

Current Affairs Revision

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July 11, 2026

International Relations

Places in News

Defence

Ukrainian Drones Hit Russian Refineries and Azov Sea Port

NEWS ITEM

Ukrainian drone strikes hit southern Russian oil refineries and the **Port of Taganrog** on the **Azov Sea**, leading authorities to declare an emergency and evacuate some residents. Russia's Defence Ministry said it downed more than **370 Ukrainian drones**, while Ukraine's army chief **Oleksandr Syrskyi** said the war is still far from a decisive turning point.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Ukrainian drone strikes hit southern Russian oil refineries and the **Port of Taganrog**.
- The **Port of Taganrog** is located on the **Azov Sea**.
- Russian authorities declared an emergency and evacuated some residents after the strikes.
- Russia's Defence Ministry said it downed more than **370 Ukrainian drones**.
- Drones caused a fire at the **Ilsky oil refinery** in Russia's Krasnodar region.
- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** acknowledged that strikes were causing fuel shortages.
- Ukraine's army chief **Oleksandr Syrskyi** said the war was still far from a decisive turning point.

July 11, 2026

International Relations

Places in News

Science & Technology

Defence

PM Modi's New Zealand Visit Elevates Ties to Strategic Partnership

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** paid an official visit to **Auckland, New Zealand, on 10-11 July 2026**, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in **40 years**. He held talks with New Zealand Prime Minister **Christopher Luxon** at **Government House, Auckland**, and both sides elevated India-New Zealand relations to a **Strategic Partnership**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- PM **Narendra Modi** visited **Auckland, New Zealand** on **10-11 July 2026**.
- It was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in **40 years**.
- PM Modi met New Zealand Prime Minister **Christopher Luxon** at **Government House, Auckland**.
- India and New Zealand elevated ties to a **Strategic Partnership**.
- Both sides endorsed the **India-New Zealand Strategic Partnership: Roadmap to 2030**.
- The two sides welcomed the conclusion and signature of the **India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement**.
- Both sides set a target to double bilateral trade to **NZ\$7 billion / ₹35,000 crore by 2030**.
- A **Maritime Cooperation Arrangement** was signed between India's Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force.
- An arrangement on **Hydrography and Nautical Cartography** was signed.
- A **Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement** was signed between the Indian Navy and the New Zealand Defence Force.
- A **Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism** was established.
- India's **NDMA** and New Zealand's **National Emergency Management Agency** signed cooperation on disaster risk management.
- Cooperation was agreed in **Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.
- A **Tourism MoA** was signed to increase tourist flow and cultural understanding.
- **India-New Zealand Joint Action Plan on Sport** was signed.
- Cooperation was agreed between **NMHC Lothal** and the **New Zealand Maritime Museum**.
- An **Arrangement on Cultural Cooperation** was signed.
- New Zealand nominated **Maritime Security** as its priority pillar under **IPOI**.
- New Zealand joined the **Global Biofuels Alliance**.
- A **Kiwifruit Action Plan** was launched with two Centres of Excellence in **Nagaland** and **Uttarakhand**.
- **NCPOR Goa** and **University of Canterbury** signed an MoU for Antarctic research cooperation.
- **NIFTEM-Kundli** and **Massey University** signed an MoU on food technology, research, academic exchange and student mobility.
- Important places in news: **Auckland, Government House, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Goa, Kundli, Lothal**, and the **New Zealand Maritime Museum**.

July 9, 2026

International Relations

Science & Technology

Defence

PM Modi's Australia Visit Deepens Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visited **Australia from 8-10 July 2026** for the **3rd India-Australia Annual Summit** in **Melbourne** with Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese**. The visit produced major outcomes in **defence, maritime security, civil nuclear energy, critical minerals, cyber and critical technologies, education, sports, traditional knowledge and cultural heritage**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- PM Narendra Modi visited **Australia from 8-10 July 2026**.
- The visit was for the **3rd India-Australia Annual Summit** in **Melbourne**.
- The summit was hosted by Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese**.
- India and Australia completed **six years of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
- Both sides agreed to work towards early finalisation of **CECA**.
- Key outcomes included **Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation** and **Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap**.
- India and Australia finalised administrative arrangements under civil nuclear cooperation, enabling supply of **Australian uranium to India** for peaceful purposes under **IAEA safeguards**.
- **PACTS** was announced for cyber, critical technologies and supply chains.
- A MoU was concluded between the **Indian Coast Guard** and Australia's **Maritime Border Command**.
- Australia invited an **Indian military instructor** to the Australian Defence College for **2028-29**.
- A Centre of Excellence in **Mining Equipment, Technology and Services** will be set up at **NSTI Bhubaneswar** with TAFE Western Australia.
- Flinders University received a Letter of Intent to set up a campus in **Bengaluru**.
- Victoria University received approval to set up and operate a campus in **Gurugram**.
- Three Indian artefacts of Tamil Nadu origin will be repatriated: **Nandi, Bhadrakali Trident, and six-headed Skanda/Karttikeya**.
- A Rooftop Solar Training Academy was operationalised at **Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar**, aiming to train **2,000 women and youth**.
- **CSIR-TKDL** access agreement was signed with **IP Australia**.
- PM Modi addressed the Indian diaspora at **Marvel Stadium, Melbourne**.
- PM Modi and PM Albanese visited the **Melbourne Cricket Ground** and jointly released the **India-Australia Roadmap for Sports Collaboration**.

July 8, 2026

Defence and Security

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Defence

DRDO Tests Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket

NEWS ITEM

DRDO successfully flight-tested the **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR)** at the **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha**. The rocket was tested for a user-defined minimum range of **60 km** and was launched from the in-service Pinaka launcher.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **DRDO** successfully flight-tested **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR)**.
- The test was conducted at **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha**.
- The rocket was tested for a user-defined minimum range of **60 km**.
- The rocket was launched from the **in-service Pinaka launcher**.
- Pinaka LRGR was designed by **Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)**.
- **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)** was associated with the design.
- **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** and **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)** provided support.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** called the test a major milestone in indigenous long-range guided rocket capability.

JIM&WS Team Summits Mount Khyam Tso Massif in Ladakh

NEWS ITEM

Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports (JIM&WS), Pahalgam conducted a **22-member mountaineering expedition** to the **Mount Khyam Tso Massif** in the **Rumtse Phu region of Ladakh**. The team successfully climbed multiple peaks between **2 July and 5 July 2026**, despite adverse weather conditions.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **JIM&WS, Pahalgam** conducted a **22-member expedition** to Mount Khyam Tso Massif.
- The expedition was flagged off by team leader **Col Hem Chandra Singh** on **26 June 2026**.
- The massif is located in the **Rumtse Phu region of Ladakh**.
- On **2 July 2026**, the team made the first ascent of **Mount Peak Point 5901 m**.
- The team leader made the first paragliding flight from **5600 m** from the same peak.
- On **3 July 2026**, the team climbed a technically challenging **6090 m peak** and **Mount Peak Point 5944 m**.
- On **5 July 2026**, the team climbed **Mount Khyam-III, 6018 m**.
- The expedition highlighted adventure capability, teamwork and India's growing presence in lesser-explored mountain ranges of Ladakh.