



National News

Air India Ahmedabad Plane Crash Report: The Air Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) released its preliminary report on the Air India flight AI 171 crash from June 12. The report states that both engines of the Boeing 787-8 aircraft shut down shortly after takeoff due to fuel cut-off switches transitioning from "RUN" to "CUTOFF" position, leading to the crash that killed 260 people.

Government Initiatives and Approvals:

Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme: The Union Cabinet approved a significant ₹1 lakh crore employment-linked incentive scheme, aiming to create over 3.5 lakh jobs.

Electric Truck (e-truck) Incentive Scheme: India launched its first electric truck incentive scheme under the FAME-III (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) program to promote green mobility.

Akashvani Kendra in Ujjain: The Central Government announced the establishment of a new Akashvani Kendra (radio station) in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, to enhance regional radio services and information dissemination. This is part of the Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme.

TALASH Program for Tribal Students: The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) in collaboration with UNICEF India, introduced TALASH (Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills

and Self-Esteem Hub), India's first national program dedicated to supporting tribal students in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).

Economic News:

Bank Holiday: Banks across India are closed today, July 12, 2025, due to it being the second Saturday of the month. Digital banking services remain fully functional.

Tax Collections Dip: The Central Government's net direct tax collections up to July 10, 2025, fell by 1.3% compared to the previous period, attributed to higher refunds.

Solar Power Growth: Union Minister Piyush Goyal announced a 4,000% increase in India's solar power capacity, highlighting the country's progress towards clean energy and self-reliance at the India Energy Storage Week (IESW) 2025. India has reached 227 GW of renewable energy.

Social and Legal Issues:

Building Collapse in Delhi: A four-storey building collapsed in the Welcome area of northeast Delhi, with some people feared trapped. Three people have been rescued and hospitalized so far.

Cuddalore Train Accident: Investigators found that the manned level crossing gate at Semmankuppam was open at the time of the collision between a school van and a speeding passenger train, which killed three children. The gatekeeper had left the gate open.

Gender Gap Index: India has fallen to the 131st position out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 by UNFPA, marking a decline of two places from its previous rank.





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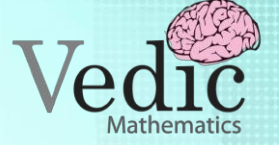
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While there are improvements in economic participation and educational attainment, political empowerment has seen a significant decline.

Queer Community Rights: A policy brief submitted to a parliamentary panel suggested changes to marriage, succession, criminal, and tenancy laws, and proposed a new civil union framework to recognize "non-marital intimacies" and horizontal reservations for transgender people.

Bihar Electoral Rolls: The Election Commission of India announced that over 74% of electors in Bihar have submitted their Enumeration Forms as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls.

Simultaneous Election Bill: Former Chief Justices of India, D.Y. Chandrachud and J.S. Khehar, told a parliamentary committee that the Simultaneous Election Bill grants "unbridled powers" to the Election Commission without sufficient oversight, though they affirmed it does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

Maharashtra Public Security Bill: The Maharashtra Legislative Council passed the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill by majority, despite an Opposition walkout.

Population Policy: Experts are suggesting a differentiated population policy by states due to varying fertility rates. While India's overall TFR is 2.0 (below replacement level), states like Bihar (3.0) and UP (2.7) have much higher rates, contributing to continued population growth despite the national trend.

Bengali-speaking Migrant Workers: 44 Bengali-speaking persons remain in custody in Jharsuguda, Odisha, as their documentary proof of Indian nationality has not convinced the police.

Infrastructure and Environment:

Mumbai's Carnac Bridge Renamed: The historic Carnac Bridge in Mumbai has been rebuilt and renamed "Sindoor Bridge" to honor "Operation Sindoor," India's military mission against terrorist camps.

Maratha Forts on UNESCO List: Maratha Military Landscapes of India were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 47th session.

Air Pollution Concerns: Gurgaon was identified as the fifth most polluted Indian city in the first half of 2025, with PM2.5 concentration 15 times higher than WHO's permissible limit. The report by CREA highlighted that 259 out of 293 Indian cities have already reached their 'overshoot day' for air pollution.

Cloud Seeding in Delhi: Delhi authorities are preparing to use cloud seeding in August 2025 to combat air pollution, marking the first time this technique is being used specifically for pollution mitigation in the city.

Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB): The APPCB Chairman urged industries to prioritize environmental safety and pollution prevention, emphasizing the adoption of green technologies and the formulation of a state-level recycling policy.

Thiruvananthapuram Outer Ring Road: The Kerala state government issued a two-month ultimatum to NHAI to complete land acquisition





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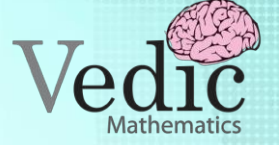
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and compensation disbursement for the long-pending Outer Ring Road project, facing delays due to environmental clearances and legal issues.

Other News:

Abhijit Kishore Reappointed COAI Chairperson:

Abhijit Kishore has been reappointed as the Chairperson of the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) for 2025-26.

Varsha Deshpande Wins UN Population Award:

Varsha Deshpande, an advocate from Satara, Maharashtra, won the 2025 United Nations Population Award for her work in advancing gender equality.

DRDO, IAF Test Astra Missile: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully tested the Astra Missile from a Su-30 MKI aircraft.

Global Conference on Manuscript Heritage:

India is set to host its first-ever global conference on manuscript heritage from September 11 to 13, 2025.

MCQS

1. What was identified as the cause of both engines shutting down on Air India flight AI 171, according to the preliminary report?

