

**The week from 21 July 2025 to 7 July 2025**

ISRO chief V. Narayanan announced India's roadmap to establish a fully independent space station by 2035 and to send an astronaut to the moon by 2040. He reflected on the humble beginnings of India's space journey with a 35-kg payload rocket.

Venus Williams, aged 45, made a successful return to competitive singles tennis at the DC Open, defeating American Peyton Stearns in the first round. This marked her 819th WTA singles win, making her the second-oldest woman to win a WTA match after Martina Navratilova (47) in 2004. Venus also became the oldest to play a WTA-level match since Kimiko Date in 2017.

India's passport ranking has improved to 77th in the 2025 Henley Passport Index, rising eight spots from last year's 85th position. The Henley Passport Index, compiled using data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), ranks global passports based on travel freedom.

India and the United Kingdom have signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), a bilateral free trade agreement marking a major milestone in their longstanding partnership. This follows the successful conclusion of negotiations announced on May 6, 2025, and reflects the shared ambition of two major economies to deepen economic ties.

Celebrated annually on July 20, International Moon Day was adopted by the UN General Assembly through Resolution 76/76 in 2021. It commemorates the first successful human landing on the Moon during NASA's Apollo 11 mission in 1969.

The innovative e-governance application "Meri Panchayat" has received the prestigious WSIS 2025 Champion Award in Geneva, Switzerland. The award was conferred under the WSIS Action Line for Cultural and Linguistic Diversity and Local Content.

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has been named the World's Best Consumer Bank for 2025 by Global Finance magazine. The award will be officially presented at the magazine's World's Best Bank event during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington D.C.

Tech innovator Anvesh Tiwari has led the development of 'Nxtbanking', India's first end-to-end AI-powered fintech platform. The Laraware initiative aims to transform how financial services are built and scaled, focusing on innovation, compliance, and scalability in the digital space.

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