

RADIUS EDUCATION

17-08-2026



DISTANCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY

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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- **Independence Day 2026: Gallantry and service medals to 1,057 police and fire service personnel**
- **3 "Communication Friends" from India become ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoys**
- **752 rural libraries in Gujarat to be connected with the 'Gramin Gyan Setu' app**
- **Karnataka bans tobacco and nicotine products for one year**
- **Archana Verma assumed charge as Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**
- **CSIR-IICT transfers phytopharmaceutical technology for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers**
- **IIHT SUTRA 2026 to promote technological innovation and skill development in the Indian handloom sector**
- **Indonesia's Independence Day and the beginning of the end of colonialism in Asia**

1. Independence Day 2026: Gallantry and Service Medals for 1,057 Police and Fire Service Personnel

On Independence Day 2026, Gallantry Medals were awarded to 301 personnel from police and fire services, comprising 272 police personnel and 29 fire service personnel. Of these, 197 medals went to personnel serving in LWE-affected areas, 51 in Jammu & Kashmir, 12 in the North-East, and 41 in other regions. A total of 1,057 personnel were honored with gallantry and service medals, including 92 President's Medals for Distinguished Service (PSM) and 664 Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM). The PSM was awarded for special and distinguished service, while the MSM recognized meritorious service, resourcefulness, and devotion to duty. These honors underscore India's internal security, public service, and the dedication of its security forces.



2. Three Indian "Sanchar Mitras" Named ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoys

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) facilitated the selection of three "Sanchar Mitras"—Ankit Kumar Pal, Manish Kumar Mandal, and Susmita Sen—into the third cohort of ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoys for the 2026–2030 period. The Generation Connect initiative aims to make youth active participants in ICT, digital transformation, and digital inclusion. The Sanchar Mitra scheme focuses on raising awareness about telecom fraud, mobile security, and cybersecurity through the youth. This scheme is designed for students in technical institutions offering programs in Telecom, Electronics, and Computer Science, and is implemented across more than 200 institutions.



3. 752 rural libraries in Gujarat to be connected via the 'Gramin Gyan Setu' app

Amit Shah launched the 'Gramin Gyan Setu' app in Gujarat on August 12, 2026, aiming to connect 752 rural libraries within the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency and provide knowledge resources to rural youth. This initiative will foster a reading culture, ensure equitable access to knowledge, and promote educational development in the Gandhinagar, Kalol, and Sanand regions. Based on a 'Hub-and-Spoke' model, the system connects local libraries to four major libraries, granting access to a collective pool of approximately 2.80 lakh books and competitive exam study materials.



4. Karnataka Bans Tobacco and Nicotine Products for One Year

On August 10, 2026, the Karnataka government imposed a one-year ban on the manufacture, sale, distribution, storage, and transportation of tobacco and nicotine products, including gutkha and pan masala. The objective is to protect public health, reduce tobacco consumption, and move towards a drug-free society. The ban will be enforced by the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department and falls under the purview of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and FSSAI regulations. Karnataka was formed as Mysore State on November 1, 1956, and was renamed Karnataka in 1973; its capital is Bengaluru.



5. Archana Varma assumes charge as Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

Ms. Archana Varma has assumed charge as Secretary of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti; she is a 1995-batch IAS officer of the Assam cadre. Previously, she served as the Mission Director of the National Water Mission (NWM) since September 2022 and contributed to expanding initiatives linked to the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain'. The Ministry of Jal Shakti was formed in May 2019 through the merger of the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, and it oversees programs such as the Jal Jeevan Mission and Namami Gange.



6. CSIR-IICT Transfers Phytopharmaceutical Technology for Diabetic Foot Ulcer Treatment

CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad, has signed a technology transfer agreement with Viridis BioPharma for an IND-ready phytopharmaceutical derived from *Gymnema sylvestre*, intended for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers. Developed under the CSIR Phytopharmaceutical Mission Phase-III, the product has completed pre-clinical development, botanical standardization, and GLP-compliant safety studies. It is now advancing towards clinical trials and commercial development, with plans for regulatory submissions to the CDSCO and US FDA. This initiative stands as a significant example of indigenous drug research, biotechnology, health innovation, and the commercialization of scientific research.



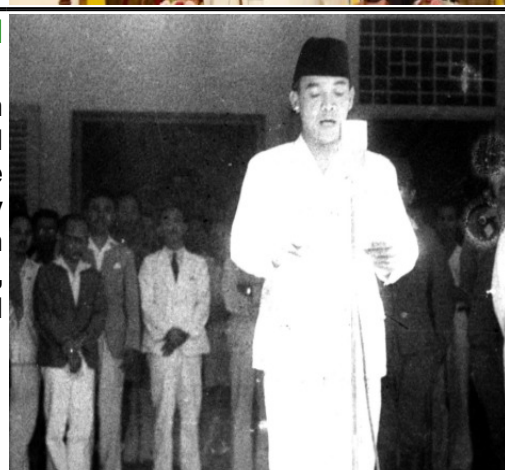
7. IIHT SUTRA 2026 Boosts Technological Innovation and Skill Development in the Indian Handloom Sector

On August 14, 2026, Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated the first national conference of IIHTs, titled 'IIHT SUTRA 2026', in New Delhi, aiming to promote technical education, research, and innovation in the handloom sector. The conference emphasized developing IIHTs into 'Centres of Excellence' and preparing a skilled technical workforce aligned with industry needs. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with Grasim Industries, the Northern India Textile Research Association, and IIM Sambalpur to foster skill development, research, internships, leadership development, and entrepreneurship.



