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79th INDEPENDENCE DAY

India celebrated its 79th Independence Day

- India celebrated its 79th Independence Day on 15th August 2025, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the celebrations from the iconic Red Fort in Delhi.

- He unfurled the National Flag and addressed the nation from the ramparts of the iconic monument.

- He was received at the Red Fort by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, MoS Sanjay Seth, and the chiefs of the three services.

- The Prime Minister also received a ceremonial guard of honour from the National Flag Guard, the Indian Air Force, Army, Navy and Delhi Police, totalling up to 128 people. Wing Commander Arun Nagar led the inter-services guard of honour.

- The theme of this year's celebrations is Naya Bharat. PM Modi delivered his Independence Day address.

PM Modi sets record with the longest Independence Day speech in India's history

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a 103-minute Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the longest by any prime minister in India's history.

- He broke his own 98-minute record from the 78th Independence Day last year.

- He also broke Indira Gandhi's record by delivering 12 consecutive speeches from Red Fort to stand next only to Jawaharlal Nehru, who delivered 17 Independence Day addresses in a row.

- PM Modi announced that India will launch a mission named 'Sudarshan Chakra' to "expand, strengthen, and modernise" the national security shield.

- He announced big-ticket Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms and promised a Diwali bonanza for citizens. A dedicated Reform Task Force will be created to drive next-generation reforms, accelerating economic growth, reducing red tape, modernising governance, and preparing India for the demands of a USD 10 trillion economy by 2047.

- PM Modi launched PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, which aims to create 3.5 crore jobs over the next two years. Under the ₹1 lakh crore scheme, newly employed youngsters will receive ₹15,000 per month as financial support.

- PM Modi announced the launch of a high-powered demography mission to address this national security challenge, ensuring the unity, integrity and rights of India's citizens are safeguarded.

Indian Tricolour hoisted at Seattle's Space Needle for 79th Independence Day

- The Indian tricolour was hoisted at Seattle's 605-feet-tall Space Needle in honour of India's 79th Independence Day celebrations.

- This is the first time that a foreign nation's flag has been raised at a popular American destination.

- The Space Needle was built in 1962 for the World Fair, and it stands as a symbol of Seattle's skyline and epitomises the tech-driven future of the US Pacific Northwest region.

NATIONAL NEWS

India establishes a National Designated Authority (NDA) to manage carbon emissions

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has constituted a National Designated Authority (NDA) to advise the Union government on carbon emission trading and reductions.

- NDA was a requirement under the Paris Agreement.

- Carbon trading, also known as carbon emission trading, is a mechanism that allows countries and companies to buy and sell carbon credits. Each credit represents the

reduction of one metric ton of carbon dioxide or its equivalent greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

- Under the framework of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), countries are obliged to cut emissions in line with their targets. If a company can reduce emissions beyond its mandate, it can generate carbon credits that may be sold to another entity that has failed to meet its reduction goals.

- The NDA is a 21-member committee chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment. It has been tasked with recommending which activities can be

considered for the trading of emission-reduction units under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

- India has already reached the milestone of achieving 50% of its total installed energy capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.

Key Points

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)- Bhupender Yadav

India announced the resumption of border trade with China through the Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand.

- India and China have announced the reopening of three border trade points—Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh, Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim, five years after their closure. The decision came during the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to New Delhi.
- These three were shut in 2020 to curb the spread of COVID-19. Their reopening was delayed further by border clashes and a prolonged military standoff, despite traders' demands for resumption.
- These trade posts serve Tibet and adjoining Indian border regions. On the Tibetan side, the routes connect to Shigatse, Lhasa and Nyingchi.
- The three Passes were formally opened to trade in 1995 (Shipki La), 1992 (Lipulekh) and 2006 (Nathu La). Trade usually runs from May to November, though each post follows its own schedule. Unlike overall bilateral trade, flows through these points have consistently favoured India, with exports to Tibet outpacing imports.
- Among the three, Nathu La is the most significant. It is the only Pass with extensive trade and immigration facilities, supported by markets at Changgu in Sikkim and Renqinggang in Tibet.

Arunachal Mountaineer Kabak Yano successfully scales Mount Kilimanjaro

- Arunachal Pradesh Mountaineer Kabak Yano has successfully summited Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak of Africa.
- Yano is on a seven-summit mountaineering expedition, a mission to scale the highest peaks on all seven continents.
- Mount Kilimanjaro is at a height of 5,895 meters above sea level and is the tallest peak on the African continent. It is also the highest free-standing mountain in the world.

India's first Drone-AI powered artificial rain experiment launched in jaipur

- A pioneering cloud seeding experiment was launched at the Jamwaramgarh Dam area to revive Ramgarh Lake and tackle the region's water crisis.
- The initiative, using AI-powered drone technology, marks India's first drone-based cloud seeding project.
- The project will run as a 60-day pilot mission using the AI platform 'Hydro Trace,' which identifies optimal clouds for seeding through real-time data, satellite imagery, and sensor networks. Drones release safe agents such as sodium chloride into targeted clouds, encouraging moisture particles to merge into raindrops.

Supreme Court modifies earlier directive, allows release of stray dogs in their original localities after vaccination

- The Supreme Court modified its earlier suo motu directive mandating the confinement of all stray dogs in shelters across the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and prohibiting their release.
- A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N.V. Anjaria clarified that stray dogs may now be released back into their original places of habitation after being dewormed and vaccinated. Canines exhibiting aggressive behaviour or infected with rabies shall not be released into public spaces.
- The Court also impelled all States and Union Territories to facilitate the framing of a uniform policy.
- Earlier in the month of August, Justices Pardiwala and Mahadevan had directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and other civic authorities to round up all stray dogs within eight weeks and keep them in dedicated shelters, with no re-release onto the streets. The authorities had also been instructed to establish shelters with the capacity to house at least 5,000 strays within eight weeks.

Western Railway Resumes Heritage train on 155-year-old line

- The Western Railway has resumed the 155-year-old Patalpani–Kalakund heritage train, a 9.5 km metre-gauge service. It is a route cherished by rail enthusiasts and casual travellers for its rich history, old-world charm and breathtaking scenery.
- The route is a part of the Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (Mhow)–Khandwa section and passes the cascading Patalpani Waterfall, natural springs and valleys, etc.
- The line's origins go back to Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar II of Indore, who ruled from 1844 to 1886.

Northeast scientists, farmers urge Centre to include Mithun under livestock mission

- Scientists and tribal farmers from the Northeast have jointly raised a request to the Central government to include Mithun (*Bos frontalis*), a semi-domesticated bovine species native to the region, under key central sector schemes such as the National Livestock Mission (NLM).
- The move is vital for the sustainable development of mithun farming and to arrest the species' declining population.
- According to the 2019 livestock census, India currently has 3.9 lakh mithun, with 95% of the global population found within the country.
- Arunachal Pradesh alone accounts for 91% of India's mithun count.

Two red panda cubs born in Sikkim's Himalayan Zoological Park after seven years

- Two Red Panda cubs were born in the Himalayan Zoological Park (HZP), Bulbuley near Gangtok, after seven years.
- The cubs were born to parents Lucky(II) and Mirak. This is the pair's first litter together and marks a significant milestone in the park's conservation efforts.
- The birth comes after a difficult period in the Red Panda Conservation programme's history — a seven-year gap in successful births due to challenges like the two outbreaks of canine distemper that nearly decimated the captive red panda population.
- Initiated in 1997, HZP's Conservation Breeding Programme began with a pair of red pandas—Preeti from Rotterdam Zoo and Jugal from Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling.
- Their successful breeding laid the foundation for a thriving genetic lineage. In 2005, the programme was further strengthened with the inclusion of a wild-origin pair, Lucky and Ram, helping expand and diversify the genetic pool.

Consumer dispute redressal sees major digital transformation

- In a significant achievement for consumer grievance redressal in the country, ten states, along with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), recorded a disposal rate of over 100% in the month of July 2025.
- This indicates that the number of cases resolved exceeded the number of cases filed during this period.
- As per data from the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, NCDRC achieved a disposal rate of 122%, while Tamil Nadu recorded 277%, Rajasthan 214%, Telangana 158%, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand 150% each, Meghalaya 140%, Kerala 122%, Puducherry 111%, Chhattisgarh 108% and Uttar Pradesh 101%.

2025 joint census of Nilgiri Tahr populations in Kerala and Tamil Nadu

- According to the 'Synchronised Population Estimation of Nilgiri Tahr 2025' report, Kerala is home to 1,365 Nilgiri Tahr, more than half of the species' global population of 2,668.
- The census was held in April across Kerala and Tamil Nadu and marked the most comprehensive effort yet to count the endangered Nilgiri Tahr.
- The use of standardised techniques such as the Bounded Count and Double Observer methods contributed to improved data reliability despite the challenging terrains.
- Eravikulam National Park, Kerala, has a maximum population of 841 of them. In Tamil Nadu, the major populations were recorded in Mukurthy and Grass Hills National Park, lying across the state border, highlighting the importance of interstate collaboration and unified Protected Area management.

Shyok village in Ladakh to create the first-ever botanical garden for conservation

- Shayok village, in eastern Ladakh, situated on the way to Galwan Valley, is working to convert its 10 hectares of barren community land into a botanical garden.
- This will help in the conservation of varieties of fruits, medicinal plants and flora and fauna of Ladakh.
- On the successful completion of this proposed project, it will be the first-ever botanical garden in the Union Territory.

Nickel, Copper, and Platinum Group Elements (Ni-Cu-PGE) discovered in Chhattisgarh

- A significant deposit of Ni-Cu-PGE was discovered in Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh. The deposit is located in the Bhalukona-Jamnidih block of Basna tehsil.

- It is expected to play a critical role in advancing self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

- Deccan Gold Mines Limited (DGML), a company focused on gold and critical mineral exploration, was awarded a 30 sq km composite licence for the block on 1 April this year. The licence allows the firm to both explore and eventually mine the area.

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) had previously conducted G4-level exploration in the region, identifying promising traces of Nickel, Chromium, and PGEs. These findings were later validated by Chhattisgarh's Directorate of Geology and Mining (DGM), which subsequently facilitated an e-auction for the block.

Supreme Court stays UP's Bankey Bihari temple ordinance

- The Supreme Court has put on hold parts of the Uttar Pradesh Shri Bankey Bihari Ji Temple Trust Ordinance, 2025, and directed the Allahabad High Court to quickly decide on petitions challenging the law, preferably within a year.

- A two-judge bench, led by Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, declined to directly rule on the Ordinance but stayed its provisions that allow the state to form a trust to manage the temple. The court said affected parties should approach the high court instead.

- To ensure smooth temple operations, the Supreme Court set up a 12-member committee headed by retired Allahabad High Court judge Justice Ashok Kumar.

- This panel will oversee the daily functioning of the Shri Bankey Bihari Ji Maharaj Temple in Vrindavan, Mathura. The committee will handle essential services like clean drinking water, washrooms, seating, crowd management and special facilities for the elderly, women, children and disabled visitors.

- It will also plan the temple's overall development and may negotiate land purchases for expansion. If needed, the state government must legally acquire the required land.

Key Points

Chief Justice of India- Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai

The Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (STR) in West Bengal became India's second-biggest tiger reserve

- The standing committee of the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) approved the West Bengal government's proposal to add 1,044.68 square kilometres (sq km) to the existing area of the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve. It is now spread across an area of 3,629.57 square kilometres (sq km).

