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National

IN-SPACE Releases Guidelines for Space Object Re-entry

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (**IN-SPACE**) introduced new guidelines, “Norms, Guidelines and Procedures for Implementation of **Indian Space Policy-2023** in respect of Authorisation for Undertaking Planned Re-entry of Space Objects”, to regulate planned spacecraft re-entry by private space entities and ensure safety, liability, and accountability.

- The guidelines were issued on 23 July 2026, made public on 29 July 2026, and released under the Indian Space Policy 2023 framework.

About New Re-entry Guidelines:

Authorisation: Indian entities require **IN-SPACE approval** for planned re-entry, while foreign entities must apply through an Indian incorporated entity. Companies must maintain casualty risk below 1 in 10,000 with required trajectory and risk assessments.

Reporting: Companies must conduct re-entry at their own risk, obtain third-party liability insurance (if required), and declare planned re-entry during authorisation or seek approval six months before execution if decided after launch.

Significance: The guidelines strengthen space safety, debris management and accountability while supporting India’s private space sector growth.

About IN-SPACE: IN-SPACE, established in 2020 under the Department of Space (DoS), promotes and authorises private space activities. Headquarters: Bopal, Ahmedabad, Gujarat; Chairperson: Dr. Pawan Kumar Goenka.

Cabinet Approves Rs 84,084 crore ‘Samudra Manthan’ Scheme to boost Offshore oil and Gas Exploration

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi**, approved **Rs 84,084 crore ‘Samudra Manthan’**-National Offshore Exploration (NOE) scheme, aimed to boost offshore oil and gas exploration, strengthen India’s energy security, reduce India’s dependence on imported energy, and promote technological innovation in the upstream energy sector.

- As per the Government of India (GoI), the newly approved scheme will be implemented through Financial Year 2030-31 (**FY31**).

About	Samudra	Manthan	Scheme:
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Type of Scheme: It is a Central Sector Scheme (**CSS**) (100% funding by the central government) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (**MoPNG**).

Key Targets: Based on the exploration success, the scheme aims to increase India’s annual domestic oil and gas production from nearly 62 MMTOE **to 80 MMTOE**, and further aims to expand the country’s hydrocarbon resource base from existing 1,600 MMTOE **to 2,200 MMTOE**.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi’s to visit AP and Karnataka on 1 August, 2026

Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** undertook a day-long visit to Andhra Pradesh (**AP**) and **Karnataka** on **August 1 2026**, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for a series of infrastructure, connectivity, energy and technology projects aimed at boosting regional development and economic growth.

Highlights of the Visit:

Visit to AP: During his visit to AP, PM Modi inaugurated, dedicated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects worth **over Rs 17,900 crore**, covering sectors like: aviation, semiconductors, Renewable Energy (RE), power transmission, road infrastructure, and youth development.

- PM Modi inaugurated the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district, AP, developed at a cost of **over Rs 5,640 crore** by GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL).
- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Rs 2,500 crore ASIP (ASIP Technologies Pvt. Ltd.) Semiconductor Project at Tarluvada, Visakhapatnam; National Highway (NH) projects worth over Rs 1,880 crore including sections of NH-365BG, NH-67 and NH-565; and the Transmission System for Integration of Kurnool-IV Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) – Phase I (4.5 GW).

Visit to Karnataka: During his visit to Karnataka, he inaugurated the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Youth Centre or Viveka Smaraka in Mysuru, Karnataka, commemorating Swami Vivekananda's historic visit to Mysuru in November 1892 during his journey across India.

Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh Designated as India's 101st Ramsar Site

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**) officially designated **Glaw Lake** in the Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh (**AR**) as India's **101st Ramsar Site**, recognizing it as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar List) under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 1971.

- With this designation, AR received its **first Ramsar Site**.

About Glaw Lake, Arunachal Pradesh:

Location: Glaw Lake is a pristine freshwater lake in the Eastern Himalayas, situated within the Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Ecology: Glaw Lake is fed by perennial mountain streams and surrounded by lush vegetation, supporting a rich diversity of flora and contributing to the region's unique biodiversity.

Biodiversity Hotspot: The wetland and its catchment area host over **150 tree** species and **49 orchid** species, highlighting the ecological significance and rich biodiversity of the surrounding landscape.

DoP Releases Commemorative Postage Stamp to Mark Birth Centenary of Padma Vibhushan Satish Gujral

The Department of Posts (**DoP**) or India Post, under the Ministry of Communications, released a **Rs.5 commemorative postage stamp** marking the **birth centenary** (100th) of Padma Vibhushan **Satish Gujral** at Bikaner House, New Delhi, Delhi.

- The stamp was unveiled by **Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, Ministry of Communications, to honour his outstanding contribution to Indian art, architecture and culture.

About Commemorative Postage Stamp:

Design: The commemorative postage stamp was designed by **Anuj Kumar** based on a proposal by Raseel Gujral Ansal.

Artwork: It features Satish Gujral's 2010 acrylic self-portrait with a black-and-white photo-

realistic finish set against a vibrant purple-and-blue background.

About Satish Gujral: He was one of India's foremost multidisciplinary artists, internationally recognised for his contributions as a painter, sculptor, architect, muralist, and writer over a career spanning more than seven decades.

He was honoured with the **Padma Vibhushan**, India's second-highest civilian award, in 1999 in the field of Arts.

Prashant Agrawal's Book "Bringing the Cheetah Back to India" Released

The book titled "Bringing the Cheetah Back to India: How Diplomacy Made Conservation's Big Mission Possible", authored by **Prashant Agrawal**, an Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer of the 1998 batch (Madhya Pradesh(MP) cadre), was released.

- Published by **Hachette India**, the book chronicles the journey of India's ambitious initiative for the reintroduction and conservation of cheetahs.

About the Book:

Insights: The book chronicles the intricate diplomatic, logistical, and ecological efforts behind translocating African cheetahs (**Acinonyx jubatus**) from Namibia and South Africa to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh(MP).

Overview: The book highlights the importance of diplomacy and international cooperation in conservation initiatives while providing insights into the behind-the-scenes negotiations, logistics, and policy efforts involved in Project Cheetah.

Project Cheetah: Launched to reintroduce cheetahs to India after the species was declared extinct in 1952, the project saw the first batch of eight cheetahs from Namibia translocated into Kuno National Park on 17 September 2022.

IIT Hyderabad and Crimson Energy Launch India's First Nuclear Training Programme 'ANUGYAN'

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT Hyderabad), Telangana, in collaboration with Crimson Energy Experts India Private Limited (CEEPL), launched 'ANUGYAN' – Nuclear Technology Orientation Programme (NTOP), India's first industry-academia programme in nuclear technology.

About ANUGYAN Nuclear Training Programme:

Objective: The **three-month** residential programme aims to bridge the talent gap by developing skilled nuclear professionals to support India's goal of expanding its nuclear power capacity from around 8.8 GW (Giga Watt) to **100 GW by 2047**.

Eligibility: The programme is open to engineering graduates, working professionals, Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) executives, Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractors, and industrial equipment manufacturers.

Curriculum: The programme covers key areas of nuclear engineering, including reactor physics, thermal hydraulics, radiation shielding, Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), engineering design, nuclear safety, quality assurance, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) regulatory compliance, and simulator-based training.

Industry Integration: The programme combines academic learning with industry exposure, expert guidance from Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) institutions, and training aligned with Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) regulations for future nuclear energy projects.

Jupiter Wagons and Lucchini RS Partners to Build Railwheel Manufacturing Platform in India

Jupiter Wagons Limited (JWL) partnered with Italy's Lucchini RS Holding S.p.A. and SIMEST (Italian Society for Enterprises Abroad) S.p.A. to establish **India's first** fully integrated private-sector **railwheel manufacturing platform** through Jupiter Tatravagonka Railwheel Factory Private Limited (JTRWF).

Highlights of the Partnership:

Investment: Lucchini RS (15%) and SIMEST (10%) will acquire a combined 25% stake in JTRWF worth EUR 28 million (Rs. 307 crore)

Platform: The partnership will establish a fully integrated railwheel platform covering raw material processing, forging, metallurgy, wheel manufacturing and final assembly, combining JTRWF's Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar facility with the upcoming Odisha greenfield plant.

Technology: Lucchini RS will provide railwheel technology, engineering expertise and industrial support for technology transfer, product development and market expansion.

- The project is supported by the Government of Italy under the Sistema Italia framework, with SIMEST as investor and CDP providing financial and advisory support.

About JWL: JWL, established in 1979, is a railway manufacturing company headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB)

Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth Becomes IAF's First Woman Fighter Combat Leader

Squadron Leader **Bhawana Kanth** became the **first woman fighter pilot** of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to successfully complete the prestigious Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course at the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE), Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh (MP).

- The achievement makes her the first woman graduate of the IAF's elite "**Top Gun**" school, where only about **1% of IAF pilots** are selected for the **20-week** advanced combat programme.

About Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth:

Background: An engineering graduate from Darbhanga, Bihar, she was commissioned into the IAF in June 2016 as one of India's first three women fighter pilots alongside Mohana Singh and Avani Chaturvedi.

Career: She initially flew the MiG-21 Bison before transitioning to the Sukhoi Su-30 MKI, becoming the first woman fighter pilot qualified for daytime combat missions in 2019, the first to participate in the Republic Day parade in 2021 and flew in the Republic Day flypast in 2024.

Qualification: FCL qualification is awarded after completing the TACDE's 20-week advanced combat course, enabling pilots to lead complex air combat operations and tactical missions.

About Indian Air Force (IAF): The IAF, established on 8 October 1932 and headquartered in New Delhi (Delhi), is the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces. Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh serves as the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS).

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates 'Param Pragya' AI-powered Supercomputing Facility At IIT Delhi

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi**, the Chief Guest at the 57th convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D), inaugurated '**Param Pragya**,' an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled high-performance supercomputing facility at the institute's Sonipat campus, Haryana.

- The facility is expected to strengthen IIT Delhi's capabilities in Artificial Intelligence (AI), data science, advanced computing, and interdisciplinary research

Highlight of the Event:

Presented Honors: During the event, PM Narendra Modi presented the President's Gold Medal, Shankar Dayal Sharma Gold Medal, Director's Gold Medal and Perfect Ten Gold Medals to graduating students for outstanding academic excellence.

Felicitation : PM Modi and Union Minister Prahlad Joshi, Ministry of Education (MoE), were felicitated at the ceremony by Harish Salve, chairperson of the Board of Governors (BoG) for IIT-D and Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director of IIT-D.

- During the event, CSIR-NBRI transferred its Design and Development of a Low-Cost Photobioreactor technology to Lucknow (UP)-based Witwake Solutions Pvt. Ltd., bolstering the link between scientific research and industrial applications.

10 Years of GeM: Union Minister Piyush Goyal Awards Top buyers and Sellers on GeM platform in New Delhi, Delhi

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) awarded top buyers from various central ministries and departments and state government departments, and leading sellers for their exemplary contribution to strengthening the public procurement ecosystem on the occasion of **10th** foundation day celebration of Government e Marketplace (**GeM**), organised at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

- While addressing the event, Union Minister Goyal emphasized for a more user-friendly and Artificial Intelligence(AI)-enabled GeM with the objective of making public procurement more efficient, transparent, cost-effective and competitive as the platform entered its second decade.

Key Highlights:

Key Launches: The event witnessed the launch of key initiatives to boost GeM:

- **Helpdesk Number:** GeM launched a nationwide five-digit short code, 14550, for its helpdesk services. The new number is virtually mapped to GeM's existing helpdesk infrastructure and is aimed to provide buyers, sellers and other stakeholders an easier access support and identify official communication.
- **A customised 'My Stamp':** The newly launched commemorative stamp highlights the platform's contribution to digital governance, Ease of Doing Business (EoD) and the promotion of Indian enterprises in public procurement.

Film on GeM 10 year's journey: The foundation day programme also featured the screening of a film documenting the 10-year-long journey of GeM journey and its transformation and growing impact across the country.

Adani Airport City, Step Down Subsidiary of AEL Incorporates AACL Global IFSC
Adani Airport City Limited (**AACL**), a step down wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), incorporated **AACL Global IFSC Limited** as a new wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Airport Holdings Limited (**AAHL**).

- The new entity was originally incorporated on July 15 2026, while Adanu Airport City received the certification of incorporation on August 5 2026.

Key Details:

Regulated by: The newly incorporated AAHL Global IFSC Limited will operate as a Global Treasury Centre under the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) (Finance Company) Regulations, 2021.

Key Mandate: The new entity is authorised to undertake treasury and finance-related activities that are permitted under the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) regulations.

Paid-up Capital: The new entity was incorporated with a paid-up capital of **Rs 5 lakh**, comprising 50,000 equity shares with a face value of Rs 10 each.

About AAHL: Incorporated in August 2019, AAHL is India's largest private airport operator under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

President Murmu Gives Assent To Bill Criminalising Insult To Vande Mataram

The President of India Droupadi Murmu gave assent to a Bill that criminalises intentional disruption or prevention of the singing of the national song 'Vande Mataram', granting the National Song the same legal protection as the national anthem.

Key Amendments

Act amended: The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 amends **Section 3** of the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**.

Protection provided: It extends the same legal protection to the National Song, Vande Mataram that is currently afforded to the **National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana**.

PM Narendra Modi Releases "Triumph of the Indian Republic", Autobiography of Ram Nath Kovind

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** released the **autobiography** of former President **Ram Nath Kovind**, titled "Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles," at Vigyan Bhavan, in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The book highlights his life experiences and encourages youth to avoid the shortcut culture influenced by social media.

About Autobiography:

Publisher: The book was published by **Rupa Publications**.

Insights: The book chronicles Kovind's life journey, public service, political career and experiences as the 14th President of India (2017–2022).

Features: The autobiography traces Ram Nath Kovind's life journey, highlighting his struggles, education, legal career, public service and presidency, while inspiring youth to value perseverance, education, democratic ideals and service to the nation.

India Celebrates 80th Independence Day on 15th August 2026: Marking 150 Years of Vande Mataram & Yuva Shakti

The Government of India (**GoI**) celebrated the **80th Independence Day** (I-Day) at the Red Fort in New Delhi (Delhi). Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** addressed the nation and delivered his **13th** consecutive I-Day speech, becoming the 2nd Indian PM after Pandit (Pt.) Jawahar Lal Nehru, who delivered 17 I-Day addresses in a row.

- This year India's Independence Day celebrations featured dual themes which included commemoration of the **150 years** of the national song "**Vande Mataram**" and '**Yuva Shakti-Leading the Journey to Viksit Bharat@ 2047**'.

Highlights of 80th I-D Day of India:

Coordinating Service: Indian Army (IA) was the coordinating officer service for this year's national event.

Contingent of Guard of Honour: The Guard of Honour contingent for PM comprised one officer and 24 defence personnel each from the Indian Army (IA), Indian Air Force (IAF), and Delhi Police.

- The Guard of Honour was commanded by Lieutenant (Lt.) Colonel Arjun Singh, while Major Aditya Sharma, commanded the IA contingent in PM's Guard of Honour.

Hoisting of National Flag: Captain Sonia Singh Chauhan, a commissioned officer of the Indian Army (IA) assisted PM Modi in hoisting the national flag, which was synchronized with a 21-gun salute from **1721 Field Battery** (Ceremonial) using indigenous **105 millimeter (mm) Light Field Guns**.

- After the flag unfurling, **two IAF Mi-17 helicopters**, carrying the national flag and "Vande Mataram", showered flower petals at the venue.

1st-time 'Vande Mataram' Sung at Red Fort: For the 1st time in 8 decades of India's history of Independence Day celebrations, the national song Vande Mataram was played at the Red Fort by the Army band, consisting of one JCO and 25 other ranks and was sung by the guests present at the event.

