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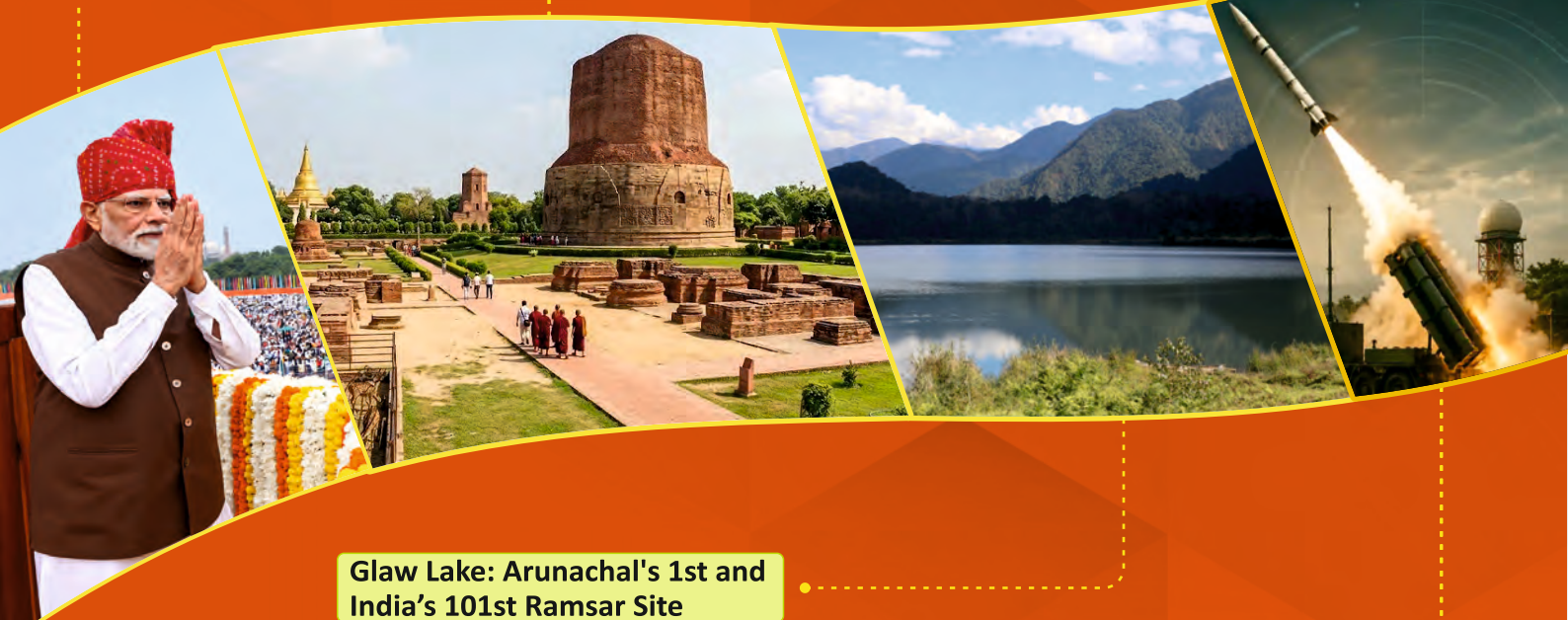
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 2026

India's 80th Independence Day

Sarnath: India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site



Glaw Lake: Arunachal's 1st and India's 101st Ramsar Site

DRDO Successfully Flight-Tested the 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile

For SSC CGL, CHSL and other Competitive Exams

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Chapter 1

National News

Government Planned 44 Airports Under Hub-and-Spoke Model



- The Central Government planned a network of 44 airports under the Hub-and-Spoke model, comprising 4 hub airports and 40 spoke airports.
- The plan aimed to connect Tier-II and Tier-III cities with international destinations through major hub airports.
- Air India launched the first Easy Connect flight from Varanasi in June 2026 and started inbound and outbound services from Amritsar in July 2026, linking passengers to 27 international destinations via Delhi.
- The Easy Connect system allowed for check-in, immigration clearance, baggage transfer, and terminal changes from the origin spoke airport.
- Ahmedabad was planned as the next spoke airport, while Goa and Kochi were under development for inclusion in the network.
- Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu stated in July 2026 that the government planned to develop 100 airports and 200 heliports over the next 10 years under Vision 2047.