- With this, Sundarbans became India's second-biggest tiger reserve. Three tiger-inhabited ranges in the South 24 Parganas district — Matla, Raidighi and Ramganga — have been added to the existing expanse of the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (STR).

- This expansion now places STR just behind Andhra Pradesh's Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve (3,727.82 sq km) in size and elevates it from the seventh to the second-largest tiger reserve within India's 58 tiger reserves.

ISRO is building the heaviest rocket

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V Narayanan said that the space agency is in the process of building its heaviest rocket ever, and has named it Lunar Module Launch Vehicle (LMLV).

- The LMLV will be ready by 2035 and will be used for the lunar missions, including the first human mission to the Moon, planned by 2040.

- The new rocket will be capable of carrying about 27 tonnes to the Moon and 80 tonnes to low Earth orbits, which are between 200 and 2,000 km from the planet's surface.

Key Points

ISRO's headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka

ISRO successfully conducted its first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1).

- ISRO successfully conducted its first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1) for the Gaganyaan mission.

- The system is critical for ensuring safe recovery of the crew module — the capsule in which astronauts sit during a human flight — during re-entry and landing.

- The first crewed mission under the Gaganyaan programme is scheduled for 2027, and the first uncrewed mission is likely toward the end of this year.
- An air drop test recreates the final leg of a spacecraft's journey back to the Earth. An aircraft or helicopter drops the spacecraft from a height to test various systems under different circumstances. These include the deployment of the parachute system if the mission is aborted mid-flight, system performance when one parachute fails to open, and the spacecraft's orientation and safety during splashdown.

News in Short

- The Home Ministry has approved the renaming of Jalalabad town in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district as Parashurampuri. The Uttar Pradesh government has officially declared Jalalabad as the birthplace of Lord Parshuram.
- India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered Anganwadi was launched in Waddhamna village, Nagpur district, Maharashtra. The centre was launched under the Nagpur Zilla Parishad's Mission Bal Bharari initiative.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Kartavya Bhavan in Delhi, advancing the Centre's plan to streamline governance by housing key ministries under one roof. It will house the Ministries and Departments of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Rural Development, MSME, DoPT, Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Principal Scientific Adviser.
- Haryana has taken the extraordinary step of defining what constitutes a "dictionary meaning" of forest, eighteen months after the Supreme Court reiterated its December 1996 order asking the states to identify forests using that very phrase's broad interpretation. The definition requires forest areas to have a minimum canopy density of 40% and cover at least five hectares if isolated, or two hectares in contiguity to government-notified forests. It, however, excluded all linear, compact, agro-forestry plantations and orchards situated outside the government-notified forests.
- Thirteen river stretches in Gujarat are officially classified as polluted. Sabarmati River, especially the stretch between Raysan to Vautha, is the worst affected with a Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) level of 292 mg/litre.
- The Odisha government is planning to introduce tigers in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bargarh district.

- Kerala recently achieved a landmark in India's digital journey by becoming the first fully digitally literate State.
- According to the data, 29,018 people died on national highways in the first six months of this year — this is more than 50% of the total fatalities of last year. National highways in India account for over 30% of road accident deaths, even though they comprise only 2% of the total road network.
- Fuel retailer Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) expects to start producing sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) on commercial scale at its Panipat refinery by December 2025, following the recent international certification received by the unit for manufacturing the biofuel from used cooking oil.
- India achieved a remarkable milestone of performing over 18,900 organ transplants in 2024, the highest ever recorded in a single year.
- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) introduced new modules on Operation Sindoor, describing it as a "military success, a technological breakthrough, and a political message rolled into one." The modules are titled 'Operation Sindoor – A Saga of Valour' for classes 3–8, and 'Operation Sindoor – A Mission of Honour and Bravery' for classes 9–12..
- The central government has initiated steps to include the Pampa River under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), a multi-crore initiative aimed at protecting major rivers in the country.
- India is all set to build its biggest hydroelectric power project, Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir. It's a massive 1856-Megawatt hydroelectric project that will be constructed without seeking a no objection from Pakistan, otherwise mandated under the treaty.
- Sikkim has become the first state in the country to introduce a formal Sabbatical Leave scheme. This will empower its workforce, especially the youth, with a rare opportunity for personal and professional growth.
- A remarkable genetic study conducted by researchers from Banaras Hindu University and four other collaborating institutions revealed a possible genetic link associated with the unusually high rate of tuberculosis (TB) in the Sahariya tribe of central India.
- The Punjab government has lifted the ban on traditional heritage sports, including bullock cart races, dog races, horse races and pigeon racing.

- Delhi Assembly became India's first legislature to run fully on solar energy and adopt the e-Vidhan system for paperless governance. The 500 kW rooftop solar plant will save ₹15 lakh/month, generate renewable surplus energy via net metering and fund development projects.

- The Deendayal Port Authority has commissioned India's first Make-in-India Green Hydrogen Plant in the port sector at Kandla, Gujarat. It will generate approximately 140 tonnes of green hydrogen annually and is expected to support maritime decarbonisation efforts under India's Maritime Vision 2030.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025' programme entered the Guinness World Records for the highest number of participant registrations in a month.

- Satnavri, a village of just 1,800 residents in rural Nagpur, is poised to script history as India's first 'smart intelligent village' under a state-backed pilot project approved by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has restricted tiger corridors to only the 32 least cost pathways, easing project clearances but raising ecological concerns.

- The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has achieved a remarkable milestone by recording a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of 5.4 lakh crore rupees in the financial year 2024–25.

- Taking serious note of complaints regarding the alleged dissemination of misinformation related to Gurbani, Sikh history and principles through Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has approached multiple AI platforms with objections. The SGPC has written to ChatGPT, DeepSeek, Grok, Gemini AI, Meta, Google, VEO 3, Descript, Runway ML, Pictory, Magisto, InVideo, DALL·E 2, MidJourney and DeepAI, among others.

- Varanasi becomes India's first city to get portable solar panels between railway tracks.

- India has achieved a landmark milestone of 100 Gigawatt of solar PV module manufacturing capacity listed under the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM), a remarkable leap from just 2.3 GW in 2014.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

New banking laws to come into effect from 1 August

- The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025, aimed at improving governance standards in the banking sector and ensuring enhanced protection for depositors and investors, came into effect from 1st August, 2025.

- The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 contains a total of 19 amendments across five legislations – the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980.

- It seeks to improve audit quality in public sector banks and increase the tenure of Directors (other than the Chairperson and whole-time Directors) in cooperative banks.

- The provisions of the Act aim to redefine the threshold of "substantial interest" from 5 lakh rupees to 2 crore rupees, revising a limit that has remained unchanged since 1968.

- Further, these provisions align Director tenures in cooperative banks with the 97th Constitutional Amendment by increasing the maximum tenure from 8 years to 10 years (excluding the Chairperson and whole-time Director).

'Bharat' taxi: Cooperatives launch ₹300-crore ride-hailing platform

- India's cooperative sector will launch a new taxi service under the brand 'Bharat' by the end of 2025. It will be backed by ₹300 crore authorised capital.

- It has already enrolled 200 drivers across four states, with 50 each from Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

- The Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Ltd. represents a consortium of eight prominent cooperatives, including the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) and Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF). The founding members also include Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Cooperative Exports Ltd (NCEL).

- The key objective is to ensure better returns to drivers and provide quality, safe and affordable services to passengers.

Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025

- The Parliament has passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025. It is a landmark move to shield citizens from the menace of online money games while promoting and regulating other kinds of online games.
- This legislation is designed to curb addiction, financial ruin and social distress caused by predatory gaming platforms that thrive on misleading promises of quick wealth.
- It reflects the Government's resolve to safeguard families while guiding the digital economy towards safe and constructive growth.
- It has the provision for the appointment of an Online Gaming Authority for coordinated policy support, strategic development and regulatory oversight of the sector.
- The Bill has a provision of a complete ban on offering, operating or facilitating online money games.
- There is a provision of imprisonment up to three years and a fine up to one crore rupees or both in case of violation of the law related to online money gaming.

ICRISAT launches AI-powered climate advisory for small farmers

- The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), along with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and others, has launched personalised and real-time climate advisory services, powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).
- The initiative is supported under the Union government's Monsoon Mission III.
- The project, titled AI-powered Context-Specific Agromet Advisory Services for Climate-Resilient Agriculture at Scale, aims to equip smallholder farmers with hyper-local, actionable weather and climate insights.
- At the core of the initiative is the Intelligent Systems Advisory Tool (iSAT), a digital platform developed and piloted during Monsoon Mission II. Originally designed to simplify complex climate and agronomic data into personalised, science-based advice, iSAT is now being upgraded into a full-fledged AI-powered system.

Government introduces Jan Vishwas Bill 2025 in Lok Sabha

- The Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, moved the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha and referred it to a select Committee.
- The Bill seeks to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business.
- The bill builds on the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, which took effect on 11th August 2023. That law had decriminalised and rationalised certain minor offences across 42 central legislations, scrapped 183 criminal provisions spanning 19 ministries and departments and aimed to reduce outdated legal hurdles in line with global business and technological trends.

Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) conducts first-ever auction for procurement of green ammonia

- In a landmark development under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the first-ever auction conducted by SECI for the procurement of green ammonia under the SIGHT (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition) Scheme (Mode-2A) has achieved a record low price discovery of ₹55.75/kg.
- This pioneering auction covers the supply of 75,000 metric tonnes per annum of green ammonia to Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Odisha.
- It is the first in a planned series of 13 auctions over the coming month, under a tender aggregating a cumulative procurement capacity of 7.24 lakh MT/year.

Key Points
SECI headquarters- New Delhi

Indian Railways conducts trial run of Asia's longest freight train 'Rudrastra'

- The Indian Railways achieved a new milestone by successfully operating the country's longest freight train, named 'Rudrastra'.
- The 4.5-kilometre-long freight train was sent from the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Division (DDU) to the Dhanbad Division for quick loading and transportation of goods.
- 'Rudrastra' has 354 wagons and is not only the longest freight train operated by Indian Railways but also the largest in Asia. Each wagon was loaded with 72 tonnes of goods during the journey.

- The trial run was conducted from the Ganjkhwaja railway station in Chandauli to Garhwa in Jharkhand, covering a distance of 209 km in over 5 hours, at an average speed of 40.50 km per hour.

India issues first national guidelines for animal blood banks to save livestock

- The government released 'Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for Blood Transfusion and Blood Banks for Animals in India' for veterinary blood transfusion services, addressing a critical gap in emergency animal healthcare.

- These are the country's first comprehensive guidelines and establish a scientific framework for animal blood donation, storage and transfusion procedures that were previously conducted without national standards.

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying issued these guidelines. The department mandates blood typing and cross-matching to prevent adverse reactions, establish donor eligibility criteria including health and vaccination requirements and emphasise voluntary donations with informed consent through a Donor Rights Charter.

- The framework outlines plans for a National Veterinary Blood Bank Network featuring digital registries, real-time inventory tracking and an emergency helpline. Training modules will be incorporated into veterinary education programmes.

MHA have introduced stricter rules for Overseas Citizens of India (OCI).

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has tightened norms governing OCI, stating that OCI registration shall be liable for cancellation if an individual is sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more, or is charge-sheeted for an offence punishable with imprisonment of seven years or more.

