

Current Affairs Revision

Entries: 145

July 13, 2026 Sports Awards & Honours Places in News Sports

Wimbledon 2026: History, Significance and Major Winners

NEWS ITEM

The **Wimbledon Championships 2026** concluded at the **All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, London**, with **Jannik Sinner** defending the Gentlemen’s Singles title and **Linda Noskova** winning her first Grand Slam in Ladies’ Singles. The 2026 edition was played from **29 June to 12 July 2026** and continued Wimbledon’s identity as the world’s oldest and most tradition-rich tennis tournament.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Wimbledon began in **1877**.
- It is held at the **All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club**, London.
- It is one of the four **Grand Slam** tennis tournaments.
- The four Grand Slams are **Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open**.
- Wimbledon is the only Grand Slam played on **grass courts**.
- The first Wimbledon tournament had only **Gentlemen’s Singles**.
- **Spencer Gore** was the first Wimbledon champion in **1877**.
- Wimbledon is associated with **SW19**, the postal area of Wimbledon in London.
- Important traditions include white dress code, Centre Court, Royal Box, strawberries and cream, and historic trophies.
- Wimbledon 2026 was played from **29 June to 12 July 2026**.
- The total prize money for Wimbledon 2026 was **£64.2 million**.
- The Gentlemen’s and Ladies’ Singles champions each received **£3.6 million**.
- **Gentlemen’s Singles 2026:** Jannik Sinner defeated Alexander Zverev **6-7(7), 7-6(2), 6-3, 6-4**.
- Jannik Sinner became the **10th player** to successfully defend the Wimbledon men’s singles title.
- It was Sinner’s **second consecutive Wimbledon title** and **fifth Grand Slam title**.
- **Ladies’ Singles 2026:** Linda Noskova defeated Karolina Muchova **6-2, 5-7, 6-3**.
- Linda Noskova won her **first Grand Slam title** and became the youngest Wimbledon women’s champion since **2011**.
- The Ladies’ Singles final was an **all-Czech final** between Noskova and Muchova.
- **Gentlemen’s Doubles 2026:** Harri Heliövaara and Henry Patten defeated Marcelo Arévalo and Mate Pavić **7-6(4), 7-6(3)**.
- **Ladies’ Doubles 2026:** Guo Hanyu and Kristina Mladenovic defeated Gabriela Dabrowski and Luisa Stefani **6-3, 7-5**.
- **Mixed Doubles 2026:** Marcelo Arévalo and Jelena Ostapenko defeated Storm Hunter and Marc Polmans **4-6, 7-5, 6-2**.
- **Gentlemen’s Wheelchair Doubles 2026:** Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid defeated Tokito Oda and Gustavo Fernández **2-6, 6-1, 6-2**.

July 13, 2026 Government Schemes Health Government Initiative

MY Bharat Launches Next Phase of Nasha Mukh Yuva Campaign

NEWS ITEM

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)**, launched the next phase of the nationwide **“Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat”** campaign. The campaign will conduct creative competitions in a three-tier format: district, state and national levels.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The campaign is being implemented by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** through **MY Bharat**.
- The campaign name is **“Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat.”**
- Registrations began on the **MY Bharat portal**.
- Competitions will be held in a **three-tier format**: district, state and national levels.
- District-level competitions will be held from **24 to 27 July 2026**.
- State champions will be invited to **New Delhi** for the national finale.
- The national finale will be held on **12 and 13 August 2026** during the **National Youth Summit**.
- Five categories are included: **Dance, Music, Reel and Short Film, Nukkad Natak and Slam Poetry**.

July 12, 2026

Environment and Ecology

Uttar Pradesh

Species & Environment

Government Initiative

India Conducts Massive Tree-Planting Campaign Across States

NEWS ITEM

A massive tree-planting campaign was conducted across India, with major drives in **Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and New Delhi**. Uttar Pradesh launched a State-wide **Vriksharopan Maha Yagya** from Gorakhpur and reported planting over **35.27 crore saplings** in a single day under the theme **“Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam.”**

PRELIMS FACTS

- A massive tree-planting campaign was conducted across India.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** launched the **Vriksharopan Maha Yagya** from **Gorakhpur**.
- He planted the sacred **Triveni** of **Neem, Peepal and Banyan** near the Link Expressway.
- Uttar Pradesh planted over **35.27 crore saplings** in a single day.
- The plantation exceeded the State target of **35 crore** by **27.89 lakh saplings**.
- Uttar Pradesh Governor **Anandiben Patel** planted a white sandalwood sapling at **Jan Bhawan**.
- The campaign was carried out across all **18 divisions and 75 districts** of Uttar Pradesh.
- Uttar Pradesh’s cumulative plantation for the year stood at **40.29 crore saplings**.
- The Forest Department completed the largest target of **15.50 crore saplings**.
- Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched a plantation drive in **Gandhinagar**, Gujarat, with over **1.25 crore saplings** planted across his Lok Sabha constituency.
- Gandhinagar’s green cover target is **20% by 2029**.
- Madhya Pradesh launched a plantation drive in **Indore**, targeting **21 lakh saplings** and **51,000 rainwater harvesting units**.
- India has set a target of achieving **net zero carbon emissions by 2070**.

July 12, 2026

Polity and Governance

Education

Awards & Honours

Science & Technology

India Wins Five Gold Medals at International Physics Olympiad 2026

NEWS ITEM

Five Indian students won **gold medals** at the **56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026**, held in **Bucaramanga, Colombia**, from **4 to 12 July 2026**. With this performance, India secured **joint first position** along with Russia, China, Kazakhstan, South Korea and Taiwan.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India won **five gold medals** at the **56th International Physics Olympiad 2026**.
- The Olympiad was held in **Bucaramanga, Colombia**.
- It was held from **4 to 12 July 2026**.
- Indian gold medallists were **Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Anant Bendale, Rishit Garg, Shresth Suraiya** and **Svarit Joshi**.
- The students came from **Pune, Indore, New Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad**.
- India secured **joint first position** with **Russia, China, Kazakhstan, South Korea and Taiwan**.
- The competition saw participation of **381 students from 87 countries**.
- India’s Olympiad programme is led by **HBCSE**, a National Centre of **TIFR**.
- Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, **Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty**, congratulated the winners.

July 12, 2026

History and Culture

Awards & Honours

Obituaries

Personalities in News

President Murmu Condoles Demise of Playback Singer S. Janaki Amma

NEWS ITEM

President **Droupadi Murmu** expressed grief over the demise of legendary playback singer **S. Janaki Amma**, calling her a musical icon whose extraordinary singing enthralled generations. Her career spanned more than **six decades**, during which she recorded thousands of songs in nearly **20 Indian languages**, including Hindi, Odia, Tulu, Urdu, Punjabi and Bengali.

PRELIMS FACTS

- President **Droupadi Murmu** expressed grief over the demise of **S. Janaki Amma**.
- She described S. Janaki Amma as a **musical icon**.
- S. Janaki Amma's career spanned more than **six decades**.
- She recorded thousands of songs in nearly **20 Indian languages**.
- Languages mentioned include **Hindi, Odia, Tulu, Urdu, Punjabi and Bengali**.
- S. Janaki Amma was popularly known as **Janaki Amma** and **Nightingale of South India**.
- Her full name was **Sistla Janaki**.
- She was born on **23 April 1938** at **Pallapatla**, in present-day Andhra Pradesh.
- She began her playback singing career in **1957**.
- She won **four National Film Awards**.
- She refused the **Padma Bhushan** in **2013**, stating that the recognition came too late.
- Her music is remembered for versatility, voice modulation and emotional expression across languages.

July 12, 2026

International Relations

Obituaries

Personalities in News

PM Modi Condoles Demise of Former Qatar Emir Sheikh Hamad

NEWS ITEM

Former Emir of Qatar **Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani** passed away at the age of **74**. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** expressed condolences, describing him as a **visionary leader** who transformed Qatar into a prosperous and globally respected nation, and remembered him as a true friend of India.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Former Qatar Emir **Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani** died at the age of **74**.
- He ruled Qatar from **1995 to 2013**.
- He voluntarily handed over power to his son **Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani** in **2013**.
- Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani is the current Amir of Qatar.
- PM **Narendra Modi** described Sheikh Hamad as a **visionary leader** and a true friend of India.
- Sheikh Hamad is credited with transforming Qatar into a global player in **energy, diplomacy, media and investment**.
- Under his rule, Qatar emerged as a major **LNG powerhouse**.
- **Al Jazeera** news network was launched in **1996** during his rule.
- Qatar secured the right to host the **2022 FIFA World Cup** during his leadership period.
- Qatar expanded its international investments through institutions such as the **Qatar Investment Authority**.
- India declared **one-day national mourning** as a mark of respect for the Father Amir of Qatar.
- The National Flag was to be flown at **half-mast** in India on buildings where it is regularly flown.

July 12, 2026

Economy

Places in News

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Shipping Shocks Expose India's Container Vulnerability

NEWS ITEM

A report highlighted how global shipping disruptions have exposed India's dependence on foreign container ships and limited domestic container capacity. The first outcome of the **₹10,000 crore container manufacturing scheme** announced in **Union Budget 2026-27** came on **3 July 2026**, when an India-made **EXIM container** built by **DCM Shriram Group** was unveiled at **Dadri** for **Maersk**, which placed a follow-on order for another **1,000 containers**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- A **₹10,000 crore container manufacturing scheme** was announced in **Union Budget 2026-27**.
- Its first outcome came on **3 July 2026** with an India-made EXIM container built by **DCM Shriram Group**.
- The container was unveiled at **Dadri** for **Maersk**.
- Maersk placed a follow-on order for another **1,000 containers**.
- India manufactured around **24,000 TEUs in FY24**.
- China's container output runs into several million TEUs annually.
- Foreign shipping lines carry around **90-95% of India's cargo**, increasing vulnerability during global disruptions.
- Indian-made containers cost roughly **20% more** than Chinese containers due to logistics and location disadvantages.
- Manufacturing containers closer to ports such as **Dadri** can reduce transport cost disadvantages.
- Coffee exporters are affected as ships avoid the **Red Sea-Suez route** and move around the **Cape of Good Hope**.
- Rice exports to Iran are affected by uncertainty around the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- Freight from **Kochi to Jebel Ali** reportedly rose from around **\$1,000-\$1,500** to nearly **\$7,000**.
- **Nhava Sheva** has become a major hub for larger container ships.
- **Kochi, Thoothukudi, Vizhinjam, Kandla, Mumbai, Dadri, Dubai, Khor Fakkan, Sohar and Jebel Ali** came into news in the context of container logistics.
- An MoU was signed to establish **Bharat Container Shipping Line**, India's first national container carrier.
- Institutions linked to this initiative include **Shipping Corporation of India, Container Corporation of India, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Tuticorin** and **Chennai** port authorities.

July 12, 2026

Science and Technology

Health

Species & Environment

Science & Technology

Deadly Bird Virus PaBV-4 Identified for First Time in India

NEWS ITEM

A team of scientists has identified and genetically characterised **Parrot Bornavirus-4 (PaBV-4)** in India for the first time. The virus was found among captive **psittacine birds** and is linked to **Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD)**, a largely fatal viral disease affecting the digestive and nervous systems of birds.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **PaBV-4** has been identified and genetically characterised in India for the first time.
- The study was led by **Pankaj Deka** and **Sangeeta Das** of the **Assam Veterinary and Fisheries University, Guwahati**.
- The study was published in **Scientific Reports**.
- Researchers tested **83 psittacine birds** from **13 species** in aviaries in **Assam, Karnataka and West Bengal**.
- The study period was **2020-2024**.
- Bird species included African grey parrot, ochre-marked parakeet, yellow-collared macaw, eastern rosella, blue-crowned hanging parrot, rainbow lorikeet and scarlet-chested parrot.
- The birds were divided into three groups: birds with clinical signs of PDD, healthy cage mates of suspected cases and birds that had died of suspected PDD.
- Infection was detected in almost **88% of dead birds** and **19% of apparently healthy cage mates**.
- Researchers found no patterns linking genetic clusters to host species, geography or time.
- The findings highlight risks to conservation programmes based on breeding captive birds.

July 12, 2026

Science and Technology

Places in News

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Indian Lab's Quantum Algorithm Shows Active Quantum Advantage

NEWS ITEM

A team led by **Dr. Indrakshi Raychowdhury** of **BITS Pilani**, working with **IBM Quantum**, designed a quantum algorithm that simulated the behaviour of subatomic particles on **120 qubits** of an IBM processor. The result has been marked "**active**" by the **Quantum Advantage Tracker**, making it the first such verified active quantum-advantage result from an Indian laboratory.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The quantum algorithm was designed by a team led by **Dr. Indrakshi Raychowdhury** of **BITS Pilani**.
- The team worked with **IBM Quantum**.
- The algorithm simulated subatomic particle behaviour on **120 qubits** of an IBM processor.
- The quantum calculation took about **20 seconds**, compared with about **two hours** on a classical computer.
- The result was marked "**active**" by the **Quantum Advantage Tracker**.
- This is the first active quantum-advantage result from an Indian laboratory.
- The work is linked to simulating **quarks and gluons** governed by the **strong nuclear force**.
- The team used a simplified model of the strong force and reduced mathematical redundancy to scale the simulation.
- A task earlier run by others on at most **27 qubits** was pushed to **120 qubits**.
- The **Quantum Advantage Tracker** was launched in **November 2025** by IBM with the Flatiron Institute, BlueQubit, Algorithmiq and academic reviewers.
- The article mentions **CERN, Switzerland**, in the context of high-energy physics and future particle simulations.
- India's **National Quantum Mission** was approved in **2023** with an outlay of **₹6,003 crore**.
- The Mission funds quantum algorithms and a computing hub in **Bengaluru**.
- India currently does not have high-end quantum hardware of its own and researchers often depend on machines abroad.

July 12, 2026

Science and Technology

Health

Science & Technology

How Leucine Helps Cells Maintain Energy Production

NEWS ITEM

A science explainer highlighted the role of the essential amino acid **leucine** in protecting mitochondria, the cell organelles that produce energy. A study using the roundworm **Caenorhabditis elegans** found that leucine helps prevent premature degradation of outer mitochondrial membrane proteins, thereby supporting normal mitochondrial function and cellular energy production.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Leucine** is an essential amino acid.
- It belongs to the family of **branched-chain amino acids (BCAAs)**.
- BCAAs include **leucine, isoleucine and valine**.
- Essential amino acids cannot be produced by the body and must be obtained from diet.
- **Mitochondria** produce **ATP**, the energy currency of the cell.
- The outer mitochondrial membrane is important for normal mitochondrial function.
- Researchers from the **University of Cologne Centre for Excellence Cluster on Aging and Aging-Associated Diseases, Germany**, used **Caenorhabditis elegans** as the model organism.
- The study was published in **Nature Cell Biology** on **27 November 2025**.
- The study found that leucine acts as a protective shield for outer mitochondrial membrane proteins.
- Leucine interacts with a protein called **SEL1L**, which is involved in recognising and removing damaged or misfolded proteins.
- Excessive degradation of outer mitochondrial membrane proteins can lead to metabolic and age-related diseases.

July 12, 2026

History and Culture

Law and Policies

International Organisations

Places in News

Prambanan Temple and the Legal Recognition of Hinduism in Indonesia

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visited the historic **Prambanan Temple** near **Yogyakarta, Indonesia**, along with Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto**. The visit brought attention to how Hinduism in Indonesia adapted itself to the country's legal requirement of monotheism by presenting the **Trimurti** tradition as the manifestation of one supreme divine principle.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Prambanan Temple** is located near **Yogyakarta, Indonesia**.
- It is a **9th-century Hindu temple complex**.
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- It is the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia.
- The temple complex is associated with the **Trimurti**: Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.
- PM **Narendra Modi** visited Prambanan Temple with Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto**.
- Indonesia's state philosophy is **Pancasila**.
- The first principle of Pancasila is belief in **one supreme God**.
- Hinduism received official recognition in Indonesia in **1962**.
- Six recognised religions were formalised as **agama** in **1965**.
- Indonesia recognises **Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism**.
- **Parisada Hindu Dharma Indonesia (PHDI)** was founded in **Bali in 1959**.
- **Sang Hyang Widhi Wasa** is the supreme divine concept in Indonesian Hinduism.
- In Indonesia, religious identity is linked to civil documents and public life, including national identity cards, marriage registration, birth certificates and school religious education.

July 12, 2026

Sports

Awards & Honours

Sports

Personalities in News

Linda Noskova Wins First Grand Slam Title at Wimbledon 2026

NEWS ITEM

Czech tennis player **Linda Noskova** defeated fellow Czech player **Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-3** in the **Wimbledon 2026 women's singles final** to win her first **Grand Slam** title. The 21-year-old ninth seed became the youngest Wimbledon women's champion since **2011**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Linda Noskova** won the **Wimbledon 2026 women's singles title**.
- She defeated **Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-3** in the final.
- Both finalists were from the **Czech Republic**.
- Noskova was the **ninth seed**.
- She was **21 years old** at the time of the win.
- She became the youngest Wimbledon women's champion since **2011**.
- This was Noskova's **first Grand Slam title**.
- Karolina Muchova saved **five championship points** and fought back from a set and a break down before losing in the decider.
- Britain's **Henry Patten** and Finland's **Harri Heliövaara** won doubles success earlier.
- Great Britain's **Alfie Hewett** and **Gordon Reid** also recorded doubles success.

July 11, 2026

Social Issues

Important Days

International Organisations

World Population Day 2026

NEWS ITEM

Observed globally on July 11, World Population Day highlights the urgency of addressing population-related challenges. The 2026 observance focuses on empowering the youth to ensure sustainable development and a dignified future for all.

