHES BILL PAYMENTS

WhatsApp has integrated a **native bill payments feature** in India to enable users to discover, manage, and pay **household and utility bills** directly within the application.

The service is powered by the **Bharat Connect** network, formerly known as the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**, which is operated by **NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)**.

NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL):

CEO – Noopur Chaturvedi

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 2013

NEW DIGITAL PLATFORMS BY IPPB

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has launched the '**DakPay Sound Box**' for Merchants, a **Digital Insurance Technology Platform**, and a **Digital Mutual Fund Platform** on the occasion of its **9th foundation day** to **boost financial inclusion**.

As of **March 2026**, IPPB has achieved a **customer base of 13.25 crore**, with **women making up 49%** of the total users.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB):

MD & CEO – R Viswesvaran

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2018

CREDIT CARD PORTFOLIO

Bandhan Bank has partnered with **Mastercard** to launch its **first credit card portfolio**, featuring **four variants: 'Sparks', 'Ignite', 'Flare', and 'Lumina'**.

AI INSURANCE DISTRIBUTION PLATFORM

InsuranceDekho (Girnar Insurance Brokers Pvt Ltd) and **RenewBuy** (D2C Insurance Broking Pvt Ltd) have **merged** to create the **largest AI enabled insurance distribution platform in India**.

The merged entity will operate under the **InsuranceDekho brand** and will be led by **Ankit Agrawal** as the **CEO**. It is to be noted that the scale of the platform is determined by the **Point of Sales Person (POSP) driven premium** generated in the **FY26**.

COASTAL BANK GETS SCHEDULED STATUS

The **RBI** has included **Coastal Local Area Bank Ltd** in the **Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934**. Headquartered in **Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh**, it is the **first Local Area Bank (LAB) of India**.

RAZORPAY LAUNCHES RAY

Razorpay, in partnership with **IndusInd Bank**, has launched an **AI powered account manager** named "**RAY**" on **WhatsApp**.

The service enables enterprises to **manage payments, transactions, settlements, and customer support** through a chat-based interface. It is to be noted that **Bajaj Finserv** is among the first corporate entities to use the live functionalities of the platform.

Razorpay:

Founders – Harshil Mathur and Shashank Kumar

CEO – Harshil Mathur

Headquarters – Bengaluru

Established in – 2014

IndusInd Bank:

MD & CEO – Rajiv Anand

Headquarters – Mumbai

Tagline – We Care Dil Se; We Make You Feel Richer

NIYO GETS PSP LICENSE

Niyo, a fintech platform, has secured a **Payment Service Provider (PSP) licence** from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** to operate in **GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA):

Chairman – K Rajaraman

Headquarters – GIFT City, Gujarat

Established in – 2020

RBI APPROVAL FOR STAKE IN CSB BANK

The **RBI** has approved the acquisition of an aggregate holding of up to **9.95%** of the **paid-up share capital or voting rights** in the **CSB Bank** by the **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company (AMC)**.

FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT

The **RBI** has released the **June 2026 edition** of the **biannual** "**Financial Stability Report**" (**FSR**), which presents an assessment by the **Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** on risks to the financial system of India.

According to the report, the **economy of India grew at 7.7% in FY26**. The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** has revised the **inflation projection** for the **2026-27 period** to **5.1%**. The **foreign exchange reserves** of India were recorded at **$672.6 billion** as of **June 19, 2026**.

SPARSH WEEK BY AXIS BANK

Axis Bank has launched the **4th edition** of its flagship nationwide customer engagement initiative, "**Sparsh Week**", across India from **September 7 to 11**.

The event was held under the theme "**Act with Speed**" to focus on **enhancing the efficiency and responsiveness** of customer interactions.

Axis Bank:

MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1993

Tagline – Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

BANKERS BOOKS EVIDENCE ACT

The **Ministry of Finance** has notified the implementation of the "**Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026**", which replaces the "**Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891**" that **governs the use of banking records as legal evidence**.

The new legislation provides greater clarity on **summoning bank officials when the bank is not a party to the legal proceedings**, requiring the Court to record a "**special cause**" in writing for such actions.

PLUXEE INDIA GETS PA LICENSE

The **RBI** has authorized **Pluxee India** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator for online and physical (PA-O and PA-P) point-of-sale (PoS) transactions**.

RNFI SERVICES GETS PA-P LICENSE

RNFI Services Ltd, a **fintech platform**, has secured **in-principle authorisation** from the **RBI** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P)**. The authorisation was granted under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

NO CHARGES UPTO RS 2000

The **Ministry of Finance** has notified that **banks and payment system providers** are **prohibited from imposing any direct or indirect charges** on **UPI transactions up to ₹2,000**. The MoF has also **extended this prohibition** to payments made through **RuPay-powered debit cards**.

NEW MDR FRAMEWORK FOR UPI

The **UPI and Services Committee**, led by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, has introduced a revised **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) framework**, effective from **October 15, 2026**. Under the new rules, a **0.4% charge** will be applied to **UPI transactions above ₹2,000**.

A **flat MDR of ₹5** per transaction will apply to payments exceeding ₹2,000 in **specific sectors like railways, telecommunications, insurance, and fuel**. For **capital market transactions**, including mutual funds and stockbroking, the **MDR is set at 0.02%** of the transaction value, **capped at ₹300**.

PHONEPE GETS LICENSES IN UAE

PhonePe has received **in-principle approval** from the **Central Bank of the UAE** for **two operating licenses**, marking the **first international expansion** of the company.

The licenses include **Retail Payment Services and Card Schemes (RPSCS)** and **Stored Value Facilities (SVF)**.

PhonePe:

Co founder & CEO – Sameer Nigam

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 2015

NOVIO PARTNERS WITH IOB

novio, operated by **Credilio Financial Technologies Pvt Ltd**, has partnered with the **Indian Overseas Bank** to launch a **co-branded RuPay credit card**.

RBI CANCELS LICENSES OF FIVE NBFCS

The **RBI** has **cancelled** the **Certificates of Registration (CoR)** of **5 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** and **accepted the surrender of licenses** from **8 other NBFCs**.

These regulatory actions were taken due to entities **exiting the Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFI) business**, **corporate mergers**, and adjustments in **regulatory compliance requirements**.

TBX LAUNCHES B2B BILL PAYMENTS

TBX (formerly **TransBnk**) has launched **Business-to-Business (B2B) bill payments** on its **TrustHub platform** through **Bharat Connect for Business**, a service of the **NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)**.

It is to be noted that **NBBL** is a **subsidiary** of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL):

CEO – Noopur Chaturvedi

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 2013

RBI APPROVAL FOR RNFI MONEY

RNFI Money Pvt Ltd, a **wholly owned subsidiary** of **RNFI Services Ltd**, has received **regulatory approval** from the **RBI** to facilitate **cross-border trade remittances**.

ICICI PRUDENTIAL LIFE CHANGES NAME

The name of **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Ltd** has been officially changed to **ICICI Life Insurance Limited**, effective from **September 22, 2026**. The change follows approval from the **Registrar of Companies (RoC)**, Central Processing Centre, **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**.

VALUATION NORMS FOR INVITS

RBI has issued directions to alter the **valuation norms** for units of **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** and **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** held by **All-India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)**.

The **revised valuation directions** came into effect immediately. It is to be noted that the **India REIT market** hits **$17.7 billion**, **overtakes Hong Kong to become Asia's 4th largest**.

RBI ISSUES NEW MARKET RISK FRAMEWORK

RBI has issued final directions titled '**RBI (Commercial Banks - Minimum Capital Requirements for Market Risk) Directions, 2026**' outlining the **minimum capital requirement for market risk** under the **Basel III framework** for **commercial banks**. The new framework will come into effect on **April 1, 2027**.

Additionally, the **RBI** has **eased KYC requirements** for **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)**, allowing them to submit original certified copies of specified documents certified by authorised authorities outside India. These directions came into force with immediate effect from **September 18, 2026**.

DIGITAL FACILITY FOR SBI CREDIT CARDS

SBI Card has launched a **digital facility** on the **YONO (You Only Need One) platform of SBI**. It enables eligible customers to apply for the '**Advantage SBI Card**', which is a **FD-backed secured credit card**, in about 10 minutes.

AGREEMENTS

NABARD SIGNS MOU WITH NABFID

The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has signed an **MoU** with the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)** to **collaborate on infrastructure financing**.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

Chairman – Shaji KV

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1982

WAE PARTNERS WITH UN GCNI

WAE Ltd, an **Indian sustainability-led water technology and engineering company**, has partnered with the **UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI)** to promote **technology-driven water sustainability solutions** and advance **sustainable water management practices** across the country.

It is to be noted that the **UN GCNI** serves as the **local network** of the **UN Global Compact (UNGC)** in India.

BHU SIGNS MOUS WITH CII

Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has signed MoUs with the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** in 2026 to organize the **'Banaras Biennale 2026'** and launch the **Education to Employability and Entrepreneurship (E2EE) Career Lounge** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII):

President – R Mukundan

Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1895

MOU FOR JAVELIN PRODUCTION

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) has signed an MoU with the **Javelin Joint Venture (JJV)**, a partnership between **Raytheon** and **Lockheed Martin**, to explore the **co-production** of the **Javelin All Up Round (AUR) anti-tank missile system** in India.

The Javelin is a medium-range, **fire-and-forget Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** that uses autonomous target navigation to engage tanks, armoured vehicles, and fortified positions at a distance of **up to 5 km**.

T-HUB PARTNERS WITH INDIAN ARMY

Technology Hub (T-Hub) has partnered with the **Central Command of the Indian Army (IA)** to establish a **direct pathway** for **defense startups** to **develop, validate, and deploy technologies for military challenges**.

AGREEMENT FOR SWIMMING NCOE IN ASSAM

The **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** has signed a **tripartite agreement** with the **Badminton Association of India (BAI)** and the **Sports Authority of Assam (SAA)** to establish a **National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Swimming** in **Assam**. It is to be noted that this is the **first dedicated Swimming NCoE in the North Eastern (NE) region**.

Under the agreement, an **Olympic-size swimming pool** at the **Amingaon Sports Complex** in **Kamrup, Assam**, will be transferred to SAI to develop and operate the centre.

AIR INDIA PARTNERS WITH DRUKAIR

Air India has signed an **interline partnership** with **Drukair Airlines**, the **national flag carrier of Bhutan**, to **enhance air connectivity between India and Bhutan** and to provide better access to international destinations.

Air India:

CEO & MD – Tewolde Gebremariam

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1932

CISF SIGNS MOU WITH DFI

The **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has signed an MoU with the **Drone Federation of India (DFI)** in **New Delhi** to **strengthen the security of critical infrastructure** against **emerging aerial threats**.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):

Director General – Praveer Ranjan

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1969

JDI ON WETLANDS

India have signed a **Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI)** with **Germany** on the "**Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands of International Importance**" during the **4th Indo-German Environment Forum (IGEF)** held in **New Delhi**.

The forum was conducted under the theme **"Together for More Resilience"** to strengthen bilateral cooperation regarding environmental protection and climate resilience. It is to be noted that the IGEF was **established in 2008** to facilitate environmental dialogue and partnership between the two nations.

OGEL SIGNS MOUS WITH HARYANA MUNICIPALITIES

OIL Green Energy Ltd (OGEL), a **wholly owned subsidiary** of **Oil India Limited (OIL)**, has signed MoUs with **four municipalities in Haryana** to develop integrated **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** and **Waste-to-Energy projects**. The initiative aims to expand the **low-carbon energy portfolio** of the organization.

MOUS FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The **Odisha government** has signed two strategic MoUs with the **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** and **CivicDataLab (CDL)** in **Bhubaneswar**.

The partnership aims to **strengthen the disaster risk management ecosystem** of the state by leveraging **data, technology, and innovation**, and fostering institutional collaboration.

PNGRB SIGNS MOU WITH EESL FOR SMART METERS

The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** has signed an **MoU** with **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)** to promote **demand aggregation** and the **large-scale deployment of smart domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) meters**.

The initiative aims to facilitate the implementation of **advanced metering infrastructure** across the **City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector** of India.

IBCA SIGNS MOU WITH ADB

The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to **collaborate on landscape conservation, sustainable development, and financing**.

The agreement was formalized during the '**International Workshop on Tiger Landscapes**' which was inaugurated by **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav**. The theme of the workshop was "**Tiger Landscapes: Conservation, Bioeconomy and Ecotourism as Pillars for Livelihood and Income Generation**".

MOSPI SIGNS MOU WITH TIET

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology (TIET)** in **Punjab** to conduct a research study to develop a "**Predictive and Analytical Framework for Monthly Consumption Expenditures**" in India.

KSSL SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH THALES GROUP

Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd (KSSL), a wholly-owned defence subsidiary of **Bharat Forge Ltd (BFL)**, has signed a **Strategic Alliance Agreement (SAA)** with **France-based Thales Group** to establish an **industrial capability in India** for producing **70 millimetre (mm) rocket systems**.

DOSJE SIGNS MOU WITH RAMAKRISHNA MATH

The **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE)** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE)** has signed an MoU with the **Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission** to implement a **nationwide initiative** titled **'Creating Intergenerational Bonding'**.

The initiative aims to **strengthen the social and emotional connections between children, parents, and grandparents**.

SCCA AND GCAI SIGN LEGAL MOU

The **Singapore Corporate Counsel Association (SCCA)** has signed an **MoU** with the **General Counsels' Association of India (GCAI)** to bolster **cross-border legal collaboration** and the **advancement of legal talent**.

BPCL SIGNS MOU WITH CSE

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has signed an MoU with the **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** to establish a **collaborative framework for sustainable energy and environmental initiatives**.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL):

Chairman & MD – Sanjay Khanna

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1952

DFPD SIGNS MOU WITH FCI

The **Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD)** has signed an MoU with the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** for **FY27** in New Delhi to establish a **performance framework** for the latter. The agreement aims to enhance **operational efficiency and organizational accountability** of the FCI.

NABARD SIGNS MOU WITH IMD

The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has signed an MoU with the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** to integrate **agro-meteorological data** into the **Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA)** platform.

The collaboration aims to provide farmers and stakeholders with **weather intelligence** to facilitate informed decision-making and promote **climate resilience** in the agricultural sector.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

Chairman – Shaji KV

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1982

FIFI SIGNS MOU WITH EICA

The **Forum of Indian Food Importers (FIFI)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Eastern India Culinary Association (EICA)** to collaborate on **culinary activities and industry outreach**.

The partnership aims to **promote global food and beverage products**, with a specific focus on the **eastern and north-eastern regions of India**.

IIT MADRAS PARTNERS WITH UNESCO MGIEP

The **IIT Madras** has partnered with the **UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (UNESCO MGIEP)** to develop **AI-based immersive learning technologies**.

The collaboration aims to **transform global education systems** through the integration of **advanced technological solutions**.

SEBI SIGNS MOU WITH ESMA

The **SEBI** has signed an **MoU** with the **European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)** to **strengthen bilateral cooperation and the exchange of information**.

