



Weekly **Current Affairs**

19th to 25th July 2026

NATIONAL NEWS



Gujarat Tops NITI Aayog Investment Friendliness Index 2026



- NITI Aayog released the Investment Friendliness Index 2026, assessing 28 States and 8 Union Territories across 8 investment-related pillars.
- Gujarat ranked 1st (56.6), Maharashtra 2nd (53.7), and Tamil Nadu 3rd (53.3).
- The index was launched to benchmark investment-friendly conditions across India and was announced in the Union Budget 2025–26 following the 9th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting.

India Approves Its First Dengue Vaccine – QDENG A



- India approved Takeda's TAK-003 (Qdenga), its first dengue vaccine, for people aged 4–60 years.
- It was developed by Takeda Pharmaceuticals (Japan).
- The vaccine protects against all four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4). Dengue is transmitted by the Aedes aegypti mosquito.

Chhattisgarh First to Adopt Risk-Based Business Approval System



- The system aims to improve the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB).
- The Chhattisgarh Assembly passed the Ease of Doing Business Act, 2026 to revamp the state's regulatory system.
- Capital of Chhattisgarh: Raipur. Governor: Ramen Deka. Chief Minister: Vishnu Deo Sai.

India's First AI-Powered Bird Sanctuary Announced



- India's first AI-powered bird sanctuary will be developed at Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The project is named Bhandup Bird Park. The sanctuary will use AI-based bird tracking and species identification technology.
- Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary is a Ramsar Site (Wetland of International Importance).

Amit Shah inaugurates India's first language museum, 'Shabdalog'



- It is located at Belvedere House, National Library Campus, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- It has been developed by the National Library under the Ministry of Culture.
- It includes 121 languages recorded in Census 2011. National Library, Kolkata is India's largest library by collection.

Udmaroo Bridge Inaugurated Over Shayok River in Nubra



- The bridge is built over the Shayok River in Nubra district, Ladakh.
- It is a three-span Truss System Bridge with 70R loading capacity. The bridge reduces travel distance by about 35 km.
- It provides all-weather connectivity in the border region. Shayok River flows through the Nubra Valley in Ladakh.

India Becomes 123rd Member of WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement

- India became the 123rd member of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS). India became a founding member of the WTO on 1 January 1995.
- The Agreement was adopted during the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) which was held in Geneva, Switzerland.

- It was received by WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. World Trade Organization Established: 1 January 1995, HQ: Geneva, Switzerland.

India and UAE Sign MoU for Food Processing Cluster



- Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) signed an MoU with the UAE Food Cluster at Amaravati.
- Floor Masters International (Dubai) will establish the food processing unit.
- The unit will be set up at Gangadhara Nellore, Chittoor district. Krishnapatnam Port and Kakinada Port are major export gateways of Andhra Pradesh.

Killai Becomes India's First Climate-Resilient Village



- Killai village in Tamil Nadu has become India's first climate-resilient village.
- The initiative focuses on protecting coastal communities from climate change and natural disasters.
- The village has adopted climate-resilient housing, disaster preparedness, and sustainable livelihood practices.

Rajasthan Launches Mukhyamantri Yuva Suyog Platform



- Rajasthan launched the Mukhyamantri Yuva Suyog Platform to empower youth.
- The platform provides employment, skill development, internships, and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- It acts as a single digital portal connecting youth with government schemes.

Jharkhand Signs MoU with SRFTI for First Film Institute

- Jharkhand signed an MoU with the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI).
- The agreement will establish Jharkhand's first film institute.
- SRFTI is located in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Indian Railways Becomes World's Second-Most Electrified Network



- Indian Railways has become the world's second-most electrified railway network after Switzerland.
- More than 97% of the Broad Gauge network has been electrified. .
- railway electrification is the absolute backbone of Indian Railways' ambitious commitment to become a Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030.

