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English

National

June GST Collections Rise 13.9% to ₹1.95 Lakh Crore

India's gross GST collection for June 2026 reached ₹1,94,812 crore, registering a strong 13.9% year-on-year growth driven by enhanced digital tax compliance. Net collections stood at ₹1,62,377 crore after adjusting for a 29.1% surge in processed refunds worth ₹32,436 crore. Notably, import-related GST served as the primary growth catalyst, skyrocketing by 34.6% to ₹60,038 crore, whereas domestic transactions saw a moderate 6.5% rise. On a regional scale, Maharashtra retained its top spot by collecting ₹30,714 crore, while Uttar Pradesh posted a spectacular 19% growth. Conversely, states like Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand recorded a revenue decline.



VB-G RAM G Act 2025 Takes Effect from July 1

The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025 came into force on July 1, 2026. This landmark legislation restructures rural employment by increasing the statutory guaranteed wage employment from 100 to 125 days annually per eligible household. Aligned with the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision,

it emphasizes creating durable community assets, water conservation, and women's empowerment through Self Help Groups. Backed by an interim central allocation of ₹95,692.31 crore to ensure uninterrupted wage payments, the national mission officially launches on July 2, 2026, in Mukkavaripalli village, Andhra Pradesh.

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Flags Off First Easy Connect Flight from Varanasi

The Government of India has formalized timeline targets under its newly introduced Hub-and-Spoke international aviation strategy, establishing a dual-phased roadmap for the nation's airspace. Official guidelines anchor the strategic vision to 2030 for transforming India into the primary aviation hub of choice for Indian passengers, aiming to reclaim transit traffic from foreign gateways. Looking further ahead, the policy sets 2047 as the definitive target year for India to emerge as a dominant global aviation hub for the world. This structural shift intends to consolidate domestic feeder routes and position major Indian airports as competitive international transit centers.



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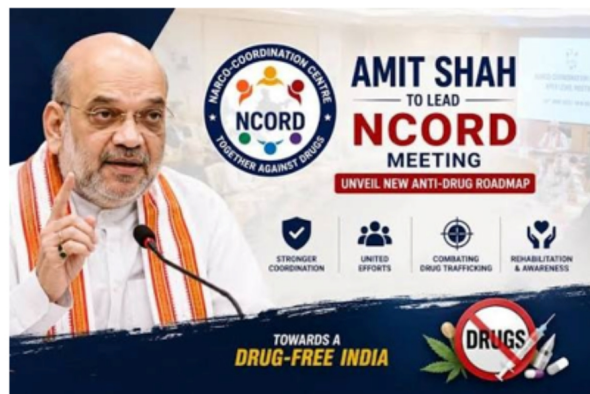
English

Government Introduces Jan Vishwas Health Reforms to Simplify Regulatory Compliance

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has notified major regulatory amendments to decriminalize minor procedural non-compliances, targeting 35 provisions across five Central Acts. Operating under the broader Jan Vishwas framework, which rationalizes regulations across multiple ministries, these health sector reforms aim to enhance trust-based governance and improve the ease of doing business for medical facilities. A key operational component includes modifying the Clinical Establishments Act, shifting enforcement from criminal prosecution to administrative adjudication by replacing judicial fines with civil penalties. The updated architecture introduces a structured, graded adjudication mechanism, ensuring balanced regulatory enforcement while protecting citizen-centric safety standards.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Unveils Vision Document on Drug Control for 2026 to 2029

The Government of India has operationalized its comprehensive Vision Document on Drug Control 2026-2029, anchoring its administrative framework on a definitive three-pronged principle focused on detecting, disrupting, and destroying illicit networks. The national roadmap introduces a deliberate balance between strict law enforcement and social welfare, mandating a ruthless approach against drug traffickers while prioritizing a sympathetic, rehabilitative strategy for affected youth. Structurally, the multi-layered strategy targets the drug menace through three parallel administrative pillars, simultaneously implementing nationwide demand-reduction campaigns, stringent supply-reduction operations, and healthcare-oriented harm-reduction programs to ensure an integrated public safety response.



Prime Minister Connects Amarnath Yatra with Five National Resolutions in Message to Pilgrims

In an official message to Shri Amarnath Yatra devotees, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged pilgrims to adopt five specific resolutions emphasizing safety, environmental care, and community support. The directives call on yatris to dedicate ten percent of their travel expenses to purchasing local products to boost the regional economy, plant a tree under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign upon completion, and strictly follow administrative safety guidelines. Notably, these official guidelines focus on welfare and sustainability, completely excluding any mandates regarding a twenty-four-hour spiritual fast during the pilgrimage.

Government Introduces Free Aadhaar Email Update Service Through Mobile Application

In a major stride toward digital convenience, the Unique Identification Authority of India launched a new initiative allowing residents to add or update their email ID directly through the official mobile application. This upgrade completely eliminates the need to physically visit an enrolment centre, streamlining the entire verification process for users.

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To encourage widespread adoption and ease the transition, this newly introduced mobile email update facility is being offered entirely free of cost for an initial period of six months, ensuring hassle-free and accessible profile management.



Jammu and Kashmir exports first-ever shipment of premium Cherries and Plums to UAE

In a major milestone for Jammu and Kashmir's horticulture sector, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the first-ever export of premium Areko cherries and Scentrose plums to the UAE on July 6. This maiden shipment showcases the exceptional quality of Indian produce internationally, opening lucrative new avenues for local farmers and boosting agricultural exports. The achievement underscores a growing global demand for premium Indian fruits. The scale of the region's agricultural productivity is substantial; during 2024-25, the Union Territory exported over 6,37,000 metric tonnes of fruit, generating an impressive turnover exceeding 3,100 crore rupees.



Madhya Pradesh Missile Manufacturing Plant Launched in Shivpuri

On 5 July 2026, Adani Defence and Aerospace laid the foundation stone for a Rs 2,500 crore missile manufacturing facility in Pali, Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh. Attended by CM Dr. Mohan Yadav and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, the project is touted as South Asia's largest private-sector missile ecosystem for medium and long-range systems. The facility integrates the complete value chain, manufacturing critical inputs like composite propellants, TNT, and explosive-grade materials. Expected to be operational within three years, it will generate approximately 5,000 direct and indirect skilled jobs and incorporate over 50 MSMEs into its supply chain. This milestone advances India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision, expanding Madhya Pradesh's existing defence manufacturing footprint beyond Gwalior.

West Bengal Implements PMCSKY for Tea Garden Workers

On 5 July 2026, West Bengal approved the implementation of the central scheme Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana (PMCSKY) for North Bengal's tea garden workers, sanctioning Rs 313.30 crore for essential welfare infrastructure.

