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National**1. Delhi Bans Use of Aged Vehicles to Curb Emissions**

Delhi implemented a ban (effective July 1, 2025) prohibiting diesel vehicles over 10 years old and petrol vehicles older than 15 years from refuelling at fuel stations. ANPR cameras and multiagency teams have been deployed across ~350 pumps to identify and impound violators, with fines up to Rs. 10,000 for cars and Rs. 5,000 for two-wheelers. However, due to technological issues with the ANPR system and public pushback, the Delhi government has suspended the policy pending improvements in detection capabilities and system readiness.

2. PNGRB Amends Tariff Norms for Natural Gas Pipelines in 2025

The PNGRB approved sweeping amendments to the Natural Gas Pipeline Tariff Regulations, 2025, aiming to streamline the national gas transmission regime. Key changes include reducing unified tariff zones from three to two, and extending the lower Zone 1 tariff nationwide for CNG and PNG domestic users. Pipeline operators must now source at least 75% of system use gas through longterm (3year) contracts, and allocate 50% of posttax earnings from high utilisation pipelines into a development reserve. The remaining earnings will benefit consumers through tariff rebates.

3. All NPS Tax Benefits Extended to Unified Pension System (UPS)

The Finance Ministry announced that all tax benefits available under the National Pension System (NPS) will now apply mutatis mutandis to the Unified Pension System (UPS). This ensures parity for central government employees choosing UPS, offering deductions under Sections 80CCD(1), 80CCD(1B) (Rs. 50,000 extra), and 80CCD(2) for employer contributions. The move—effective from April 1, 2025—aims to incentivize UPS

uptake among roughly 23 lakh employees by aligning it with the familiar, tax-efficient NPS framework.

4. Coal Ministry Launches RECLAIM Framework for Responsible Mining Practices

The Ministry of Coal, led by Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, launched the RECLAIM framework on July 4, 2025. Developed by the Coal Controller Organisation in collaboration with the Heartfulness Institute, it provides an actionable, stepbystep guide for inclusive mine closure and community repurposing. It includes field-tested tools and templates aimed at promoting gender inclusivity, vulnerable group representation, Panchayati Raj integration, ecological restoration, and livelihood diversification. This marks India's first structured, community-centric blueprint for sustainable transitions post-mining.

5. Chhattisgarh Rolls Back Community Forest Resource Rights Directive

The Chhattisgarh Forest Department withdrew its May 15 circular that sought to position itself as the "nodal agency" for Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights—roles typically held by Gram Sabhas and Tribal Welfare bodies—after widespread protests by tribal groups and civil society. The advisory had barred NGOs, other departments, and private entities from working on CFR areas until model plans were issued by central ministries. Facing objections, the government clarified it meant only to coordinate scientifically, but nonetheless retracted the guidance to protect constitutional rights.

6. India Introduces 'BHARAT' Model for Promoting Healthy Ageing

India has launched the BHARAT model—Biomarkers of Healthy Aging, Resilience, Adversity, and Transitions—a panIndia research initiative led by IISc Bengaluru, supported by ICMR and Longevity India. It aims to establish Indiaspecific biological markers across

genomics, proteomics, epigenomics, microbiomes, and clinical profiles. The goal is to map aging patterns, support early disease detection, and inform public health interventions tailored to Indian demographics. This groundwork will drive culturally relevant, cost-effective strategies for functional longevity.

7. India Launches National Biobank for Personalised Healthcare

The Phenome India National Biobank has been inaugurated at the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) in New Delhi, marking a significant step towards the advancement of personalized medicine in India. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to collect and store a vast array of biological samples, along with comprehensive clinical and lifestyle data from a diverse population across the country. The primary goal of the biobank is to facilitate in-depth research into the genetic and environmental factors influencing various diseases, ultimately enabling the development of tailored healthcare solutions and precision therapies that are more effective for individual patients.



8. Tamil Nadu Becomes First State to Implement Predictive Death Model for TB Patients

Tamil Nadu has made a significant advancement in public health by becoming the first state in India to implement a predictive death model for Tuberculosis (TB) patients. This

innovative model aims to reduce TB-related mortality by enabling the early identification of severely ill patients at the time of diagnosis. By proactively identifying high-risk individuals, healthcare providers can facilitate timely and intensive interventions, thereby improving patient outcomes and ultimately contributing to the state's efforts to eliminate TB.

9. Startup Policy Forum Unveils '#100DesiDeepTechs' Initiative

In a significant move to bolster India's position in advanced technology, the Startup Policy Forum (SPF) has launched '#100DesiDeepTechs', a pioneering multi-stakeholder initiative. This program, unveiled in July 2025, is designed to identify and empower India's top 100 deep-tech startups. The initiative aims to provide crucial support, mentorship, and resources to these startups, fostering innovation in cutting-edge fields like Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, and advanced materials. By nurturing these domestic deep-tech ventures, India seeks to enhance its technological sovereignty, create high-value jobs, and become a global leader in emerging technologies.



