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GEORGIANS
DEFENCE ACADEMY

National

Yamuna Water Project Agreement Signed to Resolve Haryana–Rajasthan Water Dispute

The Government of India **(GoI)**, along with the Governments of **Haryana** and **Rajasthan,** signed the signed a Memorandum of Agreement **(MoA)** to implement the **Yamuna Water Project** to resolve the long-pending inter-state water dispute, in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The agreement was signed under the chairmanship of Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA), in the presence of Union Minister C.R. Patil, Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Bhajan Lal Sharma, Chief Ministers (CM) of Rajasthan and Haryana Nayab Singh Saini, CM of Haryana.

About Yamuna Water Project:

Objective: To implement the 1994 Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) Agreement and provide Rajasthan with its allocated share of Yamuna water.

Project: The **Rs. 34,102 crore project** will supply around 580 Million Cubic Metres (MCM) of Yamuna water from the Hathnikund Barrage through the Western Yamuna Canal to Rajasthan via three underground pipelines between July and October, benefiting both Rajasthan and Haryana.

Beneficiary Areas: The project will provide drinking water to Sikar, Churu, and Jhunjhunu districts in Rajasthan and benefit parts of Bhiwani and Fatehabad districts in Haryana.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Rajasthan And Gujarat On July 4, 2026

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited Rajasthan and Gujarat, inaugurating and laying foundations stones for various development projects.

Key Highlights of Visit:

Rajasthan: During his visit, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the newly developed, Rs 480 crore terminal building at **Jodhpur Airport,** designed to handle up to 2 million passengers annually and also launched the Modified Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik **(UDAN) scheme** to bolster remote regional connectivity, in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

- During his visit to Rajasthan's Balotra, PM Modi laid the foundation stones and inaugurated various development projects worth **Rs 1.06 lakh crore,** spanning railways, highways, Renewable Energy (RE), and power transmission.
- He inaugurated **India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex** to the nation at Pachpadra, a massive project developed by Joint Venture (JV)between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the Rajasthan Government and laid the foundation for Phase-II of the Jaipur Metro Rail Project (over Rs 13,000 crore).

Gujarat: PM Modi inaugurated the **CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility,** developed at a cost of Rs 7,500 crore under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

MoEFCC Notifies Mizoram's Natural History Museum as India's 21st Designated Repository

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**), Government of India (**GoI**) notified the Natural History Museum (**NHM**), Mizoram University, Aizawl,Mizoram as India's **21st Designated Repository** (DR) under Section 39 of the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, following the recommendation of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and after due examination of the proposal.

About Mizoram's Natural History Museum:

Establishment: NHM was established in **2022** under Mizoram University Act (No. 8 of 2000) and is strategically located in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot and recognised for its specialised taxonomic expertise.

Collections and Expertise: NHM has preserved over 500 specimens, including herbarium sheets and wet collections. It specialises in pteridophytes, macrofungi, fishes, moths, beetles and butterflies through a multidisciplinary team covering seven taxonomic groups

Conservation and Collaboration: The repository will document endemic species and collaborate with the Mizoram State Biodiversity Board, regional institutions, the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

- It supports Target 4 of India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024–2030 on ex situ conservation and genetic diversity, in line with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biod
- iversity Framework.

ICMR to Set Up India's First Centre for High-Altitude Medicine in Himachal Pradesh

Union Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) laid the foundation stone of the Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**) Centre for **High Altitude Medicine** and **Public Health Research** at Keylong in Lahaul and Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh (**HP**).

- The Centre will be India's first dedicated institution for research on high-altitude medicine and public health.

Key Details of Centre:

Objective: The Centre will conduct long-term research on high-altitude and tribal populations, focusing on tribal health, disaster preparedness, and digital health innovation, while deploying telemedicine, drone-based logistics, and real-time surveillance to enhance healthcare delivery in remote areas.

Capacity Building: The Centre will upgrade ICMR's Keylong field station into a multidisciplinary hub for research, innovation, and capacity building focused on high-altitude and climate-sensitive regions.

Collaborations: The Centre will collaborate with the Armed Forces Medical Services (**AFMS**), Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), HP Government, and national and international academic institutions to create an ecosystem for translational research and policy support, advancing **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in health research and climate-resilient, inclusive health systems.

Focus Areas: The Centre will focus on scientific studies and solutions covering high-altitude physiology, mountain medicine, emerging and climate-sensitive diseases, maternal, infectious and non-communicable diseases, child health, nutrition, mental health, environmental and occupational health, and disaster medicine.
About ICMR: ICMR is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, and promotion of biomedical research, is headquartered in New Delhi(Delhi) and led by Secretary & Director General (DG) Dr. Rajiv Bahl.

IAF Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla Launches Debut Book 'The Second Orbit'

Indian Air Force **(IAF) Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** launched his debut book, '**The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man… Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts'**, in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- The book, published by **Penguin Random House India**, was launched in the presence of former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairpersons A. S. Kiran Kumar and S. Somanath.

About the Book:
Insights: The book chronicles Shubhanshu Shukla's journey from an aspiring student to an astronaut, covering his training, Axiom-4 mission experiences, challenges of human spaceflight, and India's growing ambitions in space exploration.
Purpose: The book aims to inspire young Indians to pursue careers in science, astronomy and space exploration while encouraging wider public participation in India's expanding space programme.
Inspiration: The title pays tribute to Rakesh Sharma, India's first astronaut, and his historic 1984 space mission.
About Shubhanshu Shukla: As the pilot of Axiom Mission 4, he spent 18 days aboard the International Space Station (ISS), conducted seven Indian scientific experiments, and gained experience supporting India's Gaganyaan programme.

Vice-President Releases Book 'The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks'

C. P. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India, released the book titled 'The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks', edited by Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi. The book was published by Thomson Reuters in association with the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA).

- The launch event was presided over by **Justice Surya Kant**, Chief Justice of India (CJI).

About the Book:
Insights: The book compiles speeches delivered by Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai during his tenure as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India and the 52nd CJI.
Objective: The publication aims to inspire law students, academicians, and legal professionals, providing a comprehensive understanding of judicial decision-making and reasoning.
Structure: The book is divided into three parts: Constitutional Soul (Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, and Article 39A on free legal aid), Implementation Grids

(practical enforcement challenges), and Modern Adaptations (Alternative dispute resolution (ADR), technology-enabled courts, and global judicial cooperation).

India's First AI-Integrated Vertical University Campus Inaugurates in Chennai TN

Padma Shri **Sridhar Vembu,** Chief Scientist and Co-founder of Zoho Corporation Pvt. Ltd., inaugurated VELS Institute of Science, Technology, & Advanced Studies **(VISTAS)'s Thiruvanmiyur campus** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), regarded as **India's 1st** Artificial Intelligence (AI)-integrated vertical university campus.

- Dr. Ishari K. Ganesh, founder and Chancellor of VISTAS, along with Dr. Preetha Ganesh, Vice-President (VP) of VELS Group of Institutions, presided over the launch event.

Key Details:

About Campus: The newly inaugurated campus features Industry-Academia Centres of Excellence **(CoEs),** established in partnership with Intel Unnati, Tata Consultancy Service (TCS) iON, Microsoft, Oracle Academy.

- These CoEs will enable the students to have experience in Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and other emerging technologies.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjab on July 17, 2026

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** visited Haryana, Union Territory (UT) Chandigarh and Punjab on July 17, 2026. During his visit, he flagged off India's first Hydrogen train, laid the foundation stones and dedicated to the nation various development projects **worth over Rs 26,800 crore** in Haryana (14,700 crore); UT Chandigarh (over 4,700 crore) and Punjab (over 5,470 crore).

Key highlights of Visit:

Visit to Haryana: PM Modi flagged off India's first hydrogen-powered train between Jind and Sonipat at Jind Railway Station in Haryana.

- **National Highway (NH) Projects:** Later, he laid the foundation stone and dedicated the nation's National Highway (NH) projects worth **over Rs 12,470 crore** during an event held in Eklavya Stadium in Jind, Haryana. These projects included: 157.92-kilometer (km)-long four-lane Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway (Rs 9,680 crore); 33.81-km-long four-lane, partially access-controlled Ambala-Kala Amb National Highway (NH) on NH-7 and NH-344 (around Rs 1,184 crore); 40.60 km long Jind-Gohana Greenfield Highway on NH-352A;24.27 km long Hansi–Barwala Brownfield Highway Project; and 5.9 km-long elevated railway track (Rs 447 crore).
- **Medical Infrastructure:** He dedicated major medical institutions to the nation, including Pandit Neki Ram Sharma Government Medical College(GMC), in Bhiwani; Maharishi Chyawan Medical College and Rao Tula Ram Hospital, in Koriawas, Narnaul.

- **Cultural Infrastructure:** He also laid the foundation stone of the Sikh Museum at Kurukshetra, Haryana, to be built in Umri village at a cost of Rs 170 crore.

NITI Aayog's IFI 2026: Gujarat Leads Among All Large States, Followed by Maharashtra and TN

The National Institution for Transforming India **(NITI Aayog)** released its latest report titled "Investment Friendliness Index (IFI 2026)" which provides a comprehensive and data-driven framework to assess the capabilities of states and Union Territories in attracting and sustaining investments. As per the index, **Gujarat** topped among all large states as well as in the overall ranking with a total score of **56.6.**

- It is followed by **Maharashtra (overall score of 53.7)** and Tamil Nadu **(TN) (overall score of 53.3)** secured **2nd** and **3rd** positions in the index.

About IFI 2026:

Top 5 States: Overall, Gujarat, Maharashtra, TN, Goa (rank 4th, score of 53.1); Odisha (ranked 5th, score of 52.4) featured among the top 5 states in the index.

- Together, these top 5 states account for **85%** of total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows.

Bottom 5 States/UTs: UT Lakshadweep ranked lowest in the index, with overall score of 24.5, followed by UT Ladakh (ranked 35th, score of 27.0); UT Andamand & Nicobar (A&N) Islands (ranked 34th, score of 30.2); Manipur (ranked 33rd, score of 32.3) and Sikkim (ranked 32nd, score of 36.6).

Classification: Based on its overall assessment, the index has placed:

- **05 States in top performers category:** Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, TN.
- **15 States/UTs in frontrunners category:** Andhra Pradesh (AP), Assam, UT Chandigarh, UT Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh (HP), among others.
- **8 states/UTs in Emerging category:** Bihar, UT Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Nagaland, UT Puducherry, Punjab and West Bengal (WB).

GEORGIANS

Union Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates 'Shabdalok', India's First Immersive Language Museum in Kolkata, WB

Union Minister **Amit Shah**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Cooperation, inaugurated the first phase of **'Shabdalok** (The Museum of Word)**'**, India's first immersive language museum, developed at a cost of **Rs 41 cror**e in the Belvedere House within the National Library campus, Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

- The first phase features 2,282 square metres(sq. m.) of exhibition space on the first floor, with later phases adding ground-floor galleries, a Souvenir Shop, Café, and façade projection mapping.

About Shabdalok :

Heritage: Developed by the **National Library** under the Ministry of Culture , the first phase of 'Shabdalok' showcases the diversity of Indian languages, scripts, and literary traditions.
Linguistics: The museum features nine galleries showcasing nearly 380 Indian languages, including 121 languages recorded in the Census 2011 and several historical languages that are no longer spoken.
Interaction: The museum combines immersive technologies like digital displays, holograms, motion sensors, audio-visual (**AV**) installations, augmented reality (**AR**) and virtual reality (**VR**), interactive exhibits, audio-visual presentations, and artefacts to present a comprehensive story of India's spoken and written heritage.
National Library: India's largest by collection volume, was established in 1953 under the Change of Name Act, 1948, evolving from the Imperial Library (1891) and Calcutta Public Library (1836).

India Approves First Dengue Vaccine 'QDENGA' After DCGI Clearance

India approved its first dengue vaccine, QDENGA (TAK-003), after the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) granted market authorisation to **Takeda Biopharmaceuticals** India Private Limited under the New Drugs and Clinical Trials (NDCT) Rules, 2019.

- QDENGA has been approved for the prevention of dengue in individuals aged **4 to 60 years.**

About QDENGA:

Vaccine: It is a live-attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine designed to provide protection against all four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 and DENV-4).

- It is administered as two subcutaneous doses of 0.5 millilitres (mL) given three months apart.

Prequalification: QDENGA has received World Health Organization (**WHO)** prequalification, confirming its compliance with global standards of quality, safety and efficacy, and making it eligible for procurement by international agencies such as UNICEF and the Pan American Health Organization **(PAHO).**
Clinical Trials: The approval of QDENGA in India was supported by Takeda's global clinical program, including 19 Phase I–III trials involving over 28,000 participants, the Phase III TIDES (DEN-301) trial with more than 20,000 participants across 8 countries, and data from the DEN-302 Phase III trial conducted among Indian participants.
Dengue Burden: Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease affecting over 125 countries worldwide and remains a major public health challenge. India contributes nearly one-third of the global dengue burden.

Cotton Blossoms as India's 'White Gold': India Tops in Cultivation, 2nd in Both Production & Consumption

The Government of India **(GoI)** released a **factsheet** highlighting **Cotton** as India's "White

Gold", supporting the livelihoods of around 6 million farmers and 40–50 million people across the textile value chain.

- India ranks **1st** globally in cotton cultivation area, with 114.84 lakh hectares(ha) (38% of the world's cotton area), and **2nd** in both cotton production and consumption.

Key Facts:

Cotton Production: As per the Ministry of Textiles (MoT) data, India's cotton production is projected at **290.91 lakh bales** or, 4.95 Million Tonnes (MT)for 2025-26 (provisional).

- India contributes approximately 19% of global fibre production.

Cotton Consumption: Also, cotton domestic consumption, including non-textile segments, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), and non-MSME, stood at 328 lakh bales or 5.58 MT, for 2025-26 (provisional).

Exports: The data estimated that India exported 18 lakh bales or, 0.31 million Metric Tonnes(MMT) of cotton in 2024-25, representing nearly 3.37% of global cotton exports (541.69 lakh bales or, 9.21 MMT).

- However, in terms of value, India's total cotton exports stood at USD 11.49 billion in Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).

Top Destination Countries: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) data showed **the United States of America (USA)** emerged as the largest destination for India's cotton fabrics and made-up exports (which accounts 26.35% of total exports); followed by Bangladesh (19.81%); Sri Lanka (5.11%); the United Kingdom (UK) (2.38%) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (2.32%).

Union Cabinet Approves Bill to Strengthen Anti-Paper Leak Law with Up to 10-Year Jail and Rs 10 Crore Fine

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved a draft Bill to amend the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, proposing stricter penalties of up to 10 years' imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs 10 crore for organised paper leak offences, along with provisions for **fast-track courts** to ensure speedy disposal of examination fraud cases.