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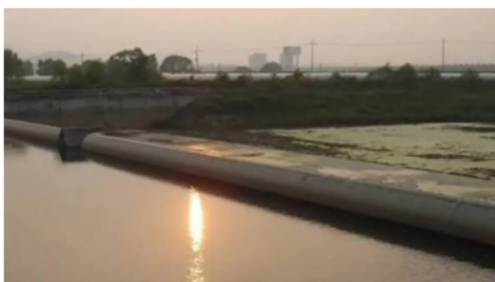
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The project funds three major components: the Cha Shramik Shiksha Yojana (CSSY), which allocates Rs 177 crore for educational infrastructure; the Cha Shramik Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (CSSSY), which utilizes Rs 72 crore for healthcare services; and the Cha Shramik Aashray Yojana (CSAY), which designates Rs 63 crore to build 321 resting sheds, with 88 in the hills and 233 in the plains. The North Bengal Development Department will act as the nodal implementing agency, coordinating with the Health Department and school missions to execute the plan, which forms part of a larger Rs 1,000 crore central outlay shared between Assam and West Bengal.

Gujarat Builds First Air-Filled Rubber Dams

Gujarat is constructing its first two air-filled rubber dams across the Heran River (Chhota Udepur) and Ambika River (Tapi) for over Rs 162 crore. Utilizing South Korean technology, these flexible hydraulic structures feature rubber bladders that inflate to store water and deflate via SCADA-based automation during monsoons to clear floodwaters and silt. As of July 7, 2026, the Rajvasana dam on the Heran River is 75 percent complete, targeting a September 2027 commissioning to irrigate 3,420 hectares across 25 villages. The Pathakwadi dam on the Ambika River is 90 percent complete, securing irrigation for 650 hectares. Aligned with the Centre's 'Catch the Rain' campaign, these durable, climate-resistant dams advance the state's automated water conservation and irrigation infrastructure.



Centre Steps Up El Niño Preparedness Through Weekly Monitoring Meetings

The Prime Minister's Office recently convened a high-level review meeting to assess the potential impact of El Nino on the crucial Kharif crop season and the broader national economy. During this extensive session, chaired by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, the crucial role of the Crop Weather Watch Group was heavily emphasized. This institutional body is actively conducting weekly coordination meetings alongside state governments to stringently track monsoon rainfall progress, localized crop sowing trends, and critical reservoir storage levels. These continuous assessments aim to enable swift decision-making and precise contingency responses across vulnerable districts, ensuring national agricultural and essential resource stability.

India, Kyrgyzstan Launch 'Manas and Mahabharata' Civilizational Studies Centre

India and Kyrgyzstan strengthened cultural and academic ties with the inauguration of the International Centre for Civilizational Studies "Manas and Mahabharata" in Bishkek. Established by the Manas National Academy and the Centre for Studies of International Relations (CSIR), New Delhi, the centre will promote comparative research, cultural dialogue, and academic exchanges. The event also featured trilateral agreements with Kyrgyz universities and the release of the first Hindi translation of the Kyrgyz epic *Manas*, reinforcing shared civilizational heritage and bilateral cooperation.

AISHE 2023-24: Higher Education Enrolment Reaches Record 4.5 Crore in India

The Ministry of Education's AISHE 2022-23 and 2023-24 reports show that higher education enrolment in India reached a record 4.5 crore students in 2023-24.

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The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) rose to 30, while female enrolment increased to 2.24 crore, with a Gender Parity Index of 1.08. Enrolment among SC, ST, and OBC students also grew significantly. STEM enrolment crossed one crore for the first time, reflecting improved access, inclusivity, and progress in India's higher education sector.

World Bank Approves USD 890 Million for India's Rooftop Solar Programme

The World Bank approved an USD 890 million financing package for India's PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, supporting rooftop solar installations for 10 million households. The package includes an USD 820 million IBRD loan, a USD 60 million concessional loan from the Clean Technology Fund, and a USD 10 million grant from the Livable Planet Fund. The programme aims to expand residential solar adoption, mobilise USD 4.2 billion in private investment, create 1.7 million jobs, and advance India's clean energy and net-zero goals.

Department of Posts, TRAI Launch India's Largest Village-Level Telecom Survey

The Department of Posts (DoP) and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India have signed an MoU to conduct India's largest-ever rural telecom network survey across 5.68 lakh villages. Using the postal network and a mobile application, the survey will assess the performance of Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea, and BSNL. The initiative aims to identify connectivity gaps, improve rural mobile services, support evidence-based policymaking, and strengthen the Digital India mission through better telecommunications infrastructure and service quality.



NSE Launches Nifty500 Ahimsa Index

NSE Indices Limited launched the Nifty500 Ahimsa Index on 10 July 2026 to track companies from the Nifty 500 that follow non-violent, animal-friendly business practices. Developed with the Ahimsagain Foundation, the thematic index excludes companies classified in the Orange and Red bands based on animal-related impact. With a base date of 1 April 2016 and a base value of 1000, it uses free-float market capitalisation and is designed to support ethical investing, ETFs, and index funds.



World-famous Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra begins today in Puri

The world-famous Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, along with his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, commences today i.e. 16th July, in Puri, Odisha. During this annual festival, the deities journey nearly three

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kilometres from the Shree Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha Temple, traditionally revered as their maternal aunt's abode, allowing devotees to seek their darshan directly from their massive chariots. The deities will reside at the Gundicha Temple for nine days. They will subsequently return to the main Shree Jagannath Temple aboard the same chariots during the Bahuda Yatra, also known as the return car festival. Expecting a massive influx of devotees, the temple administration and local authorities have deployed multi-layered security arrangements to ensure a smooth and safe festival.



Government to Introduce Bill to Criminalise Insults to 'Vande Mataram'

The Central Government is set to introduce the Prevention of Insult to National Honour (Amendment) Bill during the Monsoon Session of Parliament 2026. The proposed legislation seeks to extend legal protection to "Vande Mataram", making its insult or obstruction during singing a punishable offence, similar to protections for the National Flag and National Anthem. Approved by the Union Cabinet, the Bill aims to recognise the song's historical significance and will require parliamentary approval and Presidential assent before becoming law.



Department of Posts Launches National Mascot Design Contest on the MyGov Platform

In a major initiative to modernize its visual identity, the Department of Posts has officially rolled out a nationwide Mascot Design Contest on the MyGov platform. This nationwide creative competition invites Indian citizens to design a distinctive brand ambassador that effectively captures the essential foundational pillars of India Post. The proposed character is expected to visually encapsulate the organization's core institutional values, specifically emphasizing trust, reliability, inclusivity, public service, and forward-looking digital innovation. Once selected, this unique symbol will take center stage across all future promotional campaigns, public awareness drives, and official communications.



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International

India Showcases Premium Mangoes at First Promotional Events Organised in Iceland

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry executed a targeted promotional campaign in Iceland to showcase the premium quality of India's agricultural export basket. High-profile tasting events hosted across Reykjavik and Akureyri served a curated selection of elite Indian mango varieties, specifically featuring Dasheri, Chausa, Langra, and Kesar to international delegates and trade partners. Organised to expand India's horticultural footprint in the Nordic region, the drive focused on leveraging seasonal harvests to establish new supply chains and secure bilateral trade agreements. The initiative forms part of a broader export diversification strategy aiming to position unique geographical indication tagged fruits in competitive European markets.

India Reiterates Support for Women-Led Development at SCO Women's Forum 2026

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Women's Forum convened in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, serving as a high-level diplomatic platform to advance regional cooperation on gender equality and women's economic leadership. Delegations from member states gathered to institutionalize frameworks that enhance entrepreneurship, digital literacy, and sustainable development initiatives among women across the Eurasian corridor. The forum concluded with a joint declaration emphasizing the integration of gender-responsive policies into mainstream national economic agendas and the expansion of multilateral trade networks. This convention underscores the bloc's expanding focus on socio-cultural and economic diplomacy alongside its traditional security mandate.



