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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- **Commonwealth Games 2026: India improves performance in Glasgow, finishes fourth with 39 medals; Ahmedabad to host 2030**
- **FIH Hockey World Cup 2026: Belgium-Netherlands joint hosting, India's medal hopes in new format**
- **Willie Walsh appointed as IndiGo's new CEO: India's aviation sector will gain new direction for global expansion**
- **Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026: Important law in terms of conversion regulation, constitutional process and fundamental rights**
- **Indian Railways Emergency Quota: Quick reservation ticket facility for cancer patients**
- **Centre transfers ₹1.09 lakh crore in advance tax to states: Cooperative federalism and fiscal balance to be strengthened**
- **HSBC India Manufacturing PMI (July 2026): Manufacturing sector continues to grow, but at the slowest pace in five years**
- **Indian Army's Extreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel: A new boost to military mobility and self-reliant defence capability in extremely cold regions**

1. Commonwealth Games 2026: India's improved performance in Glasgow; 4th place with 39 medals; Ahmedabad to host 2030 edition

At the Commonwealth Games 2026 held in Glasgow, Scotland, India secured fourth place on the medal tally by winning a total of 39 medals—comprising 13 gold, 17 silver, and 9 bronze—thereby outperforming its record in the same set of sports compared to the Birmingham 2022 Games. A contingent of just 122 athletes achieved historic milestones, including 7 gold medals in boxing, a first-ever gold in judo, and two medals won by Gulveer Singh. This success is being hailed as a testament to the impact of government initiatives like Khelo India, TOPS, and SAI, as well as India's robust sports infrastructure and talent development ecosystem.



2. FIH Hockey World Cup 2026: Co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands; India's medal hopes in the new format

The FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 will be held in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30, marking the first time the men's and women's World Cups are organized simultaneously. A total of 32 teams—comprising 16 men's and 16 women's squads—will participate under a new format, promising increased competition and a greater number of matches. The Indian men's team, led by Harmanpreet Singh, and the women's team, led by Salima Tete, are considered strong contenders for the title. This tournament presents a crucial opportunity for India to strengthen its position in global hockey while preparing for upcoming Olympic and Asian Games.



3. Willie Walsh Becomes New CEO of IndiGo: A New Direction for the Global Expansion of India's Aviation Sector

Global aviation expert Willie Walsh took over as the new CEO of IndiGo on August 3, 2026, succeeding Pieter Elbers. Walsh previously served as CEO of Aer Lingus, British Airways, and IAG, as well as Director General of IATA, bringing extensive experience in the global aviation sector. Under his leadership, IndiGo aims to establish itself among the world's leading airlines by strengthening international expansion, operational efficiency, and customer services. This appointment also reflects the rapid growth of India's civil aviation sector and its increasing role in global aviation.



4. Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026: Significant legislation regarding conversion regulation, constitutional process, and fundamental rights

The Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026, has received the assent of President Droupadi Murmu and will come into effect following the issuance of a gazette notification by the state government. Under this law, religious conversions effected through force, deceit, allurement, fraud, or marriage are declared illegal, while voluntary conversions remain permissible. The Act mandates prior notification to the District Magistrate 60 days before a religious conversion and prescribes penalties of up to seven years of imprisonment for illegal conversion, extending to ten years for repeat offenses.



5. Indian Railways' Emergency Quota: Facility for Confirmed Reserved Tickets for Cancer Patients

Indian Railways has introduced an Emergency Quota facility to ensure timely travel for cancer patients and their authorized attendants during medical emergencies. Under this facility, confirmed reserved tickets are issued based on the verification of necessary medical documents and berth availability, following an application made through the Passenger Reservation System (PRS). A total of 12 berths across various classes in selected trains have been earmarked for this quota. This initiative marks a significant step towards strengthening universal healthcare, citizen-centric governance, and a public-welfare-oriented transport system.



6. Centre transfers ₹1.09 lakh crore in tax devolution to states: Boost for cooperative federalism and fiscal balance

The Central Government released a tax devolution of ₹1.09 lakh crore to states ahead of schedule to fund development works, infrastructure, and welfare schemes. In accordance with Finance Commission recommendations, states receive a 41% share of the divisible tax pool, thereby strengthening cooperative federalism and the financial autonomy of the states. This advance payment aims to boost capital expenditure, improve cash flow, accelerate public investment, and stimulate economic activity.



7. HSBC India Manufacturing PMI (July 2026): Growth continues in the manufacturing sector, but at the slowest pace in five years

According to S&P Global's HSBC India Manufacturing PMI, India's manufacturing PMI fell from 54.2 in June to 53.5 in July 2026—the lowest level since August 2021—though it still signals expansion. The pace of the manufacturing sector slowed due to a moderation in domestic demand, new orders, purchasing activity, and employment growth. Despite this, export orders from several countries—including Canada, the UAE, and South Africa—remained strong, and employment recorded growth for the 29th consecutive month. The report highlights the need to boost domestic demand and private investment while also underscoring the global competitiveness of the Indian manufacturing sector.