About Amendments to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024:

Key Amendments: The proposed Bill increases the minimum imprisonment for paper leak offences to 5-10 years for individuals, while retaining a **maximum punishment of 10 years** and raising penalties with fines of **up to Rs 10 crore** for organised offences.

- Before the amendment, the Act prescribed **3–5 years' imprisonment** alongside a fine of up to Rs.10 lakh for individuals involved in unfair means and **5–10 years' imprisonment** with a **minimum fine of Rs 1 crore** for organised examination fraud.

Fast-Track Courts: The amendments provide for dedicated **fast-track courts** to hear paper leak cases. These courts are expected to complete investigations and trials within **three months** to ensure speedy justice.

PM Narendra Modi Constitutes Exam Reform Task Force Led by Nandan Nilekani

The Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** announced the constitution of six member high-powered task force, under the leadership of Infosys co-founder **Nandan Nilekani** to recommend comprehensive reforms to the examination system in India.

Task Force Details:

Driving Factors: The panel was formed in response to nationwide protests over education reforms and concerns regarding exam paper leaks, particularly after the **NEET** (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test)-**UG** (Under Graduate) paper leak controversy.

Other Members: The high-level task force comprises experts from technology, education, intelligence, and administration:

- S. Somanath, Former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Tapan Deka, Former Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB)
- V. Kamakoti, Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras
- Anita Karwal, Former Education Secretary, Ministry of Education (MoE)
- Amrit Lal Meena, Logistics & Administration Expert, Former Secretary, Ministry of Coal

MHA: Over 12,000 Registered Against Cyber Financial Fraud in 2025, Delhi Tops the List Among 18 States & UTs

Union Minister of State **(MoS) Bandi Sanjay Kumar,** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), informed the Lok Sabha (also, known as the House of the People) that **over 12,000** Electronic Zero(e-Zero) First Information Reports (FIRs) were registered against cyber financial fraud in **18** states and Union Territories (UTs) in 2025.

- Among these all states and UTs, **Delhi** recorded the highest number of e-zero FIRs, with a total of 6,115 FIRs registered since May 2025, followed by **UT Chandigarh** with 4,174 FIRs (since November 2025).

About e-Zero FIRs:

State-wise Data: Uttarakhand has registered **552 FIRs** (since March 2026), which is the 3rd highest number of e-Zero FIRs registered since its launch in 2025; followed by Goa (446, since January 2026); Rajasthan (251, since January 2026); Assam (223); Haryana (165); and Maharashtra (131).

Registration Process: Launched by the Government of India (GoI) in May 2025, the system enables cyber financial fraud victims to lodge complaints through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal **(NCRP) or the 1930 helpline,** which are forwarded to the concerned police station.

- Complainants must visit the police station within 3 days to convert the e-Zero FIR into a regular FIR.

DoT and MP Sign MoU To Establish India's First Telecom Manufacturing Zone at Gwalior

The Department of Telecommunications (**DoT**), Ministry of Communications and the Government of Madhya Pradesh (**MP**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi, to establish **India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone** (TMZ), Phase-I at Gwalior, MP.

- The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and Ministry of Communications, Dr. Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister (CM) of MP and Union Minister of State (MoS) Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

About India's First Telecom Manufacturing Zone :

Aim: The TMZ aims to build a robust ecosystem for telecom, data centres, semiconductor manufacturing, and allied technologies by attracting investments, fostering innovation, and promoting indigenous design and manufacturing.
Scope: Spread across about 350 acres, the zone will manufacture mobile phones, telecom equipment, optical fibre, semiconductors, and 5G/6G technology products.
Implementation: Following the agreement, a Special Purpose Company **(SPC) w**ill be established to implement the project.
Model: Under the MoU, the project is designed on a **plug-and-play** system to provide ready-to-use infrastructure for manufacturing units and enable faster industrial development.

Competere Foundation's Report: India Rises to 57th Rank in Global Competitiveness Reforms Ranking

Competere Foundation for Trade and Competition Policy(formally the Competere Foundation for Trade and Competition), an independent policy and advocacy group, released its latest report titled 'India's Next Growth Frontier: Reducing Anti-Competitive Market Distortions (ACMDs) to Build on India's 2010–2023 Reform Progress'. As per the report, India has emerged as one of the strongest structural reformers among the economies studied, improving its overall global ranking by jumping **25 places** i.e. from 82nd (in 2010) **to 57th (in 2023).**

Key Details of Report:

About the Report:
Aim: It tracks the country's structural and pro-competitive reforms between 2010 and 2023.
Key Parameters: The performance of countries are assessed through the foundation's Market Distortions Performance Index **(MDPI)** across three main parameters which include: protection of property rights, domestic competition and international competition.
Key Drivers: The report highlighted some of the Government of India (GoI)-led key reforms such as the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), improvements in the regulatory framework and trade facilitation measures (Indian Customs Electronic Gateway, the Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade, Direct Port Delivery, among others)contributed to India's improved ranking.

International

Overview of Union Minister Piyush Goyal's Visit to UK from June 25 to 27, 2026

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), undertook a 3-day official visit to London, the United Kingdom (UK), from June 25 to 27, 2026.

- The visit came ahead of the official implementation of the historic India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the companion Double Contribution Convention (DCC), which are set to come into force on **July 15, 2026.**

Highlights of Visit:

Bilateral Meeting: During the visit, Union Minister Piyush Goyal held a high-level bilateral meeting with Peter Kyle, Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Government of the UK in London to discuss regulatory alignment, customs coordination, and implementation of the India–UK CETA and Double Contribution Convention (DCC).

Honour: Union Minister Piyush Goyal was honoured with the Special award for Exceptional Leadership in Elevating India-UK Relations during the 10th anniversary of India Global Forum (IGF)'s UK-India Awards 2026 ceremony held in London.

Others: Union Minister Piyush Goyal also launched the "UK-India CETA Business Utilisation Manual, a practical activation guide for Indian and UK Businesses.

- He announced the deployment of 1,000 advisory personnel across India to help businesses maximise the benefits of the India-UK CETA.
- He also announced the upgradation of the trade portal to provide greater support to exporters and industry.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi Visit to Seychelles From June 27 to 29, 2026

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** undertook a 3-day official visit to Seychelles from June 27 to 29, 2026, at the invitation of **Dr. Patrick Herminie,** President of Seychelles.

Key Highlights of Visit:

Bilateral Meeting: PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with Dr. Patrick Herminie, President of Seychelles, at the State House in Victoria, Mahe, during which discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in health, education, capacity building, digital transformation, Renewable Energy (RE), maritime security, among others.

Golden Jubilee Celebrations: During his visit, PM Modi attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the National Day of Seychelles, marking the 50 years of the island nation's independence, as the **Guest of Honour,** in Victoria, Mahe.

Honour: PM Narendra Modi was honoured with the honorary **"Guardian of the Blue Horizon"** title, the highest distinction of Seychelles for leadership in environmental conservation and sustainable development, presented by Seychelles President Patrick Herminie.

Key MoUs: During PM Modi's visit, India and Seychelles signed a total of 9 key Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) covering sectors like: defence, healthcare, digital

payments, agriculture, maritime cooperation, space and infrastructure.
Key Outcomes: Rs 1,250 crore umbrella Line of Credit (LoC) to support African island nation's development projects; handing over Fast Patrol Vessel **(FPV PS)** LESPWAR, 6 ambulances, 10 utility vehicles and 5 Laser Radical Boats to Seychelles, release of joint commemorative logo marking **50 years** of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Seychelles and others.

Overview of Japan PM Sanae Takaichi's Visit to India from July 1 to 3, 2026

Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister (PM) of Japan was on a 3-day official visit to India from July 1 to 3, 2026 for 16th India-Japan Annual Summit at the invitation of **PM Narendra Modi.**

Highlights of the Visit:

Bilateral Meeting: PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with Japanese PM Takaichi at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi, Delhi, focusing on stronger economic ties, resilient semiconductor supply chains and cooperation in critical technologies.
16th India-Japan Annual Summit: During the visit, Japanese PM Takaichi participated at the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit in New Delhi.

- During the summit, both countries announced **16 key outcomes** expanding bilateral cooperation in Artificial Intelligence (AI), economic security, clean energy, critical minerals, mobility, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and financial services.

Joint Japan-India Economic Forum: During her visit to India, Japanese PM Takaichi along with PM Modi, attended the "Japan-India Joint Economic Forum", hosted by the Japan External Trade Organisation **(JETRO)** in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The forum witnessed the inauguration of Maruti Suzuki's **4th** vehicle manufacturing facility at Kharkhoda (in Haryana).
- Indian and Japanese companies signed at least 129 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 1 lakh crore.

Other Key Announcements: 4th India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial meeting in Tokyo (by the end of 2026), India, Japan first ever defence co development project, involving Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN) system for IN, among others.

Sustainable Development Report 2026: Topped by Finland and India Ranks 94th

The United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (**UNSDSN**) released the 11th Edition of the Sustainable Development Report (**SDR**) 2026, **India** secured its highest-ever rank of 94th among 167 countries with a score of 68.3 out of 100, improving from 99th position in 2025.

- **Finland** has secured the first place with a score of 87.4, followed by Sweden with 86.3 and Denmark with 85.7.

India's SDG Performance:

Performance: India improved by **18 ranks** since 2015, moving from 112th to 94th position, making it one of the fastest-improving economies. However, it still lags behind Bhutan,

Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Only **33.3%** of SDG targets are expected to be achieved by **2030**, showing uneven progress.
Challenges: India faces challenges in 13 of 17 SDGs, especially Zero Hunger, Health, Gender Equality, Sustainable Cities, Climate Action, and Governance. These issues reflect persistent gaps in nutrition, environment, urban growth, and institutional quality.

- Zero Hunger remains the biggest concern, with issues like child stunting, wasting, undernourishment, and rising obesity, despite improvement in cereal yield.

Positive Developments: India has shown progress in SDG 7 (electricity access) and SDG 9 (digital connectivity). Expansion in internet use and broadband access reflects improved infrastructure and digital inclusion.

India's Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Mittal, Lakshmi Mittal Among 44 Founding Members of ITU's AI for Good Global Commission

The International Telecommunication Union **(ITU)**, a United Nations (UN)-backed agency, launched the Artificial Intelligence **(AI) for Good Global Commission** with **44 founding members**, in Geneva, Switzerland, to strengthen global AI governance, inclusion, and innovation frameworks.

- Among the founding members, **Mukesh Ambani,** Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries; **Sunil Bharti Mittal,** Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Limited; and **Lakshmi N. Mittal,** Executive Chairman of ArcelorMittal S.A., represent India on the global stage as leading business figures.

About AI for Good Global Commission:

Objective: The commission aims to ensure AI is used as a force for global good by strengthening trust, expanding access, and promoting equitable digital inclusion while addressing global inequalities caused by the digital divide.
Leadership: The Commission is co-chaired by **Paul Kagame**, President of Rwanda, and **Marc Benioff**, Chair and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Salesforce while ITU Secretary-General **Doreen Bogdan-Martin** serves as Vice-Chair.
Other Members: Include Jensen Huang, Founder and CEO of NVIDIA; Brad Smith, Vice Chair and President of Microsoft; Andy Jassy, CEO and President of Amazon.com; Julie Sweet, Chair and CEO of Accenture; Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and others.

GCS's Global Passport Index 2026: Sweden Tops the Rankings; India Ranked 125th

The residency and citizenship advisory firm Global Citizen Solutions **(GCS)** released the **5th** annual edition of the Global Passport Index **(GPI).** As per the index, India has been ranked at **125th** spot among 197 countries, with a composite score of **45.1 (highest in 5 years),** dropping one place (124th)from its overall ranking compared to 2025 and jumping by just two places (127th) over the last 5 years.

- **Sweden** topped the rankings as the world's strongest passport with an overall score of 96.05. It is followed by Switzerland, Finland, Germany and the Netherlands, securing 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th positions, respectively.

GPI 2026:

Categories: GPI ranks the passports across three main categories, including Enhanced Mobility (50%); Investment (25%); and Quality of Live Index (25%)

Other Top 10 countries: Other top 10 countries featured on the index are: Denmark (6th), Ireland (7th), United Kingdom (8th), Norway (9th) and Singapore (10th).

India's Performance: The GPI 2026 showed category-wise India's performance: ranked at **136th** spot in enhanced mobility index (down from one place over 2025); 118th spot in the Quality of Live index (jumping by 11 places); 94th in the investment index (moving up by 3 places compared to 2025).

UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2026: India Ranks 11th in Global FDI Inflows with USD 38.89 Billion in 2025

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development **(UNCTAD)** released its latest report titled **"2026 World Investment Report: International Investment in a Turbulent Era".** As per the report, India emerged as the world's **11th** largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), moving up two places compared to 2024, with total inflows surging by approximately 44% to **USD 38.89 billion** in 2025.

- The United States of America **(USA)** continued to be the world's largest FDI destination with inflows of **USD 277 billion,** followed by **Singapore** (USD 151 billion), **Hong Kong,** Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China (USD 116 billion) ranked at 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.

- As per UNCTAD's report, India moved up 2 places to **18th** among the world's top home economies for FDI as its overall FDI outflow increased 47% i.e. from USD 24.26 billion (in 2024) to **USD 35.66 billion** (in 2025).

Key Findings:

Global FDI Inflow: The report revealed that global FDI increased **6%** to **USD 1.6 trillion** in 2025, after witnessing two consecutive years of decline.

World's Top 5 Source Economies: The USA also emerged as the world's largest source of FDI with its total outflow of **USD 263 billion** in 2025.

- It is followed by Japan (2nd), China (3rd), Luxembourg (4th) and Hong Kong, SAR of China (5th).

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Indonesia from July 6 to 8, 2026

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** undertook a 3-day state visit to Indonesia from July 6 to 8 2026, at the invitation of **Prabowo Subianto,** President of Indonesia, to strengthen bilateral ties and strategic cooperation between India and Indonesia.

Key Highlights of Visit to Indonesia:

Key Engagements: PM Modi held bilateral talks with Indonesian President Prabowo at Istana

Merdeka (Presidential Palace) in Jakarta, where both leaders reviewed a wide spectrum of bilateral relations, including political engagement, defence and security cooperation, maritime cooperation, among others.

- PM Modi became the 1st Indian PM to address the Indonesian Parliament (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat, DPR) in Jakarta, Indonesia where he unveiled an ambitious **"Ganga-Mahakam Vision",** designed to foster long-term strategic partnership between the two countries.

- He also visited the **Prambanan Temple,** located on the island of Java in Yogyakarta, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Site, and inaugurated the Prambanan Temple Complex restoration project, proposed to be led by Archaeological Survey of India **(ASI).**

Honour: During the visit, PM Modi was conferred with **"Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia"** also known **as the Medal of Honour,** the highest civilian honour of Indonesia, in recognition of his contribution to bolstering bilateral relations between the two countries.

