

Section 1: International News

Q1. During the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit in July 2026, which territory did Australia commission a temporary space tracking terminal on to support India's Gaganyaan mission?

- A) Christmas Island
- B) Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- C) Norfolk Island
- D) Lord Howe Island

Answer: B) Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Detailed Explanation:

During the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit in July 2026, Australia confirmed its ongoing tracking support for India's Gaganyaan Human Space Flight Program. It has commissioned a temporary space tracking telemetry terminal on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. This multi-island technical link improves India's launch-tracking capabilities and provides critical real-time communication coordinates as the capsule orbits over the Indian Ocean.

Q2. The 17th-century Jestha Varna Mahavihar, which recently won the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award after an India-funded restoration project, is located in which country?

- A) Bhutan
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Nepal
- D) Myanmar

Answer: C) Nepal

Detailed Explanation:

The historic 17th-century Buddhist monastery, Jestha Varna Mahavihar, located in Lalitpur, Nepal, received the prestigious UNESCO Asia-

Pacific Heritage Award. The conservation and restoration of this cultural site were fully funded by India with a grant of NPR 13.78 crore under the post-earthquake reconstruction assistance programme, highlighting India's active cultural diplomacy in its neighborhood.

Q3. The AN/FPS-115 'Pave Paws' radar system was recently in the news for successfully tracking a ballistic missile launch in the South China Sea. Which country operates this radar system?

- A) Japan
- B) Taiwan
- C) Philippines
- D) Vietnam

Answer: B) Taiwan

Detailed Explanation:

Taiwan's AN/FPS-115 Pave Paws early warning radar system played a pivotal role in tracking China's recent ballistic missile launches from the South China Sea. Developed originally by US defense contractor Raytheon, it is an ultrahigh-frequency (UHF) phased-array radar built to detect submarine-launched ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and low-altitude aircraft at long distances.

Q4. In July 2026, which country announced its first International Centre for Civilizational Studies titled 'Manas and Mahabharata' in collaboration with India?

- A) Mongolia
- B) Kyrgyzstan
- C) Uzbekistan
- D) Tajikistan

Answer: B) Kyrgyzstan

Detailed Explanation:



The Centre for Studies of International Relations (CSIR), New Delhi, in collaboration with the Manas National Academy, established the International Centre for Civilizational Studies 'Manas and Mahabharata' in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. This initiative aims to study and connect the shared epic heritage of India (The Mahabharata) and Kyrgyzstan (The Epic of Manas), deepening bilateral ties via soft power.

Section 2: National News

Q5. The film 'Satluj', which was recently banned and taken down from an OTT platform within days of its release over regulatory disputes, is based on the life of which prominent Indian rights activist?

- A) Jaswant Singh Khalra
- B) Kuldeep Nayar
- C) Mukul Sinha
- D) Chandi Prasad Bhatt

Answer: A) Jaswant Singh Khalra

Detailed Explanation:

The film Satluj, based on the life of Punjab human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, premiered on ZEE5 after a three-year battle over theatre certification. However, within two days, it was taken off the platform in India citing "security concerns" under the IT Rules, 2021. The incident has highlighted the differences between the Cinematograph Act (for public theatres) and the IT Rules (for streaming/private streaming platforms).

Q6. A probabilistic forecasting model successfully validated against 80 real-world landslides was recently developed to build a robust Landslide Early Warning System. Which institution developed this model?

- A) IIT Bombay

B) IISc Bengaluru

C) IIT Mandi

D) IIT Roorkee

Answer: C) IIT Mandi

Detailed Explanation:

IIT Mandi has developed a probabilistic forecasting model that predicts landslide probabilities across large regional swathes by analyzing historical satellite data, soil characteristics, rock stability, slope gradient, and local rainfall forecasts. The model was successfully validated against roughly 80 actual landslides across the disaster-prone Himalayan region.

Q7. The historic 'Pratapgad Fort', where the state government recently sanctioned funds for a memorial dedicated to 'Veer' Jivaji Mahale, is located in which district of Maharashtra?

- A) Pune
- B) Satara
- C) Raigad
- D) Ratnagiri

Answer: B) Satara

Detailed Explanation:

The Maharashtra Government sanctioned Rs 1 crore for the first phase of constructing a memorial for 'Veer' Jivaji Mahale at the foothills of the Pratapgad Fort. Pratapgad is a large hill fort located in the Satara district. Jivaji Mahale was the famous bodyguard of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who famously saved Shivaji's life during his historic encounter with Afzal Khan.

Q8. The transboundary Khawthlangtuipui River (also known as Karnaphuli) was in the news regarding regional trade networks. It acts as a

major economic lifeline between Bangladesh and which northeastern state of India?