8. Indian Army's Extreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel: Bolstering military mobility and self-reliant defense capabilities in extreme cold regions

The Indian Army has inducted an indigenous Extreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel for the operation of military vehicles in extreme cold regions; it remains effective even at temperatures as low as -42°C . This fuel will strengthen the Army's operational readiness and all-weather mobility by overcoming issues associated with conventional diesel in high-altitude Himalayan regions like Eastern Ladakh and Siachen. Developed in compliance with BS-VI and IS 1460:2025 standards, this technology marks a significant step towards promoting 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) and indigenous defense technology.



1. How many medals did India win in total at the 2026 Commonwealth Games?

- A - 35
C - 42
B - 39
D - 45

India secured the fourth position on the medal tally by winning 39 medals at the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, delivering a better performance compared to the 2022 Birmingham Games. The Commonwealth Games flag was handed over to India during the closing ceremony, marking the formal commencement of preparations for hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad.



2. Which countries will jointly host the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup?

- A - Germany and France
C - Australia and New Zealand
B - Belgium and the Netherlands
D - England and Scotland

The 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup will be held in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30; this marks the first time the men's and women's World Cups will be held concurrently. The Indian men's team, led by Harmanpreet Singh, and the women's team, led by Salima Tete, will be strong contenders for the title, and the tournament is considered crucial for preparations for the Olympics and Asian Games.



3. Who assumed office as the new CEO of IndiGo on August 3, 2026?

- A - Pieter Elbers
C - Rahul Bhatia
B - Willie Walsh
D - Akbar Al Baker

Global aviation expert Willie Walsh assumed office as the new CEO of IndiGo on August 3, 2026, succeeding Pieter Elbers. Under his leadership, IndiGo aims to strengthen its position in the global aviation sector by bolstering international expansion, operational efficiency, and customer services.



4. Whose assent has the Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026 received?

- A - Prime Minister
C - President Droupadi Murmu
B - Governor
D - Supreme Court

The Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026 has received the President's assent and will come into force following a gazette notification. This law declares religious conversion through force, deceit, allurement, fraud, or marriage to be illegal; it mandates a 60-day prior notice and provides for a prison term ranging from 7 to 10 years.



5. For whom has the Indian Railways' Emergency Quota primarily been introduced?

A - Senior citizens

B - Students

C - Cancer patients and their attendants

D - Soldiers

Indian Railways has introduced an Emergency Quota facility to ensure timely travel for cancer patients and their authorized attendants during medical emergencies. A total of 12 reserved berths will be made available on selected trains, subject to document verification and berth availability via the PRS system.



6. What amount did the Central Government release to the states as an advance tax transfer?

A - ₹95,000 crore

B - ₹1.09 lakh crore

C - ₹1.25 lakh crore

D - ₹90,000 crore

The Central Government released a tax transfer of ₹1.09 lakh crore to the states ahead of schedule for development works, infrastructure, and welfare schemes. In accordance with the Finance Commission's recommendations, 41% of the divisible tax pool is allocated to the states, with Uttar Pradesh being the largest beneficiary.



7. What was India's HSBC India Manufacturing PMI recorded at in July 2026?

A - 52.5

B - 53.5

C - 54.2

D - 55.0

According to S&P Global's HSBC India Manufacturing PMI, India's manufacturing PMI fell to 53.5 in July 2026—the lowest level since August 2021—though it still indicates expansion in the manufacturing sector. Despite a slowdown in domestic demand, export orders remained robust, and employment recorded growth for the 29th consecutive month.



8. What is the name of the new special fuel inducted by the Indian Army?

A - Green Fuel Diesel

B - Arctic Fuel

C - Extreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel

D - High Mobility Diesel

The Indian Army has inducted an indigenous 'Extreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel' for military vehicles operating in extremely cold regions; it remains effective at temperatures as low as -42°C . Based on BS-VI and IS 1460:2025 standards, this fuel will enhance the operational capabilities of military platforms such as the T-90, T-72, BMP-2K, and K-9 Vajra, while also strengthening the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) initiative.



One Liner

1. How many total medals did India win at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, and what position did it secure in the medal tally? - **Fourth position, with 39 medals (13 gold, 17 silver, 9 bronze).**
2. Up to what minimum temperature can the Extreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel, developed by the Indian Army, function effectively? - **-42°C.**
3. For which category of patients was the Indian Railways' Emergency Quota primarily introduced to facilitate urgent travel? - **Cancer patients.**
4. Which two countries will jointly host the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup? - **Belgium and the Netherlands.**
5. Who assumed office as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiGo on August 3, 2026? - **Willie Walsh.**
6. What was India's HSBC India Manufacturing PMI recorded at in July 2026? - **53.5.**
7. What amount has the Central Government released to the states as an advance tax transfer? - **₹1.09 lakh crore.**
8. The XWG Diesel developed for the Indian Army promotes indigenous defense technology in line with which campaign? - **Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) campaign.**
9. Which Indian city has been awarded the hosting rights for the 2030 Commonwealth Games? - **Ahmedabad.**
10. Under the Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026, how many days in advance is it mandatory to notify the District Magistrate regarding religious conversion? - **60 days in advance.**