

Section 1: International News

Q1. On 20 July 2026, India formally deposited its Instrument of Acceptance to become which numbered member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS)?

- [A] 100th
- [B] 115th
- [C] 123rd
- [D] 140th

Answer: [C] 123rd

Detailed Explanation:

India formally became the **123rd WTO member** to accept the **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS)** by depositing its official Instrument of Acceptance at the WTO Headquarters in Geneva. The AFS sets global rules prohibiting harmful subsidies that contribute to Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, overfished stocks, and unregulated high-seas fishing. India's entry reinforces its commitment to ocean conservation while protecting the traditional livelihood rights of small-scale, artisanal fishermen under Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) provisions.

Q2. President of India undertook a historic bilateral visit to South-Eastern Europe in July 2026, holding delegation-level talks and addressing business forums in which two nations?

- [A] Serbia and Croatia
- [B] Moldova and North Macedonia
- [C] Greece and Albania
- [D] Romania and Bulgaria

Answer: [B] Moldova and North Macedonia

Detailed Explanation:

The President of India paid official state visits to **Moldova** and **North Macedonia**. During the visit, the President addressed the India-Moldova Business Forum to boost bilateral trade in pharmaceuticals, IT, and agriculture, followed by high-level delegation talks with the President of North Macedonia to enhance economic, educational, and cultural ties.

Q3. In July 2026, Senegal assumed the top leadership post of which major regional bloc for the first time since its establishment in 1975?

- [A] African Union (AU)
- [B] Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- [C] Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- [D] East African Community (EAC)

Answer: [C] Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Detailed Explanation:

President Bassirou Diomaye Faye of Senegal assumed the Chairmanship of the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** for a one-year term. He succeeded President Julius Maada Bio of Sierra Leone. This marks the first time Senegal has taken the helm of the 15-nation West African regional economic community since its founding in 1975.

Section 2: National News

Q4. To safeguard student interests and prevent leakages in competitive entrance examinations, the Union Government announced the creation of which dedicated judicial mechanism in July 2026?

- [A] National Examination Disputes Tribunal
- [B] Fast-Track Courts for Paper Leak Cases
- [C] Lokpal Examination Integrity Bench



- [D] Special Anti-Fraud Appellate Authority
- Answer: [B] Fast-Track Courts for Paper Leak Cases**

Detailed Explanation:

The Prime Minister announced the establishment of dedicated **Fast-Track Courts** specifically mandated to handle cases related to public examination paper leaks, organized impersonation, and digital recruitment scams. Operating under the amended Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, these fast-track courts ensure speedy trials, stringent asset attachments, and deterrent penalties against organized syndicates.

Q5. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) updated its 'RajmargYatra' mobile app in July 2026 to introduce which specialized feature for local commuters?

- [A] Free emergency towing services within 50 km
- [B] Online applications for local e-passes for residents within 20 km of toll plazas
- [C] Automated satellite-based fuel payment integration
- [D] Real-time vehicle speed penalty waiver requests

Answer: [B] Online applications for local e-passes for residents within 20 km of toll plazas

Detailed Explanation:

NHAI enhanced its official mobile application **RajmargYatra** by allowing residents living within a **20 km radius** of National Highway toll plazas to apply directly online for discounted local commuter e-passes. This digital feature removes physical paperwork and manual verification delays at toll plazas, improving transparency and hassle-free transit for local communities.

Q6. The Ministry of Culture invited applications for sub-schemes under the 'Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana' (KSVY). Under the "Promotion of Guru-Shishya Parampara" sub-scheme, what monthly assistance is provided to a Guru?

- [A] ₹8,000 per month
- [B] ₹10,000 per month
- [C] ₹15,000 per month
- [D] ₹25,000 per month

Answer: [C] ₹15,000 per month

Detailed Explanation:

Under the **Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY)** umbrella scheme, the Ministry of Culture provides **₹15,000 per month** to recognized Gurus (master artists) and **₹2,000 to ₹10,000 per month** to Shishyas (disciples) under the *Promotion of Guru-Shishya Parampara* sub-scheme. This scheme preserves rare classical and traditional art forms by sustaining master-disciple training lineages.

