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Friday, 07 August 2026



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Air India Appoints Former Ethiopian Airlines Chief Tewolde Gebremariam as New CEO

Why is it in News?

- Air India has appointed Tewolde Gebremariam, the former Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Airlines, as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD). He will lead the airline's next phase of transformation under the Tata Group.

Key Highlights

- Tewolde Gebremariam has been appointed as the CEO & MD of Air India.
- He succeeds Campbell Wilson, who resigned earlier this year.
- Tewolde previously served as the CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, where he transformed it into Africa's largest airline.
- Under his leadership, Ethiopian Airlines significantly expanded its fleet, global network, and revenues, while successfully managing major crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Boeing 737 MAX crisis.
- His appointment comes at a crucial time as Air India continues its modernisation and turnaround programme under the Tata Group.

About Air India

- Air India was founded in 1932 as Tata Airlines by J.R.D. Tata. It was nationalised in 1953 and returned to the Tata Group in 2022. Since then, the airline has been undertaking a major transformation through fleet expansion, service improvements, and network modernisation.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new CEO and Managing Director of Air India? **Tewolde Gebremariam.**



ISRO to Launch Three More NavIC Satellites to Strengthen Navigation System and Support Future Space Missions

Why is it in News?

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing to launch three second-generation NavIC satellites—NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05—to strengthen India's indigenous satellite navigation system. ISRO is also taking measures to reduce Low Earth Orbit (LEO) collision risks and support future missions such as Gaganyaan and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS).

Key Highlights

- ISRO will launch NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05 to strengthen the NavIC constellation.
- The new satellites will improve positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) services across India and nearby regions.
- ISRO is enhancing space situational awareness to minimise the risk of satellite collisions in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- These efforts will support upcoming missions, including Gaganyaan and the planned Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS).
- The second-generation NavIC satellites carry indigenous atomic clocks, improving the reliability and accuracy of navigation services.

Q. Which organisation is planning to launch three more second-generation NavIC satellites? **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**



Iran and Oman Agree on New Shipping Route Through the Strait of Hormuz

Why is it in News?

- Iran and Oman have reached an understanding on a new commercial shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil transit chokepoints. The agreement aims to restore safe navigation, reduce disruptions to global trade, and improve maritime security following months of regional tensions.

Key Highlights

- Iran and Oman have agreed on the geographical coordinates of a new shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz.
- The agreement seeks to ensure the safe movement of commercial vessels and revive normal maritime traffic.
- The arrangement is intended to reduce disruptions to global oil and cargo shipments caused by recent regional conflicts.
- The agreement does not automatically guarantee the security of the waterway, and discussions on implementation are still continuing.

About the Strait of Hormuz

- The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. Around 20% of the world's oil trade passes through this strategic route, making it one of the most important maritime chokepoints in the world.

Q. Which two countries have agreed on a new shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz? **Iran and Oman.**



Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan and Home Secretary Govind Mohan Get One-Year Service Extension

Why is it in News?

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a one-year extension in the service of Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan and Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan. The decision aims to ensure continuity in governance and the implementation of key government policies and administrative reforms.

Key Highlights

- Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan has been granted a one-year extension in service.
- Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan has also received a one-year extension.
- The extensions have been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- Both officers will continue to oversee important areas of governance, administration, and national security.

Who is the Cabinet Secretary?

- The Cabinet Secretary is the senior-most civil servant in the Government of India and heads the Cabinet Secretariat. The officer coordinates among ministries, assists the Cabinet in decision-making, and acts as the head of the Indian bureaucracy.

Q. Who is the current Cabinet Secretary of India? **T.V. Somanathan.**



Why is it in News?

- Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund has appointed Madhu Nair as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will lead the asset management company with a focus on expanding its mutual fund business, strengthening investor services, and driving future growth.

Key Highlights

- Madhu Nair has been appointed as the CEO of Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund.
- He has over three decades of experience in the banking and financial services sector.
- Before this appointment, he served in senior leadership roles at Bank of Baroda.
- As CEO, he will focus on expanding the company's product offerings, improving customer experience, and increasing its presence in India's mutual fund industry.
- His appointment comes as the mutual fund industry continues to witness strong growth in retail participation and assets under management (AUM).

About Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund

- Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund is an Asset Management Company (AMC) formed through a partnership between Bank of Baroda and BNP Paribas Asset Management. It offers a wide range of equity, debt, hybrid, and solution-oriented mutual fund schemes to investors across India.

Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund Appoints Madhu Nair as New CEO

Q. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund? **Madhu Nair.**





SUN Project in Hawaii Enhances Global Monitoring of Solar Storms

Why is it in News?

- Scientists are using a telescope located on the island of Maui, Hawaii, under the SUN (Sun Underwatch Network) Project, to improve the monitoring and prediction of solar storms. These storms can disrupt GPS, satellite communications, radio signals, and power grids, while also producing spectacular auroras near the Earth's polar regions.

Key Highlights

- The SUN (Sun Underwatch Network) Project is improving the tracking and forecasting of solar storms.
- The project uses a solar telescope on Maui Island, Hawaii, to continuously observe the Sun.
- It helps scientists detect solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) before they reach Earth.
- Better forecasting can reduce disruptions to GPS, satellite navigation, communication systems, aviation, and electricity networks.
- Solar storms are also responsible for creating Auroras (Northern and Southern Lights) when charged particles interact with Earth's atmosphere.

What are Solar Storms?

