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New Constitution Amendment Bill

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah will introduce three amendment bills in Lok Sabha on August 20, 2025, to allow the removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and Ministers if they are arrested for serious criminal charges

The three bills are as Follows:

- The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The 130th Constitution (Amendment) Bill, which proposes to remove a Central or State Minister (including the Prime Minister and Chief Minister) from office if they are arrested and detained for 30 days in relation to an offence punishable with 5 years (or more) imprisonment

- The Constitution currently has no provision to remove a minister who is arrested and kept in custody on serious criminal charges. To address this gap, the proposal calls for amending Articles 75, 164, and 239AA

Separate Bill for J&K and UT

- The procedures for dismissing the chief minister and other ministers in the union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Puducherry are outlined in the other two bills.

Who will remove whom:

- President will remove the Prime Minister.
- Chief Minister (of a State) will remove the Ministers of that State.
- Governor (of a State) will remove the Chief Minister of that State.
- Lieutenant-Governor (of a Union Territory) will remove the Chief Minister of that Union Territory.

Varanasi becomes India's first city to get portable solar panels between railway tracks

- This pilot project at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) supports Indian Railways' goal of reducing its carbon footprint and achieving net-zero emissions.
- Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi, has commissioned India's first 70-meter-long removable solar panel system (28 panels, 15 kilowatt power) between railway tracks generating 880 units per kilometre daily
- Panel Design: The solar panels are removable for easy maintenance and seasonal adaptation, mounted on sleepers with an indigenously designed installation procedure to ensure secure and safe attachment without disrupting train traffic.



Five locomotive manufacturing units in Indian Railways

- Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) - Chittaranjan, West Bengal, 1950.
- Banaras Locomotive Works - Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, 1961.
- Patiala Locomotive Works - Patiala, Punjab, 1981.
- Madhepura Electric Engine Factory - A joint venture between Indian Railways and French company Alstom. Located in Madhepura district, Bihar. It manufactures electric engines for freight trains.
- Wabtec Locomotive Private Limited - A joint venture between Indian Railways and US company Wabtec. It has a diesel engine manufacturing plant at Marhaura in Saran district, Bihar. Established in 2018.

IAACEE

India Approves ₹62,000 Crore Deal for 97 Tejas Mark 1A Jets to Strengthen IAF Fleet

- Indian government has approved a ₹62,000 crore deal for the purchase of 97 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark 1A jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The new fleet will replace the ageing MiG-21 aircraft, which are set to be retired soon
- In February 2021, the defence ministry sealed a Rs 48,000 crore deal with HAL for the procurement of 83 Tejas MK-1A jets for the IAF.
- First Tejas induction in 2016.
- 65% indigenous content



World Health Organization (WHO) recently announced that Nepal has eliminated rubella as a public health problem

- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Nepal free of rubella as a public health problem, making it the sixth country in WHO's Southeast Asia Region to achieve this milestone.
- Also called German measles, rubella is a highly contagious viral disease caused by the rubella virus.
- It spreads through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- India's Status
- The Measles-Rubella (MR) campaign, launched in 2017, aims to vaccinate all children aged 9 months to 15 years.
- **Target:** Elimination of measles and rubella by 2023–24, aligned with WHO's South-East Asia Regional goals.



India Surpassed Japan to become 3rd largest solar power producer

- India has produced 1,08,494 GWh solar power compared to 96,459 GWh generated by Japan
- China remains the leading producer of solar power globally, generating 584 BU in 2024, more than the next four countries combined (the United States, Japan, Germany and India).
- India ranks fifth globally in installed power capacity, with 73 gigawatts (GW) of solar power capacity.
- Renewables, including solar and wind power, accounted for 30% of global electricity production in 2023, with China being the main contributor.



Egypt has signed a landmark \$35 billion agreement to import natural gas from Israel's Leviathan gas field

- Egypt has signed a landmark \$35 billion agreement to import natural gas from Israel's Leviathan gas field, marking the largest export deal in Israeli history
- The agreement, announced by NewMed Energy, will see Israel supply Egypt with approximately 130 billion cubic meters of natural gas through 2040
- Under terms signed between NewMed, its partners, and Blue Ocean Energy, deliveries will commence in early 2026. Yossi Abu, NewMed Energy's chief executive
- The Leviathan gas field, located off Israel's Mediterranean coast with reserves of approximately 600 billion cubic meters, has become central to Israeli energy exports. The field currently supplies Egypt with about 4.5 billion cubic meters annually under existing contracts.
- Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Khambhat, Bassein field, Bombay High, Barmer in Rajasthan, KG basin, Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Assam, Tripura



Indranil Bhattacharyya to join Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee as Rajiv Ranjan exits

- Indranil Bhattacharyya, the Executive Director of the RBI's Monetary Policy Department, is set to join the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- He will replace Rajiv Ranjan, who has been a member of the committee since 2022.
- Rajiv Ranjan will reportedly move to lead the Department of Economic & Policy Research at the RBI.
- Indranil Bhattacharyya was appointed as an Executive Director on March 19, 2025.
- The MPC is a six-member panel responsible for setting India's benchmark interest rate.
- It comprises the RBI Governor, a Deputy Governor, an Executive Director, and three external members.
- This change will affect the composition of the six-member panel, which currently includes Sanjay Malhotra (Governor), Poonam Gupta (Deputy Governor), Rajiv Ranjan, and the external members Nagesh Kumar, Ram Singh, and Saugata Bhattacharya.