The collaboration specifically focuses on **Central Counterparties (CCPs)** regulated and supervised by SEBI.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

Chairman – Tuhin Kanta Pandey

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1988

NIELIT PARTNERS WITH SAYLOR UNIVERSITY

The **National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)** has partnered with the **USA-based Saylor University** to **integrate the digital learning resources** of the latter into the **NIELIT Digital University (NDU)** platform to **enhance educational offerings**.

GEM SIGNS MOU WITH TEXTILES COMMITTEE

The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)** has signed an MoU with the **Textiles Committee (TC)** under the **Ministry of Textiles (MoT)** to promote **recycled and upcycled textile products** through **government procurement**.

GeM (Government e-Marketplace):

Under – Ministry of Commerce and Industry

CEO – Mihir Kumar

Established in – 2016

BTTF SIGNS MOU WITH PREMIERE VISION SA

The **Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF)** has signed an **MoU** with **Premiere Vision SA** at the **Premiere Vision exhibition** in **Paris** to strengthen India's engagement with the **global fashion and textile ecosystem**.

BISLERI SIGNS LOA WITH SBI

Bisleri International Pvt Ltd has signed a **Letter of Association (LoA)** with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to collaborate on the **'Bottles for Change'** initiative, which focuses on **responsible plastic waste management**.

The partnership supports the transition of India toward a **circular economy** and aligns with the national objective of achieving **Net Zero emissions by 2070**. It is to be noted that SBI has established a target to achieve **Net Zero status** (encompassing **Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions**) by **2055**.

AGREEMENT FOR BHARATNET

Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has signed an agreement with the **Jharkhand government** , **Jharkhand Digital Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (JDICL)**, **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL)**, and **Jharkhand Communication Network Ltd (JCNL)** for the implementation of the **Amended BharatNet Program (ABP)** in Jharkhand.

MIL SIGNS MOU WITH DROGO AEROSPACE

Munitions India Ltd (MIL) has signed an **MoU** with **Drogo Aerospace Pvt Ltd** to collaborate on the **design, development, and integration** of **indigenous Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)** and **loitering munition systems**.

CSL SIGNS JV AGREEMENT

Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) has signed a **50:50 joint venture (JV)** agreement with **Drydocks World**, a **subsidiary of DP World**, to operate and expand the "International Ship Repair Facility" (ISRF) in **Cochin, Kerala**.

ADANI DEFENCE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH IRRPL

Adani Defence & Aerospace has signed a **5-year agreement** with **Indo-Russian Rifles Pvt Ltd (IRRPL)** for the supply of **indigenously manufactured 7.62×39 mm small-calibre ammunition**. The ammunition is specifically intended to support the **AK-203 assault rifle programme** of India.

NALCO SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH EGA

The **National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)** under the **Ministry of Mines (MoM)** has signed a **technology licensing agreement** with the **UAE-based Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA)** to **expand the NALCO aluminium smelter** in **Angul, Odisha**.

Under the agreement, the **DX+ Ultra technology** of the EGA will be implemented for the expansion of the smelter.

NIPL PARTNERS WITH FOMO PAY

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international subsidiary of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, has partnered with **Singapore-headquartered FOMO Pay** to enable the acceptance of **UPI Quick Response (QR) codes** for **merchants across Singapore**.

TRIPARTITE MOU TO SUPPORT STARTUPS

A **tripartite MoU** has been signed among the **MC²⁺ Foundation**, **IIT Bombay**, and the **Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE)** to **support startups in the energy sector**. The initiative will provide these startups with access to research facilities, funding, mentorship, and real-world pilot opportunities.

In addition, the **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, participating as a partner Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), has announced a **₹2,000 crore Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** to support **deep-tech energy startups**.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC):

Chairman – Arun Kumar Singh

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1956

AGREEMENT WITH JFE STEEL

Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL) has signed a **Technical Assistance Agreement (TAA)** with the **Japan-based JFE Steel Corporation** to **enhance the manufacturing capabilities** of the former for selected **ferritic stainless steel grades**.

NSTFDC SIGNS MOU WITH HPCL

The **National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)** has signed an MoU with **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)** to establish **integrated computer lab-cum-smart classroom facilities**.

These facilities will be set up in **29 functional Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** across **11 districts** in **Rajasthan**.

ADB SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH MADHYA PRADESH

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed its **first Transaction Advisory Services (TAS)** mandate in India with the **Madhya Pradesh** government to develop **renewable energy Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** projects.

Under the agreement, ADB will act as the **transaction advisor** for these PPP-based projects to attract **private investments** of up to **$1 billion** in the state.

ITRA SIGNS MOU WITH HEARTFULNESS INSTITUTE

The **Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA)** under the **Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH)** has signed a **5-year MoU** with the **Heartfulness Institute (HFI)** to **promote preventive and holistic healthcare** through an integrated approach involving Ayurveda, yoga, meditation, and ecological practices.

It is to be noted that ITRA, located in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**, is an **Institute of National Importance**. HFI is situated in **Hyderabad**.

PACT FOR PAPERLESS TRADE

India and the **MERCOSUR bloc** have signed the **First Additional Protocol** to their **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** to formally accept **electronic Certificates of Origin (CoOs)**, promoting **paperless trade**. The protocol modifies **Article 16 of Annex III (Rules of Origin)** within the existing PTA.

It is to be noted that the foundational **India-MERCOSUR PTA** was signed in **2004** and entered into force in **2009**. Under this agreement, India extends tariff concessions on **450 tariff lines**, while the **MERCOSUR countries** (comprising **Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Bolivia**) offer concessions on **452 lines**.

NIXI SIGNS MOU WITH APNIC

The **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)** to bolster **cooperation in internet infrastructure development and technical knowledge sharing**.

DORD SIGNS MOU WITH PFRDA

The **Department of Rural Development (DoRD)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** to **enhance pension awareness and retirement security among rural households**.

The collaboration focuses on expanding pension enrollment through a dedicated network of '**Pension Sakhis**' (**specialized community resource persons**) to facilitate **financial inclusion and outreach** in rural areas.

SAMTEL AVIONICS SIGNS MOU WITH BULL CO LTD

Samtel Avionics Ltd, an **Indian defence electronics and avionics firm**, has signed an MoU with **Japan-based BULL Co Ltd** to jointly explore **space debris mitigation solutions**.

The collaboration aims to promote **sustainable space operations** by addressing the challenges of **orbital debris** through collaborative research and development.

AGREEMENT FOR TRAIN MAINTENANCE

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has partnered with **Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd (TRSL)**, a **railway rolling stock manufacturer**, to establish a **50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC)**. The JVC will be responsible for the **maintenance** of **Vande Bharat Sleeper trainsets** for a period of **35 years**.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL):

CEO – K Sadashiv Murthy

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1964

TCS PARTNERS WITH DGCX

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered with the **Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange (DGCX)** to **modernize and upgrade the market infrastructure system** of the latter.

MOSJE EXTENDS MOU WITH ART OF LIVING

The **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment** has **extended its MoU** with the **'Art of Living'** under the **Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)**. The organization will utilize its grassroots network to promote value-based living and family resilience, and to **reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorders**.

It is to be noted that the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has partnered with **12 spiritual organizations** under the **NMBA framework** to expand the outreach of the initiative.

NHAI SIGNS MOU WITH SSNNL

The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has signed an **MoU** with **Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd (SSNNL)** to establish a **simplified and time-bound framework** for **granting approvals** to facilitate the **crossing of National Highways, canals, and pipelines** across **Gujarat**.

CISF SIGNS MOUS WITH IIT KANPUR

The **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has signed two MoUs with the **IIT Kanpur** in **Uttar Pradesh**. Under the first MoU, the **IHUB NTIHAC Foundation (C3iHub)** will conduct a **6-week residential Cybersecurity Training Programme** for **40 personnel** of the CISF per batch under a **3-year non-commercial framework**.

The second MoU involves the establishment of a **CoE focused on drone and anti-drone technologies** at the **Multi-Purpose Recruitment and Training Centre (MPRTC)** in **Behror, Rajasthan**. The CoE will operate under a **5-year framework**.

APEDA SIGNS MOU WITH IND EVENTS

The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has signed an MoU with **InD Events Dubai**, the organizer of **Gulfood**, to **enhance global market opportunities** for **Indian agricultural and processed food exporters**.

The agreement facilitates the participation of India as the **Official Partner Country at Gulfood 2027** for the **second consecutive year**.

TDB SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH GALAXEYE

The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** has signed an agreement with **Bengaluru-based GalaxEye Space Solutions Pvt Ltd** to provide financial support of **₹63.84 crore** under the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**. The financial assistance will be extended through **Optionally Convertible Debentures (OCD)**.

The project, with a **total approved cost of ₹247.69 crore**, aims to develop a **multisensor satellite** capable of high-resolution (**OptoSAR imaging**. The initiative seeks to transition the imaging technology from **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-6 to TRL-9**.

DRDO SIGNS DEEP TECH PROJECT AGREEMENT

The **DRDO** has signed its **first high-value deep-tech project agreement** under the **Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme** with the startup **Zero mK India Private Limited**.

The collaboration aims for the **indigenous development** of a **20 millikelvin (mK) dilution refrigerator** designed for **quantum applications**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Chairman – Rajesh Kumar Singh

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1958

IIIT-BANGALORE AND TCA SIGN LOI

The **International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-Bangalore)** has signed a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** with the **Taipei Computer Association (TCA)** to explore **collaborative opportunities in emerging technology domains**.

The agreement was signed during the '**Electronica India 2026**' event, an **international trade fair for electronic components, systems, and applications**, held in **Bengaluru**.

NIBE LTD SIGNS MOU WITH NAVAL GROUP

Nibe Ltd has signed an MoU with **France-based Naval Group** to establish a framework for cooperation in **naval shipbuilding** and the **development of defence platforms**.

TATA STEEL EXTENDS JLOI FOR GREEN STEEL PROJECT

Tata Steel has extended the **Joint Letter of Intent (JLoI)** with the **Netherlands government** and the **Province of North Holland** for the **"Green Steel Project"** until **March 1, 2027**.

The extension aims to facilitate continued discussions regarding the **decarbonization** of the industrial operations of the steelmaker in the Netherlands.

IRITH SIGNS STRATEGIC AGREEMENTS

The **Indo-Russia Innopraktika Tech Hub (IRITH)** has signed **4 strategic agreements** during the **"INNOPROM India 2026" International Industrial Trade Fair** held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.

Under the agreements, a **CoE for AI and cybersecurity** will be established at **Gorky Tech**. To facilitate **cross-border investment**, an agreement was signed with **Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF)**. Additionally, the Russian company **NexTouch** will set up a **joint venture in India**, and **SberMedAI** will collaborate on the **implementation of AI and IT applications in the healthcare sector**.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM PARTNERS WITH ONDC

The **Ministry of Tourism** has partnered with the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** to develop the '**National Digital Tourism Stack**'.

Union Minister **Gajendra Shekhawat** launched the project at **Bharat Mandapam** in **New Delhi** to mark **World Tourism Day** on **September 27**. The initiative aims to bring **23,000 tourism experiences and homestays** on board to make them discoverable, trustable, and bookable by the end of **2028**, with the support of the **International Centre for DPI Innovation and Advancement (ICDIA)**.

MINISTRY OF MSME SIGNS MOU

The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has signed an **MoU** with the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** to **develop and strengthen the Statistical Business Register**.

The agreement facilitates a framework for sharing information from the **Udyam Registration ecosystem**.

IIT-BHU SIGNS MOU WITH UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The **Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) (IIT-BHU)** has signed an **MoU** with the **USA-based University of Michigan** to **strengthen research collaboration in electric mobility**, focusing on **electric vehicles (EVs)** and **sustainable mobility innovation**.

MOTA SIGNS MOU WITH IGNCA

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has signed an **MoU** with the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**, an **autonomous trust** under the **Ministry of Culture**, for the **preservation, documentation, digitalisation, research, and promotion of the diverse tribal cultural heritage of India**.

REPORTS

NITI AAYOG REPORT ON SKILLING

According to a report titled "**Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@ 2047**" released by the **NITI Aayog**, **8.7 crore youth** aged between **15 and 29 years** are **not in education, employment, or training (NEET)**.

The report also highlights a **employability gap**, noting that only **8.25% of graduates** are employed in **roles that align with their specific qualifications**.

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India):

Chairman – PM Narendra Modi

CEO – Anurag Jain

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2015

ALL INDIA SURVEY ON HIGHER EDUCATION

According to the **13th and 14th editions of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)** released by the **Department of Higher Education (DoHE)** under the **Ministry of Education (MoE)** for the academic years **2022-23 and 2023-24**. The **number of universities increased by 69.6%** from 760 to **1.28 thousand**.

During this ten-year period, the **number of colleges grew by 25.3%** to **48.2 thousand**, and standalone institutions increased by approximately **24% to 15.2 thousand**. **Total student enrollment** in higher education **rose by 31.5%** from 3.42 crore to **4.50 crore** between 2014-15 and 2023-24.

Female enrollment witnessed a **growth of 42.2%** over the decade, rising from 1.57 crore to **2.24 crore**. It is to be noted that this resulted in a **Gender Parity Index (GPI) of 1.08** for the academic year 2023-24.

REPORT ON GLOBAL WARMING OVERSHOOT

According to the report titled "**Limiting Overshoot: Navigating exceedance of 1.5°C and pathways towards return**" released by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)**, the **global warming threshold of 1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels is **highly likely to be temporarily breached (overshot)** within the **next few years**.

It states that under an **optimistic scenario**, global surface temperatures are projected to **peak at 1.8°C** above pre-industrial levels, whereas **current global policies** are expected to result in a **2.6°C increase by 2100**.

REPORT BY NSO

The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** has released the **inaugural report** titled "**Unincorporated Sector at the District Level: Insights from ASUSE 2025**". It provides **granular data on enterprises across various districts for the first time**.

The report highlights that the **top 10 districts** are concentrated within **4 states: Gujarat, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal**. The **top 50 districts** are distributed across **12 states**.

KARNATAKA LEADS IN SEMICONDUCTOR SUPPORT

According to a dataset released by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, **Karnataka** has emerged as the **leading state in semiconductor support** under the **ChipIN Centre initiative**.

The state recorded the highest engagement under the initiative, featuring **81 organisations**, **73 chip tape-outs**, and **88 lakh hours** of **Electronic Design Automation (EDA)** tool usage. The **ChipIN Centre initiative** was **launched by MeitY in 2023** and is established at the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**.

DATA ON TRADE PERFORMANCE

According to the data released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, the **total combined exports (merchandise and services)** of India in the **first five months of FY27 (April-August 2026)** reached **$399.27 billion**, representing a **growth of 15.5%**.

Merchandise exports for the period stood at **$215.91 billion**, compared to $183.21 billion in the same period of the previous year. **Total imports** for the April-August 2026 period are estimated at **$459.65 billion**, showing a **growth of 18.01%**.