PM Modi Attends National Day Celebrations Marking 50th Anniversary of Independence of Seychelles

At the invitation of President Patrick Herminie, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 50th Independence anniversary celebrations of Seychelles as the first Indian PM accorded Guest of Honour status on 29th June. The event was also attended by EAM S Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval, and Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam. Highlighting deep-rooted ties, an Indian Army and Navy marching contingent, along with a Naval band, participated in the parade. Simultaneously, INS Tarkash and INS Ikshak docked at Port Victoria. As a key maritime neighbor, Seychelles plays a crucial role in India's 'MAHASAGAR' vision and its commitment to the Global South. The visit successfully reaffirmed their enduring bilateral friendship and shared commitment to enhancing cooperation across all sectors.

UPI to Become Operational in Seychelles

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit concluding June 29, 2026, India and Seychelles signed an MoU to operationalize the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Seychelles by late 2026. Signed between NPCI and the Central Bank of Seychelles, the agreement establishes technical steps to enable cashless transactions for Indian tourists. This initiative is part of a broader bilateral cooperation package.

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spanning health, education, digital transformation, and maritime security. Additionally, India extended a Rs 1,250 crore line of credit to Seychelles for development projects. Developed by NPCI, UPI is a premier real-time payment system. Seychelles joins international peers like Singapore, the UAE, France, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka in adopting India's digital payment ecosystem.



Union Minister Calls for Stronger Industry and Youth Collaboration Through MY Bharat Digital Platform

The operational framework and founding mandate of the MY Bharat platform are deeply anchored in India's rich cultural heritage, drawing inspiration from two core traditional values: Seva Bhaav, representing the spirit of selfless service, and Kartavya Bodh, signifying the profound sense of duty. These guiding principles are designed to empower the youth, fostering civic responsibility and community engagement across the nation. By embedding these values into its digital infrastructure, the platform aims to bridge the gap between youth aspirations and community development, driving impactful social transformation.



India Extends Anti-Dumping Duty on Seamless Tubes Until 2027

India has extended the anti-dumping duty on seamless tubes, pipes, and hollow steel profiles imported from China until 27 January 2027. The measure applies to products under tariff heading 7304 with an outer diameter up to 355.6 mm. Based on a sunset review initiated by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies, the extension aims to protect domestic manufacturers from unfairly priced imports. Anti-dumping duty is a trade remedy used to prevent injury caused by dumped goods and ensure fair competition.

India, Australia Unveil Roadmap for Sports Collaboration

India and Australia launched the India-Australia Roadmap for Sports Collaboration to strengthen long-term cooperation in coaching, sports science, athlete development, sports technology, women's sports, and major sporting events. Announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the initiative builds on the 2023 Sports Cooperation MoU and supports preparations for the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad and the 2032 Brisbane Olympics and Paralympics. It also promotes exhibition matches, knowledge sharing, and annual Big Bash League matches in India to deepen bilateral sports ties.

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Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to Visit Spain, Belgium and Finland with Business Delegation

The Indian delegation's upcoming official visit to Belgium on July 14 and 15, 2026, features high-level bilateral trade engagements focusing on the Port of Antwerp and the Antwerp World Diamond Centre. This strategic visit aims to strengthen resilient global supply chains and expand deep commercial partnerships in the crucial gems and jewellery sectors. By focusing on Antwerp's world-class maritime infrastructure and dominant global diamond trading hub, the bilateral discussions intend to streamline direct sourcing pathways for precious stones. The diplomatic mission underscores India's commitment to reinforcing long-term economic ties, enhancing technology sharing in advanced logistics, and securing robust, reliable trade corridors with major European markets.

US, UK and 12 Nations Reject China's South China Sea Claims, Reaffirm 2016 Hague Ruling

On the 10th anniversary of the 2016 South China Sea Arbitration Award, 14 countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, and Australia, reaffirmed that China has no legal basis for its expansive maritime claims under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The joint statement described the Hague ruling as final and legally binding, while China continued to reject it. The declaration underscores growing international support for a rules-based maritime order, freedom of navigation, and peaceful resolution of disputes in the Indo-Pacific.

Ramnagar to Dehradun Express Inaugurated to Strengthen Railway Connectivity

The Union Railway Minister virtually flagged off the inaugural service of the bi-weekly Ramnagar-Dehradun Express, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the region. Launched alongside the Uttarakhand Chief Minister, this newly introduced

train service marks a historic development as the first-ever direct rail link bridging the geographical divide between the Kumaon and Garhwal regions. The regular express will significantly enhance commuting ease for local residents, wildlife tourists traveling to Jim Corbett National Park, and pilgrims heading toward the Char Dham circuit. Operating twice a week, this crucial infrastructure project provides a highly cost-effective and efficient alternative to existing regional road transit networks across the state.



Indian Students Achieve a Clean Sweep of Gold Medals at the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad in Uzbekistan

The International Chemistry Olympiad, which witnessed historic Indian success, is an annual competition primarily designed for secondary and higher secondary school students. The prestigious global event brings together the brightest young minds from across the world to compete in rigorous theoretical and practical chemistry challenges. India has consistently demonstrated exceptional academic prowess at this global level, with its secondary school participants securing multiple medals over the years. By testing high school students on

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advanced concepts well beyond the standard school curriculum, the competition aims to stimulate interest in chemistry among young people and foster international student connections, paving the way for the next generation of scientific leaders.



Ranks/Reports/Indices

India's External Debt Rises to 762.8 Billion in FY26

According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India, India's external debt escalated to \$762.8 billion at the end of FY26, climbing by \$26.3 billion compared to the previous fiscal year. Consequently, the country's external debt-to-GDP ratio rose from 19.8% to 20.8%. US dollar-denominated loans continue to lead the currency portfolio at 55.5%, followed by the Indian Rupee at 29.4%. Notably, valuation changes driven by an appreciating US dollar offset the total debt figure by \$24.6 billion. Meanwhile, short-term liabilities rose at a faster pace, making up 19.6% of the total external debt.

India Records 7 Schools in World's Best School Prizes 2026 Shortlist

India achieved a record milestone at the World's Best School Prizes 2026, with seven schools shortlisted among the top 10 finalists across five award categories

—the highest representation by any country in the awards' history. Organised by T4 Education, the prizes recognise excellence in innovation, leadership, community engagement, environmental action, and inclusive education. Notable finalists include PCMC Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj English Medium School and Army Goodwill School. The category winners and overall results will be announced in November 2026.

Study Highlights Growing Link Between Liver Disorders and Diabetes, Calls for Nationwide Awareness Drive

A major medical study published in India has highlighted a strong clinical link between type 2 diabetes and Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease, calling for an urgent nationwide awareness drive. Medical experts reveal that over sixty percent of patients diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in India concurrently suffer from this specific internal organ condition, which involves excessive fat accumulation in the liver. The research emphasizes that the silent progression of this liver condition significantly elevates the risk of advanced liver cirrhosis and cardiovascular complications. Consequently, healthcare bodies are urging immediate integration of routine liver screenings within standard diabetes care protocols across all national health centers.