- A) Tripura
- B) Mizoram
- C) Manipur
- D) Assam

Answer: B) Mizoram

Detailed Explanation:

The Khawthlangtuipui (or Karnaphuli) River is a transboundary river flowing from Mizoram into southeastern Bangladesh. It is highly significant for India's "Act East Policy" as it provides landlocked Mizoram shorter, inland water access to the strategic Chattogram Port in Bangladesh, opening wider regional trade networks.

Q9. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) recently turned down a 2,000 MW Pumped Storage Project to save the highest protected population of the endangered Lion-Tailed Macaque. Where is this sanctuary located?

- A) Sharavathi Valley, Karnataka
- B) Periyar, Kerala
- C) Anamalai, Tamil Nadu
- D) Silent Valley, Kerala

Answer: A) Sharavathi Valley, Karnataka

Detailed Explanation:

An expert committee under the MoEFCC recommended against approving a proposed 2,000 MW Pumped Storage Project within the eco-sensitive zone of the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary. This sanctuary hosts approximately 700 lion-tailed macaques (*Macaca silenus*), which is the highest

population of this endangered primate species in any single protected area globally.

Section 3: Economics and Banking

Q10. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) '2026 World Investment Report', what is India's global rank as a recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) after inflows surged to USD 38.89 billion?

- A) 7th
- B) 9th
- C) 11th
- D) 15th

Answer: C) 11th

Detailed Explanation:

According to UNCTAD's 2026 World Investment Report: International Investment in a Turbulent Era, India climbed two positions to become the world's 11th largest recipient of FDI. Total inflows into the country surged by approximately 44% to USD 38.89 billion, heavily concentrated in strategic sectors like semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, and green tech.

Q11. In the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) July 2026 World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update, what is India's projected GDP growth rate for the Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27)?

- A) 6.4%
- B) 6.7%
- C) 7.2%
- D) 7.7%

Answer: A) 6.4%

Detailed Explanation:

The IMF released its July 2026 WEO Update titled "Global Economy in Crosscurrents of War and Technology", projecting India's economy to grow at 6.4% in FY26-27 (FY27). This is marginally lower than its previous April forecast of 6.5%. However, the IMF upgraded India's FY28 growth forecast to 6.7%.

Q12. In July 2026, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) adjusted its economic forecast for India, raising the country's inflation projection for FY2026-27 to which percentage?

- A) 4.5%
- B) 4.9%
- C) 5.2%
- D) 5.5%

Answer: C) 5.2%

Detailed Explanation:

Citing higher global oil prices, persistent domestic food inflation, and a weaker rupee, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) raised India's inflation forecast for FY2026-27 from 4.5% to 5.2%. Concurrently, it lowered India's GDP growth forecast for the same period to 6.6%.

Q13. According to the World Bank Group's Country Income Classifications for Fiscal Year 2027, which South Asian nation was upgraded from the 'Lower-Middle' to the 'Upper-Middle' income category?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Nepal
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Maldives

Answer: C) Sri Lanka

Detailed Explanation:

In the World Bank's Fiscal Year 2027 income classifications, Sri Lanka was upgraded from a Lower-Middle-income economy back into an Upper-Middle-income economy. Other nations upgraded to Upper-Middle include Vietnam, the Philippines, Jordan, and Micronesia, while Togo moved from Low to Lower-Middle income.

Section 4: Awards and Honors

Q14. In July 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the 'Bintang Adipurna' (Medal of Honour). This is the highest civilian honor of which nation?

- A) Egypt
- B) Indonesia
- C) Bhutan
- D) United Arab Emirates

Answer: B) Indonesia

Detailed Explanation:

During a bilateral diplomatic engagement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the "Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia" (Medal of Honour). This is the highest civilian award bestowed by Indonesia, given in recognition of his significant contributions to bolstering comprehensive maritime and strategic relations between India and Indonesia.

Q15. In July 2026, the Department of Telecommunications' flagship rural digital transformation initiative won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize 2026. What is the name of this initiative?

- A) BharatNet Uday
- B) Samridh Gram
- C) Digital Bharat Block

D) Gramin Tarang

Answer: B) Samriddh Gram

Detailed Explanation:

The Department of Telecommunications' (DoT) initiative named Samriddh Gram won the UN-backed WSIS Prize 2026 under the 'Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment' category. Built on the backbone of the BharatNet FTTH (Fiber-to-the-Home) network, Samriddh Gram brings public Wi-Fi hotspots and digital ecosystems directly into village blocks to fuel rural digital transformation.

Section 5: Appointments & Resignations

Q16. Which Indian digital banking pioneer and corporate chief was appointed to the Global Supervisory Board of SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) in July 2026?

- A) Shaktikanta Das
- B) Dilip Asbe
- C) Nandan Nilekani
- D) Arundhati Bhattacharya

Answer: B) Dilip Asbe

Detailed Explanation:

Dilip Asbe, the Managing Director and CEO of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has been appointed to the Global Supervisory Board of SWIFT. His appointment reflects global recognition of India's leadership in digital retail payments (like UPI) and expands India's role in global financial messaging standards.