PRELIMS FACTS

- World Population Day: Observed annually on July 11.
- Theme 2026: "Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future."
- Origin: Inspired by the "Day of Five Billion" (July 11, 1987).
- Established by: UNDP Governing Council in 1989.
- Lead Agency: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

July 11, 2026

International Relations

Places in News

India Condolences Vietnam Boat Tragedy Involving Indian Nationals

NEWS ITEM

Vice President **C.P. Radhakrishnan** and Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** expressed condolences over the tragic boat accident involving Indian nationals near **Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam**. The Prime Minister said that the **Indian Embassy and Consulate in Vietnam** are providing all possible assistance and are in close contact with Vietnamese authorities.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The boat accident occurred near **Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam**.
- The accident involved **Indian nationals**.
- Vice President **C.P. Radhakrishnan** prayed for the swift recovery of the injured.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** extended condolences to the bereaved families.
- The **Indian Embassy and Consulate in Vietnam** are providing assistance.
- Indian officials are in close contact with **Vietnamese authorities**.
- Reports stated that Indian diplomatic missions set up control rooms to assist affected families.

July 11, 2026

Environment and Ecology

Species & Environment

Government Initiative

National CAMPA Approves Conservation Projects for Four Species

NEWS ITEM

The governing body of **National CAMPA** approved four new conservation projects for **river dolphins, snow leopards, wild water buffalo and Indian rhinoceroses**. The new scheme has an initial corpus of **₹3,000 crore over five years**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The governing body of **National CAMPA** approved four new conservation projects.
- The species covered are **river dolphins, snow leopards, wild water buffalo and Indian rhinoceroses**.
- The new scheme has an initial corpus of **₹3,000 crore over five years**.
- The river dolphin project includes studies on conservation and recovery action plan.
- **Project Snow Leopard Phase-II** includes the second cycle of population estimation.
- A conservation action plan has been approved for the **Indian Rhinoceros**.
- A pan-India conservation approach has been approved for the **wild water buffalo**.

July 11, 2026

Economy

Species & Environment

Science & Technology

AEL and Dioxcycle Tie Up for Low-Carbon Chemical Manufacturing

NEWS ITEM

Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL) has entered into a long-term agreement with French clean-technology company **Dioxcycle** to develop and scale low-carbon chemical production in India. The initiative will begin with a pilot facility at an Adani Group site to produce **formic acid** using captured carbon dioxide and renewable electricity.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL)** has signed a long-term agreement with **Dioxcycle**.
- **Dioxcycle** is a French clean-technology company specialising in chemical manufacturing.
- The project aims to develop and scale **low-carbon chemical production** in India.
- The first pilot facility will be set up at an **Adani Group site**.
- The pilot will produce **formic acid** using **captured carbon dioxide** and **renewable electricity**.
- Formic acid and its derivatives are used in textiles, agriculture and manufacturing.
- The tie-up combines Dioxcycle's electrochemical manufacturing technology with Adani Group's clean-energy and infrastructure capabilities.

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

Economy

Species & Environment

Infrastructure

Uncertainty Over Parandur Greenfield Airport Project

NEWS ITEM

A Ground Zero report highlighted uncertainty over the proposed **Parandur greenfield airport project** in Tamil Nadu. The project, planned as a second airport for Chennai, has reportedly been put on hold without an official announcement, leaving protesting residents of **Ekanapuram** relieved but residents of other affected villages uncertain about their land and future.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **Parandur airport project** is a proposed greenfield airport project in Tamil Nadu.
- It was planned as a **second airport for Chennai**.
- The project was announced in **2022**.
- **Ekanapuram** is one of the key villages opposing the project.
- The report states that the project has been put on hold, but without an official announcement.
- Residents of Ekanapuram feared displacement, loss of agricultural land and impact on wetlands and water bodies.
- Land acquisition reportedly began in surrounding villages in **July 2025**.
- Ekanapuram was avoided during acquisition due to strong local resistance.
- Residents of other villages where land has been acquired remain uncertain about return of land, compensation and future livelihood.
- Aviation and industry experts argue that Chennai needs additional airport capacity for long-term growth.
- Environmental and social concerns include wetlands, drainage, water bodies, agricultural land, compensation and rehabilitation.

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 10, 2026

International Relations

Government Initiative

Sports

India-Australia Sports Collaboration Roadmap

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** jointly released the **India-Australia Sports Collaboration Roadmap** at the **Melbourne Cricket Ground** on **10 July 2026**. The roadmap aims to deepen cooperation in sports training, capacity building, sports science, technology, sports industry, investment, women's participation and youth exchanges.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **India-Australia Sports Collaboration Roadmap** was jointly released on **10 July 2026**.
- It was released by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** at the **Melbourne Cricket Ground**.
- The roadmap builds on the **2023 Sports Cooperation Agreement**.
- The roadmap looks ahead to the **2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad** and the **2032 Olympics and Paralympics in Brisbane**.
- It identifies cooperation areas such as capacity building, sports science and technology, major sports events, sports industry and investment, and women's participation.
- It proposes cooperation in high performance sports centres in India.
- Para sports are recognised as a key priority, including cooperation in para classification, coaching and performance support.
- It promotes coach exchanges and a **train-the-trainer** approach.
- It proposes physical education exchange programmes between India and Australia.
- It encourages cooperation in yoga and yogasana in Australia.
- The roadmap mentions the **India-Australia High Performance Coach Development Programme** with the Australian Sports Commission.
- It encourages India-Australia university partnerships in sports science, sports curriculum and research.
- It mentions cooperation between **Sport Integrity Australia** and India's **NADA** in anti-doping capacity-building.
- It encourages exhibition matches and youth events in sports such as **kabaddi, kho kho, Australian football, basketball and cricket**.
- The first **Big Bash League match in India** is welcomed for **Chennai in December 2026**.
- An Australia-funded **Sports Industry Summit** is proposed in **Mumbai in December 2026**.
- The roadmap supports increasing India's exports of high-quality and competitively priced sports goods to Australia.
- It promotes women's leadership, health, high performance and participation in sports, including bilateral tournaments for women athletes.
- PM Modi visited the **Melbourne Cricket Ground** with PM Anthony Albanese and Victorian Premier **Jacinta Allan**.
- Australian sports personalities including **Steve Waugh** and **Lisa Sthalekar** attended the event.

July 10, 2026

Polity and Governance

Law and Policies

Government Schemes

Centre's Proposed NFSA Revision Triggers Food Security Debate

NEWS ITEM

A report analysed the Centre's proposed amendment to the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**, which seeks to change **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** foodgrain entitlement from a household-based system to a per-person system. Under the proposal, each AAY beneficiary would get **7 kg of foodgrains per month**, subject to a maximum cap of **35 kg per household per month**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Centre has proposed an amendment to the **National Food Security Act, 2013**.
- The amendment relates to **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** foodgrain entitlements.
- Current AAY entitlement: **35 kg per household per month**.
- Proposed AAY entitlement: **7 kg per person per month**, capped at **35 kg per household per month**.
- **Priority Households** under NFSA receive **5 kg per person per month**.
- The draft amendment was published by the **Union Food and Public Distribution Ministry**.
- Public comments were invited till **July 11**.
- **Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala** have opposed the proposed amendment.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** opposed the proposal on **June 2, 2026**.
- Kerala Food Minister **G.R. Anil** also expressed reservations.
- The South's AAY household ceiling was shown at **52.51 lakh**, with actual AAY coverage around **49.36 lakh households**.
- All-India AAY household ceiling was shown at **250 lakh**, with actual coverage around **217.01 lakh households**.
- Puducherry follows a **Direct Benefit Transfer** model and therefore had no foodgrain allocation in the table.

July 10, 2026

Polity and Governance

Law and Policies

IT Department Opposes Tax Exemption Plea by Same-Sex Couple

NEWS ITEM

The **Income Tax Department** has filed an affidavit before the **Bombay High Court** opposing a plea by a same-sex couple challenging **Section 56(2)(x) of the Income Tax Act**. The couple sought extension of tax exemption on gifts between spouses to their relationship, but the department argued that same-sex relationships are not recognised as marriage or spousal relationships under Indian marriage laws.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The case is before the **Bombay High Court**.
- The petition challenges **Section 56(2)(x) of the Income Tax Act**.
- The issue concerns tax exemption on gifts between spouses.
- The petitioners sought extension of this benefit to a same-sex relationship.
- The Income Tax Department argued that same-sex couples are not recognised as spouses under Indian marriage laws.
- The department said the Income Tax Act cannot define "spouse" contrary to marriage laws.
- The affidavit was filed by **Sandeep Dahiya**, Principal Commissioner of Income Tax (Judicial).
- The court is yet to pronounce its order.

July 10, 2026

Health

Health

Sri Lankan Universities Shift Online Amid Dengue Surge

NEWS ITEM

Sri Lanka is facing a major **dengue outbreak**, with cases crossing **65,000** and **45 dengue-related deaths** reported. Amid the surge, the **University of Colombo** decided to move some lectures online, while the **University of Moratuwa** and the **University of the Visual and Performing Arts** temporarily closed their campuses.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Sri Lanka reported **65,034 dengue cases** in 2026.
- Around **45 dengue-related deaths** have been recorded.
- **Colombo** accounted for about **one-fifth** of Sri Lanka's dengue cases.
- Since May 2026, the **University of Colombo** recorded **71 cases**, including students.
- The University of Colombo moved some lectures online to allow students to rest and recover.
- The **University of Moratuwa** and the **University of the Visual and Performing Arts** temporarily closed campuses.
- Authorities deployed a military-led team to monitor the outbreak.
- Public health officials linked the current outbreak partly to debris left by **Cyclone Ditwah**, which hit Sri Lanka in December 2025.

July 10, 2026

Health

Health

Law and Policies

Government Initiative

Centre Tightens Rules for High Alcohol-Containing Drug Formulations

NEWS ITEM

The Central Government has amended the **Drugs Rules, 1945** to strengthen regulation of **high alcohol-containing drug formulations**. The Health Ministry removed the earlier **Schedule K exemption** from licensing requirements for formulations containing ethyl alcohol above specified limits.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Centre amended the **Drugs Rules, 1945**.
- The amendment regulates **high alcohol-containing drug formulations**.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare removed the **Schedule K exemption** from licensing requirements.
- Formulations containing more than **12% v/v ethyl alcohol** and quantities exceeding **30 ml** will no longer get the exemption.
- Such products must obtain licenses under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- Earlier, some tinctures and aromatic preparations such as cardamom and ginger tinctures were exempted.
- Some exempted formulations could contain ethyl alcohol concentration up to **80-90% v/v**.
- The amendment aims to prevent diversion and misuse for intoxication.
- It will ensure supply through a regulated pharmaceutical supply chain while allowing legitimate therapeutic use.

July 10, 2026 Sports Sports Personalities in News

India and New Zealand Mark 100 Years of Sporting Ties

NEWS ITEM

India and New Zealand are celebrating **100 years of sporting ties in 2026**. The relationship began in **1926**, when the **Indian Army Hockey Team** became the first Indian sports team to tour New Zealand. Hockey continues to act as a bridge of friendship between the two countries.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India and New Zealand are celebrating **100 years of sporting ties in 2026**.
- The sporting relationship began in **1926** through hockey.
- The **Indian Army Hockey Team** was the first Indian sports team to tour New Zealand.
- **Major Dhyhan Chand** was part of the historic 1926 team.
- The Indian Women's Hockey Team won the **FIH Women's Nations Cup** in **Auckland**.
- India defeated host **New Zealand** in the final of the FIH Women's Nations Cup.
- Former Hockey New Zealand CEO and **1976 Olympic Gold Medallist Ramesh Patel** highlighted the importance of sports cooperation.

July 10, 2026 International Relations Places in News Personalities in News

PM Modi Arrives in Auckland on Historic New Zealand Visit

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** received a warm welcome on his arrival in **Auckland**, beginning his two-day visit to **New Zealand**. This is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in nearly **four decades**. He was received by New Zealand Prime Minister **Christopher Luxon**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- PM **Narendra Modi** arrived in **Auckland** for a two-day visit to New Zealand.
- It is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in nearly **four decades**.
- He was received by New Zealand Prime Minister **Christopher Luxon**.
- The Indian community welcomed him with the tricolour and chants of **"Kia Ora Modi."**
- Cultural performances included traditions from **Punjab** and **Tamil Nadu**.
- The welcome event also featured a fusion of **Carnatic and Hindustani classical music**.
- A rendition of **Vande Mataram** was performed.
- PM Modi appreciated the **Naad Vocal Ensemble**.
- Key areas of expected discussion include trade, investment, education, technology and people-to-people ties.

July 9, 2026 Economy Indexes & Reports Science & Technology

WIPO Report Highlights India's Rise in Intangible Investment

NEWS ITEM

The **World Intangible Investment Report 2026**, launched by **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** and **Luiss Business School**, highlighted India's rise as a global innovation powerhouse. Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** said India recorded the fastest growth in intangible investment among the world's 15 largest economies, reaching **USD 78.2 billion in 2023** with **7.9% growth**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **World Intangible Investment Report 2026** was launched by **WIPO** and **Luiss Business School**.
- The report highlights investment in software, R&D, intellectual property, innovation and organisational capabilities.
- India's intangible investment reached **USD 78.2 billion in 2023**.
- India recorded **7.9% growth** in intangible investment.
- India was reported as having the fastest growth in intangible investment among the world's **15 largest economies**.
- Intangible investment in India grew ahead of tangible investment.
- Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** said India is building a knowledge-driven future powered by ideas, innovation and enterprise.
- The report links India's progress with reforms, digital transformation, startups and a strengthening innovation ecosystem.

July 9, 2026

Education

Education

Places in News

Government Initiative

Uttarakhand Becomes India's Sixth Fully Literate State

NEWS ITEM

Uttarakhand has become India's **sixth fully literate State** after meeting the prescribed adult literacy benchmarks under **National Education Policy 2020** and the **ULLAS - New India Literacy Programme**. The declaration was approved by the Governor on **8 July 2026**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Uttarakhand** has become India's **sixth fully literate State**.
- The declaration was approved by the Governor on **8 July 2026**.
- The achievement is linked to **NEP 2020** and **ULLAS - New India Literacy Programme**.
- ULLAS stands for **Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society**.
- The literacy standards were laid down by the **Department of School Education and Literacy**, Ministry of Education.
- Uttarakhand joins **Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim** on the list of fully literate States.
- Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** called the achievement historic.
- The State government said it will continue promoting **digital literacy, financial literacy, continuing education and life skills**.

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 9, 2026

Economy

Government Initiative

States Carry Growing Share of Welfare Spending

NEWS ITEM

A data-based report highlighted that while revenues increasingly accrue to the **Union government**, fiscally constrained **States** are carrying a larger share of welfare and social-sector spending. For selected welfare schemes and sectors in **2025-26**, combined Union and State allocations were estimated at **₹24.20 lakh crore**, equal to **6.77% of GDP**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The report was published as a **Data Point** on welfare spending.
- Data sources included **Union Expenditure Budget 2025-26**, **377th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee**, **RBI database**, Ministry of Education data and **16th Finance Commission** reports.
- Combined Union and State allocations for selected welfare schemes/sectors in **2025-26** were estimated at **₹24.20 lakh crore**.
- This amounted to **6.77% of GDP**.
- Union allocation for selected schemes was **₹6.73 lakh crore**, while State allocation was **₹17.46 lakh crore**.
- Union share of selected schemes was **1.89% of GDP**, while State share was **4.89% of GDP**.
- State cash transfers were estimated at **₹3.87 lakh crore** in FY 2025-26.
- Union allocation for **PM-KISAN** was **₹0.64 lakh crore**.
- Union allocation for **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** was **₹0.1 lakh crore**.
- School education showed one of the largest State spending shares, with States estimated to contribute around **75.2%**.
- For school education, Union allocation was shown as **₹0.79 lakh crore**, while State allocation was **₹6.83 lakh crore**.
- For public health, Union allocation was shown as **₹1 lakh crore**, while State allocation was **₹3.93 lakh crore**.

July 9, 2026

Polity and Governance

Constitution

Right to be Forgotten and the Delhi High Court Ruling

NEWS ITEM

The **Delhi High Court** recently laid down principles on the **right to be forgotten**, holding that the right flows from **Article 21** as part of dignity and informational privacy. The ruling came in a batch of over 30 petitions led by **Laksh Vir Singh Yadav v. Union of India**, where the court considered whether judicial records should be erased, masked or de-indexed to protect privacy.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Delhi High Court recognised the **right to be forgotten** as part of privacy under **Article 21**.
- The ruling came in a batch of over **30 consolidated petitions** led by **Laksh Vir Singh Yadav v. Union of India**.
- The court held that retention of personal data must have a legitimate purpose and must be proportionate.
- The court preferred **masking or redaction of names** instead of deleting entire judgments.
- The court prescribed a **two-week deadline** for legal databases to comply.
- The **Google Spain case, 2014** laid the global foundation for the right to erase, later reflected in **Article 17 of the GDPR**.
- In India, **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)** recognised privacy as a fundamental right.
- The right to be forgotten often conflicts with **Article 19(1)(a)**, open justice and the public's right to know.
- The **DPDP Act, 2023** provides a limited statutory right to erasure, but does not clearly address judicial records and public archives.
- Effective enforcement requires coordination between courts, legal databases, search engines, social media platforms and data protection institutions.

July 9, 2026

International Relations

Law and Policies

Hummus Trail and Legal Scrutiny Over Foreign Soldiers in India

NEWS ITEM

An explainer discussed the “**Hummus Trail**”, a popular travel circuit in India frequented by young Israeli tourists and military veterans, after the **Hind Rajab Foundation (HRF)** filed a complaint seeking action against an Israeli soldier vacationing in Himachal Pradesh. The issue raised a legal question: can India act against foreign nationals accused of **grave breaches under the Geneva Conventions**?

PRELIMS FACTS

- The issue arose after the **Hind Rajab Foundation**, a Brussels-based Palestinian rights organisation, filed a complaint in India.
- The complaint sought action against an Israeli soldier vacationing in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The HRF alleged involvement in war crimes in Gaza in **2024**.
- India is a signatory to the **Geneva Conventions**.
- India enacted the **Geneva Conventions Act, 1960**.
- The Act criminalises **grave breaches** of the Geneva Conventions.
- The **Hummus Trail** includes Israeli-frequented places such as **Kasol, Old Manali, Dharamkot, Goa, Gokarna, Rishikesh, Varanasi, Pushkar, Almora, Kodaikanal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- The report mentions that around **80,000 Israelis** visit India every year.
- Long post-military trips by Israeli youth are known as **Tiyul Gadol**.
- In February 2026, the Israeli government reportedly allocated **four million NIS** to boost tourism collaboration with India.
- The report noted that HRF has initiated similar legal actions in countries such as **Brazil, Romania, Peru, Belgium, Canada and Chile**.