Awards:

- **Gallantry and Service Medals:** On the occasion of Independence Day 2026, a total of **1,057 personnel** from Police, Fire, Home Guard & Civil Defence, and Correctional Services were awarded Gallantry and Service Medals, including 301 Medals of Gallantry (GMs), 92 President's Medals for Distinguished Service and 664 Medals for Meritorious Service.
- **Military Gallantry Awards:** On the occasion of Independence Day, President of India Droupadi Murmu approved **78 Gallantry Awards**, including 13 posthumous honours, to the Armed Forces and CAPFs personnel.

L&T to Set Up India's Largest Nvidia B300 AI Factory in Chennai for Together AI

Larsen & Toubro (L&T), through its Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure arm LTN Compute and data centre business **Vyoma.AI**, secured a **Rs 10,000–15,000 crore** order to build India's largest single-cluster NVIDIA B300 AI factory at its Chennai data centre campus, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), for United States of America (USA)-based Together AI (Together Computer, Inc.)

- The facility will deploy 10,000 NVIDIA B300 Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) to power large-scale Artificial Intelligence (AI) workloads including training, inference, and fine-tuning on Together AI's cloud platform.

About NVIDIA B300 AI Factory Project:

Infrastructure: The project integrates hyperscale data centres, advanced computing, high-

performance networking, ultra-low-latency interconnects, and parallel storage, and will be hosted at Vyoma.AI's Chennai gigawatt-scale campus designed for future expansion.

Scale: Phase 1 is planned with 250 Megawatts (MW) capacity and 150 Mega Volt-Amperes (MVA) readiness, ensuring reliable and scalable energy for high-density AI operations.

Expansion: The facility will enable efficient, cost-effective model deployment on Together AI's platform while expanding Vyoma.AI's offerings such as GPU-as-a-Service, sovereign cloud, and managed AI services, supporting India's ambition as a global AI infrastructure hub.

About Vyoma.AI: Founded in 2024 as L&T Cloudfiniti, it is the dedicated digital infrastructure and AI subsidiary of L&T, with Prashant Chiranjive Jain serving as its Managing Director (MD), and headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

NCLT Launched e-Inspection and e-Certified Copy Services To Enhance Access to Judicial Records

In August 2026, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) launched its electronic (**e-Inspection** and **e-Certified Copy Services**), to provide faster digital access to judicial records under the e-Courts (electronic court) 2.0 initiative in New Delhi, Delhi, improving transparency and efficiency.

- These new digital legal services were inaugurated virtually by **Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal**, President of the NCLT.

About the Services:

Services: The system enables online inspection of case records and digital issuance of certified copies through the NCLT e-Filing portal, allowing registered users to submit requests and access approved documents digitally, ensuring faster and more convenient access for stakeholders.

Digitalisation: The services are part of the NCLT's broader digital transformation programme, including a revamped website to strengthen digital infrastructure and enhance user experience.

Efficiency: A data-driven mechanism monitors pendency, enables workload redistribution and Special Benches, and incorporates improved case registration and listing guidelines, reducing delays, minimising physical visits, and ensuring a transparent, trackable system.

About NCLT: It is a quasi-judicial body in India, established on June 1 2016 under Section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013).

GoI Approves Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Domestic PNG Connections

The Government of India (**GoI**) approved the Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Domestic Piped Natural Gas (**PNG**) Connections, effective from **1 September 2026**, to accelerate the expansion of household PNG connections and promote access to clean, safe, and affordable cooking fuel across the country.

- It aims to encourage City Gas Distribution (**CGD**) companies to convert unbilled PNG connections into active connections and expand PNG networks to new areas.
- Currently, India has **1.74 crore** domestic PNG connections.

Scheme Framework:

Incentive Mechanism: Eligible CGD entities will receive an additional allocation of **200** Standard Cubic Metres (**SCM**) of lower-priced domestically produced Administered Pricing Mechanism (**APM**) gas for every incremental billed domestic PNG connection.

Implementation: The incentive will be provided above the threshold level set for each

Geographical Area (GA) and will be implemented in two tranches over a six-month period.

MoCI Data: India's Total Exports Increased 13.31% to USD 80.14 Bn in July 2026

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) released the official data related to India's trade for the month of July 2026 and for April-July 2026-27. As per the data, India's overall exports (including both merchandise and services) have increased from USD 70.72 billion (in July 2025) to USD 80.14 billion in July 2026, marking a 13.31% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) increase.

- The data further showed that India's overall imports increased by 15.83% to USD 95.16 billion (in July 2026) from USD 82.16 billion in July 2025.

Key Findings:

Trade Deficit: As per the MoCI's latest data, the total trade deficit of India stood at USD 15.03 billion in July 2026, which is higher than USD 11.43 billion registered in the same month of last year.

Merchandise Exports & Imports: The data showed that India's merchandise exports increased by 19.63%, from USD 36.98 billion (in July 2025) to USD 44.24 billion (in July 2026), surpassing the previous record of USD 38.34 billion in July 2022.

- Also, during the same time period, India's merchandise imports registered 17.52% Y-o-Y growth rate i.e. from USD 64.86 billion (in July 2025) to USD 76.22 billion (in July 2026).

Services Exports and Imports: The data estimated India's services exports at USD 35.89 billion in July 2026, compared with USD 33.74 billion registered last year, while services imports pegged at USD 18.94 billion over USD 17.30 billion a year earlier.

Sector-wise Growth: Iron ore exports (78.35%), petroleum products (+67.64% to USD 6.92 billion), electronic goods (+57.40% to USD 5.92 billion), meat, dairy and poultry products (40.84%), cashew (25.11%) and marine products (17.83%).

NSO Releases PLFS Monthly Bulletin July 2026: Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.1%

The National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the Monthly Bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for July 2026, reporting that India's unemployment rate (UR) declined to 5.1% from 5.5% in June 2026, marking the 16th bulletin in the series (April 2025–July 2026).

Key Findings:

Indicators: The bulletin provides estimates of key labour market indicators: Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and Unemployment Rate (UR) based on the Current Weekly Status (CWS) approach.

UR: UR in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above in rural areas stood at 4.5% and was 6.7% in urban areas in July, 2026.

LFPR: The LFPR for persons of age 15 years and above in the country stood at 55.4% in July 2026, from 54.4% in June 2026.

WPR: In July 2026, the WPR in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above at the all-India level was 52.5%, from 51.4% in June 2026.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Flags Off All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek 'Aparajita – Parang La 2026'

Union Minister, **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) flagged off the All India Girls High

Altitude Long Trek ‘**Aparajita – Parang La 2026**’, a flagship adventure activity of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The flag-off ceremony was attended by Lieutenant **General Virendra Vats**, Director General, NCC, along with senior officials from the NCC and MoD.

Highlights of the Expedition:

Expedition: The 250-km (over 30 days) expedition will traverse the Parang La Pass (**5,578 metres, m / 18,300 feet**), connecting the Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh (HP) with the Changthang region of Ladakh, and aims to promote women empowerment, leadership, endurance, self-confidence and national integration among young cadets.

Route: It covers Himalayan terrain through Kibber, Dumla, Thaltak, Bongrojen, Parang La Pass, Dak Karzong, Norbu Sumdo, Kiangdom and Korzok, crossing deserts, glaciers, snowfields and river valleys.

Team Details: The expedition, led by three women officers from the three services, comprises 28 NCC girl cadets with an average age of 19 years (youngest aged 16.5 years), supported by officers, medical staff, and instructors.

Women Empowerment: The expedition highlights Nari Shakti and reflects the spirit of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” through diverse participation

ICRA Projects India's GDP Growth at 7% in April–June Quarter of FY27

ICRA Limited, credit rating agency in India, estimated India's real Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) growth at **7%** for the April–June quarter of FY27 (**Q1 FY27**), marking a four-quarter low compared with 7.8% growth in Q4 FY26, due to slower expansion in the services sector.

Key Highlights of Sector-wise Economic Outlook:

Sector-wise Growth Estimate: ICRA projected industrial sector growth at 7.7%, agriculture, forestry and fishing growth at 4%, and services sector growth at 7.9% in Q1 FY27.

GVA: ICRA expects services Gross Value Added (**GVA**) growth to moderate to 7.9% in Q1 FY27 from 9.9% in the previous quarter.

FY27 Growth Forecast: ICRA retained India's FY27 GDP growth forecast at 6.7%, lower than 7.7% in FY26, based on an average **crude oil** price assumption of **USD 80–85 per barrel**. Nominal GDP growth is expected to rise to around 13% in FY27 from 8.9% in FY26 due to higher inflation.

About ICRA: Established in 1991 and is a credit rating and research agency headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana, India. It is chaired by Palamadai Sundararajan Jayakumar.

President Droupadi Murmu Assent to Taxation & Payment and Settlement Systems (Amendment) Laws, 2026

The President of India (**PoI**) Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the **Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2026**, and another law to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems (**PSS**) Act of 2007, paving the way for changes in taxation rules and the framework governing charges on electronic payments.

- The amendments seek to attract foreign capital, promote domestic electronics manufacturing, facilitate the use of Indian data centres by foreign cloud companies and modify the legal framework governing charges on specified digital payment modes.

Taxation and Other Laws Act, 2026 Amendment

Replacement: The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Act replaces the Income-tax (IT) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, which had provided tax exemptions on interest income and capital gains earned by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from investments in government securities.

IT Exemption: The Bill exempts foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) from paying income tax on:

- Interest earned on investments in government securities, and
- Capital gains arising from sale, exchange or transfer of such securities.

RIL Collaborated with Rolls-Royce to Develop Indigenous Engine for India's AMCA Programme

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) entered into a strategic partnership with British luxury car company, **Rolls-Royce Limited** to design, develop and manufacture and deliver a sovereign indigenous combat engine for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.

Key Details of Collaboration:

Setting Up CoE in India: Under this new strategic partnership, both companies will explore setting up a dedicated **Aerospace Gas Turbine Complex** in India that will serve as Centre of Excellence (CoE) for power and propulsion technology.

Integration: The collaboration seeks to integrate Rolls-Royce's technology and expertise in advanced propulsion with RIL's industrial and manufacturing capabilities to support the joint development of AMCA engine in India.

About AMCA Programme: The programme aims to build India's 5th-generation stealth multi-role aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF). The aircraft will incorporate stealth, supercruise, advanced avionics, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted systems.

- The programme is managed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), an autonomous body which works under the Department of Defence Research and Development (DoDR&D), Ministry of Defence (MoD).

About RIL: Established in 1958 and headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, is India's largest private sector corporation and has operations spanning energy, petrochemicals, telecommunications, retail, among others and is led by Mukesh Ambani.

Himalayan Bloom names 'Impatiens nimsipurjae' to Honours Mountaineer Nirmal Purja

Himalayan plant species was named **Impatiens Nimsipurjai** to honour of legendary Nepali mountaineer **Nirmal "Nimsdai" Purja** for his outstanding contributions to mountaineering and high-altitude environmental conservation.

- The species was discovered in Myagdi district of Nepal by researchers **Bhakta Bahadur Raskoti** and **Rita Ale**.
- The species was formally described in a 57-page study published in the peer-reviewed journal **PLOS ONE** and was first encountered in western Myagdi district of Nepal in 2011.

About Impatiens Nimsipurjai:

Taxonomy: *Impatiens Nimsipurjai* belongs to the genus *Impatiens* of the **Balsaminaceae** family, a large group of flowering plants locally known as **Tiuri** in Nepal.

Habitat: The species grows on humid slopes and forest margins at an altitude of approximately **2,800m to 2,900m** (metres) above sea level

About Nirmal 'Nimsdai' Purja: He climbed **all 14 peaks** of the world's 8,000-metre peaks in 2019 in record time of 6 months and 6 days and was part of the first winter K2 ascent (2021).

Honours: Appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (**MBE**) by Queen Elizabeth II in **2018** and was recognised by the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) as a Mountain Advocate.

Overview of Japan's Defence Minister Shinjirō Koizumi's Visit to India from August 19-20, 2026

Shinjirō Koizumi, Defence Minister of Japan, undertook a two-day official visit to India from August 19 to 20, 2026, marking his first-ever visit to the country, aimed at strengthening defence ties and enhancing maritime security cooperation between the two nations.

Key Highlights of Visit:

Visit to Mumbai: Upon his arrival in Mumbai (Maharashtra), he inspected a Guard of Honour at the Western Naval Command (WNC) and laid a wreath at the Gaurav Stambh at the Naval Dockyard and visited the indigenous stealth destroyer Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Chennai**.

Visit to Delhi: Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi arrived in New Delhi, where he inspected the ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Manekshaw Centre in the presence of Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence (MoD) and also laid a wreath at the National War Memorial and paid homage to the soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice.

Defence Ministers Meeting (DMM): Later, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with his Japanese Koizumi, co-chaired the Japan-India Defence Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi.

Union Cabinet Approves Permanent Bench of J&K High Court in Ladakh

The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved the establishment of a **permanent bench** of the High Court (**HC**) of **Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh** in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh, aimed at improving access to justice for people in remote regions.

About J&K-Ladakh High Court Bench:

Structure: The HC of J&K and Ladakh is the common HC for the UT of J&K and Ladakh. It currently has two seats in Srinagar and Jammu, with the upcoming Ladakh bench becoming its **third** judicial location.

Benefits: Ladakh, a high-altitude UT with scattered settlements across Leh and Kargil districts, will benefit from the new bench as it reduces the need for litigants to travel to Jammu or Srinagar for court hearings.

Significance: The permanent bench will enhance ease of legal access for people of Ladakh. It will reduce pendency and improve case disposal efficiency in the region.

MYAS to Establish National Coach Accreditation Board to Standardise Coaching in India

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (**MYAS**) announced plans to establish a National Coach Accreditation Board (**NCAB**) to standardise coaching quality and enhance India's sports ecosystem, as recommended by a task force led by Pullela Gopichand.

- It was announced by Union Minister, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, MYAS, during the 63rd Governing Body Meeting of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) held in New Delhi, Delhi.

About National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB):

Role: The Board will function as the apex authority responsible for setting standards, approving pathways, accrediting institutions, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Proposed Composition: The NCAB is proposed to include the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), the Sports Secretary, a nationally eminent person with cross-ministerial influence, and an academic expert in pedagogy and education systems.

Other Initiative : Two-stage Talent Scouting System (TSS) to build a National Talent Repository (NTR), along with Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)-supported expansion of sports academies and athlete development.

About SAI: Established in 1984 under the MYAS, headquartered in New Delhi, with Hari Ranjan Rao as its Director General (DG).

PNGRB Approves 1,800 km LPG Pipeline Network with Rs. 7,000 Crore Investment

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) authorised the development of around **1,800 kilometres** (km) of new Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) pipeline infrastructure across 6 states, involving an estimated capital investment of around **Rs. 7,000 crore**, to strengthen India's energy infrastructure and LPG supply-chain resilience.

- The three LPG pipeline projects have been authorised for development by **GAIL (India) Limited**, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

Highlights of the LPG Pipeline Expansion:

Projects: The three approved LPG pipeline projects include the 556 km Cherlapally (Telangana)–Nagpur (Maharashtra) pipeline, the 611 km Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh-UP)–Sitarganj (Uttarakhand) pipeline, and the 633 km Shikrapur (Maharashtra)–Goa–Hubli (Karnataka) pipeline.

Network Growth: The projects will expand the PNGRB-approved common-carrier LPG pipeline network from around 7,700 km to nearly 9,500 km, marking an increase of about 23.5%.

Significance: The expanded network will improve LPG movement from coastal import terminals to inland markets, while reducing tanker movement, transportation costs, road congestion, and carbon emissions.

