

The week from 27 July 2026 to 3 August 2026

India's government introduced a bill on 27 July proposing tougher penalties for leaking public examination papers. The move followed weeks of student protests over the NEET controversy and the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. A new examination-reform task force is also being led by Nandan Nilekani.

Indian athletes produced a strong run at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. On 28 July, Gulveer Singh won silver in the men's 10,000 metres, while Harjinder Kaur took silver in weightlifting. India also secured three guaranteed boxing medals after athletes reached their respective semi-finals.

The Indian government reissued a draft notification proposing more than 56,000 square kilometres of the Western Ghats as an eco sensitive area. The region is one of India's most important biodiversity hotspots, containing forests, rivers and numerous plant and animal species.

A revival in monsoon rainfall helped Indian farmers accelerate planting of cotton, soybean and rice. Earlier delays had created a sowing deficit. India is the world's largest rice exporter, so changes in its crop prospects can influence food supplies and agricultural markets internationally.

A Reuters survey published on 27 July found that most economists expected the Reserve Bank of India to keep its key interest rate at 5.25%. The outlook reflected concerns about economic growth, inflation and the effects of international conflicts and trade pressures.

FIFA announced on 31 July that it was abandoning a proposal to create a \$20-billion subsidiary and sell a 20% stake in it. The proposal had faced opposition from several continental football bodies, which criticised the consultation process and governance arrangements.

France and Spain battled huge wildfires during a severe summer heatwave. Tens of thousands of people were evacuated, while firefighters received assistance from other European countries. Scientists say hotter and drier conditions are increasing wildfire risks in many parts of the world.

NASA's 27 July science programme highlighted several important space developments, including plans for upcoming spacewalks and research aboard the International Space Station. Scientists also reported new observations involving the Hubble Space Telescope and a wandering black hole destroying a star.

Scientists, governments and Indigenous representatives met in Nairobi from 27 July to 1 August for a major biodiversity meeting under the Convention on Biological Diversity. They discussed scientific advice and policies that will help shape preparations for the next global biodiversity conference.



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