MoC&I further stated that in **August 2026**, the total combined exports of India were estimated at **$82.68 billion**, registering a **growth of 25.41%**. Total combined imports for the month are estimated at **$92.09 billion**, marking a growth of 18.75%.

DATA ON PM-KMY SCHEME

The **PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY)** was launched in **2019** as a **voluntary and contributory** old-age pension scheme to provide social security to **Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs)**. The scheme is implemented in collaboration with the **LIC** and has recently completed **7 years of operation**.

The PM-KMY offers eligible landholding SMFs in the **age group of 18 to 40 years** with **cultivable land up to 2 hectares** a steady monthly pension starting from the **age of 60**.

Enrolled farmers are required to make monthly contributions ranging from **₹55 to ₹200**, depending on their entry age. It is to be noted that as of **February 2026**, a total of **24.96 lakh farmers** have enrolled in the scheme across the country.

GLOBAL FINANCIAL CENTRES INDEX

According to the **40th edition of the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI 40)** released by **Z/Yen Partners**, in collaboration with the **China Development Institute (CDI)**, the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** is **ranked 37th** globally.

New York is ranked top among the global financial centres, followed by **London**, **Hong Kong**, and **Singapore**.

GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT 2026

According to the **20th edition** of the "**Global Gender Gap Report 2026**" released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, **India** is **ranked 131st out of 145 evaluated nations** with a **score of 0.645**.

Iceland is **ranked top** for the **17th consecutive year** with a **score of 0.93**, followed by **Finland and Norway**.

World Economic Forum (WEF):

Founder – Peter Brabeck

President – Borge Brende

Headquarters – Cologny, Switzerland

Established in – 1971

PLFS MONTHLY BULLETIN

According to the **17th edition** of the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** Monthly Bulletin for **August 2026** released by the **NSO** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, the **overall unemployment rate (UR)** for individuals aged 15+ **decreased to 5.0%** in August 2026, compared to **5.1% in July 2026**.

The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** for the same age group **increased to 55.6%** in August 2026 (up from **55.4% in July 2026**). The **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** also **rose to 52.8%** from **52.5% in the previous month**.

TRADE WATCH QUARTERLY

According to the 9th edition of the "**Trade Watch Quarterly (TWQ) Thematic Analysis: Metals and Ores Trade**" released by the **NITI Aayog** for the **first quarter (Q1) of FY 2027** (April to June 2026), **global goods trade reached $13.7 trillion** in the first half of Calendar Year (CY) 2026, reflecting a 12.5% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) growth.

The **total merchandise and services trade of India** expanded to **$506.9 billion** in Q1 FY27, registering a **15.5% Y-o-Y growth**. During the same period, **merchandise exports** increased by **16%** to **$129.5 billion**, while **merchandise imports** grew by **19.8%** to reach **$216.1 billion**.

DATA ON SOFTWARE SERVICES EXPORTS

According to the "**Survey on Computer Software and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) Exports: 2025-26**" released by the **RBI**, the **software services exports of India** grew by **8.2%** year-on-year to reach **$221.4 billion**.

The **USA** remains the **top destination** for these exports, accounting for **54.1%** of the total export volume.

BUSINESS CLIMATE SURVEY

India is **ranked top** in **business climate** among **41 global markets** in the "**Global Business Climate Survey 2026**", demonstrating strong confidence among **Swedish companies** operating in India. **Ireland is ranked second**, followed by **Vietnam**.

INDIA ELECTRIC MOBILITY INDEX

According to the **second edition** of the "**India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2025**: Tracking Electric Mobility Trends in Indian States" report released by **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with **World Resources Institute (WRI) India**, **Delhi** retained the **top position in the overall index** with a **score of 84**). It is followed by **Maharashtra and Karnataka**.

The report further states that in the '**Large States**' category, **Maharashtra is ranked first**, followed by **Karnataka and Tamil Nadu**. **Manipur** topped the '**Hilly and Northeastern States**' category with a **score of 46**, followed by Tripura and Assam. Within the '**UTs and City States**' category, **Delhi is ranked top**, followed by Chandigarh and Goa.

REPORT BY WMO

According to the "**State of Global Water Resources 2025**" report released by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, **2025** marked the **4th consecutive year** in which every major glaciated region recorded a net loss in ice mass, with **global glacier loss estimated at 408 ± 132 gigatonnes**.

The report further states that **mountain glaciers** have lost about **6.2%** of their total ice mass between **2000 and 2025**.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

President – Abdulla Al Mandous

Secretary General – Celeste Saulo

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Established in – 1950

IEA ELECTRIFICATION SPECIAL REPORT

According to the "**Electrification Special Report 2026**" released by the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**, the **electrification rate of India** is projected to **rise from 19% to 32%** by **2035**.

Accelerated electrification could reduce **global energy import bills** by over **$400 billion** by 2035. The electrification rate of Southeast Asia is projected to increase from **25% to 37% by 2035**.

INTERNATIONAL

POLIO OUTBREAKS CLOSED

The **World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa** has confirmed the **closure of poliovirus type 2 outbreaks** in **Burundi, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of the Congo, and Uganda**. This decision follows a **comprehensive evaluation** by the **Independent Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA)**.

World Health Organisation (WHO):

Director General – Dr Tedros Adhanom

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Established in – 1948

CHINA TESTS CRUISE MISSILE

China has tested a **new variant** of the **'YJ-18A' anti-ship cruise missile**. The missile is equipped with a **black stealth (radar-absorbing) coating** to enhance **radar evasion and penetration**.

UNCCD COP17

The **17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17)** to the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** was held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**. The theme of the session was "**Restoring Land. Restoring Hope.**"

The event, which coincided with the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026)** of the UN, was chaired by Batmunkh Battsetseg (Minister of Mongolia). Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav** led the Indian delegation. It is to be noted that **Egypt** was unanimously approved as the host for the **UNCCD COP18**, scheduled to be held in **2028**.

The conference witnessed the launch of the **Drought Resilience Index (DRI)**, the **first AI powered monitoring tool** in the world to help countries predict and adapt to drought. Additionally, the UNCCD and the Government of **Luxembourg** co-developed the **Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF)**, a financing platform aiming to raise up to **$400 million** in public and private capital.

RUSSIA TESTS YARS ICBM

Russia has successfully test-launched the **mobile, solid-fuel RS-24 Yars Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** from the **Plesetsk Cosmodrome**. The missile features mobile launch capabilities and has an operational **strike range exceeding 10,000 km**.

It is integrated with **Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs)** to facilitate the **deployment of multiple warheads**.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR ESTONIA

Ulle Madise, the **Chancellor of Justice**, has been elected as the **President of Estonia** for a **5-year term**. She **succeeds Alar Karis**.

TURKIYE JOINS ARTEMIS ACCORDS

Turkiye has joined the **Artemis Accords** as the **71st signatory** globally and the **7th nation from West Asia**.

It is to be noted that the accords were jointly established by the **NASA** and the **US Department of State** in **2020**. The initiative aims to promote the **safe and peaceful exploration** of the **Moon, Mars, and beyond**.

CHINA TESTS GJ-21 STEALTH UAV

China has conducted the testing of the **GJ-21 stealth Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** in conjunction with the **Type 076 amphibious assault ship** named **"Sichuan"**. The ship has entered the **final phase of sea trials**, which is the concluding stage of testing before active deployment.

MARGHERITA VISITS VIETNAM AND LAOS

Union Minister of State Pabitra Margherita has visited **Vietnam** and **Laos** to strengthen bilateral partnerships under the **'Act East Policy'**.

During the visit to Vietnam, the Minister visited the **Phap Van Pagoda** as part of the **'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'** initiative. In Laos, initiatives were launched for the preservation of the **Phlak-Phlam dance** and the development of the **National Arts College**. An **MoU** was also signed for the restoration of murals at the **Wat Pa Khae Temple** in **Luang Prabang**.

PM MODI VISITS UZBEKISTAN

PM Narendra Modi has visited **Uzbekistan** at the invitation of **President Shavkat Mirziyoyev**, marking the **15th anniversary** of the **India-Uzbekistan strategic partnership** and the **35th Independence Day of Uzbekistan**.

During the visit, PM Modi was conferred with the **highest state honour** of Uzbekistan, the **Order of "Oliy Darajali Do'stlik"** (Order of Highest Friendship), marking his **36th global recognition**. Both countries signed **11 MoUs** and agreements to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Both nations have established a target to increase bilateral trade to **$5 billion by 2030**. It is to be noted that the establishment of a **Sanskrit Chair** of the **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** at the **Tashkent State University** was announced to enhance cultural and educational ties.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE

The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** has adopted a resolution, led by **Sierra Leone** and co-sponsored by 70 nations including **India**, to declare **November 27** as the **"International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage"** annually.

The resolution was passed unanimously by all 193 Member States of the UN during the **80th session** of the UNGA in **New York**. The initiative to establish this global day was championed by **Fatima Bion**, the First Lady of Sierra Leone and President of the Organisation of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD), along with **Bhuwan Ribhu**, the founder of Just Rights for Children (JRC).

26TH SCO SUMMIT

PM Narendra Modi represented India at the **26th edition** of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation - Council of Heads of State (SCO-CHS) Summit** and the **'SCO Plus' meeting** held in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.

The summit, marking the **25th anniversary** of the organisation, was chaired by the **President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov** under the motto **"25 Years of the SCO; Together for Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity"**.

The event concluded with the adoption of the **'Bishkek Declaration'** and 28 other documents, including 4 MoUs. The declaration featured various initiatives led or supported by India. On the sidelines, the **'SCO Plus' meeting** was organised under the theme **"The UN as a Key Element of a Just World Order: The Contribution of the SCO Plus States to the Formation of a Multipolar World"**.

The **presidency of the SCO for the 2026-27 term** was handed over to **Pakistan**, which will operate under the theme **"Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity"**. **Lahore (Pakistan)** has been named the **tourism and cultural capital of the SCO for the 2026-27 period**.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL OPENS MUMBAI CAMPUS

The **University of Bristol** has inaugurated the **Mumbai Enterprise Campus** in **Mumbai**, marking the **first international campus** of the institution.

It is to be noted that this expansion is facilitated by **recent regulatory amendments** in India that permit **foreign Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** to establish and operate physical campuses within the country.

KING CHARLES III ON CANADIAN BANKNOTE

The **Bank of Canada** has unveiled a new **$20 banknote** featuring **King Charles III**. This marks the **first time in over 70 years** that a British monarch has appeared on the currency of the nation.

It is to be noted that **Canada** is the **first Commonwealth nation outside the UK** to feature **King Charles III** on the banknotes.

ARTIFICIAL ENERGY ISLAND

Princess Elisabeth Island is the **world's first artificial energy island**, currently under construction in the **North Sea**. Located **45 km off the coast of Belgium**, the **6-hectare facility** serves as an **offshore electricity hub** and functions as a high-tech "**electricity roundabout**".

BELGIAN PM VISIT TO INDIA

Bart De Wever, the **PM of Belgium**, has paid his **first-ever official visit** to **India** at the invitation of **PM Narendra Modi** to strengthen bilateral relations in trade, investment, defence, technology, and connectivity.

High-level talks were held at **Hyderabad House in New Delhi**, where the two nations signed **5 key MoUs** to formalize cooperation. In **Mumbai**, PM Bart De Wever participated in the **India-Belgium High-Level Dialogue** to discuss the **India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, focusing on **trade, ports, logistics, and investment**.

CORRECT THE MAP RESOLUTION

The **United Nations** has adopted the **"Correct the Map" resolution** with **164 votes** to promote a more accurate global representation. The resolution, sponsored by **Togo** and backed by the **African Union**, advocates for the use of the **"Equal Earth" projection** as a replacement for the **16th-century "Mercator map"**.

It is to be noted that the **Mercator map distorts the relative size of landmasses**. For instance, the true size of **Africa is 14 times larger than Greenland**, which is often misrepresented in older projections.

INDIA JOINS GLOBAL 6G INITIATIVE

India, through the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**, has joined the global **'Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security'** initiative alongside the **USA** and **24 other nations**.

The initiative aims to strengthen international collaboration to develop **secure, interoperable, and innovation-driven 6G (sixth-generation)** telecommunication networks.

INTERNATIONAL SPACE SUMMIT

The **inaugural International Space Summit 2026** was held in **Paris, France**, to facilitate an inclusive dialogue to address contemporary challenges in the space sector. The summit was hosted by **French President Emmanuel Macron** in partnership with **Germany**.

During the event, **India and France** signed **three agreements** to expand **bilateral cooperation in space technologies**. It is to be noted that a total of **51 announcements** valued at **€20 billion** were made during the summit.

BRICS CHIEF JUSTICES FORUM

The **Supreme Court of India** has hosted the **Chief Justices Forum of BRICS** (**Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**) in **New Delhi**. During the forum, Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Surya Kant** held **bilateral meetings** with the judicial leaders of **10 countries**.

Additionally, the **14th BRICS Science Ministerial Meeting** was held in **Chennai** under the chairmanship of **Union Minister Jitendra Singh**.

WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The **79th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee (RC79)** for the **South-East Asia Region (SEAR)** was held in **Dili, Timor-Leste**. The meeting was chaired by **Dr Elia dos Reis Amaral**, the Minister of Timor-Leste, and **Union Minister JP Nadda** represented India.

The session concluded with the unanimous adoption of the **"Dili Declaration on Human Resources for Health: Equity in Specialized Care"**. It is to be noted that the **WHO recognized India** for successfully sustaining the **elimination of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNTE)** for the **past 10 years**.

World Health Organisation (WHO):

Director General – Dr Tedros Adhanom

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Established in – 1948

TYPHOON DUJUAN

Typhoon Dujuan has hit the **eastern part of Japan**, resulting in **record-breaking precipitation and violent winds**. The weather event has triggered **severe flooding and landslides** across the affected regions.

US SIGNS ARCTIC SECURITY PACT

US President Donald Trump, along with the leaders of **Denmark and Greenland**, has signed a **trilateral security agreement** titled **"Infinite Life"** at the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.

The pact allows for the **expansion of the military presence** of the **USA** in the **Arctic region** without changing the territorial status of Greenland. The agreement grants the USA **permanent basing, overflight, and operational rights**. It is to be noted that the agreement serves as an **update to the original defense pact** which was **established in 1951**.

DR.S JAISHANKAR VISITS BHUTAN

Union Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** visited **Bhutan** at the invitation of the Foreign Minister of Bhutan **DN Dhungyel** to review bilateral cooperation. During the visit, he held high-level meetings with the **King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** and **PM Tshering Tobgay**.

He launched **5 developmental initiatives** in the fields of healthcare, connectivity, agriculture, clean mobility, and energy. Both nations reviewed the progress of the **Punatsangchhu-I (1,200 MW)** and **Punatsangchhu-II (1,020 MW)** Hydroelectric Projects under the **'Joint Vision on Energy Partnership' (March 2024)**.

India has extended a concessional **Line of Credit (LoC)** worth **₹4,000 crore** to **Bhutan** for projects in the energy sector to enhance infrastructure and hydropower development.