July 9, 2026

Education

Education

Indexes & Reports

Female Enrolment in Higher Education Rises Over 42% Since 2014

NEWS ITEM

The latest **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)** reports for **2022-23** and **2023-24** show steady growth in India's higher education sector. Total student enrolment rose to **4.50 crore in 2023-24**, marking a **31.5% increase** from **3.42 crore in 2014-15**, while female enrolment rose by **42.2%** during the same period.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The report is based on **AISHE 2022-23 and 2023-24** data.
- Total higher education enrolment reached **4.50 crore in 2023-24**.
- Total enrolment increased by **31.5%** from **3.42 crore in 2014-15**.
- Female enrolment rose from **1.57 crore in 2014-15** to **2.24 crore in 2023-24**.
- Female enrolment increased by **42.2%** since 2014-15.
- Overall GER reached **30.0** in 2023-24.
- Female GER rose to **31.2**, higher than the national GER.
- Gender Parity Index stood at **1.08** in 2023-24.
- GPI has remained above **1.0** for seven consecutive years.
- SC enrolment rose by **51.4%**, reaching **69.72 lakh**.
- GER for SC students increased from **18.9 to 27.8**.
- ST enrolment rose by **75.7%**, reaching **28.83 lakh**.
- GER for ST students increased from **13.5 to 22.8**.
- OBC student numbers grew by **60.2%**, from **1.13 crore to 1.80 crore**.
- STEM enrolment increased from **91.5 lakh to 1.02 crore**.
- Female share in STEM programmes increased from **38.4% to 44%**.
- The data were self-reported by institutions through a web-based portal.

July 9, 2026

Economy

Indexes & Reports

Infrastructure

India Becomes Fourth Largest LNG Regasification Market

NEWS ITEM

According to the **International Gas Union's World LNG Report**, India's LNG regasification capacity reached **52.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa)** across **eight terminals** in 2025, making it the **fourth largest regasification market** globally after surpassing Spain.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's LNG regasification capacity reached **52.5 mtpa** across **eight terminals** in 2025.
- India surpassed **Spain** to become the **fourth largest regasification capacity market** globally.
- The data is from the **IGU World LNG Report**.
- **Dahej LNG Terminal** has **17.5 mtpa** capacity and is India's largest LNG terminal.
- Dahej ranks as the **sixth largest LNG regasification facility globally**.
- India commissioned two LNG regasification projects in 2025.
- New onshore terminal: **Chhara LNG**, with **5 mtpa** capacity.
- Expansion project: **Dabhol LNG**, whose capacity increased from **2.9 mtpa to 5 mtpa**.
- Four LNG projects are under construction in India and are expected to add **11.3 mtpa** capacity by **2028**.
- India's LNG regasification utilisation fell to about **47% in 2025**, down from **58% in 2024**.
- Asia led global LNG regasification capacity additions in 2025.
- China and India contributed **15.1 mtpa** and **7.1 mtpa**, respectively, to global additions.

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.

July 8, 2026

Economy

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Varanasi Airport to Get India's First Six-Lane Runway Underpass

NEWS ITEM

India's first **six-lane underpass beneath an active runway** is being built at the new terminal of **Varanasi Airport**. Union Civil Aviation Minister **Ram Mohan Naidu** said that foundation and raft work of the **450-metre underpass** is underway.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's first **six-lane underpass beneath an active runway** is coming up at **Varanasi Airport**.
- The underpass will be about **450 metres** long.
- Foundation and raft work of the underpass is currently underway.
- It will enable road traffic to move below while aircraft operate above.
- The project is linked with the new terminal infrastructure at Varanasi Airport.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister **Ram Mohan Naidu** shared the update.

July 8, 2026

International Relations

Personalities in News

PM Modi Addresses Indonesian Parliament

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** became the **first Indian Prime Minister** to address the **Parliament of Indonesia** in **Jakarta**. He called for a new era in India-Indonesia relations based on civilisational ties, democratic values, maritime links and shared Indo-Pacific priorities.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** became the first Indian Prime Minister to address the **Indonesian Parliament**.
- The address took place in **Jakarta**.
- PM Modi described India as the **"Mother of Democracy."**
- He highlighted over **2,000 years** of India-Indonesia civilisational engagement across the Indian Ocean.
- He referred to **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** and Indonesia's motto **Bhinneka Tunggal Ika**.
- He linked India's **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision with Indonesia's **Golden Indonesia 2045 / Indonesia Emas 2045** vision.
- Key cooperation areas mentioned included trade, investment, connectivity, food and energy security, Digital Public Infrastructure and emerging technologies.
- PM Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based **Indo-Pacific**.

July 8, 2026

Defence and Security

Places in News

Sports

Defence

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.

July 8, 2026

Health

Health

Science & Technology

Finerenone May Slow Kidney Disease Beyond Diabetes

NEWS ITEM

Three global studies published in **The New England Journal of Medicine**, **JAMA** and **The Lancet** suggest that **finerenone**, a drug earlier used mainly for diabetes-related kidney disease, may also help patients with **chronic kidney disease (CKD) without diabetes**. Researchers found that it slowed kidney disease progression, reduced protein leakage in urine and lowered the risk of kidney failure.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Three global studies on finerenone were published in **NEJM**, **JAMA** and **The Lancet**.
- Finerenone was earlier used mainly in **diabetes-related kidney disease**.
- New evidence suggests benefit in **CKD patients without diabetes**.
- Finerenone blocks **inflammation and scarring** inside the kidneys.
- Across CKD forms, it slowed disease progression, reduced protein leakage in urine and lowered kidney failure risk.
- **FIND-CKD** enrolled **1,584 non-diabetic CKD patients**.
- A related analysis of over **900 patients** with glomerular diseases found about **42% reduction in protein leakage in urine**.
- Combined data across **14,574 patients** suggested benefits across different causes and stages of kidney disease.
- Main safety concern: **hyperkalaemia**, or high potassium levels in blood.
- About **17%** of finerenone-treated patients developed elevated potassium levels, but severe cases were uncommon.
- Finerenone is already available in India and costs around **₹80-90 per day**.
- It may become cheaper after patent protection ends in **2028**.
- Routine urine testing for protein leakage can help detect kidney damage early.

July 8, 2026

Science and Technology

Space

Science & Technology

Contact Lost with Mission Drishti, World's First OptoSAR Satellite

NEWS ITEM

Bengaluru-based space start-up **GalaxEye** said it has lost contact with **Mission Drishti**, the world's first **OptoSAR satellite**, after it encountered an anomaly following a geomagnetic solar storm. The company said recovery efforts are ongoing, but the chances of recovery currently appear low.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **GalaxEye** is a Bengaluru-based space start-up.
- **Mission Drishti** is described as the world's first **OptoSAR satellite**.
- It is also India's largest privately developed **Earth observation satellite**.
- It was launched on **3 May 2026** aboard a **SpaceX Falcon 9** from **Vandenberg, California**.
- The satellite combines **electro-optical** and **SAR** sensors in one operational platform.
- The anomaly occurred during the final stage of **LEOP**.
- GalaxEye said radiation effects linked to a geomagnetic solar storm likely impacted a critical onboard system.
- Communication with the spacecraft later became intermittent and was eventually lost.

July 8, 2026

Education

Education

Indexes & Reports

Government Initiative

UDISE+ 2025-26 Report Shows Fall in School Dropout Rates

NEWS ITEM

The Union Education Ministry released the **UDISE+ 2025-26 report**, showing a decline in school dropout rates across key stages. The preparatory level dropout rate fell from **2.3% to 1.8%**, while the secondary level dropout rate declined from **8.2% to 7.0%**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **UDISE+ 2025-26 report** was released by the **Union Education Ministry**.
- Preparatory level dropout rate fell from **2.3% in 2024-25 to 1.8% in 2025-26**.
- Secondary level dropout rate declined from **8.2% to 7.0%**.
- Girls' enrolment marginally increased to **48.4%** from **48.3%**.
- Women teachers formed **54.9%** of total teachers, up from **54.2%**.
- Student retention at middle level rose to **83.7%** from **82.8%**.
- Secondary level retention increased to **51.9%** from **47.2%**.
- Secondary level **GER** increased to **71.7%** from **68.5%**.
- Transition from middle to secondary increased from **86.6% to 88.3%**.
- Teacher strength rose by **8.3%** compared with **2022-23**.
- Single-teacher schools reduced by **3%** and zero-enrolment schools fell by **29%**.
- Schools with computer access increased to **69.9%**.
- Schools with Internet connectivity increased to **67.4%**.
- **95%** schools have electricity, **98.5%** have girls' toilets and **97.2%** have boys' toilets.

July 8, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

NAL Completes Design Phase of Saras MK-II Aircraft

NEWS ITEM

Civil Aviation Minister **Ram Mohan Naidu** congratulated **National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)** for completing the design phase of the **19-seater Saras MK-II** aircraft. He said the aircraft advances the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision and can support the **UDAN** goal of connecting remote and high-altitude airfields with Made-in-India aircraft.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **NAL** has completed the design phase of the **19-seater Saras MK-II**.
- Saras MK-II is being developed as an indigenously designed **light transport aircraft**.
- The development supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision.
- The aircraft is linked with the **UDAN** vision of improving regional air connectivity.
- It is expected to help connect remote and high-altitude airfields with Made-in-India aircraft.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister **Ram Mohan Naidu** congratulated NAL for the achievement.

July 7, 2026

Sports

Sports

Personalities in News

Australia Win ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026

NEWS ITEM

Australia defeated **England by 7 wickets** at **Lord's, London**, to win the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026**. Chasing England's **150/4**, Australia reached **153/3 in 17.1 overs**, with **Beth Mooney** scoring **64** and **Phoebe Litchfield** scoring **48**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Australia defeated England by **7 wickets** to win the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026**.
- Venue of the final: **Lord's, London**.
- England scored **150/4 in 20 overs**.
- Australia scored **153/3 in 17.1 overs**.
- **Beth Mooney** scored **64 runs** for Australia.
- **Phoebe Litchfield** scored **48 runs** for Australia.
- England captain **Nat Sciver-Brunt** scored **58 not out**.
- **Freya Kemp** scored **44 runs** for England.
- **Player of the Match**: Beth Mooney.
- **Player of the Tournament / Man of the Series**: Beth Mooney.
- Australia won its **seventh** ICC Women's T20 World Cup title.
- The first ICC Women's T20 World Cup was held in **2009** in **England**.
- Women's T20 World Cup title count: **Australia 7, England 1, West Indies 1, New Zealand 1**.

July 7, 2026

International Relations

Awards & Honours

PM Modi Conferred Indonesia's Highest Civilian Honour

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was conferred the '**Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia**', the highest civilian honour of Indonesia, by President **Prabowo Subianto** on **7 July 2026**. The award recognised his leadership and contribution to strengthening **India-Indonesia relations**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the **Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia** on **7 July 2026**.
- The award was presented by Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto**.
- **Bintang Adipurna** is the **highest civilian honour** of Indonesia.
- The award recognised the Prime Minister's contribution to strengthening India-Indonesia relations.
- The Prime Minister dedicated the award to the people of India and Indonesia and to their civilisational ties.
- India and Indonesia extended cooperation on **peaceful uses of outer space**.
- An MoU was signed between **CDSO** and **BPOM** on medical products regulation.
- Outcomes included cooperation in **minerals and steel supply chain technology, agriculture and allied sectors, telecommunications, research and innovation**, and **health workforce collaboration**.
- The two sides extended cooperation on **maritime safety and security**.
- **NDMA** and Indonesia's disaster management agency agreed to cooperate on disaster management.
- **Election Commission of India** and Indonesia's **KPU** signed an MoU.
- Defence outcomes included **BrahMos Missile System cooperation** and an **Air-to-Air Missile Cooperation Agreement**.
- Industrial outcomes included a **SAIL-PT Krakatau Steel** strategic joint venture for a stainless-steel slab manufacturing facility in Indonesia.
- India announced assistance for conservation and restoration of the **Prambanan Temple Complex** in Yogyakarta.
- Indonesia will deploy a **Liaison Officer** in **IFC-IOR**.
- India announced supply of **100 tonnes of DWR 162 wheat seeds** to Indonesia.
- The two countries announced the **Tagore-Dewantara Year of Cultural and Educational Diplomacy**.
- An **IIM Bangalore branch campus** will be set up at **Singhasari SEZ, Indonesia**.
- **Indonesia Open Network (ION)** will be launched based on India's **ONDC** architecture.

July 7, 2026

International Relations

Places in News

India-Costa Rica Hold First JETCO Meeting

NEWS ITEM

The **1st India-Costa Rica Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) Meeting** was held virtually on **6-7 July 2026**. Both sides reviewed trade and investment ties and noted that bilateral merchandise trade grew to about **USD 391 million in 2025-26**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **1st India-Costa Rica JETCO Meeting** was held virtually on **6-7 July 2026**.
- It was co-chaired by **Vimal Anand**, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, from India.
- Costa Rica was represented by **Adriana Castro**, General Director of Foreign Trade.
- India-Costa Rica bilateral merchandise trade reached about **USD 391 million in 2025-26**.
- JETCO was established under the **MoU on Economic Cooperation** between India and Costa Rica.
- Areas discussed included standards, accreditation, certification, food safety, pharmaceutical regulation and export certification.
- India highlighted opportunities in **pharmaceuticals, digital technologies, manufacturing and innovation**.
- Costa Rica presented its experience in the **Central American trade integration regime**.
- Both sides agreed to strengthen business-to-business engagement and regular institutional interactions.

July 7, 2026

Environment and Ecology

Places in News

Government Initiative

Mizoram Natural History Museum Becomes India's 21st Designated Repository

NEWS ITEM

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has notified the **Natural History Museum (NHM), Mizoram University, Aizawl**, as India's **21st Designated Repository** under **Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**. The notification was issued on **19 June 2026** based on the recommendation of the **National Biodiversity Authority**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Natural History Museum, Mizoram University, Aizawl** has been notified as India's **21st Designated Repository**.
- It was notified under **Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.
- The notification was issued on **19 June 2026**.
- The recommendation came from the **National Biodiversity Authority**.
- NHM was established in **2022** under **Mizoram University**, a Central University.
- It is located in the **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**.
- It will preserve flora such as **pteridophytes** and **macrofungi**.
- It will preserve fauna such as **reptiles, amphibians, fishes, moths, beetles and butterflies**.
- It will serve as a depository for **type specimens** of newly discovered species from the region.
- Mizoram and the wider North-East region have over **7,500 flowering plant species** and more than **2,000 faunal species**.
- The repository will support documentation of endemic species such as **Leptobranchella tamdil**, a recently described amphibian from Mizoram.
- Before designation, NHM had preserved more than **500 specimens**, including herbarium sheets and wet-preserved collections.

July 7, 2026

Economy

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Kamarajar Port Becomes India's Second Major Port with 18-Metre Draft

NEWS ITEM

Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) has become India's **second Major Port**, after **Visakhapatnam Port**, to offer an operational draft of **18 metres**. This follows the completion of **Capital Dredging Phase VI** with an investment of about **₹440 crore**, enabling the port to handle fully laden **Capesize vessels** of up to **1,70,000 DWT**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Kamarajar Port** has become India's **second Major Port** with **18-metre draft capability**.
- The first Major Port with 18-metre draft capability is **Visakhapatnam Port**.
- Kamarajar Port is located near **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- It is India's first **corporatised Major Port**.
- **Capital Dredging Phase VI** was completed with an investment of about **₹440 crore**.
- The port can now handle fully laden **Capesize vessels** of up to **1,70,000 DWT**.
- The project deepened the outer approach channel from **20 m to 23 m**.
- The inner entrance channel was deepened from **19 m to 22 m**.
- The enhanced draft is expected to reduce logistics costs through economies of scale.
- The achievement supports **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.

July 7, 2026

Education

Government Initiative

IIM Bangalore to Establish Overseas Campus in Indonesia

NEWS ITEM

Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** said that approval for **Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B)** to establish an overseas campus in **Indonesia** marks a new chapter in India's education sector. The proposal was approved by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** during his visit to Indonesia.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **IIM Bangalore** will establish an overseas campus in **Indonesia**.
- The proposal was approved during Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's visit to Indonesia**.
- Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** said it marks a new chapter for India's education sector.
- The campus is linked with India's effort to globalise its knowledge traditions and education system.
- The campus is proposed at **Singhasari SEZ, Indonesia**.
- It is expected to serve students and professionals in the wider **ASEAN region**.

July 7, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Oldest Quasars Found Deepen Early Universe Mystery

NEWS ITEM

Astronomers using the **European Space Agency's Euclid space telescope** have discovered **four ancient quasars**, including two of the oldest ever found. The light from the oldest pair dates back to a time when the universe was only about **670 million years old**, nearly **5% of its current age of 13.8 billion years**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Astronomers discovered **four ancient quasars**, including two among the oldest ever found.
- The discovery used the **Euclid space telescope** of the **European Space Agency**.
- The oldest pair dates to when the universe was about **670 million years old**.
- The current age of the universe is about **13.8 billion years**.
- A **quasar** is a luminous galactic core powered by a **supermassive black hole**.
- Quasars help scientists study the early evolution of galaxies and black holes.
- The discovery deepens the mystery of how massive black holes formed so soon after the Big Bang.
- The study is linked with the early universe period called **cosmic dawn**.
- The findings were published in **Nature Astronomy**.