- a) A bird strike during takeoff
- b) A mechanical failure in the engine's fuel pump
- c) Fuel cut-off switches transitioning from "RUN" to "CUTOFF" position
- d) Electrical system malfunction

Answer: c) Fuel cut-off switches transitioning from "RUN" to "CUTOFF" position

Explanation: The report explicitly states that "both engines of the Boeing 787-8 aircraft shut down shortly after takeoff due to fuel cut-off switches transitioning from 'RUN' to 'CUTOFF' position."

2. What is the financial outlay approved by the Union Cabinet for the Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme?

- a) ₹50,000 crore
- b) ₹75,000 crore
- c) ₹1 lakh crore
- d) ₹1.5 lakh crore

Answer: c) ₹1 lakh crore

The news states that the Union Cabinet approved a "significant ₹1 lakh crore employment-linked incentive scheme."

3. Under which program was India's first electric truck incentive scheme launched to promote green mobility?

- a) National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP)
- b) Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME-III)
- c) Green Mobility Promotion Scheme (GMPS)
- d) National Electric Vehicle Policy (NEVP)

Answer: b) FAME-III (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles)

The report states, "India launched its first electric truck incentive scheme under the FAME-III (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) program."

4. The establishment of a new Akashvani Kendra in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, is part of which central government scheme?

- a) Digital India Programme
- b) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan





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- c) Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme
d) Smart Cities Mission

Answer: c) Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme

Explanation: The news mentions that the Akashvani Kendra is "part of the Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme."

5. The TALASH program, India's first national program for tribal students, was introduced by NESTS in collaboration with which organization?

- a) UNESCO
b) World Bank
c) UNICEF India
d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Answer: c) UNICEF India

The report specifies that NESTS collaborated with "UNICEF India" to introduce the TALASH program.

6. What was the percentage decrease in the Central Government's net direct tax collections up to July 10, 2025, compared to the previous period?

- a) 0.5%
b) 1.3%
c) 2.1%
d) 3.5%

Answer: b) 1.3%

The news states, "The Central Government's net direct tax collections up to July 10, 2025, fell by 1.3%."

7. What is India's current renewable energy capacity, as announced by Union Minister Piyush Goyal at the India Energy Storage Week (IESW) 2025?

- a) 50 GW
b) 100 GW
c) 150 GW
d) 227 GW

Answer: d) 227 GW

Piyush Goyal stated that "India has reached 227 GW of renewable energy."

8. What is India's current position in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 by UNFPA?

- a) 129th
b) 130th
c) 131st
d) 132nd

Answer: c) 131st

The report states, "India has fallen to the 131st position out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 by UNFPA."

9. What was the key finding of investigators regarding the manned level crossing gate at Semmankuppam during the Cuddalore train accident?

- a) The gate was malfunctioning.
b) The gatekeeper had left the gate open.
c) The school van forcefully broke through the closed gate.
d) The signal system failed.

Answer: b) The gatekeeper had left the gate open.

Investigators found that "the manned level crossing gate at Semmankuppam was open at the time of the collision... The gatekeeper had left the gate open."

10. What concern did former Chief Justices of India, D.Y. Chandrachud and J.S. Khehar, express regarding the Simultaneous Election Bill to a parliamentary committee?





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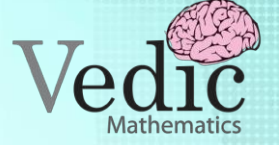
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- a) It violates the basic structure of the Constitution.
b) It grants "unbridled powers" to the Election Commission without sufficient oversight.
c) It will lead to increased political instability.
d) It is financially unfeasible.

Answer: b) It grants "unbridled powers" to the Election Commission without sufficient oversight.

They stated that the bill grants "unbridled powers" to the Election Commission without sufficient oversight, though they affirmed it does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

11. What is the new name of the historic Carnac Bridge in Mumbai, and what does it honor?

- a) Unity Bridge, honoring national integration
b) Freedom Bridge, honoring India's independence struggle
c) Sindoor Bridge, honoring "Operation Sindoor" (India's military mission against terrorist camps)
d) Gateway Bridge, honoring Mumbai's iconic landmark

Answer: c) Sindoor Bridge, honoring "Operation Sindoor" (India's military mission against terrorist camps)

The bridge has been renamed "Sindoor Bridge" to honor "Operation Sindoor," India's military mission against terrorist camps.

12. Which significant cultural landscapes from India were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List during its 47th session?

- a) Mughal Gardens of Delhi
b) Buddhist Monuments of Sanchi
c) Maratha Military Landscapes of India
d) Ancient Universities of Nalanda

Answer: c) Maratha Military Landscapes of India

"Maratha Military Landscapes of India were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 47th session."

13. For what primary purpose are Delhi authorities preparing to use cloud seeding in August 2025?

- a) To increase agricultural yield
b) To combat air pollution
c) To replenish groundwater levels
d) To generate hydroelectric power

Answer: b) To combat air pollution

The report states, "Delhi authorities are preparing to use cloud seeding in August 2025 to combat air pollution."

14. From which Indian state is Varsha Deshpande, the recipient of the 2025 United Nations Population Award, for her work in advancing gender equality?

- a) Kerala
b) Rajasthan
c) Maharashtra
d) West Bengal

Answer: c) Maharashtra

Varsha Deshpande is described as "an advocate from Satara, Maharashtra."

15. Which organization, in collaboration with the Indian Air Force (IAF), successfully tested the Astra Missile from a Su-30 MKI aircraft?

- a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
b) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
d) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)





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Answer: c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

The news states, "The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully tested the Astra Missile."

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