- The move is aimed at tightening the legal framework governing OCI status, which grants certain rights and privileges to foreign citizens of Indian origin.

- The OCI cards offer multiple-entry, multi-purpose lifelong visas to persons of Indian origin and their spouses, along with certain economic and educational rights.

- However, OCIs are not entitled to political rights such as voting or holding constitutional posts. The government maintains that the facility is a privilege, not an entitlement, and may be withdrawn if the holder is found violating Indian laws.

Key Points

Union Home Minister- Amit Shah

Cabinet approves ₹2,000-cr grant to NCDC for cooperative sector expansion

- The Union Cabinet has approved financial support worth ₹2,000 crore for the National Cooperative Development Corporation for the period from the financial year 2025–26 (FY26) to FY29.

- The ₹2,000-crore grant will enable the NCDC to leverage up to ₹20,000 crore from the open market over the four years.

- These funds will be extended as loans to cooperative societies for establishing new projects, expanding existing facilities and meeting working capital needs.

- The grant allocated to the NCDC will be provided through budgetary support from the central government.

Key Points

NCDC headquarters- New Delhi
Managing Director- Pankaj Kumar Bansal

India launches projects under India-Un Global Capacity Building Initiative to aid Global South

- India launched the first set of four development projects under the "India-UN Global Capacity Building Initiative," aimed at supporting countries of the Global South in meeting Sustainable Development Goals.

- In its first phase, the programme will support rice fortification and supply chain management in Nepal with the help of the World Food Programme, develop digital health platforms in Zambia and Lao PDR with UNDP support, train officials in census preparedness in Belize, Barbados, St Kitts & Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago in collaboration with the UN Population Fund and provide vocational training in South Sudan with UNESCO support.

- The selected training courses are scheduled to begin in September 2025 and will be carried out through designated Indian training institutes under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) framework.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched the ICMR-SHINE Initiative

• ICMR and the Department of Health Research organised a nationwide student outreach programme on Science and Health Innovation for the Nextgen Explorers (SHINE) in New Delhi.

• It is aimed at students from Classes 9 to 12 and seeks to ignite scientific curiosity, foster innovation and inspire the next generation of health researchers across India.

• The initiative aims to introduce students to the field of health and biomedical research and to motivate young leaders to pursue careers in the field of science and public health.

Key Points

ICMR, Director General- Dr. Rajiv Bahl
Headquarters- New Delhi

CATCH Grant Program

• IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IBD), in collaboration with the National Cancer Grid (NCG), has announced the launch of the Cancer AI & Technology Challenge (CATCH) Grant Program.

• This initiative seeks to support the development and deployment of innovative Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions to strengthen cancer screening, diagnostics, treatment support and healthcare operations across India.

New textile parks under PM Mitra Scheme to boost India's textile sector

• The Government has finalised the setting up of PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks at seven sites viz. Tamil Nadu (Virudhnagar), Telangana (Warangal), Gujarat (Navasari), Karnataka (Kalaburagi), Madhya Pradesh (Dhar), Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow) and Maharashtra (Amravati) with an outlay of ₹4,445 cr for a period of seven years up to 2027-28.

• The PM MITRA scheme aims to attract ₹ 70,000 crore in investments and create nearly 20 lakh direct and indirect jobs.

• The Government is implementing Samarth (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector) with the objective to provide demand-driven, placement-oriented skilling programmes to supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organised textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding spinning and weaving sectors.

Lok Sabha passes sports, anti-doping bills

• The Lok Sabha passed the National Sports Governance Bill 2025 and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill 2025.

• The National Sports Governance Bill aims to reform sports administration in the country to create a more transparent, accountable and world-class sports ecosystem. The main provisions in the sports Bill include a National Sports Board (NSB) that will oversee National Sports Federations (NSF), including the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which does take any government funds. Once the Bill becomes law, all federations must obtain recognition from NSB to become eligible for central government funding. The NSB will have the mandate to derecognise a federation if it fails to hold elections of its executive committee or is found to have committed "gross irregularities in the election procedures". The Bill seeks to establish a National Sports Tribunal (NST) that can act like a civil court and decide disputes ranging from the election of officials to the selection of athletes. Once set up, NST's decisions can only be challenged in the Supreme Court. The Bill allows officials till the age of 75 to contest elections, departing from the National Sports Code's limit of 70 years.

• The National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025, seeks to enhance institutional and operational independence of the National Anti-Doping Appeal Panel and the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to ensure autonomy in their decisions pertaining to operations, investigations and enforcement activities. The Anti-Doping Amendment Bill incorporates changes sought by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), which objected to "government interference" in NADA's functioning. The Anti-Doping Bill was first passed in 2022, but its implementation was put on hold due to objections raised by WADA.

Key Points

Union Sports Minister- Mansukh Mandaviya

Lok Sabha passes Indian Ports Bill, 2025

• The Lok Sabha passed the Indian Ports Bill, 2025, ushering in a new era of India's maritime future. The Bill replaces outdated provisions of the Indian Ports Act, 1908, with modern and contemporary regulations.

• The Act will modernise India's port governance, enhance trade efficiency and solidify India's position as a global maritime leader.

- It aims to simplify port procedures and digitalise operations to enhance ease of doing business (EODB). The legislation also emphasises sustainability, incorporating green initiatives, pollution control and disaster management protocols for sustainable port development.

- The Indian Ports Bill, 2025, will reduce logistics costs by speeding up cargo movement and enhancing connectivity. The Bill is also expected to generate significant employment opportunities in port operations, logistics, warehousing and allied industries.

Key Points
Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways- Sarbananda Sonowal

India Post rolls out the Advanced Postal Technology (APT)

- The India Post has rolled out the Advanced Postal Technology (APT) across the country that will transform it into a world-class public logistics organisation by enabling mobile-ready services and real-time decision-making.

- It is backed by an investment of ₹5,800 crore under IT 2.0. APT is in continuation of the IT Modernisation Project 1.0, which introduced core banking solutions, core insurance solutions and digital connectivity.

- India Post runs the world's largest postal network, with over 165,000 post offices spread across the country.

- The APT application has been hosted on the Union government's MeghRaj 2.0 cloud. BSNL has enabled connectivity across the network.

Key Points
Director General of Postal Services- Jitendra Gupta, Union Minister of Communications- Jyotiraditya Scindia

Deep Ocean Mission

- In a landmark achievement, India has successfully sent its aquanauts to depths of over 5,000 metres in the North Atlantic Ocean.

- The mission marked a major step towards the country's Deep Ocean Mission, also known as Samudrayaan. The feat comes just weeks after Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to reach the International Space Station.

- The expedition was carried out in collaboration with France and involved two Indian aquanauts who completed separate deep dives in the French submersible Nautile earlier this month.

- Raju Ramesh, a scientist at the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), descended 4,025 metres. A record-setting 5,002-metre dive by retired Navy Commander Jatinder Pal Singh the next day followed this.

- The Deep Ocean Mission, cleared by the Union Cabinet in 2021, covers crewed and uncrewed submersibles, deep-sea mining technology, biodiversity research and ocean-based energy projects.

Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan: World's largest tribal leadership programme for responsive governance launched

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has officially launched the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan – envisaged as the world's largest tribal grassroots leadership programme, aimed at empowering tribal communities, strengthening responsive governance and creating local leadership opportunities across the country.

- The Abhiyan emphasises Sewa (Service), Sankalp (Resolve), and Samarpan (Dedication), reflecting the guiding principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vishwas." This initiative forms a key part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh and contributes towards the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

- It will reach over 1 lakh tribal-dominated villages, mobilising 20 lakh change leaders across 550 districts and 30 States/UTs. It builds upon the successful implementation of flagship government schemes, including:

I. Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

II. Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)

III. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

Key Points
Union Tribal Minister- Jual Oram

Press Registrar General launches 'Press Sewa' portal

- The Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) has launched the 'Press Seva' portal as a single-window solution to simplify the registration process for newspapers and periodicals.

- The initiative will enhance transparency, speed up approvals and improve the ease of doing business for publishers and resolve the issues faced by publishers.

- Yogesh Baweja is PRGI.

Special assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme

- The Ministry of Tourism issued operational guidelines along with a detailed project report template under the SASCI scheme.

- Accordingly, the state governments submitted their project proposals on the online portal, and 40 projects were sanctioned under the scheme for ₹ 3295.76 crore by the Government of India with 100% central funding.

- The SASCI scheme aims to develop an end-to-end tourist experience that creates intended value while adopting responsible tourism practices.

NOTTO issues a 10-point advisory

- To address gender imbalance among organ transplant recipients and encourage donations, the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) has issued a 10-point advisory stating that women patients and relatives of deceased donors awaiting organ transplants will get priority as beneficiaries.

- The objective of the inclusions is to make provisions for "additional points in the allocation criteria" for women patients in the waiting list to "address gender disparity."

- The allocation criteria give priority according to the duration of the disease, period on waiting list, severity of illness, children, living donor now requiring transplant, and matching parameters such as blood group, age, size, etc., for better outcome. The other factors include local utilisation of organs and geographical proximity of recipients.

- NOTTO has asked state governments to create permanent posts for transplant coordinators at hospitals that perform organ transplantation or retrieval.

- NOTTO maintains a digital national registry of organ recipients and donors. Patients needing a transplant can register through their hospital in the national registry.

> **Key Points**
> Director of NOTTO- Anil Kumar

Cabinet approves Tato-II Hydro Electric project

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved an investment of ₹8146.21 crore for the construction of Tato-II Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Shi Yomi District of Arunachal Pradesh. The estimated completion period for the project is 72 months.

- The project with an installed capacity of 700 MW (4 x 175 MW) would produce 2738.06 MU of energy.

- The project will be implemented through a Joint Venture Co. between North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO) and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

News in Short

- The Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, H.D. Kumaraswamy, unveiled the official logo of Bharat Steel at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, along with the brochure and website of the event.

- Telangana conducted Operation Muskaan-XI across the state from 1–31 July to trace, rescue and rehabilitate missing and trafficked children.

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma asserted that his government is committed to bringing down the number of child marriages in the state to zero by 2026.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the development of Green Field Airport at Kota-Bundi (Rajasthan) at an estimated cost of ₹1507.00 Crores.

- To ease the Diwali and Chhath rush, the railways introduced a 'Round Trip Package' offering a 20% fare rebate on return journeys booked together. Bookings open 14 August 2025, for onward travel between 13–26 October 2025 and return travel between 17 November–1 December.

- Maharashtra has pioneered a landmark initiative called 'Disha Abhiyan' to provide uniform and quality education for students with intellectual disabilities.

- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will be marking 100 years of its existence with a year-long series of events and activities and the centenary celebrations will begin on 1 October, and continue until 1 October 2026.

- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav and Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal presided over the launch of the Matri Van Initiative in Gurugram – a theme-based Urban Forest spread over 750 acres in the Aravalli Hill area.

- The West Bengal government has introduced the Shramashree scheme to enhance financial security for migrant workers returning to the state. This initiative aims to provide immediate financial aid and ensure long-term employment and social stability.

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which enables the establishment of a new Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Guwahati, Assam.

- Punjab has become the first state in India to empanel sign language interpreters, translators and special educators under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, to ensure accessible and sensitive justice for all, particularly children with hearing and speech impairments.

- Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang launched 'Nari Adalat', a community-based forum run by women to provide accessible and informal justice, especially in rural and semi-urban areas of Sikkim. The idea is to empower women to address disputes and social issues that directly affect them, without having to depend entirely on the formal court system.

- In a move to enhance the safety and well-being of truck drivers during long-haul journeys, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched an ambitious initiative called 'Apna Ghar'. The programme aims to provide comfortable and hygienic resting spaces for truckers across major highways in the country.

- In a move aimed at conserving India's dwindling agrobiodiversity and empowering smallholder farmers, the Odisha government has notified a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the identification, conservation and mainstreaming of traditional seed varieties — commonly known as landraces. The new SOP, formulated under the state's 'Shree Anna Abhiyan' (SAA).

- Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched an anti-drone system, 'Baaz Akh', aiming to check the smuggling of weapons and drugs through drones from Pakistan. Punjab will be the first state in the country to have its own anti-drone system deployed at the border areas.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Project Cimon (Crew Interactive Mobile Companion)

- Project Cimon is a pioneering technology demonstration aimed at making life easier for astronauts during long-duration space missions.

- Cimon is designed to float freely inside the International Space Station (ISS), helping crew members with a range of tasks. One of its key features is hands-free voice control: astronauts can ask Cimon for documents, tutorials or procedures, keeping both hands free for maintenance or scientific experiments.

- Additionally, Cimon doubles as a mobile camera, enabling real-time or recorded video documentation of complex scientific procedures. This function streamlines data collection and can be analysed by ground-based teams or reviewed by astronauts themselves.

- The CIMON robot was made by Airbus and IBM along with the collaboration of the German Aerospace Center (DLR). It is the first artificial intelligence (AI)-based astronaut assistance system.

Dubai launches 'One Freezone Passport'

- Dubai has introduced the "One Freezone Passport," a unified licensing system that allows companies to operate across all of the Emirate's free zones under a single license.

- The initiative eliminates the need for multiple permits, reducing costs and simplifying operations for investors and entrepreneurs.

- It enables businesses to expand more quickly between free zones by consolidating licensing procedures and compliance checks.

- The Dubai Free Zones Council launched this initiative.

- Luxury brand Louis Vuitton is the first company to expand using this initiative, operating in both JAFZA (Jebel Ali Free Zone) and DWTC (Dubai World Trade Centre) Free zone.

Nepal joins International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) for conservation

- Nepal has officially become a member of IBCA. The IBCA was established with a view to fostering international cooperation for the conservation of seven big cats, including the tiger, leopard and snow leopard.

- Nepal succeeded in almost tripling its tiger population to 355 in 2022 (the latest census carried out so far) from a mere 121 in 2009.

500+ humanoid robots compete at World Robot Games in Beijing

- The first World Humanoid Robot Games were held in Beijing, China.

- It was a four-day event, which concluded with a range of featured competitions in sports, tasks and real-world scenarios.

- Robots competed in 26 events, including track and field, soccer, dancing and kickboxing. A robot clocked an impressive 21.5 seconds in the 100-metre sprint. Others demonstrated remarkable agility in combat, managing to recover balance after taking hits in kickboxing.

- However, not all performances went smoothly. In the soccer competition, fully-autonomous robots collapsed unexpectedly, while others collided during the 400-metre relay. An observer noted that when one robot fell, others followed, unlike humans, who can recover individually.

Dubai launches Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered passenger corridor to replace immigration counters

- Dubai International Airport (DXB), the world's busiest hub for international travel, has introduced an AI-powered passenger corridor to allow travellers to clear immigration within seconds, without presenting a passport or boarding pass.

- The project is part of Dubai's "Travel Without Borders" programme, designed to combine speed, security and convenience.

- The corridor will cut the immigration time to 14 seconds.

- It removed the need for passport counters, smart gates or manual checks. Any anomalies are flagged for review by experts, ensuring security is maintained.

Azerbaijan and Armenia sign historic peace deal at White House summit

- Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed a series of agreements formalising peace between their nations and establishing new cooperative ties with the United States.

- As part of the deal, the two countries have pledged to reopen key transportation and trade routes, including those that had been closed since the early 1990s due to territorial disputes and war. The nations will establish a major transit corridor, to be named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity.

- An American infrastructure company will assist in the development of the corridor, which aims to connect Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan, further enhancing regional trade and connectivity.

Thailand and Cambodia reach consensus on ceasefire

- Cambodia and Thailand reached a consensus on the details of the ceasefire and signed an agreement at the meeting of the General Border Committee (GBC).

- Officials from Cambodia and Thailand attended the meeting, while delegates from the United States, China and Malaysia participated as third-party observers.

- The talks were hosted at the Malaysian Ministry of Defence, and both sides agreed to a ceasefire involving all types of weapons, pledging to avoid unprovoked firing towards each other's positions or troops, and agreed not to increase forces along the border.

- Both sides also agreed to maintain current troop deployments without further movement as they were at the time when the ceasefire was reached. They also committed to ensuring the proper treatment of captured soldiers in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Nepal offers free climbing on 97 Himalayan peaks to boost tourism

- Nepal is planning to waive climbing permit fees for 97 peaks in the remote northwestern Himalayas for the next two years, aiming to attract more mountaineers.

- The move is designed to promote tourism in the country's Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces, home to some of Nepal's least explored mountains.

- The peaks eligible for the waiver range from 5,870 metres (19,258 feet) to 7,132 metres (23,398 feet).

China starts construction of the world's largest dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmputra)

- China has started building a mega-dam on the Yarlung Zangbo River in Tibet, which could become the world's largest source of hydroelectric power when completed.

- The mega-project will include five hydropower stations on the river, which is also known as the Brahmaputra, further downstream in India, and the Jamuna River in Bangladesh.

- The project is expected to cost an estimated 1.2 trillion yuan.

WHO classifies Hepatitis D as a cancerous virus

- The World Health Organisation (WHO), through the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), recently classified hepatitis D as carcinogenic to humans, just like hepatitis B and C.

- Hepatitis D, which only affects individuals infected with hepatitis B, is associated with a two- to six-fold higher risk of liver cancer compared to hepatitis B alone.

- This reclassification marks a critical step in global efforts to raise awareness, improve screening and expand access to new treatments for hepatitis D.

Key Points
WHO headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland
Director General- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Rhisotope Project

- South African scientists from the University of the Witwatersrand have launched an anti-poaching campaign, the Rhisotope Project, in which rhinos' horns will be injected with a radioactive material.
- The scientists claim that the process is harmless to rhinos but will allow customs officers to detect smuggled horns as they're transported across the world.
- South Africa has the largest rhino population in the world, and hundreds of the animals are poached there every year.
- This will cost around £220,000 ($290,000) and involve six years of research and testing.

Krasheninnikov Volcano erupts after 600 years

- The Krasheninnikov volcano on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula erupted for the first time in recorded history, its first in 600 years. It sent ash clouds up to 4 km above sea level.
- The volcano has been given an orange aviation warning due to the risk it poses to aircraft. The eruption may be linked to a powerful 8.7 magnitude earthquake and repeated aftershocks in the region, which also triggered tsunami warnings.
- Krasheninnikov's last known eruption occurred around 1463. Scientists believe the recent seismic activity could have caused the volcano to erupt.
- The ash plume has moved eastwards toward the Pacific Ocean, and no populated areas are at risk. The volcano, located 200 km north of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, remains under close observation.

U.S., South Korea kick off Ulchi Freedom Shield 25

- The seventh Air Force and other U.S. forces partnered with South Korea to conduct Ulchi Freedom Shield 25.
- This annual exercise aims to enhance the combined, joint, all-domain and interagency operating environment, thereby strengthening the regional alliance's response capabilities.
- Freedom Shield 25 is a defence-oriented exercise featuring live-fire, constructive and field training exercises that engage alliance forces and governmental agencies.

EU and US seal landmark trade deal with 15% tariffs

- The United States and the European Union have reached a new trade framework after Trump met European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Turnberry, Scotland. Under the new framework, a 15% tariff will be applied to EU goods entering the US.
- In return, the EU has agreed to buy large amounts of American energy products and military equipment.
- Without the agreement, tariffs on many European products were set to jump from 10% to 30% starting 1st August,, which could have led to higher prices and trade tensions.

Turkey unveils Gazap: The world's most powerful non-nuclear bomb

- Turkey has developed two of its most advanced aircraft bombs, the Gazap (Wrath) and Hayalet (Ghost) bombs, showcasing significant improvements in its military strike capabilities.
- The Gazap is a 2,000-pound MK-84 aircraft bomb, and it features a fragment-based structure with 10,000 particles, which can disperse within a one-kilometre radius upon detonation. The bomb has a modified filler and internal ribbed structure, which significantly enhances its blast impact. Its design reportedly mimics the effect of a defensive grenade and breaks apart into controlled fragments instead of random steel pieces.
- Hayalet can penetrate 7 metres of C50 concrete-commonly used in bridges viaducts and nuclear facilities. The bomb was also reportedly tested on reinforced C50 concrete blocks and 25 mm ribbed steel, with internal cage systems simulating real-world fortifications. The bomb managed to pass through multiple steel cages and a 10 metre sand pool before breaking through a 1.5 ton concrete wall and travelling 600 metres further.

NASA and IBM introduce groundbreaking Surya AI Model

- NASA, in collaboration with IBM, has unveiled 'Surya,' a groundbreaking AI model designed to revolutionise space weather forecasting.
- Surya uses advances in AI to analyse vast amounts of solar data, helping scientists better understand solar eruptions and predict space weather that threatens satellites, power grids and communication systems.

- The model can be used to provide early warnings to satellite operators and help scientists predict how the Sun's ultraviolet output affects Earth's upper atmosphere.
- Surya can learn new tasks and applications very quickly. The model has exceptional capabilities in active region tracking, flare activity forecasting, solar wind speed prediction and multiple observatory data integration.

News in Short

- Recently, the Barbados threadsnake, the world's smallest-known snake, was rediscovered in Barbados after nearly 20 years.
- Russia has become the first country to recognise the Taliban government in Afghanistan.
- Nepal has eliminated rubella as a public health problem. The World Health Organisation (WHO) hails the breakthrough as a "remarkable achievement".
- Prime Minister Keir Starmer announces that the UK will recognise the state of Palestine in September, amid a famine situation in Gaza.
- Hong Kong officially launched its comprehensive stablecoin regulatory regime on 1st August 2025. This landmark legislation creates licensing and regulatory requirements for domestic stablecoin issuers administered by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA).
- Scientists have discovered PelV-1, a giant virus with an unprecedentedly long tail, in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre. This virus infects Pelagodinium plankton and possesses a 2.3-micrometre tail, potentially aiding in host cell attachment. Its genome contains genes typically found in living cells, suggesting a complex interaction with its host's metabolism and energy production.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has validated Kenya as having eliminated Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT) or sleeping sickness as a public health problem, making it the tenth country to reach this important milestone. HAT is the second neglected tropical disease (NTD) to be eliminated in Kenya: the country was certified free of Guinea worm disease in 2018.
- Australia will recognise the State of Palestine at the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September, to contribute to international momentum towards a two-state solution, a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of hostages.
- The United States Supreme Court has declined to put on hold a Mississippi law requiring that users of social media platforms verify their age and that minors have parental consent.
- El Salvador's ruling party has passed a bill to overhaul how elections are run in the Central American nation, opening the door for President Nayib Bukele to serve another term.
- The European Union Council has allowed Bulgaria to adopt the Euro currency from 1st January 2026. With this, Bulgaria will become the 21st member of the Eurozone.
- Illinois has become the first state to enact legislation banning the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT for providing therapy.
- US President Donald Trump announced a new agreement for the joint development of Pakistan's oil reserves, as both countries work on expanding trade and economic ties.
- US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin had a three-hour summit in Alaska. It concluded without agreement on ending the war. Both leaders described the talks as "productive." Putin said they reached an "understanding" on Ukraine, while Trump rated the meeting "a 10," adding that the onus was on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to pursue a ceasefire with Moscow.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

ISRO and NASA launch NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar Mission)

- NISAR is the first of its kind mission, jointly developed by ISRO and NASA. It is an L and S-band, global, microwave imaging mission, with the capability to acquire fully polarimetric and interferometric data.