10. Postage Stamp Commemorates Mookerjee's National Contributions

The Indian government issued a special postage stamp to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee. The event, held at Siri Fort Auditorium in Delhi and

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organized by the Ministry of Culture, featured patriotic music, cultural performances, and a theatrical presentation. Union Ministers and other dignitaries were present for the release. Designed by Smt. Nenu Gupta, the stamp, along with a First Day Cover and Brochure, is now available through Philatelic Bureaus and the India Post website.

11. Andhra Pradesh Unveils Digi-Lakshmi Initiative to Empower Women in Urban Areas

The Andhra Pradesh government launched the Digi-Lakshmi scheme on June 30, 2025, to empower urban poor women by helping them become digital service providers. Under this initiative, 9,034 Common Service Centres (ATOM kiosks) will be set up, offering around 250 public services. Women from Self-Help Groups aged 21–40, with a graduate degree and basic technical skills, can manage these centres. Supported by MEPMA, the scheme promotes entrepreneurship through training and loans, fostering self-reliance and women-led businesses in urban areas.

12. India Advances EV Push at Energy Storage Week

Minister of State Harsh Malhotra inaugurated a session on India's Vehicle Electrification Roadmap at India Energy Storage Week 2025 in Delhi. He highlighted the government's strong commitment to green mobility through initiatives like PM E-Drive and FAME-II. Malhotra highlighted EV incentives like toll exemptions and retrofitting, emphasizing clean mobility's role in climate action, energy security, and economic strength. He urged investment in battery Research and Development, local manufacturing, and recycling, aligning with India's renewable energy and Net Zero targets by 2070.

13. TALASH Empowers Tribal Students Nationwide

NESTS, in collaboration with UNICEF India, has launched TALASH (Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills and

Self-Esteem Hub), a nationwide initiative aimed at empowering over 1.38 lakh tribal students enrolled in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) across the country. This digital platform provides psychometric assessments, career guidance, life skills training, and emotional well-being support to help students recognize their strengths and boost self-confidence. With teacher training underway, TALASH, aligned with NEP 2020, targets a full rollout by 2025 to ensure inclusive, holistic education for tribal youth.

14. Sanchar Mitra Scheme Trains Future Tech Leaders

The Department of Telecommunications has launched the Sanchar Mitra Scheme nationwide, turning student volunteers into digital ambassadors who promote awareness about cyber safety, EMF radiation, and responsible mobile phone use. Trained by NCA-T and DoT, these volunteers will learn about cutting-edge technologies like 5G, AI, and cybersecurity while actively engaging with their communities. Introduced by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, the program aims to enhance digital literacy at the grassroots level. Outstanding Sanchar Mitras may receive internships and opportunities to represent India at prominent telecom events.

15. Carnac Bridge Renamed to Honour Operation Sindoor

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the newly reconstructed Carnac Bridge in Mumbai, now renamed Sindoor Bridge in honor of Operation Sindoor, a successful military mission targeting terror camps in Pakistan. The renaming also serves to remove the colonial-era association with British Governor James Rivett-Carnac. This new four-lane, 328-meter bridge replaces the old and unsafe structure built in 1868 and is expected to alleviate traffic congestion in Mumbai's busy areas. Although construction was completed in June 2025, the opening was delayed due to

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pending approvals. The new name symbolizes India's strength and a break from its colonial past.

16. WAVES Summit Fuels India's Digital Creativity

WAVES 2025 showcased India's booming creative economy, highlighting its cultural richness and digital innovation. The summit emphasized India's rise as a global hub for film, gaming, music, and digital content, driven by over 2.5 million creators and strong government support. Key announcements included YouTube's ₹850 crore investment and Adobe's praise for India as a creative superpower. WAVES fostered global collaboration through the WAVES Declaration, promoting ethical AI use and cultural preservation, positioning India as a leader in the global Orange Economy.

17. Sanchar Mitra Scheme Expands Nationwide

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, recently announced the expansion of the Sanchar Mitra Scheme into a nationwide movement, effective July 12, 2025. This initiative aims to engage a large number of student volunteers who will act as digital ambassadors across the country. Their primary role will be to promote digital literacy and facilitate the adoption of various government digital services among citizens, especially in rural and underserved areas. The scheme is designed to bridge the digital divide by leveraging the tech-savvy younger generation to help others navigate the digital landscape, encouraging the use of online platforms for public services and information access.

18. India Launches Electric Truck Incentive Scheme

India recently introduced its first customer-focused incentive scheme for electric trucks under the PM E-DRIVE initiative, launched on July 12, 2025. The scheme offers significant financial support, providing an incentive of up to Rs. 9.6 lakh for the purchase of electric trucks. This

move aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in the commercial logistics sector, reduce carbon emissions from transportation, and promote indigenous manufacturing of electric truck components. It is part of the government's broader strategy to decarbonize the transport sector and achieve its climate goals.