8. Indonesia's Independence Day and the Beginning of the End of Colonialism in Asia

Indonesia celebrates its Independence Day every year on August 17; on August 17, 1945, Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta proclaimed independence following the Japanese occupation. Conflict with the Netherlands persisted after independence, and Indonesia's sovereignty was finally recognized in 1949—a crucial milestone in the decolonization process in Asia. India supported Indonesia's struggle for independence, thereby strengthening the historic foundations of Asian solidarity and anti-colonial cooperation between the two nations.



1. How many personnel were awarded gallantry medals on Independence Day 2026?

- A - 272
C - 664
B - 301
D - 1,057

On Independence Day 2026, 301 personnel received gallantry medals, comprising 272 police personnel and 29 fire service personnel; a total of 1,057 personnel were honored with gallantry and service medals. These include 92 PSM (President's Medal for Distinguished Service) and 664 MSM (Medal for Meritorious Service), recognizing distinguished service, meritorious work, acumen, and dedication to duty.



2. How many Indian youths were selected for the third cohort of ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoys for 2026–2030?

- A - 2
C - 4
B - 3
D - 5

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) selected three 'Sanchar Mitras' for the third cohort of ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoys (2026–2030), an initiative aimed at connecting youth with ICT, digital transformation, and digital inclusion. The 'Sanchar Mitra' scheme raises awareness regarding telecom fraud, mobile security, and cybersecurity, and is implemented across more than 200 technical institutions.



3. How many rural libraries are planned to be connected under 'Gramin Gyan Setu'?

- A - 500
C - 752
B - 650
D - 1000

On August 12, 2026, Amit Shah launched the 'Gramin Gyan Setu' app in Gujarat; this app connects 752 rural libraries in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency to provide rural youth with access to knowledge and competitive exam study materials. It is based on a 'Hub-and-Spoke' model, offering access to approximately 2.80 lakh books and a system for the fortnightly distribution and return of books via vans funded by MPLAD funds.



4. For what duration has the Karnataka government imposed a ban on tobacco and nicotine products?

- A - 6 months
C - 2 years
B - 1 year
D - 5 years

On August 10, 2026, the Karnataka government imposed a one-year ban on the manufacture, sale, distribution, storage, and transportation of tobacco and nicotine products—including gutkha and pan masala—aiming to protect public health and curb tobacco consumption. The ban will be enforced by the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department and falls under the purview of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and FSSAI regulations; Karnataka was originally formed as Mysore State in 1956 and was renamed Karnataka in 1973.



5. Archana Varma contributed to expanding initiatives linked to which campaign under the National Water Mission?

- A - Namami Gange B - Jal Jeevan Mission
C - Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain D - Amrit Sarovar

Smt. Archana Varma assumed the role of Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation; she is a 1995-batch Assam-cadre IAS officer and previously served as the Mission Director of NWM. This appointment is significant for water security, IWRM, water conservation, river conservation, and good governance; the Ministry of Jal Shakti was formed in May 2019.



6. From which botanical source has the phytopharmaceutical for treating diabetic foot ulcers been developed?

- A - Ashwagandha B - **Gymnema sylvestre**
C - Tulsi D - Neem

CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad signed a technology transfer agreement with Viridis BioPharma for an IND-ready phytopharmaceutical developed from *Gymnema sylvestre* to treat diabetic foot ulcers; it was developed under the CSIR Phytopharmaceutical Mission Phase-III. Pre-clinical and GLP safety studies for the product have been completed, and it is now moving towards clinical trials and commercial development; regulatory applications with CDSCO and US FDA are planned.



7. Who inaugurated the first national conference of IIHT SUTRA 2026?

- A - Piyush Goyal B - **Giriraj Singh**
C - Dharmendra Pradhan D - Amit Shah

On August 14, 2026, Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated the first national conference of IIHT SUTRA 2026 in New Delhi, aimed at promoting technical education, research, and innovation in the handloom sector. The conference emphasized developing IIHTs into Centres of Excellence and fostering skill development, research, internships, entrepreneurship, and leadership development in collaboration with Grasim Industries, the Northern India Textile Research Association, and IIM Sambalpur.



8. In which year did Indonesia declare its independence?

- A - 1942 B - **1945**
C - 1947 D - 1949

Indonesia celebrates Independence Day on August 17 every year; on August 17, 1945, Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta declared independence following the Japanese occupation, and the Netherlands recognized Indonesia's sovereignty in 1949. India supported Indonesia's struggle for independence, and currently, both nations are key partners in the context of ASEAN, the Indo-Pacific, maritime security, the Act East Policy, and the Global South.



One Liner

1. How many rural libraries in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency are planned to be connected via the 'Gramin Gyan Setu' app? - **752 libraries**
2. IIHT SUTRA 2026 was organized to promote technical development and innovation in which sector? - **Indian handloom sector**
3. On which date does Indonesia celebrate its Independence Day every year? - **17 August**
4. For how long has the Karnataka government banned gutkha and pan masala containing tobacco and nicotine? - **For one year**
5. From which botanical source was the phytopharmaceutical developed by CSIR-IICT for treating diabetic foot ulcers derived? - **Gymnema sylvestre**
6. Which two prominent leaders proclaimed Indonesia's independence on 17 August 1945? - **Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta**
7. How many police and fire service personnel were awarded gallantry medals on Independence Day 2026? - **301 personnel**
8. How many Indian youths were selected as ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoys for 2026–2030? - **3 youths**
9. Archana Varma assumed charge as Secretary of which department under the Ministry of Jal Shakti? - **Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**
10. With which company was an MoU signed for curriculum enhancement, internships, and skill development at IIHT SUTRA 2026? - **6.6%**