Static GK

- The Hub-and-Spoke model is an aviation network in which passengers travel from spoke airports to a hub airport for onward long-haul or international flights.
- Delhi is the central hub airport in the current plan, while Varanasi and Amritsar are the initial spoke airports.

- Hub airports handle higher passenger traffic, flight connections, and transfer operations than spoke airports.

Government Proposed Three-Year PUC Validity for BS-VI Vehicles



- The Union government proposed revised PUC validity rules for BS-VI vehicles under the PUC 3.0 plan in July 2026.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued the draft notification for the proposed changes.
- BS-VI private vehicles up to six years old were proposed to receive a PUC validity of three years.
- BS-VI private vehicles between six and ten years old were proposed to renew the PUC every year.
- BS-VI private vehicles older than ten years were proposed to renew the PUC every six months.
- BS-VI transport vehicles up to six years old were proposed to receive a PUC validity of two years from the date of first registration.
- BS-IV vehicles continued to require PUC renewal every six months, while BS-I, BS-II, and BS-III vehicles required renewal every three months.
- The government invited objections and suggestions on the draft notification within 30 days before finalising the rules.

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- BS-VI is India's sixth-stage vehicular emission standard.
- BS-VI norms came into force across India in April 2020 for new vehicles.
- PUC is a statutory certificate issued after a vehicle emission test.

Centre Notifies Seventh Draft of Western Ghats ESA



- The Union Environment Ministry reissued the seventh draft notification for an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) in the Western Ghats in July 2026.
- The proposed ESA covered 56,825.7 sq. km across six states, including Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Gujarat.
- The draft allocated the highest ESA area to Karnataka with 20,668 sq. km, followed by Maharashtra with 17,340 sq. km and Kerala with 9,993.7 sq. km.
- The proposed ESA included 108 villages in Goa under the seventh draft notification.
- The ESA was notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to regulate activities such as mining, quarrying, sand mining, new thermal power plants and large construction projects in fragile ecosystems.
- The draft notification allowed 60 days for public objections and suggestions, while the expert committee headed by Sanjay Kumar was extended until July 2027.
- The Western Ghats remained under discussion due to differences between the Centre and states regarding village boundaries, land-use restrictions and development concerns.

Static GK

- The Western Ghats were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012.

- The Western Ghats pass through Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- The Environment (Protection) Act was enacted in 1986.

Births and Deaths Amendment Bill Passed in Lok Sabha



- The Lok Sabha passed the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026 by voice vote in July 2026.
- The Bill amended the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 and changed the procedure for delayed registration of births and deaths in India.
- Under the amended framework, registration of births or deaths reported after two years required an order from a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class.
- Delayed registration between one year and two years continued to require an order from a District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, or authorised Executive Magistrate.
- The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in July 2026.

Static GK

- The Registration of Births and Deaths Act was enacted in 1969.
- The Lok Sabha is the lower house of the Parliament of India.
- A voice vote is a parliamentary method where members express approval or disapproval orally.

India and Nepal Restored Lalitpur Heritage Sites

- India and Nepal jointly inaugurated the restored Shree Gusthal Mahavihar and Agam of Prathamshree Mahavihar at Guita Tole in Patan, Lalitpur, in July 2026.



- The restoration project was funded by a Government of India grant of about NPR 12 crore and was executed by Nepal's Central Level Project Implementation Unit.
- The Buddhist heritage structures in Lalitpur were damaged during the 2015 Nepal earthquake, which affected several monuments and traditional settlements.
- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage provided design and project management support for the restoration work.
- India's reconstruction assistance to Nepal included conservation of 30 cultural heritage sites, rebuilding of 50,000 private houses, 85 educational institutions, and 133 health facilities.