UPI Completes 10 Years of Digital Payment Revolution

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) launched by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), completed **10 years** of transforming digital payments and has emerged as the backbone of India's digital payments ecosystem.

About Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

Concept: It is an instant payment system, built over Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) infrastructure, allowing instant transfer of money between any two parties' bank accounts.

Share of UPI: The share of UPI in India's digital Payments is **84%** in Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26).

Growth: Annual transaction volume expanded from just 1.78 crore (Cr) transactions in Financial Year 2016-17 (FY17) to over **24,162 Cr** transactions in **FY26**, representing an almost 13,000-fold surge in transaction volume.

- At the same time, transaction value rose sharply from Rs 0.07 lakh Cr in FY17 to approximately **Rs 314 lakh Cr** in FY26, translating into a more than 4,000-fold increase in transaction value.

Arindam Chaudhuri Launched His New Book 'Africa Before America'

Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri, Management thinker, author and education entrepreneur, launched his new book **Africa Before America**, which explores historical perspectives on Africa's role and significance before the rise of modern America.

About Africa Before America:

Themes: The book explores themes related to African history, civilisations, global economic development, and historical perspectives.

Focus: It represents his vision of a developed and egalitarian global society, focusing on reducing global income inequalities, promoting economic growth and human development in Africa, and creating a more equal world order.

1.25:1 Egalitarian Concept: Based on his father Dr. Malay Chaudhuri's theory 'Production of Skills by Means of Skill' the concept proposes that eliminating systemic income inequality requires the highest-paid individual in an organisation to earn no more than 1.25 times the salary of the lowest-paid employee.

Notable Works: His notable works include The Great Indian Dream, Count Your Chickens Before They Hatch, Discover the Diamond in You, Beyond God & Capitalism (2019), What Marx Left Unsaid, and 2047: A Roadmap to Beating USA & China.

PPPAC Grants In-Principle Approval to Private Operation of 11 Airports Across Five Bundles

The Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (**PPPAC**), chaired by **Anuradha Thakur**, Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF), granted its in-principle approval for the 3rd round of privatisation of **11 airports** across **5 airport bundles**, during its August 2026 meeting.

Key Details:

Airports Covered Across 5 Bundles: The proposal includes 11 airports in 5 bundles: Amritsar (Punjab) and Kangra (Himachal Pradesh, HP); Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh, UP), Gaya (Bihar), and Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh); Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Hubballi (Karnataka); Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Aurangabad (Maharashtra); and Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu, TN) and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh, AP).

Investment: The total investment to be made by the private concessionaires taking over the operations of these airports is estimated at **Rs 8,622 crore**.

Concession Period: As per the proposal, these airports will be leased out under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for a concession period of 50 years.

- In addition, the concessionaire would be required to retain **60%** of Airport Authority of India (AAI) employees for a maximum period of **3 years**.

VP C. P. Radhakrishnan Releases Ghanshyam Tiwari's Book 'Sankalp Se Siddhi Ka Modi Yug'

Vice President (VP) of India **C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the book '**Sankalp Se Siddhi Ka Modi Yug**' authored by **Ghanshyam Tiwari**, Member of Parliament (MP), Rajya Sabha, at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi. The book was published by **Rupa Publications**.

- The author portrays Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** as ‘Setu Purush’, a bridge linking national thinkers’ visions with their implementation in contemporary India.

About the Book: Sankalp Se Siddhi Ka Modi Yug

Overview: The book presents India’s transformation journey over the last 12 years, highlighting administrative achievements, governance reforms, ideological renaissance, and the nation’s development vision of **Viksit Bharat @ 2047**

Theme: The book highlights key themes, including the Rashtra Pratham (Nation First) approach, Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manavvad), Antyodaya (upliftment of the last person), national integrity, social and economic justice, women-led development, a self-reliant Bharat, and transparent governance.

Ideology: The book connects contemporary governance with the ideas and ideals of prominent national thinkers, including Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, Veer Savarkar and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

AP Approves India’s First Dedicated Quantum and AI University Campus in Amaravati

N. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister (CM) of Andhra Pradesh (AP) approved the establishment of India’s first dedicated **Quantum** and Artificial Intelligence (AI) University Campus in **Amaravati, AP**.

About NIELIT Quantum & AI University Campus:

Institution: The campus will be developed by National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Funding: The campus will be developed on 8.5 acres with an investment of **Rs. 730.70 crore** over five years, fully funded through a Government of India (GoI) grant-in-aid from the MeitY.

Courses & Subjects: The university will offer Undergraduate (UG), Postgraduate (PG), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Diploma, and Executive programmes, with key focus areas including Quantum Computing, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI), and Semiconductor Fabrication.

Quantum Facility: The Amaravati Quantum Valley facility, built with German technology, is set for completion by **December 2026** and operations from **January 2027**, featuring the Quantum Research, Innovation & Incubation Block (QRIIB).

DoLA Notified the Establishment of Mediation Council of India with its Headquarters in New Delhi, Delhi

The Department of Legal Affairs (DoLA) which works under the Ministry of Law & Justice (MoLJ) notified the establishment of the “**Mediation Council of India (MCI)**” with its head office in New Delhi, Delhi, to promote domestic and international mediation and strengthen India’s dispute-resolution framework.

- The official notification was issued under sub-section (1) of Section 31 of the Mediation Act, 2023 (32 of 2023).

About Mediation Council of India:

Composition: The Council comprises a Chairperson, two Members, three ex-officio Members and one part-time Member representing a recognised body of commerce and industry.

Tenure: Non-ex-officio Members serve for four years and are eligible for reappointment, subject to an age limit of 70 years for the Chairperson and 67 years for other Members.

Functions: The Council will regulate mediation standards, mediator registration and certification,

recognise mediation institutes and service providers, and conduct training and courses.

Records: The Council will maintain an electronic depository of mediated settlement agreements and related records, while preparing and submitting reports on the implementation of the Mediation Act, 2023 to the Central Government.

About Mediation Act 2023: In 2023, the Parliament enacted the Mediation Act, 2023, which requires individuals to try and resolve civil or commercial disputes through mediation before any court or tribunal.

- The Act mandates the mediation process to be completed within 180 days (or, 6 months), with the possibility of extending it to another 180 days, if both parties agree.

International

Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List 2026: Roshni Nadar, Priya Nair, Avani Lekhara, Sudha Murty, Among Others Top Women Leaders

Candere, a luxury online jewellery brand by Kalyan Jewellers, in partnership with Hurun India, released the 2nd edition of 'Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List 2026', recognising **117** women achievers across **12** categories (up from 97 last year), spanning business, startups, sports, journalism, literature, fashion and social impact.

- Some of the prominent women leaders who topped in their respective categories include: **Roshni Nadar Malhotra (44)**, chairperson of HCL Technologies Limited, topped the Wealth Multipliers category with company's net valuation of **Rs 2,84,120 crore**; Priya Nair, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hindustan Unilever, topped the professional CEOs category with net valuation of Rs 5.07 lakh crore, among others.

Highlights:

Categories: This year, the number of categories has increased from **9 to 12**, including: wealth multipliers, professional CEOs, startup founders, authors, veterans, new economy, Indian fashion & lifestyle, social change makers, heartland founders, Olympic and Paralympic medallists, social media influencers and independent journalists.

Combined Net Worth: The 117 honourees together represent a total valuation of Rs.39 trillion or Rs 39 lakh crore.

Self-Made Women: Of the total number of women featured on this year's list, 98 are self-made, accounting for 84% of the list. Also, only 19 women inherited their businesses, outnumbering the inheritors by more than 5 to 1.

Average Age Range: The average age of women on the list is 48 years (compared to 51 years in previous edition) while age range spans from 19 year old para-archer **Sheetal Devi** (the youngest honouree) to 86 year old entrepreneur **Rajni Bector** (the oldest honouree).

Other Key Women Leaders: Some of the other prominent women leaders from across fields, including Kiran Mazumdar, founder of Biocon (Veterans and Wealth Multipliers category); Banu Mushtaq winner of 2025 International Booker Prize (Authors category); Falguni Nayar, founder and CEO of Nykaa (Wealth Multipliers category); Two-times Olympic Medallist PV Sindhu (Olympic and Paralympic category), among others.

Venezuela Withdraws from the Rome Statute, Ending ICC Membership

The Government of **Venezuela**, under Interim President Delcy Eloína Rodríguez Gómez, formally notified the United Nations (UN) of its withdrawal from the **Rome Statute**, initiating the process to end its membership in the International Criminal Court (ICC).

- Under **Article 127 of the Rome Statute**, the withdrawal will take effect one year after notification and will not affect the ICC's ongoing investigation into alleged crimes against humanity in Venezuela or any proceedings initiated before the withdrawal becomes effective.

About Venezuela's Withdrawal from the Rome Statute:

Background: Venezuela became a State Party to the Rome Statute in 2002, establishing the ICC with jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

Reactions: The UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (IIFFM) on Venezuela warned the withdrawal could weaken accountability and victims' access to justice, while Venezuela argued the ICC disproportionately targets Africa and Latin America and that its domestic courts can investigate independently.

48th Session of UNESCO WHC Held in Busan, South Korea : 25 New Sites, Including One from India Inscribed on the World Heritage List

The 48th session of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee (WHC) held under the chairmanship of **Lee Byong Hyun** (Republic of Korea) from July 19 to 29, 2026 at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center (BEXCO) in Busan, South Korea, has inscribed **25 new sites**, including **Ancient Buddhist site of Sarnath** (in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, UP) on its World Heritage Sites List.

- These newly added sites comprise 19 cultural, 5 natural, and 1 mixed site, bringing the total number of UNESCO-recognised World Heritage (WH) sites to **1,273** across 173 countries.

Highlights of 48th Session of UNESCO WHC :

1st-ever inscriptions: The session witnessed the 1st-ever WH inscriptions for 3 African nations: **Comoros and Sao Tome and Principe and South Sudan.**

Sites Included List on Emergency Basis: The Committee included 3 sites on emergency basis and these are: Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape (South Sudan); Mount Amel Castles (Lebanon); and Sebastia (State of Palestine).

Sites in WH Danger List: A total of 6 newly inscribed sites were also added to the list of WH in Danger, of which, 3 are also included on the emergency list.

- The remaining 3 sites on the Danger list are: Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) An Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora (Ukraine) and Tyre (Lebanon).
- In contrast, the committee removed the Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) from the list of World Heritage in Danger.
- **Key Declarations adopted:** Busan Declaration on World Heritage, aimed to protect vulnerable cultural and natural assets from damage, introducing “collaboration” as the new “sixth C” of the strategic objectives of its heritage framework, alongside the previous “Five Cs”: conservation, credibility, capacity-building, communication, and communities.
- And, the adoption of World Heritage Strategy for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) 2026-2034, a comprehensive roadmap backed by budgetary support of USD 13 million that aimed to identify, protect, and manage WH sites, and address the specific challenges faced by SIDs, particularly the impact of climate change.

Next Host: The 49th session of UNESCO WHC will be held from June 27 to July 7, 2027 in **Istanbul, Türkiye** under the presidency of Mustafa Yurdakul, its permanent delegate to UNESCO.

Environmental Performance Index 2026: Estonia Topped Ranking; India Ranked 176th

The **Yale University** released the latest edition of Environmental Performance Index (EPI 2026), in which **India** ranked **176th** out of 177 countries, making it the second-lowest ranked nation, with an overall score of **22.46**, below the regional average of 31.81.

- Overall India has improved its performance marginally by **+7.47 points** in the last 10 years.
- **Estonia** retained the top spot with an overall score of 74.79; followed by **Luxembourg** (74.24) and the United Kingdom (**UK**) (71.51), ranked at 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.

About EPI 2026:

Other Countries in Top 5: As per the index, all top 5 countries are from Europe region, including Estonia, Luxembourg the UK, Finland (ranks 4th); and the Netherlands (ranks 5th).
Bottom 5 Countries: Laos with an overall score of 21.78, ranked lowest in the index; followed by India; Bangladesh (ranks 175th, score of 23.46); Mali (ranks 174th, score of 23.56); and Viet Nam (ranks 173rd, score of 23.82).

India's Performance: India performed poorly in the environment health segment, particularly air quality (-0.15 points over the last decade) and biodiversity ranked 174th in both indicators.

- In contrast, India performed far better in Climate Change (130th, +13.98 points over the last 10 years) and Waste Management and Sanitation (141st in both)

Pacific Island Country of Nauru Renamed as Republic of Naoero

The Pacific Island country of **Nauru** officially changed its name to the **Republic of Naoero** to reflect its traditional identity, national language and cultural heritage.

- The name change also aims to strengthen national pride and preserve the indigenous heritage, language and identity of the island nation.

Highlights of Renaming:

Name Change: Following a constitutional amendment approved in May 2026, the country officially changed its name from “Nauru” to its traditional indigenous name, “Naoero.”

Transition Measures: As part of the renaming, the country code will change from NRU to NRO, and citizens will officially be known as dei-Naoero.

About Naoero: It is a Pacific island nation in Oceania, which gained independence in 1968, uses the Australian Dollar, and is led by President David Adeang.

- With a population of around 12,000, Naoero is the world's third-smallest country by population.

India Launches 1st-ever Guide to Grasslands and ONEs at UNCCD CoP17

The Government of India (GoI) launched its first-ever Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs) of India during a side event at the 17th Session of the Conference of

the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (**UNCCD**) held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

- The guide was launched under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**), to promote the conservation and sustainable management of India's grasslands and open natural ecosystems.
- Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, MoEFCC, virtually attended the event.

About India's 1st-ever Guide to Grasslands and ONE:

Aim: The guide is designed to bolster the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of India's open natural ecosystems and draw scientific attention to landscapes that have traditionally been neglected due to their limited tree cover.

Landscapes Covered: The new guide covers a wide range of ecosystems in India i.e. from Himalayan and Terai grasslands to the Thar and Banni landscapes, Deccan savannas, rocky plateaus, ravines, scrublands, coastal ecosystems and desert landscapes.

Thematic Sections: It features thematic sections which include pastoralism, fire ecology and carbon sequestration.

Qatar-India Postal Remittance Service Powered by UPI Operationalised in Doha

The Qatar-India Postal Remittance Service based on PosTransfer powered by Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was operationalised in **Doha**, Qatar, enabling faster, secure, and cost-effective cross-border remittance services between Qatar and India.

- The new remittance service between India and Qatar has been developed by Qatar Post in partnership with Department of Posts (DoP), Ministry of Communications, the Universal Postal Union's Interconnection Platform (UPU-IP), and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) (India).

About Qatar-India Remittance Service:

Transfer Process: Customers can initiate transfers at Qatar Post outlets by providing the recipient's UPI ID and required identification details. The recipient in India must activate the facility for receiving international inward remittances through their UPI application(app), after which funds are credited instantly to their UPI-linked bank account.

Transaction Limit: Under the new service, transactions can be initiated for amounts ranging from **QAR 10 to QAR 4,000**, subject to a maximum equivalent of Rs 1 lakh per transaction.

- Also, the customer will have to pay QAR 15 for each transaction as a flat service charge.

Overview of COAS General Dhiraj Seth's 3-Day Official Visit to Nepal

General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of Army Staff (**COAS**) of Indian Army (**IA**) undertook a three-day official visit to Nepal from August 17 to August 19, 2026, at the invitation of **Ashok Raj Sigdel**, **COAS of the Nepal Army**.

- The visit aimed at further strengthening defence cooperation and military-to-military ties between the two countries.

Key Highlights of Visit:

Key Engagements: During his visit to Nepal, he held bilateral talks with his Nepali counterpart Sigdel at Nepal Army headquarters, where army chiefs of both countries discussed matters of mutual interest and ways to strengthen military relations. He was also briefed by the Director General Military Operations (DGMO) of the Nepali Army.