July 7, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

FDA Approval of Vepdegestrant Marks Major Shift in Cancer Therapy

NEWS ITEM

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** approved **vepdegestrant**, sold as **Veppanu**, for adults with **ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced or metastatic breast cancer** after progression on endocrine therapy. The approval is significant because vepdegestrant is the **first FDA-approved PROTAC-based targeted protein degrader**, a therapy designed to remove disease-causing proteins rather than only block them.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **FDA approved vepdegestrant** on **1 May 2026**.
- Brand name: **Veppanu**.
- It is indicated for adults with **ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced or metastatic breast cancer** after progression on endocrine therapy.
- It is the **first FDA-approved PROTAC-based targeted protein degrader**.
- **PROTAC** stands for **Proteolysis-Targeting Chimera**.
- PROTACs remove target proteins by using the cell's **ubiquitin-proteasome system**.
- Vepdegestrant targets and degrades the **estrogen receptor**.
- **ESR1 mutations** can cause resistance to endocrine therapy in breast cancer.
- The FDA approval was based on the **Phase 3 VERITAC-2 trial**.
- In the ESR1-mutated subgroup, vepdegestrant showed median progression-free survival of about **5.0 months** compared with **2.1 months** for fulvestrant.
- Vepdegestrant is an **oral therapy**, while fulvestrant is given by injection.
- FDA also approved **Guardant360 CDx** as a companion diagnostic to identify ESR1 mutations.

July 6, 2026

History, Art and Culture

Important Days

Personalities in News

Nation Pays Homage to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

NEWS ITEM

The nation paid homage to **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee** on his birth anniversary. The **Ministry of Culture**, in association with the **West Bengal Government**, organised a programme in **Kolkata** as part of the two-year official commemoration of his **125th birth anniversary**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee** was born on **6 July 1901** in Kolkata.
- His death anniversary is observed on **23 June**.
- He founded the **Bharatiya Jana Sangh** in **1951**.
- He served as India's first **Minister for Industry and Supply**.
- He was associated with **Calcutta University** and served as its Vice-Chancellor.
- The Ministry of Culture is observing his **125th birth anniversary** through a two-year commemoration from **2025 to 2027**.
- A programme was organised in **Kolkata** as part of the commemoration.
- A groundbreaking ceremony was planned for a **125-feet statue** of Syama Prasad Mookerjee at **Eco Park, New Town, Kolkata**.

July 6, 2026

International Relations

International Organisations

India to Chair UNCTAD Consumer Protection Session

NEWS ITEM

India will chair the **9th Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy** at **Geneva, Switzerland**, from **6 to 8 July 2026**. The session is being organised by **United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** and will discuss consumer protection priorities such as consumer education, sustainable consumption, product safety, cross-border consumer protection and enforcement in global markets.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India will chair the **9th Session of the IGE on Consumer Protection Law and Policy**.
- The session will be held in **Geneva, Switzerland**, from **6 to 8 July 2026**.
- It is organised by **United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**.
- **Nidhi Khare**, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, will chair the session.
- The IGE is the principal intergovernmental platform for cooperation and dialogue on consumer protection law and policy.
- A major highlight is the launch of the **United Nations Principles for Consumer Product Safety**.
- These Principles were adopted by the **UN General Assembly** in **December 2025**.
- India will participate in a high-level fireside chat titled **"Why the Principles Matter."**
- Key themes include consumer information and education, sustainable consumption, enforcement in global markets and cross-border consumer protection.
- UNCTAD was established in **1964** and is headquartered in **Geneva**.
- Important UNCTAD reports include **World Investment Report, Trade and Development Report, Digital Economy Report, Technology and Innovation Report, Least Developed Countries Report** and **Review of Maritime Transport**.

July 6, 2026

Health

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Over 104 Crore Health Records Linked to ABHA Accounts

NEWS ITEM

The government said that over **104 crore health records** have been linked to more than **93 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)** accounts. This is a major step towards creating a connected digital public health ecosystem under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Over **104 crore health records** have been linked to over **93 crore ABHA accounts**.
- **ABHA** is a **14-digit unique health identifier**.
- ABHA is part of the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**.
- ABHA helps connect individuals with doctors, hospitals, labs, insurers and other digital health services.
- Health records linked to ABHA can include prescriptions, lab reports, discharge summaries and treatment history.
- ABDM aims to create fully digital health records for citizens across India.
- Data sharing under ABHA is based on user consent.

July 6, 2026

Economy

Places in News

J&K Exports First Shipment of Premium Cherries and Plums to UAE

NEWS ITEM

APEDA facilitated the first-ever export shipment of premium **Areko Cherries** and **Scentrose Plums** from **Jammu and Kashmir** to the **United Arab Emirates**. The shipment was sourced from farmers in **Shopian** and **Pulwama** and sent to **Abu Dhabi** and **Dubai**, opening new international market opportunities for J&K's horticulture sector.

PRELIMS FACTS

- APEDA facilitated the first export shipment of **Areko Cherries** and **Scentrose Plums** from **Jammu and Kashmir** to the **UAE**.
- The shipment was sent to **Abu Dhabi** and **Dubai**.
- The consignment comprised **one metric tonne** of premium stone fruits.
- The fruits were sourced from farmers in **Shopian** and **Pulwama** districts.
- **Areko Cherries** are described as **High-Density European Sweet Cherries**.
- The virtual flag-off ceremony was led by **APEDA Chairman Abhishek Dev**.
- Growers linked with the export supply chain realised nearly **60% higher returns for cherries** and **120% higher returns for plums** compared to domestic market prices.
- J&K exported more than **6.37 lakh metric tonnes** of fruits during **2024-25**.
- The fruit export turnover of J&K during 2024-25 exceeded **₹3,100 crore**.
- APEDA works under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

July 6, 2026

History, Art and Culture

Places in News

PM Modi to Visit Prambanan Temple in Indonesia

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will visit **Prambanan Temple** in **Yogyakarta, Indonesia**, with the Indonesian President on **8 July 2026**. The visit highlights India-Indonesia civilisational ties through shared heritage, temple architecture, the Ramayana tradition and ongoing conservation cooperation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Prambanan Temple** is located in **Yogyakarta, Java, Indonesia**.
- It was built in the **9th century**.
- It is Indonesia's **largest Hindu temple complex**.
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- The temple complex is dedicated mainly to **Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma**.
- The complex originally had around **240 temples**.
- Its stone reliefs depict scenes from the **Ramayana**.
- The **Ramayana Ballet** continues to keep the epic alive in Indonesian culture.
- **ASI** is cooperating with Indonesian authorities for conservation of smaller temples in the complex.

July 6, 2026

Health

Important Days

World Zoonoses Day 2026

NEWS ITEM

World Zoonoses Day 2026 was observed globally on **6 July** to raise awareness about **zoonotic diseases**, which spread between animals and humans. Union Health Minister **J.P. Nadda** highlighted India's **One Health approach** and the role of the **Centre for One Health under NCDC** in strengthening surveillance, prevention, early detection and response against such diseases.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **World Zoonoses Day** is observed every year on **6 July**.
- It commemorates the first successful **rabies vaccination by Louis Pasteur in 1885**.
- **Zoonotic diseases** spread between animals and humans.
- **One Health** links human, animal, plant and environmental health.
- **Centre for One Health** works under the **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)**.

July 6, 2026

Economy

Government Initiative

Five Years of Sahkar Se Samriddhi

NEWS ITEM

The **Ministry of Cooperation** completed five years since its formation on **6 July 2021** under the vision of **Sahkar Se Samriddhi**. On its 5th Foundation Day, the Ministry converted **50,000 PACS into e-PACS**, laid foundation stones for **47 grain storage godowns**, and launched digital tools such as **Milk Supply Review Dashboard**, **Sahakar CBS** and **Sahakar Sahyogi** to strengthen cooperatives, rural infrastructure, dairy, banking and livelihoods.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Ministry of Cooperation** was established on **6 July 2021**.
- Its guiding vision is **Sahkar Se Samriddhi**.
- On the 5th Foundation Day, **50,000 PACS** were converted into **e-PACS**.
- Foundation stones were laid for **47 grain storage godowns**.
- **Milk Supply Review Dashboard** was launched for **National Dairy Development Board**.
- **Sahakar CBS** and **Sahakar Sahyogi** were launched for **Urban Cooperative Banks**.
- The Ministry has implemented **over 152 reform initiatives** since its formation.
- **White Revolution 2.0** aims to increase milk procurement by **50% by 2028-29**.
- **Bharat Taxi** is India's first cooperative-based mobility platform.

July 6, 2026

Defence and Security

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Indian Navy to Commission Project 17A Stealth Frigate Mahendragiri

NEWS ITEM

The Indian Navy will commission its sixth **Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate, Mahendragiri (F38)**, at **Visakhapatnam** on **11 July 2026**. The ship has been designed by the Indian Navy's **Warship Design Bureau** and built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited**, Mumbai.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Mahendragiri (F38)** will be commissioned at **Visakhapatnam** on **11 July 2026**.
- It is the **sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate** of the Indian Navy.
- It was designed by the Indian Navy's **Warship Design Bureau**.
- It was built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited**, Mumbai.
- Mahendragiri is named after the **Mahendragiri mountain range in the Eastern Ghats**.
- It is the first Indian Naval warship to bear the name **Mahendragiri**.
- Its motto is **"Mighty-Majestic-Matchless."**
- Project 17A frigates are also known as **Nilgiri-class frigates**.
- Project 17A is the follow-on class of the earlier **Project 17 Shivalik-class frigates**.
- Mahendragiri is powered by **Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG)** propulsion.
- The project has around **75% indigenous content** and supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.
- Project 17A ships strengthen India's maritime capability in the **Indian Ocean Region** and the **Indo-Pacific**.

July 6, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

ISRO Tests SOLVE Motor for Gaganyaan Mission

NEWS ITEM

ISRO successfully conducted the first ground test of the solid motor-based **Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments (SOLVE)** at the **Static Test Facility, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**, on **3 July 2026**. SOLVE will be used to validate the **Gaganyaan crew module's parachute-based deceleration system** under different test conditions.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ISRO conducted the first ground test of **SOLVE** on **3 July 2026**.
- The test was conducted at the **Static Test Facility, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.
- SOLVE stands for **Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments**.
- SOLVE is a solid motor-based platform for **Gaganyaan test missions**.
- It will be used for **Integrated Parachute Tests** of the Gaganyaan crew module.
- In SOLVE test missions, the crew module will be carried to an altitude of **10 km to 17 km** and then separated.
- A series of **10 parachutes** will reduce the crew module's velocity before sea splashdown.
- SOLVE's solid stage is derived from the **PSLV strap-on motor**.
- Key modifications include **slow burn-rate propellant** and **secondary injection thrust vector control**.
- ISRO stated that motor performance parameters were as expected.
- ISRO has also carried out **IADT-02** and **Mission MITRA** for Gaganyaan.

July 5, 2026

History, Art and Culture

Awards & Honours

Obituaries

Personalities in News

Pandavani Legend Teejan Bai Passes Away

NEWS ITEM

President **Droupadi Murmu**, Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** and Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** expressed grief over the demise of renowned **Pandavani** singer **Teejan Bai**. They highlighted her role in bringing the Mahabharata-based folk tradition of **Chhattisgarh** to national and global recognition.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Teejan Bai** was a renowned **Pandavani** singer from **Chhattisgarh**.
- Pandavani narrates stories from the **Mahabharata** through singing, narration and performance.
- Teejan Bai was known for popularising the **Kapalik style** of Pandavani.
- She received **Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan** and **Padma Vibhushan**.
- She was awarded **Padma Vibhushan in 2019** in the field of Art.
- President **Droupadi Murmu**, Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** and Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** paid tributes to her.

July 5, 2026

Science and Technology

Awards & Honours

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

ICMR-MINDS Wins Gold at e-Governance Awards

NEWS ITEM

ICMR-MINDS, a flagship digital mental healthcare initiative of the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, won the **Gold Award** at the **National Awards for e-Governance 2026**. It was awarded under the category **Innovation by Use of AI and Other New Age Technologies for Providing Citizen-Centric Services**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **ICMR-MINDS** won the **Gold Award** at the **National Awards for e-Governance 2026**.
- The award was presented by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- ICMR-MINDS is a **National Health Research Priority** project.
- It integrates screening and management of mental and substance use disorders with other **non-communicable diseases**.
- Its **AI-enabled CDSS** supports mental health screening, assessment, follow-up and routine management by trained non-specialist frontline healthcare providers.
- It is being implemented across seven States through seven collaborating institutions.
- Collaborating institutions include **AIIMS Guwahati, Gujarat Institute of Mental Health, Ahmedabad, AIIMS New Delhi, St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru, AIIMS Bhopal, AIIMS Bhubaneswar** and **PGIMER Chandigarh**.

July 5, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

GLM-5.2 and China's AI Catch-Up Race

NEWS ITEM

China-based **Z.ai** released **GLM-5.2**, its most advanced large language model, along with **ZCode**, an AI coding assistant. Researchers cited in the report said the model can seriously challenge leading U.S. systems in specialised coding and cybersecurity tasks, though it still trails top models in broader reasoning and general-purpose tasks.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **GLM-5.2** is an advanced AI model released by China-based **Z.ai**.
- **Z.ai** was co-founded by **Tang Jie**.
- GLM-5.2 was released as an **open-weight model**.
- Open-weight models can be downloaded and run by developers on their own hardware.
- **ZCode** is Z.ai's AI coding assistant introduced alongside GLM-5.2.
- Researchers cited in the report said GLM-5.2 can challenge leading U.S. systems in specialised coding and cybersecurity tasks.
- The report says GLM-5.2 still trails top U.S. models in broader reasoning and general-purpose tasks.
- Chinese AI companies face constraints due to U.S. restrictions on advanced semiconductor hardware.
- The rise of GLM-5.2 is being compared by some developers to a **DeepSeek moment** for China's open-source AI ecosystem.

July 5, 2026

Science and Technology

International Organisations

Science & Technology

Infrastructure

CERN's LHC Upgrade and Future Collider Debate

NEWS ITEM

CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC) has entered a four-year shutdown for a major upgrade costing about **\$1.5 billion**, which will convert it into the **High-Luminosity LHC**. The upgrade aims to increase collision data and improve chances of detecting rare physics signals, while CERN also debates whether to build the much larger **Future Circular Collider**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **CERN** is the European Organization for Nuclear Research.
- **Large Hadron Collider** is CERN's flagship particle collider.
- The LHC discovered the **Higgs boson** in **2012**.
- The LHC has entered a four-year shutdown for an upgrade costing about **\$1.5 billion**.
- The upgraded machine will be called the **High-Luminosity LHC**.
- The upgrade aims to increase the number of collisions, not primarily the collision energy.
- The LHC is expected to run until around **2041**.
- The proposed **Future Circular Collider** involves a **91-km** tunnel.
- A build-or-abandon decision on the FCC is expected around **2028**.
- The current cost estimate for the FCC is about **\$19 billion**.
- A possible later FCC proton machine could reach around **100 TeV**.
- The Standard Model cannot fully explain dark matter, dark energy and matter-antimatter imbalance.

July 5, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Webb Finds Atmosphere Around Planet Orbiting Dead Star

NEWS ITEM

Using the **James Webb Space Telescope**, scientists detected an atmosphere around **WD 1856 b**, a Jupiter-sized exoplanet orbiting a **white dwarf** star. The atmosphere shows signs of hydrocarbons and aerosol clouds, suggesting that some planets can survive and continue evolving even after their host star dies.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **WD 1856 b** is a Jupiter-sized exoplanet orbiting a **white dwarf** star.
- The atmosphere was studied using the **James Webb Space Telescope**.
- The atmosphere shows signs of **hydrocarbons** and **aerosol clouds**.
- This is significant because it shows that planets can survive after their host stars become white dwarfs.
- The planet was hotter than expected, possibly due to **tidal heating** after it moved inward.
- The finding helps scientists study the long-term fate of planetary systems, including systems around Sun-like stars after stellar death.

July 5, 2026

International Relations

Places in News

Personalities in News

SCOTUS Upholds Birthright Citizenship

NEWS ITEM

The **Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS)** upheld **birthright citizenship** under the **14th Amendment** and struck down President **Donald Trump's Executive Order 14160**, which sought to deny automatic citizenship to certain children born in the U.S. to non-citizen parents. The ruling reaffirmed that children born on U.S. soil are citizens at birth, except narrow traditional exceptions such as children of foreign diplomats and invading forces.

PRELIMS FACTS

- SCOTUS ruled on **30 June 2026** on birthright citizenship.
- The Court struck down President Trump's **Executive Order 14160**.
- The ruling upheld birthright citizenship under the **14th Amendment**.
- The 14th Amendment was ratified in **1868**.
- The Citizenship Clause covers persons born or naturalised in the U.S. and subject to its jurisdiction.
- Traditional exceptions include children of foreign diplomats and invading forces.
- **Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)** denied citizenship to Black people.
- **Civil Rights Act, 1866** declared birth-based citizenship with limited exceptions.
- **United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898)** is a key precedent for birthright citizenship.
- Trump's order had sought to deny citizenship documents to some children born after **February 19, 2025** to parents unlawfully or temporarily present in the U.S.

July 5, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Caged vs Open Frontier AI Models

NEWS ITEM

An article examined whether **closed or "caged" frontier AI models** from U.S. companies can continue to lead when **open-weight AI models** from China and other countries are becoming cheaper, powerful and widely accessible. It discussed Anthropic's temporary restriction of its model **Fable**, OpenAI's controlled release approach, and the rise of open models from firms such as **DeepSeek** and **Z.ai**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Anthropic** released its advanced AI model **Fable** generally, but soon suspended paid-user access over safety concerns.
- Anthropic later reopened **Fable** in a trimmed version called **Mythos** to limited users.
- **OpenAI** avoided similar disruption with **GPT-5.6** by restricting access from the outset to a government-vetted user list.
- The U.S. Commerce Department classified some advanced AI models as **dual-use cyber tools**.
- The article mentions concerns over **guardrail bypass**, **model distillation**, and misuse of advanced models for cyber purposes.
- **DeepSeek** showed that Chinese AI models could approach U.S. frontier performance at lower cost.
- **Z.ai** released an open-weight model that reportedly scored close to Anthropic's best model on a coding benchmark.
- The article argues that export controls work better on scarce hardware than on freely released software.
- Japan's **Sakana AI** and European AI sovereignty investments are cited as signs that countries want to reduce dependence on U.S. frontier models.