- Solar storms are disturbances caused by intense activity on the Sun, such as solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs). These release large amounts of charged particles and electromagnetic radiation into space.

Q. What is the primary objective of the SUN (Sun Underwatch Network) Project? **To monitor and forecast solar storms for better space weather prediction.**



BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Agrees on India's Proposal for Law-Enforcement Network

- The Second Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) and the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery, held in Hyderabad, reached an in-principle agreement on India's proposal to establish a BRICS Network of Law-Enforcement Practitioners.
- The proposed network aims to strengthen international cooperation in tracing fugitive offenders wanted in corruption cases and supporting extradition, while complementing existing legal mechanisms.
- The meeting was organised by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under India's BRICS Presidency 2026.

The proposed BRICS network will:

- Strengthen informal cooperation among law-enforcement agencies.
- Improve tracing of fugitive economic offenders.
- Facilitate extradition and asset recovery.
- Enhance timely information sharing among BRICS countries.
- Complement formal Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) mechanisms.

Q. Which city hosted the Second BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting in 2026? **Hyderabad.**



Massachusetts and Boston Declare August 15 as 'India Day'

- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston (USA) have officially declared 15 August 2026 as "India Day" to commemorate India's 79th Independence Day and recognise the significant contributions of the Indian-American community.
- The proclamations were issued by Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.
- The announcement also coincides with the opening of the Indian Consulate in Boston and the visit of the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INS) Sudarshini during the SAILBOSTON-250 celebrations.

About the Indian Diaspora

- India has the largest diaspora in the world.

Key Facts

- Over 36 million people of Indian origin live abroad.
- More than 5 million people of Indian origin reside in the United States.
- The Indian diaspora contributes significantly to innovation, entrepreneurship, academia, healthcare, and public service worldwide.

About INS Sudarshini:

- INS Sudarshini is a Sail Training Ship of the Indian Navy.
- Built by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- Commissioned in 2012.
- Used for training naval cadets, maritime diplomacy, and goodwill visits to friendly nations.

Q. Which US state has declared 15 August as "India Day" in 2026? **Massachusetts.**

GOBARdhan Biogas Projects



Cabinet Approves ₹23,731 Crore GOBARdhan Scheme to Boost Compressed Biogas Production

Why is it in News?

- The Union Cabinet has approved the GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme with a total outlay of ₹23,731 crore. The scheme aims to promote the production of Compressed Biogas (CBG) from organic waste, improve waste management, increase farmers' income, and support India's clean energy transition.

Key Highlights

- The Union Cabinet approved the GOBARdhan Scheme with an outlay of ₹23,731 crore.
- The scheme will promote the establishment of Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants across the country.
- It focuses on converting cattle dung, agricultural residue, municipal solid waste, and other biodegradable waste into clean energy.
- The initiative aims to improve waste management, sanitation, and environmental sustainability.
- It will generate renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create employment opportunities in rural areas.
- Farmers will benefit through additional income by supplying organic waste to CBG plants.

Q. Which scheme has been approved by the Union Cabinet with an outlay of ₹23,731 crore? **GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme.**





FCRA Amendment Bill 2026 Seeks Stricter Oversight of Foreign-Funded Organisations

Why is it in News?

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 has sparked political debate after the Central Government proposed new provisions to regulate the management of foreign-funded assets and strengthen oversight of organisations receiving foreign contributions. The government says the changes will improve transparency and accountability, while critics fear they could increase government control over NGOs.

Key Highlights

- The Bill amends the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010.
- It introduces a mechanism to manage and safeguard foreign-funded assets when an organisation's FCRA registration expires, is cancelled, or is suspended.
- A designated authority can supervise the management and disposal of such assets.
- The government says the amendments will improve transparency, accountability, and regulatory clarity in the use of foreign funds.
- Opposition parties and several civil society organisations have opposed the Bill, arguing that it gives the government greater control over NGOs and charitable organisations.

Q. Which Bill has recently been introduced to strengthen the regulation of foreign-funded organisations? **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026.**

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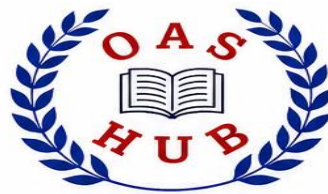
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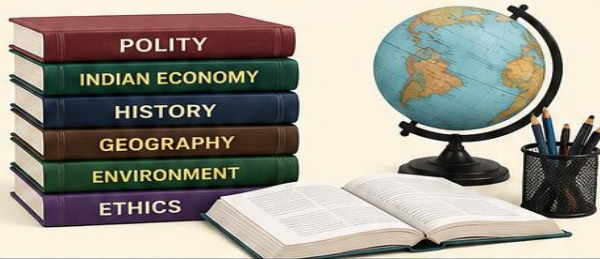
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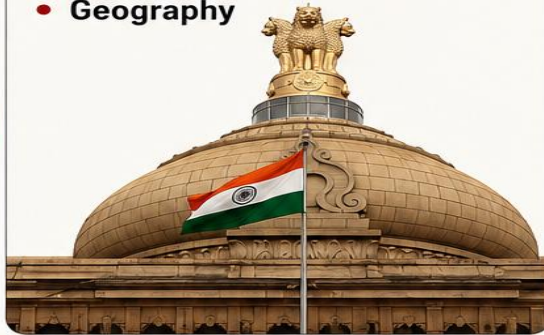
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