19. Environment Ministry Updates Islands Protection Zone Rules

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change issued a notification on July 12, 2025, revising the Islands Protection Zone (IPZ) rules. These updated regulations primarily affect infrastructure projects and development activities in the ecologically sensitive Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep. The changes aim to balance development needs with the imperative of environmental conservation, introducing stricter guidelines for construction, tourism, and resource management to protect the unique biodiversity and fragile ecosystems of these island territories.

20. Maharashtra Passes Special Public Security Bill 2024

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly recently passed the Special Public Security Bill, 2024, on July 12, 2025. This significant piece of legislation is specifically designed to target left-wing extremist organizations operating within the state and aims to curb unlawful activities linked to them. The Bill introduces stringent provisions, including expanded powers for law enforcement agencies and measures to disrupt the financial networks of such groups. It reflects the state government's intensified efforts to maintain public order and address internal security challenges posed by extremist elements.

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International

1. India Grants OCI Status to Sixth-Gen Diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his July 4, 2025 visit to Trinidad and Tobago, extended Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) eligibility to sixth generation Indian-origin descendants. This milestone allows them to live and work in India without restrictions. Modi also praised the Girmitiya (indentured) diaspora, unveiled a comprehensive database on their ancestral roots, and encouraged visits to ancestral villages. In addition, India gifted 2,000 laptops and supported solar initiatives, while congratulating T and T for adopting the UPI digital payments system.

2. India Says Emergence of Global South Is Reshaping World Dynamics

India asserts that the rise of the Global South—driven by BRICS enlargement, calls for IMF and governance reform, and growing multipolar alignment—is reshaping global dynamics. At the BRICS summit in Rio, nations championed inclusive multilateralism and advocated quota reforms in the IMF to reflect developing economies' strength. India, aligned with this bloc, emphasizes diversified globalization, democratic representation, and financial inclusion, positioning itself as a key leader in driving change away from Western dominance.

3. Sanjog Gupta Appointed as ICC's New Chief Executive Officer

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Sanjog Gupta as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective July 7, 2025. Gupta, a highly respected figure in the global media, entertainment, and sports ecosystems, brings over two decades of cross-functional experience to this pivotal role. Formerly serving as CEO – Sports & Live

Experiences at JioStar, he is widely recognized as one of the architects of the modern sports ecosystem in India. His appointment follows a global recruitment process that attracted over 2,500 applications from candidates across 25 countries, underscoring the international significance of the position. ICC Chairman Jay Shah expressed confidence in Gupta's expertise in sports strategy and commercialization, anticipating his valuable contribution to growing the game of cricket globally and establishing it as a regular Olympic sport.

4. 17th BRICS Summit Concludes in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The 17th BRICS Summit, a pivotal gathering of major emerging economies, concluded in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The summit, themed 'Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance,' saw the participation of India's Prime Minister and other BRICS leaders. A key outcome of the summit was the signing of the Rio de Janeiro Declaration, which reaffirmed the bloc's commitment to multilateralism and called for comprehensive reforms of the United Nations Security Council. Furthermore, the summit marked the official inclusion of Indonesia as a new member of BRICS, expanding its global footprint. India is slated to host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026.

5. PM Modi Awarded Brazil's Highest Civilian Honor

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recently conferred with the Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva during his ongoing visit to Brazil. This prestigious award is Brazil's highest civilian honor and marks the 26th international award or honor bestowed upon PM Modi by a foreign nation since May 2014. The recognition acknowledges PM Modi's significant efforts in strengthening India-Brazil diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties through various

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platforms, including BRICS and G20. This honor further underscores India's growing influence on the global stage and the international recognition of PM Modi's leadership in fostering bilateral relations and multilateral cooperation.

6. Modi Honoured with Welwitschia Mirabilis Award

During his visit to Namibia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis, the country's highest civilian award, presented by President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. Named after a durable desert plant symbolizing endurance and unity, Modi became the first Indian leader to receive this distinction. This recognition marks a key milestone in the relationship between India and Namibia, emphasizing expanding partnerships in education, healthcare, defence, and technology, with plans to enhance collaboration in trade, green energy, and digital innovation.

7. UNESCO Delists Three African Heritage Sites from Danger

At the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO took three African heritage sites—the Rainforests of Atsinanana in Madagascar, Abu Mena in Egypt, and the Old Town of Ghadames in Libya—off its World Heritage in Danger List. Enhanced conservation efforts have mitigated threats such as illegal logging, flooding, conflict, and natural disasters. UNESCO commended these achievements and continues to support Africa by training specialists and offering financial aid. While these sites are now safer, they will remain under close observation to ensure their continued protection.

8. Mediterranean Sea Experiences Unprecedented Marine Heatwave

On July 12, 2025, scientists reported that the Mediterranean Sea is experiencing an unprecedented marine heatwave, with water

temperatures recorded up to eight degrees Celsius above normal for this time of year. This extreme warming event is significantly impacting marine ecosystems, leading to widespread coral bleaching and a decline in fish populations. Experts warn that if these temperatures persist, it could lead to irreversible damage to biodiversity and have severe long-term consequences for the region's climate patterns and coastal economies that rely heavily on marine resources. The phenomenon is being closely monitored by international environmental agencies.