Guard of Honour: The IA Chief laid a wreath at the Army Pavilion in Tundikhel, Kathmandu and received a Guard of Honour at the Nepali Army Headquarters.

Honorary Rank Conferment: General Seth was conferred the rank of honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army by **Ramchandra Paudel**, President of Nepal, during an investiture ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhawan (Sheetal Nowas) in Kathmandu.

Five African Countries End Polio Type 2 Outbreaks: WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa confirmed the closure of **poliovirus type 2** outbreaks in **Burundi, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of the Congo, and Uganda** after Independent Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) conducted between January and June 2026.

- The development reflects progress in Africa's polio eradication through stronger immunisation, surveillance, laboratory systems, and community interventions

Highlights of Polio Outbreak Closure:

Assessment: The Independent Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) reviewed surveillance systems, laboratory evidence, epidemiological data, population immunity, and vaccination campaign performance.

Measures: The countries strengthened routine immunisation, rapid detection, community participation, and targeted vaccination campaigns to interrupt transmission.

Milestones: Burundi responded to the March 2023 outbreak; Republic of Congo recorded its last detection in December 2023; Uganda enhanced response after detection in May 2024; Ghana improved laboratory capacity; and Guinea-Bissau reported no detection since July 2021.

Sophie Adenot Becomes First French Woman to Walk in Space

European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut **Sophie Adenot**, from France, carried out a mission to repair a communications system on the International Space Station (ISS), becoming the **1st French woman** to walk in space.

- Also, she became the **2nd** European woman to walk in space after Samantha Cristoforetti, from Italy (in 2022).

Highlights of the Mission:

Task: Under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Extravehicular Activity (EVA) mission which was 6 hours and 23 minutes (mins) long, Adenot along with American astronaut **Anil Menon** were tasked to replace a Space-to-Ground Antenna (SGANT) that connects the ISS with mission control in Houston, Texas, the United States of America (USA).

Previous Milestone: Earlier in February 2026, Sophie Adenot became the 2nd French woman to

travel into space after Claudie Haignere, who flew missions in 1996 and 2001 but did not perform any EVAs.

SpaceX to Build USD 100 Bn Rocket Launch Complex in Southern Louisiana

The **SpaceX** company announced an investment of **USD 100 Billion (Bn)** to build its largest rocket launch complex in southern Louisiana, United States of America (USA), naming the facility 'Starbase Louisiana'.

About Starbase Louisiana:

Purpose: It is being developed as a self-sustaining spaceport capable of supporting thousands of starships flights annually, with missions planned for Earth orbit, the moon, Mars and beyond.

Timeline: The company plans to begin construction of 125,000-acre Starbase Louisiana site in 2027, with the first Starship launch from the facility targeted for **2029**.

Expansion: The Louisiana facility would become SpaceX's fourth USA launch site and its second Starship-focused launch complex after Starbase Texas.

SpaceX: It is a private American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation company, and was founded in 2002 by Elon Musk.

Defence

Indian Navy Inducts Indigenous Diving Support Vessel 'Nipun'

The Indian Navy (IN) received 'Nipun', the second Indigenous Diving Support Vessel (DSV) built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP) strengthening India's deep-sea diving, submarine rescue and underwater salvage capabilities.

- The delivery ceremony included Rear Admiral Arvind Rawal, VSM, Chief Staff Officer (Technical), Western Naval Command and Chairman of the D448 Committee, and Rear Admiral Chandrasekharan Raghuram, VSM (Retd.), Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL).

Highlights of 'Nipun' Indigenous Diving Support Vessel:

Name Meaning: The name 'Nipun' is derived from Sanskrit, meaning "adept, capable and well-versed in a particular discipline," reflecting the vessel's specialised role in deep-sea diving and maritime rescue operations.

Development: Nipun has nearly 75% indigenous content and was constructed according to the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) classification rules, marking another milestone under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Capability: The vessel is equipped for deep-sea saturation diving, underwater operations and maritime rescue missions, with a side diving stage to support diving activities.

India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-XV Begins to Strengthen Defence Cooperation

The Indian Army (IA) contingent departed for Thailand to participate in the 15th edition of the India-Thailand Joint Annual Military Exercise MAITREE-XV at Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand.

- The exercise is being conducted from 18 August to 31 August 2026. The aim is to enhance military cooperation, interoperability and joint operational capabilities between the two countries.

Key Highlights of the Joint Military Exercise:

Participants: The IA and Royal Thai Army contingents consist of 85 personnel each. The exercise focuses on improving coordination, mutual understanding and operational readiness between both forces.

Indian & Thai Contingents: The Indian contingent is represented mainly by troops from 9 Gorkha Rifles, while the Royal Thai Army contingent comprises personnel from the 3rd Battalion, 25th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division.

Validation Exercise: The 48-hour exercise included establishing a Temporary Operating Base (TOB), Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance grid, village isolation, Heliborne Operations, raids and hostage rescue operations.

Saudi Arabia & 13 Other Countries Announced Maritime Defence Alliance to Protect Ships in West Asia Waterways

Saudi Arabia and 13 other countries announced the formation of a Multinational Maritime Defence

Alliance aimed at protecting shipping in key West Asian waterways and strengthening global maritime security against threats to navigation and trade amid the ongoing regional conflict.

- The announcement followed an international maritime security meeting hosted by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, attended by chiefs of staff and representatives from 43 countries and the European Union (EU).

About Maritime Defence Alliance:

Key Objectives: The new alliance will serve as a framework for maritime defence cooperation, aimed to enhance maritime security, protect freedom of navigation, secure international routes and energy supply lines in Red Sea, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden.

Other Members: Apart from Saudi Arabia, other founding members of the alliance are: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Nigeria, Sudan, Djibouti, Turkiye, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Somalia.

Founding Member and Secretariat: Saudi Arabia has been designated as the founding and leading state of the alliance and serves as its permanent secretariat. Also, the Joint Maritime Operations Coordination Center, the Joint Maritime Operations Center and the General Secretariat will be based in Saudi Arabia.

IAF Conducts Exercise 'ROTOR CLAP-III' in Rajasthan to Enhance Counter-Drone Combat Capability

The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted 3rd edition of **Exercise ROTOR CLAP-III**, a Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (Counter-UAS) exercise, at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer, **Rajasthan**, on 1-2 August 2026, to validate helicopter-based operational concepts against emerging drone threats through live missile and rocket firing.

- The exercise involved major attack, transport and utility helicopters to strengthen India's counter-drone operational preparedness.

About Exercise ROTOR CLAP-III:

Objective: The exercise validated operational concepts, refined tactics, techniques and procedures, strengthened interoperability, enhanced rapid response capabilities against emerging aerial threats, and improved the IAF's rotary-wing combat capability, counter-drone preparedness, and operational readiness for modern battlefield challenges.

Participation: The exercise involved AH-64 Apache, Mi-25/35, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Prachand, CH-47 Chinook, Mi-17, and HAL Dhruv helicopters, representing attack, transport and utility roles.

Operations: Helicopter crews carried out live missile and rocket firing, precision strikes, battlefield support, reconnaissance, troop insertion, casualty evacuation and coordinated Counter-UAS missions.

India Successfully Test-Fires Agni-4 Medium-Range Ballistic Missile from Chandipur, Odisha

India successfully conducted the flight test of the **Agni-4** Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Balasore district, Odisha.

- The missile test was conducted by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and successfully validated all operational and technical parameters under the aegis of the SFC.

About Agni-4 Missile:

Overview: The Agni-4 is an indigenously developed, two-stage, surface-to-surface medium-range ballistic missile equipped with solid-fuel rocket motors for propulsion.

Range: The missile is designed to carry a payload of up to **1,000 kg** over a range of approximately **4,000 kilometer(km)**.

Specifications: It weighs approximately **17,000 kilogram(kg)**, with a length of around **20m** (metres) and a diameter of about **1.2m** at its lower stage.

8th Edition of IN-US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise Begins in Kochi

The Indian Navy (IN) and the United States Navy (USN) commenced the 8th Edition of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026 at the Southern Naval Command, Kochi, Kerala from **10 August to 14 August 2026**.

- The **five-day** bilateral exercise aims to enhance interoperability, operational synergy, and professional cooperation between the specialist diving and EOD teams of the two navies.
- The **7th edition** of the IN-USN Salvage and EOD exercise, **SALVEX**, was conducted from 26th June to 6th July 2023 in Kochi.

About EOD Exercise 2026:

Objective: The exercise aims to enhance cooperation between specialist diving and EOD teams by enabling personnel from both navies to refine operational procedures, improve mutual understanding, and strengthen response capabilities against complex and evolving EOD challenges.

Training Modules: The exercise includes Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), cross-training sessions, equipment demonstrations, and scenario-based practical exercises to enhance operational coordination between the two navies.

India and Malaysia Commence Exercise Udara Shakti 2026

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) commenced the 3rd edition of bilateral Exercise **Udara Shakti** at Subang Air Base, Selangor, Malaysia, from 10 to 14 August (with the flying phase from 11 to 13 August) to enhance interoperability, operational coordination and defence cooperation between the two air forces.

- The exercise was inaugurated by RMAF Exercise Director **Colonel Shamsul Shahreen bin Isa** and IAF Exercise Director Group Captain **Parijat Jha**, with Indian Defence Adviser Colonel Praveen Sukumaran in attendance.

Highlights of the Exercise “Udara Shakti 2026”:

Background: It is a bilateral exercise conducted between the IAF and the RMAF, with its first edition held from August 13 to 16, 2022, at Kuantan Air Base in Malaysia.

Deployment: The IAF deployed four Dassault Rafale fighters from 101 Squadron and two Boeing C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from 81 Squadron.

- While the RMAF deployed Sukhoi Su-30MKM jets from No. 12 Squadron, two F/A-18D Hornet fighters from No. 18 Squadron and Airbus A400M aircraft from No. 8 Squadron.

Flying Wedge Defence Unveils India's First AI Fighter Jet 'FWD Supreme Lite'

Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace Technologies Private Limited (**FWDA**), Indian defence startup, unveiled '**FWD Supreme Lite**', India's 1st Artificial Intelligence (AI)-piloted fighter jet programme, marking a major transition from digital engineering and concept development to a physical aircraft.

About FWD Supreme Lite:

Design & Capability: Designed and developed entirely in India, the platform offers up to **30 hours** endurance and a **3,000 kilometer(km)** range, with AI-driven autonomy enabling precision strikes, swarm operations, and real-time Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions.

- The newly unveiled fighter jet demonstrator weighs around **250 kilogram (kg)** and is currently progressing through airframe development, system integration, and ground testing.

Scope and Concept: The fighter jet is being designed around the **Mobbing Doctrine**, a new warfare doctrine, which proposes deployment of a larger number of AI-piloted fighter aircraft to create numerical, tactical and economic asymmetry.

Key Objectives: The performance objectives of the programme have been divided into two phases:

- Phase-I: aims to achieve maximum Mach 0.9 speed; nearly Mach 0.5 cruise speed; 700 to 1,000 kilometer (km) operational range depending on missile profile, among others.
- Phase-II: supersonic performance targets (i.e. to reach Mach 2 speed); multi-aircraft autonomous teaming, among others.

India Test-Fires First 100% Indigenous AK-203 'Sher' Assault Rifle at Amethi Facility in UP

Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (**IRRPL**), based at Korwa, Amethi district, Uttar Pradesh (UP), successfully produced and test-fired the **first** 100% indigenised **AK-203 'Sher' assault rifle**, manufactured entirely using Indian components and materials.

- The prototype represents a significant step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat, advancing localisation of the AK-203 production programme for the Indian Army (IA).

About AK-203 'Sher' Assault Rifle:

Features: The AK-203 is a Kalashnikov AK-100 series gas-operated, magazine-fed assault rifle

featuring a 7.62×39 millimeter(mm) cartridge, It has a firing rate of around 700 rounds per minute, an effective range of up to 800 metres(m), and a 415 mm barrel. It features an adjustable folding stock and provisions for mounting optics and other accessories.

INSAS Replacement: The rifle is intended to replace the **INSAS** (Indian Small Arms System) rifle and will be handed over for Indian Armed Forces trials in September 2026.

Background: The India–Russia AK-203 production agreement established IRRPL at Korwa with Transfer of Technology (**ToT**) completed in 2023–24 and initial rifle supplies to the Indian Army(IA) in 2024.

Contract: The **Rs. 5,200 crore** contract covers the supply of **6,01,427** AK-203 rifles, with the delivery timeline advanced from the original target of October 2032 to the revised target of **December 2030**.

IRRPL: It is a Joint Venture(JV) established between India and Russia in 2019 to locally manufacture AK-203 assault rifles under the ‘Make in India’ initiative.

US Navy Unveils ‘AIM-424 Malice’ Long-Range Air-to-Air Missile With 463 km Range

The United States (**US**) Navy, unveiled the ‘Air Intercept Missile (**AIM**)-424 Malice’, a next-generation Long Range Air-to-Air Missile (LRAAM), developed by **Raytheon**, a subsidiary of RTX Corporation, with a strike range exceeding 250 nautical miles (463 kilometer, km).

- The missile is designed to strengthen long-range aerial combat and naval defence capabilities.

About AIM-424 Malice Missile:

Technology: It uses a two-stage solid-propellant rocket motor enabling high-speed, long-distance engagement with sustained energy for terminal manoeuvres against moving aerial targets.

Guidance: The system integrates inertial navigation, satellite and datalink updates, and advanced terminal seekers combining radar and infrared sensors for high accuracy and resistance to jamming.

Compatibility: The missile is designed for internal carriage in stealth aircraft such as the F-35 Lightning II and F-22 Raptor, and external carriage on the F/A-18 Super Hornet.

Role: It is intended to enable a ‘first look, first shot, first kill’ advantage for fleet air defence by targeting high-value airborne assets such as AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System), aerial refuelling tankers, and enemy bombers before they launch attacks.

CSIR-NAL Unveils Three Indigenous Micro & Small Gas Turbine Engines for Defence UAVs

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (**CSIR-NAL**) unveiled three indigenous **micro and small gas turbine engines**: **NJ-05, NJ-50 and NJ-100**, at CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi, Delhi, developed for defence Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (**UAVs**) and missile systems, with thrust capacities of 5 kilogram (kg), 50 kg and 100 kg.

About Indigenous Gas Turbine Engines (NJ Series):

Engines: Gas turbine engines operate on the **Brayton cycle**, a thermodynamic cycle widely used in jet propulsion and power generation, where air is compressed, mixed with fuel, combusted, and expanded through a turbine to produce thrust or shaft power.

Development: The NJ-100 engine builds upon earlier **NJ-05 demonstrator data**, indicating

progressive scaling within the same engine family, showcasing India's growing expertise in miniaturised gas turbine technologies.

Features: The engines incorporate high-RPM (Revolutions Per Minute) turbomachinery and advanced combustion technologies, making them suitable for lightweight, high-speed, and compact aerial platforms.

L&T Delivers 'Samarthak', Indian Navy's First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel

Indian Navy (IN) received its first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), **Samarthak**, built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) under the **Samarthak-class** MPV project at its Kattupalli Shipbuilding Facility, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- Indian Navy Ship (INS) **Utkarsh**, the second vessel of the series, was launched on **14 January 2025** and is currently undergoing tests and sea trials before final delivery.

About MPV Samarthak:

Contract Details: On 25 March 2022, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a **Rs. 887 crore** contract with L&T for the construction of two MPVs.

Naming: Samarthak, meaning **The Proponent**, represents the vessel's role as a reliable multi-role platform designed to support a wide range of maritime missions and activities.