July 5, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

New CAR T-cell Therapy Shows Promise Against Solid Tumours

NEWS ITEM

Researchers have developed a promising new **CAR T-cell therapy** for rare solid tumours, including **alveolar soft-part sarcoma (ASPS)** and some kidney cancers. The therapy targets a protein called **GNMB**, which was found to be consistently present on these tumour cells.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Researchers developed a new **GNMB-targeting CAR T-cell therapy** for rare solid tumours.
- The therapy is being studied for **alveolar soft-part sarcoma (ASPS)** and some kidney cancers.
- **GNMB** was found to be consistently expressed on the relevant tumour cells.
- One patient with advanced ASPS reportedly had stable disease for **three months**.
- Several smaller tumours disappeared in that patient.
- The therapy was reported to be well tolerated in the case mentioned.
- Combining CAR T-cell therapy with **immune checkpoint blockers** may help overcome treatment resistance.
- The finding is promising but still early-stage; it does not mean the therapy is already a standard cure.

July 4, 2026

International Relations

Places in News

Personalities in News

PM Modi Congratulates Keiko Fujimori

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** congratulated **Keiko Fujimori** on her victory in the **Peruvian Presidential elections**. He said India values its close friendship with **Peru** and remains committed to strengthening bilateral cooperation across diverse sectors.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** congratulated **Keiko Fujimori** on her victory in the **Peruvian Presidential elections**.
- **Peru** is located in **South America**.
- India expressed commitment to strengthening its bilateral partnership with Peru across diverse sectors.
- The Prime Minister wished Keiko Fujimori a successful tenure.

July 4, 2026

Economy

Important Days

Government Initiative

International Day of Cooperatives 2026

NEWS ITEM

Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** and Union Minister of Cooperation **Amit Shah** extended greetings on the **International Day of Cooperatives**. They highlighted the role of cooperatives in empowering farmers, women, small entrepreneurs and workers, and linked the sector with **Sahakar Se Samridhhi** and **Viksit Bharat @ 2047**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **International Day of Cooperatives** is observed on the **first Saturday of July**.
- In **2026**, it was observed on **04 July**.
- Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** and Union Minister of Cooperation **Amit Shah** extended greetings on the occasion.
- The 2026 UN theme is **"Cooperatives for a Peaceful World."**
- The cooperative sector was linked with **Sahakar Se Samridhhi** and **Viksit Bharat @ 2047**.
- Initiatives mentioned include **Cooperative University**, modern training centres and empowerment of cooperative institutions in emerging sectors.

July 4, 2026

History, Art and Culture

Important Days

Personalities in News

Tributes Paid to Swami Vivekananda

NEWS ITEM

Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** and Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** paid tributes to **Swami Vivekananda** on his death anniversary. They highlighted his role in spreading India's culture, spirituality, civilisational consciousness and message of service, character and nation-building.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Swami Vivekananda's death anniversary** is observed on **4 July**.
- He was born on **12 January 1863** as **Narendranath Datta**.
- He was a disciple of **Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa**.
- He represented India at the **World's Parliament of Religions, Chicago, 1893**.
- He founded the **Ramakrishna Mission** in **1897**.
- His birth anniversary, **12 January**, is observed as **National Youth Day** in India.
- Prime Minister Modi said Vivekananda's ideas continue to guide youth and support the vision of **Viksit Bharat**.

July 4, 2026

International Relations

International Organisations

Government Initiative

India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement Enters Force

NEWS ITEM

The **Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)** between **India and Israel** came into force on **04 July 2026**. Signed in **New Delhi** in September 2025, the agreement aims to strengthen bilateral economic relations and create a secure, predictable and investor-friendly investment climate.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement** came into force on **04 July 2026**.
- It was signed on **08 September 2025** in **New Delhi**.
- The agreement was signed by India's Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and Israel's Finance Minister **Bezalel Smotrich**.
- The BIA aims to provide a secure and predictable investment climate.
- It seeks to protect investments and investors while preserving sovereign policy space for legitimate public policy objectives.
- It provides for minimum standard of treatment and an independent dispute resolution mechanism through arbitration.
- The agreement includes safeguards against expropriation, transparency-related provisions, smooth transfers and compensation for losses.
- It is expected to increase cross-border investment activity and deepen India-Israel economic partnership.

July 4, 2026

International Relations

Important Days

Places in News

PM Modi Greets U.S. on 250th Independence Anniversary

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** congratulated U.S. President **Donald J. Trump** and the people of the **United States** on the historic **250th anniversary of American Independence**. He highlighted that India-U.S. relations are rooted in shared values of democracy, rule of law and faith in the potential of their people.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** congratulated President **Donald J. Trump** and the American people on the **250th anniversary of U.S. independence**.
- The United States observes **Independence Day** on **4 July**.
- The **Declaration of Independence** was adopted in **1776**.
- The declaration was adopted by representatives of the original **thirteen American colonies**.
- **Thomas Jefferson** was the principal drafter of the Declaration of Independence.
- The **American Revolution** broadly lasted from **1775 to 1783**.
- The **Treaty of Paris, 1783** ended the American Revolution and recognised U.S. independence.
- The Prime Minister highlighted democracy, rule of law and people's potential as shared foundations of India-U.S. friendship.

July 4, 2026

Economy

Places in News

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

PM Launches ₹1.06 Lakh Crore Projects in Rajasthan

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated, inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth around **₹1.06 lakh crore** at **Balotra, Rajasthan**. The projects cover energy, petrochemicals, aviation, metro connectivity, roads, railways, renewable energy, power transmission and water supply.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The event was held at **Balotra, Rajasthan** on **04 July 2026**.
- Projects worth around **₹1.06 lakh crore** were dedicated, inaugurated or had foundation stones laid.
- **Rajasthan Refinery** is located at **Pachpadra in Balotra district**.
- The projects cover sectors such as petrochemicals, urban transport, aviation, railways, roads, renewable energy and power transmission.
- A new terminal building at **Jodhpur Airport** was inaugurated.
- A modified phase of the **UDAN** regional air connectivity scheme was launched.
- The foundation stone was laid for **Jaipur Metro Phase 2**.
- Rajasthan and Haryana agreed to work on water supply to **Shekhawati** through an underground pipeline from **Hathnikund Barrage**.
- Beneficiary districts mentioned for the Shekhawati water plan include **Sikar, Churu and Jhunjhunu**.
- Renewable energy initiatives mentioned include solar parks, rooftop solar under **PM Surya Ghar** and solar pumps under **PM-KUSUM**.
- **Khejri** was highlighted as an ecologically important tree in desert regions.

July 4, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

CG Semi OSAT Facility Inaugurated in Sanand

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility** at **Sanand, Gujarat**. The facility marks a major step in India's semiconductor journey by starting commercial chip packaging and testing and strengthening India's position in the global semiconductor value chain.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **CG Semi OSAT facility** at **Sanand, Gujarat** on **04 July 2026**.
- **OSAT** stands for **Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test**.
- The facility begins commercial chip packaging and testing operations.
- The Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone of the project in **2024**.
- Chip testing at the facility started by **August 2025**, as mentioned in the official release.
- The facility is linked with industrial partners from **India, Japan and Thailand**.
- The current stated production capacity is **20 crore units per year**.
- The future target mentioned is **500 crore units per year**.
- **Sanand** is emerging as a semiconductor cluster with companies such as **Micron, Kaynes** and **CG Semi**.
- India's semiconductor strategy aims to cover **design, fabrication, assembly, testing and packaging**.
- The Prime Minister described the semiconductor push as the next stage of India's electronics manufacturing growth: products, then components, and now semiconductors.
- The facility is expected to support sectors such as **AI, robotics and next-generation technologies**.

July 4, 2026

Environment and Ecology

Places in News

Species & Environment

Government Initiative

Tiger Population Rises Fourfold in Nameri Tiger Reserve

NEWS ITEM

The tiger population in **Nameri Tiger Reserve** in Assam increased from **3 tigers in the 2022 All India Tiger Estimation** to **12 tigers by end-2025**, as validated by the **Wildlife Institute of India**. The recovery also includes the return of tigers to **Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary** after more than two decades.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Nameri Tiger Reserve** is located in **Assam**.
- Nameri's area mentioned in the report is **344 sq km**.
- Nameri shares a boundary with **Pakke Tiger Reserve** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Assam has four tiger reserves: **Nameri, Kaziranga, Manas** and **Orang**.
- **Kaziranga** and **Manas** are **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.
- Nameri's tiger population increased from **3 in the 2022 AITE** to **12 by end-2025**.
- The 2025-end estimate was validated by the **Wildlife Institute of India**.
- Tigers returned to **Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary** after more than two decades.
- **Sonai Rupai** had seen local extinction of tigers in the early 2000s.
- **Kaziranga** is noted for one of the highest tiger densities in India.

July 4, 2026

Economy

Places in News

Government Initiative

Assam Estate Sells India's First Commercial Matcha Tea

NEWS ITEM

An Assam tea estate sold India's first commercially produced **matcha tea** at the **Guwahati Tea Auction Centre**. The first batch of **5 kg** came from **Chota Tingrai Tea Estate** in Tinsukia district and was bought by Guwahati-based **Sheosons Chai Co**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's first commercially produced **matcha tea** was sold by an estate in **Assam**.
- The tea came from **Chota Tingrai Tea Estate** in **Tinsukia district**.
- The first batch weighed **5 kg**.
- It was sold at the **Guwahati Tea Auction Centre**.
- The auction was conducted by **J. Thomas & Co. Pvt. Ltd.**
- The buyer was Guwahati-based **Sheosons Chai Co**.
- The premium fetched was **₹3,000 per kg**.
- Matcha is made from shade-grown **Camellia sinensis** leaves.

July 4, 2026

Environment and Ecology

Indexes & Reports

Government Schemes

Infrastructure

Building Water Security in a Drying India

NEWS ITEM

An editorial highlighted India's worsening **water stress**, with cities such as Bengaluru, Delhi and Mussoorie facing severe water shortages. It argued that India cannot depend only on monsoon rainfall and must invest in climate-proof water systems, wastewater reuse, efficient irrigation, better urban finance and reliable river-basin-level water data.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The editorial was written by **Nitin Bassi**, Fellow at the **Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)**.
- India has about **4% of global water resources** and supports nearly **18% of the world's population**.
- **Water stress** threshold: annual water availability below **1,700 cubic metres per person**.
- **Water scarcity** threshold: annual water availability below **1,000 cubic metres per person**.
- **11 of 15 major river basins** in India are experiencing water stress.
- Basins mentioned below the scarcity threshold include **Krishna, Cauvery, Mahi and Tapi**.
- Delhi's water supply was stated to have fallen to around **70%** of total demand of **1,250 million gallons per day**.
- A **UNU-INWEH** report warned of global water bankruptcy.
- Nearly **three-fourths of the global population** lives in water-insecure countries.
- The editorial suggests climate risk assessment, water reuse, efficient irrigation and basin-level water data as key reforms.
- CEEW analysis estimated that treated wastewater sale could create an economic opportunity of **₹3 lakh crore** and **1,00,000 additional jobs by 2047**.
- **Urban Challenge Fund** has central assistance of **₹1 lakh crore** and supports Cities as Growth Hubs, Creative Redevelopment of Cities, and Water and Sanitation.
- Under UCF, the Centre can finance up to **25%** of the cost of bankable projects, with significant funding expected from market sources such as bonds, bank loans and PPPs.

July 3, 2026

Science and Technology

Places in News

Species & Environment

Science & Technology

700-Year-Old Banyan Scientifically Dated in Munger

NEWS ITEM

A banyan tree in **Munger, Bihar** has been scientifically dated to around **700 years** using **radiocarbon dating**. The finding identifies it as the oldest accurately dated **banyan tree**, based on scientific evidence rather than folklore or local traditions.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The banyan tree is located in **Munger, Bihar**.
- Its estimated age is around **700 years**.
- The species identified is **Ficus benghalensis**.
- The study used **radiocarbon dating** with **Accelerator Mass Spectrometry**.
- The research was led by **Dr. Trina Bose** of the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences**.
- The study was published in **Quaternary Research**.
- The finding suggests that the tree may be a surviving remnant of an older natural forest in the area.

July 3, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Vikram-1 Set for India's First Private Orbital Launch

NEWS ITEM

Skyroot Aerospace announced the launch window for **Vikram-1**, India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket, under **Mission Aagaman**. The test flight is targeted no earlier than **July 12, 2026**, with the window extending till **August 4, 2026**, from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Vikram-1** is India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket.
- It has been developed by **Skyroot Aerospace**, a Hyderabad-based private space company.
- Vikram-1's first test flight is named **Mission Aagaman**.
- The launch window is from **July 12 to August 4, 2026**.
- The launch is planned from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.
- Vikram-1 follows the successful suborbital flight of **Vikram-S** on **November 18, 2022**.
- The test flight will gather data on propulsion, stage separation, guidance, navigation, control and overall vehicle performance.
- All stages of Vikram-1 have been integrated and stacked at the launch pad.

July 3, 2026

Polity and Governance

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Nagaland Gets First UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra

NEWS ITEM

Nagaland's first **UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra** was inaugurated at **Purana Bazaar, Dimapur** by Advisor for Tribal Affairs and Election **H. Tovihoto Ayemi**. The centre will provide Aadhaar enrolment and update services, with capacity to process up to **250 requests daily**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Nagaland's first **UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra** was opened at **Purana Bazaar, Dimapur**.
- It was inaugurated by **H. Tovihoto Ayemi**, Advisor for Tribal Affairs and Election.
- The centre can process up to **250 enrolment and update requests daily**.
- Biometric update service will remain free of cost until **September 30**.
- The centre will remain open on all days except public holidays.

July 3, 2026

Science and Technology

Places in News

Science & Technology

Infrastructure

I-2SEA Submarine Cable to Link India and Southeast Asia

NEWS ITEM

A consortium comprising **Lightstorm, Microsoft, Singtel** and **Tata Communications** has unveiled the **I-2SEA submarine cable system** to connect India, Malaysia and Singapore. The project is designed to support rising demand from AI, cloud, hyperscale and GPU infrastructure users across the India-Southeast Asia corridor.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **I-2SEA** is a proposed submarine cable system linking **India, Malaysia and Singapore**.
- The consortium includes **Lightstorm, Microsoft, Singtel** and **Tata Communications**.
- It will connect India's east coast with **Singapore** and **Kuala Lumpur**.
- Indian landing points include **Machilipatnam** and a new diverse landing location in **South Chennai**.
- **NEC Corporation** has been appointed as the system supplier.
- **ASEAN Cables (ACPL)** is the marine installation partner.
- The cable system is targeted to be ready-for-service in **Q4 2029**.
- The estimated cable length from Singapore to Machilipatnam is around **3,600 km**.

July 3, 2026

Economy

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Maruti Suzuki's Fourth Plant Inaugurated at Kharkhoda

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Japanese Prime Minister **Sanae Takaichi** inaugurated **Maruti Suzuki's fourth vehicle manufacturing facility** at **Kharkhoda, Haryana** during the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum. The plant is expected to strengthen India's automobile manufacturing capacity and India-Japan industrial cooperation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The plant is located at **Kharkhoda, Haryana**.
- It is **Maruti Suzuki's fourth vehicle manufacturing facility** in India.
- The inauguration took place during the **India-Japan Joint Economic Forum**.
- The plant's capacity will be expanded from **5 lakh units** to **10 lakh units** annually.
- The projected total investment at the facility is **₹35,000 crore**.
- Suzuki cars made in India are exported to more than **100 countries**.

July 3, 2026

Defence and Security

Operations & Missions

Government Initiative

Sarla Bhat Case Chargesheet After 36 Years

NEWS ITEM

The **Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA)** filed a chargesheet in the 1990 killing of Kashmiri Pandit nurse **Sarla Bhat**, who worked at **SKIMS, Srinagar**. The chargesheet names **JKLF chief Yasin Malik** among five accused and is being viewed as a milestone in reopening legacy terror cases in Jammu and Kashmir.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Sarla Bhat** was a 27-year-old Kashmiri Pandit nurse at **SKIMS, Srinagar**.
- She was abducted in April **1990** and later killed during the peak of militancy in Kashmir.
- The **J&K State Investigation Agency** filed a chargesheet after nearly **36 years**.
- The chargesheet names **Yasin Malik** among five accused.
- Only two of the five accused mentioned in the report are alive.
- The chargesheet is reportedly **737 pages** long.
- The case is being viewed as a landmark in investigating legacy terror crimes in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Yasin Malik is already in **Tihar Jail** in connection with other terror funding-related convictions.

July 3, 2026

Polity and Governance

Places in News

Government Initiative

Temple Donations and Governance Models

NEWS ITEM

A report on the **Ram Temple donation row** explained how major Indian temples manage donations and why their governance systems differ. It showed that most major temples follow similar donation-handling safeguards, but operate under different models such as trusts, statutory boards, Devaswom boards, State departments, mahant-led systems and traditional community-based arrangements.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The report was linked to the **Ram Temple donation row** and examined donation management in major Indian temples.
- Common donation safeguards include authorised opening of hundis, CCTV-monitored counting, separation of cash and valuables, official documentation, audit and bank deposit.
- Approximate annual donations cited in the report include **Tirupati ₹1,880 crore, Vaishno Devi ₹230 crore, Ram Temple ₹150 crore, Siddhivinayak ₹100 crore, Kashi Vishwanath ₹80 crore** and **Puri Jagannath ₹18 crore**.
- **Ram Temple, Ayodhya** follows a trust model under **Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust**.
- **Tirupati** is managed by **Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams**, and its donation counting is associated with the **Parakamani system**.
- **Vaishno Devi** is managed under the **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act, 1988**.
- **Kashi Vishwanath Temple** is governed under the **Uttar Pradesh Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act**.
- **Jagannath Temple, Puri** functions under the **Shri Jagannath Temple Act**.
- **Tamil Nadu HR&CE Department** administers over **40,000 temples** under the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.
- **Travancore Devaswom Board**, constituted in 1950, manages several temples in Kerala, including **Sabarimala**.
- Traditional temple management models include **family management, mahant system** and **akhada/panchayati system**.
- **Article 25(2)** permits State regulation of secular activities associated with religious practice.