Static GK

- Lalitpur is one of the three major cities of the Kathmandu Valley, along with Kathmandu and Bhaktapur.
- INTACH is associated with the conservation of art, culture, and heritage sites.

Rajya Sabha Passed Bill Criminalising Insult to Vande Mataram



- The Rajya Sabha passed the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in July 2026 to provide legal protection to Vande Mataram along with Jana Gana Mana.
- The Bill amended the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, which deals with disrespect towards the national flag, Constitution, and national anthem.
- The amendment created a separate offence for intentionally preventing the singing of Vande Mataram or disturbing an assembly engaged in its singing.
- A person found guilty under the amended law can face imprisonment up to three years, a fine, or both.
- The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in July 2026 and was passed by voice vote after an opposition walkout.
- The amendment was introduced during the 150th-anniversary commemorations of Vande Mataram and provided statutory recognition to the national song.

Static GK

- Vande Mataram was written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and first appeared in the novel Anandamath in 1882.
- Jana Gana Mana was adopted as the national anthem of India on 24 January 1950.
- Vande Mataram is the national song of India and not the national anthem.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj Launched DAANVEER for Gram Panchayat Digitalisation



- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched DAANVEER in July 2026 in New Delhi to strengthen digital

infrastructure in Gram Panchayats through citizen participation.

- DAANVEER worked through the Meri Panchayat mobile application and enabled individuals and organisations to contribute standardised, quality-verified computer bundles to eligible Gram Panchayats.
- The platform aimed to support the digital equipment needs of nearly 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats, which form the basic tier of rural local self-government.
- DAANVEER integrated the Meri Panchayat app with the DigiHaat marketplace, allowing donors to select pre-approved computer bundles according to state-specific technical specifications.
- The initiative was developed with the National Informatics Centre and DigiHaat and was linked with Digital India and the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Static GK

- Gram Panchayats are the lowest tier of the Panchayati Raj system in rural India.
- Panchayati Raj provisions are included under Part IX of the Constitution of India.
- The National Informatics Centre works under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Digital India was launched in 2015 for digital service delivery and digital infrastructure.

EnKash Launched India's First UPI-Integrated Meal Card



- EnKash launched India's first UPI-enabled meal card to integrate UPI technology with corporate meal benefits.
- The card allowed corporate employees to make payments directly from their meal balance by scanning eligible UPI QR codes at food and grocery merchants.

- The solution was developed in collaboration with NPCI and RuPay and expanded acceptance to more than 50,000 retail and online merchant outlets.
- The meal card complied with RBI regulations and tax-exemption guidelines and offered potential tax savings of up to ₹1,05,600 annually.
- The initiative aimed to replace traditional meal vouchers with seamless digital UPI-based payments.

Static GK

- EnKash is an Indian fintech company that provides corporate payments, expense management, and business banking solutions.
- NPCI was established in 2008 under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act.
- UPI was launched in 2016 by NPCI.
- RBI headquarters is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- RuPay was launched in 2012 as India's domestic card payment network.

Sarnath Became India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site



- Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Busan, South Korea.
- Sarnath became India's 45th World Heritage Site and the fourth cultural heritage site from Uttar Pradesh after Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri.
- The inscription came after Sarnath remained on UNESCO's tentative list for 28 years since July 1998.
- The protected heritage structures included Dhamek Stupa, Chaukhandi Stupa, Dharmarajika Stupa, and the Ashokan Pillar.
- The UNESCO status aimed to boost international tourism, conservation efforts, and awareness of India's Buddhist heritage.

Static GK

- Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon, Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, at Sarnath.
- The Lion Capital of the Ashokan Pillar was adopted as India's National Emblem.
- UNESCO headquarters is located in Paris, France.
- Dhamek Stupa was built by Emperor Ashoka in 249 BCE at Sarnath.