Indigenous Content: The vessel has been developed with over **75%** indigenous content in line with the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision and is designed as a versatile trial and evaluation platform for testing indigenous naval weapons and sensors.

Indian Army Signs USD 93 Million Deal with USA for FGM-148 Javelin Missiles

Indian Army (IA) signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) with the United States of America (USA) for the procurement of nearly **100 FGM-148 Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missile** (ATGM) systems worth **USD 93 million** under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route, with the deal opening doors for future co-production of the system in India.

About Javelin Missile Procurement by India:

Components: The procurement package includes nearly **100 missiles**, **25 Command Launch Units (CLUs)**, one fly-to-buy round, simulation equipment, training aids, spare parts, and complete lifecycle support systems.

Features: The FGM-148 Javelin is a medium-range, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile using infrared guidance, capable of top-attack and direct-attack modes against armoured vehicles and fortified positions.

Production: The missile system is manufactured by the Javelin Joint Venture (JV), a collaboration between **RTX Corporation and Lockheed Martin Corporation**, based in the USA.

- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed an agreement with the Javelin Joint Venture in February 2025 for potential co-production of Javelin missile systems in India.

China Tests New Stealth-Coated Variant of YJ-18A Anti-Ship Cruise Missile

China reportedly tested a new variant of the **YJ-18A anti-ship cruise missile**, featuring a black stealth coating designed to enhance its radar evasion and penetration capabilities.

- The missile featured a black radar-absorbing coating designed to **reduce radar reflections** and make detection by enemy radar systems more difficult.

About YJ-18A Missile Variant:

Missile Test: A new anti-ship missile variant was tested by launching it from a **navy ship's** Vertical Launch System (VLS) during an extreme-performance trial in an undisclosed sea area.

Missile Type: The missile was identified as a variant of the **YJ-18A (Yingji or 'Eagle Strike')**, which cruises at subsonic speed before conducting a supersonic terminal attack and is deployed on Type 052D and Type 055 destroyers.

Background: The original YJ-18 missile, derived from the Russian 3M-54E submarine-launched anti-ship missile system, has a **range of 540 kilometer(km)**, cruises at 966 km per hour(km/h), and accelerates to Mach 3 during terminal attack.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Varsha Ashok Aglawe Appointed as First Woman Director General of GSI

Varsha Ashok Aglawe assumed charge as the 54th Director General (DG) of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) under the Ministry of Mines (MoM), Government of India (GoI), becoming the **first woman** to head the organisation in its 176-year history.

- She succeeded **Asit Saha**, who served as DG from 27 July 2024 to 31 July 2026 and will focus on critical mineral exploration, mineral security, offshore exploration, and strengthening geoscientific infrastructure..

About Varsha Ashok Aglawe:

Background: A distinguished geoscientist with more than three decades of professional experience, joined GSI in 1992 after serving with the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM); previously served as Additional Director General (ADG)& Head of Department (HOD), Eastern Region, Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

Expertise: She specialises in palaeontology and palynology, with major contributions to the study of Late Cretaceous–Palaeocene sediments, Cretaceous–Tertiary (K-T) boundary and Satpura-Gondwana basins.

Government Extends IFSCA Chairman K. Rajaraman's Tenure Till October 2028

The Government of India (GoI) extended **K. Rajaraman's** tenure as **Chairperson** of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) by **27 months**, until 24 October 2028 (age 65) or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

- He was reappointed under the provisions of the IFSCA Act, 2019, and the IFSCA (Salary, Allowances and Other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2020.

About K. Rajaraman:

Profile: He is a retired 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Tamil Nadu (TN) cadre

Previous Roles: Prior to this, he served as Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Finance (MoF), and held key positions in MoF, including Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and Joint Secretary, Department of Expenditure (DoE).

- He also served as Managing Director (MD) of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) and Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Tamil Nadu(TN).

IFSCA: He was appointed as the first full-time Chairperson of IFSCA in October 2023 for a three-year term, succeeding Injeti Srinivas.

About IFSCA: Established in April 2020 under the IFSCA Act, 2019, it is headquartered at GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Vice Admiral AN Pramod Assumes Charge as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff

Vice Admiral AN Pramod assumed charge as the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (DCNS) of the Indian Navy (IN). He succeeds **Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti**, who superannuated on 31 July 2026

after over 38 years of service.

About AN Pramod:

Background: Commissioned into the Indian Navy (IN) on 1 July 1990 after the 38th Integrated Cadet Course at the Naval Academy, Goa, he is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist.

Previous Role: He served as Director General Naval Operations (**DGNO**) (December 2023–July 2026) and played a key role in Operation Sindoor and maritime security operations.

Operational Roles: He served as the Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet during Operation **Snow Leopard** following the Galwan incident.

- He participated in Operation Vijay (1999) and Operation Parakram (2001), served as Fleet Operations Officer during Operation Snow Leopard, and commanded Indian Naval Ship(INS) Rajput (Guided Missile Destroyer) , INS Abhay (Anti-Submarine Warfare Patrol Vessel) , INS Shardul (Landing Ship Tank (Large)) and INS Satpura (Guided Missile Frigate).

Awards: He was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (**AVSM**) in 2024 and the Yudh Seva Medal (**YSM**) in 2025.

A S Rajeev assumed Charge as Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner

A S Rajeev, serving as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), assumed charge as the Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner with effect from 3 August 2026.

- He succeeded **Praveen Kumar Srivastava**, a 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, who assumed charge as the Central Vigilance Commissioner on 29 May 2023 and completed his tenure on 2 August 2026.

About A S Rajeev:

Experience: He has over **38 years** of experience in Syndicate Bank, Vijaya Bank, Indian Bank and Bank of Maharashtra across banking operations and governance.

Banking Career: He served as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (**MD & CEO**) of Bank of Maharashtra before joining the CVC.

Leadership: Apart from heading major public sector banks, A. S. Rajeev has served as Vice Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and as a nominee director on the boards of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank), and The New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL).

ACC Approves Key Foreign Postings of Senior Bureaucrats to IMF, ADB & Other Global Bodies

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPP&P), approved key foreign postings of senior bureaucrats through the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) to various international organisations, including the International Monetary Fund (**IMF**), Asian Development Bank (**ADB**), World Bank (**WB**) and World Trade Organization (**WTO**).

Key Appointments :

IMF Adviser: Rahul Jain has been appointed as Senior Adviser to the Executive Director (India), IMF for 3 years.

- He is a 2005-batch Indian Administrative officer (IAS) officer of Madhya Pradesh (MP) cadre and currently serving as the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA).

ADB Adviser: Baldeo Purushartha has been appointed as Senior Adviser to the Executive Director(ED), ADB, Manila, Philippines for **3 years**. He is a 2002-batch IAS officer of Punjab cadre and currently Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs.

ICAO Representative: Satyajit Mohanty has been appointed as Representative of India in the Council of the ICAO for **3 years**.

- He is currently serving as the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Air India Board Appoints Tewolde Gebremariam as CEO & MD

In August 2026, **Air India**, an Indian airline, appointed **Tewolde Gebremariam**, former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ethiopian Airlines Group, as its new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director (**CEO & MD**).

- He succeeded **Campbell Wilson**, who stepped down from the role in April 2026.

About Tewolde Gebremariam:

Profile: Tewolde Gebremariam, an Ethiopian aviation executive, served as CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group for over a decade (2011–2022), transforming it into Africa's largest and most profitable airline group.

Expertise: He brings experience in international network expansion, hub operations, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (**MRO**) infrastructure, aviation training, safety management and workforce development.

Security Clearance: His joining is subject to mandatory clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

About Air India: Established in 1932 by J.R.D. Tata, Air India is India's global airline, headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana, and has been owned by Tata Sons since 2022.

Cabinet Approves One-Year Extension for Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**), chaired by Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi**, approved a one-year extension in the service of **T. V. Somanathan**, Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Cabinet Secretary of India, whose current tenure was scheduled to end on 30th August 2026.

- He assumed charge as the 33rd Cabinet Secretary of India on 30 August 2024, succeeding Rajiv Gauba.

Key Details of Extension:

About Cabinet Secretary: It is the senior-most civil servant in the Government of India (GoI) and serves as the head of the Cabinet Secretariat.

- The position is generally held by an IAS officer and plays a key role in coordinating among ministries and facilitating the functioning of the Union Government.

Regulation: The service extensions were granted by relaxing the provisions under Fundamental Rule 56(d) and Rule 16(1A) of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958.

Other approval: ACC also granted a one-year service extension to **Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan**, a 1989-batch IAS officer of Sikkim cadre, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), beyond August 22, 2026, until August 22, 2027.

Cabinet Approves One-Year Extension for ED Director Rahul Navin

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved a **one-year extension** for **Rahul Navin**, Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), extending his tenure until 13 August 2027 or until further orders, beyond his superannuation on 31 July 2027.

Key Details of Appointment:

Profile: Rahul Navin is a 1993-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS – Income Tax) officer (IT:93074) with extensive experience in the ED, where he has held several key positions and contributed to major investigations undertaken by the agency.

Previous Role: He joined the ED as Special Director in 2019 and was appointed as Director (In-Charge) in September 2023.

- He was appointed as the full-time ED Director on 14th August 2024 following the completion of **Sanjay Kumar Mishra**'s tenure.

About ED: It operates under the Department of Revenue (DoR), Ministry of Finance (MoF), and handles investigation and prosecution of money laundering cases along with foreign exchange law violations.

Hungary Elects Former Supreme Court Chief András Baka as President

The **Hungarian Parliament** elected **Andras Baka**, former head of the Supreme Court of Hungary, as the country's new President. He was elected by Parliament with 140 votes in favour and 6 against, with support from members of the governing Tisza Party.

Background:

Presidential Transition: The election followed the removal of former President **Tamás Sulyok**, whose tenure was ended through a constitutional amendment passed by the government led by Prime Minister (PM) **Péter Magyar**.

Tenure: He is scheduled to take office on 19 August 2026, with his presidential term lasting up to five years or until a new constitution is adopted.

Chandrasekaran to Step Down as Tata Sons Chairman in February 2027

Natarajan Chandrasekaran stepped down as the Executive Chairman of Tata Sons Private Limited, upon the completion of his current term on February 20, 2027.

- He was appointed as the Chairman of Tata Sons in February 2017 following the ouster of Cyrus Mistry and reappointed in 2022

About Natarajan Chandrasekaran:

Profile: Joined Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) as an intern in 1987 and, over nearly 40 years with the Tata Group, led its expansion into digital businesses, aviation, electronics manufacturing, and the semiconductor ecosystem.

Career: He became the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of TCS in 2009, transforming TCS into India's most valuable Information Technology (IT) company.

Initiatives: Included the merger of Tata Global Beverages with Tata Chemicals' consumer businesses, acquisition of Air India (2022), integration of BigBasket, 1mg, Croma, Tata Neu, and merger of Tata Motors' auto finance business with Tata Capital.

About Tata Sons: Founded in 1868, Tata Sons was incorporated in 1917 and is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It serves as the holding and principal investment holding company of the Tata Group.

Dr. Eluri Sreedhar Appointed as Honorary Advisor to BRICS CCI

Dr. Eluri Sreedhar was appointed as an Honorary Advisor to the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI), with the appointment letter presented by **Sameep Shastri**, Chairman of BRICS CCI and grandson of former Prime Minister (PM) of India **Lal Bahadur Shastri**.

- BRICS CCI also appointed Yogesh Sharma as National Advisor.

About Dr. Eluri Sreedhar:

Profile: He is a prominent educator, technocrat and enterprise strategist recognised for his contributions to social development, entrepreneurship, community empowerment, and para-sports management.

Career: He founded the renowned competitive examination training platform **Sreedhar's CCE** (College of Competitive Exams)

Advisor Role: He will contribute to initiatives focused on economic collaboration, strategic partnerships, inclusive development, community empowerment, and development-oriented programmes in collaboration with government stakeholders.

About BRICS CCI: Established in 2012 and headquartered in New Delhi, Delhi, BRICS CCI is an apex parent organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and empanelled with National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Government of India (GoI).

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir Elected as the 23rd President of Bangladesh

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, a senior leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was elected as the **23rd President** of People's Republic of Bangladesh for a **5-year** term through a parliamentary election held at the **Jatiya Sangsad** (Bangladesh Parliament), Dhaka.

- The election was held following **Mohammed Shahabuddin** resigned on 24 July 2026 under Article 54 of the Bangladesh Constitution, who had served as the President of Bangladesh since 24 April 2023.
- The 2026 presidential election marked the **first** contested presidential election in Bangladesh in **35 years**.

Election Outcome:

Vote Share: He secured 255 votes in the presidential election, defeating his opponent, Colonel (Retd.) Oli Ahmed, Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), who was backed by an 11-party opposition alliance led by Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party (NCP) received 88 votes.

Voting Process: The election saw 343 of 349 eligible Members of Parliament (MPs) participate, with voting conducted using three transparent ballot boxes.

Japan's Yuko Keicho Appointed as Vice President & Auditor General of World Bank Group

World Bank (WB) Group appointed **Yuko Keicho**, a Japanese national, as Vice President (VP) and Auditor General, strengthening its governance and internal audit framework.

- She will lead the Internal Audit Vice Presidency (IAD), overseeing governance, risk management, and operational integrity across World Bank Group institutions.

About Yuko Keicho:

Experience: She has over **30 years** of experience across multilateral institutions and the private sector.

Key Role: She previously served as Auditor General at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and held senior roles at the World Bank Group, including Director for Strategy and Operations in Internal Audit.

- Her appointment also marks a return to the WB Group, where she earlier served for over two decades.

New Role: She will report directly to Ajay Banga while maintaining functional reporting to the Audit Committee, ensuring independent and effective internal oversight.

About WB Group: Established in 1944 and is headquartered in Washington, D.C., United States of America (USA), is led by President Ajay Banga.

Crown Prince Haakon Becomes New King of Norway as King Haakon VIII

Crown Prince Haakon, became King Haakon VIII following the death of his father King **Harald V**, succeeding as the monarch and Head of State of the Kingdom of Norway while continuing the traditions of the Norwegian royal family.

About Prince Haakon:

Early Life: He is the son of King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway. He has an elder sister, Princess Märtha Louise, and became Crown Prince in 1991 following his father's accession to the throne.

Military & International Roles: He is a trained naval officer and, as King, serves as the Supreme Commander of the Norwegian Armed Forces.

- He has also served as a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) **Goodwill Ambassador** and contributed to various philanthropic and international initiatives.

TVS Motor Appoints Peyman Kargar as its CEO and Director Effective from January 27, 2027

TVS Motor Company announced the appointment of Peyman Kargar as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and **Director** with effect from **January 27, 2027**.

- Peyman Kargar will succeed **K.N. Radhakrishnan (KNR)**, who will subsequently serve as a Non-Executive Director until the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July 2027.

About Peymen Kargar:

Experience: He has an extensive experience of over 30 years in the global automotive industry, spanning engineering, manufacturing, project management, quality, sales, and marketing and business development across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle-East.

Current Role: At present, he is serving as President, International Business at TVS Motor.

Previous Role: Earlier, he served for two years as Global Chairman and President of INFINITI Motor Company, Nissan's luxury vehicle division, and as Vice President (VP) of Sales and Marketing at Renault Group from 2014 to 2017.

- He served at various senior leadership positions at Nissan and Renault, including leading Nissan's Africa, Middle-East and India operations, as well as heading the Datsun brand, where he manages operations across more than 80 countries.