Section 3: Economics & Banking

Q7. In July 2026, the Government of India revised the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) / Windfall Tax rates on petroleum exports. What was the revised SAED rate on diesel exports?

- [A] Reduced from ₹12/litre to ₹5/litre
- [B] Increased from ₹8.5/litre to ₹15.5/litre
- [C] Completely exempted (₹0/litre)
- [D] Raised to a flat rate of ₹25/litre

Answer: [B] Increased from ₹8.5/litre to ₹15.5/litre

Detailed Explanation:

The Ministry of Finance adjusted the **Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED)** on energy exports. Under the notification, the export duty on **diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)** was

increased to ₹15.5 per litre (up from ₹8.5/litre), while export taxes on petrol were reduced. SAED is periodically recalibrated to absorb supernormal profits earned by domestic refiners due to international crude price fluctuations.

Q8. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued final "Prudential Norms on Specified Non-Financial Assets (SNFA) acquired by Regulated Entities". When do these norms come into force?

- [A] August 1, 2026
- [B] October 1, 2026
- [C] January 1, 2027
- [D] April 1, 2027

Answer: [B] October 1, 2026

Detailed Explanation:

The RBI issued revised prudential guidelines governing how banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) manage, valuation-benchmark, and liquidate **Specified Non-Financial Assets (SNFA)** pledged or acquired during stress-loan resolutions. These framework rules officially take effect on **October 1, 2026**, preventing banks from indefinitely holding non-financial assets on balance sheets.

Q9. The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) partnered with the European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX) in July 2026 to launch which dedicated bilateral dialogue platform?

- [A] EU-India Garment Technology Exchange (GTE)
- [B] European Union (EU)-India Textile and Apparel Dialogue (TAD)
- [C] Sustainable Cotton Trade Forum (SCTF)
- [D] India-Europe Sustainable Fashion Initiative (IESFI)

Answer: [B] European Union (EU)-India Textile and Apparel Dialogue (TAD)

Detailed Explanation:

CITI and EURATEX forged an industrial partnership establishing the **EU-India Textile and Apparel Dialogue (TAD)**. The TAD platform supports the execution of the ongoing India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, addressing trade barriers, supply chain traceability, green textile certifications, and circular economy standards between European and Indian textile manufacturers.

Section 10: Sports

Q10. Legendary English footballer Kevin Keegan gained historical prominence in European football for which unique achievement?

- [A] Winning three FIFA World Cups as team captain
- [B] Being the only English player to win the Ballon d'Or in consecutive years (1978 and 1979)
- [C] Scoring 500 goals exclusively in the English Premier League
- [D] Serving as player-manager for four different national teams

Answer: [B] Being the only English player to win the Ballon d'Or in consecutive years (1978 and 1979)

Detailed Explanation:

Former England forward and manager **Kevin Keegan** remains the **only English footballer in history to win the prestigious Ballon d'Or twice in consecutive years (1978 and 1979)** while playing for Hamburger SV.

Q11. Which Scottish city is scheduled to host the upcoming 2026 Commonwealth Games, for which the Prime Minister of India extended best wishes to the Indian contingent?

- [A] Edinburgh
- [B] Aberdeen
- [C] Glasgow
- [D] Dundee

Answer: [C] Glasgow

Detailed Explanation:

The **2026 Commonwealth Games** are scheduled to be hosted in **Glasgow, Scotland**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended official best wishes to Indian athletes preparing for the Games, where contenders like Neeraj Chopra, Lovlina Borgohain, and Saikhom Mirabai Chanu aim for podium finishes.

Section 5: Appointments & Leadership

Q12. National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval is an IPS officer from which state cadre?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Punjab
- [D] Maharashtra

Answer: [B] Kerala

Detailed Explanation:

Ajit Doval is a **1968-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Kerala cadre**. He is India's longest-serving National Security Advisor. Over his career, he played central roles in intelligence operations, counter-terrorism missions like Operation Black Thunder, and national defense policy strategy.