9. UN Debate on Trans Fats and Nutrition in Developing Countries

The United Nations is currently reviewing a draft political declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) ahead of a high-level meeting scheduled for September 2025. On July 12, 2025, discussions highlighted a commitment to eliminate industrially produced trans fats and improve nutrition, particularly in developing countries. This ongoing debate aims to strengthen global health initiatives by addressing dietary factors contributing to NCDs, such as heart disease and diabetes, which disproportionately affect low- and middle-income nations. Member states are deliberating on specific targets and strategies to ensure healthier food environments worldwide.

Sports

1. Mexico Wins 10th Gold Cup Title, Defeating USA in Final

Mexico has secured its 10th Gold Cup title by defeating the United States 2-1 in the final match held in Houston, Texas. The victory was sealed by crucial goals from Jiménez and Álvarez, played in front of an enthusiastic crowd of over 70,000 fans. This significant win not only adds another prestigious trophy to Mexico's footballing achievements but also provides a substantial morale boost for the team as they look ahead to

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the 2026 World Cup. The match was a highly anticipated contest between two of CONCACAF's strongest teams, with Mexico ultimately emerging victorious through a strong performance.

2. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) Becomes IPL's Most Valuable Team

A recent report has indicated a significant shift in the financial landscape of the Indian Premier League (IPL), with Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) being declared the most valuable team in 2025. This achievement comes after RCB secured their first-ever IPL title in 2025, significantly boosting their brand value and commercial appeal. The report also highlighted the remarkable growth of the IPL as a whole, with its overall brand value rising to a staggering USD 18.5 billion, underscoring the league's immense popularity and economic impact.

3. Sabalenka Advances to Wimbledon Semifinals; A'ja Wilson Injured in WNBA Game

In recent sports news, Aryna Sabalenka secured her spot in the Wimbledon semifinals, defeating Siegemund and setting up a clash with Anisimova. This solid performance highlights her strong form in the Grand Slam tournament. Meanwhile, in the WNBA, the Las Vegas Aces suffered a setback as their star player, A'ja Wilson, sustained a right wrist injury during a game against the New York Liberty. Wilson, a three-time WNBA MVP, had to exit the game in the first half after a hard fall. The injury is a significant concern for the Aces as they continue their season, with an MRI scheduled to determine the extent of the injury.

4. SAI Deputy Director Awarded Japan's Prestigious MEXT Scholarship

Sachin K, Deputy Director at the Sports Authority of India and head of the National Boxing Academy in Rohtak, has received Japan's prestigious MEXT Scholarship to pursue a Master's in Sport and Olympic Studies at the

University of Tsukuba starting September 2025. A native of Shivamogga, Karnataka, he joins a select group of Indian sports administrators awarded this honour. With more than eight years at SAI, Sachin has played a pivotal role in major initiatives such as Khelo India and TOPS, making a substantial impact on the growth of sports in India.

5. Czech-Dutch Duo Triumph in Wimbledon Mixed Doubles Final

Czech player Katerina Siniakova and Dutch partner Sem Verbeek won the Wimbledon mixed doubles title by defeating Britain's Joe Salisbury and Brazil's Luisa Stefani with a score of 7-6(3), 7-6(3). Despite Stefani dealing with a leg injury, the Czech-Dutch team stayed focused and clinched the victory, marking Siniakova's first mixed doubles Grand Slam and Verbeek's first Grand Slam title overall. Siniakova, who already boasts 10 women's doubles Grand Slam titles, called the win a special achievement, while Salisbury praised their opponents' strong performance in the tight tie-break sets.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

1. Prime Minister Modi Honored with 'Key to the City of Buenos Aires'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was bestowed with the prestigious 'Key to the City of Buenos Aires' on July 6, 2025, during his official two-day visit to Argentina. This symbolic award serves as a significant recognition of his dedicated efforts to strengthen the bilateral relationship between India and Argentina. This historic visit marks the first time an Indian Prime Minister has visited Argentina in 57 years, underscoring the growing importance of diplomatic ties and cooperation between the two nations. The award ceremony highlighted the mutual commitment to fostering deeper engagement across various sectors, from trade and culture to technology and strategic partnerships.

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2. Controllers' Conference 2025 Inaugurated in New Delhi

The Controllers' Conference 2025, hosted by the Defence Accounts Department, was inaugurated in New Delhi by the Raksha Mantri. This annual conference serves as a crucial platform for the Controllers within the Defence Accounts Department to discuss various financial management and accounting issues pertinent to the defence sector. The discussions at the conference aim to streamline financial processes, enhance efficiency, and ensure robust financial oversight within the Ministry of Defence. Such conferences are instrumental in facilitating policy implementation and addressing operational challenges faced by the department.