Government Reviews Progress of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Schemes in Odisha

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying recently convened a high-level central review meeting in Bhubaneswar to evaluate ongoing aquaculture development schemes. During the session, it was revealed that project proposals valued at over thirteen hundred and one crore have been approved for Odisha under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana since the flagship program's nationwide launch. These extensive allocations target

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comprehensive fish production enhancement, modern infrastructure development, technical updates, and post-harvest facilities. The union administration highlighted Odisha's rise as a premier maritime hub, noting its impressive record of twelve point seven lakh metric tonnes of fish production during the previous financial cycle.

First Trial Index of Services Production (ISP)

On July 14, 2026, India launched its first trial Index of Services Production (ISP) to track monthly formal services sector activity. Using 2024–25 as the base year, the initial index covers 19 sub-sectors—accounting for nearly 60 percent of the formal services sector—with plans to expand coverage to 85–90 percent. The data for April 2026 revealed strong growth, with 14 of the 19 sub-sectors achieving double-digit increases compared to April 2025. Accommodation and food services led growth at 37.2 percent, followed closely by retail trade at 30.8 percent. Developed entirely using existing administrative data like GST records, the index avoids increasing the compliance burden. A comprehensive final ISP will be introduced after evaluating this trial series.

MY Bharat Expands Youth Leadership Initiative in Line with the Prime Minister's Vision

The Union Cabinet officially approved the establishment of the autonomous body Mera Yuva Bharat, designated as MY Bharat, to serve as an overarching, technology-driven facilitator for youth development and youth-led progress. Launched by the government, this specialized institutional platform acts as a unified digital ecosystem providing equitable access to critical opportunities for young individuals in the fifteen to twenty-nine age bracket. By seamlessly integrating experiential learning programs and

public volunteer initiatives, the technological mechanism focuses heavily on cultivating leadership skills, promoting community transformation, and transforming India's vast youth population into proactive drivers of national growth.



Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

Tourism Ministry Joins Hands with Google India

The Ministry of Tourism signed a non-commercial, non-binding MoU with Google India Pvt. Ltd. in New Delhi to enhance the digital visibility of India's tourism destinations. Signed in the presence of Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the partnership leverages artificial intelligence, immersive virtual experiences, and data-driven insights to boost global and domestic travel. The collaboration aims to strengthen the flagship Incredible India campaign through advanced online marketing, digital storytelling, and capacity building for ministry officials. Ultimately, this initiative drives digital transformation and sustainable tourism by allowing global audiences to seamlessly discover and explore India's cultural and heritage sites.

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Rajasthan and Haryana Sign Yamuna Water Project Pact

On June 29, 2026, Rajasthan and Haryana signed a historic agreement in New Delhi to resolve a nearly 30-year-old water dispute. Executed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Yamuna Water Project establishes a framework to transport Rajasthan's allocated share under the 1994 Upper Yamuna Basin MoU. The engineering plan details moving 580 Million Cubic Metres (MCM) of water from the Western Yamuna Canal during monsoon months via three large-diameter underground pipelines. Backed by the Central Water Commission, the project secures sustainable drinking water for Sikar, Churu, and Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan, alongside Bhiwani and Fatehabad in Haryana.

National Workshop on Tiger Re-introduction Opens in Rajasthan

At a national wildlife workshop addressing low tiger density and habitat fragmentation, the Union Environment Minister highlighted India's rapid institutional progress in conservation. The official statement confirmed that the total number of notified Tiger Reserves across the country has risen to fifty eight over the past decade. This administrative milestone follows the inclusion of Madhav Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, establishing it as the latest protected zone under Project Tiger. The ongoing expansion is designed to secure critical wildlife corridors, mitigate human wildlife conflict, and build contiguous habitats to safeguard the growing national predator population.



India and Saudi Arabia Sign MoU for Water Resource Cooperation

In June 2026, India and Saudi Arabia signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on water resources cooperation during the inaugural Saudi Water Week in Jeddah. Signed by India's Ambassador Suhel Khan and Saudi Minister Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen AlFadley, the pact aims to strengthen bilateral ties in sustainable water management, irrigation, capacity building, and technical knowledge exchange. The collaboration focuses on promoting efficient water usage and long-term water security. This initiative significantly bolsters the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership, driving joint institutional efforts to develop sustainable conservation solutions and counter global water challenges.

Central Zoo Authority Conducts Forty Sixth Meeting to Review Zoo Governance and Conservation Measures

The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently chaired the high-profile forty-sixth meeting of the Central Zoo Authority hosted in Coimbatore. The crucial governing body assembly brought together top wildlife administrators to systematically review strategic priorities, modern scientific planning, and infrastructure development across Indian zoos. Prominent deliberations during the

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meeting centered on the progress of the second cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of zoos and a landmark proposal for developing a specialized network of animal biobanks. By prioritizing ex-situ conservation breeding, veterinary health upgrades, and resource mobilization, the apex body aims to transform national zoological facilities into major centers for research, public education, and biodiversity preservation.



National Skills Qualification Committee Holds Fiftieth Meeting to Advance Skill Development Reforms

The National Skills Qualification Committee convened Phase-I of its landmark fiftieth meeting in July 2026 under the chairpersonship of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. A major highlight of the session involved a comprehensive structural review and revision of qualification criteria specifically targeting the telecom sector. Following exhaustive stakeholder consultations, the committee approved updated standards for twenty-five distinct qualifications managed by the Telecom Sector Skill Council. This strategic overhaul aims to align vocational training with rapid advancements in 5G, satellite connectivity, and emerging digital technologies. By modernizing industry courses and integrating forward-looking occupational frameworks,

the government ensures a future-ready, highly skilled domestic workforce capable of steering the evolving digital infrastructure of the nation.

Law Ministry to Organise Reforms Utsav and Chintan Shivr 2026 at Mount Abu

The Ministry of Law and Justice successfully organized the Reforms Utsav and Chintan Shivr in Mount Abu, Rajasthan, aimed at formulating a comprehensive future roadmap for citizen-centric legal systems. This significant event brought together key stakeholders, legal experts, and policymakers to deliberate on driving judicial efficiency, simplifying legal processes, and enhancing accessibility for common citizens. The discussions centered around leveraging technology, reducing case pendency, and implementing modern judicial reforms, reinforcing the government's commitment to ensuring a more transparent, responsive, and robust legal framework across the nation.

Leander Paes Appointed Player Ambassador of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)

Leander Paes was appointed Player Ambassador of the Asian Tennis Federation in July 2026 to promote grassroots tennis, encourage youth participation, and strengthen the sport across Asia. A former World No. 1 in doubles, Paes won India's only Olympic tennis medal—a bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics—along with 18 Grand Slam titles. He is also a recipient of the Padma Bhushan and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2024.

