

National News

Key Political and Governance Developments

India on Russian Oil Sanctions: India has strongly expressed its stance against "double standards" regarding a potential U.S. bill that could impose significant duties on countries, including India, for purchasing Russian oil. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri reiterated India's commitment to securing affordable energy, stating that India is not concerned about sanctions on Russian crude due to ample market supply.

Aadhaar Biometric Verification Concerns: Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has called for a comprehensive review of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). The committee highlighted concerns about the high failure rate of Aadhaar biometric verification, which could lead to the exclusion of many eligible beneficiaries from crucial social welfare schemes.

PM Modi's Infrastructure Push: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is actively engaged in inaugurating and laying foundation stones for various development projects across Bihar and West Bengal. In Bihar, projects worth over Rs 7,200 crore are being initiated in Motihari, covering railways, national highways, rural development, and IT. He also launched fisheries development projects and disbursed funds to Self-Help Groups and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin beneficiaries. In West Bengal's Durgapur, projects exceeding Rs 5,000 crore are being dedicated, focusing on oil and gas, power, road, and rail sectors.

INDIA Bloc Meeting Ahead of Monsoon Session: Leaders of the INDIA bloc are scheduled to hold a crucial meeting on July 19th (tomorrow), both virtually and in-person, to strategize for the upcoming Monsoon session of Parliament, commencing on July 21st. The

opposition aims to raise several issues, including the Election Commission's Special Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar and the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

Karnataka Government Blames RCB for Bengaluru Stampede: The Karnataka government has informed the High Court that Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and its event partners are responsible for the stampede that occurred outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4th, which resulted in 11 fatalities.

Supreme Court Upholds Tribal Women's Property Rights: The Supreme Court has upheld the right of legal heirs of a Scheduled Tribe woman to an equal share in their maternal grandfather's ancestral property.

Economic and Business News

Indian Stock Market Volatility: Indian equity benchmark indices, Nifty50 and BSE Sensex, witnessed a decline today. Nifty50 dropped below 25,000, while Sensex was down over 500 points. The market is in a consolidation phase, with investors closely watching corporate earnings reports and the ongoing US-India trade dialogue.

FPI Outflows: Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) withdrew a net ₹1,330.91 crore from Indian markets on July 17th, reflecting increased caution amid corporate earnings reports and evolving global macroeconomic signals. This marks a notable increase in outflows.

Indian Bank Apprentice Recruitment: Indian Bank has released a recruitment notification for 1,500 apprentices for the financial year 2025-26. Online applications commence from July 18, 2025, and will continue until August 7, 2025.

Social and Other News

India Welcomes US Designation of TRF as Terrorist Outfit: India has welcomed the U.S. decision to

designate The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and claimant of the Pahalgam terror attack, as a global terrorist organization.

Indore Remains Cleanest City: Indore has retained its position as India's cleanest city for the eighth consecutive time in the government's annual Swachh Survekshan (cleanliness survey), followed by Surat and Navi Mumbai.

Amarnath Yatra Halted: The Amarnath Yatra has been temporarily suspended due to track damage caused by heavy rainfall in the area.

Centre on Social Media Content: The Centre has told the Karnataka High Court that allowing the proliferation of unlawful content on social media platforms, even in the name of free speech, endangers democracy. It criticized Elon Musk's X (formerly Twitter) for seeking "safe harbour" protection while attempting to escape accountability.

Youth Spiritual Summit: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced that Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate a 'Youth Spiritual Summit' in Varanasi from July 18 to 20, 2025.

MCQs

1. What is India's stance on a potential U.S. bill that could impose significant duties on countries purchasing Russian oil?

- A) India is concerned about the sanctions and will reduce Russian oil imports.
- B) India believes in "double standards" and will seek alternative sources immediately.
- C) India is not concerned about sanctions on Russian crude due to ample market supply and prioritizes affordable energy.

D) India has agreed to comply with the U.S. bill to avoid duties.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri stated that India is not concerned about sanctions on Russian crude due to ample market supply and emphasizes India's priority of securing affordable energy, cautioning against "double standards."

2. Which parliamentary body has called for a review of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) due to concerns about Aadhaar biometric verification?

- A) Estimates Committee
- B) Public Accounts Committee (PAC)
- C) Committee on Public Undertakings
- D) Standing Committee on Information Technology

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has called for a comprehensive review of the UIDAI due to the high failure rate of Aadhaar biometric verification.

3. For what reason has the Karnataka government blamed Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and its event partners in the High Court?

- A) For excessive noise pollution during a celebration.
- B) For a stampede outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium that resulted in 11 fatalities.
- C) For violating COVID-19 protocols during a public gathering.
- D) For unauthorized construction at the stadium.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Karnataka government informed the High Court that Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and its event partners are responsible for the stampede.



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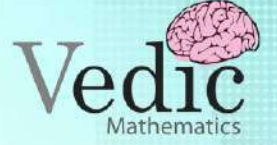
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that occurred outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4th, which resulted in 11 fatalities.

4. What major decision has the Supreme Court made regarding the property rights of tribal women?

- A) Tribal women are not entitled to ancestral property if custom is silent.
- B) Legal heirs of a Scheduled Tribe woman have an equal share in their maternal grandfather's ancestral property.
- C) Only male heirs of a Scheduled Tribe family are entitled to ancestral property.
- D) The Supreme Court has deferred its decision on tribal women's property rights.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Supreme Court has upheld the right of legal heirs of a Scheduled Tribe woman to an equal share in their maternal grandfather's ancestral property, emphasizing that denying this right would exacerbate gender discrimination.

5. What was the trend of Indian equity benchmark indices (Nifty50 and BSE Sensex) on July 18, 2025?

- A) Both Nifty50 and BSE Sensex witnessed a significant rise.
- B) Nifty50 gained, while BSE Sensex declined.
- C) Both Nifty50 and BSE Sensex witnessed a decline.
- D) The markets remained stable with no significant change.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Indian equity benchmark indices, Nifty50 and BSE Sensex, witnessed a decline today, with Nifty50 dropping below 25,000 and Sensex down over 500 points.

6. How much did Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) withdraw from Indian markets on July 17, 2025?

- A) ₹500.50 crore
- B) ₹1,330.91 crore
- C) ₹2,500.00 crore
- D) ₹7,200.00 crore

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) withdrew a net ₹1,330.91 crore from Indian markets on July 17th.

7. What is the theme of the 'Youth Spiritual Summit' being inaugurated by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya in Varanasi from July 18 to 20, 2025?

- A) Youth for Digital India
- B) Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat
- C) Youth Empowerment through Sports
- D) Climate Change Awareness for Youth

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced that Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate a 'Youth Spiritual Summit' in Varanasi from July 18 to 20, 2025, on the theme 'Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat' (Drug-Free Youth for Developed India).