3. IndiaAI and Gates Foundation Sign Landmark MoU to Advance AI for Social Good

The IndiaAI Mission and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for social good. This pivotal partnership aims to focus on developing inclusive, safe, and impactful AI solutions across critical sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, and education. The collaboration underscores a shared vision to drive innovation, promote equity, and support India's objective for responsible and inclusive AI development. This MoU is expected to catalyze research, strengthen institutional capacities, and unlock new avenues for collaboration among government, academia, civil society, and private stakeholders, reinforcing India's leadership in shaping global AI discourse.

4. BRICS Nations Condemn EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism at 2025 Summit

During their 2025 summit held in Rio de Janeiro, the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) on July 12, 2025, collectively condemned the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). The group

criticized CBAM as a protectionist measure that contradicts the principles of free trade and disproportionately impacts developing economies. They argued that such unilateral trade barriers undermine multilateral efforts to address climate change and could lead to new trade disputes. The BRICS leaders called for a more inclusive and equitable approach to global climate policy, emphasizing common but differentiated responsibilities.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

1. Centre Releases Long-Term Vision Reports for Aluminium and Copper Sectors

The Ministry of Mines released the Copper and Aluminium Vision Documents on July 4, 2025 in Hyderabad. These strategic plans aim to boost domestic capacity: adding 5 million tpa of copper smelting and refining by 2030, and increasing aluminium output sixfold by 2047, alongside expanding bauxite mining to 150 mtpa. Both documents emphasize enhanced recycling, adoption of lowcarbon technologies, and securing raw materials through overseas assets. Developed in collaboration with major industry players, the initiatives align with India's goals for energy transition and a self-reliant "Viksit Bharat 2047."

2. India Ranks 130th in UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) 2025 Report

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Report (HDR) 2025, India has shown continued upward movement in the Human Development Index (HDI) rankings, securing the 130th position globally. India's HDI value increased from 0.676 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023, placing the nation in the medium human development category. This consistent progress brings India closer to the high human development threshold (HDI \geq 0.700). The report highlights that India's HDI value has grown by over 53% since 1990, a rate

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faster than both the global and South Asian averages. This improvement is primarily attributed to sustained economic growth, coupled with targeted social protection and welfare programs, which have collectively contributed to better health, education, and living standards for its citizens.

3. NITI Aayog Releases 2nd SDG Index for North East Districts

NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has released the second edition of the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index (2023-24) in New Delhi. This comprehensive index evaluates the progress of 121 districts across the eight North Eastern states towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The report categorizes districts into four groups: Achiever, Front Runner, Performer, and Aspirant, based on their SDG scores. Notably, all districts in Mizoram, Sikkim, and Tripura achieved 'Front Runner' status, indicating strong performance in sustainable development initiatives. The top-performing district overall was Hnahthial (Mizoram) with a score of 81.43, while Longding (Arunachal Pradesh) scored the lowest at 58.71. This index serves as a crucial tool for evidence-based planning and ensures that no district is left behind in the region's development journey.

4. India Ranks as World's 4th Most Equal Society, Says World Bank Report

According to the World Bank's 'Spring 2025 Poverty & Equity Brief', India has achieved a remarkable milestone by ranking as the world's fourth most equal society. With a Gini Index score of 25.5 for 2022-23, India is positioned behind only the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Belarus in terms of income equality. This significant achievement not only surpasses regional peers like China (Gini score of 35.7) but also places India ahead of every G7 and G20

nation. The report highlights India's substantial progress in poverty reduction, with 171 million people lifted out of extreme poverty between 2011 and 2023, demonstrating that economic growth and social equity can go hand in hand.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. Indian Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla Interacts with Students from ISS via Ham Radio

Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, currently aboard the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission, recently engaged in an inspiring interaction with students and scientists at ISRO via ham radio. This rare event, scheduled for July 4, is part of the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) program, which aims to connect students worldwide with astronauts in orbit to foster interest in STEM education. The interaction took place through a telebridge at the U R Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru, with communication relayed via the K6DUE ground station. Shukla is on a 14-day scientific expedition, conducting various experiments, including research on microalgae for sustainable food sources and the Neuro Motion VR project to study cognitive performance in microgravity, demonstrating the practical application of space research.

2. India Launches First National Biobank at CSIR-IGIB

India has taken a monumental step in advanced health research by establishing its first globally recognized National Biobank at the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB). This cutting-edge facility is designed to revolutionize healthcare by enabling personalized medicine, leveraging comprehensive Indian health and genetic data. The biobank will play a critical role in collecting, storing, and analyzing biological samples and associated health information from a diverse cross-section of the Indian population. This initiative is expected to accelerate research into various diseases, facilitate the discovery of

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new biomarkers, and pave the way for the development of more effective and tailored treatments for Indian patients.