Q17. In July 2026, which legendary Indian sports icon and Olympic medalist was

appointed as the Player Ambassador of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)?

- A) Mahesh Bhupathi
- B) Sania Mirza
- C) Leander Paes
- D) Rohan Bopanna

Answer: C) Leander Paes

Detailed Explanation:

Leander Paes, former Indian professional tennis star and 1996 Atlanta Olympic bronze medalist, was appointed as a Player Ambassador of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF). His role will be centered around promoting grassroots tennis infrastructure, scaling up youth participation, and boosting high-performance training networks across Asia.

Section 6: Defense News

Q18. Adani Defence and Aerospace announced an investment of Rs 2,500 crore to construct South Asia's largest private-sector missile manufacturing and maintenance ecosystem in which city?

- A) Nagpur, Maharashtra
- B) Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh
- C) Hyderabad, Telangana
- D) Pokhran, Rajasthan

Answer: B) Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh

Detailed Explanation:

Adani Defence and Aerospace has committed an investment of Rs 2,500 crore to establish South Asia's largest private-sector missile and ammunition manufacturing facility in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh. This facility will strengthen India's indigenous defense manufacturing

capabilities by producing complex missiles and precision-guided weapons systems.

Q19. In July 2026, ISRO along with the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) successfully conducted the 'IMAT-05' trial. What critical system did this validate for the Gaganyaan mission?

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- A) Cryogenic Escape Thrusters
- B) Advanced Parachute Deceleration Systems
- C) Crew Module Life Support Systems
- D) Thermal Re-entry Shielding

Answer: B) Advanced Parachute Deceleration Systems

Detailed Explanation:

The Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test-05 (IMAT-05) was jointly executed by ISRO and DRDO's ADRDE laboratory. The test subjected the Gaganyaan crew capsule's massive deceleration parachutes to maximum aerodynamic loads, providing structural validation for backup systems under extreme atmospheric re-entry conditions before the uncrewed G1 demonstration flight.

Q20. India recently commenced the official export of its indigenous 'Astra Mk-1' missiles to friendly foreign nations. What category of weapon is the Astra Mk-1?

- A) Surface-to-Air Cruise Missile
- B) Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)
- C) Anti-Submarine Torpedo
- D) Hypersonic Glide Vehicle

Answer: B) Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)

Detailed Explanation:

The Astra Mk-1 is India's premier indigenously designed all-weather Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) developed by DRDO. It is engineered to engage and destroy highly agile supersonic aerial targets at long ranges before the adversary can close in for visual dogfighting. The missile has officially entered India's defense export portfolio.

Section 7: Government Schemes & MoUs

Q21. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'PRAGATI' initiative in New Delhi. What is the primary focus of this scheme?

- A) Drone literacy for women self-help groups
- B) Promoting Regenerative Agriculture Through Agri-Entrepreneurship
- C) Inter-linking of micro-cold storages
- D) Solarization of diesel tractor engines

Answer: B) Promoting Regenerative Agriculture Through Agri-Entrepreneurship

Detailed Explanation:

The PRAGATI initiative stands for Promoting Regenerative Agriculture Through Agri-Entrepreneurship Initiative. Launched by Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the program aims to train 20,000 rural agri-entrepreneurs who will, in turn, support 20 lakh smallholder farmers in transitioning to sustainable, climate-resilient, and chemical-free regenerative farming models.

Q22. The Government of India approved a budget of Rs 1,237.58 crore for the nationwide expansion of 'PM-SETU'. Which institutions are upgraded under this scheme to improve youth skilling?

- A) Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas
- B) Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)
- C) Poly-technic Engineering Colleges
- D) Rural Krishi Vigyan Kendras

Answer: B) Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)

Detailed Explanation:

PM-SETU stands for Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs. The Union Government approved its expansion across 200 identified ITI clusters nationwide with an investment plan of Rs 1,237.58 crore to upgrade laboratory equipment, infrastructure, and align vocational curricula with industry needs.

Q23. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) launched 'Tribex' in Bhubaneshwar. What is Tribex?

- A) A drone-based logistics network for tribal medicine
- B) A digital learning platform for tribal arts, culture, and skills
- C) A specialized venture capital fund for tribal startups
- D) An international tribal handloom trade fair

Answer: B) A digital learning platform for tribal arts, culture, and skills

Detailed Explanation:

Launched by Union Minister Jai Oram, Tribex is a first-of-its-kind digital learning platform dedicated entirely to preserving and teaching tribal arts, culture, traditional ecological knowledge, and vocational skill development. MoTA also signed an MoU with Sampurnanand Sanskrit University to launch UGC-recognized hybrid diploma programs through it.