About TVS Motor Company: TVS Motor Company is India's 3rd largest motorcycle manufacturer as well as a major global producer of two-and-three wheelers, with headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

Honours/ Awards

Gujarat's Sacred 'Pithora Painting' Received GI Tag

The Geographical Indications Registry (**GIR**), under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag to **Gujarat's** centuries-old wall art tradition, **Pithora Painting**.

- Earlier in July 2026, two agricultural products of Gujarat i.e. **Unjha Cumin and Fennel**, both originating from the Unjha region in the north of the state, received the GI tag.

About Pithora Painting:

Communities Associated: Pithora painting is an integral part of the cultural identity of the Rathwa, Bhil, Bhilala, and Nayaka communities in Chhota Udepur district of Gujarat, **Use Natural Colors:** Traditionally, pithora paintings are created by **Lakharas** on the inner walls and verandahs of tribal homes using natural colours, extracted from leaves, flowers, minerals and mahua.

Cultural Significance: The central figures of the paintings are horses, representing the gods, goddesses, and ancestors, along with animals, birds, forests, water and nature.

IIA Director Annapurni Subramaniam Won COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026 in Italy

Distinguished Indian astrophysicist **Annapurni Subramaniam**, Director of Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru (Karnataka), was honoured with the Committee on Space Research (**COSPAR**) **Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026** for her exceptional contribution to space research in developing countries.

- With this, she became the **4th Indian**, the **first Indian woman** scientist, and only the 3rd woman globally to receive the honour.
- The medal was officially presented during the ongoing 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly which is being held at Florence, Italy.

About COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal:

Background: The medal was established in **1990** in the honour of **Vikram Sarabhai**, who is considered father of Indian space programme and founder of India Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Biennial Award: The medal is awarded jointly by **COSPAR**, an international body affiliated to the International Science Council (ISC) and United Nations (through UN-COPUS); and the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) every **two years**.

Previous Indian Recipients: Previously, only 3 Indian scientists received the medal: Anil Bharadwaj, Director of Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) of ISRO (2024); famous physicist Gurbax Singh Lakhina (2014) and eminent scientist and Bharat Ratna Udupi Ramachandra (UR) Rao, former chairman of ISRO (1996).

Kroll Report 2025: Bollywood Actor Shah Rukh Khan Topped Indian Celebrity Brand Rankings at USD 177.9 million

An American global financial advisory firm, **Kroll** released the **11th** edition of the report titled 'Kroll Celebrity Brand Valuation 2025'. As per the report, Bollywood actor Shah Rukh

Khan emerged as India's most valuable celebrity, securing the top position in the rankings with a brand value of **USD 177.9 million**.

- He was followed by actor **Ranveer Singh**, who retained 2nd place with a brand value of USD 162.9 million, while cricketer **Virat Kohli** slipped from 1st (2024) to 3rd place, with a brand value of USD 158.4 million.

About Celebrity Brand Valuation Report:

Combined Brand Value: The report showed that the combined brand value of India's top 25 celebrities stood at an estimated **USD 2 billion** in 2025, marking a 3.7% decrease compared to the previous year.

Other Top 5 Celebrities: Bharat Ratna Awardee and Legendary Indian Cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** continued to be featured among top 5 of the list, by moving up by one place to 4th in 2025, with total brand valuation of **USD 125.9 million**, compared to USD 91.3 million (in 2023).

- Former Captain of Indian Men's Cricket team Mahendra Singh Dhoni ranking improved from 7th (in 2024) to 5th (in 2025), supported by a significant increase in brand endorsements and an overall brand value of USD 115.3 million.

Most Valued Female Celebrity: This year, the ranking of famous Indian actress and producer **Alia Bhatt** dropped to **6th spot** (down from 4th spot in 2024) with a total brand valuation of **USD 93.9 million**. Despite a drop in the rankings, Alia Bhatt again emerged as the most valued female celebrity in the list.

- She is closely followed by Deepika Padukone ranked at 7th post with a brand value of USD 89.2 million.

Women Representation: Despite no women in this year's top 5 list, the rankings featured 12 women in the top 25, up from 9 in 2024 list.

- The report noted women celebrities witnessed an increase of 30% in both brand value and endorsement count, with approximately 10% of male brand value being captured by women since 2023.

Padma Bhushan Awardee Physicist Deepak Dhar wins Dirac Medal 2026

Renowned Indian theoretical physicist Professor Padma Bhushan **Deepak Dhar** was awarded the **2026 Dirac Medal** by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) for his outstanding contributions to theoretical and statistical mechanics.

- He became the **first Indian** physicist to receive the Dirac Medal
- He shared the award with **Bernard Derrida** of France, **Marc Mézard** of Italy, and **Haim Sompolinsky** of Israel and the United States.

About Deepak Dhar:

Profile: He is an eminent Indian physicist known for his pioneering contributions to statistical physics, stochastic processes, and the study of phase transitions.

Academic Associations: He served at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR),

Mumbai, Maharashtra, worked as a Professor at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune, Maharashtra and was associated with the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Dhar's Burning Algorithm: It is widely applied in modelling diverse non-equilibrium phenomena, including earthquakes, traffic congestion, financial market fluctuations, and neural network dynamics.

2026 Dirac Medal citation: It recognised contributions to equilibrium and non-equilibrium statistical mechanics, optimisation, theoretical neuroscience, and artificial intelligence.

V.O. C Port Becomes India's First Port to Receive ISO 50001:2018 Certification for Energy Management

The V.O. Chidambaranar (V.O.C.) Port Authority, located in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu (TN), became the **first port** in India to receive International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 50001:2018 certification for Energy Management System (EnMS) by the Indian Register Quality Systems (IRQS).

- The port was also accredited by Bureau Veritas as a **Scope-2 Emission-Free Port**, with renewable sources meeting 93.89% of its electricity needs in the Financial Year (FY26).

About ISO 50001:2018 Certification:

Certification: An international standard for establishing, implementing, maintaining, and continually improving an EnMS.

Criteria: A port can achieve zero Scope-2 emissions when its renewable energy generation exceeds its total electricity consumption during a specified period.

Scope-2 Emissions: These are indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with purchased electricity, steam, heating, or cooling.

About ISO: Established in 1947 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, ISO develops international standards for quality, environmental, energy management, safety, and industrial processes.

2026 Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses: Ambani Tops; Adani Leads Among 1st-generation Families

Hurun India in partnership with Barclays Private Bank India, released the 3rd edition of "2026 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List". As per the list, Ambani family led by Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), has again emerged as India's richest business family for the 3rd consecutive year with net worth of **Rs 25.8 lakh crore**, despite witnessing an **8.5%** decline in its fortune.

- **Birla family**, led by Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairperson of the Aditya Birla Group, secured 2nd spot with total valuation of Rs 8.14 lakh crore in 2026 (marking an 26% increase); followed by Jindal family led by Sajjan Jindal with a valuation of Rs 8.02 lakh crore, ranked at 3rd spot.

Key Findings:

Other Top 5 Families: The Bajaj family led by Niraj Bajaj, Director of the Bajaj Group, retained the 4th spot at Rs 7.70 lakh crore, although overall its wealth declined by 3.9%, while Mahindra family led by Anand Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra ranked at 5th spot with valuation of Rs 5.15 lakh crore, down 5.4%.

Combined Value: Cumulatively, India's top 300 most valuable family businesses are now valued at **Rs 138 lakh crore (USD 1.46 trillion)**, equivalent to an economy that would rank as 18th largest in the world by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), surpassing the of countries such as Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Poland.

Women Representation: This year's list featured **18 companies led by women** leaders. Priya Agarwal Hebbbar who leads the Hindustan Zinc, emerged as the most-valuable women-led business in India, valued at Rs 4.45 lakh crore; followed by Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairman of HCL Technologies Limited, leads the Nadar family with a valuation of Rs 2.91 lakh crore.

- And, Falguni Nayar of FSN e-Commerce Ventures is the only woman leading a 1st-generation business on the list.

Key Addition: This year, the report introduced a separate ranking of India's top 100 1st-generation family businesses. Also, the combined value of these companies is at Rs 77.8 trillion.

- The 1st-generation category is led by the **Adani family**, headed by Gautam Adani, Chairperson of Adani Group, with a total valuation of **Rs 19.6 lakh crore**.

MCA Hosts PMIS Industry Awards 2026 in New Delhi; Mahindra & Mahindra Named Overall Champion

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) organised the 'PMIS Industry Awards 2026' in New Delhi, Delhi under the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) to recognise partner companies, with **Mahindra & Mahindra Limited** named Overall Industry Champion.

- The event was chaired by Dr. Pallavi Jain Govil, Secretary, MCA, and was attended by senior officials from the Ministry.

About PMIS Industry Awards 2026:

Objective: The Awards recognise and celebrate partner companies for excellence in internship creation, management, innovation, and contributions to workforce development, supporting the successful implementation of the PMIS and strengthening youth employability.

PSU & Private: Top Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) partners included Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), NTPC Limited, and Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), while top private partners were Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Infosys Limited, and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited (DRL).

Special Awards: HDFC Bank Limited won the Pre-Internship Excellence Award, Shriram Finance Limited received the Internship Management Excellence Award, IBM India Private Limited was recognised for Innovation in Program Implementation, and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) for Innovation in Exit Pathways.

MYAS Announces National Sports Awards 2025; 17 Named for Arjuna Award

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) announced the National Sports Awards 2025, naming 17 Arjuna awardees along with 1 Arjuna (Lifetime), 3 Dronacharya (Regular), 2 Dronacharya (Lifetime), and 1 Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar recipient.

- No athlete was selected for the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**, marking a rare instance (previously in 2008 and 2014) since its institution in 1991.

About National Sports Awards 2025:

Announcement: The awards were finalised based on recommendations of a selection committee

chaired by former Supreme Court (SC) judge **Arun Kumar Mishra**, after a re-evaluation process to ensure merit-based selection.

2026 Winners: A total of 17 athletes including Tejaswin Shankar (Athletics), Divya Deshmukh (Chess), Treesa Jolly (Badminton), and Gayatri Gopichand (Badminton) were selected for the Arjuna Award for consistent performance over the previous four years.

- Former footballer **I Arumainayagam**, a 1962 Asian Games gold medallist, was honoured with the Arjuna Award (Lifetime) for long-term contribution to Indian sports.
- The **Army Paralympic Node, Pune** (Maharashtra) received the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar for promoting sports development and supporting para-athletes.
- The Dronacharya Awards were presented in two categories, with the Regular category honouring Parveer Singh (Athletics), Chhote Lal Yadav (Boxing), and Neha Nandkumar Chavan (Shooting), while the Lifetime category recognised Dharmendra Singh Yadav (Boxing) and Virender Kumar (Wrestling).

Indian-origin Lakshmanan Meyyappan becomes World's Youngest Male CA at 16 Years

Indian-origin Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based finance professional Lakshmanan Meyyappan was recognised by the Guinness World Records as the World's Youngest Male Chartered Accountant (CA) after achieving the feat at the age of 16 years and 141 days (in June 2021).

About Lakshmanan Meyyappan:

Qualification: Meyyappan completed the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) qualification at the age of 16, having started the course at 15 and finishing it in nearly one year.

Achievement: He further achieved the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Charterholder designation in 2025.

Career: Meyyappan is pursuing a Master of Science (MSc) in Finance from American University of Sharjah, while working as a Senior Research Analyst at Century Financial in Dubai, UAE where he conducts investment research and supports financial market decision-making.

Two Indian Doctors Nominated for Pakistan's Nishan-e-Imtiaz Award

Pakistan nominated Mumbai(Maharashtra)-based Parsi doctors **Dr Jal Ratanji Patel**(Physician) and **Dr Jal Dhaybho-Koo** (Radiologist) for the **Nishan-e-Imtiaz**, Pakistan's highest civilian award, for maintaining the confidentiality of Muhammad Ali Jinnah's terminal illness before the Partition of India in 1947.

About

Nishan-e-Imtiaz:

Honour: The doctors have been nominated for the Nishan-e-Imtiaz, awarded for outstanding services to the state of Pakistan.

Ceremony: The **Nishan-e-Imtiaz** will be awarded posthumously in March 2027.

History: In 1946, the doctors diagnosed Jinnah with advanced tuberculosis(TB) through his X-ray and kept his illness confidential before Partition.

Jinnah's health secrecy was considered historically significant, with potential influence on Partition of India (1947). He died on 11 September 1948.

Kaziah Liz Mejo from Kerala Won Miss Universe India 2026 Title

Kaziah Liz Mejo, a 19-year old law student from Kerala, won Miss Universe India 2026 title, after

competing against 53 contestants at the pageant finale, organised by the Glamanand Group in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

- She has created history by becoming the first woman from Kerala to win the Miss Universe India title.
- After winning this title, **Kaziah Liz Mejo** will now officially represent India at the **75th Miss Universe** pageant scheduled in November 2026 in Puerto Rico.

About Miss Universe India 2026:

Jury Panel: Former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen led the jury panel for this year's Miss Universe India finale, along with previous titleholders including, Urvashi Rautela (Miss Universe India 2015) and Celina Jaitley (Miss Universe India 2001).

Runner-Ups: Vaishnavi Ganesh from Tamil Nadu (TN) secured the Miss Universe International 2026 title as 1st-runner up, followed by Anushri Satavlekar from Gujarat named as the 2nd-runner up in the finale.

Previous Year Winner: Last, Manika Vishwakarma (from Rajasthan) named Miss Universe India, who then represented India at the 74th Miss Universe pageant held in Bangkok, Thailand.

DARPG Selected for Special 'Rajbhasha Utkrishtta Sammaan' 2025-26 by DoL

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), New Delhi, Delhi, has been selected for the special 'Rajbhasha Utkrishtta Sammaan' for 2025-26 by the Department of Official Language (DoL), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in recognition of its outstanding and sustained performance in implementing the Official Language.

- The special honour will be presented during the 'Hindi Diwas Sammelan' in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, on 14 September 2026, on the occasion of Hindi Diwas.

About Rajbhasha Utkrishtta Sammaan:

Recognition: DARPG secured the first position in 2025-26 in the category of Ministries/Departments with fewer than 300 personnel for its performance in promoting and implementing Hindi as the Official Language.

Previous Achievement: DARPG won the 'Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar' (First) for two consecutive years : 2023-24 and 2024-25.

- As per the rules, it was not eligible for the same award in the following year.

Special Sammaan: In recognition of DARPG's consistent excellence in Official Language implementation, it was selected for the special 'Rajbhasha Utkrishtta Sammaan' 2025-26.

Sports

Ajinkya Rahane Retires from International Cricket After Distinguished 12-Year India Career

Ajinkya Rahane, senior Indian batter and former Test vice-captain and stand-in Test captain, announced his retirement from **international cricket** after a distinguished **12-year career (2011–2023)**, concluding a journey that included **195** international matches across Tests, One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).

About Ajinkya Rahane:

Tests: Played **85 Test matches**, scoring **5,077 runs** at an average of **38.46**, with **12 centuries** and **26 half-centuries**, becoming one of India's most successful overseas middle-order batters.

Limited-Overs: Played 90 ODIs, scoring 2,962 runs with 3 centuries and 24 half-centuries, represented India at the 2015 International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Cricket World Cup, and featured in T20Is, scoring 375 runs after making his debut against England in 2011.

Captaincy: Led India in 6 Test matches, remaining unbeaten with 4 wins and 2 draws, before guiding an injury-hit side to a historic 2–1 Border-Gavaskar Trophy triumph in Australia (2020–21), highlighted by his match-winning century at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Melbourne, Australia.

2026 Commonwealth Games: Australia Tops Medal Table; India Finishes Fourth with 39 Medals, Including 13 Golds

The 2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG), officially known as the XXIII Commonwealth Games (23rd edition), is an international multi-sport event held from **23 July to 2 August 2026** in **Glasgow**, Scotland's largest city, where India won **39 medals**, including **13 gold, 17 silver, and 9 bronze**, finishing fourth overall in the medal standings.