Key Outcomes: PM Modi visit to Indonesia resulted in 20 key outcomes, including **14** Memorandums of Understanding **(MoUs)** and agreements across defence, space, healthcare, agriculture, technology and critical minerals, along with **6 key announcements** covering strategic, economic, technological and cultural cooperation.

CSIR Establishes International Centre for Civilizational Studies 'Manas and Mahabharata' in Kyrgyzstan

The Centre for Studies of International Relations **(CSIR)**, New Delhi, Delhi in collaboration with the Manas National Academy, established the International Centre for Civilizational Studies **'Manas and Mahabharata'** in Bishkek, **Kyrgyzstan.**

- The Centre aims to strengthen scientific, educational and cultural cooperation between India and Kyrgyzstan through comparative civilizational and epic studies.

Highlights of the Initiative:

Inauguration: The Centre was inaugurated during the visit of an Indian delegation to Kyrgyzstan from **4–7 July 2026**.

Objective: The Centre will promote comparative civilizational studies, humanitarian diplomacy, international scientific cooperation and researcher training.

Translation: The first Hindi translation of the Kyrgyz epic **'Manas'**, translated by **Hem Chandra Pande** and **Ramakant Dwivedi**, was released during the inauguration.

Cooperation: A trilateral agreement was signed between the Manas National Academy, CSIR and seven Kyrgyz universities to strengthen academic collaboration.

About Manas National Academy: The Manas National Academy, headquartered in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, is the premier institution dedicated to researching, preserving, and promoting the Epic of Manas and supporting studies on the country's history, language, literature, and cultural heritage.

Aviva Set to Become First Foreign Insurer to Fully Own Indian Life Insurance Business

United Kingdom (UK's) insurance giant **Aviva Plc** announced the acquisition of remaining **26%** stake in Aviva Life Insurance Company India limited **(Aviva India)** from its Joint Venture (JV) partner, Dabur Invest Corp. **(DIC),** becoming the **1st foreign insurer** to fully own its **Indian life Insurance business.**

Key Details of Acquisition:

100% FDI in Insurance Sector: The announcement of acquisition was made following the Government of India (GoI) allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the insurance sector in May 2026.

Key Change: On the completion of the transaction, the shareholding of Aviva in the company will be raised from existing **74% to 100%.**

- Also, the transaction will terminate Dabur's more than 20 years of association with the insurer.

Background: In 2001, Aviva entered the insurance sector of India through a JV with DIC, and over the last few years, it has raised its stake from 49% (2016) to 74% in 2022.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Australia from July 8-10, 2026

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** undertook a 3-day official visit to Australia, 2nd leg of his three-nation tour (Indonesia, New Zealand), from **July 08 to July 10 2026,** at the invitation of **Anthony Albanese,** PM of Australia.

- The visit aimed at strengthening cooperation across sectors, including agriculture, science and technology, space, innovation and clean energy.

Key Highlights of Visit to Australia:

Ceremonial Welcome: During his visit to Australia, PM Modi received a ceremonial welcome and a Guard of Honour at the ceremonial event held at Government House Victoria in Melbourne, where he was received by Australian PM Anthony Albanese MP.

Australia-India CEO Forum: PM Modi along with his Australian counterpart Albanese, jointly addressed the Australia-India Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) Forum, originally established in 2012 and relaunched by Modi and Albanese in 2023, and the Economic Roadmap Business event held in Melbourne, Australia.

- **Call for Investment in India:** While addressing the forum, PM Modi invited Australian businesses to invest in India, outlining opportunities across sectors like: manufacturing, clean energy, Artificial intelligence, critical minerals, digital economy, infrastructure, aviation, logistics, food processing, financial services and advanced technologies.

Investment Announcement: During the event, AustralianSuper, largest pension fund of Australia pledged an investment of **AUD 500 million** in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India. With this latest announcement, the total investment by the Australian pension fund in India now reaches **AUD 3.3 billion.**

Launch of PACTS: India and Australia launched "Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies, and Supply Chains **(PACTS)",** a new framework aimed to promote secure supply

supply chains, trusted digital infrastructure, technology innovation and cyber resilience across the Indo-Pacific region.

EIU's Global Liveability Index 2026: Delhi Ranked at 120th Among 173 Cities; Copenhagen Tops

The Economist Intelligent United **(EIU)** released the latest edition of Global Liveability Index 2026. As per the index, New Delhi (Delhi) topped among all the Indian cities featured in the index, securing **120th** spot globally with an overall score of **48.1.**

- **Copenhagen (Denmark)** retained the top position for the **2nd** consecutive year, leading across all the categories which include perfect scores (100 out of 100)in stability, education and infrastructure, followed by Vienna (Austria), Melbourne (Australia), secured 2nd and 3rd spots respectively.

About Global Liveability Index 2026:

Assessment: The EIU 2026 Index has ranked **173** cities across the world by assessing which location offers the best and worst living conditions.

Average Score: As per the latest survey, conducted in May 2026, the average liveability score across all the cities was the same as last year i.e. **76.1** out of 100.

Other Top 10 Countries: Sydney, Australia (ranked 4th); Zurich, Switzerland, (ranked 5th); Geneva, Switzerland (ranked 6th); Osaka, Japan (ranked 7th); Adelaide, Australia (ranked 8th); Vancouver, Canada (ranked 9th) and Tokyo, Japan (ranked 10th), are among the top 10 countries in the index.

Region-wise: Western Europe continued to be the strongest region in the index, with cities like: Copenhagen, Vienna, Zurich, and Geneva featured among the top 6 countries.

Bottom Countries: Damascus, the capital of Syria, again emerged as the world's least liveable city (ranked at 173rd spot, with score of 32); followed by Tripoli, Libya (172nd); Dhaka, Bangladesh (171st); Karachi, Pakistan (170th), and Algiers (Algeria).

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Australia from July 8-10, 2026 – Part – II

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi participated in the 3rd India-Australia Annual Leaders' Summit hosted by Australian PM Anthony Albanese MP, in Melbourne, Australia.

- Following the annual summit, both countries unveiled a list of the **18 major agreements and initiatives,** spanning defence, maritime security, clean energy, critical technologies, education, skill development and cultural cooperation.
- Earlier, PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with Margaret Garnder AC, Governor of Victoria, at the Government House in Melbourne, where he signed the visitor's Book.

Key Outcomes:

Nuclear Cooperation: One of the key outcomes of PM Modi's visit to Australia was the finalization of Administrative Arrangement of **India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement (**originally signed in 2014), facilitating the commercial supply of Australian uranium for India's civilian nuclear power programme.

JDDSC: India and Australia signed a Joint Declaration on Defence and Security

Cooperation **(JDDSC)** replacing the existing joint declaration on security(adopted in 2009).
Education: Both countries announced several initiatives to strengthen academic and vocational collaboration in the education sector such as the handing over a Letter of Intent (LoI) to Flinders University to set up a campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka (India); and receiving of approval by Australia's Victoria University **(VU)** to operationalise its campus in Gurugram, Haryana (India) from August 2026.
Repatriation of Indian artifacts: Australia voluntarily announced to repatriate three significant Indian artefacts: granite Nandi sculpture (origins back to the 11th-12th century); a bronze trident bearing the image of Goddess Bhadrakali (11th Century)and a basalt sculpture of six-headed Skanda (Karttikeya) (12th-century).

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to New Zealand from July 10 to July 11, 2026

Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** visited **New Zealand,** the final leg of his three-nation tour (Indonesia and Australia) from July 10 to July 11, 2026, at the invitation of **Christopher Luxon,** PM of New Zealand.

- PM Modi arrived in Auckland, where he was received by New Zealand's PM Luxon at the airport, marking the 1st ever visit by an Indian PM to New Zealand in **40 years.**

Highlights of Visit:
Ceremonial Welcome: During the visit, PM Modi received a traditional Māori powhiri ceremonial welcome at Government House in Auckland (New Zealand), which reflected the Kiwi country's rich indigenous heritage and cultural traditions.
Bilateral Meeting: PM Modi held wide-ranging bilateral talks with his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon at Government House (in Auckland).
Key Outcomes: The bilateral meeting between the PMs of India and New Zealand resulted in **18 major outcomes,** including **10** Memorandums of Understanding **(MoUs)** which cover areas like: defence, trade, maritime security, disaster management, agriculture, tourism, sports, culture and scientific research; and elevation of India-New Zealand bilateral ties to Strategic Partnership (SP) and adoption of **Roadmap to 2030.**
Key Announcements: Some of the key announcements include:

- Doubling of bilateral trade i.e. NZD 7 billion (around Rs 35,000 crore) by 2030;
- Setting up a Maritime Security Dialogue.
- New Zealand nominated Maritime Security as the priority pillar under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) initiative;
- New Zealand announced to join the GoI-led Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), among others.

Gifts: PM Modi presented two gifts, including a hockey stick signed by the entire Indian Women's Hockey team (celebrating their win at FIH Hockey Women's nations cup held in New Zealand); Dhokra tree of life sculpture (Bastar, Chhattisgarh)and a traditional Uttarakhandi Cap, to New Zealand's PM Luxon. He also gifted a Zari Zardosi Wall Hanging (Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, UP) to New Zealand's Opposition leader Chris Hipkins.

WDMMA 2026 Rankings: IAF Retains 3rd Spot Among National Air Forces Globally

The World Defense Military Analysis **(WDMMA)** Global Air Power Rankings 2026, ranked Indian Air Force **(IAF)** as the **3rd-**most powerful air force globally behind only the United States and Russia, maintaining its position ahead of **China's** People's Liberation Army Air Force **(PLAAF)** for the **5th** consecutive year (since 2022).

- IAF ranked at **6th position** overall when air arms of the Army, Navy and Air Force are considered together with True Value Rating (**TVR**) of **69.4** and Chinese Air Force ranks 7th with 63.8 TvR

- United States(**US**) **Air Force** tops with a TVR of **242.9** (5,004 aircraft)

About WDMMA 2026 Rankings:

Evaluation: The annual assessment evaluates **129 air services** across **103 countries** and analyses more than **48,000 military aircraft** worldwide.

Global Rankings: US Air Force with 5,004 aircraft holds the highest attainable TvR score of 242.9, US Navy with 2,504 aircraft (142.4 TvR), Russian Air Force with 3,677 aircraft (114.2), US Army with 4,333 aircraft (112.6), US Marines with 1,211 aircraft (85.3).

Neighbouring Countries of India: While, the Air Forces of Pakistan (TVR score of 46.3) and Bangladesh (14.1) ranked at 18th and 83rd position, respectively.

- Also, the prevalence of hunger is slightly lower, at 7.8% (in 2025) compared with 8% (in 2015), when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG) was launched.

Key Projection: The report further estimated that the number of chronically undernourished people could decrease to nearly **511 million by 2030** under a quick-recovery scenario.

- But, if disruption to oil, gas and fertilizer supplies persists, then, the number could be as high as 522 million.

Epicentre of Hunger: For the first time since such data has been tracked, **Africa** has replaced Asia as the region with the largest number of undernourished people .

DBS Named World's Best Corporate Bank by Global Finance

DBS Bank Limited, a Singaporean multinational banking and financial services corporation, was awarded the World's Best Corporate Bank at the 2026 Global Bank **Awards** by 'Global Finance magazine', becoming the first Southeast Asian bank to win this accolade since the category's inception in 2005.

- DBS held the title of 'Safest Bank' in Asia by Global Finance for 17 consecutive years (2009–2025).

About 2026 Global Bank Awards:

Evaluation: Global Finance magazine's editorial board, with input from corporate financial executives, analysts, and bankers worldwide, selected winners based on annual performance, reputation, and management excellence.

Other recognitions in 2026: Other major winners at the 2026 Global Bank Awards included Santander (Spain) as World's Best Bank, State Bank of India (India) as World's Best Consumer

Bank, BBVA (Spain) as World's Best Emerging Markets Bank, Ecobank (Togo) as World's Best Frontier Markets Bank, and CIBC Mellon (Canada) as World's Best Sub-Custodian Bank.

- Best Corporate Bank in Asia (Coalition Greenwich, United States of America (USA)), Best Bank for Financial Institutions in Asia-Pacific (Global Finance, USA), Best Transaction Bank in Asia-Pacific (Global Finance, USA), and Best Bank for SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) in Asia & Singapore (Euromoney, United Kingdom (UK))

Henley Passport Index: India Dropped to 81st Spot, Singapore Retained Top Position

Henley & Partners, a British consultancy expertized in investment migration, released the 20th anniversary edition of Henley Passport (HPI) Global Ranking– July 2026. As per the index, India dropped to 81st position globally with access to 55 destinations, down from the 75th position (in February 2026 edition). India shares the rank with countries like: Mauritania, Algeria.

- **Singapore** retained its position as the world's most powerful passport with access to 192 destinations without a prior visa, followed by **Japan, South Korea** and **the United Arab Emirates (UAE),** sharing the 2nd position with access to 188 destinations; and Sweden which ranked at 3rd position with access to 187 destinations.

About Henley Passport Index:

Data Source: The index uses data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and covers 199 passports and 227 travel destinations. It includes visa-free, visa-on-arrival, and Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) access.

Average Visa-free Access to Destinations: Since the launch of HPI in 2006, the average passport providing visa-free access has doubled from just 58 destinations to **108** destinations worldwide.

Bottom 5 Countries: Afghanistan continued to be ranked lowest in the index with access to only 22 destinations, followed by Syria (ranked 103rd, 25 destinations), Iraq (ranked 102nd, 28 destinations), Pakistan (ranked 101st, 29 destinations), and Yemen (ranked 100th, 30 destinations).

Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath Inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List; Becomes India's 45th WHS

The Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh (UP) was inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization **(UNESCO) World Heritage List** during the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in Busan, South Korea.

- The inscription became India's **45th** World Heritage Site **(WHS)** and the fourth for UP after Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri.

About Sarnath'sUNESCO World Heritage Inscription:

Background: Sarnath was included in UNESCO's Tentative List in 1998, and India submitted its nomination dossier in January 2025 for the 2025–26 World Heritage cycle.

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).

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.

Defence

IN Participates in 30th Edition of Maritime Exercise 'RIMPAC ' in Hawaii, USA

Indian Navy **(IN)** participated in the **30th edition** of the Rim of the Pacific (**RIMPAC 2026)**, the world's largest multinational maritime warfare exercise, hosted by the United States (US) Navy under the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), **Hawaii,** the United States of America(USA).

- RIMPAC 2026 is being held from 24 June to 31 July 2026 as a five-week multinational maritime warfare exercise.