3. India Establishes First Internationally Recognized Equine Disease-Free Zone at Meerut

In a significant stride for animal health and biosecurity, India has established its first internationally recognized Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC) at the Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) Centre and College in Meerut Cantonment, Uttar Pradesh. This landmark achievement, formally approved by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on July 3, 2025, marks a major step towards enabling the international movement of Indian sport horses in compliance with global biosecurity and animal health standards. The EDFC has been officially declared free from five major equine diseases: Equine Infectious Anaemia, Equine Influenza, Equine Piroplasmiasis, Glanders, and Surra, with India also maintaining its disease-free status for African Horse Sickness since 2014. This recognition will significantly boost India's prospects in international equestrian competitions, high-value equine trade, and breeding, while strengthening the nation's overall biosecurity framework.

4. User Trials of Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket Successfully Conducted by Indian Navy

The Indian Navy has successfully conducted user trials of an Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ER-ASR) from INS Kavaratti, a P-28 ASW Corvette. This significant achievement marks a major advancement in India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities. The ER-ASR, which has an enhanced range compared to conventional anti-submarine rockets, is designed to target enemy submarines from a greater distance, providing the Indian Navy with a critical strategic advantage in maritime domain. The successful trials demonstrate India's commitment to modernizing its naval fleet with advanced indigenous weaponry and bolstering its defense

preparedness in the face of evolving underwater threats.

5. Earth's Rotation Speeds Up, Leading to Shorter Day on July 9, 2025

Recent observations have revealed that Earth's rotation is accelerating, leading to a notably shorter day on July 9, 2025. On this specific day, the planet completed one full spin faster than ever before, making the day shorter by approximately 1.6 milliseconds. Scientists attribute this phenomenon primarily to the gravitational influence of the Moon, which exerts tidal forces that can slightly speed up or slow down Earth's rotation. This acceleration has significant implications for timekeeping and scientific study, as it necessitates potential adjustments like a 'negative leap second' planned for 2029 to keep atomic clocks aligned with the Earth's actual spin.

6. Kalaa Setu Challenge Boosts AI Language Innovation

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has launched the 'Kalaa Setu – Real-Time Language Tech for Bharat' Challenge via its WaveX Startup Accelerator Platform. This national competition invites startups to develop AI-powered tools that convert text into audio, video, or graphics in multiple Indian languages. Aimed at promoting regional language content creation, the challenge seeks user-friendly, scalable solutions across media formats. The initiative supports innovation in language technology under the WAVES programme, encouraging startups to enhance media and entertainment accessibility for India's diverse population.

7. Fatal SEPECAT Jaguar Crash Highlights IAF's Combat Fleet

Two pilots died when an Indian Air Force SEPECAT Jaguar crashed near Churu, Rajasthan. The Jaguar, nicknamed 'Shamsher', is a twin-engine ground-attack aircraft developed by Britain and France, first introduced in 1968. It is capable of

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carrying a payload of up to 4,500 kg, reaching speeds of up to 1,699 km/h, and has a combat range of 1,400 km when equipped with external fuel tanks. India operates around 160 Jaguars, including strike, trainer, and naval versions, with about 120 jets currently active across six squadrons.

8. Rubin Observatory Begins Decade-Long Sky Survey

The Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile has revealed breathtaking images taken by its record-breaking 3,200-megapixel digital camera—the largest ever constructed. Situated on Cerro Pachón, the observatory will survey the southern night sky over a 10-year period, gathering 20 terabytes of data each night. Its Simonyi Survey Telescope boasts a wide field of view, swift maneuverability, and a powerful camera. The project aims to transform astronomy and enhance our understanding of dark matter and dark energy, which together constitute 95% of the universe.

9. India's First Indigenous DSV Enters Service

INS Nistar, the Indian Navy's first indigenously designed Diving Support Vessel, will be commissioned on July 18 in Visakhapatnam. Built by Hindustan Shipyard under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative with over 80% indigenous content, it supports submarine rescue and deep-sea diving operations. Equipped with advanced systems like Dynamic Positioning, ROVs, and a medical facility, it enhances India's underwater capabilities. With a 60-day endurance, it significantly boosts the Navy's operational readiness in the Indian Ocean Region.

10. AI-Powered BioEmu Redefines Life Sciences

Microsoft has unveiled BioEmu, an advanced AI system designed to revolutionize protein research by accurately predicting protein movements in hours instead of years. Developed by Microsoft Research's AI for Science team,

BioEmu uses deep learning and vast datasets to model structural changes, identify hidden drug targets, and aid drug discovery. With exceptional accuracy, it eliminates the need for complex simulations, accelerating medical research, synthetic biology, and genetics. Peer-reviewed in *Science*, BioEmu marks a major leap in life sciences innovation.

11. India's Astra Missile Achieves Indigenous Seeker Flight Success

Recent developments in India's defence technology indicate a significant milestone, as the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully tested the Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air (BVRAAM) missile on July 12, 2025. This test specifically focused on the indigenous seeker technology of the missile, which is crucial for its accuracy and effectiveness. The successful flight demonstration of the indigenous seeker marks a major step towards self-reliance in advanced missile technology, enhancing India's air combat capabilities and reducing dependence on foreign components for critical defence systems.