Pralhad Joshi Took Additional Charge as Union Education Minister



- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi assumed additional charge of the Ministry of Education after Dharmendra Pradhan resigned from the post.
- After taking charge at Kartavya Bhavan, Joshi held review meetings with senior officials to understand the ministry's functioning.
- He summoned National Testing Agency officials to review examination processes and administrative reforms.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi constituted a task force led by Nandan Nilekani to recommend reforms in public examination administration.

Static GK

- The Ministry of Education was known as the Ministry of Human Resource Development from 1985 to 2020.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was the first Education Minister of independent India.
- Article 21A provides free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years.

PM Modi Constituted Nandan Nilekani-Led Task Force for Exam Reforms

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi constituted a high-powered task force led by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani to overhaul India's examination framework.



- The committee was formed to make competitive and public examinations secure, transparent, technology-driven, and future-ready.
- The task force included former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath, IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti, and IB Director Tapan Deka.
- The initiative addressed concerns related to irregularities in national-level examinations conducted by the National Testing Agency.
- The panel focused on advanced technology solutions, end-to-end security measures, and administrative reforms in exam management.

Union Cabinet Approved Stricter Anti-Paper Leak Amendment Bill



- The Union Cabinet approved the Prevention of Unfair Means in Public Examinations (Amendment) Bill to strengthen legal measures against recruitment exam paper leaks and malpractices.
- The proposed amendments increased punishment for offenders and organised syndicates with imprisonment up to 10 years and fines up to ₹10 crore.

- The minimum imprisonment for public examination offences was increased from three years to five years.
- The bill included provisions for attachment and confiscation of assets involved in paper leak networks.
- The legislation aimed to introduce fast-track trials and non-bailable enforcement mechanisms to protect the integrity of competitive examinations.

Static GK

- UPSC is established under Article 315 of the Constitution of India.
- National Testing Agency was formed in 2017 as an autonomous testing agency.

India Approved the First Integrated Telecom Manufacturing Zone in Gwalior



- The Central Government and the Madhya Pradesh Government signed an MoU to establish India's first Integrated Telecom Manufacturing Zone in Gwalior.
- The project is expected to attract about ₹3,500 crore in investment and generate more than 14,000 jobs.
- The 170.5-acre zone will follow a plug-and-play model with integrated facilities for design, manufacturing, testing, certification, and exports on a single campus.
- The facility will manufacture 5G, 6G, optical fibre, semiconductors, networking equipment, and other electronic hardware.
- The project will be implemented through an SPV with a 51% stake held by the Madhya Pradesh Government and a 49% stake by DoT.

Static GK

- The Telecom Manufacturing Zone will be located in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- MPIDC is the master developer of the project.

India's Tiger Population Rose to 3,682; Tiger Reserves Increased to 58



- India's tiger population increased to 3,682 and the number of Tiger Reserves rose to 58, as announced during Global Tiger Day 2026 celebrations.
- Union Minister Bhopendra Yadav highlighted the expansion of Elephant Reserves, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Protected Areas, Community Reserves, and Wetlands over the last 12 years.
- NTCA launched an integrated Eco-Tourism Webpage providing official information, safari booking links, accommodation details, and verified information for all Tiger Reserves.
- The Minister emphasized scientific management, community participation, documentation of field experiences, and capacity building for wildlife conservation.
- He highlighted the role of IBCA in promoting international cooperation for big cat conservation.
- NTCA presented awards to forest officials and conservation personnel for outstanding contributions to tiger conservation.
- NTCA also launched a nationwide awareness campaign through Eco-Clubs and released five publications on tiger conservation and wildlife management.

Static GK

- Global Tiger Day is observed on 29 July.
- It was launched at the 2010 St. Petersburg Tiger Summit.
- India has 58 Tiger Reserves.
- Project Tiger was launched in 1973.