- It is the world's first Earth observation satellite to carry dual-frequency synthetic aperture radars—L-band by NASA and S-band by ISRO—on a single platform. It will deliver high-resolution, all-weather, day-and-night imagery of Earth's land and ice surfaces, revisiting each location every 12 days.

- NISAR was launched aboard GSLV-F16, and this was the first time ISRO's GSLV vehicle successfully placed a satellite into a Sun-synchronous polar orbit.
- It is a 2,393-kg satellite that was inserted into a 747-kilometre Sun-synchronous orbit and has a five-year mission life. It will offer invaluable data for global climate science, seismic and volcanic monitoring, forest mapping and resource management.

PM Modi visits Japan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Japan for a two-day official visit at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. His visit to Japan was his eighth since taking office in 2014, marking an important milestone in India–Japan relations.
- He gifted ramen bowls made of precious stone with silver chopsticks to his Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba. The vintage precious stone bowls set with silver chopsticks blend Indian artistry and Japanese culinary tradition. He also presented Ishiba's wife with a pashmina shawl in a papier-mache box. Pashmina shawl, made from the fine wool of the Changthangi goat in Ladakh, is valued worldwide for being light, soft and warm.
- PM Modi participated in the 15th India-Japan annual summit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan has yielded three major outcomes—across transport, space exploration and economic ties—underscoring the strategic partnership between New Delhi and Tokyo.
- ISRO and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) will jointly work on the upcoming Chandrayaan-5 mission. The initiative strengthens cooperation in space technology, lunar exploration and scientific research.
- PM Modi along with his counterpart Ishiba boarded a Shinkansen bullet train in Sendai. During the ride, he interacted with Indian train drivers undergoing training in Japan for the upcoming Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train built with Japanese support.
- Tokyo has pledged 10 trillion yen, or about $68 billion, in private investments for India over the next decade. These investments span sectors from semiconductors and rare earths to digital technology and clean energy

Donald Trump doubles tariffs on Indian imports to 50% over Russian oil purchases

- The United States has doubled tariffs on many imports from India to 50%, as US President Donald Trump

followed through on his threat to punish New Delhi for buying discounted Russian oil.
- India exported more than $87bn worth of goods to the US in 2024.
- The Indian government, has criticised the move as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable."
- The US had already slapped 25% tariffs on Indian goods earlier this month, as part of a wave of additional duties on goods from allies.

NSA (National Security Adviser) Ajit Doval visits Russia

- NSA Ajit Doval met Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov to review the bilateral military-technical cooperation and progress on joint projects in key strategic sectors.
- The discussions covered defence collaboration as well as initiatives in civil aviation, metallurgy and the chemical industry.
- Manturov, who oversees Russia's defence industry and trade, co-chairs the India–Russia Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic and Cultural Cooperation with external affairs minister S Jaishankar.
- Mr. Doval also met Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin, Moscow.
- The visit comes in the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's decision to double tariffs on Indian goods.

India to launch a US communication satellite- Bluebird

- India will launch a US communication satellite — Block-2 BlueBird — weighing 6,500 kg in a couple of months.
- The Block 2 BlueBird satellite features large communication arrays, up to 2,400 sq ft, and has been designed to achieve data transmission speeds of up to 12 Mbps, enabling voice, data and video communication capabilities for end users.
- The satellite will provide direct-to-smartphone broadband connectivity, eliminating the need for specialised terminals.
- The satellite has a communications array measuring 64.38 sq m to establish direct connectivity with cellphones via 3GPP-standard frequencies, in partnership with leading cellular service providers around the world.

News in Short

- The Philippines has agreed to remove restrictions on the import of Basmati rice. This move is expected to significantly boost India's high-quality rice exports to the country and eventually lead to higher incomes for Indian farmers.

FINANCE, ECONOMY AND BANKING

India delivered a 7.8% GDP growth rate in Q1

- According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts, India's economy unexpectedly expanded 7.8% year-on-year in the April-June quarter, picking up from 7.4% in the previous three months.
- With that, India remains the fastest-growing major economy, as China's GDP growth rate came in at 5.2% and the United States' at 3.3% in the three months to 30 June.
- Agriculture grew 3.7% in Q1 FY26 vs 1.5% in Q1 FY25.
- Manufacturing grew 7.7% in Q1 FY26 vs 7.6% in Q1 FY25.

RBI Digital Payments Index jumps over 10% in March 2025

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) rose to 493.22 in March 2025. This marks a 10.7% increase from 445.50 in March 2024 and a steady rise from 465.33 in September 2024.
- The RBI has tracked this index since March 2018, when the base was set at 100. It measures the growth and reach of digital payments in the country. The increase reflects growth in payment infrastructure and stronger payment performance nationwide.
- The RBI-DPI has shown consistent growth each year. It touched 270.59 in March 2021 and has nearly doubled since then.

Key Points

RBI governor- Sanjay Malhotra

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

RBI releases Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI) Committee Report

- RBI has released the FREE-AI Committee Report based on seven sutras, six pillars and 26 actionable recommendations to promote responsible AI use in the financial sector while balancing innovation and risk mitigation.
- The seven sutras include Trust is the Foundation, People First, Innovation over Restraint, Fairness and Equity, Accountability, Understandable by Design and Safety, Resilience and Sustainability.
- Guided by seven sutras, the committee has recommended a forward-looking approach, containing 26 actionable recommendations under six strategic pillars.

- The report envisions a financial ecosystem where encouraging innovation is in harmony, and not at odds, with the mitigation of risk.
- To mitigate AI risks, the committee has recommended the formulation of a board-approved AI policy by Regulated Entities, the expansion of product approval processes, consumer protection frameworks and audits to include AI-related aspects and the augmentation of cybersecurity practices and incident reporting frameworks.

RBI introduces Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) for Treasury Bills

- RBI will expand the functionality of its retail direct platform to enable retail investors to invest in treasury bills (T-Bills) through Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs).
- The upgrade is aimed at simplifying government securities (G-Secs) investment for individual investors.
- The move will introduce new tools to help investors plan and manage their investments efficiently, and allow for automated, periodic investments in T-Bills— similar to mutual fund SIPs.
- The Retail Direct platform, launched in 2021, allows retail investors to buy and sell government securities directly with the RBI. The new SIP feature is expected to deepen retail participation in the G-Sec market and promote disciplined, long-term investment habits.

PSU banks write off loans over ₹ 5.82 lakh cr in the last five years

- Public sector banks (PSBs) have written off bad loans of about ₹5.82 lakh crore in the last five financial years. The write-off was highest at ₹1.33 lakh crore during 2020–21.
- As per RBI guidelines and policy approved by banks' Boards, Banks write off NPAs, including those in respect of which full provisioning has been made on completion of four years.
- In contrast to write-offs, PSBs have recovered around ₹1.65 lakh crore over the last five years. Recovery is around 28% of the total write-off in the previous five financial years.
- According to provisional data provided by the RBI for the financial year 2024–25, Scheduled Commercial

Banks have recovered a total of Rs 32,466 crore through actions initiated in 2,15,709 cases under the SARFAESI Act.

S&P upgrades India to BBB with a Stable Outlook

- Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-' and its short-term rating to 'A-2' from 'A-3', with a Stable Outlook.
- This marks the country's first sovereign upgrade by S&P in 18 years, the previous one being in 2007 when India was elevated to investment grade at BBB.
- In May 2024, the agency revised its outlook on India from 'Stable' to 'Positive'.
- The upgrade reflects a combination of key factors, including India's buoyant and dynamic economic growth, the government's sustained commitment to fiscal consolidation, improved quality of public spending, particularly on capex and infrastructure and strong corporate, financial and external balance sheet.

DSP MF to launch India's first flexicap index scheme based on quality and momentum

- DSP Mutual Fund will launch the DSP Nifty500 Flexicap Quality 30 Index Fund, positioned as India's first index fund based on a flexicap strategy that combines quality stock selection with dynamic market cap allocation.
- The fund will aim to replicate the Nifty500 Flexicap Quality 30 Index, which identifies 30 fundamentally strong companies—10 each from large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap segments—using quality metrics such as return on equity (ROE), debt levels and earnings growth.
- The index assigns equal weight to each stock within its respective market cap category.
- It will use a rule-based flexicap momentum signal to rebalance allocations between large-cap and small/mid-cap segments every quarter.
- The allocation will adjust to either 33% or 67% for each segment based on the ratio of SMID (small- and mid-cap) to large-cap performance relative to its 200-day moving average.

ICICI Bank reports the lowest attrition rate among private peers in the last three fiscal years

- ICICI Bank has reported the lowest employee attrition rate among large private sector lenders in the last three financial years, reflecting higher stickiness due to competitive remuneration and a better working environment.
- The employee attrition rate at ICICI Bank declined to 18% in FY25 from 24.5% in FY24. HDFC Bank has recorded an employee attrition rate of 22.6% in FY25, compared to 26.9% in FY24.
- During the last three financial years, the industry has also witnessed a sustained decline on a year-on-year basis.

Key Points
ICICI Bank MD & CEO- Sandeep Bakhshi

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

HDFC Bank Chairman- Atanu Chakraborty

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

IPPB launches Aadhaar-based face authentication nationwide

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) announced the nationwide rollout of the Aadhaar-based face authentication facility for customer transactions.
- It is a breakthrough initiative aimed at empowering every Indian, especially the elderly and differently-abled, by making banking more secure, inclusive and convenient.
- The face authentication feature, developed under the framework of UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India), enables customers to perform banking transactions using facial recognition, eliminating the need for physical biometric inputs like fingerprints or OTPs.

Key Points
MD & CEO, IPPB- R Viswesvaran

Bank of Baroda Introduces Global UPI Services Via Bob ₹ Pay App

- Bank of Baroda has expanded the capabilities of its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) app, bob ₹ Pay, by introducing three new international features aimed at enhancing cross-border digital payments and remittances for Indian and Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers.
- The services include UPI Global Acceptance, Foreign Inward Remittance from Singapore residents and UPI Services tailored for NRIs.
- The Bank of Baroda customers travelling abroad can now use the bob ₹ Pay app to make QR code-based payments to merchants in eight countries supporting

UPI — Mauritius, Singapore, UAE, USA, France, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan.

Key Points
Headquarters- Vadodara, Gujarat
MD & CEO- Debadatta Chand

Net direct tax collection falls nearly 4% to ₹6.64 lakh crore in FY26 on higher refunds

- According to data released by the income tax department direct taxes, which include income tax paid by companies, individuals, professionals and other entities, saw net corporate tax receipts at around ₹2.29 lakh crore, while non-corporate taxes — covering individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), and firms — stood at ₹4.12 lakh crore.