BRICS Transport Ministers Adopt Joint Declaration During Meeting Hosted in Nagpur

The Ministerial Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the BRICS transport ministers meeting in July 2026 established comprehensive collaborative frameworks for multiple priority sectors to drive sustainable regional development. The joint declaration explicitly

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outlined deep partnerships focusing on Sustainable Aviation Fuel production, the operationalisation of the BRICS Railway Research Network, and circularity in infrastructure alongside transport decarbonisation strategies. However, the collaborative pact explicitly excluded any policy framework concerning maritime deep-sea mineral extraction rules. The strategic agreement underscores the bloc's collective focus on developing eco-friendly transit networks, improving regional connectivity, and implementing low-carbon technologies across emerging global transportation corridors.



Department of Land Resources and RBI Innovation Hub Explore Digital Integration for Land and Credit Services

The Department of Land Resources is actively collaborating with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to integrate digitized land records into the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit. This strategic technological partnership is explicitly designed to accelerate the rural agricultural loan lifecycle by enabling banks and financial institutions to access authentic land ownership data instantly through secure application programming interfaces. By substituting cumbersome manual paperwork and physical verification protocols with streamlined digital access, the initiative significantly curtails the credit turnaround time for small and marginal

farmers nationwide. This digital integration marks a substantial step forward in reinforcing rural financial inclusion, improving loan transparency, and fortifying agricultural credit infrastructure.



India Hosts 8th BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services Meeting

The Department of Legal Affairs is hosting the two-day virtual 8th BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services Meeting from 20th July. Aligning with India's overarching vision of "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," the conference underscores a collaborative commitment to building stable, fair, and predictable legal frameworks to boost economic growth across the BRICS bloc. A central priority for this year's dialogue is transforming criminal justice systems to be more sensitive, transparent, and victim-centric. Throughout the event, senior leaders and member countries will share unique institutional experiences, exchange modern adjudication practices, and address current challenges to enhance prosecutorial effectiveness and strengthen public trust in prosecution services.

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Science and tech/Space/Defence

Ayushman Sarathi WhatsApp Chatbot Launched for PM-JAY

The National Health Authority (NHA) has launched Ayushman Sarathi, an official 24x7 WhatsApp chatbot designed to streamline access to Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY services. Unveiled by Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, this digital portal allows beneficiaries to instantly check program eligibility, complete eKYC, search nearby impanelled hospitals, download Ayushman Cards, and lodge or track grievances securely via their smartphones. It features tailored provisions like the Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card for senior citizens aged 70 and above. By embedding public healthcare governance inside India's most ubiquitous messaging platform, the initiative reduces paperwork and simplifies service delivery for first-time digital users.

Government Sets Up Bureau of Port Security

The Government of India has established the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to act as the apex regulatory authority for maritime safety. Modelled after the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), BoPS will oversee physical and cyber security compliance for ships and port facilities. Initially functioning under the

newly renamed Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA), it is temporarily headed by Shyam Jagannathan. To boost ground-level safety, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been designated as a Recognised Security Organisation to formulate safety plans and standardise training for private security agencies.

National Biodiversity Authority Issues SOP for Identification of Threatened Species

The National Biodiversity Authority, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has released a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure for identifying threatened species across India. Data confirms that the Central Government, invoking Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act of 2002, has officially notified 159 plant species and 173 animal species on the verge of extinction. These legal protections span 17 States and 3 Union Territories, regulating or prohibiting collection while mandating habitat recovery plans. This new framework streamlines future provincial conservation recommendations through rigorous scientific consultation.



Central Electricity Authority Conducts Nationwide Electrical Safety Awareness Programme

During a national safety awareness campaign, the Central Electricity Authority highlighted critical guidelines governing safety and electric supply across

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India to prevent domestic hazards. According to the official regulatory standards, the maximum permissible voltage designated for systems classified as low voltage in domestic consumer installations is strictly set at 250 Volts. This safety classification covers standard single-phase residential connections, ensuring that home appliances and internal wiring operate within secure, regulated electrical limits. The guidelines emphasize that maintaining this specific voltage threshold is crucial for minimizing electrical fire risks and safeguarding consumer lives and household property nationwide.



NHAI to Engage IITs and Leading Technical Institutes for Independent Bridge Design Verification

The National Highways Authority of India has launched a strategic initiative to empanel Indian Institutes of Technology and other premier engineering institutes to conduct independent structural proof-checking. Under this new technical framework, all major highway bridges must undergo meticulous vetting by these academic experts to ensure absolute safety and structural integrity. This rigorous quality control measure is mandatory because these critical infrastructure assets are designed for a minimum target service life of 100 years. By leveraging institutional expertise, the initiative aims to eliminate design flaws, improve construction quality, and enhance the long-term durability of national highway networks.

Department of Science and Technology Supports Commercial Launch of India's First Contactless Programmable Load Measurement System

The Technology Development Board, operating under the Department of Science and Technology, has extended financial assistance to commercialize India's first fully contactless programmable load measurement system, officially known as the LMO, or Load Magnetic Overload Sensor. Developed indigenously to bridge a critical gap in the domestic industrial automation ecosystem, this next-generation technology replaces conventional mechanical stress-based strain-gauge load cells with an innovative non-contact magnetic measurement principle. Designed for safety-critical applications including elevators, cranes, hoists, and material handling systems, the vibration-resistant and maintenance-friendly LMO sensor strengthens domestic industrial electronics capabilities, effectively promoting import substitution and offering a cost-effective infrastructure solution.

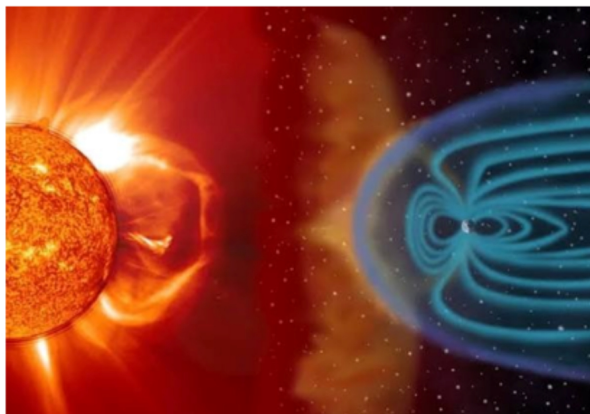
Three Decades of Solar Storm Data Offer Fresh Insights for Better Space Weather Forecasting

Scientists analyzing decades of solar activity data have significantly enhanced space weather forecasting models to better predict disruptions to satellite communications and power grids. To quantify these space weather disruptions, space agencies universally monitor the Planetary K-index, commonly referred to as the Kp-index, to measure the magnitude of geomagnetic storms caused by solar winds. This crucial geomagnetic index operates on a standardized, highly specific scale ranging from 0 to 9, where a value of 0 indicates complete geomagnetic serenity and 9 signifies an extreme, severe solar storm capable of inducing widespread power blackouts and radio communication failures across the globe.

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ICMR Receives Gold Honour at National e-Governance Awards 2026

The Indian Council of Medical Research's flagship initiative, ICMR-MINDS, was honored with the prestigious Gold Award at the 29th National Conference on e-Governance held in Jaipur. Recognized under the category of innovation using artificial intelligence and new-age technologies for citizen-centric services, the platform seamlessly integrates the screening and management of mental and substance use disorders with chronic non-communicable diseases. By utilizing an AI-enabled Clinical Decision Support System, the digital framework successfully drives task-shifting, empowering trained non-specialist frontline workers to deliver standardized mental healthcare. This scalable intervention optimizes specialist resources, improves patient treatment adherence, and expands accessible, high-quality public healthcare across seven collaborating states.



