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**Iran Pulls Out of FIFA World Cup 2026 Amid Geopolitical Tensions**



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### 1. Iran Pulls Out of FIFA World Cup 2026 Amid Geopolitical Tensions

**Major Decision:** Iran has announced its withdrawal from the 2026 FIFA World Cup due to escalating geopolitical tensions and security concerns.

**Reason for Withdrawal:** The decision is linked to rising diplomatic and regional conflicts, particularly tensions involving the host nation, the United States.

**The Tournament:** The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be jointly hosted by United States, Canada, and Mexico from June 11 to July 19, 2026.

**Impact:** Iran's withdrawal may lead FIFA to select a replacement team from the Asian qualifiers and could also result in disciplinary or financial penalties for the team.



### 2. NITI Aayog Unveils Fiscal Health Index 2026 to Assess Financial Strength of States

**Key Initiative:** NITI Aayog has released the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026 to assess the financial performance and fiscal stability of Indian states.

**Purpose of the Index:** The index evaluates states on parameters such as revenue mobilization, expenditure quality, debt management, and fiscal sustainability.

**Objective:** The initiative aims to promote healthy financial competition among states and encourage better fiscal management practices.

**Significance:** The Fiscal Health Index will help policymakers identify strong and weak areas in state finances, enabling targeted reforms and improved economic governance in India.



### 3. UIDAI Launches First Structured Bug Bounty Programme To Strengthen Aadhaar System Security

**Key Initiative:** Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched its first structured Bug Bounty Programme to enhance the security of the Aadhaar ecosystem.

**Purpose:** The programme aims to identify security vulnerabilities by inviting ethical hackers and security researchers to report potential flaws in the Aadhaar system.

**Security Focus:** This initiative is designed to strengthen cybersecurity measures and protect citizens' digital identity data across Aadhaar platforms.

**Significance:** The move reflects the Government of India's commitment to improving digital infrastructure security and ensuring a safer Aadhaar framework.



### 4. Gujarat Rolls Out 'Lake and Air Watch' Initiative for AQI and Water Body Monitoring

**New Initiative:** Gujarat has launched the 'Lake and Air Watch' initiative to monitor air quality and the health of lakes across the state.

**Purpose:** The programme focuses on tracking Air Quality Index (AQI) levels and assessing the environmental condition of urban water bodies.

**Environmental Monitoring:** The initiative will use advanced monitoring systems and regular data analysis to detect pollution and ecological changes.

**Significance:** The move aims to strengthen environmental protection efforts and promote sustainable management of natural resources in India.



### 5. PM Modi Launches ₹5,600 Crore Development Projects in Tiruchirappalli

**Major Initiative:** Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, launched development projects worth ₹5,600 crore in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

**Project Focus:** The projects include infrastructure, railways, and connectivity improvements aimed at boosting regional development.

**Objective:** These initiatives are intended to strengthen transportation networks, promote economic growth, and improve public services in the region.

**Significance:** The projects are expected to enhance connectivity and accelerate development in Tamil Nadu, supporting the state's economic progress.



## 6. IEA Will Launch Largest-Ever Oil Release From Global Strategic Reserves

**Major Announcement:** International Energy Agency (IEA) has announced the largest-ever release of oil from global strategic reserves to stabilize energy markets.

**Reason for the Move:** The decision aims to address global supply disruptions and rising crude oil prices caused by geopolitical tensions.

**Global Coordination:** The release will involve oil reserves from multiple member countries, coordinated by the International Energy Agency.

**Impact:** The move is expected to ease pressure on global energy markets and support energy security worldwide.



## 7. DRDO Tests Indigenous Air Droppable Container from P-8I Aircraft

**Successful Test:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested an indigenous Air Droppable Container (ADC) from the Boeing P-8I Poseidon aircraft.

**Purpose:** The container is designed to deliver emergency supplies, equipment, and essential items to remote or inaccessible areas during military and humanitarian operations.

**Indigenous Development:** The system has been developed domestically to strengthen India's defence logistics and operational capability.

**Significance:** The successful test enhances the Indian Armed Forces' ability to carry out efficient aerial supply missions, especially in challenging terrains across India.



## 8. Renowned Tamil Director Thakkali Srinivasan Dies at the Age of 72

**Sad Demise:** Veteran Tamil filmmaker Thakkali Srinivasan passed away at the age of 72, marking the end of a notable career in the Tamil film industry.

**Career Contribution:** He was known for his significant contributions to Tamil cinema as a filmmaker and storyteller, earning respect for his creative work.

**Industry Impact:** His films and artistic vision played an important role in enriching regional cinema in India.

**Legacy:** The filmmaker leaves behind a lasting legacy in the Tamil film industry, with colleagues and fans paying tribute to his work and influence.