- The Securities Transaction Tax (STT) collections reached ₹22,362 crore during the same period.

- Total net direct tax collections of ₹6.64 lakh crore mark a decline from ₹6.91 lakh crore collected in the same period last fiscal (2024–25).

- Refunds issued have increased by 10% to ₹1.35 lakh crore, impacting the net mop-up. Meanwhile, gross direct tax collections (before refunds) dipped 1.87% to ₹7.99 lakh crore from ₹8.14 lakh crore a year earlier.

- For the entire fiscal 2025–26, the government projects direct tax collections to rise by 12.7% to ₹25.20 lakh crore. It also aims to garner ₹78,000 crore from STT during the year.

Key Points
Chairperson, Central Board of Direct Taxes- Ravi Agarwal

Axis Bank Launches 'Lock Fd' Feature

- Axis Bank launched an industry-first feature—'Lock FD', designed to protect customers' term deposits from rising digital fraud.

- This innovative feature, available on the Bank's mobile app 'open' and across all its branches, enables customers to prevent premature closure of fixed deposits (FDs) through digital channels, such as Mobile and Internet Banking, offering an additional layer of protection against cyber threats.

- Customers who opt for this feature will have to visit the branch for the premature closure of their FD.

Key Points
Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra
MD & CEO- Amitabh Chaudhry

IDFC First Bank launches Remitfirst2India

- IDFC FIRST Bank launched RemitFIRST2India, a next-generation digital remittance platform that allows Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to their families in India quickly, securely and with zero transfer fees.

- RemitFIRST2India has been launched in partnership with SingX, a leading remittance provider licensed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, to offer a fully compliant and seamless cross-border payment experience.

- Currently, the platform supports transfers from Singapore and Hong Kong, with an expansion plan across other countries.

- It also keeps the customer updated on each step of a transaction with live transaction tracking. The platform has been designed with a strong focus on speed, transparency and easy access.

Key Points
Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra
MD & CEO- V. Vaidyanathan

PSU banks, led by SBI, log ₹44,218 crore profit in Q1, up 11% YoY

- Public sector banks (PSBs), led by the State Bank of India (SBI), posted a record combined profit of ₹44,218 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, marking an 11% year-on-year growth.

- 12 PSBs had together earned ₹39,974 crore in the June quarter of FY25, meaning profits rose by ₹4,244 crore in absolute terms.

- SBI alone accounted for 43% of the sector's earnings, reporting a net profit of ₹19,160 crore in Q1 FY26 — a 12% rise over the same quarter last year.

- In terms of percentage growth, Indian Overseas Bank topped the list with a 76% jump in net profit to ₹1,111 crore, followed by Punjab & Sind Bank, which saw a 48% increase to ₹269 crore.

- Among other notable performers, the Central Bank of India reported a 32.8% rise in net profit to ₹1,169 crore, Indian Bank posted 23.7% growth to Rs 2,973 crore, and Bank of Maharashtra saw a 23.2% increase to Rs 1,593 crore.

IFC and HDFC Capital launch $1 billion fund for green affordable housing in India

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has entered into an agreement with HDFC Capital Advisors to anchor a $1 billion (about ₹8,770 crore) real estate fund focused on green affordable housing in India.

- IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, will invest up to $150 million (about ₹1,320 crore), in the HDFC Capital Development of Real Estate Affordable and Mid-Income Fund (H-DREAM Fund), which will be managed by HDFC Capital, the real estate private equity arm of HDFC Bank.

- HDFC Capital, a subsidiary of HDFC Bank Limited—the largest private sector bank in India—will manage the Fund, which has a target corpus of $1 billion ($500 million with a green shoe of $500 million). The Fund will finance projects that prioritise affordable and mid-income housing, while implementing the EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies) green building framework, in line with global sustainability standards.

- H-DREAM is among the first private credit funds globally to champion the development of green, affordable and mid-income housing

RBI approves merger of New India Co-Operative Bank with Saraswat Bank

- RBI has approved the merger of New India Co-operative Bank with the largest urban co-operative bank, Saraswat Co-operative Bank.

- The merger will be effective from 4th August 2025. Consequently, Saraswat Bank will assume all assets and liabilities of New India Co-operative Bank, and all its branches will operate as Saraswat Bank branches.

- Customers, including depositors of New India Co-operative Bank, will be treated as customers of Saraswat Bank from 4th August 2025, with their interests fully protected.

AU Small Finance Bank makes history: First SFB to get RBI nod for universal bank status

- AU Small Finance Bank has received in-principle approval from the RBI for transition from an SFB to a universal bank. It became the first SFB to receive an in-principle approval to become a universal bank.

- The universal bank status will allow AU Bank to offer a wide range of financial services and products under one roof without many restrictions unlike a small finance bank.

- Sanjay Agarwal founded Au Financiers in 1996. Headquartered in Jaipur, Rajasthan, the retail-focused non-banking finance company got the small finance bank (SFB) license in 2015 and it started operations in April 2017.

- According to the RBI, the eligibility criteria for an SFB to transition into a universal bank include scheduled status with a satisfactory track record of performance for a minimum period of five years, listing on a recognised stock exchange and a minimum net worth of ₹1,000 crore as at the end of the previous quarter (audited). They should also meet the prescribed CRAR requirements for SFBs, having a net profit in the last two financial years and gross NPA and net NPA of less than or equal to 3% and 1% respectively in the last two financial years.

Key Points

Founder- Sanjay Agarwal

Chairman- HR Khan

Headquarters- Jaipur, Rajasthan

News in Short

- ICICI Bank has adjusted the Minimum Monthly Average Balance (MAB) requirements at ₹15,000 for customers in metro and urban areas, ₹7,500 for semi-urban customers and ₹ 2,500 for rural account holders.

- State Bank of India launched a special personal loan scheme for Agniveers under the Government of India's short-term Agnipath recruitment programme. Agniveers with a salary account at SBI can avail loans up to ₹4 lakh without any collateral and with a complete waiver of processing fee.

- Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE) becomes the first miscellaneous NBFC in India to achieve ₹1 lakh crore business turnover.

DEFENCE NEWS

India tests Agni V missile

- India successfully test-fired the 'Agni 5' intermediate-range ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.

- The missile has a range of more than 5,000 kilometres (3,100 miles) and is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

- The launch validated all operational and technical parameters and was conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) designed the missile.

Third ship of Nilgiri delivered to Indian navy in Kolkata

- The third ship of Nilgiri Class (Project 17A) and the first of the class built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers was delivered to the Indian Navy.

- Project 17A frigates are versatile multi-mission platforms, designed to address current and future challenges in the maritime domain.

- Himgiri is a reincarnation of the erstwhile INS Himgiri, a Leander-class frigate, that was decommissioned on 6th May 2005 after 30 years of service to the nation.

- P17A frigates are designed by the Warship Design Bureau and overseen by the Warship Overseeing Team, Kolkata. These frigates reflect a generational leap in indigenous ship design, stealth, survivability and combat capability. The ship is modular and ergonomic and has been built within the timelines envisaged.

India partners with France's Safran to build fighter jet engines domestically

- India would partner with French engine maker Safran to make jet engines domestically. These engines are to be used to power the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), a fifth-generation fighter jet, being designed and made indigenously.

- The expected engine will have a 110 kilonewton thrust and is expected to power the second version of AMCA. It is a ₹15,000-crore project.

CDS formally releases declassified versions of Joint Doctrines for Cyberspace Operations and Amphibious Operations

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs formally released the declassified versions of the Joint Doctrines for Cyberspace Operations and Amphibious Operations.

- The declassification of these doctrines underscores India's commitment to enhance visibility, accessibility and wider dissemination of joint war-fighting concepts.

- The Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations outlines a unified approach to defend national cyberspace interests, integrating offensive and defensive cyber capabilities and enabling synchronised operations across the three Services. It emphasises threat-informed planning, resilience building, real-time intelligence integration and development of joint cyber capabilities.

- The Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Operations defines the framework for planning and executing amphibious operations by integrating maritime, air and land forces. It stresses interoperability, rapid response capability and joint force application to influence operations ashore.

Assam Rifles sign MoU with IIIT-Manipur to promote drone technology

- Assam Rifles, in collaboration with IIIT Manipur, signed a Memorandum of Understanding at Mantripukhri to promote drone technology for defence and security.

- The programme aims to strengthen surveillance, reconnaissance and logistics support capabilities.

- Around 80 participants, including defence personnel and IIIT faculty, took part in the event, reaffirming the shared commitment to innovation and capacity building.

- An Advanced Drone Training and Refresher Course was also launched for Assam Rifles personnel, covering drone flight operations, maintenance, and DGCA-certified training.

Exercise Aarogya Setu organised

- In a landmark initiative, the Indian Army organised the maiden Exercise Aarogya Setu at Rupai, Doomdooma in the Tinsukia district of Assam.

- A first of its kind, it marked a civil-military medical fusion exercise in the region.

- The event aimed at strengthening cooperation between Army Medical Corps, reputed senior civil doctors from leading hospitals and PHCs of Tinsukia and the Northern Frontier Railway Hospital, Tinsukia.

- The focus of the exercise was on how Army and Civil medical fraternities can work together during disasters and war-like situations.

First all-women commando unit of CISF launched

- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has launched its first all women commando team and its personnel will be posted across airports and other sensitive units.

- The training of women commandos has already begun at the Regional Training Centre (RTC) in Barwaha, Madhya Pradesh. This 8-week advanced commando course will prepare women personnel for Quick Reaction Teams (QRT) and Special Task Force (STF) duties at high-security establishments and plants.

- The programme includes physical fitness and weapons training, live-fire drills under stress, endurance-building exercises like running, obstacle courses, rappelling, survival training in forests and a 48-hour confidence-building exercise designed to test decision-making and teamwork under adverse conditions.

- At least 100 women from different Aviation Security Groups (ASGs) and sensitive CISF units will complete the programme.

Key Points

  Director General, CISF- Rajwinder Singh Bhatti

India receives final batch of Airbus C-295 aircraft

- India has received the final batch of 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft, marking a significant upgrade to its defence capabilities.

- The handover took place today in Seville, Spain, with Indian Ambassador Dinesh K Patnaik and senior Indian Air Force officials in attendance.

- The delivery came two months ahead of schedule at Airbus's Seville assembly line.

- In October 2024, Prime Ministers Pedro Sanchez and Narendra Modi launched the TATA Aircraft Complex in Vadodara, Gujarat, where 40 additional C-295s will be manufactured. A total of 56 aircrafts will be delivered under the programme.

DRDO successfully conducts maiden flight-tests of Integrated Air Defence Weapon System

- DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight-tests of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) off the coast of Odisha.

- IADWS is a multi-layered air defence system comprising all indigenous Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missiles (QRSAM), Advanced Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missiles and a high-power laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW).

- Together, these systems are capable of neutralising a wide spectrum of aerial threats, ranging from low-flying drones to high-speed enemy aircraft and missiles.

- Integrated operation of all the weapon system components is controlled by a Centralised Command and Control Centre developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory being the nodal laboratory of the programme.

- VSHORADS and DEW are developed by the Research Centre Imarat & Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences, respectively.