Q13. Who was re-elected or recognized in July 2026 for leading international diplomacy across West Africa as the newly appointed Chair of ECOWAS?

- [A] Julius Maada Bio

- [B] Bassirou Diomaye Faye
- [C] Bola Tinubu
- [D] Nana Akufo-Addo

Answer: [B] Bassirou Diomaye Faye

Detailed Explanation:

Senegalese President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** assumed the chair of ECOWAS in July 2026 during the 65th Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government. His tenure prioritizes regional security coordination, anti-coup frameworks, and economic integration across West Africa.

Section 6: Awards & Honors

Q14. Who was the first recipient of the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award when it was instituted in 1983?

- [A] Indira Gandhi
- [B] SM Joshi
- [C] Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- [D] Dr. Manmohan Singh

Answer: [B] SM Joshi

Detailed Explanation:

The **Lokmanya Tilak National Award** was instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to national progress and self-reliance. Renowned socialist leader, freedom fighter, and politician **S. M. Joshi** was the **1st recipient** of the award in 1983.

Q15. Winners of the Best Actor and Best Actress categories at the National Film Awards receive which medal along with a cash prize of ₹2 lakh?

- [A] Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus)
- [B] Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus)
- [C] Kirti Kamal (Bronze Lotus)

- [D] Rashtriya Cinema Ratna

Answer: [B] Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus)

Detailed Explanation:

In the National Film Awards scheme, winners of individual acting honors (Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor/Actress) receive the **Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus)** medal alongside a cash prize of ₹2,000,000 (₹2 lakh). The Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) is reserved for apex categories such as Best Feature Film, Best Director, and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Section 7: Books & Authors

Q16. Which commemorative book was officially released by the Vice-President of India in July 2026?

- [A] *India @ 100: The Century of Revival*
- [B] *RSS @ 100: A Century of Service, Unity & Sacrifice*
- [C] *Viksit Bharat 2047: The Milestone Journey*
- [D] *Sovereignty and Democracy: The Indian Story*

Answer: [B] *RSS @ 100: A Century of Service, Unity & Sacrifice*

Detailed Explanation:

The Vice-President of India officially unveiled the book titled "*RSS @ 100: A Century of Service, Unity & Sacrifice*". The publication chronicles the century-long history, social welfare projects, relief operations, and socio-cultural initiatives undertaken by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) since its inception in 1925.

Section 8: Defence News

Q17. In July 2026, the United States delivered the 21st MH-60R Seahawk multi-role maritime helicopter to the Indian Navy at which naval station/city?

- [A] Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- [B] Karwar, Karnataka
- [C] Kochi, Kerala
- [D] Mumbai, Maharashtra

Answer: [C] Kochi, Kerala

Detailed Explanation:

The US defense company Lockheed Martin delivered the **21st MH-60R Seahawk** multi-role maritime helicopter to the Indian Navy at **Kochi, Kerala**. Part of a 24-helicopter Foreign Military Sales (FMS) contract, the all-weather MH-60R Seahawks significantly boost the Indian Navy's anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), and search-and-rescue (SAR) capabilities across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Q18. Which specialized military aircraft operated by the Indian Air Force serves as an Air-to-Air Refueler during long-range strategic deployment exercises?

- [A] C-17 Globemaster III
- [B] C-130J Super Hercules
- [C] IL-78 MKI
- [D] Boeing P-8I Poseidon

Answer: [C] IL-78 MKI

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ilyushin IL-78 MKI** is the Indian Air Force's dedicated **Air-to-Air Refueling (AAR)** tanker aircraft. Capable of refueling fighter jets like Rafale, Sukhoi Su-30MKI, and Mirage 2000 mid-air, it extends their operational strike range and endurance during strategic deployment missions.

Section 9: Government Schemes & Health

Q19. In July 2026, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) granted market authorization to 'QDENG' (TAK-003). For which viral disease is QDENG approved as India's first vaccine?