July 2, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

India's First PinS Procedure for Helicopter Operations

NEWS ITEM

India has approved its first **Private Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedure** for helicopter operations at **Undavalli Heliport**. Developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and approved by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**, it enables safer satellite-based approaches where conventional landing infrastructure is absent.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's first private **PinS Instrument Approach Procedure** has been approved for **Undavalli Heliport**.
- It was developed by **AAI** and approved by **DGCA**.
- PinS uses satellite-based navigation for helicopter instrument approaches.
- It is useful where conventional landing infrastructure or ground-based navigation aids are unavailable.

July 2, 2026

Environment and Ecology

Government Schemes

Science & Technology

Infrastructure

ACME Signs Green Ammonia and Methanol Offtake Deals with Japan

NEWS ITEM

Under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, **ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited** signed long-term offtake agreements with Japanese companies for green hydrogen derivatives. It will supply **405 kTPA green ammonia** to **IHI Corporation** and **100 kTPA green methanol** to **Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company** from its Paradip facility.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The agreements were signed at **Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- **ACME Group** signed long-term offtake agreements with **IHI Corporation** for green ammonia and **Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company** for green methanol.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission** was approved in January 2023 with an outlay of **₹19,744 crore**.
- **SIGHT Programme** provides financial support for production through bidding conducted by **SECI**.
- ACME Group has been awarded **370 kTPA** production capacity under the SIGHT Programme.
- ACME will supply **405 kTPA green ammonia** to IHI Corporation.
- ACME will supply **100 kTPA green methanol** to Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company under a **10-year agreement** from its **Paradip facility**.
- Japan's **METI** administers the CfD scheme supporting low-carbon ammonia.

July 2, 2026

Defence and Security

International Organisations

Places in News

Operations & Missions

Indian Navy Ships Reach Changi Naval Base, Singapore

NEWS ITEM

Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet ships **Udaygiri, Kavaratti and Shakti** reached **Changi Naval Base, Singapore**, as part of their operational deployment in South East Asia. The visit aims to strengthen India-Singapore naval cooperation through professional interactions, cross-deck visits and discussions on shared maritime interests.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet ships **Udaygiri, Kavaratti and Shakti** reached **Changi Naval Base, Singapore**.
- The ships arrived on **01 July 2026** as part of the Indian Navy's operational deployment in South East Asia.
- The deployment is linked with India's **Act East Policy**, **MAHASAGAR** vision and **ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation 2026**.
- During the port call, the ships will engage with the **Republic of Singapore Navy** through professional interactions, cross-deck visits and discussions on maritime issues.
- The visit aims to promote collective maritime security, regional cooperation and interoperability.

July 2, 2026

International Relations

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

India-Japan Energy Resilience Partnership

NEWS ITEM

India and Japan agreed to deepen cooperation on **strategic crude oil stockpiling**, petroleum reserve mechanisms and maritime energy transport value chains. The agreement followed summit-level talks between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Japanese Prime Minister **Sanae Takaichi** in New Delhi.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India and Japan issued a **Joint Statement on Energy Resilience** on **02 July 2026**.
- The statement followed talks between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Japanese Prime Minister **Sanae Takaichi** in **New Delhi**.
- The partnership covers strategic crude oil stockpiling, petroleum reserve mechanisms and maritime energy transport value chains.
- Cooperation will include national stockpiling systems, industry stockpiles, coordination with producing countries, emergency response and market stabilisation.
- Indian stakeholders include **Indian National Oil Companies** and **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL)**.
- Japanese stakeholders include **JOGMEC** and **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**.

July 2, 2026 Economy Awards & Honours Government Initiative

MPEDA Holds Seafood Skill Olympiad Finale in Kochi

NEWS ITEM

The **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)** concluded the second **National Skill Olympiad on Seafood Value Addition** during **Seafood Expo Bharat 2026** in **Kochi**. The event tested the skills of ten trained seafood processing professionals in preparing value-added seafood products for export markets.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The grand finale of the second **National Skill Olympiad on Seafood Value Addition** was held during **Seafood Expo Bharat 2026** in **Kochi**.
- The event was organised by **MPEDA**.
- **P. Surya Bhaskar** of **Devi Fisheries Limited, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh** won the competition and received **₹1 lakh**.
- **Muthu Kumaran** of **Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu** secured the second position.
- **Sagarika Sardar** of **Kolkata** and **Barasarani Jena** of **Bhubaneswar** secured the third and fourth positions respectively.
- Before the finale, MPEDA trained over **2,500 seafood processing workers** through **50 training programmes** across India's east and west coasts.

July 2, 2026 Polity and Governance Awards & Honours Science & Technology Government Initiative

29th National e-Governance Conference Concludes in Jaipur

NEWS ITEM

The **29th National e-Governance Conference** concluded in **Jaipur** with the presentation of the **National e-Governance Awards**. The conference focused on digital governance, emerging technologies and better use of technology in public service delivery.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **29th National e-Governance Conference** was held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
- The conference concluded with the presentation of the **National e-Governance Awards**.
- The awards recognise outstanding e-governance initiatives by Central and State Governments and other organisations.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh** was the chief guest at the valedictory and awards ceremony.
- The conference was jointly organised by **DARPG, MeitY** and the **Government of Rajasthan**.
- The concluding day included three plenary sessions on digital governance and emerging technologies.

July 2, 2026 Defence and Security Science & Technology Government Initiative Personalities in News

Army Chief Unveils VIJAY Roadmap

NEWS ITEM

Chief of the Army Staff **General Dhiraj Seth** unveiled a roadmap titled **VIJAY** to transform the Indian Army into a technology-enabled, future-ready force. The roadmap focuses on vigilance, innovation, jointness, self-reliance and soldier-centric development for modern multi-domain warfare.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **General Dhiraj Seth** is the **31st Chief of the Army Staff**.
- He unveiled the **VIJAY** roadmap for a technology-enabled, future-ready Indian Army.
- **V** stands for Vigilance and Readiness.
- **I** stands for Innovation and Transformation.
- **J** stands for Jointness and Integration.
- **A** stands for Aatmanirbharta.
- **Y** stands for Yodha First.
- The roadmap emphasises multi-domain operational capability, indigenous technologies, civil-military fusion and a Whole-of-Nation approach.

July 2, 2026

Economy

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Building India's Coal Chemistry Capability

NEWS ITEM

An opinion article argued that India's energy security needs deeper **coal chemistry capability**, not only import diversification. It highlighted that while India managed the 2026 **Strait of Hormuz** disruption through refinery flexibility, long-term resilience requires domestic alternatives such as **Dimethyl Ether (DME)** produced through **coal gasification** to reduce LPG import dependence.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The article was written by **R.A. Mashelkar**, distinguished scientist and former Director General of **CSIR**.
- The core argument is that India must move from crisis management to structural reduction of energy import dependence.
- During the Hormuz disruption, India's non-Hormuz crude sourcing reportedly rose from **55% to 70%**.
- Domestic LPG production during the crisis reportedly increased from **35 TMT per day to 54 TMT per day** within five days.
- **DME** can be produced through coal gasification and can be blended with LPG.
- **BIS** has approved blending of up to **20% DME with LPG**.
- A 20% DME blend could displace around **6.3 million tonnes** of LPG imports annually and save nearly **₹34,000 crore** in foreign exchange.
- The **Surface Coal and Lignite Gasification Scheme** has an outlay of **₹37,500 crore** and targets **100 million tonnes** of coal gasification annually by **2030**.

July 2, 2026

Sports

International Organisations

Sports

FIFA World Cup Interesting Facts

NEWS ITEM

A FIFA World Cup quiz highlighted important facts related to tournament records, mascots and memorable football moments. It covered the fastest World Cup goal, the oldest World Cup-winning player, FIFA World Cup 2026 mascots, Morocco's semi-final record, the Mexican Wave and the first-ever World Cup Golden Goal.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Hakan Şükür** of Türkiye scored the fastest goal in FIFA World Cup history in **11 seconds** against South Korea in **2002**.
- **Dino Zoff** of Italy is the oldest player to win the FIFA World Cup; he captained Italy to victory in **1982** at the age of **40**.
- The official mascots of **FIFA World Cup 2026** are **Maple the Moose, Zayu the Jaguar** and **Clutch the Bald Eagle**.
- The three FIFA World Cup 2026 host countries are **Canada, Mexico** and the **United States**.
- **Morocco** became the first African team to reach a FIFA World Cup semi-final in **2022**.
- The **Mexican Wave** became globally popular during the **1986 FIFA World Cup** in Mexico.
- **Laurent Blanc** scored the first-ever World Cup **Golden Goal** for France against Paraguay in **1998**.

July 1, 2026

Polity and Governance

Government Schemes

Science & Technology

11 Years of Digital India: Transforming Governance and Empowering the Poor

NEWS ITEM

Marking the 11th anniversary of the **Digital India** initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted its massive success in redefining governance and making life easier for millions. From laying optical fibres in remote villages to executing seamless **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)**, the scheme has empowered the underprivileged, fueled rural startups, and positioned India as a global leader in emerging technologies like AI and quantum computing.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Launch Year:** 2015, operating under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- **Nine Pillars:** Includes Broadband Highways, Public Internet Access, e-Governance, e-Kranti, Information for All, Electronics Manufacturing, IT for Jobs, Early Harvest Programmes, and Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Works seamlessly on the backbone of the **JAM Trinity**, ensuring targeted delivery without middlemen.
- **Future Focus:** The initiative is now driving emerging sectors through missions like the **India Semiconductor Mission**, **National Quantum Mission**, and **IndiaAI Mission**.

July 1, 2026

Economy

Government Schemes

10 Years of PMKSY: Transforming Indian Agriculture with Assured Irrigation

NEWS ITEM

The **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** has successfully completed over a decade of transforming India's agricultural landscape. Since its launch in 2015, the scheme has provided assured irrigation, promoted smart water conservation, and expanded irrigation coverage across 24.61 million hectares, directly benefiting over 27 million farmers.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Launched on **July 1, 2015**, PMKSY aims to enhance physical access to water on farms.
- Planning is highly decentralized; implementation relies heavily on the creation of **District Irrigation Plans (DIPs)** and **State Irrigation Plans (SIPs)**.
- Achieved the creation and restoration of irrigation potential across **24.61 million hectares** in the last 10 years.
- Promotes **Micro-Irrigation Fund (MIF)** with a corpus created under NABARD to facilitate state efforts.

July 1, 2026

Social Issues

Important Days

Personalities in News

National Doctors' Day 2026: Honouring the Legacy of Dr B.C. Roy

NEWS ITEM

India is proudly celebrating **National Doctors' Day** today, July 1, to honour the relentless service, sacrifices, and healing touch of medical professionals. This special day is dedicated to the memory of **Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy (B.C. Roy)**, a legendary physician, freedom fighter, and visionary leader, marking both his birth and death anniversaries.

PRELIMS FACTS

- National Doctors' Day is celebrated annually on **July 1**.
- The day was instituted in **1991** by the **Indian Medical Association (IMA)**.
- It commemorates both the birth and death anniversary of **Dr B.C. Roy** (July 1, 1882 – July 1, 1962).
- Dr Roy was awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in **1961**.
- The prestigious **B.C. Roy National Award** was instituted by the Medical Council of India in 1976 to recognize outstanding contributions to medicine, science, and the arts.

July 1, 2026

Environment and Ecology

Indexes & Reports

Species & Environment

India Adds Over 1,000 New Species to its Flora and Fauna Database in 2025

NEWS ITEM

India has enriched its biodiversity by adding 709 animal species and 353 plant taxa to its national database in 2025. Unveiled by the Union Environment Minister, the latest discoveries confirm India's position as a premier mega-diverse country, with Kerala leading in new animal finds and Arunachal Pradesh topping plant discoveries.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Fauna Additions (2025):** 709 animal species added, bringing India's total officially recorded faunal biodiversity to 1,05,953 species.
- **Top States (Fauna):** Kerala recorded the highest animal discoveries (98), followed closely by West Bengal (76) and Karnataka (67).
- **Highest Animal Group:** Hymenoptera (sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants) saw the highest number of additions (106) among the fauna.
- **Flora Additions (2025):** 353 plant taxa were added to the database.
- **Top States (Flora):** Arunachal Pradesh led the plant discoveries (49), followed by Uttarakhand (39).
- **Notable Fauna Discoveries:** Include **Myotis himalaicus** (Himalayan bat) and **Lycodon irwini** (Irwin's wolf snake).
- **Notable Flora Discoveries:** Include **Polystichum siangense** (a fern from Siang, Arunachal Pradesh) and **Hericum indicum** (a wild edible tooth-fungus).

July 1, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

NASA Launches Daring Robotic Mission to Rescue Swift Space Telescope

NEWS ITEM

NASA has launched an unprecedented 30-million-dollar robotic rescue operation to save its ageing Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory from burning up in the atmosphere. Developed by U.S. startup Katalyst and launched via a Pegasus rocket, the specialized robot aims to latch onto the falling telescope and tow it back into a stable orbit.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Swift Observatory was launched in **2004** into a **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** at an altitude of approximately 600 km.
- The robotic rescue spacecraft was developed by the private U.S. startup **Katalyst**.
- The rescue vehicle was launched using a small air-launched rocket named **Pegasus**.
- Swift's primary payload instruments are tuned to study **Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs)**, which represent the explosive death of stars.

July 1, 2026

Polity and Governance

Government Schemes

VB-G RAM G Act: MGNREGA's New Avatar or Diluted Right to Work?

NEWS ITEM

The **Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025** has come into force across rural India from **1 July 2026**, replacing **MGNREGA, 2005**. It raises the rural employment guarantee from **100 days to 125 days** per eligible rural household and ensures that no notified daily wage is below **₹300**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025** came into force across rural India from **1 July 2026**.
- It replaced **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005**.
- It provides **125 days** of guaranteed wage employment per eligible rural household.
- Under MGNREGA, the guarantee was **100 days** per rural household.
- No notified daily wage under VB-G RAM G will be below **₹300**.
- The national average notified wage increased from **₹298.8 per day** under MGNREGA to **₹327.4 per day** under VB-G RAM G.
- The average wage increase is more than **10%**.
- The Act is administered by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- Existing e-KYC verified MGNREGA job cards will remain valid until new **Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards** are issued.
- If employment is not provided within the prescribed time, workers remain entitled to **unemployment allowance**.
- Wages will continue to be paid through **Direct Benefit Transfer** into bank or post office accounts.
- Under PRS summary, the fund-sharing pattern is **60:40** for most states and **90:10** for North-Eastern and Himalayan states.
- The Centre will determine state-wise **normative allocation**; expenditure beyond it will be borne by the state.
- States must announce in advance a period of up to **60 days** in a financial year during which works will not be undertaken during peak agricultural seasons such as sowing and harvesting.
- Gram Panchayats will prepare plans for works focusing on water security, rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure and mitigation of extreme weather events.
- The planning framework will be integrated with the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan**.
- Technology provisions include biometric authentication, geospatial technology, mobile application-based dashboards and weekly public disclosure systems.
- **Article 41** of the Constitution is related to right to work, education and public assistance under DPSP.

June 30, 2026

History, Art and Culture

Important Days

Personalities in News

Prime Minister Pays Tribute on 'Hul Diwas'

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to tribal heroes including **Sido, Kanhu, Chand, Bhairav**, and **Phulo-Jhano** on the occasion of '**Hul Diwas**'. He stated that their struggle and sacrifice against the injustice of foreign rule to protect tribal dignity will continuously inspire the nation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Hul Diwas** is celebrated on **June 30th** to mark the beginning of the Santhal Rebellion in 1855.
- The rebellion occurred in the **Damin-i-Koh** region, the forested tracts of Rajmahal Hills where the British had settled the Santhals.
- Outsiders, particularly merchants and moneylenders who exploited the Santhals, were referred to as **Dikus**.
- The rebellion's suppression led to the creation of the **Santhal Parganas** as a non-regulation district to appease the tribal population.

June 30, 2026

Defence and Security

Personalities in News

General Dhiraj Seth Takes Charge As 31st Chief Of The Army Staff

NEWS ITEM

General Dhiraj Seth has assumed command as the **31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)**, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi upon his superannuation. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Pune, he was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986 and brings nearly four decades of extensive experience across operational and strategic domains.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **General Dhiraj Seth** is the **31st** Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army.
- He was commissioned into the **Armoured Corps** in December 1986.
- Notable previous commands include the **Sudarshan Chakra Corps** (a strike corps of the Indian Army).

June 30, 2026

International Relations

Important Days

International Organisations

International Day of Parliamentarism Observed on June 30

NEWS ITEM

The **International Day of Parliamentarism** is celebrated globally on June 30 every year. The day highlights the crucial role that parliaments play in shaping policies, representing the voice of the ordinary citizen, and strengthening democratic systems worldwide.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **International Day of Parliamentarism** is observed annually on **June 30**.
- The date commemorates the foundation of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** in 1889.
- The IPU was established through the efforts of early peace advocates **Frédéric Passy** and **William Randal Cremer**, both of whom later received the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The headquarters of the IPU is located in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- The IPU is not a specialized agency of the UN, but rather an independent organization with UN observer status.

June 30, 2026

Science and Technology

Important Days

Science & Technology

International Asteroid Day Observed on June 30

NEWS ITEM

International Asteroid Day is observed globally on June 30 every year to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard. The day emphasizes the need for planetary defense mechanisms and global cooperation to protect Earth from potential Near-Earth Object (NEO) threats.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **International Asteroid Day** is observed every year on **June 30**.
- The date commemorates the 1908 **Tunguska event** in Siberia, the largest recorded asteroid impact on Earth.
- The **Main Asteroid Belt** is located primarily between the orbits of **Mars** and **Jupiter**.
- **OSIRIS-REx** (NASA) and **Hayabusa2** (JAXA) are notable missions that have successfully collected physical samples from asteroids (Bennu and Ryugu, respectively) and returned them to Earth.