Name of the Exercise	Countries/ Organisations	Location
Maitree	India- Thailand	Umroi, Meghalaya
Indian Army Terrier Cyber Quest	Indian Army's Territorial Army in collaboration with IIT Madras, Indian Army Research Cell (IARC) and CyberPeace	New Delhi

News in Short

- The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched 'Operation Alert' along the Rajasthan border to strengthen security measures ahead of Independence Day, with intensified patrols, drills and a review of standard operating procedures to counter potential threats.

- The Defence Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Quality Council of India in New Delhi to strengthen the delivery of pension, healthcare, resettlement and welfare services for over 63 lakh veterans and their dependents.

- The central government approved the purchase of 97 LCA Tejas Mark 1A fighter jets for the Indian Air Force at a cost of ₹62,000. This marks the second major order for the Mark 1A jets. The first, placed a few years ago, was for 83 aircraft worth around ₹48,000 crores.

APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation
Vice Admiral Manish Chadha	Commandant, Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala
Dr. A Rajarajan	Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
Manika Vishwakarma	Miss Universe India 2025
Jürgen Westermeier	Head for India and South Asia, Airbus India.
Dinesh K Patnaik	India's Envoy to Canada
Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh	Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS)
Dr. Mayank Sharma	Financial Advisor (Defence Services)
Varghese Mathew	Naval Officer-in-Charge , Kerala
Shah Rukh Khan	Brand Ambassador of Zomato
Shashi Bhushan Kumar (SBK) Singh	New Police Commissioner of Delhi
Shashi Prakash Goyal	Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh
Urjit Patel	Executive Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF)
PB Balaji	Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)
S. Radha Chauhan	Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission
Rajiv Anand	Managing Director and CEO, IndusInd Bank
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	Additional charge as the Governor of Nagaland. Current Governor of Manipur.
Noel N Tata	Director, Tata Sons
Dr Rajiv Ranjan	Vice President, New Development Bank (NDB)
Raghav Gupta	Head of its education initiatives across India and the broader Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, OpenAI
Ravi Narayanan	CEO of SMFG India Credit
S Krishnan	Non-executive chairman, J&K Bank
Srinivasan K Swamy	President, Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI)
Satish Golcha	Commissioner of Police, Delhi
Rajiv Ranjan	Chief Risk Officer, New Development Bank
Anish Dayal Singh	Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) to PM Modi
Jennifer Geerlings-Simons	First woman President of Suriname

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Name of the Book	Author
The Rise of the Hitman	R. Kaushik
M.S. Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India	Priyambada Jayakumar
The Conscience Network	Sugata Srinivasaraju

Name	Occupation
Obituaries (National)	
KPAC Rajendran	Veteran theatre artist and television actor
Meghnad Desai	Renowned Economist and Author
Achyut Potdar	Actor
T. N. Manoharan	Banker
Satya Pal Malik	Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor
La Ganesan	Governor of Nagaland
Kalabhavan Navas	Malayalam actor and mimicry artist
Dr. V. Vasanthi Devi	Academic and social reformer
Jaswinder Bhalla	Punjabi Comedian
Shibu Soren	Veteran tribal leader, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) founder, and former Chief Minister of Jharkhand
Obituaries (International)	
Bob Simpson	Former Australian Captain and Coach
Jeannie Seely	American singer, songwriter, record producer and author
Laura Dahlmeier	Germany's two-time Olympic champion
Loni Anderson	American actress
Frank Caprio	American judge and politician
Hiromasa Urakawa	Japanese Boxer

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
August 1	World Wide Web Day	
August 1-7	World Breastfeeding Week	Prioritise Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems
August 1	World Lung Cancer Day	Breaking Barriers: Championing Early Detection and Equal Care
August 1	National Mountain Climbing Day	
August 2	India Organ Donation Day	Angdaan- Jeevan Sanjeevani Abhiyan
August 3	Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day	
August 6	Hiroshima Day	
August 7	National Handloom Day	Weaving Innovation into Tradition
August 7	National Javelin Day	
August 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Indigenous Peoples and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures.
August 9	Nagasaki Day	
August 10	World Lion Day	
August 10	World Biofuel Day	Biofuels: A Sustainable Pathway to Net Zero
August 11	World Steelpan Day	
August 12	International Youth Day	Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond

August 12	World Elephant Day	Bringing the World Together to Help Elephants
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	Answering the Call
August 13	International Lefthanders Day	
August 14	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in India	
August 15	India's Independence Day	
August 19	World Humanitarian Day	
August 19	World Photography Day	My Favourite Photo
August 20	World Mosquito Day	
August 21	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism
August 22	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	
August 23	ISRO Day / National Space Day	Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities
August 24-28	World Water Week	Water for Climate Action
August 27	World Lake Day	
August 29	International Day against Nuclear Tests	
August 29	National Sports Day	Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main
August 30	National Small Industries Day	
August 30	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	
August 31	International Day for People of African Descent	People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice, and Development

REPORTS, RANKINGS AND INDEX

India emerges as the world's fifth-biggest aviation market

- According to the latest edition of the World Air Transport Statistics (WATS) for 2024, India has emerged as the world's fifth-biggest aviation market, handling 211 million passengers, while Mumbai-Delhi was one of the busiest airport pairs in 2024.

- India saw 211 million air passengers last year, a growth of 11.1% compared to 2023, ahead of Japan, which handled 205 million passengers with an annual rise of 18.6%.

- The US remains the world's biggest aviation market with 876 million passengers in 2024 on the strength of its domestic market, growing 5.2% year-on-year. China was the second-biggest passenger market, with 741 million passengers, a growth of 18.7% compared to 2023. While the UK was at third spot with 261 million passengers.

- Asia Pacific dominated the ranking for the world's busiest airport pairs, with Jeju-Seoul the most popular route globally, with 13.2 million passengers flying between the two airports in 2024.

District Flood Severity Index

- Researchers from IIT Delhi and IIT Gandhinagar have developed a District Flood Severity Index that ranks districts by flood severity, considering both the magnitude and impact of floods, using parameters like mean flood duration, the percentage of historically flooded area, total deaths and injuries and district population.

- The index uses data collected annually since 1967 by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

- The DFSI addresses gaps in existing flood data and supports improved flood management policies.

NITI Aayog report on India's electric vehicle market

- NITI Aayog launched the Report on 'Unlocking a $200 Billion Opportunity: Electric Vehicles in India,' which

presents a timely and comprehensive assessment of current challenges while highlighting major unlocks essential to accelerate India's Electric Mobility transition.

- India seeks to attain a 30% share of electric vehicles in the total vehicles sold by 2030. Sales of EVs in India went up from 50,000 in 2016 to 2.08 million in 2024, as against global EV sales having risen from 918,000 in 2016 to 18.78 million in 2024.

- Thus, India's transition has been slow to start, but it is picking up. India's EV penetration was only about one–fifth of the global penetration in 2020, but has picked up to over two-fifths of the global penetration in 2024. It continues to show an increasing trend, though relatively slow. This calls for measures to give a stronger push to the EV transition.

2025 Numbeo Index

- India was positioned 67th among the world's safest countries in the latest Numbeo Safety Index mid-2025 rankings, achieving an index score of 55.8.

- However, in city-wise safety rankings, Mangalore has been ranked as the safest city in India, praised for its low crime rates and strong civic infrastructure, globally ranking #49 with a safety index score of 74.2.

- The capital city, New Delhi, along with Noida and Ghaziabad, has been ranked among the most unsafe Indian cities.

- Numbeo analysed how secure people feel in their daily lives, both during daylight hours and at night, and ranked them on the basis of public perceptions of threats such as "mugging, robbery, car theft, physical attacks by strangers, harassment in public places, and discrimination based on factors like skin colour, ethnicity, gender or religion."

- Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with a safety index score of 88.8 mid-year, holds the top spot as the safest city globally for the ninth consecutive year, while the UAE ranks second at the country level.

Union Health Ministry launches SHRESTH – State Health Regulatory Excellence Index

- The Union Health Ministry launched the State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH), a first-of-its-kind national initiative to benchmark and strengthen state drug regulatory systems through a transparent, data-driven framework.

- It is an initiative of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). It aims to drive improvements in the performance of state drug regulatory authorities across India, ensuring drug safety and quality standards are consistently met.

- SHRESTH will have 27 indices for Manufacturing States across five key themes: Human Resources, Infrastructure, Licensing Activities, Surveillance Activities and Responsiveness and 23 indices for Primarily Distribution States.

- States will submit the data on predefined metrics to CDSCO which will be collected by 25th of every month and these metrics will be scored on the 1st of next month and shared with all states and UTs.

- SHRESTH is not a scorecard but a roadmap for states for ensuring safe and effective drugs and medical devices.

State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024

- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), released SEEI 2024, developed by BEE in association with the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).

- The index assesses the energy efficiency performance of 36 States and Union Territories (UTs) for FY 2023-24, supporting data-driven monitoring, best practice sharing and healthy competition among states.

- States are classified into four performance categories: Front Runners (>60%), Achievers (50-60%), Contenders (30-50%), and Aspirants (<30%).

- The top performers include Maharashtra (Group 1: >15 MToE), Andhra Pradesh (Group 2: 5–15 MToE), Assam (Group 3: 1–5 MToE), and Tripura (Group 4: <1 MToE). MToE stands for Million tonnes of oil equivalent energy consumption.

- SEEI 2024 serves as a key policy tool for guiding state-level actions and accelerating India's energy efficiency and climate goals.

Smart City Index 2025

- The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) released Smart City Index 2025. The rankings highlight how improvements in technology, better infrastructure and effective governance are changing urban life worldwide.

- Zurich, Switzerland has taken the top spot as the world's smartest city in 2025. It is followed by Oslo, Norway and Geneva, Switzerland at second and third spot.

- Delhi is ranked 104th on the List, Mumbai is at 106th, Hyderabad at 109 and Bengaluru at 110.

- According to IMD, a smart city is "an urban setting that applies technology to enhance the benefits and mitigate the drawbacks of urbanisation for its citizens."

In simpler terms, it's a city that uses digital innovation, data, and sustainable planning to improve everyday life—be it safer streets, cleaner energy, faster transport or more transparent governance

The Ambani family is India's most valuable family business

- According to the 2025 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Business List, the Ambani family remained India's most valuable family business for the second consecutive year. The family's empire is valued at ₹28.2 lakh crore.

- It is followed by the Kumar Mangalam Birla family with a net worth of ₹6.5 lakh crores, while the Jindal family entered the top three at ₹5.7 lakh crore.

- In the first-generation category, the Adani family dominated with a massive ₹14 lakh crore, followed by the Poonawalla family of Serum Institute of India at ₹2.3 lakh crore.

EVENTS

First-ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival in New Delhi

- The first-ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival was held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

- Artists from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand performed at the musical evening.

- Organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the festival called 'SaptaSur: Seven Nations, One Melody', witnessed the celebration of the distinct musical traditions of the seven BIMSTEC countries.

India hosts WHO - IRCH Workshop on Herbal Medicine Safety and Regulations

- India hosted the prestigious WHO–International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH) Workshop from 6–8 August 2025 in Ghaziabad.

- The Ministry of Ayush organised the workshop in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and supported by the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)

- The three-day international workshop brought together global experts and regulators to strengthen capacity in the regulation of herbal medicines.

PM Modi inaugurates Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bharat Ratna Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference at Pusa in New Delhi.

- The event was held in collaboration with the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

- The theme of the conference was 'Evergreen Revolution – The Path to Bio-Happiness'.

