

The Week from 29 June 2026 to 5 July 2026

Bangladesh has become the 27th member of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), a global conservation initiative launched by India in 2024. The alliance focuses on protecting seven big cat species. India hosts five of these—the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, and cheetah—while the jaguar and puma are found outside the country.

India successfully carried out its first GAGAN-based satellite landing approach using an IndiGo Airbus A320 at Udaipur Airport. Jointly developed by ISRO and the Airports Authority of India (AAI), GAGAN enables precise Localiser Performance with Vertical Guidance (LPV) approaches. This technology significantly enhances safety at airports lacking Instrument Landing Systems (ILS), and has been mandatory on all Indian-registered aircraft since July 2021.

The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has inaugurated the world's first hydrogen production facility powered by nuclear process heat at the IGCAR in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. The plant utilises an indigenous Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) thermochemical cycle driven by heat from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR). Operating at around 500°C, this system enables highly efficient, carbon-free hydrogen production, marking a major leap forward for clean energy innovation.

The Union Cabinet approved an additional ₹30,000 crore investment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), raising the government's total commitment to ₹60,000 crore. This capital injection supports the NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, which targets ₹30,000 crore to advance large-scale investments across the transport, energy, digital, urban infrastructure, and e-mobility sectors.

England captain Ben Stokes has announced his retirement from international cricket following the third Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge, bringing a distinguished 15-year career to a close. He will also step down as Test captain. Stokes is widely celebrated for iconic, match-winning performances, including the 2019 World Cup Final, his unbeaten 135 at Headingley during the Ashes, and a career-best test score of 258.

On 4 July 2026, the United States marked the 250th anniversary of its independence, a historic milestone known as the Semiquincentennial or America250. Commemorating the original adoption of the Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776, nationwide celebrations included grand parades, fireworks, historical re-enactments, and commemorative programmes, making it one of the largest national observances in US history.

India clinched its first-ever gold medal at the World Rowing Cup Stage 3, courtesy of Havildars Lakshay and Ujjwal Kumar Singh. The duo won the Lightweight Men's Double Sculls (LM2x) title in Lucerne, Switzerland, on 27 June 2026. Representing the Indian Army's Rowing Node in Pune, they clocked a winning time of 6:26.09 to finish ahead of runners-up Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 came into force on 1 July 2026, officially replacing MGNREGA. The landmark legislation increases guaranteed rural wage employment from 100 to 125 days per household and revises the average daily wage to ₹327.4. To ensure a smooth transition, existing job cards remain valid while new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards are systematically introduced.



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