INDIA-ETHIOPIA DEFENCE MEETING

The **2nd Joint Defence Cooperation meeting** between **India** and **Ethiopia** was held in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**. The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest such as **military training, joint exercises, medical cooperation, peacekeeping, and defence industries**.

INDIA AT G20 ENERGY MEETING

Union Minister Manohar Lal has **led the Indian delegation** at the **G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial Meeting** held in **Houston, USA**, under the **USA G20 Presidency**.

The meeting focused on **three key pillars**: **Energy Security & Affordable Baseload, Permitting & Regulatory Efficiency, and Critical Minerals & Resilient Supply Chains**.

DEFENCE

GSL DELIVERS ICGS AJIT

Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) has handed over the **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Ajit** (Yard 1277) to the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**. The vessel is the **7th** in a series of **8 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)** being constructed for the ICG.

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** had awarded the **₹473 crore contract** to GSL in 2022 under the **Buy-Indian Designed, Developed, and Manufactured (Buy-IDDM) scheme**.

AK-203 RIFLE TEST FIRED

Indo-Russian Rifles Pvt Ltd (IRRPL) has successfully produced and test-fired the **first 100% indigenized AK-203 "Sher" assault rifle**, manufactured entirely using Indian components and materials.

The rifle, featuring a **firing rate of 700 rounds per minute**, an **effective range of up to 800 m**, and a **415 mm barrel**, is designed to replace the **Indian Small Arms System (INSAS) rifle**. It is to be noted that IRRPL is a **Joint Venture (JV) established between India and Russia in 2019** to locally manufacture AK-203 assault rifles

INDIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS INS NIPUN

The **Indian Navy (IN)** has commissioned '**INS Nipun**', the **second Diving Support Vessel (DSV)** of the **Nistar Class**, at the **Naval Dockyard in Mumbai**.

The vessel is **indigenously designed and built** by the **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)** in **Visakhapatnam**. It aims to enhance the **deep-sea diving, underwater intervention, and submarine rescue capabilities** of the IN.

Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL):

CMD – Cmde Girideep Singh (Retd)

Headquarters – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Established in – 1941

TOT FOR DRDO MISSILE SYSTEMS

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** has approved the **Transfer of Technology (ToT)** of **all conventional missile systems** developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** to **domestic defence manufacturers**.

The decision, announced in New Delhi, aims to enhance the participation of **Indian private industries and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in the **national defence supply chain**.

TANK OVERHAUL PROJECT

Union Minister Rajnath Singh has laid the foundation stone for a **₹472 crore T-72 and T-90 Tank Overhaul Project** at the **Vehicle Factory Jabalpur (VFJ)** in **Madhya Pradesh**. VFJ is a production unit of the **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd (AVNL)**.

The facility is designed to overhaul **80 tanks annually**. It is to be noted that the **total annual requirement of the Indian Army (IA) is 230 tanks**.

EXERCISE SAHYOG HOP-TAC

The **2nd edition** of the bilateral maritime exercise named "**SAHYOG HOP-TAC**" between the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** and the **Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG)** has concluded off the coast of **Chennai**.

The ICG deployed **8 ships and 6 aircraft** for the exercise, while the VCG was represented by the patrol vessel **CSB 8002** and a 6-member delegation.

CSIR-NAL UNVEILS GAS TURBINE ENGINES

The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL)** has unveiled three indigenous **micro and small gas turbine engines** designated as **NJ-05, NJ-50, and NJ-100** at the **CSIR Headquarters in New Delhi**.

These engines, developed for deployment in **defence Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and missile systems**, feature thrust capacities of **5 kg (NJ-05), 50 kg (NJ-50), and 100 kg (NJ-100)** to meet various operational needs. It is to be noted that these engines operate on the '**Brayton cycle**', which is a **thermodynamic cycle** describing the workings of a constant-pressure heat engine.

TWO ICG VESSELS DECOMMISSIONED

The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has **decommissioned** two **Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV)** named '**ICGS Meera Behn**' and '**ICGS Subhadra Kumari Chauhan**' after **20 years of service** dedicated to maritime security and coastal surveillance.

MANUFACTURING FACILITY FOR SHDS

Samtel HAL Display Systems Ltd (SHDS), a **Joint Venture (JV)** between **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** and **Samtel Avionics**, has inaugurated its new manufacturing facility in **Gurugram, Haryana**. It is the **first public-private JV established within the Indian defence avionics sector**.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL):

CMD – Kota Ravi

Headquarters – Bengaluru

Established in – 1940

DRDO TESTS MILITARY COMBAT PARACHUTE SYSTEM

The **DRDO** has successfully tested the **indigenous high-altitude Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS)** at the **Nyoma-Mudh Drop Zone** in **Leh, Ladakh**. The test involved safe jumps from an altitude of **22,000 feet** above sea level at a temperature of **-15°C** to validate special operations capabilities.

The MCPS was designed by the **Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE)** in **Uttar Pradesh**, while the integrated life-support systems were developed by the **Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL)** in **Bengaluru**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Chairman – Rajesh Kumar Singh

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1958

INDIA JOINS GCAP AS DIALOGUE PARTNER

India has formally secured **dialogue partner status** in the **Global Combat Air Program (GCAP)**, a **6th-generation fighter jet** project popularly known as "**Tempest**".

Launched in **2022**, the **GCAP** is a **trilateral initiative** between the **UK, Italy, and Japan** to collaborate on **military and industrial objectives** for 6th-generation combat air capabilities.

INDIAN ARMY TO PROCURE JAVELIN MISSILES

The **Indian Army (IA)** has signed a **Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA)** with the **USA** to procure **100 FGM-148 Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** systems through the **Foreign Military Sales (FMS)** route. The deal is valued at **$93 million**.

The agreement also establishes a framework for the potential future **co-production** of the missile systems in India. The FGM-148 Javelin is manufactured by the **Javelin Joint Venture (JV)**, a partnership between USA-based **RTX Corporation** and **Lockheed Martin Corporation**.

IAF TESTS KHAGANTAK-243

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has successfully conducted a **drop trial** of the **indigenous Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB)** named '**Khagantak-243**', demonstrating an enhanced long-range **air-to-ground precision strike** capability.

The **300 kg-class** airborne **Long Range Stand-Off Precision Guided Glide Bomb** was developed through a collaborative partnership between **Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)** and **JSR Dynamics**.

INDIA-CHINA MILITARY TALKS

India and **China** have held the **inaugural Corps Commander-level military meeting** in **Arunachal Pradesh**. The Indian delegation was led by **Lt Gen Girish Kalia**, the **commander of the Rangapahar-based 3 Corps**.

The meeting, hosted at the **Wacha-Damai Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) point** near **Kibithu** in the **Anjaw district**, marks the **first time** this high-level dialogue mechanism was used in the **Eastern Sector** of the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.

DAC APPROVES PROPOSALS

The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by **Union Minister Rajnath Singh**, has accorded the **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for various **capital acquisition proposals** worth **₹1.1 lakh crore**.

In alignment with the **'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative**, **98%** of the total procurement value will be sourced from the **domestic Indian industry** to bolster **indigenous defence manufacturing**.

NEW DOCUMENT ON DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** has released a document on **Defence Diplomacy** named '**RAKSHA**' in **New Delhi**. The document outlines the vision of India for **strengthening international defence ties** over the **next 10 years**.

The '**RAKSHA**' framework identifies **defence diplomacy** as a **primary driver** for **fostering international cooperation** and **increasing defence exports**. It is to be noted that the strategy is integrated with the **'Make in India'** initiative.

EXERCISE VEER GUARDIAN 2026

The **2nd edition** of the **bilateral air exercise** '**Veer Guardian-2026**' between the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF)** is held at the **Air Force Station in Jodhpur**, **Rajasthan**.

FASTEST INTERCEPTOR DRONE

Defense startup **Apollyon Dynamics** has set a **national record** with its **electric interceptor drone** named "**Ahuti Mk II**", which reached a **maximum speed of 498 km/h**.

It is identified as the **fastest multirotor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** in India. The UAV was evaluated at the **Indian Army ranges** with the support of defense authorities.

EXERCISE SAMUDRA LAKSAMANA

The **4th edition** of the **bilateral maritime exercise** between **India** and **Malaysia** named "**Samudra Laksamana**" has commenced in **Lumut Naval Base, Malaysia**.

The **Indian Navy** is participating in the exercise with **INS Mysore** (a **Delhi-class guided-missile destroyer**), while the **Royal Malaysian Navy** is represented by the vessels **KD Lekir** and **KD Gagah Samudera**.

DRDO LAUNCHES SHIELD PROGRAMME

The **DRDO** has launched the '**SHIELD**' (**S-band High-Power Microwave Integrated Evaluation for Lethality and Damage**) programme. The initiative aims to bolster **indigenous capabilities** in the emerging **directed-energy technology** sector.

INDIAN ARMY ESTABLISHES AASHVAST LAB

The **Indian Army** has established a **specialized laboratory** named "**AASHVAST**" (**Assessment and Analysis of Electronic Systems Hardware for Vulnerabilities and Security Threats**) at the **Directorate General of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (DG EME)** headquarters in **New Delhi**.

The laboratory, developed by **QuickPay Technology Services Private Limited (QuickPay Tech)** specifically for the DG EME, is designed to **detect Chinese components and assess security vulnerabilities in unmanned systems (drones)**.

EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS 2026

The **22nd edition** of the **annual bilateral military exercise** between the **Indian Army (IA)** and the **US Army** named "**Yudh Abhyas 2026**" is held at **Bikaner in Rajasthan** and **Auli in Uttarakhand**.

The exercise is being conducted under the "**Operation Pathways**" framework to **enhance military cooperation and strategic ties** between the two nations. The IA contingent is represented by an **infantry battalion** of the **Rajput Regiment**. The US contingent features **elite, Arctic-trained soldiers** from the **11th Airborne Division ("Arctic Angels")** and the **3rd Multi-Domain Task Force (3MDTF)**.

HAL DELIVERS TEJAS AND DHRUV AIRCRAFT

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has delivered 2 **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Final Operational Clearance (FOC) Twin Seater Trainers** and 3 **HTT-40 Basic Trainers** to the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

Additionally, HAL handed over 4 **Dhruv Next Generation (NG) helicopters** to **Pawan Hans Ltd (PHL)**. The handover ceremony was held in **Bengaluru**, in the presence of Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Union Minister **K Rammohan Naidu**.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL):

CMD – Kota Ravi

Headquarters – Bengaluru

Established in – 1940

COLLABORATION FOR HALE UAV PROGRAMME

Bharat Forge Ltd (BFL) has partnered with the **US-based Pratt & Whitney Canada** to assess the **feasibility of incorporating advanced turboprop engines** into the **High-Altitude, Long-Endurance (HALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** programme. The HALE UAV is currently being developed by the **DRDO**.

TABLE TOP EXERCISE

The **Table Top Exercise (TTX)** under the **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)** has concluded at the **Eastern Naval Command** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**. The exercise focused on strengthening **coordinated responses to illegal maritime activities** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

SLINEX-26

The **13th edition** of the **bilateral maritime exercise** between **India** and **Sri Lanka** named "**SLINEX-26**" is held in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.

INS Kavaratti (an **indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette**) and **INS Jyoti** (a **Fleet Tanker**) of the **Indian Navy (IN)** and **SLNS Sindurala** of the **Sri Lanka Navy (SLN)** participated in the exercise to **enhance maritime cooperation and interoperability**.

MATANGI COMPLETES AUTONOMOUS VOYAGE

Matangi, an indigenous **Autonomous Surface Vessel (USV)** developed by **Sagar Defence Engineering**, has successfully completed a **1,500 km** (850 nautical miles) open-ocean voyage from **Mumbai to Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**.

The voyage, which was completed with **zero human intervention** (no captain or crew on board), was flagged off by **Union Minister Rajnath Singh**. The mission was conducted under the '**Swavlamban**' initiative of the Indian Navy to foster self-reliance. The vessel is controlled by an indigenously developed AI-driven operating suite named '**Genesis**'.

INDIA TESTS KAL ATTACK DRONE

India has successfully flight-tested its **first indigenous long-range one-way attack drone** named '**KAL**' at the **Pokhran Field Firing Range** in **Rajasthan**. Developed by the **Noida-based IG Defence**, the **loitering munition (kamikaze drone)** is designed for one-way strike missions.

The drone features an **operational range** of up to **1,000 km** and a **payload capacity of 50 kg**. It is capable of **fully autonomous flight** at an **altitude of up to 5,000 m** using a navigation suite that combines **multi-band Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and Inertial Navigation Systems (INS)**.

NEW MISSILE TESTING RANGE

The **West Bengal** government has approved a proposal by the **DRDO** to establish a **new weapon and missile testing range** at **Junput village** in **Purba Medinipur** district. Situated along the **Bay of Bengal coast**, the facility will be the **third major missile-testing hub** for the DRDO.

Existing testing infrastructures include the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** in **Odisha** (at **Chandipur** and **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island**) and the **Navdurga Missile Test Range (NMTR)** currently being developed at **Nagayalanka, Andhra Pradesh**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Chairman – **Rajesh Kumar Singh**

Headquarters – **New Delhi**

Established in – **1958**

INITIATIVES FOR DEFENCE START-UPS

Union Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled several policy initiatives at the '**VIMARSH 2026**' **DRDO-Industry Synergy Meet** held in **New Delhi** under the theme '**Varta se Vikas**'.

During the event, **9 Licensing Agreements for ToT (LAToTs)** were handed over to 13 manufacturing partners. **DRDO** also signed a contract with the **Quality Council of India (QCI)** for the implementation of the '**System for Advance Manufacturing Assessment and Rating' (SAMAR) version 2.0**.

A group of scientists led by **Dr Meena Mishara** has developed **indigenous Gallium Nitride (GaN) Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit (MMIC) technology** for high-frequency defence applications, was unveiled.

EXERCISE VEER GUARDIAN 2026

The bilateral air exercise "**Veer Guardian 2026**" between the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **Japan Air Self Defense Force (JASDF)** has concluded at the **Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan**.

The exercise aimed to **enhance interoperability and strengthen the strategic partnership** between the two nations. **Su-30 MKI, Rafale, and indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** of the IAF and **F-2A fighter aircraft** of the JASDF participated in the exercise.

INDIGENOUS BULLETPROOF GLASS FOR VEHICLES

DRDO has partnered with the **CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI)** for a **₹50 crore project** to develop **indigenous advanced lightweight bulletproof glass** for armoured vehicles.

The **four-year project** is currently at an advanced stage and is being executed within DRDO laboratories. The initiative aims to transition the technology from laboratory development to **large-scale manufacturing** with an industry partner to be selected by DRDO.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Chairman – **Rajesh Kumar Singh**

Headquarters – **New Delhi**

Established in – **1958**

EXERCISE TARANG SHAKTI

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has commenced the operational phase of the multilateral air exercise named "**Tarang Shakti 2026**" at **Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.