Parliamentary Panel Recommended Appointment of a Polar Representative



- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs recommended appointing a Polar Representative to strengthen India's engagement in the Arctic and Antarctic.
- The recommendation was made in the report titled *India's Role and Presence in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions* presented in Parliament.
- The proposed representative will promote polar diplomacy, scientific cooperation, sustainable development, and India's long-term polar strategy.
- The committee highlighted that polar changes affect India's monsoon, sea levels, climate, and maritime interests.
- It also recommended early construction of a new Maitri research station and emphasized cooperation through the IBCA.

Static GK

- Committee Chairman: Shashi Tharoor.
- Arctic: Above 66° N latitude.
- Antarctic Treaty System: Governs Antarctica.

Glaw Lake Became India's 101st Ramsar Site



- Glaw Lake in Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh was designated as India's 101st Ramsar Site of

International Importance and became the state's first Ramsar Site.

- The freshwater lake is located inside the Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary and is fed throughout the year by mountain streams.
- The lake basin supports more than 150 tree species, 49 orchid varieties, and several rare flora and fauna species.
- The recognition highlighted the importance of Eastern Himalayan wetlands for biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and water security.

Static GK

- The Ramsar Convention was adopted on February 2, 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
- World Wetlands Day is observed annually on February 2.
- Chilika Lake and Keoladeo National Park became India's first Ramsar Sites in 1981.
- Sundarbans Wetland in West Bengal is India's largest Ramsar Site.

Parliament Passed MSME Development Amendment Bill 2026



- Parliament passed the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026, following its approval by the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill sought to replace the MSMED Act, 2006, by modernizing payment mechanisms and business regulations for the MSME sector.
- Central Public Sector Enterprises were mandated to settle procurement invoices through the Trade Receivables Discounting System.
- The Bill prescribed a 90-day period for payment mediation and another 90 days for arbitration after pleadings.
- Minor registration violations were decriminalized and replaced with graded administrative monetary penalties to promote ease of doing business.

Static GK

- The MSME Development Act was enacted in 2006.
- The Udyam Portal handles online MSME registration.
- TReDS is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Jitan Ram Manjhi is the Union Minister of MSME.

PM Modi Inaugurated 'Param Pragya' AI Supercomputing Facility



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi remotely inaugurated 'Param Pragya', an AI-powered high-performance supercomputing facility, at IIT Delhi's Sonapat campus.
- Developed under the National Supercomputing Mission, the facility will strengthen India's computational capacity for AI, data science, and advanced engineering research.
- The supercomputer will support research in healthcare, weather forecasting, materials science, and machine learning.
- The initiative aligns with the Viksit Bharat vision by promoting indigenous technological innovation and research capabilities.

Static GK

- PARAM 8000 was India's first indigenous supercomputer, developed in 1991.
- C-DAC, the developer of the PARAM series, was founded in 1988 and is headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra.
- The National Supercomputing Mission was launched in 2015.

India Added 11 International Ports for E-Visa Entry

- India added 11 international ports for foreign nationals holding valid e-Visas in August 2026, taking the total number of designated entry points to 88.



- The new additions included nine land ports—Agartala, Darranga, Gede, Ghojadanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh, and Attari (Road)—and two airports at Bhopal and Tirupati.
- The 88 designated e-Visa entry points comprise 37 airports, 38 seaports, and 13 land ports.
- India launched the e-Visa facility in 2014 for nationals of 43 countries, and the facility later expanded to 172 nationalities.
- The move aimed to facilitate international travel, promote tourism, improve regional connectivity, and expand visa infrastructure.

Static GK Facts

- Indian e-Visa uses Electronic Travel Authorization for eligible foreign nationals.
- Major e-Visa categories include Tourist, Business, Medical, Student, Transit, and Mountaineering visas.

Tribunals Reforms Bill 2026 Was Passed by Parliament



- Parliament passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026, which provides for an independent National Tribunals Commission (NTC) to administer major tribunals.
- The NTC will work as an autonomous body in New Delhi and will recommend appointments, oversee

tribunals, investigate members, manage the proposed National Tribunals Data Grid, and standardise service conditions.