Punjab National Bank 1st PSU to migrate to secure .bank.in domain



- Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's leading public sector bank, has successfully migrated its corporate website to '.bank.in' domain (<https://pnb.bank.in>) in line with RBI circular on "Migration to '.bank.in' Domain" dated 22.04.2025 and under the guidance of Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)
- With this move, PNB has become the first Public Sector Bank in India to migrate its corporate website to the secure '.bank.in' domain reaffirming its commitment to customer safe and secure digital banking.
- The '.bank.in' domain is reserved exclusively for banks, providing stronger safeguards to combat frauds, strengthen the cyber security framework and enhance public confidence in the digital banking.
- Customers can now access PNB's corporate website securely at: <https://pnb.bank.in>
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to operationalize the exclusive internet domain '.bank.in' for banks by October 2025.

About '.bank.in' Domain:

- To combat the increased instances of fraud in digital payments the 'bank.in' exclusive Internet Domain has been introduced.
- This initiative is aimed at strengthening the cyber security framework and enhancing public confidence in digital banking and payment systems.
- Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), has been authorized by National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), to serve as the exclusive registrar for this domain.
- NIXI (registered in 2003) is a not for profit Organization under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.

IACB

Microsoft Tops Top Brand 2025 Global Brands List; NVIDIA and Apple Follow

- At the 19th China Brand Festival held in Shenzhen (August 7–11, 2025), the Top Brand Union released the Top 500 Global Brands List 2025.
- The theme of the event was “AI and Global Expansion”, which saw participation from over 10,000 entrepreneurs, policymakers, and brand leaders worldwide.

Key Highlights:

- Microsoft ranked 1st with a brand value of \$1,062.505 billion, showcasing strength in AI, cloud computing, and enterprise software.
- NVIDIA secured 2nd position
- Apple ranked 3rd position



KULASEKARAPATTINAM SPACEPORT

- The current status of infrastructure development at the Kulasekarapattinam spaceport, including the timeline for its full Commissioning of Kulasekarapattinam spaceport is targeted in FY 2026- 27.
- Funds allocated to Kulasekarapattinam spaceport – ₹985.96 Crore.
- Fund utilized for the project so far – ₹389.58 Crore. (As on 31st July'25)
- The specific advantages of the Kulasekarapattinam launch site in terms of payload capacity and its comparison with the existing launch facility at Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC-SHAR) are as under:
- Kulasekarapattinam launch site will enhance the payload capability of satellite launch vehicles in the class of ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), while launching satellites to polar orbits.
- Launches to the functionally exceptional Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits (SSPO) from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota need maneuvering of the rocket to avoid the impact of spent stages over landmasses and this will significantly reduce the payload capability.
- The payload capability of SSLV to SSPO while launching from Kulasekarapattinam is about 300kg whereas the capability is inadequate for a useful payload while launching from SDSC SHAR.
- Post commissioning, the launches of SSLV and equivalent launch vehicles from Non-Government Entities (NGEs) are planned to be carried out from Kulasekarapattinam spaceport.



UIDAI onboards Starlink for Aadhaar-Based Customer Verification

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has onboarded satellite-based internet provider Starlink Satellite Communication Pvt Ltd. Starlink will use Aadhaar Authentication for customer verification, which will make the entire process smooth, secure and very easy.
- Aadhaar, one of the most trusted digital identity systems, will ensure that customer onboarding is quick, paperless, and compliant with Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- Starlink's onboarding with Aadhaar authentication signifies a powerful synergy: India's trusted digital identity joining hands with global satellite technology. Aadhaar e-KYC will facilitate the onboarding of users seamlessly, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements while delivering high-speed internet to households, businesses, and institutions.



TCL Appoints Olympic Ski Champion Eileen Gu as its Global Brand Ambassador

- TCL, a global technology company, appointed Eileen Gu, a freestyle skier, as its global brand ambassador.
- This collaboration underscores TCL's dedication to advancing the Olympic Movement as a Worldwide Olympic Partner, ahead of the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics in Italy.
- She became the youngest Olympic champion in freestyle skiing by winning three medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver) in the 2022 Winter Olympics held in Beijing, China.
- She was the first person to win three medals at a single Winter Olympics.