June 30, 2026

Environment and Ecology

Places in News

Species & Environment

Radio-Tagged White-Rumped Vulture Electrocuted in Tamil Nadu

NEWS ITEM

A captive-bred, radio-tagged **white-rumped vulture** was electrocuted in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris district after coming into contact with a power line. This tragic incident marks the failure of the first attempt to reintroduce a captive-bred bird of this endangered species into the South Indian wild landscape.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The deceased bird marks the **first attempted reintroduction** of a captive-bred white-rumped vulture into the South Indian landscape.
- **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve**, where the bird was initially released, is Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park, located in the Chandrapur district.
- Conservationists emphasize the need for **bunch-cabling and insulating power lines** across critical wildlife habitats like the Sigur plateau to prevent such fatalities.
- The **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** is a leading non-governmental organization in India engaged in conservation research and manages multiple Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres (VCBCs).

June 30, 2026

Defence and Security

Indexes & Reports

Science & Technology

India's 12 'Operationally Deployed' Nuclear Warheads: SIPRI Report

NEWS ITEM

For the first time, the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** has reported that 12 of India's estimated 190 nuclear warheads are "operationally deployed" (pre-assembled and ready to launch). This development highlights the maturation of India's **second-strike capability** and submarine-based deterrent, ensuring maximum national security without shifting away from its traditional 'No First Use' policy.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **Nuclear Command Authority (NCA)** of India consists of a Political Council chaired by the **Prime Minister** and an Executive Council chaired by the **National Security Advisor (NSA)**. The final authority to launch nuclear weapons rests strictly with the Prime Minister.
- **Canisterisation** of missiles (like the Agni-V) involves keeping the missile integrated with its warhead in a sealed, climate-controlled tube. This drastically reduces the time required for launch and improves operational readiness.
- Globally, the nine nuclear-armed states possess an estimated 12,187 nuclear warheads as of January 2026.

June 30, 2026

Science and Technology

Species & Environment

Science & Technology

Do Animals Understand Death? Scientists Test Cockatoos

NEWS ITEM

Researchers have conducted a unique touchscreen-based study on **Goffin's cockatoos** to test if animals can understand "permanent non-functionality"—a basic cognitive step toward understanding death. The study suggests that while animals may not grieve exactly like humans, they might possess the mental tools to realize when something has irreversibly stopped working.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The cognitive study involving touchscreen interactions to test the understanding of permanent non-functionality was conducted on **Goffin's cockatoos**.
- **Antonio J. Osuna-Mascaró** and **Susana Monsó** proposed the "**minimal concept of death**," which strips away the need for human-like grief and focuses on recognizing that a body has irreversibly stopped functioning.
- Independent researchers caution that understanding the non-permanence of inanimate objects (like digital buttons or food rewards) does not automatically equal understanding the death of a living, social being.

June 30, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Diseases That Changed the Course of Human History

NEWS ITEM

Throughout history, infectious diseases have not only caused massive health crises but also shaped human societies, legal institutions, and global demographics. Pathogens like the bacteria causing syphilis and leprosy, or the viruses behind smallpox and HIV, have drastically altered the course of human development and exploration.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Syphilis** is caused by the *Treponema pallidum* bacteria, which possesses a unique helical (corkscrew) shape allowing it to move quickly through mucous membranes.
- The discovery of the **Cholera toxin**, which proved how *Vibrio cholerae* causes severe life-threatening diarrhea, was made by the eminent Indian scientist **Sambhu Nath De**.
- **HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)** mutates extremely fast and hides inside host immune cells, which is why scientists have struggled for decades to develop a definitive vaccine.

June 30, 2026

Defence and Security

Military Exercises

Places in News

Indian Navy Ships Conclude Visit to Thailand's Sattahip Port

NEWS ITEM

Indian Naval Ships **INS Udaygiri**, **INS Kavaratti**, and **INS Shakti** from the Eastern Fleet successfully concluded their visit to **Sattahip Port in Thailand**. This visit is a part of India's ongoing operational deployment in South-East Asia to strengthen maritime cooperation, interoperability, and strategic partnerships with regional allies.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Sattahip Port** is the largest commercial port and a major naval base located in **Thailand**, playing a crucial role in the Gulf of Thailand.
- **INS Kavaratti** is an indigenously built anti-submarine warfare (ASW) corvette constructed under **Project 28** (Kamorta class).
- **INS Shakti** is a Deepak-class fleet tanker primarily used to refuel and resupply warships while they are deployed out at sea.
- The inaugural bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy was recently named '**Ex Ayutthaya**', symbolizing the deep historic and cultural links between Ayodhya (India) and Ayutthaya (Thailand).

June 29, 2026

Economy

Important Days

Indexes & Reports

Government Schemes

MoSPI Releases SDG Progress Reports on 20th National Statistics Day

NEWS ITEM

On the occasion of the 20th National Statistics Day (June 29, 2026), the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released several key publications tracking India's progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the **National Indicator Framework (NIF) Progress Report, 2026**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Total Indicators:** The NIF 2026 consists of 277 national indicators to track all 17 SDGs.
- **Social Protection:** The population covered by social protection systems/safety nets increased from 22.0% in 2016 to 65.3% in 2026.
- **Maternal Health:** The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) declined from 122 (2015-17) to 87 per 1,00,000 live births (2022-24).
- **Sex Ratio:** Sex ratio at birth improved from 896 to 918 females per 1,000 male births (between 2015-17 and 2022-24).
- **Employment:** The unemployment rate dropped from 6.1% (2017-18) to 3.1% in 2025.
- **Environment:** The proportion of Ramsar sites area in the total wetland area increased from 4.15% (2016) to 8.66% (2026).
- **Energy:** Installed renewable energy capacity tripled from 64.04 Watts per capita (2014-15) to 193.36 Watts per capita (2025-26).

June 29, 2026

Polity and Governance

Government Schemes

Science & Technology

Union Health Minister Launches 'e-Sushrut@Clinic' for Small Clinics

NEWS ITEM

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda has launched **e-Sushrut@Clinic**, a simple and low-cost digital software. Developed by C-DAC, it helps small clinics and primary health centres (PHCs) easily manage patient records and daily operations using computers or smartphones.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Developed by:** Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- **Mandatory Registry:** Doctors must be registered on the **Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR)** to access the system.
- **Cost:** Highly subsidized effective rate of ₹299 per month for up to 5 users, with the first 3 months completely free.
- **ABDM Integration:** Includes features to create ABHA IDs and scan/share health records seamlessly.

June 29, 2026

Economy

Summits & Conferences

Places in News

India Pavilion Sets Record at Summer Fancy Food Show 2026 in New York

NEWS ITEM

India marked its largest-ever participation at the Summer Fancy Food Show 2026 in New York. Organised jointly by APEDA and ITPO, the India Pavilion mesmerised global buyers by showcasing the country's rich agricultural diversity, highlighting premium mangoes, authentic Basmati rice, and ready-to-eat delicacies.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The India Pavilion was inaugurated at the **Jacob K. Javits Convention Center** in New York by the Consul General of India and renowned Chef Vikas Khanna.
- Six high-quality export varieties of Indian mangoes and premium **Basmati rice** (which holds a Geographical Indication or GI tag in India) were prominently featured.
- Over 70 Indian exhibitors participated, representing a massive push in India's soft power and food diplomacy on the global stage.

June 29, 2026

International Relations

Places in News

PM Modi Attends Seychelles' 50th Independence Day Celebrations

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 50th Independence Day celebrations of Seychelles as a Guest of Honour at the invitation of President Dr. Patrick Herminie. He became the first Indian Prime Minister to participate in this historic event, which also marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two nations.

PRELIMS FACTS

- PM Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister to ever attend the Independence Day celebrations of Seychelles.
- An Indian Armed Forces contingent, featuring the Assam Rifles, the Indian Navy, and the Indian Navy Marching Band, participated in the national parade.
- Showcasing deep defence ties, Indian Naval Ships INS Tarkash and INS Ikshak arrived at Port Victoria to commemorate the golden jubilee.
- Seychelles gained its independence from the United Kingdom on June 29, 1976.

June 29, 2026

Defence and Security

Places in News

BRO's Project Brahmark Celebrates 16th Raising Day in Arunachal Pradesh

NEWS ITEM

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO)'s Project Brahmark celebrated its 16th Raising Day on June 29, 2026, at Ranaghat in Arunachal Pradesh. The project has played a pivotal role in developing critical strategic road infrastructure and connectivity in the highly challenging and remote terrains of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Project Brahmark was established on **June 29, 2011**, at Ranaghat in the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Its area of responsibility spans five districts of Arunachal Pradesh (Siang, East Siang, West Siang, Upper Siang, and Shi-Yomi) and parts of Assam's Dhemaji district.
- Key engineering achievements include a 100-metre steel arch bridge over the **Siyom River** and a 165-metre PSC bridge over the **Simang River**.
- During FY 2025-26, the project successfully inaugurated 13 new bridges and constructed new helipads to boost strategic reach.

June 29, 2026

Social Issues

Summits & Conferences

Government Schemes

Union Health Minister Launches 'SUMAN Roadmap 2030' to Zero Preventable Maternal Deaths

NEWS ITEM

Imagine a healthcare system where not a single mother or newborn loses their life to preventable causes. Taking a giant leap towards this vision, the Union Health Minister unveiled the **SUMAN Roadmap 2030** at the 16th conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW). This action plan aims to drastically reduce maternal and newborn deaths by combining advanced technology, better hospitals, and community participation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Global Target:** The roadmap aligns with the SDG target to reduce the **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** to below **70 per 100,000 live births** by 2030.
- **Geographical Focus:** It implements highly targeted strategies in **130 districts across 13 high-focus states** (including UP, Bihar, MP, and Assam).
- **Innovative Tools:** Introduces **Non-pneumatic Anti-Shock Garments (NASG)** to manage obstetric hemorrhage (severe bleeding), which is a leading cause of maternal death.
- **Community Engagement:** Promotes **'SUMAN Panchayats'** (to ensure local accountability) and a **'Mothers Picnic'** platform to raise awareness about positive health practices.
- **Digital Push:** Utilises the **Janani Portal** for rigorous monitoring, AI-enabled delivery rooms, and a centralized SUMAN Call Centre for grievance redressal.

June 29, 2026

Social Issues

Awards & Honours

Summits & Conferences

Team India Shines at Global Skills Challenge Australia 2026 with 5 Medals

NEWS ITEM

Team India put up a stellar performance at the Global Skills Challenge Australia 2026, bagging five medals, including three golds. This impressive victory serves as a strong stepping stone for the Indian contingent as they gear up for the prestigious 48th WorldSkills Competition to be held in Shanghai later this year.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Medal Tally:** India won 3 Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze medal at the event held in Australia.
- **Gold Medalists:** Pawan Bhadravati Suresh (Additive Manufacturing), Mausam Kumar Giri (Cloud Computing), and Vishnupriya Sunil (Health and Social Care).
- **Upcoming Event:** The performance boosts preparation for the 48th WorldSkills Competition scheduled to be held in **Shanghai, China**.
- **Participation:** A 30-member Indian delegation represented the country across 15 skill categories like 3D Digital Game Art, Cloud Computing, and advanced manufacturing.

June 29, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Smart AI Caching and SAGIN for Disaster Management

NEWS ITEM

Researchers have proposed an AI-driven 'collaborative caching' system to maintain uninterrupted data flow during natural disasters when traditional communication networks fail. Utilizing a Space-Air-Ground Integrated Network (SAGIN), this technology enables drones, satellites, and ground vehicles to seamlessly share and store critical real-time information, speeding up rescue operations.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The concept of **collaborative caching** involves different nodes (satellites, drones, emergency vehicles) working cooperatively to store and share useful data locally, significantly reducing delays.
- AI caching systems use models like **CMAB (Contextual Multi-Armed Bandit)** to optimize decisions in microseconds, ensuring that life-saving data is available even with limited storage.
- The **SAGIN framework** eliminates the reliance on a single point of failure by creating a resilient three-tier network (Space, Air, Ground).
- These technologies operate on **Federated Learning**, a decentralized approach where AI models are trained across multiple devices holding local data samples, without exchanging them.

June 29, 2026

Science and Technology

Places in News

Science & Technology

NASA's Perseverance Rover Discovers Robust Organic Matter on Mars

NEWS ITEM

In a major breakthrough, an international team of scientists has discovered complex organic carbon on Mars. Using NASA's Perseverance rover, they found this hardy organic matter directly on natural rocks within an ancient river valley in the Jezero Crater, boosting the search for ancient Martian life.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The latest discovery of organic matter was made using the **SHERLOC** instrument on the Perseverance rover.
- The robust organic material, identified as **macromolecular carbon**, was found in the fine-grained mudstones of the **Neretva Vallis** channel inside the Jezero Crater.
- Previously, NASA's **Curiosity rover** had discovered localized organic molecules in the **Gale Crater**.
- The newly found organic matter exists alongside minerals like **carbonates and sulphates**, indicating they were likely trapped and preserved by water-driven processes billions of years ago.

June 29, 2026

International Relations

Places in News

Can Neutral Merchant Ships Be Attacked? Decoding Maritime Law Amidst Strait of Hormuz Crisis

NEWS ITEM

Recent U.S. missile strikes on three merchant tankers in the Strait of Hormuz tragically killed three Indian seafarers. This incident has sparked a global debate on whether neutral merchant ships can be lawfully attacked during armed conflicts and what legal remedies India has to protect its citizens.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **Strait of Hormuz** is a strategically vital waterway linking the **Persian Gulf** with the **Gulf of Oman** and the Arabian Sea.
- Under the doctrine of "**Diplomatic Protection**" in international law, a sovereign state like India has the legal standing to espouse claims and demand compensation for injuries caused to its citizens by another state's wrongful acts.
- **Article 51** of the UN Charter allows for the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a UN member state.
- **Article 2(4)** of the UN Charter strictly prohibits states from using force against the territorial integrity or political independence of another state.

June 28, 2026

International Relations

Awards & Honours

Places in News

Personalities in News

PM Modi Honoured with Seychelles' Highest Distinction 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon'

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the **Guardian of the Blue Horizon**, Seychelles' highest distinction, by President Dr. Patrick Herminie. The award recognizes his leadership in environmental conservation, sustainable development, and advancing the Blue Economy and the interests of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

PRELIMS FACTS

- **First Recipient:** PM Narendra Modi is the first person to receive the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' award.
- **Awarding Nation:** Seychelles (Conferred by President Dr. Patrick Herminie).
- **Previous Environmental Honours for PM Modi:** UN Champion of the Earth, Agricola Medal (FAO), and the Seoul Peace Prize.
- **India's Highlighted Green Initiatives:** International Solar Alliance (ISA), Mission LiFE, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

June 28, 2026

Polity and Governance

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Personalities in News

PM Modi Addresses 135th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'

NEWS ITEM

In the 135th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's recent achievements in defence indigenisation, sports, environmental conservation, and social initiatives. He emphasized the power of public participation (Jan Bhagidari) in tackling global challenges and preserving the nation's cultural and ecological heritage.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Defence Indigenisation:** INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak, and INS Agray were recently inducted into the Indian Navy in Kolkata. They are indigenously designed and manufactured.
- **Aerospace:** The first 'Made in India' C-295 aircraft successfully completed its maiden flight. A total of 40 such aircraft are being manufactured in India.
- **Missile Technology:** DRDO and Indian Industries Partners successfully tested the indigenous 'Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile'.
- **Sports:** India topped the medal tally at the **World Yogasana Championship** in Ahmedabad, winning 114 medals, including 102 gold medals.
- **Grassroots Sports in Nagaland:** The state is promoting talent through the 'Nagaland Baby League' (football for 5-12 year olds) and the 'Nagaland Women Futsal League' (indoor football with 5 players per team).
- **Education & Heritage:** Nalanda University has revived the ancient tradition of 'Shastrarth' (debate and discussion). Meanwhile, the Central Sanskrit University in Delhi is starting a B.Tech Programme in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science to link traditional knowledge with modern technology.
- **Global Cultural Footprint:** 'Brahmakamal Dominicana', a Spanish-speaking team in the Dominican Republic, is actively learning and chanting Vedic mantras like Purusha Suktam and Sri Rudram.
- **Waste Management:** Women in Biaora, Rajgarh district (Madhya Pradesh) have initiated a campaign to convert plastic waste and empty bottles into eco-bricks to beautify public spaces.

June 28, 2026

Polity and Governance

Personalities in News

PM Modi Pays Tribute to Former PM P. V. Narasimha Rao on His Birth Anniversary

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to former Prime Minister **P. V. Narasimha Rao** on his birth anniversary (June 28), acknowledging his enduring contribution to India's progress during a crucial period in its history and his legacy as a capable administrator and distinguished scholar.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Birth Date:** June 28, 1921.
- **Key Policy Initiated:** 'Look East Policy' (now 'Act East Policy').
- **Economic Milestone:** Spearheaded the 1991 LPG reforms.
- **Civilian Honour:** Awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in 2024.
- **Notable Book:** *The Insider*.

June 28, 2026

Polity and Governance

Government Schemes

Launch of PM Family Care Tracker Pilot Project

NEWS ITEM

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the pilot project of the **PM Family Care Tracker** in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The digital platform will track the health, nutrition, and education of beneficiaries from pregnancy until the age of 18 using a unique ID.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Launch Location:** The pilot project was officially launched in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- **Target Age Group:** The system tracks beneficiaries lifecycle starting from **pregnancy up to 18 years of age**.
- **Identification Mechanism:** Beneficiaries are tracked using a unique ID that is linked to the **Birth Registration Number** or the **ABHA ID**.
- **Health Passports:** Alongside the tracker, specialized **health passports** were released for children.
- **Associated Launch:** The first phase of the **PM e-Bus service** was also flagged off concurrently in Gandhinagar.