Section 8: Art, Culture, Festivals & Environment

Q24. Prambanan Temple, which was highlighted in July 2026 as a major focal point for India's cultural heritage diplomacy and restoration assistance, is an ancient Hindu temple complex located in which country?

- A) Cambodia
- B) Indonesia
- C) Vietnam
- D) Thailand

Answer: B) Indonesia

Detailed Explanation:

The Prambanan Temple compound is a 9th-century Hindu temple complex located in Central Java, Indonesia, dedicated to the Trimurti (Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva). India's ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) is actively collaborating on heritage conservation and architectural restoration frameworks here, positioning it as a symbol of historical religious harmony and historical ties between India and Southeast Asia.

Q25. In July 2026, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified the Natural History Museum of which university as India's 21st Designated Repository under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002?

- A) Gauhati University
- B) Mizoram University
- C) Tezpur University
- D) Manipur University

Answer: B) Mizoram University

Detailed Explanation:

The MoEFCC officially notified the Natural History Museum (NHM) located at Mizoram University, Aizawl, as India's 21st Designated Repository under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Designated Repositories are safe custody units authorized to hold and conserve type-specimens of biological materials found across India's rich eco-zones.

Q26. The town of 'Jalalabad' in Uttar Pradesh was recently officially renamed to 'Parashuram Nagar' by the state government. What is the core reason behind this renaming?

- A) It marks the site where the poet Tulsidas composed early verses
- B) It is traditionally revered as the exact birthplace of Lord Parashuram
- C) It was the site of the ancient Panchala kingdom capital
- D) It commemorates a regional treaty signed by Raja Todar Mal

Answer: B) It is traditionally revered as the exact birthplace of Lord Parashuram

Detailed Explanation:

The Uttar Pradesh government approved the renaming of Jalalabad town in Shahjahanpur district to Parashuram Nagar. The decision was driven by local historical and religious traditions pointing to the town being the legendary birthplace of Lord Parashuram. The previous name was historically tied to the Mughal era under Emperor Akbar.

Section 9: Important Days & Anniversaries

Q27. Every year, July 11th is observed globally as 'World Population Day'. What was the primary historical trigger that inspired the United Nations to establish this day?

- A) The signing of the Earth Summit Accord in Rio
- B) The global population crossing the 5 Billion mark on July 11, 1987
- C) The publication of Thomas Malthus's famous demographic essay
- D) The establishment of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

Answer: B) The global population crossing the 5 Billion mark on July 11, 1987

Detailed Explanation:

World Population Day is observed on July 11 every year to raise awareness about global population issues, reproductive health, and gender equality. It was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989, inspired by public interest in "Five Billion Day" on July 11, 1987—the approximate date when the world's population crossed five billion people.

Q28. July 6th is annually commemorated as World Zoonoses Day. Which seminal breakthrough in medical history does this day commemorate?

- A) Alexander Fleming's discovery of Penicillin
- B) Louis Pasteur's successful administration of the first Rabies vaccine
- C) Edward Jenner's development of the Smallpox vaccine
- D) Robert Koch's isolation of the Anthrax bacillus

Answer: B) Louis Pasteur's successful administration of the first Rabies vaccine

Detailed Explanation:

World Zoonoses Day is observed on July 6 to educate people about zoonotic diseases (infections that jump from animals to humans). It marks July 6, 1885, when the French biologist Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies—a highly fatal zoonotic virus—to a young boy named Joseph Meister after he was mauled by a rabid dog.

Q29. On July 11th, the birth anniversary of Freedom Fighter and veteran leader M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is observed. He holds what unique distinction in Indian parliamentary history?

- A) The first Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha
- B) The first Deputy Speaker and subsequent second Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- C) The Chairman of the historic States Reorganisation Commission
- D) The first Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Answer: B) The first Deputy Speaker and subsequent second Speaker of the Lok Sabha

Detailed Explanation:

Madabhushi Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (born July 11, 1891) was a distinguished freedom fighter, a key member of the Constituent Assembly, and a veteran parliamentarian. He served as the very first Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha alongside Speaker G.V. Mavalankar, and upon Mavalankar's sudden passing in 1956, Ayyangar was elected as the second Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Section 10: Books and Authors

Q30. The Performance Grading Index (PGI) and the UDISE+ Report (2025-26) were released in July 2026, revealing a significant drop in school dropout rates across secondary education.

Which Union Ministry publishes these vital annual statistical books?

- A) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- B) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- C) Ministry of Education
- D) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Answer: C) Ministry of Education

Detailed Explanation:

The Performance Grading Index (PGI) and the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) are highly critical statistical handbooks compiled and published annually by the Department of School Education and Literacy under the **Ministry of Education**. The latest 2025–26 numbers showed that India's Secondary school dropout rate dropped significantly to 7.0% (down from 8.2%), reflecting much stronger retention across rural schools.