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1. India–China Border Trade via Nathu La Resumes After Six Years

- i. Border trade between India and China through the Nathu La Pass in the eastern part of Sikkim, located at an altitude of about 14,000 feet, has resumed after six years. The trade, which had been carried out for decades, was suspended following the 1962 India–China War. After prolonged negotiations, it was restarted in 2006, nearly 40 years later.
- ii. However, the trade was suspended again in 2020 due to the COVID–19 pandemic and the India–China border tensions. It officially resumed on Saturday (August 1) after a gap of six years.
- iii. Officials from both countries participated in the reopening ceremony at Nathu La. Speaking at the event, Sikkim Commerce and Industries Secretary Karma D. Yutso said that trade would be conducted from Monday to Thursday until November. He also stated that 38 registered traders had been granted trade permits for the current season.
- iv. Following the resumption of border trade, extensive security arrangements have been made at Nathu La. Personnel of the Indo–Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) have been deployed, and for the first time, women ITBP personnel have also been assigned security duties.

2. Following the assent of President Droupadi Murmu, the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 has become law.

i. Key Features

- The amendments strengthen the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which was enacted to curb malpractices in public examinations such as those conducted by:
 - UPSC
 - SSC
 - Railway Recruitment Boards
 - Banking recruitment agencies
 - National Testing Agency (NTA)

- Individuals involved in question paper leaks or other examination malpractices will face:
 - Minimum 5 years to 10 years imprisonment, and
 - A fine of up to ₹50 lakh.
- Organized criminal conspiracies involving examination fraud will attract:
 - Minimum 7 years to 10 years imprisonment, and
 - A fine of up to ₹10 crore.
- States and Union Territories are empowered to establish Special Fast-Track Courts for such offences.
- These courts must:
 - Conduct day-to-day hearings,
 - Complete the trial within three months from the filing of the charge sheet, and
 - Ensure that police or central agencies complete investigations within two months.

3. Ten people, including world-renowned Nepali mountaineer Nirmal Purja (43), were killed in an avalanche on Broad Peak in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

- i. A former soldier, Nirmal Purja set a world record in 2019 by climbing all 14 peaks above 8,000 metres in just 6 months and 6 days.

4. Global Gold Demand Remains Stable During April-June Quarter

- i. Global gold demand remained almost unchanged at 1,269 tonnes during the April-June quarter, compared with 1,268.6 tonnes during the same period last year.
 - Gold supply from mining and recycling also totalled 1,269 tonnes.
 - Although mine production increased by 2% to 966 tonnes, mainly due to higher production in Canada and Chile, recycled gold supply fell by 6%, keeping overall supply and demand balanced.
 - Central banks worldwide purchased an additional 289 tonnes of gold during the quarter, a 62% increase over the previous year. Poland, China, and the Czech Republic were the leading buyers.
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also purchased an additional 200 kilograms of gold

during the period.

- ii. Investment demand for gold-backed securities, ETFs, gold bars, and coins declined to 262 tonnes during the quarter. The primary reason was the withdrawal of 45 tonnes from gold ETF schemes.
- iii. Demand for gold jewellery fell by 17% during the April–June quarter.
 - Meanwhile, supported by Asian investors, the over-the-counter (OTC) gold market remained strong, recording 327 tonnes during the quarter and 571 tonnes during the first half of the year.
- iv. Overall, total global gold demand during the January–June period increased by 2% year-on-year to 2,522 tonnes, with an estimated value of US\$380 billion.

5. India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Rise to US\$682.354 Billion

- i. India's foreign exchange reserves increased to US\$682.354 billion during the week ending July 24.
 - According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the reserves rose by US\$6.118 billion, compared with US\$676.237 billion in the previous week, which had recorded an increase of US\$1.08 billion.
- ii. Before the outbreak of the West Asia conflict, India's forex reserves had reached an all-time high of US\$728.494 billion during the week ending February 27. Subsequently, reserves declined due to pressure on the Indian rupee arising from the conflict.
- iii. During the reporting week, Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), the largest component of forex reserves, increased by US\$4.873 billion to US\$555.929 billion.
 - Foreign Currency Assets represent changes in the value of non-dollar currencies such as the Euro, Pound Sterling, and Japanese Yen, expressed in US dollar terms.
- iv. India's gold reserves increased by US\$1.308 billion to US\$103.058 billion.
 - Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) declined by US\$0.53 million to US\$18.617 billion.
- v. India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) decreased by US\$0.11 million to US\$4.75 billion, according to RBI data.

6. Commonwealth Games

- i. Indian boxers Preeti Pawar (54 kg), Jaismine Lamboria (57 kg), Priya (60 kg), and Sakshi

Chaudhary (51 kg) won gold medals.

- Preeti Pawar defeated Scarlett Delgado (Canada) 5–0 in the final to win India's first boxing medal of the event.
- ii. In the women's 57 kg category, reigning world champion Jaismine Lamboria defeated defending champion Michaela Walsh (Northern Ireland) 5–0 to claim gold.
- iii. In the women's 60 kg category, Priya Gangas defeated Mary Bathol (Canada) 4–1 in the final.
 - In the women's 51 kg category, Sakshi Chaudhary defeated Ruby White (England) 5–0 to win gold.
- iv. In the men's 55 kg boxing final, Jadumani Singh lost to Australia's Jett Dixon and settled for the silver medal.

In the women's 70 kg category, Arundhati Chaudhary defeated Chantelle Reid (England) 5–0 to win gold. Reid had won a bronze medal at the 2025 World Championships.
- v. In the men's javelin throw, former Olympic and World Champion Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal with a throw of 85.83 metres, falling short of expectations.
 - Another Indian athlete, Yashveer Singh, won bronze with a throw of 85.41 metres.
- vi. In the women's 10,000 metres, Priyanka Goswami finished seventh. In the men's decathlon, Tejaswin Shankar won the bronze medal.
- vii. In the Para Shot Put (F57) event, army veteran Soman Rana, who lost a leg in a landmine blast, won gold with a throw of 13.40 metres. His compatriot Shabam Juyal won silver with 13.28 metres.
 - In the Para Athletics T54 1500 metres, Ramesh Shanmugam finished seventh with a time of 3:23.59.
- viii. In Judo, Unnati Sharma lost her women's 63 kg semifinal to Australia's Saya Middleton, but recovered to defeat South Africa's opponent in the bronze medal match and secure bronze. Similarly, in the men's 90 kg repechage, Karanjit Singh Mann lost to Scott Cusack of Scotland.

7. Ajit Doval Receives Lokmanya Tilak National Award

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the Lokmanya Tilak National Award to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, praising him for his significant contribution to strengthening India's foreign policy.