

RADIUS EDUCATION

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- INTERNATIONAL NEWS
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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- **Commonwealth Games 2026: Lovepreet Singh brings glory to India by winning silver medal in weightlifting**
- **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026: Estonia tops, India ranks 176th**
- **Market Distortion Performance Index 2023: India jumps 25 places in 13 years**
- **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) prepares first ever National List of Butterflies and Moths of India**
- **Gaza Peace Initiative: Hamas disarmament proposal agreed, a significant diplomatic step towards a ceasefire**
- **India-Maldives Digital Payments Cooperation: Launch of Favara-UPI Cross-Border Payment Corridor**
- **Indian Railways' new digital initiative: Online luggage booking service launched for reserved passengers**
- **Friendship Day: A symbol of friendship, social harmony and global cooperation**

1. Commonwealth Games 2026: Lovepreet Singh brings glory to India by winning a silver medal in weightlifting

At the Commonwealth Games 2026, India's 28-year-old weightlifter Lovepreet Singh won the silver medal in the men's +110 kg weight category by lifting a total of 388 kg (176 kg snatch + 212 kg clean and jerk). He also set a new Commonwealth Games record by lifting 176 kg in the snatch event. However, New Zealand's David Liti secured the gold medal by lifting a total of 389 kg, edging out Lovepreet by a margin of just 1 kg. Lovepreet's performance is seen as a testament to the growing prowess of Indian weightlifting and India's strong presence on the international stage.



2. Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026: Estonia Tops the List, India Ranks 176th

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026 assessed the environmental performance of 177 countries; Estonia secured the top spot with a score of 74.79, while India ranked 176th with a score of 22.46. The index evaluates countries based on 47 indicators across 12 categories, including climate change, air quality, biodiversity, water resources, and environmental health. It is prepared by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy (YCELP) and Columbia University. The report highlights key challenges facing India, such as air pollution, forest conservation, and ecosystem preservation.



3. Market Distortion Performance Index 2023: India Climbs 25 Spots in 13 Years

According to a report by the Competere Foundation, India has recorded a remarkable improvement of 25 places in the Market Distortion Performance Index (MDPI) 2023, rising from the 82nd position in 2010 to the 57th position. This index evaluates countries based on competitiveness, transparency, and investment-friendly policies. The improvement in India's ranking is attributed to the implementation of GST, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), regulatory reforms, and ease-of-doing-business measures. The report notes that these reforms have boosted investor confidence and positioned India as a more competitive economy.



4. Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Prepares First-Ever National Checklist of India's Butterflies and Moths

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has prepared the first-ever comprehensive national checklist of butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera) found in India, documenting 13,703 species. Compiled over 12 years under the leadership of Dr. Navneet Singh and Dr. Rahul Joshi, this catalogue will serve as a vital reference for future research and biodiversity conservation. The species in the list are classified into 102 families, 240 subfamilies, 3,705 genera, and 31 superfamilies. According to the report, India accounts for approximately 8.8% of the global biodiversity of this group, with 2,205 species belonging to the superfamily Geometroidea alone.



5. Gaza Peace Initiative: Agreement on Hamas Disarmament Proposal; A Significant Diplomatic Move Towards Ceasefire

US President Donald Trump announced an agreement on a peace proposal regarding the complete disarmament of Hamas and other armed groups in Gaza. While Hamas has accepted the proposal, Israel's formal approval is still pending. This US-backed plan includes provisions for phased disarmament, the withdrawal of Israeli forces, a new Palestinian security arrangement, the deployment of an international peacekeeping force, and the reconstruction of Gaza. Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey have played crucial roles as mediators in advancing this initiative. This peace effort is viewed as a significant step toward ending the Israel-Hamas conflict—ongoing since October 7, 2023—and establishing lasting peace.



6. India-Maldives Digital Payment Cooperation: Launch of Favara-UPI Cross-Border Payment Corridor

On July 30, 2026, the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) launched the Favara-UPI cross-border payment corridor, enabling Maldivian citizens to transfer funds in real-time to UPI accounts in India via their mobile banking apps. This system represents a technical integration between the Maldives' 'Favara' and India's UPI payment systems, allowing payments made in MVR to be received as INR by the beneficiary. The MMA, RBI, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), and banks from both nations played pivotal roles in this project. This initiative marks a significant step towards strengthening digital payments, financial cooperation, and fintech integration between India and the Maldives.



7. Indian Railways' New Digital Initiative: Online Luggage Booking Service Launched for Reserved Passengers

Effective July 31, 2026, Indian Railways has launched an online personal luggage booking facility for passengers holding reserved tickets, enabling the advance booking of excess luggage. This facility is available exclusively to passengers with confirmed reserved tickets and eliminates the need to visit station luggage counters. The system provides passengers with prior information regarding free luggage allowances, maximum weight limits, additional charges, and prohibited items; a charge of 1.5 times the standard rate applies to excess luggage. Developed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), this digital service marks a significant step towards the digital modernization of Indian Railways.