12. Indian Navy Commissions Indigenous DSV Nistar

The Indian Navy commissioned its first indigenously designed and built Diving Support Vessel (DSV) named Nistar on July 12, 2025. The commissioning ceremony took place at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam. This state-of-the-art vessel is equipped with advanced diving systems and capabilities for deep-sea rescue operations, submarine support, and underwater maintenance. The induction of DSV Nistar significantly enhances the Indian Navy's underwater capabilities and reinforces the nation's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology and naval fleet modernization under the 'Make in India' initiative.

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13. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons Persistence in Space

Recent studies published on July 12, 2025, confirm the remarkable persistence of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in various environments across space. PAHs are flat molecules composed solely of carbon and hydrogen atoms, known for their stability. These molecules are abundant in interstellar space, comets, and meteorites, and new research suggests they may have played a key role in the origin of life on Earth by acting as scaffolds for early biological molecules. The findings deepen our understanding of astrochemistry and the potential for life beyond Earth, highlighting the widespread nature and astrobiological significance of PAHs.

Miscellaneous

1. WHO Launches '3 by 35' Strategy to Hike Taxes on Tobacco, Alcohol, and Sugary Beverages

The WHO has launched its "3 by 35" strategy, urging countries to raise real prices on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks by at least 50% by 2035 through health taxes. Aimed at curbing consumption and preventing non-communicable diseases, the plan could save 50 million lives over 50 years and generate an estimated 1 trillion dollars by 2035. Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the World Bank, and OECD, it builds on successful models from Colombia and South Africa.

2. Elon Musk Launches New Political Party 'America Party' in USA

Elon Musk, the prominent billionaire and CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has recently announced the formation of a new political party in the United States, named the 'America Party.' The announcement was made by Musk on X (formerly Twitter), his own social media platform. This significant move comes after a publicized falling out with President Donald

Trump, signaling Musk's intention to offer an alternative to the existing two-party political system. Musk stated that the party aims to restore 'freedom' to the people and combat wasteful spending and corruption, reflecting his belief that the current political landscape is dysfunctional and primarily benefits entrenched powers.

3. Medical Faculty Regulations 2025 Introduced by NMC to Address Shortages

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has introduced new Medical Faculty Regulations 2025, significantly expanding the eligibility criteria for faculty appointments in medical colleges. Under these new rules, doctors working in government hospitals, even if not part of teaching institutions, can now be appointed as faculty. Non-teaching consultants with 10 years of experience can become associate professors, while those with at least two years of experience can be appointed as assistant professors without requiring senior residency. Furthermore, government hospitals with over 220 beds can now be recognized as teaching hospitals, a change from the previous 330-bed requirement. These regulations aim to address the critical faculty shortages and support the Central government's plan to add 75,000 new medical seats across the country in the next five years, making medical education more accessible and robust.

4. Himachal Pradesh Pioneers Aadhaar-based Face Authentication for Ration Distribution

Himachal Pradesh has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first state in India to implement Aadhaar-based face authentication (FaceAuth) for the distribution of ration under the Public Distribution System (PDS). This innovative mechanism aims to streamline the authentication process, which previously relied on OTP or biometric methods that often faced challenges like SMS delivery failures and biometric mismatches. The new FaceAuth facility

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utilizes a mobile camera via an app installed on the fair price shop (FPS) owner's smartphone, enabling direct facial authentication of beneficiaries. This initiative is expected to significantly improve the authentication success rate, reduce verification time, and ensure faster and smoother ration distribution, enhancing convenience for beneficiaries across the state.

5. India's First Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC) Recognized Globally

India has achieved a significant milestone in animal health by securing global recognition for its first Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC) by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). This recognition signifies that a specific geographical area in India has been verified as free from certain equine diseases, adhering to stringent international standards. The EDFC status is crucial for boosting the country's equine industry, facilitating safer international trade of horses and horse-related products, and enhancing India's reputation in animal disease control and biosecurity. This development is expected to open new avenues for exports and foster better disease management practices for equines within the country.

6. RBI to Auction Government Bonds Worth Rs 25,000 Crore

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will conduct an auction on July 11, 2025, to sell two government bonds valued at Rs 25,000 crore. This auction, which will take place on the RBI's e-Kuber platform from its Mumbai office, is a crucial step for the government to raise funds to meet its long-term financial needs. These dated securities, which are government bonds with a fixed interest rate and a set maturity date, are typically used to borrow money for extended periods and pay interest every six months. The auction will use a multiple-price method, allowing for both non-competitive and competitive bids, with results expected on the

same day. This mechanism allows for efficient government borrowing and participation from a wide range of investors.

