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Ministry of Tourism Signs MoU with Air India to Promote the 'Incredible India' Brand

- The Ministry of Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Air India to jointly promote India as a preferred global tourism destination under the 'Incredible India' brand.
- The agreement aims to leverage Air India's extensive domestic and international network along with the Ministry's tourism promotion initiatives to enhance India's global visibility, boost inbound tourism, and strengthen India's position as a global aviation and transit hub.
- The MoU was signed in New Delhi in the presence of Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

The Ministry of Tourism and Air India will collaborate on:

- Joint global promotional campaigns.
- Co-branded destination marketing.
- Tourism storytelling through digital and offline platforms.
- Tourism content on Air India's in-flight entertainment systems.
- Promotion through boarding passes, aircraft branding, and other customer touchpoints.
- Participation in international tourism exhibitions, roadshows, and familiarisation (FAM) trips.
- Engagement with State Tourism Boards and tourism stakeholders.

Q. Under which flagship campaign will the Ministry of Tourism and Air India jointly promote India? **Incredible India.**





Sharmila Dhankar Wins India's First-Ever Commonwealth Games Para Athletics Gold Medal

- Indian para-athlete Sharmila Dhankar created history by becoming the first Indian to win a gold medal in para athletics at the Commonwealth Games.
- She clinched the gold medal in the Women's Shot Put F57 event at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, with a season-best throw of 9.81 metres.
- Her victory ended India's 20-year wait for a para athletics medal at the Commonwealth Games.
- Fellow Indian Shilpa K. Shyla won the bronze medal, giving India its first-ever double podium finish in a para athletics event at the Commonwealth Games.

About Sharmila Dhankar:

- Sharmila Dhankar is a para shot put athlete from Haryana who competes in the F57 classification.
- She contracted polio at the age of two and began her para athletics career in 2020.
- After finishing fourth at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games, she made a remarkable comeback to win gold in Glasgow.

Major Achievements:

- Gold Medal – Commonwealth Games 2026 (Women's Shot Put F57).
- Gold Medal – Fazza International Para Athletics Championship 2026.
- National Champion in para athletics.
- Former national record holder in the F57 category.

Q. Who became India's first Commonwealth Games para athletics gold medallist? **Sharmila Dhankar.**



Esha Singh Wins Gold, Manu Bhaker Bags Bronze at ISSF World Cup 2026

- Indian shooter Esha Singh won the gold medal in the Women's 25m Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2026 held in Hangzhou, China.
- She registered 40 hits in the final to defeat Zhang Yueyue of China (37 hits).
- Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker secured the bronze medal with 28 hits, giving India a double podium finish in the event.
- This was Esha Singh's second ISSF World Cup gold medal of 2026 in the 25m pistol event and her third ISSF World Cup title overall.

About Esha Singh:

- Esha Singh, a shooter from Hyderabad, Telangana, is one of India's leading pistol shooters.

Achievement	Details
Gold Medal	ISSF World Cup Hangzhou 2026 (25m Pistol).
Gold Medal	ISSF World Cup Munich 2026 (25m Pistol) with a world-record score of 43 hits.
Bronze Medal	ISSF World Championships (25m Pistol).
Double Silver Medallist	Asian Games 2022 (10m Air Pistol & 25m Pistol).

Q. Who won the gold medal in the Women's 25m Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2026 in Hangzhou? **Esha Singh.**



UNESCO Adds Four New International Sites to the World Heritage List

- During the 48th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in Busan, Republic of Korea, UNESCO inscribed four new international sites on the World Heritage List.
- The newly added sites are the World War II D-Day Landing Beaches (France), Mount Olympus (Greece), Ancient Capitals of Asuka and Fujiwara (Japan), and the Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape (South Sudan). These sites were recognised for their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in terms of cultural, historical, and natural heritage.

About UNESCO World Heritage List:

- The UNESCO World Heritage List includes sites of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) that are protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

Categories:

- Cultural Heritage.
- Natural Heritage.
- Mixed Heritage.

Selection Criteria:

UNESCO uses 10 criteria:

- Criteria (i–vi): Cultural Heritage.
- Criteria (vii–x): Natural Heritage.
- A site must satisfy at least one criterion for inscription.

Q. During which session were four new international sites added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2026? **48th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.**



India and China to Resume Border Trade Through Nathu La Pass

- India and China will resume border trade through the historic Nathu La Pass in East Sikkim from 1 August 2026, ending a six-year suspension that began in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The reopening is expected to boost cross-border commerce, revive economic activity in border regions, and improve livelihoods for registered traders, transport operators, and local communities.

About Nathu La Pass:

Feature	Details
Location	Nathu La is a strategic mountain pass located in the Eastern Himalayas on the India–China border.
Connects	Sikkim (India) with Tibet Autonomous Region (China)
Approximate Elevation	4,310 metres (14,140 ft)
Mountain Range	Eastern Himalayas
Historic Importance	Part of the ancient Silk Route

Q. Through which pass will India and China resume border trade from 1 August 2026? **Nathu La Pass.**



France Football Clarifies Ballon d'Or Selection Criteria

- France Football, the organiser of the Ballon d'Or, has clarified that winning team trophies alone does not guarantee the Ballon d'Or award.
- The clarification comes amid debates following the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- According to the organisers, the primary criterion remains a player's individual performances, decisive impact, and consistency throughout the season, while team achievements and trophies are only one of the evaluation factors, not the deciding criterion.

Ballon d'Or Selection Criteria:

- The Ballon d'Or is awarded based on three hierarchical criteria:

Individual Performance (Primary Criterion)

- Individual performances.
- Decisive impact in matches.
- Consistency throughout the season.
- Outstanding footballing ability.