About RIMPAC 2026:

Theme: The Theme for 30th edition: "Partners: Integrated and Prepared", highlights collective defence readiness, interoperability and a shared commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Participation:

- **Surface and Sub-Surface Fleet:** Over 30 surface warships and 5 submarines.
- **Aviation and Ground Forces:** 15 national land forces, more than 206 aircraft and 30,000 personnel will train and operate in and around the Hawaiian Islands.

Operations: Multi-ship task forces will conduct advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare (**ASW**), coordinated Air Defence (**AD**) operations and tactical missile exercises.

Indian Navy commissions indigenous stealth frigate INS Mahendragiri into Eastern Fleet

The **Indian Navy** (IN) commissioned the indigenous stealth frigate Indian Naval Ship **(INS) Mahendragiri** (Pennant Number: F38), the **sixth** Nilgiri-class **(Project-17A)** frigate, into the **Eastern Fleet** (Sunrise Fleet), strengthening maritime warfare and stealth capabilities under the vision of **MAHASAGAR** (Maritime Security Strategy for the Indian Ocean Region).

- The commissioning ceremony was presided over by Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (**AP**).

About Stealth Frigate 'Mahendragiri':

Naming: The ship is named after the Mahendragiri mountain peak located in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha, it symbolises strength, steadfastness and indomitable resolve, and bears the motto '**Mighty, Majestic, Matchless**'

Design: It was designed by the Warship Design Bureau (**WDB**) and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (**MDL**), Mumbai, Maharashtra

- The other ships already delivered to the IN include INS Nilgiri, INS Himgiri, INS Udaygiri, INS Taragiri, and INS Vindhyagiri.

Ukraine, 9 Other Nations Form 'Anti-ballistic Missile Coalition' To Protect Europe From Missiles

Ukraine and nine other countries announced the formation of an 'Anti-ballistic missile coalition' to strengthen protection against the growing ballistic missile threat in Europe.

- The announcement was made on the sidelines of the **'Coalition of the Willing(CoW) Summit',** which brought together over 30 countries and at least 25 heads of state, in Paris, France.

About Anti-ballistic Missile Coalition:

Key Goal: The newly announced coalition aims to build a shared ballistic missile defence capability for Europe.

Other Members: Other than Ukraine, nine countries have agreed to join the new coalition: Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom (UK).

Future Roadmap: During the summit, Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine, announced that Ukraine and its allies are expected to jointly develop a mass-produced, low-cost system within the next 12 months (1 year) that would enhance the anti-ballistic capabilities of the European countries.

Skyroot Aerospace Successfully Launches India's First Private Orbital Rocket 'Vikram-1' Under Mission Aagaman

Hyderabad (Telangana)-based **Skyroot Aerospace** Private Limited successfully launched **Vikram-1**, India's first privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle, under **'Mission Aagaman**(arrival)' from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- The mission made **India** the **third country**, after the United States of America (USA) and China, to achieve private orbital launch capability following the Indian Space Policy 2023.

About Mission Aagaman:

Launch: The four-stage, seven-storey-tall Vikram-1 successfully injected all payloads into a 450-kilometre (km) Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an inclination of 60 degrees on its maiden flight, achieving a successful orbital launch.

Payloads: The mission carried Skyroot Aerospace's in-house SCOPE payload, Grahaa Space's SOLARAS S3 technology demonstration satellite, Cosmoserve Space's "Embrace" robotic arm for future space debris removal, and Germany's DCUBED technology demonstration payloads (uD3PP and mD3RN).

- The mission also carried **Cosmic Bloom**, a lotus artwork made from lab-grown diamonds, and an **18-karat gold micro-rocket** containing microscopic sculptures of **Sir C.V. Raman**, **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai**, and **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**.
- The mission also carried a handwritten postcard by Prime Minister **(PM) Narendra Modi** bearing the message **"Vande Mataram"**, along with hundreds of handwritten postcards from scientists, engineers, and well-wishers.

USA Delivered 21st MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter to Indian Navy, Strengthening India-USA Defence Partnership

The United States of America **(USA)** delivered **21st MH-60R Seahawk** multi-role maritime helicopter, manufactured by **Lockheed Martin Corporation**, to the **Indian Navy** (IN) at Kochi, Kerala, reinforcing the India–USA defence partnership and enhancing India's maritime security capabilities.

- IN will further enhance its operational readiness, strengthen its anti-submarine warfare capabilities, and improve interoperability with the USA Navy in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Highlights of MH-60R Seahawk Helicopters:

Procurement: India signed a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) agreement with the USA in February 2020 to procure 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters at a cost of **USD 2.6 billion** to replace the ageing Sea King fleet, strengthen naval aviation capabilities, with 21 have been delivered, two more are scheduled for delivery, and the final helicopter remains pending.
Capabilities: The "Romeo" MH-60R Seahawk is an all-weather, multi-role shipborne maritime helicopter as a maritime variant of the Black Hawk, capable of Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW), surveillance, intelligence gathering, search and rescue, medical evacuation, vertical replenishment and shipborne operations.

IAF Participates in 45th Edition of Exercise 'Pitch Black 2026' in Australia

The Indian Air Force (**IAF**) participated in the **45th Edition** of **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (**RAAF**) at RAAF Base Darwin in **northern Australia**, which starts from 20 July 2026 and continues till 7 August 2026.

- Exercise Pitch Black is the RAAF's premier **Biennial** (every 2 years) multinational air combat exercise, bringing together air forces from **20 nations**, including the United States of America (USA), France, Germany, Spain, Japan, and South Korea.
- 44th Edition, Exercise Pitch Black 2024 was held from 12 July to 02 August 2024 hosted by the RAAF at RAAF Base Darwin in northern Australia

IAF Fleet Deployment:

Participation: IAF deployed an integrated frontline combat and support team of over 120 Air Warriors, including pilots, flight test engineers, technicians, air traffic controllers, and subject-matter experts.

- **Rafale Jets (4):** Multi-role combat aircraft for air superiority, strike, and precision engagement missions
- **C-17 Globemaster III (2):** Strategic airlift of troops, equipment, and logistics
- **IL-78 MKI:** Air-to-Air Refueling aircraft to extend combat endurance and operational reach

GEORGIANS DEFENCE ACADEMY

Indian Navy Commissions INS Malvan Warship to Strengthen Coastal Anti-Submarine Capabilities

The Indian Navy **(IN)** commissioned Indian Naval Ship (**INS) Malvan (Yard 524)**, Second of Eighth Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (**ASW-SWC**), during a ceremony held at **Naval Base Karwar,** Karnataka.

- The ceremony was presided over by Air Chief Marshal **AP Singh**, Chief of the Air Staff (**COAS**), in the presence of Vice Admiral **Sanjay Vatsayan**, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala.
- INS Malvan becomes the **first Indian** naval vessel ever to be commissioned at **Karwar** and the **7th** warship inducted by the Navy in 2026.

About INS Malvan:

Legacy: It named after the historic coastal town of Malvan, Maharashtra, which celebrates the maritime legacy of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** and continues the lineage of the previous INS Malvan (in service until 2003).
Design: Constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, Kerala, the vessel incorporates over 80% indigenous content, aligning with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision.
Dimensions: The vessel has 70-80 metres (m) long, displaces over 896-1,100 tonnes, has a beam of 11.36 m and shallow 2.7m draft, optimized for operations in littoral zones.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh Flags In First-Ever Tri-Service All-Women 'Samudra Pradakshina' Expedition

Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), virtually flagged off 'Samudra Pradakshina', India's first-ever Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition.

- Indian Army Sailing Vessel **(IASV) Triveni,** crewed by nine women officers from the Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN) and Indian Air Force (IAF), successfully completed a **314-day** global voyage covering nearly 25,500 nautical miles across four oceans, arriving at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

About Samudra Pradakshina Expedition:

Flag-Off: The expedition was originally virtually flagged off by Union Minister Rajnath Singh on **11 September 2025** from the Gateway of India, Mumbai.
Global Circumnavigation: The IASV Triveni team crossed all meridians of longitude, the Equator twice, the International Date Line, and the Three Great Capes (Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn, and Cape of Good Hope).

- The crew navigated the Drake Passage and rounded Cape Horn, earning membership in the **elite fraternity of Cape Horners**.

Symbolism: The expedition is a symbol of **Nari Shakti** (women's power), joint military integration across services, and India's commitment to maritime prowess and international goodwill.
Navika Sagar Parikrama: Completed in 254 days (10 September 2017 – 21 May 2018), this expedition marked India's first all-women naval circumnavigation, demonstrating maritime skill, endurance, and operational excellence.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh Virtually Inaugurates India's 1st Dedicated Department of Military Medicine in Lucknow, UP

Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), virtually inaugurated the Department of Military Medicine at the Command Hospital (Central Command) in **Lucknow**, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- This newly launched facility, established under the Directorate General of Medical Services (DGMS) of Indian Army (IA), is **India's first** dedicated academic and operational department focused exclusively on military medicine.

About Department of Military Medicine:

Aim: To strengthen operational medical preparedness of the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) by enhancing combat medical readiness, promoting Research, development of indigenous doctrines, among others.

Phase-wise Development: The new facility will be developed in phases, with initial phase focusing on the development of academic programmes, followed by the establishment of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-yield Explosives (CBRNE) defence.

Focus Areas: It will focus on military trauma, combat psychiatry, operational medicine, military medical logistics, CBRNE response, emergency medicine, disaster medicine, and HADR.

Programmes: The department will offer Postgraduate(PG) programmes in Military Studies, focusing on advanced education and research in defence and strategic affairs.

GEORGIANS
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Appointments or Resign/Retired

HDFC Bank Appoints Rajiv Kumar as Part-time Chairman

HDFC Bank Limited appointed Rajiv Kumar, former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, as its part-time Chairman for a period of **3 years,** effective from the date as approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Key Details of Appointment:

Predecessor: He will take over from **Keki Mistry,** who was appointed as interim chairman of the bank, after **Atanu Chakraborty,** who voluntarily step-down in March 2026 citing ethical concerns.

Additional Charge: He has also been appointed as an **Additional Independent Director** of HDFC Bank for a term of four years, effective from June 30, 2026.

Air Marshal 'Ashutosh Dixit' Assumes Charge as 51st Vice Chief of Air Staff of IAF

Air Marshal **Ashutosh Dixit**, former Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC), assumed charge as **51st** Vice Chief of Air Staff (**VCAS**) of the Indian Air Force (**IAF**) at Air Headquarters, New Delhi, Delhi.

- He succeeded Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, who retired from IAF on 30 June 2026 after nearly four decades of distinguished service.

About Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit:

Leadership: Previously served as CISC from 1 May 2025 to 30 June 2026, contributing to tri-service operational integration, joint doctrines, RanSamwad 2025–26, Combined and Joint Commanders' Conferences, and the Defence Forces Vision 2047 roadmap.

Commands: Commanded a Mirage-2000 squadron, key fighter bases, and the Flight Test Squadron at the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE), besides serving as Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Projects & Plans) (ACAS), Deputy Chief of Air Staff (DCAS), and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C), Central Air Command (CAC).

Operations: Participated in Operation Safed Sagar (Kargil War, 1999) and Operation Rakshak (counter-insurgency in Jammu & Kashmir, J&K).

Honours: Awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) (2026), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) (2023), Vayu Sena Medal (VM) (2006), and Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) (2011).

Govt Appoints New Chiefs for BPR&D, NCRB and SVPNPA

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**), chaired by Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi**, approved the appointments of senior Indian Police Service (**IPS**) officers for three key police and law enforcement institutions based on proposal submitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**).

Key Appointments:

Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D): Alok Kumar Mittal, a 1993-batch IPS officer of Haryana cadre, as Director General (**DG**). He will serve from the date of assuming charge until June 30, 2029 (his superannuation), or until further orders, whichever comes first.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB): Amit Garg, a 1993-batch IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh (AP) Cadre, as Director. He will serve as NCRB Director until October 31, 2027, or

until further orders. He succeeds Alok Ranjan, a 1991-batch IPS officer.
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA): Sujeet Pandey, a 1994-batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh (UP) cadre, as Director. He will serve until July 31, 2028, the date of his retirement, or until further orders.

InsuranceDekho Appoints Sourav Ganguly as Brand Ambassador; Launches 'Khul Kar Khelo' Campaign

Insurance Dekho, an Insurtech platform, appointed former India cricket captain **Sourav Ganguly** as its brand ambassador and launched the **'Khul Kar Khelo' campaign** to empower insurance advisors across India.

About 'Khul Kar Khelo' Campaign:

Theme: The campaign reflects Sourav Ganguly's image as a fearless captain who supported his team and developed a generation of successful players.
Aim: The campaign aims to help insurance advisors grow their businesses, increase earnings and expand their reach. It also seeks to strengthen their role as micro-entrepreneurs and enhance financial protection for families across India.

- The campaign will be promoted through television, digital and broadcast platforms.

About Sourav Ganguly: He was India's 39th Test captain and led the team to the 2003 ICC Cricket World Cup final. He also served as President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) from 2019 to 2022.
About InsuranceDekho: Founded in 2016, InsuranceDekho is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana, and operates under the legal name Girnar Insurance Brokers Private Limited.

Indian Tennis Legend Leander Paes Joins ATF as Player Ambassador

Leander Paes former ,Indian professional tennis playerand Olympic medallist, was appointed as a Player Ambassador of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) to promote grassroots tennis, encourage youth participation and strengthen the sport across Asia.

About Leander Paes:

Profile: Leander Paes, one of India's most successful tennis players, had a professional career spanning over three decades before retiring in 2021.
Achievements: A former World No. 1 in doubles, he won the bronze medal in men's singles at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games in the United States of America (USA), remaining India's only tennis player to win an Olympic medal.

- He secured 18 Grand Slam titles and completed a Career Grand Slam in both categories. He also won eight Asian Games medals, including five gold medals, between 1990 and 2006.

Awards: The Government of India (GoI) honoured him with the Arjuna Award (1990), Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (1996–97), now known as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Padma Shri (2001) and Padma Bhushan (2014) for his contribution in the field of Sports(tennis).
Honours: In 2024, he was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame under the player category.

Three Indian-Origin Experts Named to Lead US Federal Reserve Monetary Policy Review Task Forces

The United States Federal Reserve **(US Fed)** appointed three Indian-origin experts: **Raghuram Rajan, Raj Chetty,** and **Asha Sharma**, to lead three of its five task forces reviewing the Fed's monetary policy framework under Fed Chair Kevin Warsh.

- The appointments are part of five task forces announced by US Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh.

About the Appointees:

Raghuram Rajan: Professor of Finance, University of Chicago Booth School of Business and former Governor, Reserve Bank of India **(RBI)**, appointed to the **Balance Sheet Policy** task force to review the costs, benefits, and institutional implications of the Federal Reserve's balance sheet framework.