Scientists Create Fractional Fermi Sea

An international team of physicists has created a new quantum phase of matter called the Fractional Fermi Sea in the first week of July 2026. By cooling around 70,000 cesium atoms to near absolute zero using optical lattices, researchers rapidly switched between attractive and repulsive atomic interactions. This caused the particles to self-organize into a stable quantum state. Notably, this new state exhibits partially occupied quantum states, displaying unique properties that bridge conventional bosons and fermions. This breakthrough holds significant potential to advance multiple cutting-edge fields, including quantum simulation, precision sensing, secure quantum communication, and next-generation materials research.

India Develops Indigenous Placenta-on-Chip

In July 2026, researchers from ICMR-NIRWoH and IIT Bombay developed India's first indigenous placenta-on-chip platform, successfully replicating the human placental barrier in a laboratory setting. This innovative platform mimics crucial biological activities, including hormone production, nutrient transfer, waste removal, and selective maternal-fetal barrier functions. Specifically designed to be simple, scalable, and fully compatible with existing laboratory infrastructure, it offers a highly practical alternative to

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traditional methods. By utilizing human-relevant models, this breakthrough enables advanced research into pregnancy complications, drug safety, and placental biology. Ultimately, this indigenous technology significantly strengthens maternal health research while aligning with global ethics by reducing dependence on animal experimentation.



CSIR-IICT Develops India's First Indigenous HFO-1234yf Green Refrigerant Technology

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology developed India's first indigenous process technology for HFO-1234yf, an eco-friendly refrigerant designed to replace hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in refrigeration and air-conditioning systems, supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat. Additionally, CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research introduced the Smart Algal Liquid Tree (SALT), a mobile photobioreactor that uses microalgae to absorb carbon dioxide, release oxygen, and reduce dust, improving air quality in densely populated urban areas.

Adani Defence to Invest Rs. 2,500 Crore in Missile Manufacturing Complex in MP

Adani Defence and Aerospace announced a ₹2,500 crore investment to establish South Asia's largest private-sector missile ecosystem in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh. The facility will enable end-to-end indigenous production of medium- and long-range missile systems

by integrating composite propellant production, TNT manufacturing, and missile assembly at one location. Equipped with advanced manufacturing technologies and automated systems, it will produce missiles, ammunition, and defence equipment, strengthening India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing and its position as a global supplier of precision-guided munitions.

India Secures Outstanding Performance at the Fifty Sixth International Physics Olympiad in Colombia

The Indian student delegation delivered an exceptional performance at the 56th International Physics Olympiad held in Bucaramanga, Colombia, making a historic clean sweep as all five participating members clinched Gold medals. Spearheaded by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, this remarkable victory secured India the coveted joint World Number 1 position in the final country-wise medal standings. India shared the top global rank with an elite group of nations comprising China, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea, and Taiwan. This outstanding achievement highlights India's strengthening educational framework and growing competitive prowess on the international scientific stage.

Nationwide Coastal Cleanliness Campaign to Promote Marine Conservation Scheduled for September

The high-level coordination meetings evaluating the national coastal cleanliness campaigns in 2026 recognized the crucial role of the Sagar App in marine environmental management. Developed as a dedicated citizen-science digital platform, the mobile application successfully mobilized coastal communities to actively document and track marine debris. The data-driven platform was officially credited with capturing the removal and processing of more than 150 tonnes of hazardous marine litter along various sensitive coastal regions. By combining community

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participation with real-time geospatial reporting, the technology helped pollution control authorities identify major ecological hotspots and implement highly efficient waste recovery strategies across local beaches.

Skyroot's Vikram-1 Poised to Become India's First Private Orbital Rocket

Vikram-1, developed by Skyroot Aerospace, is India's first privately built orbital launch vehicle and is scheduled for launch under Mission Aagaman on 18 July 2026 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. Designed to carry payloads of up to 350 kg into low Earth orbit, the rocket features carbon-composite structures and 3D-printed engines. A successful mission would mark the first private orbital launch from an Indian launchpad, strengthening India's commercial space capabilities and private aerospace ecosystem.



Skyroot Aerospace Successfully Launches Vikram One, Boosting India's Private Space Capabilities

India has firmly established itself in the global commercial space arena following the flawless orbital deployment of the Vikram One launch vehicle from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

Developed entirely by Hyderabad-based space-tech startup Skyroot Aerospace, this landmark flight successfully injected multiple domestic and international payloads into low Earth orbit. Named Mission Aagaman, the multi-stage vehicle utilizes highly advanced carbon-composite structures, robust solid-fuel rocket boosters, and indigenous three-dimensional printed liquid engines. The successful launch breaks long-standing public sector monopolies, officially making India one of the select few elite nations with operational end-to-end private orbital space launch capabilities.



Borophene-Based Bio-Lubricant Developed by Scientists

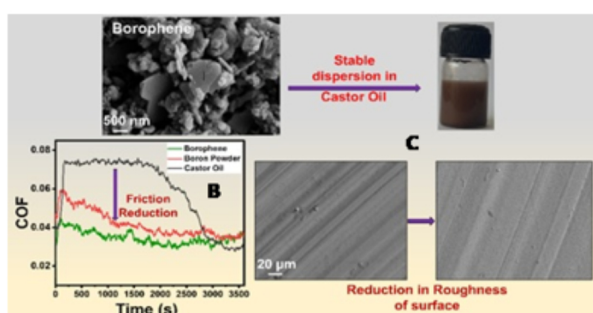
In July 2026, a research team from at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), developed an environmentally friendly, borophene-based bio-lubricant designed to enhance energy efficiency and equipment longevity in industrial machinery. The innovation involves adding just 0.1 percent borophene by weight to castor oil, which disperses uniformly to create a protective tribofilm on contact surfaces. This mechanism reduces shear stress, lowers friction by

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approximately 42 percent compared to pure castor oil, and significantly enhances both wear resistance and load-bearing capacity. By offering a sustainable alternative to conventional lubricants, this advance helps cut energy loss, extend machinery life, reduce maintenance costs, and support greener industrial operations.



Sports

Team India Wins Five Medals at Global Skills Challenge

Team India delivered an outstanding performance at the Global Skills Challenge (GSC) Australia 2026, held from June 23 to 29, by winning five medals: three gold, one silver, and one bronze. This international competition served as a full-scale simulation for the upcoming WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai, featuring nearly 600 participants from 16 member nations. India's 30-member contingent competed across 15 technical disciplines. Gold medals were secured in Additive Manufacturing, Cloud Computing, and Health & Social Care. Driven by the Skill India Mission, this victory highlights India's progress in cultivating a future-ready, globally competitive workforce.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Round of 32 Fixtures and Qualified Teams Announced

The structural expansion of the FIFA World Cup tournament format has significantly altered the scheduling landscape for international football. With the introduction of an expanded forty-eight team field, the competition transitions away from the traditional format used in previous thirty-two team editions. The addition of four more groups and the historic introduction of a Round of thirty-two knockout stage means the total volume of matches will increase from sixty-four to one hundred and four matches overall. This expanded layout ensures more competitive opportunities across the host nations while requiring finalists to navigate an extra fixture to claim the championship.