- Australia topped the medal table with **171 medals** (70 gold, 45 silver, and 56 bronze), followed by England in second place with **110 medals** (29 gold, 45 silver, and 36 bronze) and Canada finished third, securing **62 medals**, including 19 gold, 20 silver, and 23 bronze.

About Commonwealth Games 2026:

Overview: The event featured over 3,000 athletes from a record 74 nations and territories competing in 215 medal events across 10 sports, including six integrated para sports, making it a compact edition compared to Birmingham 2022.

Organization: The Games were organized by Glasgow 2026 Limited in partnership with Commonwealth Sport and Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS), with an estimated EUR 150 million budget funded through a EUR 100 million investment from the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and commercial revenues, without public funding.

Mascot: The official mascot, **Finnie**, is a Glaswegian unicorn inspired by the **Finnierson Crane** and Glasgow's iconic traffic-cone tradition.

Ariha Pangambam Wins India's First Gold in Senior Women's Event at 2026 Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships

Ariha Pangambam from Manipur secured India's first-ever individual gold medal with a top score of 19.100 points in the 10th Senior Women's individual event at the Aerobic Gymnastics Asian Championships 2026 in Tagaytay City, Philippines, held on 5-7 August 2026.

- **Chanyapit Manee** of Thailand won silver, while **Mahiro Kishibe** of Japan secured bronze in the event.

About Ariha Pangambam:

Performance: Ariha Pangambam scored 19.100 points (8.650 artistry, 7.600 execution, 2.850 difficulty), demonstrating excellence in both technical precision and artistic performance.

Background: She had finished 4th in the 2022 and 2024 editions and previously won gold medals at the National Games, including the 2025 Uttarakhand edition, marking this as a major comeback.

10th Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships: Organized by the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines under the guidance of the Asian Gymnastics Union (AGU), the event is the premier continental championship for senior aerobic gymnastics, featuring categories such as Individual Men, Individual Women, Mixed Pairs, Trios, and Groups.

Ahmedabad to Host Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships in October 2026

Ishaun Singh, President of the World Pool Association (WPA), announced that **Ahmedabad** (Gujarat) will host the **2nd Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships** in October 2026 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad.

About Commonwealth Cue Sports Championships 2026:

Participation: The championship will feature athletes from 45 countries competing across 5 disciplines and 10 medal events in both men's and women's categories.

Organizers: The event will be conducted under the aegis of the Billiards and Snooker Federation of India (BSFI) and the World Confederation of Billiards Sports (WCBS), with event management handled by Apex Sports Promotion. **Participation Format:** The tournament will feature 16 athletes per gender in 10-Ball, Heyball, Blackball, and Snooker, while English Billiards will have 8 athletes per gender.

- Each Commonwealth country will receive one guaranteed unranked entry, with the remaining positions allocated based on world rankings.

About WPA: Established in 1987 and headquartered in Gauteng, South Africa, the WPA is the global governing body for pocket billiards/pool and operates under the umbrella of the WCBS.

2026 BWF World Championships: France's Alex Lanier & South Korea's An Se-young Win Men's & Women's Singles Champions

The **30th** edition of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) **World Championships(2026)**, was held from 17 to 23 August 2026 at the Indira Gandhi Arena in New Delhi, Delhi, where **Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand** won the **bronze** medal in women's doubles, securing India's first medal in the category since 2011.

- **Alex Lanier** of France became the **first French** player to win a world singles title by defeating Kodai Naraoka of Japan 21–11, 21–11, while **An Se-young** of South Korea

won her second women's singles world title by defeating Akane Yamaguchi of Japan 21–17, 21–14.

About 2026 BWF World Championships:

Host: India hosted the championships for the second time, after previously staging them in Hyderabad, Telangana, in 2009, marking a 17-year gap.

Organiser: The event was organised by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) in collaboration with the Badminton Association of India (BAI), the host association.

Events: The competition featured top players from around the world across five disciplines: Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles.

Indian Chess Grandmaster Pranesh M Wins Kanizsa Open 2026 in Hungary

19-year-old Indian Grandmaster (GM) **Pranesh M** from Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu (TN), won the **Kanizsa Open 2026** Group A title in **Nagykanizsa, Hungary**, after defeating Germany's **Vadim Petrovskiy** in the ninth and final round. He finished the tournament with 7 points from 9 rounds.

- Pranesh finished jointly on 7/9 with Or Bronstein of Israel, Andrei Volokitin of Ukraine and Karthik Venkataraman of India, but secured the title on a superior tiebreak.
- The tournament was held from 15 to 23 August 2026 at Kanizsa Aréna, Nagykanizsa, in a 9-round Swiss-system format.

About Pranesh M:

Origin – Pranesh M progressed through the titles of International Chess Federation (FIDE) Master (FM) in 2019, International Master (IM) in 2020, and GM in January 2023 at age 16.

Achievements: Following his GM title, he secured joint first at the Silver Lake Open in Serbia (2023) and Tsaghkadzor Open in Armenia (2023), and won the Challengers section of the Chennai Grand Masters in 2025 with 6.5/9.

Ranking: Pranesh's FIDE rating rose from 2633 in March 2026 to 2673 by August 2026, placing him 44th in the world rankings.

East Bengal FC Clinched 135th Durand Cup 2026 Football Title by Defeating Mohun Bagan Super Giant

East Bengal Football Club (FC) won the 135th Durand Cup 2026 football tournament by defeating arch-rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant 4–1 in the final at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata, West Bengal (WB), with Edmund Lalrindika scoring a first-half hat-trick.

- The victory marked their first title since 2004, ending a 22-year wait and equalling the all-time record of 17 titles in Asia's oldest football competition.

About Durand Cup 2026:

Match: East Bengal dominated the first half with four goals, including an opener by Bipin Singh assisted by Mohammed Rashid, while Manvir Singh scored the lone goal for Mohun Bagan before half-time.

Performance: Lalrindika's hat-trick and Rashid's midfield control highlighted East Bengal's clinical finishing despite Mohun Bagan enjoying more possession and chances.

Organiser: The tournament is regarded as Asia's oldest football competition and is organised by the Durand Football Tournament Society (DFTS) in cooperation with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Indian Armed Forces.

Significance: The win avenged their 2023 final defeat to Mohun Bagan, levelled both Kolkata giants at 17 titles each in the 135-year history of the tournament, and reinforced the city's legacy as a major football hub under coach Antonio López Habas.

Lando Norris wins F1's Dutch Grand Prix 2026

Lando Norris of McLaren, a British racing driver, won the 36th edition of the Dutch Grand **Prix (GP)** (known as Formula One (F1) Heineken Dutch GP 2026) at **Zandvoort, Netherlands**, overtaking championship leader Italy's **Kimi Antonelli** of Mercedes, securing consecutive wins and reducing the title gap amid intense championship competition.

- The race was the **twelfth round** of the 2026 F1 World Championship and the fifth of six Grands Prix in the season to utilise the sprint format.

Highlights of 2026 Dutch Grand Prix:

Overtake: Norris caught and passed Antonelli around the outside at the first corner on lap 54 of 72, then moved ahead of Lewis Hamilton (UK) of Ferrari before completing the lap.

Finish: Antonelli (Italy) of Mercedes secured second after teammate George Russell (UK) of Mercedes was instructed to let him through, with Russell finishing third ahead of Hamilton (UK) of Ferrari.

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa Becomes 1st Indian to Win Grand Chess Tour 2026

Indian Chess Grandmaster (GM) Rameshbabu (**R**) **Praggnanandhaa** won the **Grand Chess Tour (GCT) 2026 Finals**, becoming the first Indian champion by defeating United States of America (USA) GM **Fabiano Caruana** 15–13 in the finals held at Saint Louis Chess Club in **St. Louis**, Missouri, United States of America (USA) from 22 to 27 August 2026.

- GM **Wesley So** of the USA secured **third** place with a score of 18–12, while GM **Vincent Keymer** of Germany finished **fourth**.

About Grand Chess Tour (GCT) 2026:

Duration: The overall 2026 Grand Chess Tour was held from May 5 to August 27, 2026.

Format: The tour consisted of five regular-season tournaments held across Europe and the USA, culminating in the newly introduced GCT Finals.

Events: GCT is an elite circuit spanning Classical, Rapid, and Blitz events, including Super Rapid & Blitz Poland, Super Chess Classic Romania, Super Rapid & Blitz Croatia, Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz, the Sinquefeld Cup, and the GCT Finals.

Earnings: Praggnanandhaa secured the biggest title of his career, earning **USD 200,000** as the winner's prize, and emerged as the top earner of the GCT with a total prize money of USD 404,354.

Obituary

Former COAS General Vishwa Nath Sharma Passed Away

General **Vishwa Nath Sharma** (Retired), former Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Indian Army (IA), passed away at the age of 91 in New Delhi, Delhi.

- He served as the 14th COAS of the IA from 1st May 1988 to 30th June 1990 and was known for his distinguished military career spanning over four decades.

About General Vishwa Nath Sharma:

Profile: He had a distinguished military career marked by command and leadership roles across various formations of the IA before rising to the position of COAS.

Achievement: Commissioned into the 16th Light Cavalry in 1950, he became the first President's Commissioned Officer after Independence to rise to the position of Army Chief.

Honours: Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) in 1977, Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) in 1986.

Italy Football Legend and AC Milan Captain Franco Baresi Passed Away

Italian football player and legendary AC Milan captain **Franco Baresi** passed away at the age of 66 in **Milan, Italy**. He was born on 8 May 1960 in Travagliato, Lombardy region of Northern Italy, Italy.

About Franco Baresi:

Club Career: He played for AC Milan from 1977–1997, making 719 official appearances and captaining the club for 15 seasons. He won 6 Serie A titles, 3 European Cup/Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions League titles, 2 Intercontinental Cups, 2 UEFA Super Cups, and 4 Supercoppa Italiana trophies.

International: He earned 81 caps for Italy and was part of the 1982 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup-winning squad at the age of 22. He later captained Italy to the 1994 FIFA World Cup Final, where Italy finished runners-up to Brazil.

Awards & Recognition: He finished as Ballon d'Or runner-up in 1989, and AC Milan retired his iconic No. 6 jersey, becoming the first Italian club to retire a shirt number in honour of a player.

Record-Breaking Mountaineer Nirmal Purja Passed Away

Renowned Nepali-British mountaineer **Nirmal Purja** passed away in an avalanche on **Broad Peak**, Gilgit-Baltistan region, Pakistan. He was born on 25 July 1983 in Myagdi, Gandaki Province, Nepal.

About **Nirmal** **Purja:**

Early Career: He joined the Brigade of Gurkhas in 2003, became the first Gurkha inducted into the Royal Navy's Special Boat Service (SBS) in 2009, served as a cold-weather warfare specialist, and resigned in 2018 to pursue high-altitude mountaineering full-time.

Achievement: In 2019, he completed **Project Possible 14/7** by climbing all 14 eight-thousanders (peaks above 8,000 metres) in 6 months and 6 days using bottled oxygen, breaking the previous record by over seven years.

- He became the **first person** to climb Mount Everest, Lhotse and Makalu within **48 hours** and achieved the first winter ascent of K2 (Karakoram Range) with Nepali climbers in 2021, reaching the summit without supplemental oxygen.

Recognition: He received the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) award in 2018, an honorary degree from Loughborough University, United Kingdom(UK) in 2023.

Former Tripura and Bihar Governor and Padma Shri D. Y. Patil Passed Away

Dr. Dnyandeo Yashwantrao (**D. Y.**) **Patil**, former Governor of Tripura and Bihar and a renowned educationist, passed away at the age of 90 in Kasba Bawda, Kolhapur, Maharashtra. He was widely known as “**Dada**” and “**Shikshanmaharshi**” for his contributions to the field of education.

- The Government of India (**GoI**) conferred **Padma Shri**, fourth-highest civilian award of India to D. Y. Patil in 1991 for his contributions to education and social service.

About Dr. Dnyandeo Yashwantrao (D. Y.) Patil:

Profile: He was widely regarded as a pioneer of private higher education in Maharashtra and was recognised for his contributions to education and healthcare through large-scale institution building.

Establishment: He founded the D.Y. Patil Group in **1983**, which grew into a vast network of over 182 educational institutions, 7 universities, and premier healthcare systems across India.

Hall of Fame Coach and Five-Time NBA Champion Don Nelson Passed Away

Donald Arvid Nelson(Don Nelson), a legendary American basketball coach and former player, passed away at the age of 86 in Frisco, Texas, the United States of America(USA).

- He was born on May 15, 1940 in Muskegon, Michigan, USA.

About Donald Arvid Nelson

Profile: He was known for fast-paced basketball, increased three-point shooting, and positionless offensive concepts, reflecting his innovative and unconventional coaching approach.

Career: He played 14 National Basketball Association (**NBA**) seasons, including 11 with the Boston Celtics, where he won **five NBA championships**.

- His No. 19 jersey was officially retired by the Boston Celtics in 1978.

Record: He later served as an **NBA head coach** for 31 years, coaching teams including the Milwaukee Bucks, Golden State Warriors, New York Knicks, and Dallas Mavericks.

- He recorded 1,335 regular-season coaching wins, ranked second in NBA history.

Awards & Honours: He won the NBA Coach of the Year Award three times (1983, 1985, 1992) and he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012.

Renowned Nuclear Scientist and Marxist Theorist M.P. Parameswaran Passed away at 91

M.P. Parameswaran, renowned Indian nuclear scientist, science communicator, writer and Marxist theorist, passed away at the age of 91 in Thrissur, Kerala.

- He was born on 18 January, 1935, in Kiralur Village, Thrissur, Kerala and widely associated with the **Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP)** and played an important role in India's people's science and literacy movements.

About M.P. Parameswaram:

Career: He began his career as a scientist at the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)**, Mumbai, Maharashtra, from 1957 to 1975, later shifted to science popularisation, grassroots education and people's movements.

Language Work: From 1969 to 1973, he served as Assistant Director at the State Institute of Languages, Kerala, and contributed to the development of the Malayalam typewriter keyboard.

Expulsion: His book Fourth World sparked significant debate within the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)) due to its advocacy of decentralised democracy, self-reliance, reduced consumerism, and greater community participation, ultimately leading to his expulsion from the party in February 2004.

Award: He was among the first recipients of the **Kerala Sree Award** in 2022 for his contributions to science popularisation and environmental protection, and is remembered for integrating nuclear science with science communication, literacy, and people's movements.

Three-Time National Award-Winning Bengali Filmmaker 'Raja Sen' Passed Away at 71

Veteran Bengali filmmaker **Raja Sen**, known for his work in feature films, television, and documentary filmmaking, passed away at the age of 71 in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB). He was born on 10 November 1955 in Kolkata, WB, India.

About Raja Sen:

Film Career: Raja Sen began his filmmaking journey with documentaries and later gained recognition with his feature film "Damu" (1996).

National Awards: He won three National Film Awards: Suchitra Mitra (1993) in Best Arts/Cultural Film, Damu in Best Children's Film in 1997, and Atmiyo Swajan for Best Film on Family Welfare in 1999.

Notable Works: : His acclaimed films included Atmiyo Swajan, Desh, Debipaksha, Krishnakant er Will, Laboratory and Maya Mridanga. He also created documentaries on prominent cultural personalities.

Legacy: Raja Sen's work preserved **Bengali literature, culture and social themes** through cinema, television and documentaries, leaving a lasting impact on Indian regional filmmaking.

