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National News

I. Political and Governance Developments:

Supreme Court on Use of Religion and Regionalism in Elections: The Supreme Court has expressed serious concern about political parties exploiting regionalism and religion to garner votes, terming it as dangerous as promoting communal divides in society.

Monsoon Session of Parliament (July 21 - August 21, 2025): The upcoming Monsoon Session is expected to be a busy one, with the government planning to introduce and pass several significant bills.

New Attendance System: A digital attendance system will be implemented for MPs at their designated seats to increase transparency.

Key Bills Expected: The agenda includes amendments and new legislative proposals across sectors like taxation, sports (e.g., National Sports Governance Bill, National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025), education, mining (Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025), and shipping (Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024; Indian Ports Bill, 2025). The Geoheritage Sites and Georelics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2025, is also on the list.

All-Party Meeting: The central government has called an all-party meeting on July 19 before the session commences.

Context: This will be the first session after "Operation Sindoor," launched in May following a terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir.

Government Focus Areas (as per PIB updates in July 2025):

Communications: Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia is charting a vision for grassroots-driven growth in India Post, reviewing Bharat 6G Alliance progress, and emphasizing post offices as citizen hubs. The Sanchar Mitra Scheme has been rolled out nationwide.

Education: Focus on implementing the "Panch Sankalpa" of NEP 2020, with a Vice Chancellors' Conference held in Kevadia, Gujarat, to discuss its application in Higher Education Institutions.

Labour & Employment: Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a meeting on the Employment Linked Incentive Scheme, and ESIC launched "SPREE 2025" to expand social security coverage. The Cabinet has approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme.

UIDAI Advisory: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has urged parents and guardians to complete the mandatory biometric update for children aged 7 and above for their Aadhaar cards.

Pahalgam Terror Attack: External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar has stated that India will continue efforts to bring the perpetrators of the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack to justice, condemning it as a deliberate act to undermine J&K's tourism economy and sow religious division.





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Satyajit Ray's Ancestral Property: India has urged Bangladesh to reconsider its decision to demolish the ancestral property of noted filmmaker Satyajit Ray.

Bihar SIR: The Election Commission reports that over 86% of Enumeration Forms have been received so far in the Special Intensive Revision in Bihar.

II. Economic and Social Developments:

Inflation Outlook: Retail inflation in India is projected to reach a record low in July 2025. SBI estimates average Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for FY26 to be between 3.0% and 3.2%, significantly below RBI's forecast of 3.7%. This follows a 50 basis points rate cut by the RBI in June.

GDP Growth Projections: S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), projects India's economy to grow at 6.5% in FY26, despite global geopolitical tensions. This is supported by low inflation, a benign interest rate environment, and expectations of a good monsoon.

Social Welfare Initiatives: India continues to focus on social equity and financial inclusion through various schemes:

PM Jan Dhan Yojana: Over 55.69 crore accounts as of June 2025, facilitating direct benefit transfers.

Aadhaar and Digital Identity: Over 142 crore Aadhaar cards issued as of July 2025, forming the backbone of welfare delivery.

Ayushman Bharat: Over 41.34 crore Ayushman Cards issued as of July 2025, providing health coverage.

Stand-Up India: Over 2.75 lakh applications sanctioned as of July 2025, supporting entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities.

PM Vishwakarma Yojana: 29.95 lakh individuals registered as of July 2025, supporting traditional artisans.

Digital India: The nation observed AI Appreciation Day, marking the growth of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance.

Health Ministry Clarification: The Health Ministry has rejected media reports claiming it directed warning labels on food products like samosa, jalebi, and laddoo.

III. Infrastructure and Technology:

Key Infrastructure Projects (Ongoing/Expected Completion by 2025):

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan: Aims to enhance connectivity across over 100 cities with an investment of ₹100 trillion, reducing logistics costs.

Delhi-Mumbai Expressway: Expected to be completed in 2025, significantly reducing travel time between the two cities.

Smart Cities Mission: Developing 100 cities with robust infrastructure and sustainable urban development.