- [A] Chikungunya
- [B] Dengue
- [C] Japanese Encephalitis
- [D] Zika Virus

Answer: [B] Dengue

Detailed Explanation:

The DCGI approved QDENG (TAK-003), developed by Takeda Biopharmaceuticals, as **India's first approved Dengue vaccine** under the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019. Approved for individuals aged **4 to 60 years**, QDENG is a live-attenuated tetravalent vaccine that protects against all four serotypes of the dengue virus (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4).

Q20. Under the Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY), what is the monthly sustenance pension provided to veteran artists and scholars aged 60 and above with low annual income?

- [A] ₹3,000 per month
- [B] ₹4,500 per month
- [C] ₹6,000 per month
- [D] ₹10,000 per month

Answer: [C] ₹6,000 per month

Detailed Explanation:

Under the *Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists* sub-scheme of KSVY, elderly artists and scholars aged **60 years and above** whose annual personal income does not exceed ₹72,000 receive a financial sustenance pension of **₹6,000 per month** from the Ministry of Culture.

Section 10: MoUs & Digital Infrastructure

Q21. The Department of Land Resources (DoLR) held high-level discussions with the Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub (RBIH) to converge Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in land governance with which sector?

- [A] Land acquisition for national expressways
- [B] Digital credit and collateral-free agricultural lending
- [C] Forest land boundary demarcation
- [D] Urban property tax collection

Answer: [B] Digital credit and collateral-free agricultural lending

Detailed Explanation:

DoLR (Ministry of Rural Development) collaborated with the **RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH)** to integrate digitised land records (ULPIN / Bhu-Aadhaar) into the Unified Logistics/Credit Interface. This DPI convergence enables instant digital verification of land ownership, allowing banks to issue frictionless, low-interest agricultural loans to farmers without physical land documentation.

Q22. Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) signed an MoU with which technology multinational in July 2026 to offer industry-aligned skill training for engineering students across Karnataka?

- [A] Microsoft
- [B] IBM
- [C] Google
- [D] Intel

Answer: [C] Google

Detailed Explanation:

VTU (Karnataka) signed a partnership agreement with Google to integrate industry-recognized certifications in Cloud Computing, Generative AI, Data Analytics, and Android Development into the curriculum of engineering institutions across Karnataka.

Section 11: Important Days

Q23. International Moon Day is celebrated globally every year on 20 July to mark which historic milestone?

- [A] Launch of Chandrayaan-1 in 2008
- [B] The 1969 Apollo 11 Moon Landing
- [C] Discovery of water molecules on the Moon by SOFIA
- [D] Signing of the Outer Space Treaty in 1967

Answer: [B] The 1969 Apollo 11 Moon Landing

Detailed Explanation:

Declared an official United Nations observance in 2021, **International Moon Day** is celebrated on **20 July** to commemorate the anniversary of humanity's first landing on the Moon by NASA's **Apollo 11 mission in 1969**, when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the lunar surface.

Q24. Which major national event is celebrated across India on 24 July to mark the statutory origin of direct taxation in India?

- [A] Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day
- [B] National Financial Literacy Day
- [C] Aaykar Diwas (Income Tax Day)
- [D] Enforcement Directorate Foundation Day

Answer: [C] Aaykar Diwas (Income Tax Day)

Detailed Explanation:

Aaykar Diwas (Income Tax Day) is observed on **24 July** by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). It marks July 24, 1860, when Sir James Wilson introduced the first income tax law in British India to offset fiscal losses from the 1857 freedom struggle.

Section 12: Art, Culture & Festivals

Q25. The grand 'Pandharpur Wari' pilgrimage, where thousands of 'Warkaris' walk chanting devotional hymns, culminates on which auspicious festival day in Maharashtra?