7. India Becomes World's 4th Largest Biofuel Consumer

According to the 74th edition of the Statistical Review of World Energy (2025), released by the London-based Energy Institute (EI) in collaboration with Kearney and KPMG, India has emerged as the world's fourth-largest biofuel consumer in 2024. This significant rise highlights India's increasing focus on renewable energy sources and its commitment to reducing reliance on fossil fuels. The United States of America (USA) continued to top the list as the largest biofuel producer and consumer, followed by Brazil and Indonesia. India's biofuel consumption demonstrated a robust Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 31.8% between 2014 and 2024, reflecting the country's proactive policies and growing demand in the renewable energy sector.

8. Bharat Bandh on July 9, 2025: Nationwide Strike by Trade Unions

A joint forum of ten central trade unions and their associates called for a nationwide general strike, or 'Bharat Bandh', on July 9, 2025. This large-scale protest, expected to involve over 25 crore workers from sectors including banking, insurance, postal services, mining, and construction, aims to oppose what they term as 'anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-national pro-corporate policies of the government.' Farmers' unions and agricultural workers' associations also extended their support. The strike, which disrupted public life in key cities, highlighted demands such as a minimum wage of Rs 26,000 and the restoration of the old pension scheme, along with strong opposition to new labor codes and privatization.

9. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Launches 'BHARAT Study' for Healthy Aging Database

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The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, under its Longevity India Programme, has formally launched the 'BHARAT (Biomarkers of Healthy Aging, Resilience, Adversity, and Transitions) study' in July 2025. This groundbreaking initiative aims to create India's first comprehensive aging database. By integrating multiparametric analyses, the BHARAT study will collect and analyze data related to healthy aging, resilience to adversity, and life transitions across various demographic groups in India. This extensive database is expected to provide invaluable insights into the biological, social, and environmental factors influencing aging in the Indian context, paving the way for targeted interventions and policies to promote healthy longevity.

10. MapmyIndia Partners with India Post for DIGIPIN Platform Integration

MapmyIndia (formerly C.E. InfoSystems Private Limited) has partnered with India Post, also known as the Department of Posts (DoP) under the Ministry of Communications (MoC), to integrate the DIGIPIN (Digital Personal Identification Number) platform into its Mappls app. This collaboration introduces India's first comprehensive digital address system within a popular navigation application. The DIGIPIN platform aims to revolutionize last-mile delivery and location-based services by providing accurate and unique digital addresses, streamlining postal services, e-commerce deliveries, and emergency responses across the country. This integration will significantly enhance the efficiency and reliability of address identification, benefiting both individuals and businesses.

11. Punjab Government Launches Chief Minister Health Scheme with Rs 10 Lakh Annual Coverage

The Punjab government has officially launched the Chief Minister Health Scheme, a major welfare initiative offering free cashless medical

treatment up to Rs 10 lakh annually per family. This ambitious scheme is designed to cover approximately 65 lakh families, totaling around 3 crore people across Punjab, including government employees, farmers, and all social categories. Digital health cards will be distributed to every eligible family, enabling cashless treatment at both government and private hospitals. Additionally, Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries will receive an extra Rs 5 lakh top-up coverage, bringing their total healthcare coverage to Rs 10 lakh, ensuring extensive medical support for a large segment of the state's population.

12. Sarankumar Limbale Wins Prestigious Literary Award

Sarankumar Limbale, a prominent Marathi writer and critic, has been honored with the 2025 Chintha Raveendran Award in recognition of his powerful literary work centered on Dalit identity and social justice. The award, which includes a cash prize of ₹50,000, a memento, and a citation, will be presented on July 26 at K.P. Kesavamenon Hall in Kozhikode. The ceremony, held in memory of Chintha Raveendran, will also feature a keynote address by Subhashini Ali. Limbale's writings emphasize the voices of marginalized communities and advocate for equality, reflecting the award's commitment to literature that fosters social change.

13. Swissmedic Clears Infant Malaria Treatment

On July 9, 2025, Swissmedic granted approval to a pioneering malaria treatment by Novartis, specifically designed for infants weighing between 2 and 5 kilograms. This is the first approved malaria drug specifically for very young babies and was fast-tracked in collaboration with the WHO. The approval addresses a critical need, especially in Africa, where malaria causes most child deaths. Experts confirm the drug's safety and effectiveness. Novartis aims to distribute it in eight African nations, mainly at no profit, to improve access

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and save infant lives.

14. India Leads World Population Day, Plans Digital Census

World Population Day 2025, observed on July 11 with the theme “Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world,” emphasizes reproductive rights, gender equality, and sustainable development. As global population reaches 8.2 billion, India leads with 1.46 billion people. In this context, India prepares for Census 2027—its first fully digital and caste-inclusive count—aimed at collecting accurate data for equitable policy-making. This historic exercise will support youth-focused initiatives in education, employment, and family welfare.

15. Birla leads India's presence at USISPF

Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, has become a member of the Executive Committee of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), strengthening economic ties between India and the United States. Leading India's third-largest business conglomerate, Birla has invested over USD 15 billion in the US, including a significant USD 4.1 billion aluminium facility in Alabama. Honored with the 2025 Global Leadership Award, he earned praise from international leaders and emphasized the vital importance of the US-India partnership in advancing global business and innovation.