Maharashtra CM Launches BHARAT TAXI Service



- BHARAT TAXI was launched by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.
- The service was launched at Navi Mumbai International Airport and It is a cooperative-based ride-hailing platform.
- BHARAT TAXI is designed as a transparent, affordable, and driver-friendly alternative to private cab aggregators.

Tamil Nadu Renames CM Breakfast Scheme

- Tamil Nadu renamed the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme as the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme.
- Initially, the scheme covered Classes 1 to 5 in government primary schools and now expanded scheme will include Classes 6 to 8.
- The expansion will take effect on 17 September 2026 because 17 September is the birth anniversary of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, founded the Self-Respect Movement. Father of the Dravidian Movement).

India to Host International Type 1 Diabetes Summit 2026

- The International Type 1 Diabetes Summit 2026 will be held in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- The summit is jointly organised by The Friends of Mewar, Breakthrough T1D, and the William J. Clinton Foundation.
- Type 1 Diabetes is an autoimmune disorder, unlike Type 2 Diabetes, which is mainly associated with insulin resistance.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



France Bans Social Media for Children Under 15



- France became the first European Union (EU) country to ban social media access for children under 15 years not be allowed to create new social media accounts from 1 September 2026.
- The ban will apply to existing accounts from January 2027. Social media platforms must implement mandatory age-verification systems.
- Arcom is the audiovisual and digital communications regulator of France.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Dr. Nandini Azad Receives Bharat Samman 2026



- Dr. Nandini Azad, President of the Working Women's Forum (India) (WWF-I) and the Indian Cooperative Network for Women (ICNW), received the Bharat Samman 2026 for her lifelong contributions to women's empowerment, financial inclusion, and grassroots social development.
- The Bharat Samman is a national award that recognises exceptional contributions to nation-building, public service, education, healthcare, culture, and women's empowerment.

James Gray to Receive Career Pardo Award



- The award is presented at the Locarno Film Festival.
- The festival is held annually in Locarno, Switzerland for screenings in Piazza Grande.
- The Golden Leopard (Pardo d'Oro) is its highest honour. Currency of Switzerland: Swiss Franc (CHF).

Ajit Doval selected for Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026



- National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has been selected for the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026. The award was instituted in 1983 by the Lokmanya Tilak Trust
- The award recognises his contribution to national, counter-terrorism and border security.
- S.M. Joshi was the first recipient of the award. Ajit Doval is a 1968-batch IPS officer (Kerala cadre). He is India's longest-serving National Security Advisor.

Santhali-language Film Became the First to Win a National Film Award



- Angen (Invisible) became the first Santhali-language film at the 72nd National Film Awards.
- The film won Best Debut Film of a Director (Non-Feature Category). The film was directed by Ravi Raj Murmu. Angen is a 12-minute 10-second Santhali short film.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Amitabh Bachchan Named Policybazaar Brand Ambassador



- Policybazaar appointed Amitabh Bachchan as its Brand Ambassador for the nationwide "Parivaar Sabse Pehle" campaign to promote health and term insurance awareness.
- The campaign supports IRDAI's Insurance for All by 2047 vision by encouraging families to secure timely financial protection through insurance.

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) – Chairperson: Debasish Panda.

Mindaugas Sinkevicius became Lithuania's new prime minister

- He succeeded the previous government following a political transition in the country.
- Lithuania is one of the three Baltic countries (along with Latvia and Estonia) and is a member of the European Union (EU), NATO, and the Schengen Area.
- Capital: Vilnius | Currency: Euro (€).

UK Appoints Kanishka Narayan as First AI Minister



- The appointment reflects the UK's focus on AI governance and innovation.
- Father of Artificial Intelligence is John McCarthy, coined the term in 1956.
- Capital of the UK: London, Currency: Pound Sterling (£).

Sudheer Kumar Singh Appointed Director in Defence Department



- The Department of Defence functions under the Ministry of Defence.
- The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. India has three armed services—Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- The Ministry of Defence was established in 1947. HQ: New Delhi.