Raj Chetty: Professor of Economics, Harvard University and Director, Opportunity Insights, appointed to the **Data** task force to improve the quality and timeliness of economic data used for monetary policy decisions.

Asha Sharma: Executive Vice President (EVP) and Chief Executive Officer **(CEO)**, Microsoft Xbox Division, appointed to the **Productivity and Jobs** task force to assess the impact of Artificial Intelligence **(AI)** and other emerging technologies on productivity, employment, and wages.

Other Task Forces: The remaining panels on Communications and Inflation Frameworks aim to modernise the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy framework.

About US Fed: Established in 1913, the US Fed is the central banking system of the United States of America(USA). It conducts a comprehensive review of its monetary policy framework approximately every five years.

Policybazaar Appointed Amitabh Bachchan as Brand Ambassador for Insurance Awareness Campaign

Policybazaar, India's online insurance marketplace, appointed veteran actor **Amitabh Bachchan** as its Brand Ambassador to spearhead a nationwide awareness campaign **"Parivaar Sabse Pehle"** (Family Comes First), developed by **Magic Circleon Communications.**

- The campaign, aims to raise awareness of health and term insurance, promote timely financial protection for families, and support the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India **(IRDAI)** vision 2047 of expanding insurance coverage across India.

Highlights of the Appointment:

Focus: The initiative aims to **encourage Indian families** to purchase health and term insurance without delaying financial protection decisions.

Campaign Reach: The integrated campaign is being rolled out across television, digital platforms, Over-the-Top **(OTT)** services, social media, and other digital channels, targeting audiences in urban, semi-urban, and rural India.

About Policybazaar: Founded in 2008, Policybazaar, a PB Fintech Limited company headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana, is one of India's leading online insurance marketplaces,

with Sarbvir Singh serving as the Joint Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Executive Director (ED) of PB Fintech Ltd.

Andy Burnham Takes Charge as UK's New Prime Minister

Andy Burnham became the 59th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK) after Keir Starmer resigned from the post. He was invited by King Charles III at Buckingham Palace to form a new government in a traditional ceremony known as "kissing hands."

- He secured nearly **55% of the vote** in the leadership election, defeating **Reform UK's Robert Kenyon** by a margin of **more than 9,000 votes**, with a record turnout of **59%**.

About Andy Burnham:

Early Life: Born in Aintree, Lancashire, Andy Burnham joined the Labour Party at the age of 15 and worked in journalism before becoming a parliamentary researcher.

Political Career: Elected as Member of Parliament (MP) for Leigh in 2001, Andy Burnham served as Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Culture Secretary, and Health Secretary under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, and later held key Shadow Cabinet roles.

Mayor of Greater Manchester (2017–2026): He became the first Mayor of Greater Manchester in 2017 and launched the Bee Network, bringing local bus services under public control. He was recognised as the "King of the North" for advocating Northern England's interests.

Centre Appoints Senior IAS Officer Anurag Jain as NITI Aayog CEO

Government of India (**GoI**) appointed Anurag Jain as new Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of (National Institution for Transforming India) **NITI Aayog**, approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) as per the Department of Personnel and Training (**DoPT**) order.

- He succeeds **Nidhi Chhibber,** , Director General (**DG**) of NITI Aayog's Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (**DMEO**), who had been holding the additional charge of **CEO** since February 24, 2026, following the completion of B.V.R. Subrahmanyam's extended tenure in February 2023.
- He assumes charge immediately for a tenure of **two years** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Key Details of Appointment:

Profile: A 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (**IAS**) officer of the Madhya Pradesh (**MP**) cadre with nearly four decades of administrative experience, having held several key positions in both the Central and State governments.

Responsibilities: As CEO of NITI Aayog, Jain will steer national policy formulation, strategic governance reforms, cooperative federalism initiatives, and long-term development planning across sectors.

Harjit Singh Grewal Assumes Charge as Chairman of NCM

Harjit Singh Grewal assumed charge as the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities **(NCM)** for a three-year tenure, following his appointment by the Ministry of Minority

Affairs(MoMA) under the NCM Act, 1992. He succeeded **Iqbal Singh Lalpura**, whose tenure ended in April 2025.

- With the induction of the new leadership, the National Commission for Minorities aims to further strengthen efforts towards justice, equality, empowerment and inclusive development.

Other Key Appointments:

Vice Chairperson: S. Munawari Begum assumed office as the Vice Chairperson of NCM on to strengthen minority rights protection and promote equal opportunities.

Christian Member: Glenn Souza Ticlo joined as a Member of NCM representing the Christian community and served as a Goa Legislative Assembly (MLA) member from the Aldona constituency for two consecutive terms (2012–2022).

Parsi Member: Berjis Desai joined NCM as a Member representing the Parsi community and is a senior High Court advocate and writer.

About NCM: It is a statutory body established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 to safeguard the interests of minority communities.

- Constituted on 17 May 1993, it is mandated to protect and monitor the safeguards of the six notified religious minority communities in India: Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis (Zoroastrians), and Jains.

India's World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand Becomes Interim President of FIDE

Viswanathan Anand, India's five-time World Chess Champion and Deputy President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), assumed charge as the **Interim President of FIDE** after incumbent President **Arkady Vladimirovich Dvorkovich** voluntarily suspended his duties following sanctions imposed by the European Union **(EU)** and Switzerland over Russia's war against Ukraine.

About Viswanathan Anand:

Championships: He won the World Chess Championship five times in 2000, 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2012, and remains the only Indian to have won the title multiple times.

FIDE Role: In August 2022, he was elected Deputy President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

National Honours: He received the Arjuna Award (1985), India's second-highest national sports honor; the Padma Shri (1988) in the field of Sports, India's fourth-highest civilian honour; the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (1991–92), India's highest sporting honour; the Padma Bhushan (2001) in the field of Sports, India's third-highest civilian honour; and the Padma Vibhushan (2008) in the field of Sports, India's second-highest civilian honour.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi Takes Additional Charge as Education Minister

Union Minister Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) was given additional charge as the **10th Union Minister of Education** of India following the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan at Kartavya Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- Acting on the advice of Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi,** President **Droupadi Murmu** accepted the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect, under **clause (2)** of **Article 75** of the Constitution of India.

Appointment Details:

Transition: Dharmendra Pradhan submitted his resignation, taking moral responsibility for the controversial National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) **NEET-UG 2026 paper leak** issue and the resulting nationwide student protests.

Other Secretary Appointment in MoE:

Department of Higher Education: Naresh Pal Gangwar (1994-batch IAS officer) took charge, replacing Vineet Joshi.

Department of School Education & Literacy: T.K. Anil Kumar (1995-batch IAS officer) assumed the role

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Honours/ Awards

USISPF Presents 2026 Leadership Award to 'Sunil Bharti Mittal' for Transforming India-US Economic Ties

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum **(USISPF),** a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO), presented the **2026 Leadership Award** to **Sunil Bharti Mittal**, founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises Limited, at the IX Leadership Summit, in Washington, D.C., United States of America (USA), themed "America At 250".

About USISPF Global Leadership Award:

Event: The award recognises leaders advancing strategic, commercial, and innovation-driven partnerships between **India and the USA**, particularly through technology, business expansion, and bilateral trade facilitation.

Leadership: Sunil Bharti Mittal was recognised for transforming India's telecommunications sector, expanding digital connectivity, fostering innovation, attracting international investment, and building a diversified business group spanning multiple sectors.

Other Awardees: V. Prem Watsa, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Fairfax Financial Holdings, and **Christopher T. Calio,** Chairman & CEO, RTX Corporation, were also honoured for strengthening the India–USA economic corridor.

Nita Ambani Receives 'AAPI Humanitarian Award' and 'Key to City of Tampa' for Philanthropic Contributions

Reliance Foundation Founder and Chairperson **Nita Ambani** was conferred the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin **(AAPI) Humanitarian Award** and the **Key to the City of Tampa**, in recognition of her philanthropic contributions to healthcare, education, sports, culture, and community development.

- The honours were presented during the 44th Annual Convention & Scientific Assembly of the AAPI held in Tampa, Florida, United States (USA).

About the Honour:

AAPI Humanitarian Award: Conferred by AAPI, it is the organisation's highest honour recognizing exceptional contributions to public welfare and humanitarian service.

The Key to the City of Tampa: Presented by Tampa Mayor Jane Castor, it is a symbolic civic honour given to individuals who have made an extraordinary impact on humanity and society.

Significance: The recognition highlights the Reliance Foundation's role in advancing inclusive development across healthcare, education, sports, culture, and community empowerment, while reinforcing global acknowledgement of Indian philanthropic leadership and its humanitarian contributions.

Nepal's Jestha Varna Mahavihar receives 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award; restored with India's grant assistance

17th-century **Jestha Varna Mahavihar**, a historic Buddhist monastery in **Lalitpur, Nepal** received the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation **(UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Heritage Award 2025** for its outstanding conservation and restoration following the **2015 Gorkha earthquake damage**.

- The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu handed over the Award of Merit to the Jestha Varna Mahavihar.

- During a ceremony in Lalitpur, Nepal, **Jaco Du Toit**, UNESCO Representative in Nepal, presented a metal plaque and official certificate to **Jestha Varna Mahavihar User Committee**, in the presence of Chiri Babu Maharjan, Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City, and Rakesh Pandey, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Kathmandu.

Jestha Varna Mahavihara:

Recognition: It was recognised by UNESCO for its exemplary **community-centred approach**, combining modern seismic retrofitting with the preservation of Newari woodcarvings and architecture, while sustaining the living heritage and practices of the Newar Buddhist community.

Overview: Also known as **Jyaba Bahi or Chakrabahil**, it is a historic site located just 300 meters from the UNESCO-listed Patan Durbar Square in Lalitpur.

Grant Assistance: The conservation of Jestha Varna Mahavihar was funded through the Government of India's (**GoI's**) post-earthquake cultural heritage reconstruction grant in Nepal, in Nepalese rupees (**NPR 13.78 crore)**.

Founder of Reliance Foundation Nita Ambani Received Fortune India MPW Honour

Nita Ambani, founder and chairperson of Reliance Foundation, felicitated with the Fortune **India Most Powerful Women (MPW) honour** for her visionary leadership, commitment to building institutions and inclusive development across India, at the Fortune India MPW event held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Fortune India MPW 2026:

Launch of MPW 2026 List: The event also witnessed the launch of Fortune India MPW 2026 list, recognising 100 women for shaping the country's economic and business scenario.

Top 5 MPW in India: Other that Nita Ambani, Roshni Nadar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HCL Technologies (ranked at 2nd spot); Reddy Sisters: Shobana Kamineni; Sangita Reddy; Preetha Reddy; Suneeta Reddy; owners of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise (collectively ranked at 3rd spot); Savirti Jindal, Chairperson Emeritus, OP Jindal Group (ranked at 4th spot) and Dr. Priti Adani, founder of Adani Foundation (ranked at 5th spot); featured among India's top5 MPW list.

Brand Finance India 100 Report 2026: Adani Group Fastest to Enter India's top 10 Most Valuable Brands

Brand Finance, world's leading independent brand valuation consultancy, released the latest edition of "Brand Finance India 100 Report 2026". As per the report, the **Adani Group** ranked at **8th** spot (up from 13th spot in last year), thereby becoming the fastest company to enter into India's 'Top 10 Most Valuable Brands'.

- **Tata Group** retained its position as India's most valuable brand for the 10th consecutive year with a brand value of USD 33.6 billion, followed by Infosys (USD 15.3 billion) and LIC Group (USD 15.3 billion) in the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.

Key Findings:

Total Valuation : As per the report, the total valuation of India's 100 leading brands stands at **USD 252.8 billion**, marking an increase of **7%** compared to the last year.

Fastest-growing Indian Brand: As per the report **Suzlon Energy** emerged as the fastest-growing Indian brand in 2026, with its brand valuation surged 114% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) to USD 418 million.

Top 3 India's Strongest Brands: Taj Hotels with total brand valuation of USD 878 million, marking an increase of 32% compared to the previous year, has emerged as India's strongest brand for the 5th consecutive year.

72nd National Film Award for the Year 2024: 'Article 370' Named Best Feature Film award

The jury of the 72nd National Film Awards announced the list of winners of the National Award for the year **2024**, recognising excellence across feature films, non-feature films and writing on cinema.

- The awards were announced by Jayaraj,Chairperson of Feature Film Jury; Aseem Sinha, Chairperson of Non-Feature Film Jury; and A. Chandrasekhar, Chairperson of Best Writing on Cinema Jury, in New Delhi, Delhi.

Key Winners:

Best Feature Film: Article 370, directed by **Aditya Suhas Jambhale,** was named as the Best Feature Film award for 2024. In addition, the film won two more awards in "Best Actress" and "Best Music Direction" categories.

Best Actor: Renowned Malayalam Actor Mammootty and Actor Kartik Aaryan were jointly named as the Best Actor in Leading for their acclaimed performance in Bramayugam (Malayalam film) andHindi sports drama Chandu Champion, respectively.

- With this honour, Mammootty won his 4th National Film Award after Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha and Mathilukkal (1989), Ponthan Mada and Vidheyan (1994) and Dr. Ambedkar (1999).
- The actors will share the Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus award) and the cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs.

Best Actress: This year, renowned actress **Yami Gautam** bagged the "Best Actress" for the Hindi film (Article 370), marking her career 1st-ever National Film Award. She will be honoured with a silver lotus award and a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs.

Best Direction: Rajkumar Periyasamy won the National Award for Best Direction for Tamil film "Amaran".

Best Popular Film: Mythological sci-fi action film, Kalki 2898 AD, directed by Nag Ashwin, bagged the award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.

Best Debut Film of Director: Famous Actor Randeep Hooda won the Award for Best Debut Film of a Director for film Swatantrya Veer Savarkar (Hindi), biographical drama focused on the life of Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar (VD) Savarkar.

NSA Ajit Doval Selected for Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026

Dr. Rohit Tilak, President of the Lokmanya Tilak Trust announced the selection of National Security Advisor **(NSA) Ajit Doval** for Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2026.

- He will receive the award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to strengthening the country's national security, counter-terrorism, and border security.

About Lokmanya Tilak National Award:

Ceremony: Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will present the award on **August 01, 2026** in Pune (Maharashtra) on the occasion of the **106th** death anniversary of a freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak, widely known as Lokmany Tilak.

Background: The award was instituted in 1983, to recognise the individuals for their outstanding contributions to the country's progress and development.

- Socialist Leader SM Joshi was the 1st recipient of Lokmanya Tilak National Award

Presented: The award is presented annually on August 01, by Lokmanya Tilak Trust.