8. Friendship Day: A Symbol of Friendship, Social Harmony, and Global Cooperation

Friendship Day is celebrated annually on the first Sunday of August in many countries, including India; in 2026, it will be observed on August 2nd. Its objective is to strengthen friendship, mutual trust, cooperation, social harmony, and human bonds. While the tradition is believed to have originated in the United States in 1935, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared July 30th as the 'International Day of Friendship' in 2011. This day conveys a message of promoting peace, brotherhood, and global cooperation among diverse nations, cultures, and communities.



1. Which medal did Lovepreet Singh win at the 2026 Commonwealth Games?

- A - Gold
B - Silver
C - Bronze
D - No medal

At the 2026 Commonwealth Games, India's Lovepreet Singh won the silver medal in the men's +110 kg weight category by lifting a total of 388 kg; he also set a new Games record by lifting 176 kg in the snatch event. New Zealand's David Liti secured the gold medal by lifting 389 kg, winning by a margin of just 1 kg.



2. Which country secured the first position in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026?

- A - Germany
B - Finland
C - Estonia
D - Sweden

A total of 177 countries were evaluated in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026; Estonia ranked first, while India stood at the 176th position. This index assesses the environmental performance of countries based on 12 categories and 47 indicators, highlighting challenges faced by India such as air pollution and the conservation of forests and biodiversity.



3. Which organization released the Market Distortion Performance Index (MDPI) report?

- A - World Bank
B - IMF
C - Competier Foundation
D - OECD

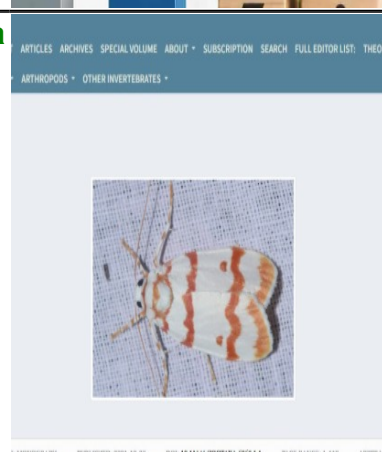
According to the Competier Foundation's report, India improved its standing by 25 places in the Market Distortion Performance Index (MDPI) 2023, moving from the 82nd position in 2010 to the 57th position. According to the report, GST, the IBC, regulatory reforms, and ease-of-doing-business measures played a significant role in enhancing India's competitiveness and strengthening investor confidence.



4. How many species in total have been documented in the Lepidoptera catalogue prepared by the ZSI?

- A - 12,703
B - 13,205
C - 13,703
D - 14,703

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has prepared a national catalogue of India's butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera) for the first time, documenting 13,703 species. Compiled over 12 years, this catalogue is significant for biodiversity conservation and research; notably, India accounts for approximately 8.8% of the global diversity of this group, with 2,205 Geometroidea species.



5. Which US President announced the Gaza peace proposal?

- A - Joe Biden
B - Barack Obama
C - Donald Trump
D - George Bush

US President Donald Trump announced a peace proposal regarding the complete disarmament of Hamas and other armed groups in Gaza; Hamas has accepted the proposal, while Israel's formal acceptance is still pending. The plan includes provisions for the phased withdrawal of the Israeli military, the deployment of an international peacekeeping force, and the reconstruction of Gaza, with Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey playing the role of mediators.



6. 'Favara' is the instant payment system of which country?

- A - India
B - Sri Lanka
C - Maldives
D - Nepal

On July 30, 2026, the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) launched the Favara-UPI cross-border payment corridor, enabling Maldivian citizens to transfer funds in real-time to UPI accounts in India. This initiative, undertaken in collaboration with the MMA, RBI, and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), will strengthen digital payment and financial cooperation between India and the Maldives.



7. When did Indian Railways launch the online personal luggage booking facility?

- A - July 1, 2026
B - July 15, 2026
C - July 31, 2026
D - August 1, 2026

Indian Railways launched the online personal luggage booking facility for passengers holding reserved tickets on July 31, 2026, enabling the advance online booking of excess luggage. This digital service has been developed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), and a charge of 1.5 times the prescribed rate will be applicable for excess luggage.



8. When is Friendship Day celebrated in India?

- A - 30 July
B - **First Sunday of August**
C - Second Sunday of August
D - 2 August every year

Friendship Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of August every year in many countries, including India; in 2026, it will be celebrated on 2 August. Its origins are traced back to 1935 in the United States, whereas the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 30 July as the International Day of Friendship in 2011.



One Liner

1. When did Indian Railways launch the online luggage booking service for reserved passengers? - **31 July 2026**
2. When is the International Day of Friendship observed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)? - **30 July**
3. Which medal did India's Lovepreet Singh win in the men's +110 kg weight category at the 2026 Commonwealth Games? - **Silver medal**
4. Which country ranked first in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026? - **Estonia**
5. Which organization developed the online luggage booking system for Indian Railways? - **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)**
6. Which step by Hamas and other armed groups has been proposed in the Gaza peace initiative? - **Complete disarmament**
7. How many species are included in India's first Lepidoptera checklist prepared by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)? - **13,703 species**
8. When is Friendship Day celebrated in India every year? - **First Sunday of August**
9. What was India's rank in the Market Distortion Performance Index (MDPI) 2023? - **57th place**
10. Between which two countries has the Fawara-UPI cross-border payment corridor been launched? - **India and Maldives**