Andy Burnham Becomes UK's New Prime Minister

- The Prime Minister is the Head of Government.
- The UK follows a parliamentary system. The Indian Parliament consists of the President, Lok

Sabha, and Rajya Sabha, whereas the UK Parliament consists of the Monarch, House of Commons, and House of Lords.

- Capital: London. Currency: Pound Sterling (£).

Centre Appoints Anurag Jain as NITI Aayog CEO



- He is a 1989-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre. He succeeds the previous leadership arrangement after Nidhi Chibber was holding additional charge.
- His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- NITI Aayog was established on 1 January 2015, replacing the Planning Commission. Chairperson of NITI Aayog: Prime Minister of India. Headquarters: New Delhi.

Infosys Appoints Ashiss Dash as Next CEO



- He will succeed Salil Parekh, whose second term ends on 31 March 2027.
- The decision was based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC).
- Infosys is India's second-largest IT services company. Founded 1981. HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka. Chairman: Nandan Nilekani.

BANKING NEWS



RBI Introduces New SNFA Framework



- The framework applies to commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs), All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs), and NBFCs.
- Specified Non-Financial Assets (SNFAs) are immovable assets (such as land or buildings) acquired by lenders in full or partial settlement of non-performing asset (NPA) loans.
- Banks must dispose of SNFAs within 7 years, cannot sell them back to the original borrower or related parties, and must value them at the lower of the loan's net book value or distress sale value determined by two independent valuers.

Fairfax to acquire IDBI Bank stake in \$5.5 billion deal



- Fairfax Financial Holdings (Canada) will acquire a controlling stake in IDBI Bank in a deal valued at approximately US\$5.5 billion.
- The acquisition is one of the largest banking privatization deals in India's banking sector.
- The stake being sold is jointly held by the Government of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

PNB signs MoU with Digital India BHASHINI for multilingual AI banking



- The partnership aims to enable customers to access banking services in multiple Indian languages, making banking more inclusive and user-friendly.
- BHASHINI (BHASHA Interface for India) is a flagship initiative under the Digital India Programme, implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The initiative leverages Artificial Intelligence (AI), Natural Language Processing (NLP), and speech technologies for real-time translation and voice-based services.

SPORTS



PV Sindhu becomes first Indian to win Japan Open title



- She became the first Indian shuttler to win the prestigious Japan Open title.
- The Japan Open is a BWF World Tour Super 750 badminton tournament.
- PV Sindhu is India's first woman Olympic medalist in badminton, winning Silver (Rio 2016) and Bronze (Tokyo 2020).
- Badminton World Federation (BWF) Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia President: Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul.

Indian Students Shine at International Biology Olympiad 2026 with Four Medals



- The International Biology Olympiad (IBO) is one of the world's most prestigious science competitions for secondary/high school students.
- The competition includes theoretical and practical examinations, testing students' knowledge in molecular biology, genetics, ecology, physiology, plant and animal sciences.

- HBCSE functions under the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

Rohit Sharma creates history with first Indian ODI century at Lord's



- With this milestone, he surpassed the previous Indian record at Lord's and added another achievement to his illustrious ODI career.
- Popularly known as the "Hitman", Rohit Sharma is regarded as one of the greatest opening batters in ODI cricket.
- He is the only cricketer in the world to score three double centuries in One Day Internationals (ODIs).

Lionel Messi Becomes First Player to Start Three FIFA World Cup Finals

- Lionel Messi became the first footballer in history to start three FIFA World Cup finals, achieving this unique milestone in the 2026 FIFA World Cup Final.
- Messi had previously started the 2014 FIFA World Cup Final (Brazil) and the 2022 FIFA World Cup Final (Qatar), making the 2026 final his third.
- Messi is widely regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time and has won a record 8 Ballon d'Or awards.

India Clinches Gold & Silver at Menuires Chess



- Indian GM Rohith Krishna won the gold medal. Indian GM Raja Rithvik secured the silver medal.
- The event was held at the Menuires International Chess Championship in France.
- Chess is governed globally by FIDE. FIDE was founded in 1924. HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland. President: Arkady Dvorkovich.