Prize: The recipient of the award receives a memento, a citation and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

Previous Winners: Since its inception, the award has been presented to several distinguished personalities such as Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, former PMs of the country (Dr. Manmohan Singh and Atal Bihari Vajpayee) and former President of India Dr. Pranab Mukherjee and veteran leader and founder of CP Sharad Pawar.

Ajit Doval: Doval, a 1968-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Kerala cadre, is the currently India's longest-serving NSA.

- During his career, he play a major role in several national security initiatives such as: Operation Black Thunder, Balakot air-strike.

Eight-Year-Old Iya Krish Becomes Youngest Asian to Summit North Africa's Highest Peak 'Mount Toubkal'

Iya Krish, an eight-year-old mountaineer from Thrissur, Kerala, successfully scaled Mount Toubkal (4,167 metre, m), the highest peak in North Africa, in Morocco's Atlas Mountains, becoming the **youngest person from Asia** to achieve the feat after a three-day expedition led by Greenway Adventures Travel & Tourism LLC.

- The summit involved covering approximately **42 kilometers (km)** with an **elevation gain of over 2,900 m**.

About Iya Krish:

Preparation: Living in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iya prepared through regular weekend trekking in the mountains of Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah, along with Kalaripayattu training to improve endurance and fitness.

Previous Record: At the age of 5 years 11 months, Iya had already climbed Jebel Jais (1,934 m), the highest mountain in the UAE, marking the beginning of her mountaineering journey.

Future Goals: Her future mountaineering ambitions include climbing Mount Elbrus in Russia, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, and ultimately Mount Everest located on the Nepal–Tibet (China) border, with the goal of summiting Everest before the age of 12.

Prem K. Vora Honoured with Rashtriya Ashok Samman (Bharat Samman) in New Delhi

Prem K. Vora, President of the Electric Merchants Association (EMA) for 2025-26, was honoured with the **Rashtriya Ashok Samman (Bharat Samman)** at the National Leadership Conclave held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- He received the honor in recognition of his exceptional contribution to India's electrical trade sector and his commitment to ethical business practices, and his dedication to strengthening Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) while driving sustainable industry growth.

Key Details:

Leadership: Under the leadership of Vora, who serves as the youngest President of EMA, EMA has actively promoted digital transformation, encouraged the adoption of sustainable business practices via the "Green Electricals" initiative and bolstered the industry representation for the electrical trade.

Other Awards: Previously, he was honoured with various national awards for his visionary leadership and outstanding contributions to the electrical industry such as: Global Youth Ambassador Award 2025, Global Youth Ambassador Award 2026, and the Iconic Emerging Leader in the Electrical Industry 2025.

About EMA: Established in 1937, EMA is a not-for-profit making body that serves the electrical industry and trade to protect and promote the interests of the industry. It is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

2026 Fields Medal Awarded to Yu Deng, John Pardon, Jacob Tsimerman, and Hong Wang

The International Mathematical Union **(IMU)** named **John Pardon, Yu Deng, Jacob Tsimerman** and **Hong Wang** as winners of **2026 Fields Medal,** which is also known as the "Nobel Prize of Mathematics".

- The medals were awarded at the opening ceremony of the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the United States of America (USA).
- **Yu Deng** and **Hong Wang** became the 1st Chinese nationals to receive the award, since 1982 (after Shing-Tung Yau, Tshinghua University).

About 2026 Fields Medal:

About Award: In 1936, Canadian mathematician **John Charles Fields** established a trust-fund, which resulted in the establishment of Fields Medal, named after him.

- To honour outstanding mathematical achievement for existing work and for the promise of future achievement.
- It is awarded once **every 4 years** by IMU during the International Congress of Mathematicians to a selected cohort of **2 or 4** mathematicians under the **age of 40.**
- Each recipient receives a cash prize of Canadian Dollar (CND) 15,000 (nearly USD 10,600) and a gold medal featuring the image of the Greek mathematician Archimedes.

2026 Winners and their Contribution: John Pardon, currently working as a professor in the State University of New York at Stony Brook (Stony Brook University) Simons Centre (the USA) for Geometry and Physics.

- Pardon was honoured for his achievements in symplectic geometry, including new approaches to virtual fundamental cycles, Fukaya categories of certain manifolds and counting holomorphic curves. In addition, he also made significant contributions to other areas like: geometry and topology (including knot theory).
- **Yu Deng**, a mathematician at the University of Chicago (the USA), received the award in recognition of his contribution in partial differential equations, including the Boltzmann equation from hard-sphere dynamics for rarefield gases; and work in the derivation of wave kinetic equations from non-linear dispersive systems, among others.
- **Jacob Tsirmerman,** a professor of mathematics at the University of Toronto (Canada), received the award in recognition of his contribution in proving the decades-old mathematics problem, **Andre-Oort conjecture** for Siegel modular varieties, Griffiths' conjecture on the algebraicity of images of the period maps and recasting of o-minimality.

Hong Wang: She is currently serving as a professor at New York University (NYU) and a permanent professor at the Institut de Hautes Etudes Scientifiques (IHES) in France. She scripted history becoming only the 3rd female winner in the 90-year history of the Fields Medal, after Maryam Mirzakhani (2014) and Maryna Viazovska (2022). She received the award for solving the century-old mathematics problem, "Kakeya conjecture".

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Sports

US Open 2026 Badminton: Chinese Taipei's Su Li-yang Wins Men's Singles Title; India's Kidambi Srikanth Finishes Runner-Up

The 2026 United States **(U.S.) Open Badminton** (officially known as the Yonex US Open 2026), held at California State University, Fullerton, California, United States of America (USA) on **23-28 June 2026**, where Indian badminton player **Kidambi Srikanth** finished as runner-up in the men's singles event.

- Chinese Taipei's **Su Li-yang** won the men's singles title, while Denmark's **Line Christophersen** claimed the women's singles crown at the 2026 US Open.

About US Open 2026 Badminton:

Edition: The 2026 U.S. Open Badminton Championships is the 61st edition of the tournament, held since 1954, and the 17th tournament of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour 2026 as a Super 300 event.

Organisation: The tournament is organised by USA Badminton and sanctioned by the BWF.

Doubles: Hiroki Okamura/Kyohei Yamashita (Japan) won the men's doubles title, Sumire Nakade/Miyu Takahashi (Japan) claimed the women's doubles title, and Liu Kuang-heng/Hsu Yin-hui (Chinese Taipei) secured the mixed doubles title by defeating their respective opponents in the finals.

Austrian Grand Prix 2026: Mercedes' George Russell wins

George Russell, a United Kingdom (UK) Formula One (F1) driver representing Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1, won the **2026 Austrian Grand Prix** (officially known as the Formula 1 Lenovo Großer Preis von Österreich 2026) serving as Round 8 of the FIA Formula 1 World Championship held at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Styria, Austria.

- George Russell secured his **seventh** F1 Grand Prix (GP) victory and **second win** of the 2026 season (following his season-opening win in Australia)

Key Highlights:

- **Performance:** George Russell finished **1.611 seconds ahead** of Max Verstappen with a race time of **1:26:37.979**, propelled back to P2 in the Drivers' Championship
- **Podium: Max Verstappen** of Red Bull Racing finished second and **Andrea Kimi Antonelli** of Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 finished third.

India Women's Cricket Team Secure Direct Qualification for Los Angeles 2028 Olympics

The International Cricket Council **(ICC)** confirmed that the **Indian women's cricket team** secured direct qualification for the Los Angeles **(LA) 2028 Olympic Games** following the conclusion of the group stage of the ICC Women's T20 (Twenty20) World Cup in England.

- The qualification pathway ensures continental representation by awarding one automatic berth each to Asia, Africa, Europe, and Oceania for the LA 2028 Olympics, marking cricket's historic return to the Games.

About Cricket at Los Angeles 2028 Olympics:

India's Qualification: Indian women's team, captained by Harmanpreet Kaur, secured Asia's sole automatic berth under the ICC qualification pathway by finishing ahead of Sri Lanka on a better Net Run Rate (NRR).

Qualified Teams: Qualified women's teams are India (Asia), Australia (Oceania), South Africa (Africa), and Great Britain (represented by England in ICC events), while the United States of America (USA) may receive the host quota and the final spot will be decided through the ICC Olympics Qualifier 2027.

Format: Cricket will return to the LA 2028 Olympics after 128 years since Paris 1900, with separate men's and women's T20 tournaments featuring six teams each, 15-member squads, two groups of three, gold and bronze medal matches, and a total of 28 matches.

Venue: All cricket matches will be played at a purpose-built venue in Pomona, California, USA from 12–29 July 2028.

Australia Clinched 7th Women's T20 Cricket World Cup Title by Defeating England in Finals

The 2026 International Cricket Council **(ICC) Women's Twenty20 (T20) World Cup** was held from 12 June to 5 July 2026, culminating in the final at Lord's Cricket Ground in London, England, where **Australia** defeated **England** by seven wickets chasing down 151 with 153/3 in 17.1 overs to secure a record-extending **seventh** title.

About ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026:

Overview: The 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup was the 10th edition of the biennial international cricket tournament for women in the Twenty20 International (WT20I) format, hosted by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) across seven venues.

Format: Twelve teams competed in two groups of six in a round-robin format. The top two from each group advanced to semi-finals.

Shree Charani: Indian bowler Shree Charani headlined the tournament by taking 14 wickets, finishing as the Leading Wicket-Taker of the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup. Charani also set the national record for the most wickets by an Indian in a single edition.

Beth Mooney (Australia): 64 runs, Player of the Final and Tournament, first player to win two Player of the Tournament awards in T20WC history (2023 and 2026)

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Breaks Sachin Tendulkar's Record, Becomes India's Youngest International Debutant

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became India's youngest international cricket debutant at 15 years and 99 days, making his senior Twenty20 International (T20I) debut against England at Old Trafford, Manchester, England

- He broke Sachin Tendulkar's **36-year-old record**, who debuted for India against Pakistan in 1989 at 16 years and 205 days (Test) and 16 years and 238 days (One Day International (ODI)).

- He also broke the record of **Shafali Verma**, India's youngest overall international debutant at 15 years and 239 days against South Africa in 2019.

About Vaibhav Sooryavanshi:

Profile: Born in 2011 in Tajpur, Bihar, he made his first-class debut as a right-handed batsman at 12 years 284 days in 2024 and scored a 58-ball century in India Under-19 Youth Test against Australia the same year.

Performance: Sooryavanshi earned his maiden national call-up after scoring 776 runs at a strike rate of 237.30, including 1 century and 5 fifties, and hitting a record 72 sixes for Rajasthan Royals (RR) in Indian Premier League (IPL 2026), finished as tournament's top run-scorer.

Under-19 World Cup: In his maiden season in 2026, he helped India win the title, scoring 439 runs in 7 innings at an average of 62.71 and strike rate of 169.49, with a century, 3 fifties, best of 175, and 30 sixes.

Honours: He became the first player in IPL history to win the Orange Cap, Most Valuable Player (MVP) and Emerging Player awards in the same season, along with Super Striker and Super Sixes awards.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc Wins F1 British Grand Prix 2026

Monaco's **Charles Leclerc** of Ferrari won the **British Grand Prix (GP) 2026** (officially known as the Formula One (F1) Pirelli British GP 2026), the ninth round of the 2026 F1 World Championship, held at the **Silverstone Circuit** in Northamptonshire, England.

- The victory marked Charles Leclerc's first victory of the 2026 Formula 1 season, his ninth Formula 1 GP career win, and Ferrari's 250th F1 GP triumph.

Highlights of 2026 British Grand Prix:

2026 Podium Finishers: Mercedes' **George Russell** secured second place, while Ferrari's **Lewis Hamilton** finished third. Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli, who started from pole position, was classified 16th after a brake-duct failure and a post-race penalty.

Championship Standings: Kimi Antonelli led the Drivers' Championship with 179 points, followed by George Russell with 154 points and Lewis Hamilton with 147 points.

- In the Constructors' Championship, **Mercedes** led with 333 points, followed by Ferrari (255 points) and McLaren (179 points).

Telangana to Host 8th Khelo India Youth Games in November 2026

Union Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya,** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), announced that **Telangana** will host the 8th Khelo India Youth Games **(KIYG)**.

- KIYG 2026 is scheduled to be held in November 2026 to provide a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent.

About Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG 2026):

Objective: The KIYG aims to identify and nurture grassroots sporting talent in line with the vision of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.

Participation: Around 8,000 athletes, officials and support staff are expected to participate in the Games.
Previous Edition: The **7th KIYG** were hosted by **Bihar** in May 2025, where Maharashtra **(MH)** emerged as the overall champion, followed by Haryana and Rajasthan.
About Khelo India Programme: The Khelo India Programme was launched in 2018 by the MYAS to strengthen the sports ecosystem, identify talent at the grassroots level and promote a sporting culture across India.

Sourav Ganguly became the 12th Indian to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame

The International Cricket Council **(ICC)** inducted former India captain **Sourav Ganguly** into the **ICC Hall of Fame** during its Annual Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, recognising his outstanding contribution to international cricket.

- The honour, conferred on his 54th birthday, made Ganguly the **12th Indian overall** and **10th Indian male cricketer** inducted into the Hall of Fame, celebrating players whose achievements have left a lasting impact on the game.

About Sourav Ganguly:

Career: Ganguly represented India in 424 international matches, scoring 18,575 runs, including 38 centuries and 107 half-centuries, establishing himself among India's greatest left-handed batters.
Achievements: Led India to the 2001 Border-Gavaskar Trophy win, the 2004 Test series victory in Pakistan, runner-up finishes in the 2000 ICC KnockOut Trophy and 2003 ICC Cricket World Cup, and scored 7,212 Test and 11,363 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) runs, earning the nickname "God of Offside."
Administration: Following retirement, Ganguly served as President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) from 23 October 2019 to 18 October 2022 and later became President of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).
ICC Hall of Fame: Launched in January 2009 during the ICC's centenary celebrations, it honours cricketers with outstanding contributions to the sport, with eligibility beginning five years after their final international appearance.

Wimbledon Championships 2026: Jannik Sinner and Linda Nosková Won Men's and Women's Singles Titles

The **2026 Wimbledon Championships**, a major tennis tournament, was held at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club **(AELTC)** in Wimbledon, London, England from 29 June to 12 July 2026, where World No. 1 **Jannik Sinner** of Italy won the **men's singles title** by defeating Germany's Alexander Zverev 6-7(7), 7-6(2), 6-3, 6-4 in the final, securing his fifth Grand Slam singles title.

- **Linda Nosková** of the Czech Republic, the ninth seed, won the 2026 Wimbledon **women's singles title** by defeating fellow Czech Karolína Muchová, 6-2, 5-7, 6-3, the 10th seed, in the final.