- [A] Gudi Padwa
- [B] Ashadhi Ekadashi
- [C] Kartik Purnima
- [D] Narali Purnima

Answer: [B] Ashadhi Ekadashi

Detailed Explanation:

Ashadhi Ekadashi marks the culmination of the 21-day **Pandharpur Wari** pilgrimage in Maharashtra. Devotees (Warkaris) carry *Padukas* (footwear) of saints like Sant Dnyaneshwar and Sant Tukaram in *Palkhis* (palanquins) to the Vitthal-Rukmini Temple at Pandharpur on the banks of the Bhima River.

Q26. 'Saushrutam 2026', inaugurated by the President of India in New Delhi, is an international conference dedicated to which field of traditional Indian medicine?

- [A] Siddha Formulation Systems
- [B] Ayurvedic Surgery (*Shalya Tantra*) and Ancient Medical Sciences
- [C] Unani Pharmacopeia
- [D] Naturopathy and Hydrotherapy

Answer: [B] Ayurvedic Surgery (*Shalya Tantra*) and Ancient Medical Sciences

Detailed Explanation:

'Saushrutam 2026' was organized to honor the surgical legacy of **Sushruta**, the revered ancient Indian surgeon known as the *"Father of Surgery"*. The conference brings together global surgical researchers and Ayurveda specialists to validate classical *Shalya Tantra* procedures using modern biomechanical tools.

Section 13: Birth & Death Anniversaries

Q27. July 23 marks the birth anniversary of which legendary Indian freedom fighter who pledged to remain free ('Azad') and founded the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)?

- [A] Bhagat Singh
- [B] Chandra Shekhar Azad
- [C] Subhash Chandra Bose
- [D] Ram Prasad Bismil

Answer: [B] Chandra Shekhar Azad

Detailed Explanation:

Chandra Shekhar Azad (born 23 July 1906 in Bhavra, MP) was an iconic revolutionary leader. Reorganized alongside Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru, he transformed the HRA into the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** in 1928, vowing never to be captured alive by British forces.

Q28. July 23 also marks the birth anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Which famous slogan was coined by him during the Indian independence movement?

- [A] "Inquilab Zindabad"
- [B] "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it"
- [C] "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan"
- [D] "Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom"

Answer: [B] "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it"

Detailed Explanation:

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak (born 23 July 1856) was a nationalist leader, educator, and social reformer who earned the title "Lokmanya" (accepted by the people). He popularized the slogan *"Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it"* and established the Kesari (Marathi) and Mahratta (English) newspapers to mobilize public participation in the Swadeshi movement.

Q29. Freedom fighter Thiru Subramania Siva, whose death anniversary was commemorated in July, was a close associate of V. O. Chidambaram Pillai in which state?

- [A] Kerala
- [B] Tamil Nadu
- [C] Andhra Pradesh
- [D] Karnataka

Answer: [B] Tamil Nadu

Detailed Explanation:

Thiru Subramania Siva (1884–1925) was a fiery nationalist, writer, and freedom fighter from **Tamil Nadu**. Working alongside V. O. Chidambaram Pillai (VOC) and Subramania Bharati, he mobilized workers during the Tuticorin Coral Mill strike and established the *Jnana Bhanu* magazine to inspire youth toward the independence struggle.

Section 14: Agricultural & Economic Statistics

Q30. India is the only country in the world that commercially cultivates all four domesticated species of cotton. Which genetically modified cotton variety accounts for 93–95% of India's total cotton acreage?

- [A] Organic Egyptian Cotton
- [B] Hybrid Arboreum
- [C] Bt Cotton (Bacillus thuringiensis)
- [D] Desi Herbaceum

Answer: [C] Bt Cotton (Bacillus thuringiensis)

Detailed Explanation:

India ranks second globally in cotton production and possesses the world's largest cotton cultivation area (~12 million hectares). Genetically modified **Bt cotton** (containing Cry1Ac/Cry2Ab genes expressing resistance to pink bollworm pests) accounts for **93% to 95% of India's total cotton acreage**. India commercially grows all 4 domesticated cotton species: *Gossypium arboreum*, *G. herbaceum*, *G. barbadense*, and *G. hirsutum*.