- The five-member commission will comprise a Chairperson, two Judicial Members, and two Technical Members, with the Chairperson being a former Supreme Court Judge or retired Chief Justice of a High Court.
- The Bill requires the Central Government to make appointments within three months of receiving recommendations and provides a waiting candidate in case the recommended person is not appointed.
- Tribunal Chairpersons can serve for five years or until 70 years of age, while members can serve for five years or until 67 years of age, whichever comes first.
- The First Schedule covers 16 major tribunals and appellate tribunals, including CAT, NGT, ITAT, CESTAT, DRT, and TDSAT.
- The reforms aim to reduce vacancies and appointment delays while improving uniformity, administrative efficiency, and tribunal independence.

Static GK Facts

- Tribunals provide specialised mechanisms for resolving specific categories of disputes.
- The Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 was the previous legislative framework mentioned in the Bill.

PM Modi Unveiled Sapta Dhara Framework for Viksit Bharat



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the seven-pillar Sapta Dhara framework during the 80th Independence Day address in August 2026.
- The framework, also called Shakti Ki Saptadhara, aims to achieve Viksit Bharat by 2047 through seven streams: manufacturing, agriculture and food processing, technology and innovation, Gati Shakti,

self-reliance in defence, green and blue economy, and India's soft power.

- The technology and innovation stream includes a mission-mode plan to train 1 crore youth in Artificial Intelligence over the next year.
- India set a target of 100 GW nuclear energy capacity by 2047, with five new nuclear reactors scheduled to become operational in the next six to seven years.
- India's domestic piped natural gas network expanded from 70 cities 12 years ago to more than 700 cities, with 1.75 crore households connected.

Static GK

- Gati Shakti focuses on integrated planning for transport, logistics, and infrastructure projects.
- The green economy focuses on low-carbon development, while the blue economy involves sustainable use of ocean and marine resources.
- Soft power refers to influence through culture, values, education, and diplomacy rather than military force.

India Opened Nuclear Sector to Private and Foreign Players



- India opened its nuclear energy sector to private Indian firms and foreign partners through the SHANTI Act, 2025, which repealed the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010.
- The Department of Atomic Energy issued draft rules in August 2026, allowing private players to obtain in-principle approval for site preparation, land acquisition, and vendor selection before a formal licence.
- The rules also permit the use of foreign reactor technologies with proven overseas operational records, subject to safety requirements.
- India targeted 100 GWe of nuclear capacity by 2047 under the Nuclear Energy Mission, including indigenous 700 MWe reactors and five Small Modular Reactors by 2033.

- The SHANTI Act permits up to 49% foreign direct investment through joint ventures and provides a framework for private ownership and operation of nuclear plants under state supervision.
- Adani Power incorporated two nuclear-dedicated subsidiaries in May 2026 for potential projects in Rajasthan and Maharashtra.
- President Droupadi Murmu signed the SHANTI Bill into law in December 2025, formally making it the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Act, 2025.

Static GK

- The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 regulated India's nuclear sector for about six decades.
- The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 deals with liability arising from nuclear accidents.
- Small Modular Reactors are compact nuclear reactors designed for lower output and modular deployment.

NMC Proposed a Unique ID for Doctors



- The National Medical Commission (NMC) issued draft Registration of Medical Practitioners and Licence to Practice Medicine (Amendment) Regulations, 2026 in August 2026.
- The draft proposed a centrally generated Unique Identification (UID) number for registered medical practitioners through the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB).
- The UID would link doctors with the State Medical Register and provide a single identifier for medical registration records.
- The proposed “One Nation, One Licence” framework would allow doctors with a UID to practise across India without separate state-level licences.
- The National Medical Register (NMR) would serve as the central repository and record disciplinary actions, professional misconduct and suspensions.