The exercise, themed "**Power in Partnership**", witnessed the participation of **seven Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs)**: **Australia, the USA, the UAE, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh**. It builds upon the **successful inaugural edition of the exercise held in 2024**.

EXERCISE NOMADIC ELEPHANT

The **18th edition** of the annual **joint military exercise** between **India** and **Mongolia** named "**Nomadic Elephant 2026**" is held at the **Foreign Training Node (FTN)** in **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**.

The exercise involves **45 personnel each** from the **Indian Army** (representing a battalion of the **Arunachal Scouts**) and the **Mongolian Armed Forces**.

MOD SIGNS CONTRACTS

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has signed a contract worth **₹586 crore** with **Accurate Industrial Controls Pvt Ltd (AICPL)** for the procurement of **3,257 Auxiliary Power Units (APUs)** for **T-72 and T-90 tanks** of the **Indian Army**.

In another contract, the MoD has signed an agreement valued at **₹810.79 crore** with **Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)** for the procurement of **160 Satellite Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAT-SAAW)** and associated equipment for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

BUSINESS

SPACEX TO BUILD STARBASE LOUISIANA

SpaceX has announced an investment of **$100 billion** to build its **largest rocket launch complex** named **"Starbase Louisiana"** in **southern Louisiana, USA**.

PPT ATH PLANT BY HINDALCO

Hindalco Industries Ltd has commissioned the **first Superfine Precipitated Aluminium Trihydrate (PPT ATH) manufacturing plant of India** in **Belagavi, Karnataka**. The greenfield facility marks the **inaugural domestic production** of this **high-value specialty alumina product**.

The unit has an initial capacity of **30,000 tonnes per annum** (expandable to 60,000 tonnes) and is **powered entirely by renewable energy sources**. It is to be noted that PPT ATH serves as a **Halogen-Free Flame-Retardant (HFFR)** material used in cables, insulation, and polymers.

Hindalco Industries Ltd:

MD – Satish Pai

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1958

TATA ELXSI PARTNERS WITH SARLA AVIATION

Tata Elxsi, the **design and technology services division of the Tata Group**, has entered into a strategic partnership with **Bengaluru-based Sarla Aviation** to develop an **air taxi**. The vehicle is designed to have a capacity to transport **6 passengers and 1 pilot**.

TOP ESG SCORE

Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) has attained an **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) score of 90**, the **highest globally in the utilities sector**.

The score, assessed by **S&P Global** through its **Media and Stakeholder Analysis (MSA) review**, surpasses the **global industry average of 41** for the sector.

NVIDIA TO ACQUIRE HUGGING FACE

NVIDIA has announced an agreement to acquire the **premier open-source AI platform** '**Hugging Face**' for **$12.93 billion** in cash and equity. This transaction represents the **largest acquisition undertaken by NVIDIA to date**.

VODAFONE IDEA REBRANDS

Vodafone Idea (Vi), the **third-largest telecommunications service provider in India**, has appointed **Shah Rukh Khan** as **brand ambassador** and introduced a **revitalised brand identity**.

As part of the revamp, the **logo** of the company has been redesigned from **"V!"** to **"Vi"**. The company also launched a marketing campaign titled **"Vi badal raha hai... tayaar rahiye"** (Vi is changing... Be ready).

PHONEPE FORAYS INTO UAE

PhonePe, a **fintech firm** based in **Bengaluru**, has launched its **first local operations** in the **UAE**. The company has **secured two licenses** to offer **consumer payment instruments** and to provide **e-payment acceptance infrastructure** for merchants.

AI SAFETY PLATFORM

Agnikawach Safety Solutions Pvt Ltd has launched '**Agni Kawach**', the **first indigenously developed AI powered safety platform of India**.

The platform aims to provide protection against **8 major industrial hazards** to establish a global industrial safety ecosystem. It is to be noted that the prototype of the platform has reached **Technology Readiness Level 5 (TRL-5)**.

QUALCOMM PARTNERS WITH AMAZON

Qualcomm Technologies Inc. has partnered with **Amazon** to develop **customized AI chips** for **Amazon Web Services (AWS) data centres**. The partnership is valued at over **$60 billion**.

PWC FORMS JOINT VENTURE

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) US and **PwC India** have established a **Joint Venture (JV)** to integrate their advisory talent and capabilities. The JV will create a **consulting powerhouse** of **40,000 professionals** on a **single integrated platform**.

The initiative aims to **scale the global delivery model** to assist cross-border clients in navigating technological disruptions and expanding operations.

FIRST SAF BLENDED FLIGHT

Akasa Air has successfully operated its **first commercial flight** using conventional Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) blended with **1% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**, supplied by **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)**.

The flight, which departed from **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA)** in **Mumbai**, marks a milestone in the sustainability initiatives of the airline. It is to be noted that this initiative aligns with the **national goal to achieve 5% SAF blending** in aviation fuel by **2030** to **reduce the carbon footprint** of the domestic aviation sector.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL):

Chairman & MD – Sanjay Khanna

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1952

JSW GROUP PARTNERS WITH VOLKSWAGEN

JSW Group has signed a non-binding MoU with the **Volkswagen Group**, through **Skoda Auto Volkswagen India Pvt Ltd (SAVWIPL)**, to form a proposed **Joint Venture (JV)**.

The proposed JV will feature a **51:49 ownership structure** and focus on the **passenger vehicle operations** of Volkswagen in India.

NEW PROJECT BY TATA STEEL

Tata Steel Ltd (Tata Steel) has commissioned a "**Coke Oven Gas (COG) Injection Project**" at its **Meramandali plant** in **Odisha**. The project, implemented at **Blast Furnace 1**, is the **first-ever initiative of its kind in the Indian steel industry**.

ZOHO LAUNCHES ZIA CHAT

Zoho has launched '**Zia Chat**', a **unified AI interface** for business operations. The company also announced its entry into **vertical Software as a Service (SaaS)** by introducing **7 industry-specific applications**.

These applications are designed to cater to sectors including **retail, automotive, Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI), healthcare, education, real estate, and restaurants**.

Zoho:

Founders – Sridhar Vembu and Tony Thomas

CEO – Mani Vembu

Headquarters – Chennai

Established in – 1996

PORT-BASED E-METHANOL PLANT

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation stone for the **first port-based e-methanol production facility in India** at the **Deendayal Port Authority (DPA)** in **Kandla, Gujarat**.

The project is being developed as a **Joint Venture** between the DPA and the **Assam-based Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd (APCL)** with a total investment of **₹2,300 crore**. The facility is designed to produce **150 tonnes of e-methanol per day** to support **maritime decarbonisation** and establish India as a **global green energy exporter**.

MASTERCARD EXITS PINE LABS

Mastercard has exited the **Pine Labs**, a **fintech company**, by selling its **entire 4.31% stake**.

Meanwhile, the **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Bank** has signed an **escrow agreement** with **MetLife International Holdings** and **Barclays group companies** to **sell a 0.5% stake** in **PNB MetLife India Insurance**, **lowering its total stake to about 2.53%**.

PREMIER ENERGIES EXPANDS SOLAR CAPACITY

Premier Energies has commissioned a **7 Gigawatt (GW) N-type TOPCon (Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact) G12R solar cell manufacturing facility** in **Naidupeta, Andhra Pradesh**.

With this, the total solar cell manufacturing capacity of the company has **increased from 3.6 GW to 10.6 GW**, making it the **largest solar cell manufacturing capacity in India**.

SCIENCE

C-DOT UNVEILS QUANTUM PRODUCTS

The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** has unveiled **14 indigenous quantum products** during its **43rd Foundation Day** celebrations in New Delhi. The products are developed in the areas of **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** and **Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC)**.

The newly launched QKD systems include "**Q-AKSHAY CD**" (a **fibre-based system** using **Coherent One Way and Differential Phase Shift protocols** in a compact 1U size) and "**Q-AKSHAY MD**" (based on the **Measurement Device Independent protocol**). The hardware components introduced include "**C-SPD**" (a **Single-Photon Detector**) and "**C-RD**" (a **wideband Radio Frequency (RF) driver**).

The encryptor lineup features "**Q-SETU**" (securing **Layer 3 communications up to 80 Mbps**), "**Q-MAHASETU**" (a **commercial-grade Layer 2/3 encryptor up to 40 Gbps**), "**Q-VIKRAM**" and "**Q-PARAKRAM**" (**defence-grade Layer 2/3 encryptors up to 1 Gbps**), and "**Q-AMOGH**" (a **high-speed Layer 1 optical encryptor up to 200 Gbps**).

For secure communications, C-DOT introduced "**Q-DARSHAN**" (a **quantum-safe video Internet Protocol (IP) phone**) and "**Q-VACHAN**" (an in-line node using **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) PQC algorithms**). The network solutions include "**Q-RAQSHAK**" (for **enterprise network protection**), "**Q-VAAYU**" (a **wireless point-to-point solution**), and "**Q-VAJRA1000**" (a **quantum-safe access node**).

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT):

CEO – Rajkumar Upadhyay

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1984

NANCY GRACE ROMAN TELESCOPE

The **NASA** has successfully launched the "**Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**" onboard the **SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket** from the **Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA**. The project was developed at a cost of **$4.3 billion**.

The telescope is destined for the **Lagrange Point 2 (L2)** and has a primary lifespan of **5 years**. It is to be noted that the telescope is named after **Nancy Grace Roman**, the **first Chief of Astronomy of the NASA** and the **"Mother of Hubble"**, making it the **first NASA telescope named after a woman**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):

Administrator (acting) – Sean Duffy

Headquarters – Washington DC, USA

Established in – 1958

GNANI ARTHA LAUNCHED

Vice President **CP Radhakrishnan** has launched '**Gnani Artha**', a **sovereign AI stack**, at **Uprashtrapati Bhavan** in New Delhi. It is to be noted that the stack, featuring **Evon 3.3 and Plexus**, was developed by the **Indian voice AI startup** "**GNANI AI**".

QUANTUM COMPUTING HUB AT IISC

The **IISc Bengaluru**, has established the **Foundation for Quantum Computing Innovation (FQCI)** to function as the **Quantum Computing Thematic Hub (QC T-Hub)** under the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)**. It is to be noted that the NQM is implemented by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

FQCI is tasked with **developing skilled manpower and promoting entrepreneurship** in quantum technologies through **5 specialized programmes**: **Quantum Computing (QC) Rise, QC Bridge, QC Leap, QC Accel, and QC Quest**.

ISRO LAUNCHES EOS-05

The **ISRO** has successfully launched the "**EOS-05**" **Earth Observation Satellite (EOS)** onboard the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)-F17** from the Second Launch Pad of the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)** in **Sriharikota**. It is to be noted that the **EOS-05** is the **first Indian imaging satellite deployed from a geosynchronous orbit**.

It aims to **strengthen domestic Earth observation and imaging capabilities**. The GSLV-F17 is a **51.7 m tall 3-stage rocket** with a total liftoff mass of **420.5 tonnes**. The launch vehicle successfully injected the **2,367 kg** satellite into a **Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub-GTO)**.

PATENT FOR ROCKET FUEL

The **DRDO** and the **Advanced Centre of Research in High Energy Materials (ACRHEM)** at the **University of Hyderabad** have secured an **Indian patent** for a **next-generation solid rocket propellant fuel** named "**BAM-H24**".

SAGAR MANTHAN LAUNCHED

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) has launched "**Sagar Manthan**", the **first indigenous advanced Ocean Research Vessel (ORV)** of India. The vessel was launched at the **Rishi Bankim Shipyard in Kolkata** for the **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.

It is to be noted that the project, having a total valuation of **₹840 crore**, is being implemented under the "**Deep Ocean Mission**". The ORV, which has a gross tonnage of 5,900 tonnes and a maximum speed of 14 knots, is expected to be fully operational by **early 2028**.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE):

Chairman & MD – **Commodore PR Hari (Retd.)**

Headquarters – **Kolkata**

Nationalised in – **1960**

SPECTRUM ROCKET LAUNCHED

Isar Aerospace, a **Germany-based aerospace company**, has launched its **Spectrum rocket** from the **Andoya Spaceport** in **Norway** under its second-flight mission titled '**Onward and Upward**'. The rocket is designed to carry payloads of up to **1,000 kg** to the **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.

The mission successfully deployed **5 CubeSats**, namely **CyBEEsat (Germany), TriSat-S (Slovenia), Platform 6 (Bulgaria), FramSat-1 (Norway), and SpaceTeamSat1 (Austria)**.

GALAXEYE SECURES US PATENT

Bengaluru-based **GalaxEye** has secured a **US patent** for the core technology behind its **Optical Synthetic Aperture Radar (OptoSAR) imaging system**.

It is to be noted that the company is the **first Indian startup** to be granted a US patent for **satellite imaging technology**.

NEW PLANT SPECIES

Researchers from the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** and the **Uluberia Botanical Institute Herbarium** in West Bengal have recorded the plant species '**Ophiopogon japonicus Ker Gawl**' **for the first time in India** in **West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh**.

It is to be noted that the plant is an **evergreen perennial herb** belonging to the **Asparagaceae family**.

ISRO TESTS CE20 CRYOGENIC ENGINE

The **ISRO** has successfully conducted a **flight acceptance hot test** of the indigenous **CE20 cryogenic engine** at **Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**. The test was executed at a thrust of **220 kN (Kilonewton)** to validate performance and enhance capabilities for the **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)** missions.

It is to be noted that the engine utilizes **Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) propellants**, designed specifically for high-efficiency **upper-stage operations** in heavy-lift missions.

MCGETCHIN CRATER DISCOVERED ON MOON

NASA scientists have confirmed the discovery of the '**McGetchin crater**' on the **Moon** using imagery from the **Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO)**. The crater, formed by an **asteroid or comet impact** in **May 2024**, is recognized as the **largest known impact crater formed in recent times within the solar system**.

It is to be noted that the crater is named in honor of the late **Thomas McGetchin**, the former Director of the Houston-based **Lunar and Planetary Institute**.

TYPESAFE AI LAUNCHES JEV

TypeSafe AI has introduced "**Jev**", which utilizes a new architecture known as a "**System One Model**". The model is designed to overcome the structural limitations found in traditional **Large Language Models (LLMs)**.

It is to be noted that while LLMs are proficient in conversational tasks, they are often unsuitable for direct, **programmatic backend software automation**. **Jev** aims to bridge this gap.

NEW AI MODEL

OpenAI has launched "**GPT-6 Astra**", a **next-generation AI model** designed to function as a **highly capable computer operator**. The organization has also expanded the AI ecosystem with the introduction of "**Astra for Law**".

NIELIT AND INFINEON LAUNCH COE

The **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has inaugurated the **NIELIT-Infineon Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Semiconductor Manufacturing**.

It is to be noted that the CoE is established in collaboration with **Infineon Technologies** at the NIELIT facility in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

SPROUT RESEARCH FACILITY INAUGURATED

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has inaugurated a research facility named '**SpeedSeed Phenotyping and Resource Optimization for Unified Trait Analysis (SPROUT)**' at the **Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council - National Institute of Plant Genome Research (BRIC-NIPGR)** in **New Delhi**.