June 28, 2026

Economy

Government Schemes

Andhra Pradesh Seeks Centre's Aid for Totapuri Mango Farmers Under PDPS

NEWS ITEM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has urged the Central Government to provide Rs. 281 crore under the **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)** to assist Totapuri mango farmers. The farmers are facing a severe price decline caused by the suspension of mango pulp exports and reduced procurement by processing industries.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Affected Region:** The current price crisis primarily affects the **Rayalaseema region** of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS):** To stabilize prices, the Andhra Pradesh State Government is physically procuring 7.03 lakh metric tonnes of Totapuri mangoes under the MIS.
- **Additional Support:** The state government has announced an additional incentive of Rs. 4 per kilogram for the affected farmers.
- **Root Cause:** A sharp decline in export demand for mango pulp and reduced industrial procurement.

June 28, 2026

Science and Technology

Species & Environment

Science & Technology

Molecular Solar Thermal (MOST): Storing Sunlight as Chemical Energy

NEWS ITEM

Researchers have developed a novel method to capture and store solar energy in a molecular form using 'photo-switches'. This **Molecular Solar Thermal (MOST)** technology utilizes specific molecules that change shape upon absorbing sunlight, storing the energy to be released later as heat for domestic or industrial use.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **India's Solar Capacity:** Current land-based solar capacity is ~150 GW, while rooftop solar capacity stands at 23 GW.
- **PM Surya Ghar Mufti Bijli Yojana:** Subsidizes typical home grid-connected solar installations, bringing costs down to approximately ₹30,000 per kW.
- **Silicon Panels vs. MOST:** Silicon crystals free electrons using red/near-infrared light (400-1,100 nm), whereas MOST molecules like 2-pyrimidone absorb UV light (below 500 nm).
- **Inverters:** Required in standard solar setups to convert the direct current (DC) produced by panels into usable alternating current (AC) for households.

June 27, 2026

Defence and Security

Infrastructure

Indian Coast Guard Commissions Fast Patrol Vessel 'ICGS Akshay'

NEWS ITEM

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned its new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), **ICGS Akshay**, in Goa. Indigenously built by Goa Shipyard Limited, the vessel will bolster India's coastal security, maritime law enforcement, and search and rescue capabilities, reflecting the ethos of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **ICGS Akshay** is a Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) belonging to the Indian Coast Guard.
- The vessel was designed and constructed by **Goa Shipyard Limited**.
- Its induction aims to ensure safe, secure, and clean seas within India's vast maritime domain.

June 27, 2026

History, Art and Culture

Important Days

Personalities in News

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda's 517th Birth Anniversary

NEWS ITEM

Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** attended the **517th birth anniversary celebrations of Nadaprabhu Sri Kempegowda** in Bengaluru and paid tributes to the founder of Bengaluru. The event highlighted Kempegowda's legacy in planned urban development, water conservation, inclusive governance, social harmony and cultural preservation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Nadaprabhu Kempegowda** is associated with the founding and planned development of **Bengaluru**.
- He was linked with the **Vijayanagara Empire** and is remembered for lake-building and civic planning.
- The Vice-President highlighted Kempegowda's contribution to sustainable development, social harmony and inclusive governance.

June 27, 2026

Economy

Important Days

Government Initiative

MSME Day 2026-Udyami Bharat

NEWS ITEM

Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** presided over the **MSME Day 2026-Udyami Bharat** event in New Delhi and highlighted the MSME sector as a key pillar of **Viksit Bharat by 2047**. He urged universal MSME registration, cost-effective production, quality improvement and adoption of modern technology.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **MSME Day** is observed on **27 June**.
- The Vice-President stated that MSMEs contribute nearly **50% of India's total exports**.
- The event focused on formalisation, digital empowerment, access to finance, market linkages, technology adoption and innovation-led growth.
- Digital initiatives launched included **PMEGP 2.0 Portal**, **SAMADHAAN 2.0 Portal**, **PMS Portal**, **MSME Global Mart 2.0 Portal**, **MSME Testing Portal** and **MSME Idea Hackathon 6.0**.

June 27, 2026

Economy

Places in News

Government Initiative

First Export of GI-Tagged Rewa Sundarja Mangoes to UAE

NEWS ITEM

APEDA facilitated the first commercial export of **GI-tagged Rewa Sundarja Mangoes** from **Madhya Pradesh** to the **United Arab Emirates**. The consignment comprised **one metric tonne** of premium-quality mangoes and is expected to support growers in the Rewa region.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **APEDA** facilitated the first commercial export of **GI-tagged Rewa Sundarja Mangoes** to the **UAE**.
- The mangoes were exported from **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The consignment comprised **one metric tonne** of premium-quality mangoes.
- **GI registration** helps create a distinct identity for region-specific agricultural products in international markets.

June 27, 2026

Science and Technology

Places in News

Science & Technology

India Launches World's First Nuclear Heat-Based Hydrogen Facility

NEWS ITEM

India has inaugurated the world's first hydrogen production facility based on the **Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) Thermochemical Cycle** at the **Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR)**, Kalpakkam. The facility represents a major breakthrough by utilizing nuclear process heat generated from the **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)** to produce clean hydrogen.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The world's first nuclear process heat-based hydrogen facility is located at **IGCAR, Kalpakkam** (Tamil Nadu).
- It relies on the **Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) Thermochemical Cycle**, which was indigenously developed by the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)**.
- The heat required for the process is sourced from the **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)**.
- Unlike traditional fossil fuel-based hydrogen production (Grey Hydrogen), this nuclear-assisted method produces carbon-free **Pink Hydrogen**.

June 27, 2026

Defence and Security

Places in News

INS Sudarshini Reaches Baltimore During 'Lokayan 26' Expedition

NEWS ITEM

Indian Naval Sail Training Ship **INS Sudarshini** arrived at Baltimore, Maryland (USA) as part of its historic **Lokayan 26** maritime expedition. The deployment involves participation in the **Sail250** celebrations marking the USA's 250th anniversary, showcasing India's rich maritime heritage and strengthening bilateral naval ties.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **INS Sudarshini** is a Sail Training Ship built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- The **Lokayan 26** expedition originated from **Kochi**, India, and reached the USA covering over 13,000 nautical miles.
- The ship navigated through the historic **Chesapeake and Delaware (C&D) Canal** on its route.
- It participated in the **Sail250** celebrations, which commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States.

June 27, 2026

Defence and Security | International Relations

Places in News

Infrastructure

INS Ikshak Reaches Seychelles During Operational Deployment

NEWS ITEM

The indigenously built Survey Vessel Large (SVL), **INS Ikshak**, arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles, as part of its operational deployment in the Southwest Indian Ocean region. The visit coincides with the 50th National Day celebrations of Seychelles, highlighting the deep maritime partnership and long-standing friendship between India and Seychelles in line with **Vision MAHASAGAR**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **INS Ikshak** is the second ship of the Survey Vessels Large (SVL) project of the Indian Navy.
- It was indigenously designed and built by **GRSE** and **L&T**.
- **Port Victoria** is the capital and strategic port city of **Seychelles**, located in the western Indian Ocean.
- The ship's deployment is anchored in the Indian Navy's **Vision MAHASAGAR** initiative.

June 27, 2026

Economy | Science and Technology

Government Schemes

Government Initiative

11 Years of Digital India: Pushing Frontiers in AI, Semiconductors, and Electronics Manufacturing

NEWS ITEM

Marking the completion of 11 years since its launch on July 1, 2015, the **Digital India** initiative has entered a transformative phase. Transitioning from basic digital connectivity and financial inclusion, the program now strategically focuses on high-tech domains, including the **IndiaAI Mission**, the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0**, expanding **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** like UPI, and scaling domestic electronics manufacturing to position India as a global tech leader.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Launch Date:** Digital India was launched on **July 1, 2015**.
- **Telecom Infrastructure:** India's 5G network covers 99.9% of districts through 4.74 lakh towers; BharatNet has connected 2.18 lakh gram panchayats via high-speed broadband.
- **Data Sovereignty:** A new National Data Centre for the North-Eastern region was operationalized in **Guwahati** in February 2026.
- **Global Innovation Index (GII):** India's global ranking in the GI improved significantly from **81st in 2015 to 38th in 2025**.
- **Regulatory Milestones:** The **Online Gaming Promotion and Regulation Act** came into effect on May 1, 2026, followed by the establishment of the **Online Gaming Authority of India** in April 2026. The **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Draft Rules** were released in January 2025 to enforce consent-based data governance.
- **Startup Ecosystem:** Direct employment generated by DPIIT-recognized startups reached **23.36 lakh jobs**, with nearly 48% of these startups having at least one woman director or partner.

June 27, 2026

Economy

Government Initiative

Launch of Cooperative Mobility Platform 'Bharat Taxi' in Gujarat

NEWS ITEM

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched 'Bharat Taxi', a pioneering cooperative-based mobility platform, at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Operating across two-wheeler, auto, and four-wheeler segments, the platform implements Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhi' in the transport sector by transforming drivers into 'Sarathis' who act as equal shareholders and owners of the cooperative enterprise.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Platform Name:** 'Bharat Taxi' is India's first large-scale cooperative-based mobility platform.
- **Launching Authority:** Inaugurated by the Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Amit Shah, at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- **Supporting Consortium:** Jointly backed by **NCDC, IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NDDB, NABARD, NCEL, and Amul**.
- **Operational Timeline Targets:** Expansion to **7 major cities by July 31, 2026**, and reaching **500+ cities and towns within 2 years**.
- **Strategic MoUs:** Signed with Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation, Gujarat State Cooperative Bank, Traffic Police, Airports Authority of India, Adani Airports, and Western Railway.

June 26, 2026

International Relations

International Organisations

Places in News

Operations & Missions

India Launches 'Operation Amistad' for Venezuela Earthquake Relief

NEWS ITEM

India has launched **Operation Amistad**, a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission, to provide critical support to Venezuela following devastating earthquakes. The mission involves the deployment of two Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft carrying a 41-member rescue team, an Indian Army Field Hospital, and 36 tons of medical supplies, including portable **BHISHM cube** hospitals.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Operation Amistad is a HADR mission launched by India for earthquake-hit Venezuela.
- The mission includes two Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft.
- The relief package contains two BHISHM cube portable hospitals, 30 tons of relief supplies, and 6 tons of medicines.
- A 41-member rescue team is deployed as part of the operation.

June 26, 2026

History, Art and Culture

Personalities in News

PM Pays Tribute to Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj on Birth Anniversary

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to **Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj** on his birth anniversary. The PM acknowledged his lifelong dedication to the upliftment of the underprivileged, exploited, and backward sections of society, noting that his ideals continue to guide the nation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Birth:** Born on June 26, 1874, in Kagal, Kolhapur.
- **Reign:** He was crowned the Maharaja of Kolhapur in 1894.
- **Social Initiatives:** Established Vedic schools for non-Brahmins to challenge caste-based Vedic education.
- **Vision:** He envisioned a society free from the barriers of caste and social inequality.

June 26, 2026

History, Art and Culture

Personalities in News

PM Pays Tribute to Bankim Chandra Chatterjee on Birth Anniversary

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to the legendary literary figure **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee** on his birth anniversary. The PM lauded his immense contribution to Indian literature and highlighted his pivotal role in fostering patriotism and national pride among generations of Indians through his iconic writings. The PM also emphasized the significance of the 150th anniversary of the national song, '**Vande Mataram**', which continues to serve as an enduring source of inspiration for the nation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Birth:** Born on June 26, 1838, in Kanthalpara, West Bengal.
- **Anandamath:** Published in 1882, the novel is set against the backdrop of the Sannyasi Rebellion.
- **Literary Legacy:** He was one of the first graduates of the University of Calcutta (1858).
- **Vande Mataram:** Adopted as the National Song of India in 1950.

June 26, 2026

Economy

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Civil Aviation Minister Launches India's First 'Easy Connect' Flight from Varanasi

NEWS ITEM

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu launched India's first '**Easy Connect**' flight from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi under the **Hub-and-Spoke model**. This initiative aims to transform India into a global aviation hub by 2030 and provide seamless international connectivity to passengers from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's first '**Easy Connect**' flight under the Hub-and-Spoke model was launched from **Varanasi** (Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport).
- The strategy targets making India a preferred aviation hub for Indian passengers by 2030 and globally by 2047.
- Under this framework, both domestic and international legs of the journey are treated strictly as international operations for security purposes.
- Distinct physical boarding cards are issued for domestic (D) and international (I) passengers to prevent mix-ups.

June 25, 2026

History, Art and Culture

Personalities in News

Martyrdom Day of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur

NEWS ITEM

Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid homage to **Baba Banda Singh Bahadur** on his martyrdom day, honoring his legacy as the first general of the **Khalsa Army**. He was recognized for his immense valour in liberating regions from Mughal oppression and his dedication to establishing a just governance system for farmers.

PRELIMS FACTS

- He is famously known as the first general of the **Khalsa Army**.
- He led the struggle against the Mughal Empire in the early 18th century.
- He is noted for his land reforms and for refusing to accept religious conversion despite severe torture.

June 25, 2026

Defence and Security

Science & Technology

Final Operational Clearance (FOC) for Netra AEW&C System

NEWS ITEM

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved Final Operational Clearance (FOC) for the indigenous **Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C)** system. The system was officially handed over to the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Bengaluru, marking a major milestone in India's airborne surveillance and network-centric warfare capabilities.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Netra** is India's first indigenously developed Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system.
- It utilizes an indigenous **Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA)** radar.
- It was notably deployed to monitor airspace during the **Balakot airstrikes** in 2019.
- **FOC (Final Operational Clearance)** indicates a military platform is fully combat-ready for unrestricted operations.

June 25, 2026

International Relations

Summits & Conferences

Places in News

PM Modi's Visit to Seychelles for National Day Golden Jubilee

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit **Seychelles** as the Guest of Honour for its National Day Golden Jubilee celebrations. The visit involves bilateral talks with President Dr. Patrick Herminie, participation of Indian defence forces, and reinforces India's commitment to the Indian Ocean Region through Vision **MAHASAGAR**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the Guest of Honour for the National Day Golden Jubilee of **Seychelles**.
- A contingent of the Indian defence forces and two Indian Navy ships will participate in the national celebrations.
- Seychelles is a key partner in India's **Vision MAHASAGAR** initiative.

June 25, 2026

Polity and Governance

Important Days

Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas Observed to Mark 1975 Emergency

NEWS ITEM

Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas was observed on June 25 to pay homage to the citizens who suffered during the 1975 National Emergency. The Ministry of Culture organised exhibitions and programs in New Delhi to mark the 50th anniversary of the Emergency's imposition, highlighting the suspension of democratic rights.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The 1975 National Emergency was proclaimed by the then-President **Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed**.
- The proclamation was made under **Article 352** citing "internal disturbance", a term later replaced with "armed rebellion" by the **44th Constitutional Amendment Act (1978)**.
- During the Emergency, the **Press Council of India**, a statutory body safeguarding press freedom, was temporarily abolished.

June 25, 2026

International Relations

Places in News

Personalities in News

PM Modi Congratulates Armenian PM Nikol Pashinyan on Re-election

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated **Nikol Pashinyan** on his victory in the parliamentary elections in **Armenia**. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral partnership across trade, defence, and technology, while PM Modi thanked Armenia for facilitating the evacuation of Indian nationals stranded in Iran.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Nikol Pashinyan** was recently re-elected as the Prime Minister of **Armenia**.
- India and Armenia have a growing defence partnership; India has exported military equipment like **Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers** and **Swathi weapon locating radars** to Armenia.
- Armenia acted as a crucial transit and facilitation point for the evacuation of Indians from **Iran** during recent geopolitical tensions.

June 25, 2026

History, Art and Culture

Books & Authors

VP Releases Book on Traditional Folk Music 'Bhawaiya'

NEWS ITEM

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released a book titled “**Sanskritir Ratna Bhandar: Bhaowaiyar Itibritto**” (Bhawaiya: A Cultural Treasure and Its Historical Journey). Authored by Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy and Sangita Roy, the book traces the historical and cultural evolution of the **Bhawaiya** folk music genre.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The book “**Sanskritir Ratna Bhandar: Bhaowaiyar Itibritto**” explores the history of the Bhawaiya folk music tradition.
- **Bhawaiya** is primarily sung in parts of North Bengal and Assam, prominently reflecting the cultural history of the **Koch Rajbanshi** community.
- The book is authored by Lok Sabha MP **Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy** and **Sangita Roy**.

June 25, 2026

Geography

Places in News

Devastating Back-to-Back Earthquakes Strike Venezuela

NEWS ITEM

Venezuela was struck by a rare 'earthquake doublet' with magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5, just 39 seconds apart. The twin tremors, with their epicentre near the coastal town of **Morón**, west of Caracas, caused widespread structural collapse and prompted a declaration of a state of emergency.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The epicentre of the recent twin earthquakes was located near **Morón**, a coastal community along Venezuela's Caribbean shoreline.
- Venezuela's seismic activity is governed by the boundary interaction between the **Caribbean Plate** and the **South American Plate**.
- An **earthquake doublet** refers to two closely timed earthquakes of similar magnitude that occur on the same or adjacent fault segments.
- Shallow-focus earthquakes generally cause more intense surface shaking and structural damage compared to deep-focus tremors of the exact same magnitude.

June 25, 2026

International Relations

Summits & Conferences

US Reverts Naval Command Name from INDOPACOM to PACOM

NEWS ITEM

The United States military has reverted the name of its regional naval command from **United States Indo-Pacific Command (US INDOPACOM)** to its original name, **United States Pacific Command (US PACOM)**. This shift, omitting the "Indo" prefix added in 2018, indicates a potential recalibration of US strategic priorities in Asia, affecting its stance on the **Quad**, China, and South Asia.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The US military renamed its Indo-Pacific Command back to **US PACOM**.
- The "Indo-Pacific" terminology was officially adopted in 2018 to acknowledge India's strategic significance in the region.
- The shift in terminology was formally indicated at the annual **Shangri-La Dialogue** held in Singapore.