Second edition of SheLeads

- The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annpurna Devi, inaugurated the second edition of UN Women's flagship capacity-building programme — SheLeads II: Workshop for Women Leaders, in New Delhi.

- The event brought together grassroots women leaders, elected representatives and administrators from across India to foster dialogue, build political leadership skills and amplify women's participation in governance.

- It was organised by the UN Women India Country Office.

News in Short

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) convened the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) from 5-8 August in Awaza, Turkmenistan , at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, on the theme "Driving progress through partnerships".

AWARDS

71st National Film Awards

- The 71st National Film Awards for the year 2023 were announced. It saw 332 entries in the feature film category, 115 in non-feature films, 27 books and 16 critics' submissions.

- Best Actor in a Leading Role- Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan) and Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)

- Best Actress in a Leading Role- Rani Mukerji (Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway)

- Best Actor in a Supporting Role- Veteran actor

Vijayaraghavan for Pookkaalam (Malayalam) and Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar for Parking (Tamil)

- Best Actress in a Supporting Role- Urvashi for Ullozhukku (Malayalam) and Janki Bodiwala for Vash (Gujarati)
- Best Male Playback Singer- PVN S Rohit for Baby (Premisthunna) (Telugu)
- Best Female Playback Singer- Shilpa Rao for Jawan (Chaliya) (Hindi)
- Best Cinematography - Prasantanu Mohapatra for the Kerala Story (Hindi)
- Best Feature Film- 12th Fail (Hindi)
- Best Debut Film of a Director- Aatmapamphlet (Marathi)
- Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment- Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani (Hindi)
- Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values- Sam Bahadur (Hindi)
- Best Children's Film- Naal 2 (Marathi)
- Best Film in AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comic)- Hanu-Man (Telugu)
- Best Direction- The Kerala Story (Hindi)
- Best Non-Feature Film- Flowering Man
- Best Documentary- God Vulture and Human
- Best Assamese Film- Rongatapu 1982
- Best Bengali Film- Deep Fridge
- Best Gujarati Film- Vash
- Best Hindi Film-Kathal: A Jackfruit Mystery
- Best Kannada Film- Kandeelu - The Ray of Hope
- Best Malayalam Film -Ullozhukku (Undercurrent)
- Best Marathi Film- Shyamchi Aai
- Best Odia Film- Pushkara
- Best Punjabi Film- Godday Godday Chaa
- Best Tamil Film- Parking
- Best Telugu Film- Bhagavanth Kesari (I Don't Care)
- Best Garo Film- Rimdogittanga
- Best Tai Phake Film- Pai Tang

PM Modi launches global M.S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace, honours Nigerian

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi instituted a global award in memory of the father of India's Green Revolution, Professor M S Swaminathan, to recognise the contributions of scientists from the developing world who have worked towards "Food and Peace."
- Prof Swaminathan passed away on 23 September 2023, at the age of 98. He was conferred the Bharat Ratna, country's highest civilian award, posthumously, in 2024.
- The first M. S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace was given to Nigerian scientist Prof Ademola A Adenle for his efforts in combating hunger in Nigeria.

Operation Sindoor: Gallantry awards announced for Armed Forces heroes

- President Droupadi Murmu approved a slew of wartime honours, including 127 gallantry medals on the eve of the 79th Independence Day.
- The awards list was announced by the defence ministry.
- It includes 127 gallantry medals and 40 distinguished service decorations: four Kirti Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras, 16 Shaurya Chakras, two Bars to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 58 Sena Medals (Gallantry), six Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), 26 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), seven Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medals, nine Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and 24 Yudh Seva Medals.

Equator Prize 2025

- The Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group (SHG) from Teertha village in Karnataka's Dharwad district won the prestigious Equator Initiative Award 2025. The award celebrates their pioneering work in eco-friendly farming, community seed banking, millet promotion and women-led rural entrepreneurship.
- The award is often referred to as the "Nobel Prize for Biodiversity Conservation".

Indian film festival of Melbourne 2025

- "Homebound" won the best picture and best director award for Neeraj Ghaywan at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2025.
- Abhishek Bachchan was named Best Actor for his role in Shoojit Sircar's "I Want to Talk",
- Geeta Kailasam won the Best Actress Award for Tamil movie "Angammal". The film also won Best Indie Film.
- Aamir Khan won Excellence in Cinema and served as the chief guest of the festival

SPORTS NEWS

Real Madrid named world's most valuable football club in 2025

- Real Madrid has been ranked as the most valuable football club in the world, with a brand value of €1.921 billion and an exceptional strength score of 94.9 out of 100.

- This represents a 14% increase compared to last year, solidifying the club's dominance both on and off the pitch.

- The report credits Real Madrid's growth to record-breaking revenues achieved in back-to-back seasons, alongside their ability to maintain a consistently high brand profile in international markets.

India's first FIFA girls' academy in Hyderabad

- A memorandum of understanding was signed between All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Telangana government at the first Telangana Sports Conclave in Hyderabad to establish India's first FIFA residential academy for girls.

- It will start with 30 players in Hyderabad. Under a head coach chosen by FIFA, the academy project at Gachibowli Stadium Complex will also have 30 boys. The boys' cohort will be under-14 and the girls' under-16.

- The project's cost will be around ₹7.23 crore annually. FIFA will pay around ₹65 lakh, which will comprise the head coach's salary and living cost. AIFF will pay for the rest of the support staff, around 10 in all, for the boys' and girls' academies, and it will cost around ₹61 lakh per year.

Zurich Diamond League

- Germany's Julian Weber dominated the competition with a personal best and world-leading throw of 91.51 metres in his second attempt, securing the gold medal.

- World and Olympic javelin champion Neeraj Chopra secured second place at the Diamond League Final in Zurich, Switzerland. This was his 26th consecutive top-two finish in international javelin events.

- Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago, the 2012 Olympic champion, finished third with 84.95 metres.

German Grandmaster Vincent Keymer wins Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025

- In Chess, German Grandmaster Vincent Keymer has won the Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025 with one round to spare, becoming the first sole champion in the event's history.

- He secured the title after drawing with Dutch Grandmaster Jorden van Forees. His performance also pushed him into the world's Top 10 in live ratings for the first time.

World Championship of Legends 2025

- South Africa won the World Championship of Legends 2025 by defeating Pakistan

- WCL 2025 has established itself as one of the most-watched cricket leagues worldwide, recording a staggering 409 million viewers globally, a 20 per cent increase compared to the previous season.

Archery Association of India launches first-ever Archery League

- The Archery Association of India (AAI) announced the first-of-its-kind Archery League, which will see men and women recurve and compound archers from across the world competing in a franchise-styled tournament.

- The inaugural edition of the league is expected to take place over 11 days in October this year at the Yamuna Sports Complex in Delhi.

- The event has received encouragement from World Archery, World Archery Asia and the Sports Ministry.

India's Annu Rani Wins Gold at International Wiesław Maniak Memorial

- In athletics, India's Annu Rani has won a gold medal in the women's javelin throw at the International Wiesław Maniak Memorial in Poland with a season-best effort of 62.59 metre.

- Turkey's Eda Tugsuz won silver with a 58.36m throw, while Australia's Lianna Davidson took bronze with 58.24m.

Khelo India Water Sports Festival

- The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council under the supervision of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) organised the first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 in Dal Lake, Srinagar.

- The mascot of the games was a Himalayan Kingfisher. The Himalayan Kingfisher embodies the spirit of adventure, nature and competition in the Games. With its bold orange and blue, it represents energy,

tranquillity and the beauty of Kashmir. More than a symbol, it is the festival's ambassador, promoting eco-friendly sports, tourism and youth engagement nationwide.

- The KIWSF featured rowing, canoeing and kayaking as medal events. The demonstration events will be water skiing, shikara race and dragon boat race. More than 400 athletes from 36 states and Union Territories are expected in Srinagar for the event.

- Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Kerala emerged as the top three states in the Khelo India Water Sports Festival.

Asian Shooting Championships 2025

- India achieved a historic milestone at the 16th Asian Shooting Championship in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, securing 50 gold medals to lead the medal tally for the first time in the championship's history.

- India's total medal count reached 99, including 26 silver and 23 bronze medals. Host nation Kazakhstan finished second, while China finished third in the medals tally.

- Ankur Mittal clinched gold in the men's double trap event by producing a world record-shattering performance.

- Neeru Dhanda secured India's first-ever Asian championship gold in women's trap. Sift Kaur Samra claimed her first Asian title in women's 50 metre rifle 3-position, while Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar successfully defended his 50 metre rifle 3-position title.

- Manu Bhaker won three bronze medals, with one of them coming in an individual event – the women's 10m air pistol.

- The Indian senior shooting squad for the Asian competition comprised 35 members competing for medals in 15 events.

- India's double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker won the bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol competition of the Asian Shooting Championship. China's Qianke Ma claimed the gold medal.

News in Short

- India has officially entered the race to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, with Ahmedabad confirmed as the proposed host city.

- Minerva Academy FC made India proud by clinching the U-14 Norway Cup, defeating Norwegian side SIF 14-1 in a dominant final.

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced Khalid Jamil's appointment as the new head coach of the Indian men's football team. He became the first Indian in over a decade to take charge of the senior side.

- Cheteshwar Pujara, India's resolute No. 3 Test batsman, retired from all forms of cricket. He made his Test debut in 2010 against Australia. He played 103 Test matches and scored 7,195 runs, including 19 centuries (100s).

- Mohamed Salah made history by becoming the first male player to win the PFA Players' Player of the Year award three times, securing the award in 2018, 2022 and 2025. His most recent win came after an exceptional 2024–2025 season where he guided Liverpool to the Premier League title, scoring 29 goals and providing 18 assists.

- Goa will host FIDE World Cup 2025 from 30 October to 27 November, featuring 206 players, $2 million prize pool and qualifiers for 2026 Candidates Tournament.

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled the Hockey Men's Asia Cup 2025 Trophy. The tournament will be held from 29 August to 7 September at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar.

- NorthEast United (NEUFC) won the 134th Durand Cup, becoming the fourth team in the 137-year history of the tournament after Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Border Security Force.

- In boxing, India's campaign at the Asian Under-19 and Under-22 Boxing Championships 2025 ended with win a total of 27 medals across both age group. The U19 team performed strongly, finishing second overall with 14 medals, including 3 gold, 7 silver and 4 bronze. While the U22 team secured 13 medals, including 1 gold, 4 silver and 8 bronze. Ritika won the gold in this category by defeating Kazakhstan's Assel Toktassyn in the 80+kg final.

- Carlos Alcaraz won his maiden ATP Cincinnati Open title after world number 1 Jannik Sinner retired due to illness in the first set of the men's singles final.

- The Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025 will be organised from 20 to 23 August 2025 at the Maharana Pratap Sports College, in Raipur, Dehradun. India will host this event for the first time.

- Indian wushu athlete Namrata Batra won a historic silver medal at the World Games 2025 in the women's sanda 52kg event in Chengdu, People's Republic of China.

- Australian batting stalwart David Warner overtakes India's Virat Kohli to become the fifth-highest run-scorer in T20 cricket history. The milestone was achieved during Warner's impressive outing for London Spirit in their match against Manchester Originals in the ongoing season of The Hundred in England.

- Magnus Carlsen won the chess event at the Esports World Cup at Riyadh after defeating Alireza Firouzja in the final.