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NATIONAL

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

The **Department of Posts** has launched a **postage stamp** worth **₹5** to honour **Ram Bux Singh**, an **Indian scientist** and a pioneer in renewable energy.

It is to be noted that widely known as the '**Father of Modern Biogas**', he had inaugurated one of the **earliest successful gobar gas plants** in **Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh** in **1957**.

NEW RULES FOR PUC CERTIFICATES

The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has permitted **Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates** for vehicles to remain valid for **up to 3 years**, depending on the age of vehicles and emission standards.

The revised validity period is **3 months** for **Bharat Stage (BS)-I, BS-II, and BS-III vehicles**, and **6 months** for **BS-IV vehicles**.

For **non-transport BS-VI vehicles**, the PUC validity is **3 years** if they are **less than 6 years old** from the date of first registration, **1 year** for those **aged between 6 and 10 years**, and **6 months** for those **older than a decade**. For **transport vehicles**, the PUC validity is **2 years** if they are **less than 6 years old**, and matches that of non-transport vehicles for those older than 6 years.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYBER SECURITY

The **3rd edition** of the **National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics & Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026)** has been held at the **Dr Ambedkar International Centre (DIAC)** in **New Delhi**.

The conference was organised by the **National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)** under the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** under the theme "**Cyber Secure Bharat: Fortifying India's Digital Future**".

During the event, NIELIT launched **two indigenously developed digital applications** named **CyberVitals** and **Net Anveshak**, and organised the **Cyber Kushti 2026 - Cybersecurity and AI Hackathon**. Additionally, NIELIT announced plans to establish a **dedicated Quantum and AI university campus** in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**.

PM MODI IN BENGALURU

PM Narendra Modi has visited **Bengaluru** and inaugurated development projects worth over **₹15,600 crore**.

During his visit, he inaugurated the **Bengaluru Metro Pink Line** and flagged off the **Bengaluru-Mangaluru-Madgaon Vande Bharat Express**. He also dedicated **India's largest underground Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage cavern** in **Mangaluru**.

He attended the **50th anniversary celebrations** of **Prashanti Kutiram**, the campus of **Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA)**. He laid the foundation stone for the Golden Jubilee Administrative Block of S-VYASA and launched its off-campus centre in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.

He also inaugurated the **Cosmology Education and Research Training Center (COSMOS)-Mysuru Planetarium**, making it **India's first Light-Emitting Diode (LED) dome planetarium**. It was developed by the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** on the **University of Mysore campus**.

ECONOMY

GDP FORECAST

According to the report titled "**Global Economic Outlook (GEO 2027)**" released by **Goldman Sachs Research**, the global economy is projected to grow at **2.8%** in **Calendar Year 2027 (CY27)**.

The report projected **India** to remain the **fastest-growing major economy globally**, with the **GDP of India** expected to grow by **7.2%** in **CY27**.

BANKING

RBI CANCELS LICENSES OF NBFCS

The **RBI** has cancelled the **Certificates of Registration (CoRs) of 49 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** and accepted the voluntary surrender of licences from **13 NBFCs and 1 Housing Finance Company (HFC)**, impacting a total of **63 entities**.

The registrations were cancelled under **Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**, and **Section 29A of the National Housing Bank (NHB) Act, 1987**.

REPORTS

ASSOCHAM REPORT ON ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

According to a report titled "**India's Economic Edge in the Top Ten Economies**" released by **The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, **India ranks 1st** among 10 major global economies in **economic resilience** for the period **2026-30**, securing a **score of 71 out of 100**.

China ranks second in the economic resilience ranking, while **Japan and Russia jointly rank third**.

ACCESS EQUALITY INDEX 2026

According to the **Access Equality Index (AEI) 2026** released by the **Centre for New Economics Studies (CNES)** at **OP Jindal Global University** (Haryana), **Goa topped the index** with a **score of 0.68**, followed by **Andhra Pradesh** and Sikkim.

Andhra Pradesh emerged as the **highest-ranked major state**, securing the **2nd position nationally** despite ranking 13th in per capita income. It also **ranked first nationally in the socio-economic security pillar** with a **score of 0.69**, followed by Goa. The index evaluates states across **5 pillars**: **Basic Amenities, Healthcare, Education, Socio-Economic Security, and Legal Services**.

INTERNATIONAL

RAFAEL UNVEILS NEW CRUISE MISSILE

Israel-based Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd has unveiled a **new long-range cruise missile** named "**SUPER ICE**". It is equipped with a **1,000-pound (454 kg) MK83-compatible warhead**, which is **four times heavier** than the warhead of the **ICE BREAKER** missile.