The facility initially focuses on **chickpea crops** and integrates **genomics, genome editing, and phenotyping** to **accelerate trait validation and breeding efficiency**. It is to be noted that **SPROUT** uses **SpeedSeed technology** to reduce crop cycles to a duration of **40 days**.

IIT DELHI DEVELOPS INDIGENOUS MICRO-GPU

Researchers from the Electrical Engineering department of the **IIT Delhi** have designed the **first working and demonstrable indigenous micro Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)** in India.

The researchers demonstrated **programmable graphics rendering** using a custom **floating-point GPU engine**. It is to be noted that the engine was implemented entirely in **Register Transfer Language (RTL)** and mapped to a **Spartan-7 Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) platform**.

STATE

TAX-FREE BUDGET

N Rangasamy, **Puducherry CM** who also holds the **finance portfolio**, has presented a **tax-free budget** for the **FY27** in the legislative assembly. The budget has a total outlay of **₹14,300 crore**.

MIZORAM PROTECTS MONUMENTS

The **Mizoram** government has designated **79 monuments and archaeological sites** as "**State Protected Monuments**" to **preserve the cultural and historical legacy** of the region.

Two sites in the **Champhai district**, namely **Kawtchhuah Ropui** and **Ralven Puk**, have been recognized as "**Monuments of National Importance**" under the **Archaeological Survey of India**. Furthermore, the state has proposed **four additional heritage sites** **Reng Puk**, **Lung Milem**, **Pipute Lungdawh**, and **Ruhro Puk** for designation as protected monuments.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):

Under – **Ministry of Culture**

Director General – **Yadubir Singh Rawat**

Headquarters – **New Delhi**

Established in – **1861**

ANDHRA PRADESH AND UK SIGN MOU

The **Andhra Pradesh** government have signed a **Government-to-Government (G2G) MoU** with the **UK government** to strengthen cooperation in **urban development**, **infrastructure**, and **advanced technology**.

The partnership facilitates **infrastructure planning and implementation** across the state capital **Amaravati** and **123 municipalities**, specifically targeting sectors like **roads, drainage systems, water supply, and waste management**.

QUANTUM AND AI UNIVERSITY IN AP

The **Andhra Pradesh** government has approved the establishment of the **first dedicated Quantum and AI University in India** at **Amaravati**.

The campus will be developed by the **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)**, an **autonomous scientific society** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. The project, situated on an **8.5-acre site**, involves an investment of **₹730.70 crore** over a period of **5 years**.

FREE BUS TRAVEL IN UP

The **Uttar Pradesh** government has approved the '**Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yojana**' to provide **lifelong free bus travel for women** (**aged 60 and above**) in the state. The scheme is applicable on all buses operated by the **State Road Transport Corporation**.

SHIPBUILDING CLUSTER IN ODISHA

The **National Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Park Odisha Ltd (NSHIPOL)** has received **in-principle approval** to establish a **shipbuilding and heavy industries cluster** in **Kendrapara, Odisha**, with a projected investment of **₹24,700 crore**.

The approval was granted under the **Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS)** of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)**. The project will be implemented through a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** comprising the **Odisha Maritime Board (OMB)** and the **Paradip Port Authority (PPA)**.

PEHCHAAN PORTAL IN PUNJAB

Punjab government has launched a **digital identification portal** named '**Pehchaan**' to **trace unidentified and unclaimed deceased persons** in government mortuaries.

The portal records photographs, physical traits, and identification marks of the deceased **within 48 hours** to facilitate online searches and claims. It also features an **automated alert system** to notify Investigating Officers (IOs) for verification. It is to be noted that **Punjab is the first state in India** to implement such a system.

ASSAM SIGNS MOUS FOR AI

The **Assam government** has signed MoUs with **6 organizations** to integrate **AI and digital technology** into the **school education system** of the state.

The collaboration aims to introduce **innovative learning solutions** to **modernize the pedagogical framework** and to **enhance the educational infrastructure** in the state.

BIRKBECK TO OPEN BENGALURU CAMPUS

Birkbeck, University of London has received a **Letter of Approval (LoA)** from the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** to **establish and operate a campus** in **Bengaluru**. The approval was granted under the **Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) regulations, 2023**.

WATER CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Chhattisgarh has secured the **first position** in the country in the third phase of the "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari" (JSJB 3.0) initiative, a community-driven water conservation programme under the **"Catch the Rain" campaign** of the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

The state successfully completed **77,719 water conservation structures** out of 79,775 registered units. It is to be noted that the "**5 Per Cent Model**" implemented in the **Koriya district** promotes the voluntary allocation of **5% of agricultural land** for the development of **groundwater recharge infrastructure** through coordinated local participation.

OLYMPIC CITY IN CHENNAI

The **Tamil Nadu** government has announced the establishment of a world-class "**TN Olympic City**" in **Chennai** to **strengthen sports infrastructure** and enhance **India medal prospects** in global events.

The state will set up a **Talent Research Wing (TRW)** and **Olympic Centres of Excellence** in **10 locations** to foster athletic development. A "**Motor Sports City**" will also be developed to host **Formula racing events**.

ODISHA SIGNS MOUS

The **Odisha** government has signed agreements with the **UAE-based International Holding Company (IHC)** and the **Adani Group** to explore **14 projects** involving an indicative investment of **₹2.1 lakh crore**.

Additionally, a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** was signed between the state government and the **Indian Business & Professional Group (IBPG)** to bolster **trade, exports, and investments** between **Odisha and the UAE**.

NIPUN MISSION IN CHHATTISGARH

The **Chhattisgarh** Cabinet has approved the '**Chief Minister's Startup and New-Age Industry Preparedness through Up-skilling of New Generation Youth (NIPUN) Mission**' to **facilitate employment, skill development, and innovation**.

The mission is scheduled for implementation over **5 years** with a total **financial outlay** of **₹500 crore**.

FIRST HERITAGE VILLAGE

Vinai Kumar Saxena, the **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**, has designated **Kumik village** as the **first Heritage Village** of the region during the **11th Ladakh Zanskar Festival 2026** held in **Zanskar Valley**.

The heritage status was conferred in recognition of the historical and cultural assets of the village, including **Buddhist manuscripts**, **traditional architecture**, and **preserved cultural practices**.

UP CABINET APPROVES DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The **Uttar Pradesh** Cabinet, chaired by **CM Yogi Adityanath**, has approved **23 development proposals** focusing on **industrial growth and employment**.

Key approvals include the establishment of an **ethanol plant in Mathura** and the "**UP Toy Manufacturing Promotion Policy 2025**" to incentivize specialized manufacturing. The measures also cover various infrastructure projects and welfare reforms to strengthen the **socio-economic framework** of the state.

MDL SIGNS MOU

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) has signed an MoU with the **Maharashtra** government to develop a **Greenfield Shipbuilding Industrial Cluster** in the **Raigad district**.

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd:

CMD – Captain (Retd.) Jagmohan

Headquarters – Mumbai

Established in – 1934

FREE RURAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION

The **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched the '**Swamitva Adhikar Abhilekh Nispadan Evam Panjiyan Yojana-2026**' to provide **free registration for approximately 50 lakh rural properties** across 55 districts.

It is to be noted that **Madhya Pradesh is the first state in India** to offer **free registration for rural residential plots** under the scheme. The initiative was introduced during the '**Seva Sankalp Abhiyan**', a campaign marking the **birthday of PM Narendra Modi**.

MDL SIGNS MOU

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) has signed an **MoU** with the government of **Andhra Pradesh** to serve as the **anchor shipyard** for a **mega greenfield shipbuilding industrial cluster**.

The **proposed industrial facility** is scheduled for development at **Dugarajapatnam** in the **Tirupati district** of the state.

STARBUCKS SIGNS MOU WITH TAMIL NADU

The **USA-based Starbucks Coffee Company** has signed an MoU with the **Tamil Nadu** government to establish its **first Global Capability Centre (GCC)** in India. The proposed facility will be located in **Chennai**.

DURGA SCHEME

The **Delhi Cabinet**, chaired by **CM Rekha Gupta**, has approved the "**Driving Upliftment and Rozgar for Women/Transgender Green E-Auto**" (**DURGA**) scheme to provide dignified **self-employment** for **women and transgender persons**.

NEW SCHEMES IN UTTAR PRADESH

The **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched '**Bharat Taxi**' to **support transport workers**. The government has also introduced the '**Mukhyamantri Krishak Samriddhi Yojana**' **for farmers**.

Under the scheme, **agricultural loans** are provided through the **Cooperative Gramya Vikas Bank**, with the **interest rate reduced from 11% to 6%**.

APPOINTMENTS

FIRST WOMAN OFFICER

Shakti Sharma becomes the **first woman officer from a non-medical branch** in the Indian Defence Forces to attain the rank of **Air Vice Marshal (AVM)**. Upon her promotion, she has taken charge as the **Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) (ACAS (Edn))** at the **Air Headquarters**.

NEW CEO FOR TVS MOTOR

Peyman Kargar has been appointed as the **CEO and Director** of **TVS Motor Company**, effective from **January 27, 2027**. He succeeds **KN Radhakrishnan (KNR)**.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN WORLD BANK

Yuko Keicho, a **Japanese national**, has been appointed as the **Vice President and Auditor General** of the **World Bank Group (WBG)**. She succeeds **Amy Doherty**.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN ARMED FORCES

Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja has been appointed as the **47th Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS)**.

Air Marshal Vivek Hande, a recipient of the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)** and **Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM)**, has taken over as the **Director General Medical Services (Air) (DGMS (Air))** on permanent secondment to the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN ESGF

Ashish Shelar, the **Maharashtra Minister for Electronics, Information Technology (IT), AI, and Cultural Affairs**, has been elected as the **President** of the **Esports Games Federation (ESGF)**. He succeeds **Nandan Jha** who was the Acting President.

NEW CEO FOR APPLE

John Ternus has assumed charge as the **CEO** of **Apple Inc**. He **succeeds Tim Cook**.

INTERIM APPOINTMENT IN UJJIVAN SFB

The **RBI** has approved the appointment of **Carol Kripanayana Furtado** as the **interim MD & CEO** of **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)** for **3 months**. She **succeeds Sanjeev Nautiyal**.

NEW CEO FOR RAM TEMPLE TRUST

Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra (Retd.) has been appointed as the **CEO** of the **Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust**. The trust is the **administrative body responsible for the management and oversight** of the **Ram Temple in Ayodhya**.

NEW CHIEF JUSTICES

The **Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J)** has notified the appointment of **8 High Court (HC) judges** as **Chief Justices (CJ)** of various HCs across India.

The appointments include: **Justice V Kameswar Rao** as CJ of **Patna HC**, **Justice Ravindra V Ghuge** as CJ of **Calcutta HC**, **Justice Sanjay Agrawal** as CJ of **Rajasthan HC**, **Justice Mahesh Tripathi** as CJ of **Bombay HC**, **Justice Ashwani Mishra** as CJ of **Punjab & Haryana HC**, **Justice Krushna Mohapatra** as CJ of **Chhattisgarh HC**, **Justice Alpesh Kogje** as CJ of **Madhya Pradesh HC**, and **Justice Pushpendra Bhati** as CJ of **J&K and Ladakh HC**.

ADDITONAL CHARGE

Vinai Kumar Saxena, the **Lt Gov of Ladakh**, has been given the **additional charge** of **Jammu & Kashmir** by **President Droupadi Murmu**.

VINAYA PRAKASH SINGH RE-ELECTED

Dr Vinaya Prakash Singh has been **re-elected unopposed** as the **Secretary-General** of the **Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU)** for a **second consecutive 4-year term**.

It is to be noted that the election was conducted during the **14th APPU Congress** held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.

NEW CEO FOR ADOBE

Anil Chakravarthy has been appointed as the **President and CEO** of **Adobe Inc.**, effective from **December 1, 2026**.

He succeeds **Shantanu Narayen** and will also be inducted into the **Board of Directors** of the company.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN NCSK

Bhagwat Prasad Makwana has been appointed as the **Chairperson** of the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)**.

Kaishab Bihari, an **agriculturist from Odisha**, is appointed as the **Vice-Chairperson**. The tenure for these appointments is until **March 2028**.

NEW LT GOVERNOR FOR ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR

Dr Dinesh Sharma has been appointed as the **Lt Gov of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&N)**. He succeeds **Admiral (Ret.) Devendra Kumar Joshi**.

CBFC BOARD RECONSTITUTED

The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has reconstituted the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** with **18 members** for a **tenure of 3 years**. The panel will be led by **Shashi Shekhar Vempati**, the **Chairperson** of the CBFC.

It is to be noted that the reconstitution **takes immediate effect**. The previous formal restructuring of the board occurred in **2017**.

FIRST WOMAN TO LEAD COBRA UNIT

Sanjukta Parashar has been appointed as the **Inspector General (IG)** of the **Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA)**, an elite jungle warfare unit of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**.

She becomes the **first woman officer** to lead the 10-battalion CoBRA sector and succeeds **Danesh Rana**. It is to be noted that the CoBRA sector is **headquartered in New Delhi**.

REAPPOINTMENT IN SEBI

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the **reappointment** of **Kamlesh Chandra Varshney** as a **Whole-Time Member (WTM)** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.

NEW APPOINTMENT FOR DILEEP SANGHANI

Dileep Sanghani, the **Chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO)**, has been elected as an **At-Large Director** to the **Global Board of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** for the **2026-2030 term**.

Dr Ariel Guarco of **Argentina** was re-elected unopposed as the **President of the ICA** for the same tenure. It is to be noted that the ICA Global Board consists of **30 members**.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN IBBI

Jayanti Prasad, a **Whole-Time Member (WTM)** of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, has been given an **additional charge** as the **Chairperson** of the **IBBI**. He **succeeds Ravi Mital** and will hold the post until **November 20, 2026**.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN WFP

Luke J Lindberg has been appointed as the **Executive Director** of the **World Food Programme (WFP)** for a **5-year term**. He succeeds **Cindy McCain**.

NEW APPOINTMENT IN IRDAI

Dinesh Pant has been appointed as the **Whole-Time Member (Actuary)** of the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** for a period of **5 years**.

He took voluntary retirement from the post of **MD of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** to join the IRDAI.

NEW CHAIRPERSON FOR CBSE

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **Mandeep K Bhandari** as the **Chairperson** of the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**. He succeeds **Lokhande Prashant Sitaram**.

AWARDS

RAJBHASHA HONOUR FOR DARPG

The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** has been selected for the special "**Rajbhasha Utkrishtta Sammaan**" for the **2025-26** period. The award is conferred by the **Department of Official Language (DoL)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.

It is to be noted that DARPG secured the **first position** in the category of Ministries and Departments with a **personnel strength of fewer than 300** for its efforts in **promoting Hindi as the Official Language**.