Team Performance and Achievements

- Titles won.
- Contribution to team success.
- Collective achievements.

Sportsmanship

- Fair play.
- Professional conduct.
- Leadership and class on and off the field.

Q. Which organisation presents the Ballon d'Or award? **France Football (co-organised with UEFA since 2024).**



Government Approves RBI's Pilot Project for ₹10 and ₹20 Polymer (Plastic) Banknotes

- The Government of India has approved the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) proposal to introduce polymer (plastic) banknotes of ₹10 and ₹20 denominations for field trials. The RBI will issue 1 billion (100 crore) pieces each of ₹10 and ₹20 polymer notes to assess their durability, security features, and performance under Indian conditions. The government has clarified that there is no proposal to replace existing paper currency, and polymer notes will circulate alongside paper notes if the trials are successful.

What are Polymer Banknotes?

- Polymer banknotes are currency notes made from polypropylene-based plastic substrate instead of traditional cotton-paper substrate.

Advantages:

- Longer lifespan than paper notes.
- More resistant to water, dirt, and moisture.
- Difficult to counterfeit due to advanced security features.
- Cleaner and more durable in tropical climates.
- Lower replacement cost over time.
- Recyclable after use.

Q. Which organisation proposed the introduction of ₹10 and ₹20 polymer banknotes for field trials? **Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**



Swiggy Appoints Former Myntra CEO Nandita Sinha as CEO of Instamart

- Swiggy has appointed Nandita Sinha, the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Myntra, as the Chief Executive Officer of Instamart, its quick-commerce business, effective 3 August 2026.
- She succeeds Amitesh Kumar Jha, who has resigned from the position.
- The appointment comes at a time when competition in India's quick-commerce sector is intensifying, with companies expanding dark-store networks, improving delivery timelines, and focusing on profitability.

About Nandita Sinha:

- Nandita Sinha is a seasoned business leader with over two decades of experience in consumer internet, e-commerce, retail, and FMCG sectors.

Previous Organisations:

- Myntra (CEO).
- Flipkart.
- Britannia Industries.
- Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL).
- She is expected to lead Instamart's next phase of growth, with emphasis on expanding market presence, improving unit economics, and strengthening customer experience.

About Instamart:

- Instamart is Swiggy's quick-commerce platform, offering delivery of groceries and daily essentials within a short time.

Q. Who has been appointed as the CEO of Swiggy Instamart in 2026? **Nandita Sinha.**



Government Extends NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh's Tenure by Six Months

- The Government of India has extended the tenure of Gurdeep Singh, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NTPC Limited, by six months beyond 31 July 2026.
- The extension, approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on the recommendation of the Ministry of Power, will remain effective until a regular incumbent assumes charge, further orders are issued, or for six months, whichever is earlier.
- Gurdeep Singh has been heading NTPC, India's largest power generation company, since 2016.

About Gurdeep Singh:

- Gurdeep Singh has served as the CMD of NTPC since 2016 and has led the company during a period of expansion in both thermal and renewable energy.

Key Contributions:

- Expansion of NTPC's installed power generation capacity.
- Diversification into renewable energy.
- Promotion of green hydrogen projects.
- Development of energy storage systems.
- Entry into nuclear power and e-mobility initiatives.
- Support for India's Net Zero and clean energy goals.

Q. Whose tenure as CMD of NTPC was extended by six months in July 2026? **Gurdeep Singh.**



South Africa Launches Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) for Indian Travellers

- The Government of South Africa has launched an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system for eligible Indian travellers, allowing them to obtain digital travel approval within 24–48 hours through a fully online process. The ETA is designed for tourism and certain business/visitor purposes for stays of up to 90 days, eliminating the need to visit a visa application centre.
- Initially, the facility is available for entry through O.R. Tambo International Airport (Johannesburg), Cape Town International Airport, and Lanseria International Airport.

What is an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)?

- An Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) is a digital travel permission linked electronically to a traveller's passport.
- It replaces the traditional visa sticker and enables eligible travellers to complete the entire application process online.

Key Features:

- Fully digital application process.
- Passport-linked travel authorisation.
- Multiple-entry facility during the validity period.
- No physical visa sticker required.
- Digital confirmation with a QR code.
- Subject to immigration clearance at the port of entry.

Q. Which country has launched an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system for eligible Indian travellers in 2026? **South Africa.**

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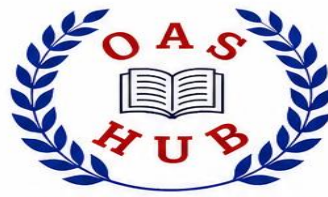
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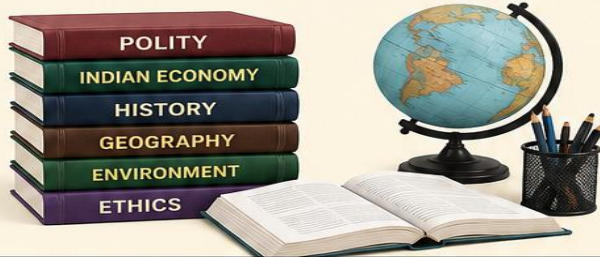
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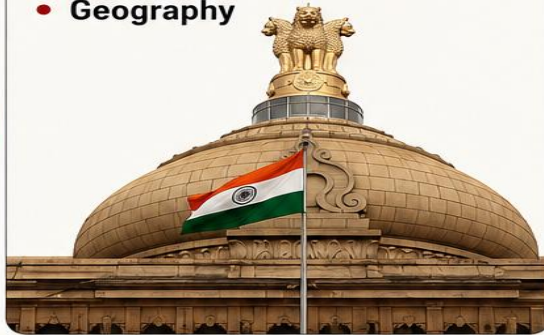
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