About Wimbledon Championships 2026:

Women's Doubles: The 10th-seeded pair of Guo Hanyu (China) and Kristina Mladenovic

(France) won the 2026 Wimbledon women's doubles title by defeating Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Luisa Stefani (Brazil) 6–3, 7–5 in the final.
Men's Doubles: Harri Heliövaara (Finland) and Henry Patten (United Kingdom) successfully defended their Wimbledon men's doubles title by defeating Marcelo Arévalo (El Salvador) and Mate Pavić (Croatia) 7-6(4), 7-6(3).
Mixed Doubles: Marcelo Arévalo (El Salvador) and Jeļena Ostapenko (Latvia) won the mixed doubles title after defeating Marc Polmans (Australia) and Storm Hunter (Australia) 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Indian Women's Cricket Team Defeats England in Women's Test at Lord's, London

The **Indian Women's Cricket Team**, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, defeated **England** by 270 runs in the first-ever **Women's Test** at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, successfully defending a target of 457 runs, marking India's **second-largest win** by runs in Women's Tests and the fourth-largest overall.

About India's Historic Women's Test Victory at Lord's:

Result: India scored 285 in the first innings and 341/7 declared in the second innings to set England 457 runs (the second-highest target in Women's Tests), before dismissing them for 170 and 186.
Batting: Yastika Bhatia (113) became the first woman to score a Test century at Lord's and entered the honours board, **Smriti Mandhana** scored 70 and registered half-centuries in both innings, while **Harmanpreet Kaur** (62) and **Richa Ghosh** also contributed valuable half-centuries.
Bowling: Debutant **Kranti Gaud** claimed 5/37 in the first innings and 7/91 in the match to become the first woman to take a five-wicket haul in a Women's Test at Lord's, while Sneh Rana (4/42), Deepti Sharma (3 wickets), and Sayali Satghare provided effective support.

Padma Shri Anjum Chopra and Kevin Pietersen Were Inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

The International Cricket Council (**ICC**) inducted former Indian women's cricket captain **Anjum Chopra** and former England captain **Kevin Pietersen** into the **ICC Hall of Fame** during its Annual Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, recognising their outstanding contributions and exceptional performances in international cricket.

- Anjum Chopra became the **3rd Indian woman** after Diana Edulji and Neetu David, and the **13th** Indian overall to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, taking the total number of inductees to **125.**

About ICC Hall of Fame 2026 Inductees:

Anjum Chopra: She was a former captain of Indian Women's Cricket Team and represented India from 1995 to 2012. During a 17-year international career, she became the first Indian woman to feature in 100 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and reached 1,000 ODI runs.

- The Government of India (GoI) awarded the **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian award, to Anjum Chopra in **2014** for her contributions to the field of Sports (Cricket)

Kevin Pietersen: Pietersen's induction recognises a career built on fearless batting and match-winning performances, contributing to England's rise in international cricket during his tenure.

India Wins First-Ever Women's T20I Deaf Cricket Series Against Sri Lanka

The Indian Deaf Women's Cricket Team won the **first-ever Women's Twenty20 International (T20I) series 2026**, defeating **Sri Lanka Deaf Women's Cricket Team 5–0** at the De Soysa International Cricket Stadium in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

- India sealed the series with a seven-wicket victory in the fifth and final match after bowling out Sri Lanka for 40 runs in 13.5 overs, reinforcing its growing stature in global deaf cricket.

About India Deaf Women's T20 Series:

Milestone: The series marked the first overseas assignment of the Indian Deaf Women's Cricket Team under the Indian Deaf Cricket Association **(IDCA)**.

Awards: Indian players dominated the individual honours, with **Shradda Vaishnav** named Player of the Final, **Reddy Jyoshna** adjudged Player of the Series, **Chandani Khan** winning Best Bowler, and **Needa Zabi Shaikh** receiving Best Batter.

Support: The tour was supported by the Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIIPL), Cyrus Poonawalla Group, and the Villoo Poonawalla Charitable Foundation (VPCF) to promote deaf women's cricket internationally.

About Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA): IDCA established in 2020 and headquartered in New Delhi(Delhi), is the governing body for deaf cricket in India and is headed by President Sumit Jain.

ICC Approves New Formats for Men's ODI and T20 World Cups to Enhance Competitiveness

The International Cricket Council **(ICC)** approved major format changes to the **ICC Men's** One Day International **(ODI) World Cup** and the **ICC Men's** Twenty20 **(T20) World Cup**, introducing a **Super 7** round-robin stage in the 14-team ODI World Cup and a **Super 10** stage with Eliminators in the 20-team T20 World Cup, during its annual Board meetings held in Edinburgh, Scotland.

ICC World Cup Format Changes:

ODI Format: From 2027 onwards, ICC Men's ODI World Cup will follow a four-stage format comprising a Preliminary Round (featuring the 12th- to 14th-ranked teams), two groups of six teams, a Super 7 replacing the Super Six, and the knockout stage, with the top three teams from each group and the best fourth-placed team advancing, increasing the total matches from 48 to 57.

T20 Format: ICC Men's T20 World Cup will begin with five groups of four teams, followed by a Super 10 replacing the Super 8, with the top two teams from each group advancing, Eliminators determining the remaining semi-finalists, and the second stage expanding from 8 to 10 teams to enhance competitiveness and reduce dead-rubber matches.

Japan Open 2026: India's PV Sindhu Wins Women's Singles Title; France's Christo Popov Claims Men's Singles

The **2026 Japan Open** (officially known as the Daihatsu Japan Open 2026), the **43rd** edition of

the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Super 750 tournament held at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium in Tokyo, Japan, from 14 to 19 July 2026.

2026 Winners:

Women's Singles: Pusarla Venkata **(PV) Sindhu**, India's two-time Olympic medallist, won her maiden Japan Open **women's singles title** by defeating Japan's Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-17 in the final.

Men's Singles: France's **Christo Popov** claimed the Japan Open 2026 Men's Singles title with a 21-11, 21-19 victory over Japan's Koki Watanabe.

Men's Doubles: Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri (Indonesia) defeated Kim Won-ho and Seo Seung-jae (South Korea).

Women's Doubles: Kim Hye-jeong and Kong Hee-yong (South Korea) defeated Jia Yifan and Zhang Shuxian (China).

Mixed Doubles: Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping (China) defeated Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet (Hong Kong).

Spain Clinches Second FIFA World Cup Title, Beats Argentina in 2026 Final – Part I

The International Federation of Association Football **(FIFA) World Cup 2026**, the **23rd** edition of the men's FIFA World Cup, the quadrennial international men's football championship held from **11 June to 19 July 2026**, and co-hosted across 16 host cities in the United States of America (USA) (11), Mexico (3), and Canada (2).

- **Spain** secured their second FIFA World Cup title by defeating defending champions **Argentina** 1–0 after extra time in the 2026 final, held at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, USA, with substitute Ferran Torres scoring the decisive goal in the 106th minute.

About FIFA World Cup 2026:

Format: The 2026 FIFA World Cup featured an expanded 48-team (from 32) format with 12 groups of four teams, a 104-match schedule, and a new Round of 32 involving the top two teams from each group along with the eight best third-placed teams.

Awards & Records: Spain's Rodri won the Golden Ball as the tournament's best player, while France's Kylian Mbappé claimed his second consecutive Golden Boot with 10 goals.

- Argentina's Lionel Messi, aged 39, became the oldest outfield player to start a FIFA World Cup final and the first player to start three FIFA World Cup finals, finishing with 8 goals, 4 assists, and the Silver Ball, while Spain's Unai Simón set a FIFA World Cup record by keeping 7 clean sheets in 8 matches, conceding just one goal.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Unveils 'Peacko' As Official Mascot For BWF World Championships 2026

Union Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya,** Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) along with Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Badminton Association of India (BAI) president-cum- Chief Minister(CM) of Assam**,** unveiled the official mascot **'Peacko'** and launched the championship **anthem** for the Badminton World Federation **(BWF) World Championships 2026,** in New Delhi, Delhi.

About Mascot:

Mascot: The official mascot **'Peacko**', inspired by the **Indian Peafowl,** and the championship anthem featuring India's 16-member contingent were unveiled to showcase the spirit and unity of Indian badminton.

Anthem: The official anthem featuring **India's 16-member** World Championships contingent, including PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Ayush Shetty, Unnati Hooda, Gayatri Gopichand, and Treesa Jolly, was launched to showcase the energy, ambition, and unity of Indian badminton.

Tournament: The **30th edition** of the BWF World Championships scheduled to be held from 17–23 August 2026 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, featuring 400+ shuttlers from over 50 countries.

About BAI: Established in 1934 and headquartered in New Delhi, the BAI is the national governing body for badminton in India, responsible for promoting and regulating the sport.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Prize Money, Retirements & Records – Part II

The International Federation of Association Football **(FIFA)** announced a record **USD 871 million** prize pool for the **FIFA World Cup 2026**, making it the most lucrative tournament in football history.

- Following Spain's victory over Argentina in the final, the Royal Spanish Football Federation **(RFEF)** received **USD 51 million** as champions, while runners-up Argentina Football Association **(AFA)** earned **USD 34 million** and England received USD 30 million for finishing third.

Highlights:

Retirements: FIFA World Cup 2026 marked the end of an era as Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Neymar Jr. (Brazil), Manuel Neuer (Germany), and Guillermo Ochoa (Mexico) confirmed that it had been their final appearance on football's biggest stage.

Records: Spanish teenager Lamine Yamal enjoyed one of the greatest breakthrough tournaments in football history by becoming the first teenager to play in both the Union of European Football Associations **(UEFA) European Championship** final and **FIFA World Cup** final.

Menuires International Chess Championship 2026: Indian GMs S. Rohith Krishna & Raja Rithvik Win Gold & Silver

Grandmaster **(GM) S. Rohith Krishna** of Tamil Nadu **(TN)** won the **gold** medal, while **GM Raja Rithvik** of **Telangana** secured the **silver** medal at the inaugural **Menuires International Chess Championship 2026** held at Le Break des Menuires, Savoie, France on 11–18 July 2026.

- Both players finished unbeaten on 7 points from 9 rounds, with Rohith Krishna clinching the title on a superior tie-break score of 43 ahead of Raja Rithvik, who recorded a tie-break score of 41.5.

About Menuires International Chess Championship 2026:

Overview: The championship featured an international field of 86 players competing in a nine-round Swiss-system tournament, where players with similar scores were paired each round to ensure competitive balance without elimination.

Regulation: The tournament was conducted under International Chess Federation or Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) regulations, with standings determined by total points followed by the prescribed tie-break methods.

Performance: Fourth-seeded Raja Rithvik remained unbeaten with five wins and four draws, including a final-round victory with the black pieces over higher-rated French GM Maxime Lagarde (Elo 2622), despite his own Elo rating of 2521.
Bronze: GM **Omelja Artem** of Ukraine secured the bronze medal after finishing with 6.5 points.

2026 ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol Held in Hangzhou; China Leads, India Finishes Third with Four Medals

The International Shooting Sport Federation **(ISSF)** World Cup was held at Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre in **Hangzhou, People's Republic of China**, from 20 to 29 July 2026, where **India** finished its campaign in third place with **four medals** including 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze.

- China topped the medal tally with 7 gold, 6 silver, and 5 bronze medals (18 total), followed by the United States of America **(USA)** with 2 gold and 2 silver medals (4 total).

Indian Performance:

Gold: Esha Singh won gold in the Women's 25m (metre) Pistol with 40 hits, securing her second ISSF World Cup gold of 2026.
Silver: Sainyam Vij won silver in the Women's 10m Air Pistol with 243.4 points, finishing just 0.2 points behind the gold medallist.
Bronze: Manu Bhaker won bronze in the Women's 25m Pistol with 28 hits, while Sonam Maskar and Himanshu Dhillon secured bronze in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event with 441.2 points.

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.

Obituary

Legendary Pandavani Singer and Padma Awardee Teejan Bai Passed Away

Renowned Pandavani singer and Padma awardee **Teejan Bai** passed away at the age of 70 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. She was born on 8 August 1956 at Ganiyari village in Durg district, Chhattisgarh.

- The Government of India (GoI) honoured Teejan Bai with the **Padma Shri** (1988), the **Padma Bhushan** (2003) and the **Padma Vibhushan** (2019) for her contribution to the field of art.

About Teejan Bai

Profile: She dedicated her life to transforming **Pandavani** from a regional folk tradition into an internationally acclaimed art form, celebrated for her powerful voice, commanding stage presence, expressive style, and tambura rhythm.

Global Performances: She emerged as one of India's leading folk artistes, performing in over 1,000 shows across India and abroad, including in the United States of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK), France, Japan, Russia, Australia, and Germany, and earned international recognition for popularising Chhattisgarh's cultural heritage.

Awards: She was conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1995

- Shreshth Kala Acharya recognition (1994), M. S. Subbulakshmi Centenary Award (2016) and Japan's Fukuoka Prize (2018).

Honours: She was honoured with an Honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) from Bilaspur University, Chhattisgarh.

Padma Shri Awardee & 'Bridge Man of India' Girish Bharadwaj Passed Away

Social worker **Girish Bharadwaj,** famously known as the **'Bridge Man of India'**, passed away at the age of 76 in Sullia, Karnataka. He was born in Sullia, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka on 2 May 1950.

- He was conferred the **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian award, by the Government of India (GoI) in **2017** for his contributions to the field of Social Work.

About Girish Bharadwaj:

Overview: He was an Indian social worker and engineer renowned for building over 150 low-cost suspension bridges that connected remote villages across five states to essential services, transforming rural connectivity and social welfare.

Achievements: After founding Rational Engineering Works and Ayasshilpa Industries in Sullia, Karnataka, he began constructing bridges in 1989 following a request from the villagers of Aramburu, personally supervising and occasionally funding the projects, earning national and international recognition for his humanitarian and engineering contributions.

Contribution: Designed and constructed over 150 eco-friendly hanging footbridges across Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh (AP), and Odisha at a cost of less than Rs.2 lakh

each using local labour, community funding, sponsored materials, and sustainable construction practices, including timely completion of projects in Naxal-affected areas.

Legendary Playback Singer S. Janaki Passed Away at 88

Legendary playback singer Sistla Sreeramamurthy **(S.) Janaki,** popularly known as the **"Nightingale of South India"**, passed away at the age of 88 at Mysuru, Karnataka.

- She was born on 23 April 1938 at Repalle, Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh **(AP).**

About S. Janaki:

Career: S. Janaki made her playback debut with the Tamil film **Vidhiyin Vilayattu in 1957** and went on to become one of India's most versatile playback singers across Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi, and other Indian languages.
Achievement: With a career spanning over six decades (1957–2017), she recorded over **48,000 songs** in nearly 20 Indian languages, becoming one of India's most celebrated playback singers.
Awards: She won **4 National Film Awards** for Best Female Playback Singer for "Senthoora Poove" (*16 Vayathinile*, Tamil, 1977), "Ettumanoor Ambalathil" (*Oppol*, Malayalam, 1981), "Vennello Godari Andam" (*Sitara*, Telugu, 1984), and "Inji Iduppazhagi" (*Thevar Magan*, Tamil, 1992). She also received 33 State Film Awards.
Declined: She was selected for the **Padma Bhushan** (in the field of arts**)** in **2013**, which she declined.