SARALA PURASKAR

Ashutosh Parida, a renowned **Odia poet and former scientist**, has been selected for the **47th edition of the Sarala Puraskar** for his poetry collection titled "**Bishwas De Pruthwi**" (2024). The award carries a **cash prize of ₹7 lakh**.

HALL OF FAME

Roger Federer, a **Swiss tennis professional**, has been inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF)**.

Mary Carillo, a **tennis journalist and broadcaster**, was also inducted into the ITHF under the **"Contributor Category"** for her contributions to tennis media and storytelling. The induction is considered one of the **most prestigious honours** in the sport.

NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARDS 2024

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** has announced four recipients of the **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards (TNNAA)** for 2024. The TNNAA is the **highest national recognition** of India for excellence in the field of adventure sports.

Baljeet Kaur and **Skalzang Rigzin** have been selected for the **Land Adventure category**, while **Rimo Saha** has been selected for the **Water Adventure category**. **Shiv Prasad Chamoli** has been honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement award**. Each recipient will receive a **bronze statuette**, a certificate, and a **cash prize of ₹15 lakh**.

GREEN HIGHWAYS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has announced the winners of the **Green Highways Excellence Awards 2026**. The awards were **instituted in 2025**.

In the **'Avenue Plantations'** category (Category I), the **Chilakaluripet Bypass on NH-16 (Vijayawada)** secured the first position. The **Hyderabad-Yadgiri section of NH-163 (Hyderabad)** was ranked first in the **'Median Plantations'** category (Category II). The **Jamtha Clover Leaf on NH-44 (Nagpur)** received the top award in Category III, which pertains to **'Plantation in Land Parcels'**.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):

Chairman – Santosh Kumar Yadav

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1988

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDS

The **Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF)** has announced the winners of the **68th edition** of the **Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2026**, which is frequently referred to as the "**Nobel Prize of Asia**". The recipients include **Tommy Koh** from **Singapore**, **Runa Khan** from **Bangladesh**, and **Bo Kyi** from **Myanmar**.

The announcement was made on the occasion of the **119th birth anniversary of Ramon Magsaysay**, the **7th President of Philippines**. Each recipient of the award will receive a **cash prize of $50,000**.

MISS WORLD 2026

Joheirry Mola of the **Dominican Republic** has been crowned **Miss World 2026** at the **73rd edition** of the pageant held in **Nha Trang, Vietnam**. She was crowned by **Opal Chuangsri**, Miss World 2025 from Thailand.

Nikita Porwal from **Madhya Pradesh** represented India at the international competition. It is to be noted that the **Miss World Organisation (MWO)** has scheduled the **next edition** of the pageant to be hosted in **Tanzania** in **2027**.

PRESIDENT COLOUR FOR GOA POLICE

Union Minister Amit Shah has presented the "**President's Colour**" to the **Goa Police** during a ceremony held in **Panaji, Goa**.

The award was conferred recognising the distinguished service and dedication to public safety of the force for a period of **more than 80 years**.

BORLAUG CAST AWARD

Dr Karim Maredia, an **Indian-American agricultural scientist**, has been named the winner of the **Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA) 2026** by the **Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)**.

DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD

Anant Nag, a **veteran actor**, has been selected for the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024** by the **Government of India**.

KALAM JAN SEVA PURASKAR

Kishor Makwana, the **Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**, has been conferred the "**Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Puraskar 2026**".

NEW TROPHIES FOR ATHLETES

The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has established **two new memorial awards** to honor the **best male and female athletes of the Asian Games**. The awards are named the '**Raja Randhir Singh Trophy**' (for the **best male athlete**) and the '**Jaspal Rana Trophy**' (for the **best female athlete**).

PT Usha, **IOA President**, announced the trophies during the launch of the book '**Maverick Jaspal**', co-authored by sports journalists **S Kannan and G Rajaraman**.

Indian Olympic Association:

President – PT Usha

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 1927

16TH SANSAD RATNA AWARDS

The **16th edition** of the **Sansad Ratna Awards** ceremony was held in **New Delhi** to recognise the exceptional performance of **Members of Parliament (MPs)** and **Parliamentary Standing Committees (PSCs)**. The selection for the awards was based on performance indicators evaluated up to the **Budget Session 2026**.

PP Chaudhary, the **Lok Sabha MP from Pali** and **Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE)**, was honoured for the **fourth time**. The 2026 edition of the awards was given to **10 Lok Sabha MPs, 2 Rajya Sabha MPs, and 4 PSCs**. It is to be noted that a special recognition titled the "**Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Puraskar**" was also presented during the event.

GONDHAL SELECTED FOR OSCARS 2027

The **Marathi film** "**Gondhal**" has been selected as the **official entry of India** for the **99th Academy Awards (Oscars 2027)** by the **Film Federation of India (FFI)**.

The film, written and directed by **Santosh Davakhar**, has been nominated to compete under the "**Best International Feature Film**" category.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS FOR EKNATH SHINDE

Eknath Shinde, the **Deputy CM of Maharashtra**, has been conferred with **three international awards** during his visit to **London**.

The honours include the '**Commonwealth Public Leadership Recognition**', the '**Statesmanship Award for Transformative Leadership**', and the '**Global Pride of Maharashtra Award**'.

BUSINESSLINE CHANGEMAKER AWARDS

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has presented the **eighth edition** of the "**businessline Changemaker Awards**" in **New Delhi**. **Purnima Devi Barman**, known as the "Stork Sister", was named the "**Changemaker of the Year**" for her work in the **conservation of Greater Adjutant Stork** and women empowerment.

The "**Iconic Changemaker**" award was given to the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** for **modernising border infrastructure** and **Dr. MR Rajagopal** for **community-based palliative care**.

Other winners include **ARMAAN** for "**Digital Transformation**" (**healthcare via mobile technology**), **Gourmet Popcornica** for "**Financial Transformation**" (**agro-processing**), and "**Project Sambandh**" for "**Social Transformation**" (**aiding bereaved military families**).

NAGALAND FILMMAKER WINS TIFF AWARD

Theja Rio, a filmmaker from **Nagaland**, has won the "**Platform Prize**" for his debut feature film "**Angh**" at the **Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)**. The award carries a trophy and a **cash prize of CAD 20,000**.

It is to be noted that the win grants the film a direct qualifying pathway for the **Best International Feature Film category** at the **99th Academy Awards (2027)**.

ARTHUR M BUECHE AWARD

Sethuraman Panchanathan, an **Indian-origin computer scientist**, has been named the recipient of the **Arthur M Bueche Award 2026** by the **National Academy of Engineering (NAE)**. He is the **first Indian-American** and the first individual from Arizona(USA), to receive the honour.

The award is given recognising his leadership in advancing **science and technology policy**. It is to be noted that he was previously conferred with the **Padma Shri** in **2025**.

M3M HURUN INDIA RICH LIST 2026

According to the "**M3M Hurun India Rich List 2026**" released by Hurun India in collaboration with **M3M India**, **Gautam Adani and family** have topped the list with a net worth of **₹9.23 lakh crore**.

They are followed by the families of **Mukesh Ambani**, **LN Mittal**, **Cyrus S Poonawalla**, and **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**. In the entertainment and sports segment, **Shah Rukh Khan and family** lead with a valuation of **₹10,000 crore**. **Mumbai** has the highest number of individuals on the list with **465 entries**, followed by **New Delhi** and **Bengaluru**.

FAO HONOUR FOR PI MARI-I

Z T Lalrithangi, **popularly known as Pi Mari-i**, from **Mizoram** has been selected by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** for the "**FAO 100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development**" recognition.

SPORTS

KARN SHARMA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Karn Sharma, an **Indian leg-spinner**, has **announced retirement from all formats of competitive cricket**.

He has won **four Indian Premier League (IPL) titles** with **three different franchises**, including **Sunrisers Hyderabad** in 2016, **Mumbai Indians** in 2017, and **Chennai Super Kings** in 2018 and 2021.

GRAND CHESS TOUR

Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, an **Indian chess Grandmaster (GM)**, has won the **Grand Chess Tour (GCT) 2026 Finals**, becoming the **first Indian champion**. He defeated the **USA GM Fabiano Caruana** with a score of **15-13** in the finals held at the **Saint Louis Chess Club** in Missouri, USA.

With this victory, Praggnanandhaa secured the **prize of $200,000**. He also emerged as the **highest overall earner** of the GCT, accumulating a **total prize money of $404,354**.

PRANESH M WINS KANIZSA OPEN

Pranesh M, an **Indian Grandmaster (GM)** from **Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu**, has won the **"Kanizsa Open 2026" Group A title** in **Nagykanizsa, Hungary**. He clinched the championship title after defeating **Vadim Petrovskiy** of Germany.

DUTCH GRAND PRIX

Lando Norris, a **British national** racing for **McLaren**, has won the Formula One (F1) **Dutch Grand Prix 2026**.

GUWAHATI TO HOST INDIA OPEN

The **Badminton Association of India (BAI)** has announced that the **2028 edition of the India Open Badminton Tournament** will be hosted at the **National Centre of Excellence (NCOE)** in **Guwahati, Assam**.

The tournament, scheduled for **January 2028**, will be relocated from its traditional venue at the **KD Jadhav Indoor Hall** in **New Delhi**.

LIONEL MESSI RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

Lionel Messi, the **39-year-old** captain of the **Argentina** national football team, has **announced retirement from international football**, concluding an illustrious **21-year career**. He finishes his international tenure as the **all-time leading goal scorer** of Argentina with **125 goals** and the **most-capped player** with **207 appearances**.

He holds the record for participating in **6 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cups**. His individual achievements include winning the **Ballon d'Or a record 8 times** and receiving the **FIFA World Cup Golden Ball twice** (**2014 and 2022**).

He has represented three major senior clubs: **FC Barcelona** (Spain), **Paris Saint-Germain** (France), and **Inter Miami CF** (United States of America). He joined Inter Miami CF, a **Major League Soccer (MLS)** team, in 2023 and will continue to play for the club following his retirement from international football.

FIFA (International Association Football Federation):

President – Gianni Infantino

Headquarters – Zurich, Switzerland

Established in – 1904

INDIAN FOOTBALL AWARDS

The **Football Players' Association of India (FPAI)** has organized the **Indian Football Awards 2026** in **Kolkata** where former footballer **Bhaichung Bhutia** presented the awards.

Lallianzuala Chhangte (Mizoram) was named the **Indian Footballer of the Year 2026** and **Manisha Kalyan** (Punjab) won the **Indian Women's Player of the Year** award. **Sanan Mohammed K** (Jamshedpur FC) and **Sanfida Nongrum** (Garhwal FC) were declared the **Young Player of the Year** and **Women's Young Player of the Year**, respectively.

East Bengal Football Club (FC) was honored as the **Indian Super League (ISL) Champions**, while the **East Bengal FC Women's team** was recognized for winning the **Indian Women's League (IWL) 2025-26** title. **Owen Coyle** and **Anthony Andrews** were conferred with the **Men's and Women's Coach of the Year** awards, respectively.

Savio Medeira was presented with the **Coach Education Award**, and the **Player Performance and Development Award** was conferred upon **Rapid Sports and the Right Weigh**.

FIH HOCKEY WORLD CUP 2026

Germany has won the **men's category title** (**4th title**) at the **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey World Cup 2026**, defeating **Spain** 1-0 in the final. **Argentina** has won the **women's category title** (**3rd title**) after defeating the defending champions **Netherlands**.

The 2026 edition, **co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands**, marks the **first time the men and women tournaments are held jointly**. The competition format includes **16 teams each** in the men and women categories, divided into four pools.

SMRITI MANDHANA BREAKS WORLD RECORD

Smriti Mandhana, an **Indian cricketer**, has set a **new world record as the highest run-scorer in women's international cricket** across all formats. She achieved this milestone during a match against **Hong Kong** at the Dubai International Stadium,UAE, as part of the **Women's Asia Cup 2026**.

She scored **124 runs off 64 balls** in the match, taking her **total career aggregate to 10,880 runs**. It is to be noted that she surpassed the previous record of 10,868 runs held by the retired Indian cricketer **Mithali Raj**.

CHINA MASTERS

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have won the **men's doubles title** at the **19th edition** of the **China Masters** held in **Shenzhen, China**, defeating the Chinese pair **He Jiting and Ren Xiangyu** in the final.

With this, they become the **first Indian pair** to win the tournament. The winning pair was awarded a prize money of **$92,500**.

DULEEP TROPHY

East Zone has won the **2026-27 Duleep Trophy** title by defeating **South Zone** through a 372-run **first innings lead** at the **MA Chidambaram Stadium** in **Chennai**. This victory ended a **13-year championship drought** for the team.

The final match resulted in a draw after East Zone scored 708 runs in the first innings. **Ishan Kishan** (Captain of the East Zone) was named the **Player of the Match** for scoring a total of 350 runs (270 in the first innings and 80 in the second). **Tilak Varma** (Captain of the South Zone) was awarded the **Player of the Tournament**.

ITALIAN GP

Andrea Kimi Antonelli, an **Italian national** racing for **Mercedes**, has won the Formula One (F1) **Italian Grand Prix (GP) 2026**.

JUNIOR HOCKEY ASIA CUP

India has achieved a double triumph by winning both the **men's and women's titles** at the **Junior Hockey Asia Cup 2026** held in **Hulunbuir City, China**.

In the **11th edition** of the **Men's Junior Asia Cup**, India defeated **South Korea** 4-1 in the final to retain the title. This marks the **6th continental crown** and **4th consecutive victory** for the team. Captain **Anmol Ekka** emerged as the **top scorer** of the tournament with 17 goals.

In the **10th edition** of the **Women's Junior Asia Cup**, India secured its **3rd consecutive title** after a 1-0 victory against **China** in the final. **Sanika Chandrakant Mane** of India was the **joint-highest scorer** with 7 goals, while **Wei Qixiao** of China was named the Most Valuable Player).

MARCOS LLORENTE RETIRES

Marcos Llorente, a **31-year-old Spanish footballer**, has **announced retirement from international football** following his victory in the **International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup 2026**.

At the club level, he represents the **Spanish football club Atletico Madrid**.

ARCHERY WORLD CUP

Dhiraj Bommadevara, an **Indian archer**, has become the **first Indian male recurve archer** to win the **men's individual title** at the **Archery World Cup Final 2026** held in **Saltillo, Mexico**. He secured the victory by defeating **Junya Nakanishi** of Japan in the final match.

It is to be noted that he is the **second Indian archer** to win an individual World Cup Final title, following the victory of **Dola Banerjee** in the **women's recurve category** at **Dubai in 2007**.

PICKLEBALL WORLD CUP 2026

India finished **fourth** in the medal tally at the **4th edition** of the **Pickleball World Cup** held in **Da Nang, Vietnam**. Led by the **Indian Pickleball Association (IPA)**, the Indian contingent won **41 medals** (**7 gold, 17 silver, and 17 bronze**) competing among **82 nations**.