Seventh Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament Begins

The seventh edition of the prestigious Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament successfully took place at Air Force Station Jalahalli in Bengaluru. Organized to honor the legacy of the legendary Air Force icon, this high-profile sporting event brought together elite hockey teams from across the defense services and various national organizations. The tournament serves as a premier platform for promoting sportsmanship, fostering camaraderie, and showcasing exceptional athletic talent within the armed forces and invited institutional teams, reinforcing the rich sporting heritage of the Indian Air Force.

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Sourav Ganguly Inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly was inducted into the International Cricket Council Hall of Fame on 8 July 2026, becoming the 12th Indian to receive the honour. Renowned for his fearless leadership and role in transforming Indian cricket, Ganguly led India to the 2003 ICC Cricket World Cup final and nurtured future stars like MS Dhoni and Yuvraj Singh. During his international career, he played 113 Tests and 308 ODIs, leaving a lasting impact on Indian cricket.

Jannik Sinner Retains Wimbledon Men's Singles Title

Jannik Sinner successfully defended his Wimbledon men's singles title in 2026, defeating Alexander Zverev 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the final. The victory earned Sinner his second consecutive Wimbledon crown and fifth Grand Slam singles title, making him the first Italian to win multiple Wimbledon men's singles championships. The 2026 final also marked Zverev's first appearance in a Wimbledon title match, although he finished as runner-up.



All India Police Judo Cluster 2026 Sports Competition

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay, inaugurated the 11th All India Police Judo Cluster 2026 competitions at Hyderabad's Gachibowli Stadium on 23rd July, featuring around 36 teams, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Highlighting the government's commitment to sports development, he noted the Rs 4,480 crore allocation in the Union Budget. He expressed confidence that strategic measures under the Modi government will propel India into the top 10 sporting nations by 2036 and the top 5 by 2047. Additionally, the Minister revealed that India is preparing to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and commended the CISF for securing critical national infrastructure. Senior officials, including CISF South ADG Padmakar S. Ransipe and NISA Director Harpit Kaur Sohi, attended the event.

Lovlina Borgohain Assures India's First CWG 2026 Medal

Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain secured India's first guaranteed medal at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, by receiving a bye into the women's 75 kg boxing semifinals. Under the Games' knockout format,

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both losing semifinalists earn bronze medals, assuring her of a podium finish before her July 31 bout. Held from July 23 to August 2, 2026, the Games feature a 124-member Indian contingent competing across 10 sports. The opening ceremony took place on July 23 at Glasgow's OVO Hydro, with weightlifter Mirabai Chanu serving as India's flag bearer. The Olympic medallist's guaranteed medal marks a strong start for India's scaled-down contingent in Glasgow.



Miscellaneous

GST Day 2026

India celebrated GST Day on July 1, 2026, marking nine years since the landmark indirect tax reform replaced 17 indirect taxes and 13 cesses with a unified 'One Nation, One Tax' framework. The system evolved with the 'GST 2.0' reforms, which established 5% and 18% as the primary tax slabs while fixing a 40% rate on luxury and sin items. Digitization through automated matching and e-invoicing has minimized manual interface and tax evasion. Reflecting a rapidly formalizing economy, total registered taxpayers surged from 66.5 lakh in 2017 to 1.65 crore by May 2026, while annual collections escalated to ₹22.27 lakh crore in FY26.

CA Day 2026

India celebrated Chartered Accountants (CA) Day on July 1, 2026, marking the 77th Foundation Day of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Established in 1949 under the Chartered Accountants Act, ICAI operates as a statutory body regulating the profession while upholding rigorous financial and ethical standards. Ranking as the second-largest accounting organization globally with over 3.5 lakh members, ICAI shapes India's auditing frameworks, tax compliance, and corporate governance. The day honors CAs for maintaining public trust, combating financial irregularities, and providing vital economic counseling that drives industrial and startup ecosystems worldwide.

Bharat Taxi Service Launched in Gujarat

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperation-based, driver-owned ride-hailing service, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on 27 June 2026. Based on the "Saarthi Hi Maalik" model, the platform follows a zero-commission system, allowing drivers to retain their full earnings while receiving insurance, loans, and pension benefits. Initially launched in 14 Gujarat cities, the service is backed by eight major cooperative institutions, including Amul, IFFCO, NABARD, NCDC, NDDB, NAFED, KRIBHCO, and NCEL.



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World Zoonoses Day 2026

On World Zoonoses Day, celebrated globally to highlight animal-to-human diseases, Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda emphasized that the 'One Health' approach is now a core pillar of India's public health strategy. Guided by an integrated healthcare vision, India is strengthening cross-sectoral collaborations across human, animal, and environmental domains to build a resilient healthcare system. The Centre for One Health under the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) plays a pivotal role in this framework. By recognizing the interconnections between humans, animals, plants, and the environment, the Centre fosters multisectoral collaboration. Through enhanced surveillance, prevention, and response networks, it actively detects and controls zoonotic diseases to mitigate future outbreak risks.



Federal Bank Secures First-Ever BBB-Investment-Grade Rating from S&P Global

Federal Bank has entered the global investment-grade category after receiving its first international issuer credit rating of BBB-/Stable for the long term and A-3 for the short term from S&P Global Ratings. The BBB- rating reflects the bank's strong financial position, prudent risk management, stable operations, and ability to meet long-term obligations with moderate

credit risk. It also highlights Federal Bank's healthy capitalisation, diversified funding base, strong market presence, and consistent financial performance, enhancing its credibility among global investors.

DoT's Samridh Gram Bags WSIS Prize 2026 for Rural Digital Transformation

India's Department of Telecommunications won the WSIS Prize 2026 under Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment for its Samridh Gram initiative, powered by BharatNet. The programme establishes village-level Samridhi Kendras that combine digital and assisted physical services to improve healthcare, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, and governance in rural areas. Recognised for advancing inclusive digital transformation, the initiative demonstrates how broadband connectivity can drive socio-economic development. BharatNet has already connected over 2.17 lakh Gram Panchayats, expanding digital access across rural India.

Gujarat Unveils Data Centre Policy 2026–29 to Boost Investment and Digital Infrastructure

The Gujarat government launched the Viksit Gujarat – Data Centre Policy 2026-29 to position the state as a leading hub for hyperscale data centres, AI infrastructure, and cloud services. Unveiled by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, the policy offers fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, including capital subsidies, tax reimbursements, and simplified approvals. Backed by strong renewable energy capacity, industrial infrastructure, and hubs like GIFT City and Dholera Special Investment Region, it aims to attract large-scale digital infrastructure investments.

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Novo Nordisk Launches Once-Weekly Basal Insulin Awiqli in India

Novo Nordisk India has launched Awiqli (insulin icodec), the world's first once-weekly basal insulin for adults with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. The innovation reduces insulin injections from 365 to 52 annually, making treatment more convenient and potentially improving adherence. Delivered through the FlexTouch device, Awiqli demonstrated effective blood sugar control and improved HbA1c levels in clinical trials. The launch is especially significant for India, where over 101 million people live with diabetes, addressing a growing public health challenge.