The SUPER ICE joins the ICE BREAKER and SEA BREAKER series of Rafael. It is to be noted that the ICE BREAKER is a **fifth-generation precision-guided missile** equipped with a **250-pound warhead**.

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION DIALOGUE

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has participated in the **second India-Italy Science and Innovation Dialogue 2026**, held in **Rome, Italy**.

The dialogue focused on research excellence, strategic technologies, innovation, institutional partnerships, and a joint action agenda. During the event, **India** committed over **€7 million** over a **5-year period** starting from **2026-27** to redevelop the **Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste beamlines** of Italy.

INNOVATION FORUM LAUNCHED

India and **Sri Lanka** have launched the **India-Sri Lanka Innovation Forum** in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**, in the presence of **Santosh Jha, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka**.

The initiative aims to **strengthen bilateral cooperation in startups and technology, promote investment, and convert joint innovation initiatives into commercial opportunities**. The launch followed the inauguration of the **first Atal Tinkering Lab** by Sri Lanka at **Nalanda College in Colombo**.

DEFENCE

DELIVERY OF DSC A21 TO INDIAN NAVY

"**DSC A21**", a vessel of the **Diving Support Craft (DSC) project**, has been delivered to the **Indian Navy** at the **Naval Dockyard in Mumbai**.

The vessel has been indigenously designed and constructed by the **Kolkata-based Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd (TRSL)**.

SCIENCE

STARSHIP RECOVERY

The **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX)** has successfully completed the **first-ever mid-air recovery** of the **Starship spacecraft (Ship 42)** using the mechanical arms of the launch tower, known as "**Chopsticks**", at **Starbase in Texas, USA**.

The Chopstick arms successfully captured the **upper stage of Starship** during its vertical descent. During its journey, the spacecraft **orbited the Earth 14 times** and **deployed 26 satellites** for the **Starlink internet constellation** of SpaceX.

APPOINTMENTS

NEW APPOINTMENT IN UN

Professor Shekhar C Mande, the **President of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA)**, has been appointed to the **United Nations (UN) Group of Ten High-Level Representatives of Civil Society, Private Sector and Scientific Community**.

His appointment is for the **2026-2028 term** to promote Science, Technology and Innovation for the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. He joins 9 other global experts in this high-level expert group, which is co-chaired by **Marian Dorcas Quain (Ghana)** and **Giorgio Rossi (Italy)**.

AWARDS

PLANT GENOME SAVIOUR FARMER AWARDS

Babu NK has received the **Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Reward (2023-24)** carrying a **cash prize of ₹1.5 lakh**, while **Sooraj CS** has been given the **Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Recognition (2024-25)** with a **cash prize of ₹1 lakh**. The awards were presented during the **22nd Foundation Day** of the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA)** in New Delhi.

It is to be noted that the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR)** houses the **second-largest National Genebank in the world**. The country has developed around **3,000 climate-resilient crop varieties** and encompasses **22 agro-biodiversity hotspots**.

SPORTS

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES 2026

India has won **10 medals** including **2 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze**, finishing **21st in the overall medal tally** at the **4th Summer Youth Olympic Games 2026** held in **Dakar, Senegal**. **China topped the standings** with **33 medals** (18 gold), followed by **Japan and Russia**.

Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei and **Gunjan** secured the **first-ever Youth Olympic boxing gold medals for India**. **Dhinidhi Desinghu** became the **first Indian to win two individual medals** at a single edition of the **Youth Olympic Games**.

SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP

India has won the **15th edition** of the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship 2026** (officially known as the '**TECNO SAFF Championship Bangladesh 2026**' and sponsored by **Tecno Mobile**), **defeating Pakistan** by 2-1 in the final held at the **National Stadium** in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.

Individual award winners: Player of the Match in the final - **Sandip Mandi** (India); Tournament **Most Valuable Player (MVP)** and **Top Scorer (Golden Boot)** - **Suhail Ahmad Bhat** (India) with **4 goals**; Best Goalkeeper - **Arsh Anwer Shaikh** (India); Fair Play Award - **Maldives**.

With this victory, India secured its **record-extending 10th SAFF Championship title**, becoming the **first team to win three consecutive editions**. The tournament featured **6 South Asian national teams**: **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**.

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Publication Guide

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Issue #D1

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