Vietnam topped the standings with **271 medals** (**116 gold**), followed by **South Korea and the USA**. In the team events, the Indian kids team led by **Veer Shah** won a **silver medal**, and Shah received the **"Best Captain"** award.

In individual events, **Bhushan Akut** won **three gold medals** in the **60+ category**. **Purvansh Patel, Fayrouz Zaidi, and Vivek Reddy** also won **gold** in their respective categories.

JAMES RODRIGUEZ ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

James Rodriguez, a **35-year-old footballer from Colombia**, has **announced retirement from international football**.

US OPEN 2026

Alexander Zverev of **Germany** has won the **men's singles title**, defeating **Ben Shelton (USA)** at the **146th edition** of the **US Open** held at the **Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York**.

Elena Rybakina of **Kazakhstan** has won the **women's singles title**. **Christian Harrison (USA) and Neal Skupski (UK)** have won the **men's doubles title**, **Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic) and Taylor Townsend (USA)** have won the **women's doubles title**, and **Karolina Muchova and Jakub Mensik (Czech Republic)** have won the **mixed doubles title**.

TASK FORCE TO REVIVE F1

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced the formation of a **10-member Task Force** to evaluate the challenges and feasibility of **reviving Formula 1 (F1) in India**.

The committee is chaired by **Yugal Kishore Joshi** (**Programme Director and Adviser, NITI Aayog**). The Task Force will explore the possibility of **hosting an F1 Grand Prix in 2028** and prepare a roadmap for the **sustainable growth of motorsports** in the country.

FIRST CEO OF ISL

Karan Yadav has been appointed as the **inaugural CEO** of the **Indian Super League (ISL)**. The appointment comes as the league transitions toward a new **club-led operational model**.

WORLD ATHLETICS 2029

World Athletics has designated **Nairobi, Kenya**, as the host for the **2029 World Athletics Championships**, marking the **first-ever edition of the competition to be held in Africa**. The decision was taken by the council in **Budapest, Hungary**.

The **Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)** has selected the **Munich Football Arena** in **Germany** to host the **2028 final**. UEFA also designated **Camp Nou** in **Barcelona, Spain**, as a host venue.

World Athletics:

President – Sebastian Coe

Headquarters – Monaco

Established in – 1912

UEFA (Union of European Football Associations):

President – Aleksander Ceferin

Headquarters – Nyon, Switzerland

Established in – 1954

WOMEN'S T20 ASIA CUP

India, captained by **Harmanpreet Kaur**, has won the **10th edition** of the **Women's Asia Cup** (**6th in T20 format**) by defeating **Sri Lanka** by 72 runs in the final. The tournament was organised by the **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** at the **Dubai International Cricket Stadium**. This marks a **record-extending 8th title** for India.

Shafali Verma was named both the **'Player of the Match'** and **'Player of the Series'**.

INDIA TO HOST WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS

India is set to host the **11th edition** of the "**Asian Senior Wushu Championships**" for the **first time** in **2028**. The decision was ratified during the **Wushu Federation of Asia (WFA)** Congress held in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**.

Bhupender Singh Bajwa, representing the **Wushu Association of India (WAI)**, has been nominated as a **member of the Executive Committee of the WFA**. It is to be noted that Wushu is a **traditional Chinese martial art** and combat sport.

ACQUISITION OF CRICKET FRANCHISES

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the **acquisition of three cricket franchises**—**Rajasthan Royals (India), Paarl Royals (South Africa), and Barbados Royals (Barbados)**—by the **UK-based Westview Cricket Ltd** and **Poonawalla Sports and Fitness Pvt Ltd**, owned by **Adar Cyrus Poonawalla**.

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

Chairperson – Ravneet Kaur

Headquarters – New Delhi

Established in – 2003

UCI ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2032

India is set to host the **Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Road World Championships** for the **first time** in **2032**, in **Pune, Maharashtra**. The announcement was made during the **195th Congress** of the UCI in **Montreal, Canada**.

It is to be noted that the historic bid was jointly spearheaded by the **Maharashtra government** and the **Cycling Federation of India (CFI)**.

BOOKS

NEW BOOK BY HN NAGAMOHAN DAS

Karnataka Minister Madhu Bangarappa has launched the Kannada and English editions of the book titled "**Memorable Trials, Unforgettable Cases**".

The book is authored by **HN Nagamohan Das** (a **former Judge of the Karnataka High Court**) and published by Jana Prakashana. It focuses on **spreading constitutional awareness** and detailing various judicial experiences.

NEW BOOKS ON BHUPEN HAZARIKA

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan has released a book titled "**Bhupen Hazarika: Hundred Years of a Wandering Songs**" (edited by **Ankuran Dutta and Nani Mahanta**) at **Gauhati University**, **Assam**.

During the ceremony, he also laid the foundation stone for infrastructure development projects worth **₹110 crore** at the university. The VP also released the **5th revised and enlarged edition** of "**Chandrakanta Abhidhan**", a work of **Assamese lexicography**.

NEW BOOK ON RSS SERVICE

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan has released a book titled "**A Century of Service - The RSS in 100 Acts of Seva**" in **New Delhi**.

Authored by **Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan**, the book documents **100 acts of 'seva'** (service) by the **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** over its century-long journey, highlighting the theme of "**Nation-Building Through Character-Building**".

HIRAV SHAH LAUNCHES SAARATHI

Hirav Shah, a **business strategist**, has launched his business novel titled "**SAARATHI**" in **Ahmedabad**.

The book, which achieved **bestseller status on Amazon India** on the day of its launch, was independently published by the author and is distributed globally primarily through the **Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP)** platform of Amazon.

OBITUARY

KING OF TOORO PASSED AWAY

King Oyo Nyimba Iguru Rukidi IV, the **13th monarch** of the ancient **Tooro kingdom** in **Uganda**, passed away at the age of 34.

He was recognized by the **Guinness World Records (GWR)** as the **world's youngest reigning monarch** and had assumed his royal responsibilities at the **age of 18**.

CASSANDRA WILSON PASSED AWAY

Cassandra Wilson, a **two-time Grammy winner**, passed away at the age of 70. She won the **Grammy Awards in 1997 and 2009**.

She was recognized as the '**Best Singer of America**' in 2001 and was honored as a **Jazz Master** by the **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)** in 2022.

SR JANAKIRAMAN PASSED AWAY

SR Janakiraman, a renowned **Carnatic vocalist**, passed away at the age of 98. He was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** in 2011.

GAURANG VYAS PASSED AWAY

Gaurang Vyas, a renowned **Gujarati music composer**, passed away at the age of 87.

TUNG CHEE-HWA PASSED AWAY

Tung Chee-hwa, the **first post-colonial leader of Hong Kong**, passed away at the age of 89.

SOLOMON PAPPAIAH PASSED AWAY

Solomon Pappaiah, a veteran **Tamil scholar** and **renowned orator**, passed away at the age of 90. He was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** in 2021.

SUDIVYA SONU PASSED AWAY

Sudivya Sonu, the **Minister for Urban Development, Higher and Technical Education** of **Jharkhand**, passed away at the age of 56.

PRINCESS ASTRID PASSED AWAY

Princess Astrid Maud Ingeborg (formally Princess Astrid) of **Norway** passed away at the age of 94.

N PURUSHOTHAMA MALLYA PASSED AWAY

N Purushothama Mallya, a renowned **educationist, writer, and Konkani language activist**, passed away at the age of 97. He was a recipient of **Padma Shri** in 2015.

ALLA NANI PASSED AWAY

Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, popularly known as **'Alla Nani'** and the **former Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh**, passed away at the age of 56.

EM SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN PASSED AWAY

EM Sudarsana Natchiappan, a **senior leader** of the **Indian National Congress (INC)** and **former Union Minister**, passed away at the age of 78.

DR. GOVINDAN VIJAYARAGHAVAN PASSED AWAY

Govindan Vijayaraghavan, a **distinguished cardiologist**, passed away at the age of 84. He was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** in 2009.

SANDRO MAZZOLA PASSED AWAY

Sandro Mazzola, **former Inter Milan captain** and **Italy international**, passed away at the age of 83.

ALFRED TYRONE COOKE PASSED AWAY

Flight Lieutenant Alfred Tyrone Cooke (Retd), a decorated **fighter pilot** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and a **Vir Chakra (VrC)** awardee, passed away at the age of 87.

DAYS

WORLD WATER WEEK

Day – Last week of August (August 23 to 27 in 2026)

Observed by – Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

Observed since – 1991

WORLD SANSKRIT DAY

Day – August 28

Commemorating – Panini, the author of Ashtadhyayi, a foundational text on Sanskrit grammar

NATIONAL SPACE DAY

Day – August 23

Theme 2026 – "Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership".

Observed since – 2024

Commemorating – Successful landing of the Chandrayaan 3 mission in 2023

NATIONAL SPORTS DAY (RASHTRIYA KHEL DIVAS)

Day – August 29

Observed since – 2012

Commemorating – The birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, who has won 3 gold medals in Olympics for India. He is also known as "Wizard of Hockey".

NATIONAL SMALL INDUSTRY DAY

Day – August 30

Observed since – 2001

Commemorating – The announcement of comprehensive policy package for Small Scale Industries (SSIs) during the 1st National Conference on SSI, by then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2000

NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK

Day – September 1 to 7

Observed by – Ministry of Women and Child Development

Observed since – 1982

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHARITY

Day – September 5

Observed by – UN

Observed since – 2013

Commemorating – Death anniversary of Mother Teresa

NATIONAL TEACHERS' DAY

Day – September 5

Theme 2026 – "Teachers at the Heart of Education Recovery"

Observed since – 1962

Commemorating – Birth anniversary of Dr S Radhakrishnan, the first Vice-President and the second President of India

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES

Day – September 7

Theme 2026 – "Clean Air for Climate Action"

Observed since – 2020

In India – Swachh Vayu Diwas

HIMALAYA DIWAS OR HIMALAYAN DAY

Day – September 9

Observed by – Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF)

Observed since – 2010

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

Day – September 8

Theme 2026 – "Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity"

Observed by – UNESCO

Observed since – 1967

HINDI DIWAS

Day – September 14

Observed since – 1953

Commemorating – Adoption of Hindi as the official language of India as per Article 343 of the constitution

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Day – September 11

Theme 2026 – "Solidarity Rising: Global Alliance for Inclusive and Innovative Development"

Observed by – UN

Observed since – 2004

Commemorating – The adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) in 1978

NATIONAL FOREST MARTYRS DAY (SHAHEED VAN DIWAS)

Day – September 11

Observed since – 2013

Commemorating – The 'Khejarli Massacre of 1730', which occurred in Khejarli, Rajasthan

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

Day – September 15

Theme 2026 – "Bring human rights into focus"

Observed by – UN

Observed since – 2008

NATIONAL ENGINEER'S DAY

Day – September 15

Observed since – 1968

Commemorating – the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

NATIONAL PHARMACOVIGILANCE WEEK

Day – 17 to 23 September

Theme 2026 – "Promoting Rational Use of Medicines through Pharmacovigilance – A Step Towards Safer Healthcare"

Observed since – 2020

WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY

Day – September 17

Theme 2026 – "Safe care for Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)"

Observed by – WHO

Observed since – 2019

Slogan – "Safe care for life!"

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Volume #1.8

Issue #D1

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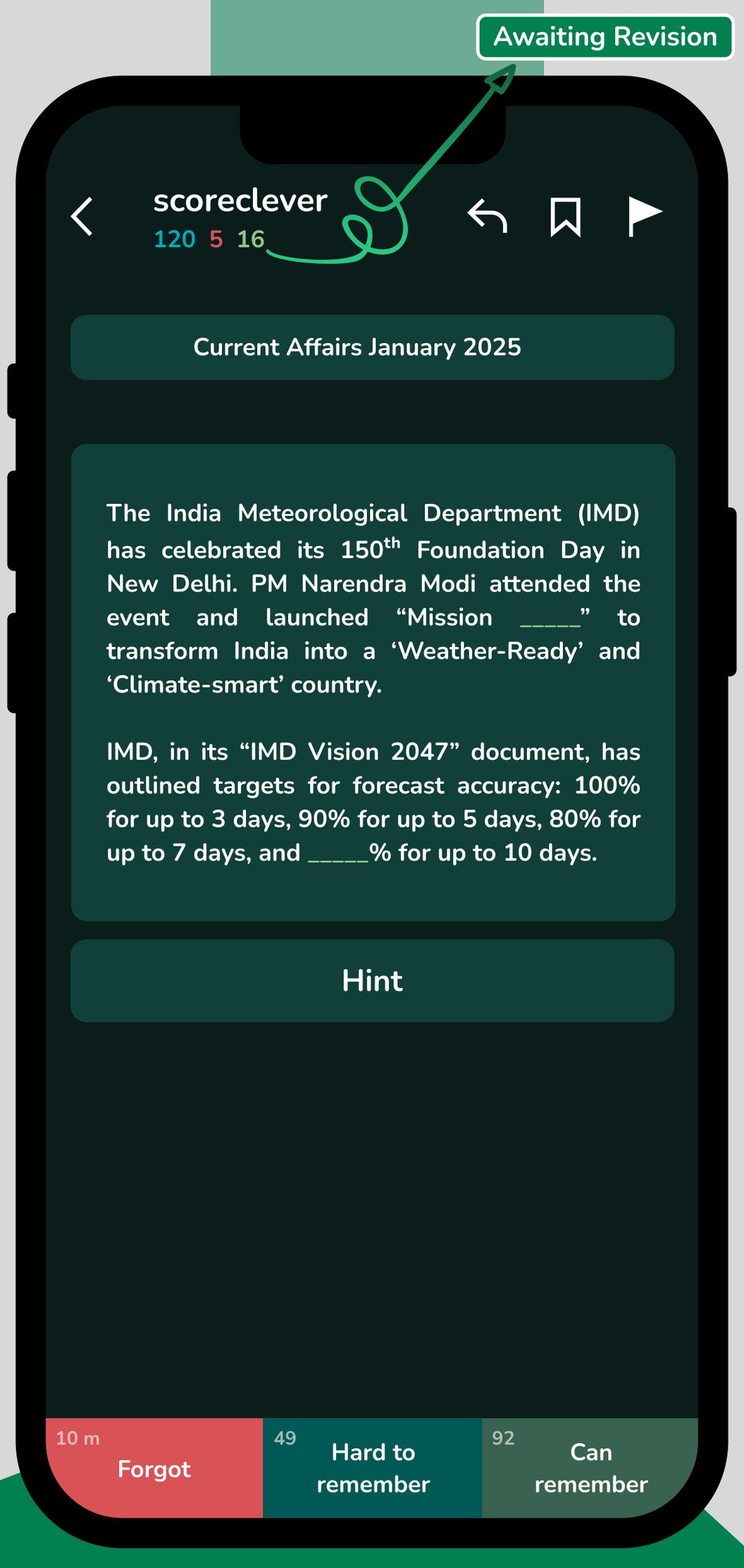
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