Water Resources Department Secretaries to Meet in New Delhi for National Conference

The national water administration conference evaluated the comprehensive execution of the State Water Reforms Framework across various administrative zones to accelerate localized conservation improvements. Functioning as a strategic policy template, the initiative empowers regional authorities to deploy modern decentralized monitoring systems, optimize agricultural water-use efficiency, and execute community-led groundwater replenishment projects. Central evaluators analyzed progress reports from participating states, focusing on successful infrastructure upgrades and public

participation models. The performance assessment aimed to refine resource distribution mechanisms, integrate digital tracking systems, and establish uniform regulatory benchmarks to tackle growing urban water security challenges effectively.



सत्यमेव जयते

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय

जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग,
भारत सरकार

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NAMASTE Day 2026

India will observe the 3rd NAMASTE Day on 14 July 2026, marking three years of the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme. Led by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the observance honours sanitation workers and promotes safer, mechanised, and dignified sanitation services. Nationwide activities will include health camps, safety training, welfare outreach, and demonstrations of mechanised equipment. The initiative aims to eliminate hazardous manual sanitation practices while improving the safety, welfare, and social inclusion of sanitation workers.

Karnataka Apartment Bill 2025

The Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025 (KAOMA) aims to modernise apartment governance by introducing joint ownership of land and common areas, standardising property definitions, and aligning

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regulations with RERA, 2016. Applicable to apartment complexes with eight or more units, the Bill also establishes Karnataka's first legal framework for redeveloping ageing buildings, requiring 75% owner consent and safety certifications for structures over 30 years old. Public feedback is invited until 6 August 2026 before legislative introduction.



Uttar Pradesh Launches 'Kaushal Setu' and 'Kaushal Sarathi' Skill Development Portals

The Uttar Pradesh government launched Kaushal Setu and Kaushal Sarathi on World Youth Skills Day 2026 to strengthen vocational training and skill development. Kaushal Setu digitises registration, document submission, and empanelment for training institutions, while Kaushal Sarathi helps students and job seekers access training centres, courses, and employment opportunities. The initiative also includes industry partnerships in AI, robotics, and textiles to enhance employability, promoting transparent, efficient, and industry-aligned skill development across the state.



Aadhaar Application Crosses Forty Million Downloads Across India

The official mobile platform managed by the Unique Identification Authority of India, which recently surpassed the forty million download mark, is named mAadhaar. This privacy-first, next-generation application is specifically engineered to provide citizens with seamless access to digital identity services directly from their smartphones. By integrating advanced security features, the application allows users to carry their identity profile digitally, enabling them to verify details, update information, and access various government services without the need for physical documentation. The platform continues to evolve, focusing on enhancing user experience, strengthening data security, and ensuring that essential identity-based services remain conveniently accessible to all residents nationwide.

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National Health Authority Reviews Progress of AB PM-JAY and ABDM to Plan the Next Phase of Health Reforms

The National Health Authority organized a two-day National Review Meeting in New Delhi to evaluate the ongoing nationwide progress of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. Under this digital initiative, the foundational fourteen-digit unique identifier generated for citizens to securely access and manage their personal digital health records is officially named the Ayushman Bharat Health Account number. Commonly known as the ABHA number, this identifier establishes a unified digital healthcare ecosystem by linking medical histories, prescriptions, and diagnostic reports across authenticated service providers. The comprehensive mission review focused extensively on improving health locker integrations, universalizing digital registration, and ensuring absolute data security across India's public and private health sectors.

Prime Minister Pays Tribute to Revolutionary Freedom Fighter Mangal Pandey

In July 2026, the Prime Minister paid rich tributes to the revolutionary freedom fighter Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary, honoring his

immense courage and sacrifice. Mangal Pandey is most famously associated with the Revolt of 1857, where his brave actions against the British East India Company forces at Barrackpore sparked India's first major war of independence. As a soldier in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry, his defiance became a powerful rallying cry against colonial oppression, inspiring millions across the nation. The government reiterated that his legacy continues to motivate citizens toward selfless nation-building, keeping the spirit of early national resistance alive for generations.



72nd National Film Awards Announced

Announced in the late hours of July 18, 2026, the 72nd National Film Awards honored cinematic excellence for the year 2024 across feature, non-feature, and writing categories. The political thriller 'Article 370' secured the prestigious Best Feature Film award, with Yami Gautam winning Best Actress for her lead role in the film. The Best Actor accolade was jointly shared by veteran Mammooty for the Malayalam film 'Bramayugam'

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and Kartik Aaryan for the biographical sports drama 'Chandu Champion'. Additionally, Rajkumar Periasamy was named Best Director for the Tamil film 'Amaran', while the sci-fi epic 'Kalki 2898 AD' won Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment. Randeep Hooda's 'Swatantra Veer Savarkar' earned him the Best Debut Film of a Director award.



RBI Forex Swap Facility Attracts Over USD 20.7 Billion

By July 17, 2026, the Reserve Bank of India's concessional forex swap facility, launched on June 5, 2026, attracted over USD 20.7 billion (Rs 2 lakh crore) in foreign exchange inflows, said RBI in a report released on 21 July. Aimed at bolstering India's balance of payments, Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits dominated the inflows at USD 17.406 billion, while Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings and External Commercial Borrowings contributed USD 1.97 billion and USD 1.342 billion, respectively. By absorbing hedging costs of 280–300 bps per annum on principal amounts, the RBI enabled

banks to raise USD deposit rates to 5.5 percent - 7.1 percent. Similar to the 2013 swap scheme, this facility remains available until September 30, 2026 for FCNR(B) deposits and December 31, 2026 for borrowings.



Five New Allographa Species Discovered

Researchers from the MACS Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, have discovered five new species of lichen-forming fungi belonging to the genus *Allographa* in the Western Ghats in July 2026. The newly described species are *Allographa keralensis*, *A. nayakae*, *A. paraconsanguinea*, *A. persistinspersa*, and *A. semicarbonisata*. Using traditional taxonomy alongside modern molecular phylogenetics, the study marks the first comprehensive genetic investigation of *Allographa* species in the region. *Allographa* is a genus of script lichens in the family Graphidaceae featuring elongated fruiting bodies. Because lichens are highly sensitive to pollution and habitat disruption, these findings are crucial—serving as vital biological indicators for monitoring forest health and environmental quality across the Western Ghats ecosystem.

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National Broadcasting Day

National Broadcasting Day celebrates the enduring impact of radio on India's growth, education, and cultural unity. On this day i.e. 23rd July, in 1927, the nation's first radio broadcast went on air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company. The entity was renamed the Indian State Broadcasting Service in 1936, becoming All India Radio (AIR), and adopted the name 'Akashvani' in 1956. To entertain the masses, the popular Vividh Bharati Service was launched in 1957. From driving information during the independence struggle to advancing rural literacy, healthcare, and agriculture post-independence, radio embodies its motto: *Bahujana Hitaya, Bahujana Sukhaya*. Even in the digital age, public service broadcasting remains vital to informing, educating, and uniting the nation.