Glasgow Hosts the 23rd Commonwealth Games 2026



- The 23rd Commonwealth Games are being hosted in Glasgow, Scotland for the second time, after 2014.
- The Commonwealth Games are held every four years. Motto of the 2026 Games: "More Than Medals."
- King Charles III is the Head of the Commonwealth. The official mascot is Finnie.

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY



India's First AI-Integrated Vertical University Inaugurates



- VELS Institute of Science, Technology, & Advanced Studies (VISTAS) inaugurated India's first AI-integrated vertical university campus at Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai (Tamil Nadu).
- The campus was inaugurated by Padma Shri Sridhar Vembu, Chief Scientist and Co-founder of Zoho Corporation.
- The campus features Industry-Academia Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in collaboration with Intel Unnati, TCS iON, Microsoft, and Oracle Academy.

India Ranked 3rd in WDMMA Global Air Power Rankings 2026



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) ranks 3rd among independent air forces and 6th overall (including all military air branches) in the WDMMA 2026 Global Air Power Rankings.
- The World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA) uses the True Value Rating (TVR) system, which assesses aircraft quality, technology, logistics, modernization, and operational capability, rather than fleet size alone.
- The US Air Force and Russian Air Force ranking higher among independent air forces.

Indian Navy to Commission ASW Craft 'Malvan'



- Malvan is the second indigenous Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi.
- Designed for shallow coastal waters, it is equipped with advanced sonar systems, lightweight torpedoes, anti-submarine rocket launchers, and mine-laying capability to detect and neutralise submarines and underwater drones.
- The first indigenously designed and built Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) is INS Mahe.

L-G VK Saxena Commissions India's First 2 Geothermal Wells in Ladakh



- India's First Geothermal Wells in Puga Valley, Ladakh
- Geothermal energy uses heat from beneath the Earth's surface.
- India's geothermal potential spread across 381 hot springs and 10 geothermal provinces including Ladakh (Puga valley), Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh.

IIT Kanpur to Establish Centre of Excellence on Green Hydrogen



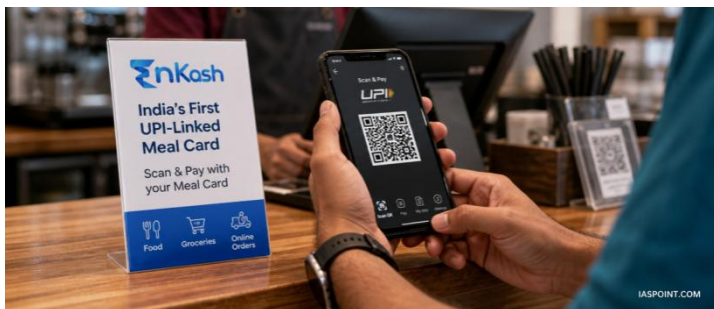
- The Centre of Excellence will be known as ECOGEN (Centre of Excellence on Innovative and Integrated Ecosystem for Green Hydrogen).
- The project has been approved by the Uttar Pradesh Government and sanctioned by UPNEDA (Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency) under the Uttar Pradesh Green Hydrogen Policy, 2024.
- The initiative supports the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

Index of Core Industries (ICI) Revises Base Year



- The Index of Core Industries (ICI) has revised its base year from 2011–12 to 2022–23.
- The index is compiled and released by the Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry. These industries together have a 40.27% weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- ICI measures the performance of eight core industries. The eight core industries are Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.

EnKash Introduces India's First Meal Card with UPI Payments



- EnKash is an Indian business payments and spend management platform. its own RBI Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) licence.
- UPI (Unified Payments Interface) was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI, 2008.)
- RuPay is India's domestic card payment network.

India Develops First Indigenous Expendable Turbojet Engine



- India developed its first indigenous expendable turbojet engine in the 350 kg thrust class.
- The engine was designed by the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE). GTRE is a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- A turbojet engine produces thrust by compressing air, burning fuel, and expelling high-speed exhaust gases.