ESPN Founder William F. Rasmussen Passed Away at 93

William F. Rasmussen, the co-founder of ESPN (Entertainment and Sports Programming Network), passed away at the age of **93** in Seattle, Washington, the United States of America (USA). He was born on October 15, 1932, in Chicago, USA.

About William F. Rasmussen:

Profile: He was a pioneer in sports media who transformed global television in the late 1970s by conceptualizing the world's first 24-hour sports cable television(TV) network.

ESPN: Along with his son **Scott Rasmussen**, he launched the network on September 7, 1979 from Bristol, Connecticut, and stepped away from an active role at ESPN in 1980.

Awards: He received several honours, including Connecticut Sports Museum and Hall of Fame (1997), inclusion in the Rutgers University Wall of Fame (2002), and the DePauw University Media Wall of Fame (2012) and the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame (2025).

Recognitions: Named among The Sports 100, honoured by USA Today (1994) as the ‘**Father of Sports Television**,’ and featured in Sports Illustrated’s ‘Forty for the Ages’(1994).

Books Authored: He authored “Sports Junkies Rejoice! The Birth of ESPN” and “ESPN: One Giant Leap for Fankind” (2023), and later collaborated on the “Sports Heaven: The Birth of ESPN” documentary and book project in 2026.

Legendary Actress Padma Shri Sowcar Janaki Passed Away at 94

veteran Indian actress **Sankaramanchi Janaki**, popularly known as “**Sowcar Janaki**“, passed away at the age of **94** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). Born on 12 December 1931 in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh (AP), she was widely recognised for her versatility and portrayal of diverse characters across multiple languages.

- In 2022, Janaki was conferred with **Padma Shri**, the fourth-highest civilian award of India from the Government of India (GoI) in the field of **Art** for her contributions to **Indian cinema**.

About Sowcar Janaki:

Profile: She was one of the most prominent actresses in Indian cinema, with a career spanning over seven decades and notable contributions to Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi films.

Career: She made her film debut at the age of 18 with the landmark Telugu drama **Shavukaru** (1950), which earned her the prefix “**Sowcar**” to her name.

- Over her career, she appeared in more than **400 feature films** and performed in **over 300** theatrical stage productions.

Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar, Convicted in 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots, Passes Away
Former Indian National Congress(INC) Member of Parliament (MP) **Sajjan Kumar**, convicted in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, passed away at the age of 80 in New Delhi, Delhi. He was born on 23 September 1945 in Delhi.

About Sajjan Kumar:

Political Career: He started his political career by joining the INC and was later elected a councilor to the Municipal Corporation (MC) of Delhi in 1977.

Parliamentary Career: He was elected 3-times as MP in Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Parliament) i.e. **for the 1st time in 1980** from Outer Delhi constituency; then in 1991 and 2004.

Double Convictions: In December 2018, the Delhi High Court (HC) sentenced life imprisonment to Kumar in a case related to the killing of 5 Sikhs and burning of Gurdwara during the anti-Sikh riots

- Later, in February 2025, Delhi court convicted him in another case relating to the killing of two Sikh men during the riots.

Country Music Legend Dolly Rebecca Parton Passed Away at 80

Legendary American singer, songwriter, actress and philanthropist **Dolly Rebecca Parton** passed away at the age of 80 in Nashville, Tennessee, United States of America (USA). She was born on January 19, 1946, in Sevier County, Tennessee(USA).

About Dolly Parton:

Musical Journey: Known as the “Queen of Country Music,” Dolly Parton’s nearly seven-decade career featured iconic hits including “Jolene,” “I Will Always Love You,” and “9 to 5.”

Philanthropic Contributions: She founded the Imagination Library, which distributed over 270 million free books to children worldwide, and was associated with Dollywood, a major Tennessee theme park and regional employer.

Legacy: She left a lasting impact on music, cinema, business and philanthropy, becoming one of America’s most iconic entertainers.

Awards: She was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame (1999), the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame (2022) and received 10 Grammy Awards from 55 nominations, and appeared in films like “9 to 5” and “Steel Magnolias” while working as an author and television personality.

World’s Youngest King Uganda’s King Oyo Nyimba Passed Away

Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, king of Uganda’s traditional pre-colonial kingdom Tooro, passed away at the age of 34, in the United States of America (USA). He was born on April 16, 1992.

About Oyo Nyimba:

Early Accession: He ascended the throne in 1995 at the age of 3 years after the death of his father, King Patrick David Matthew Kaboyo Olimi III.

13 Monarch of Tooro Kingdom: However, he formally took over the responsibilities after attaining the age of 18, becoming the 13th monarch of the ancient Tooro kingdom (founded in the early 19th century).

Guinness World Record: Oyo, who was recognised by the Guinness World Records as the world’s youngest reigning monarch, ruling over more than 2 million people.

About Tooro Kingdom: It was founded in the early 19th century, located in Uganda’s West near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Important Days with theme

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2026 – July 30

The United Nations (UN) World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed annually across the globe on July 30 to raise awareness about human trafficking, highlight challenges faced by victims and promote protection of their rights.

- **Theme:** “Trapped Behind the Scam”

Background:

Adoption: The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/68/192 in December 2013 and designated July 30 as the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

Inauguration: The first observance was held on **July 30, 2014**.

World Wide Web Day 2026 – August 1

World Wide Web Day is observed annually on **1 August** to commemorate the invention of the World Wide Web (**WWW**) and recognise its impact on communication, information sharing, digital services and modern technology.

Background:

Origin: The day commemorates the anniversary of the development of the WWW by **Tim Berners-Lee**.

Recognition: It honours the contributions of individuals who helped shape the Web into its present advanced and organised form.

WWW Invention: **Sir Tim Berners-Lee** invented the WWW in 1989 at CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research), Geneva, Switzerland.

- He developed the first web server (httpd) and browser (WorldWideWeb) in 1990, and launched the world's first website, info.cern.ch, on 6 August 1991.

Hiroshima Day 2026 – August 6

Hiroshima Day is observed annually across the globe on 6 August to commemorate the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan by the United States of America (USA) in 1945 during World War II (WW2).

- 2026 marks the **81st** anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Background:

Origin: The first Hiroshima Day Peace Festival was held on **6 August 1947** by the Hiroshima Peace Festival Association to promote peace and remember atomic bombing victims.

Memorial site: The annual memorial ceremony is held at the **Genbaku Dome**, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Japan.

- The Genbaku Dome, the only structure to survive the Hiroshima atomic bombing (1945), was designated a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) World Heritage Site in 1996.

National Handloom Day 2026 – August 7

National Handloom Day is observed annually across India on **7 August** to honour the country's handloom weavers and recognise the handloom sector's significant contribution to India's socio-economic development.

Background:

Origin: The Government of India (GoI) declared 7 August as National Handloom Day in **2015** to commemorate the launch of the **Swadeshi Movement on 7 August 1905** against the British partition of Bengal, led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal.

Observance: The 1st National Handloom Day was inaugurated in **2015** by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

2026 Event: The Ministry of Textiles (MoT) celebrated the 12th National Handloom Day on 7 August 2026 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre (RBCC), New Delhi, Delhi, graced by President Droupadi Murmu as the Chief Guest.

Quit India Movement Day 2026- August 8

Quit India Movement Day, also known as August Kranti Diwas, is observed annually across India on **8 August** to commemorate the anniversary of the **Quit India Movement on 8 August 1942**, led by Mahatma Gandhi, which called for the immediate withdrawal of British rule and became a landmark movement in India's freedom struggle.

About Quit India Movement:

Background: The failure of the 'Cripps Mission' in April 1942 to secure Indian cooperation during World War II (WWII) led to the launch of the Quit India Movement.

Movement: The Quit India Movement, also known as August Kranti, August Movement or Bharat Chodo Andolan, began on 9 August 1942 with Gandhi's **"Do or Die"** (Karo ya Maro) call at Gowalia Tank Maidan (now August Kranti Maidan), after which the British arrested Gandhi and other national leaders.

Leadership: Aruna Asaf Ali, known as the "Heroine of 1942", "Queen of the August Revolution" and "Grand Old Lady of the Independence Movement", hoisted the Indian flag at Gowalia Tank Maidan and was later awarded the Padma Vibhushan (1992) and the Bharat Ratna (posthumously, 1997).

Nagasaki Day 2026 – August 9

Nagasaki Day is annually observed across the globe on **9 August** to commemorate the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan by the United States of America (USA) in 1945 during World War II (WWII: 1939–1945).

- 2026 marks the **81st anniversary** of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

Background:

Inaugural Ceremony: The first Nagasaki Day ceremony was held on 9 August 1947 by the Government of Japan to remember the victims of the atomic bombing and promote lasting peace.

Memorial Venue: The annual memorial service is held at the Peace Statue Plaza, Nagasaki Peace Park, Nagasaki, Japan.

- The park features a **10-metre(m) bronze Peace Statue**, symbolising remembrance of bombing victims and the global peace movement.

Nagasaki Atomic Bombing (1945):

Bombing Details: On 9 August 1945, the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) B-29 bomber “Bockscar” dropped the second atomic bomb, “Fat Man,” on Nagasaki, Japan, which was detonated at an altitude of around 1,650 feet after being released from approximately 29,000 feet.

Fat Man: “Fat Man” was a plutonium-based implosion-type atomic bomb with an explosive force of 21,000 tons of TNT (Trinitrotoluene), weighing over 10,800 pounds (approx. 4,670 kilogram-kg), with a length of 10.8 feet and a diameter of 60 inches.

World Lion Day 2026 – August 10

World Lion Day is annually observed across the globe on **10 August** to raise awareness about **lions (*Panthera leo*)**, highlight their conservation challenges, and promote efforts to protect their role in ecosystems and cultural heritage.

- 10 August 2026 marks the **14th** observance of the World Lion Day.

Background:

Initiation: World Lion Day was started in **2013** by Big Cat Rescue (**BCR**), a wildlife sanctuary in Florida, United States of America (USA), dedicated to lion conservation.

Founders: The initiative was co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert.

Big Cat Initiative: In 2009, Dereck and Beverly Joubert partnered with National Geographic to launch the Big Cat Initiative (**BCI**) for the conservation of big cats.

International Youth Day 2026 – August 12

The United Nations (**UN’s**) International Youth Day (**IYD**) is observed annually across the globe on 12 August to recognise the contributions of young people, raise awareness of youth-related issues, and promote their active and equal participation in all areas of society.

- **2026 Theme:** “Different Contexts, Common Aspirations”

Background:

Origin: In 1991, the idea for IYD was proposed at the 1st session of the United Nations System’s World Youth Forum in Vienna, Austria, which also recommended raising funds and promoting activities through the United Nations Youth Fund (UNYF) in collaboration with youth organizations.

Proclamation: In **1998**, the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (WCMRY) at its 1st session, hosted by the Government of Portugal in cooperation with the United Nations in Lisbon, declared 12 August as IYD.

Observance: The first IYD was officially observed on **12 August 2000**.

World Elephant Day 2026 – August 12

World Elephant Day is observed annually across the world on **12 August** to raise awareness about the conservation and protection of elephants, often known as the ‘Gentle Giants’ of the world.

Background:

Concept: World Elephant Day was conceptualised in **2011** by Canadian filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clarke of Canazwest Pictures and Sivaporn Dardarananda, Secretary General of the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation in Thailand.

First Observance: The first World Elephant Day was observed on **12 August 2012** by Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation.

About Elephant: Elephants are the largest land animals on Earth and are known for their intelligence, social behaviour, and strong family bonds.

- Elephants have a **22-month** gestation period and usually give birth to one calf every **4–5 years**.

World Organ Donation Day 2026 – August 13

World Organ Donation Day is annually observed across the globe on August 13 to commemorate the first successful organ transplant in 1954 while raising awareness about organ donation and encouraging people to become donors to help save lives.

Background:

First Transplant: The world's first successful living-donor kidney transplant was performed in 1954 by American surgeon Dr. Joseph E. Murray and his associates at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, now known as Brigham and Women's Hospital, in Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America (USA).

Donor and Recipient: The transplant was performed between identical twins Ronald and Richard Lee Herrick, with Ronald donating a kidney to Richard, who was suffering from chronic kidney failure.

Nobel Prize: Joseph E. Murray and American physician E. Donnall Thomas were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1990 for their discoveries concerning organ and cell transplantation in the treatment of human disease.

World Humanitarian Day 2026 – August 19

World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed globally on **19 August** every year to honour humanitarian workers who provide life-saving assistance during crises and promote the protection of humanitarian personnel and International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

- **2026 Theme:** "Honouring fallen humanitarians and calling for greater protection of health care"

Background:

UN Proclamation: The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/63/139 on 11 December **2008**, designating 19 August as World Humanitarian Day.

First Observation: The first World Humanitarian Day was observed on **19 August 2009**.

Campaign: The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (**OCHA**) launched the WHD campaign in **2010** to honour humanitarian workers and promote awareness about humanitarian efforts.

Why August 19? On 19 August 2003, a suicide truck bombing targeted the United Nations headquarters at Canal Hotel, Baghdad, Iraq, killing 22 humanitarian workers, including Sérgio Vieira de Mello, UN Special Representative for Iraq.

World Photography Day 2026 – August 19

World Photography Day (**WPD**), also known as **World Photo Day**, is observed globally on **19 August** every year to celebrate the art, craft, science and history of photography and recognise its role in capturing memories, cultures and events.

- The day commemorates the invention of the **daguerreotype process**, the first practical photographic process developed by **Louis Daguerre** in 1837.

2026 Theme:

Theme: The theme of **World Photography Day 2026** is “**HOME**”.

Focus: The theme encourages people to share photographs that represent their personal meaning of “**home**” and highlight the stories and emotions behind images.

Background:

Definition: Photography is the art and science of capturing light using devices such as cameras, smartphones and drones to create images.

Origin: The term “**Photography**” means “**drawing with light**” and was coined by British scientist Sir John Herschel in 1839.

Sadbhavana Divas 2026 – August 20

Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day is observed on August 20 every year in India with the intention of promoting peace, unity, and harmony among various religions and communities.

- The day also marks the **birth anniversary** of former Prime Minister (PM) **Rajiv Gandhi** and this year marks the **82nd** birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.

Background:

Observation: Sadbhavana Diwas was first observed on **August 20, 1992**, in memory of Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1991.

Meaning: The word ‘Sadbhavana’ translates to ‘**Goodwill and Bonafide**’ in English.

National Space Day 2026 – August 23

National Space Day (NSpD) is observed across India on 23 August to commemorate the historic success of the Indian Space Research Organisation’s (ISRO’s) Chandrayaan-3 mission and the successful deployment of the Pragyan Rover.

- 2026 Theme: “Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership”.

Background:

Declaration: In August 2023, the Government of India (GoI) announced that 23rd August would be observed annually as NSpD to commemorate the success of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission.

Announcement: The declaration was made by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi during his meeting with the ISRO at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking, and Command Network (ISTRAC) Mission Control Facility (MCF) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

First Observance: NSpD was celebrated for the first time in 2024.

International Day Against Nuclear Tests 2026 – August 29

The United Nations (UN's) **International Day Against Nuclear Tests** (IDANT) is annually observed across the globe on **29 August** to raise awareness about the harmful effects of nuclear weapon test explosions and to promote a nuclear-weapon-free world.

- 29 August 2026 marks the **17th** observance of IDANT.

Background:

Resolution: On **2 December 2009**, the 64th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/64/35, declaring 29 August as the International Day Against Nuclear Tests.

Initiative: The resolution was introduced by **Kazakhstan** with global support.

First Observance: First observed on **29 August 2010**.

Significance of Date: Marks the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site (SNTS) in Kazakhstan on 29 August 1991, where 456 nuclear tests were conducted between 1949–1989.