Former Qatar Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Passed Away

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the former Emir of Qatar, passed away at the age of 74. He ruled Qatar from 1995 to 2013 before voluntarily abdicating in favour of his son, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, becoming one of the first modern Arab leaders to peacefully transfer power.

- He was born in **1952** into the Al Thani royal family, which has ruled Qatar since 1851.

About Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani:

Background: Before becoming Emir of Qatar, he served as Commander of the Armed Forces, Defence Minister, and Crown Prince.
Leadership: He came to power through a bloodless coup in 1995 and ruled Qatar until 2013, transforming it into a global hub for energy, diplomacy, media and investment.
Achievements: Under his leadership, Qatar became a leading Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exporter, launched Al Jazeera media, established the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), expanded Qatar Airways, and hosted the 2022 FIFA World Cup.
Honours: He received several international honours, including the Grand Collar of the Order of Prince Henry (Portugal), the Collar of the Order of Isabella the Catholic (Spain).

West Indies Cricket Legend Sir Garfield Sobers Passes Away at 89

Sir Garfield Sobers, legendary West Indies cricketer and one of the greatest all-rounders in cricket history, passed away in Saint Michael, Barbados, at the age of 89.

- He was born on 28 July 1936 in Bridgetown, Barbados.

About Sir Garfield Sobers:

Career: A left-handed batter, versatile left-arm bowler, and exceptional fielder, Sir Garfield Sobers played 93 Tests (1954–1974) for the West Indies, scoring 8,032 runs at an average of 57.78 and taking 235 wickets, earning recognition as cricket's greatest all-rounder.

Captaincy: He scored a then-record 365 runs against Pakistan in 1958, became the **first cricketer to hit six sixes** in an over in first-class cricket (1968), and captained the West Indies in 39 Test matches between 1965 and 1972.

Honours: Knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1975, named among Wisden's Five Cricketers of the 20th Century (2000), inducted into the International Cricket Council **(ICC)** Hall of Fame (2009), and honoured through the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy, awarded annually to the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.

GEORGIANS
DEFENCE ACADEMY

Important Days with theme

National Statistics Day 2026 – June 29

National Statistics Day is observed annually across India on **June 29** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra **(P.C.) Mahalanobis**, the Father of Modern Statistics in India and highlight the importance of statistics in socio-economic development and policymaking.

- **2026 Theme:** "Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data"

Background:

Declaration: On 5 June 2007, the Government of India (GoI) officially declared 29 June every year as **Statistics Day**, to be observed as one of the Special Days celebrated at the National Level.

First Observation: The first National Statistics Day was observed on **29 June 2007**.

2026 Events: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) celebrated the **20th Statistics Day**, a national awareness event at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, Delhi.

International Day of Parliamentarism 2026 – June 30

The United Nations(UN) **International Day of Parliamentarism** (World Parliament Day) is observed annually across the world on **30 June** to highlight the role of parliaments in strengthening democracy, accountability, human rights, and inclusive governance.

- **2026 Theme:** "The Future of Human Rights is Written in Parliaments."

Background:

Establishment: Instituted by the United Nations General Assembly **(UNGA)** through Resolution A/RES/72/278 in **2018**.

Significance: June 30 commemorates the founding of the Inter-Parliamentary Union **(IPU)**, established in Paris, France, on 30 June 1889.

- The year 2026 marked the **137th** anniversary of the IPU.

National Doctor's Day 2026 – July 1

National Doctors' Day is annually observed across India on 1 July to acknowledge and celebrate the invaluable services of doctors and healthcare professionals in safeguarding public health and serving society.

- The day also marks the birth and death anniversary of Bharat Ratna awardee Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy **(B.C. Roy)**, the renowned physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal(WB).

GEORGIANS DEFENCE ACADEMY

- **2026 Theme:** "Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?"

Background:

First Observance: National Doctors' Day was first officially observed on **1 July 1991,** following a recommendation by the Indian Medical Association (IMA).

Organiser: It is observed annually by the **IMA,** the apex voluntary organisation of modern medicine practitioners in India, headquartered in New Delhi, Delhi.

National Chartered Accountants Day 2026 – July 1

National Chartered Accountants Day (CA Day) is observed annually on 1 July to commemorate the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India **(ICAI)** in **1949** and to honour the vital role of Chartered Accountants in promoting financial transparency and driving India's economic growth.

- 1 July 2026 marks the **78th** foundation anniversary of the ICAI.

Background:

Before ICAI: Before the establishment of ICAI, the accountancy profession in India was regulated under the **Indian Companies Act, 1913** by the British Government.

Register of Accountants: In 1930, the Government of India (GoI) maintained a Register of Accountants, and those enrolled were known as Registered Accountants.

Formation of ICAI: Following the recommendations of an expert committee formed in 1948, Parliament enacted the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, leading to the establishment of **ICAI on 1 July 1949** as the statutory regulator of the Chartered Accountancy profession in India.

Goods and Services Tax Day 2026 – July 1

Goods and Services Tax **(GST) Day** is annually observed across India on **1 July** to commemorate the rollout of the GST regime, a unified indirect tax system on the supply of goods and services, which came into effect on 1 July 2017.

Background:

Launch: GST was implemented in India on 1 July 2017. On 30 June **2018,** the Government of India (GoI) declared 1 July as the annual **GST Day**.

First GST Day: The first GST Day was observed on **1 July 2018,** marking the completion of one year of India's landmark indirect tax reform.

GST Expansion & Revenue Growth: The number of GST taxpayers rose from 66.5 lakh in 2017 to **1.65 crore** as of May 2026.

- Gross GST collections increased from around Rs.7.4 lakh crore in 2017–18 to approximately Rs.13.76 lakh crore in 2021–22 and Rs.22.27 lakh crore in 2025–26.

World Population Day 2026 – July 11

The United Nations **(UN's) World Population Day** is annually observed across the globe on **July 11** to raise awareness about pressing population issues and emphasize the interrelationship between population dynamics, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic development.

- **2026 Theme:** "Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future."

Background:

Establishment: World Population Day was established in 1989 by the then Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

UN Resolution: In December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/45/216, officially proclaiming the annual observance of World Population Day.

First Observance: The first World Population Day was observed on July 11, 1990, in more than 90 countries.

Nelson Mandela International Day 2026 – July 18

The United Nations (UN) observes **Nelson Mandela International Day** (Mandela Day) annually across the globe on **18 July** to commemorates the birth anniversary of **Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela,** the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and the first democratically elected Black President of South Africa.

- **2026 Theme:** "It's in our hands"**Background:**
  Proclamation: On 10 November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly **(UNGA)** adopted Resolution A/RES/64/13, proclaiming 18 July of every year as Nelson Mandela International Day.
  Resolution: The resolution recognizes **Nelson Mandela's** significant contribution to the global struggle for democracy, the promotion of social justice, poverty eradication, and the advancement of a culture of peace.
  First Observance: The first observance of Nelson Mandela International Day was held on **18 July 2010**.

World Chess Day 2026 – July 20

The United Nations (UN) observes **World Chess Day** (International Chess Day) annually on 20 July to celebrate chess as one of the world's oldest intellectual games and its role in promoting education, peace, inclusion, and global cooperation.

- The day also marks the founding of **FIDE** (Fédération Internationale des Échecs / International Chess Federation) on 20 July **1924** in Paris, France.
- **2026 Theme:** "Celebrate, create and make a difference"

Background:

Origin: The idea of celebrating International Chess Day was first proposed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization **(UNESCO).**

FIDE Celebration: Since **1966**, FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs / International Chess Federation) has observed 20 July annually as International Chess Day.

UN Recognition: On 12 December **2019**, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/74/22, officially proclaiming 20 July as World Chess Day. The resolution was introduced by Armenia and co-sponsored by 52 countries.

First UN Observance: The first United Nations-recognised World Chess Day was officially observed on **20 July 2020**.

Pi Approximation Day 2026 – July 22

Pi Approximation Day (Casual Pi Day) is observed annually on 22 July to celebrate the mathematical constant Pi (π), represented by the Greek letter π, and to promote its importance in mathematics and science.

Background:

Origin: Pi Approximation Day was first celebrated in **1995** at Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Significance: The date 22 July (22/7) represents the fraction **22/7**, a well-known approximation of π (3.14159), as 22 ÷ 7 ≈ 3.142857.

About Pi (π): It is an irrational and transcendental number that represents the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.

- Pi is commonly approximated as 3.14 or 22/7 because its decimal expansion is infinite and non-repeating.

World Brain Day 2026 – July 22

World Brain Day **(WBD)** is observed annually across the world on **22 July** to raise awareness about brain health and neurological disorders.

- **2026 Theme:** "Brain Health: Access for All"

Background:

Origin: The idea of observing World Brain Day was proposed by the Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee **(PAAC)** of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) in September **2013.**

Approval: The proposal was approved by the WFN Board of Trustees in **February 2014**, making World Brain Day an annual observance.

Organised By: WBD is led by the World Federation of Neurology (WFN), headquartered in London, United Kingdom (UK), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC).

Significance: 22 July commemorates the establishment of the World Federation of Neurology **(WFN) in 1957** at Brussels, Belgium.

- The date also marks the formulation of the **WFN's first constitution**, representing a milestone in global neurological collaboration.

National Flag Adoption Day 2026 – July 22

National Flag Adoption Day is observed annually on **22 July** to commemorate the adoption of the Indian National Flag (Tiranga) by the Constituent Assembly of India on 22 July 1947, honouring its role as a symbol of freedom, justice, liberty, and equality.

- **22 July 2026** marks the **79th** National Flag Adoption Day.

About Indian National Flag:

Early Design : The design of the Indian National Flag was inspired by the Swaraj Flag, first presented by **Pingali Venkayya** in **1921.**

- The Swaraj Flag featured three horizontal stripes in red, yellow, and green, with a white crescent and star at the centre.

Tricolour: In 1921, Mahatma Gandhi proposed a tricolour flag with a spinning wheel (Charkha) to symbolise progress. The Charkha was later replaced by the **24-spoke** navy blue **Ashoka Chakra** , designed by Badruddin Tyabji.

Dimensions: The Indian National Flag has a length-to-width ratio of **3:2**.

Flag Code Amendment: Effective **26 January 2002**, the Flag Code of India was amended to allow citizens to hoist the National Flag at their homes, offices, and other places on any day, and not just on national occasions.

Income Tax Day 2026 – July 24

Income Tax Day (Aaykar Diwas) is observed annually across India on 24 July to mark the introduction of Income Tax in 1860 by Sir James Wilson.

- **24 July 2026** marks the **167th** anniversary of Income Tax Day (IT Day)

Background:

Official Recognition: In **2010, t**he Government of India (GoI) officially designated 24 July as Income Tax Day to commemorate the **150th** anniversary of the introduction of the Income Tax (IT) system in India.

Significance: The day recognizes the evolution of India's tax system, its contribution to nation-building, and the service of Income Tax Department (ITD) officials.

Kargil Vijay Diwas 2026 – July 26

Kargil Vijay Diwas, also known as Kargil Victory Day, is observed annually across India on 26 July, to commemorate the Indian Army's (IA) victory over Pakistan in the 1999 **Kargil War** through **Operation Vijay** and honours the courage, valour, and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty.

- 26 July 2026 marks the **27th** observance of the Kargil Vijay Diwas.

Background:

Overview: The Kargil War began in May 1999 when around 1,500 Pakistani soldiers and militants crossed the Line of Control (LoC), occupied Indian territory in the Kargil sector of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) (now in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh), aiming to cut National Highway 1A (NH-1A), disrupt Srinagar–Leh connectivity, isolate Indian forces at the Siachen Glacier.

- The intrusion, first detected on 3 May 1999, was a violation of the Shimla Agreement (1972).

Operations: The Indian Air Force (IAF) launched Operation Safed Sagar on 26 May 1999, marking the first use of air-to-ground strikes in the conflict, while the Indian Army (IA) launched Operation Vijay to recapture the infiltrated posts.

CRPF Foundation Day 2026 – 27 July

The Central Reserve Police Force (**CRPF**) **Foundation Day**, also known as **CRPF Raising Day**, is observed annually across India on **27th July** to commemorate the establishment of the CRPF in **1939** and honour its contributions to national security, disaster response, and nation-building.

- 27th July 2026 marks the **88th** observance of the CRPF Foundation Day.

Background:

Origin: CRPF was established as the Crown Representative's Police (**CRP**) on 27th July **1939** at Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh (MP), to assist princely states in maintaining law and order during British rule.

Influence: The formation of the CRPF was influenced by the Madras Resolution (1936) passed by the All India Congress Committee (AICC), which advocated the establishment of a strong internal security mechanism in India.

Reorganisation: After India's independence, the force was renamed the CRPF on 28th December 1949 under the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949, following the vision of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister of independent India.

International Tiger Day 2026 – July 29

International Tiger Day, also known as Global Tiger Day, is observed annually across the globe on **July 29** to raise global awareness about the urgent need to conserve tigers and their habitats while promoting worldwide tiger conservation efforts.

Background:

Origin: International Tiger Day was established in **2010** during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit held in Russia, where the St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation was adopted by 13 Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) to officially recognize July 29 as Global Tiger Day.

Observance: The first Global Tiger Day was observed on **July 29, 2011**, with support from organizations including the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Smithsonian Institution, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

2026 Events: On Global Tiger Day 2026, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, and Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, MoEFCC, extended greetings and reaffirmed India's commitment to tiger conservation, with the PM highlighting that India is home to nearly 70% of the world's tiger population.

International Day of Friendship 2026 – July 30

The United Nations (UN) observes the **International Day of Friendship** (World Friendship Day) annually on **30 July** to promote peace, solidarity, and mutual understanding through friendship across cultures and communities.

- 2026 marks the **15th** observance of the International Day of Friendship.

Background:

Origin: The concept originated in **1930,** when Joyce Hall, founder of Hallmark Cards, proposed Friendship Day.

- In 1958, Dr. Ramon Artemio Bracho founded the World Friendship Crusade to promote peace through friendship, and in 1988, the UN named Winnie the Pooh as the World's Ambassador of Friendship.

Recognition: The United Nations General Assembly **(UNGA)** proclaimed 30 July as the International Day of Friendship through Resolution A/65/L.72 in **2011.**

First Observance: The first UN-recognised International Day of Friendship was observed on **30 July 2011.**

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