Mumbai Metro Expansion: Several lines (Line 3, Line 5, Line 6) are expected to be fully or partially operational by mid-to-late 2025. The





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Mumbai Monorail fleet is also expanding and undergoing technological upgrades by August 2025.

Patna Metro: Priority corridor (6.49 km) set to open by August 15, 2025.

Surat Metro: First phase (two corridors) advancing with key sections, including an underground section, targeted for completion.

Bengaluru Metro (Namma Metro) Expansion: Blue Line and Pink Line are expanding to ease congestion.

Power Sector: India aims to expand generation capacity from 475 GW to 900 GW by 2032, reducing dependence on thermal power. Significant investment is needed for renewable energy capacity (₹12 trillion) and additional thermal capacity (₹3.5 billion). Challenges remain in grid integration and financial health of discoms.

Indian Astronaut's Return: Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and the Axiom-4 crew safely returned to Earth from the International Space Station after their 18-day mission.

DRDO's Stratospheric Airship Platform: Maiden flight-trials of an indigenous Stratospheric Airship Platform were successfully conducted in May 2025, enhancing India's Earth observation and ISR capabilities.

New Digital Initiatives in Communications: The Sanchar Mitra Scheme, review of Bharat 6G Alliance, and integration of DoT's Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) with banks for cyber fraud prevention.

IV. Miscellaneous:

Pithoragarh Road Accident: PM Modi condoled the loss of lives in a road accident in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh and announced ex gratia for victims.

MCQS

1. When is the Monsoon Session of Parliament scheduled to commence in 2025?

- A) July 16, 2025
- B) July 19, 2025
- C) July 21, 2025
- D) August 1, 2025

Answer: C) July 21, 2025

The text states, "Monsoon Session of Parliament (July 21 - August 21, 2025): The upcoming Monsoon Session is expected to be a busy one..."

2. What new system will be implemented for MPs during the Monsoon Session to increase transparency?

- A) A new voting system
- B) A digital attendance system
- C) A live telecast of all proceedings
- D) A mandatory dress code

Answer: B) A digital attendance system

The text mentions, "A digital attendance system will be implemented for MPs at their designated seats to increase transparency."

3. What is SBI's estimated average Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for FY26?

- A) Below 3.0%
- B) Between 3.0% and 3.2%
- C) Between 3.5% and 3.7%
- D) Above 3.7%

Answer: B) Between 3.0% and 3.2%





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The text states, "SBI estimates average Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for FY26 to be between 3.0% and 3.2%..."

4.What GDP growth rate does S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), project for India's economy in FY26?

- A) 5.5%
- B) 6.0%
- C) 6.5%
- D) 7.0%

Answer: C) 6.5%

The text says, "S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), projects India's economy to grow at 6.5% in FY26..."

5. As of June 2025, how many accounts have been opened under the PM Jan Dhan Yojana?

- A) Over 45 crore
- B) Over 50 crore
- C) Over 55.69 crore
- D) Over 60 crore

Answer: C) Over 55.69 crore

The text states, "Over 55.69 crore accounts as of June 2025..."

6.By what month in 2025 is the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway expected to be completed?

- A) July 2025
- B) August 2025
- C) October 2025
- D) December 2025

Answer: C) October 2025

The search result states, "The revised scheduled completion date is October, 2025."

7.What is India's target for expanding its power generation capacity by 2032?

- A) To 600 GW
- B) To 750 GW
- C) To 900 GW
- D) To 1000 GW

Answer: C) To 900 GW

The text states, "India aims to expand generation capacity from 475 GW to 900 GW by 2032..."

8. Which Indian astronaut recently returned to Earth after an 18-day mission on the International Space Station with the Axiom-4 crew?

- A) Rakesh Sharma
- B) Sunita Williams
- C) Shubhanshu Shukla
- D) Kalpana Chawla

Answer: C) Shubhanshu Shukla

The text mentions, "Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and the Axiom-4 crew safely returned to Earth from the International Space Station after their 18-day mission."