- State Medical Registers and the NMR would automatically synchronise through a unified registration portal.
- Practising licences would remain valid for five years, while a doctor would be marked “inactive” if they do not apply for renewal within three months of expiry.
- Existing doctors without a UID would need to update their details on the EMRB portal, with no fee for one-time UID generation.
- The NMC invited objections and suggestions on the draft regulations within 30 days of notification.

Static GK

- NMC was established under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019.
- EMRB is one of the four autonomous boards under the NMC.
- NMR is the central register of licensed medical practitioners in India.

DoT Enforced the Nine-SIM Limit Using Subscriber Photographs



- DoT directed telecom service providers in August 2026 to deny new mobile connections to subscribers who reached the prescribed SIM limit.
- An individual can hold a maximum of nine mobile connections across operators in most parts of India, while the limit is six in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and the North Eastern States.
- From August 2026, the Digital Intelligence Platform will provide representative subscriber photographs to operators for screening applications that exceed the permitted limit.
- Operators will initially use next-day verification, and any excess SIM activated even for one day must be suspended.
- By November 2026, operators must shift to real-time photographic verification during subscriber enrolment and activation.

- The measure aims to prevent cybercrime and financial fraud, including digital arrest scams.

Static GK

- DoT functions under the Ministry of Communications.
- Digital arrest scams use fraudulent calls or messages to falsely claim police or agency action.

Ministry of Jal Shakti Released a Data Sharing Policy



- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti released the Policy on Data Sharing, Interoperability and Stakeholder Access in August 2026.
- The policy supports the Sujalam Bharat Digital Public Infrastructure and applies to India's rural drinking water sector.
- It created a federated data-sharing framework for the Centre, States, Union Territories, Gram Panchayats and approved stakeholders.
- The framework uses common identifiers, standardised metadata, interoperable registries and secure digital services.
- Gram Panchayats received a greater role in asset monitoring, grievance redressal and service accountability.
- The policy supports AI-enabled analytics, geospatial planning, water-quality monitoring and Digital Twins under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

Static GK

- Jal Jeevan Mission was launched in 2019 to provide Functional Household Tap Connections in rural India.
- Metadata is data about data used for classification, searching and digital exchange.
- Digital Twins are virtual models of physical assets or systems used for monitoring and planning.

Cabinet Approved a Permanent Ladakh Bench of the J&K High Court



- The Union Cabinet approved a permanent bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in August 2026.
- The bench will become the third location of the common High Court, which currently functions from Srinagar and Jammu.
- The new bench will improve access to justice for people in remote areas of Ladakh by reducing travel to Jammu or Srinagar.
- The High Court had 44,557 pending cases as of July 2026, including more than 6,100 cases pending for over ten years.
- Ladakh became a Union Territory on 31 October 2019 after the reorganisation of the former State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Static GK

- The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh serves both Union Territories through one judicial institution.
- Permanent High Court benches help improve access to justice in geographically distant regions.
- Ladakh has Leh and Kargil as its two districts.
- Vinai Kumar Saxena was the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

Supreme Court Revised the Definition of "Industry" Under Labour Law



- A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court delivered its judgment on the meaning of “industry” under Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- The Bench was led by Chief Justice Surya Kant and considered the 1978 Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa judgment.
- By a 5:4 majority, the Court held that the classic “triple test” required further refinement.
- By a 6:3 majority, the Court held that the reference seeking reconsideration of the 1978 judgment was valid and maintainable.
- Thereformulatedtripletestwilloperateprospectively.
- Pending disputes under the Industrial Disputes Act will continue to use the original 1978 definition.
- The 1978 interpretation will not govern the meaning of “industry” under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.
- The reference case was State of Uttar Pradesh v. Jai Bir Singh.
- The nine-judge Bench reserved its verdict in March 2026 after three days of continuous arguments.
- Four judges dissented on the merits and maintained that the 1978 precedent remained correct.
- The dissenting judges were Justice B.V. Nagarathna, Justice Dipankar Datta, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice Joymalya Bagchi.

Static GK

- The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 deals with industrial disputes and their adjudication.
- A Constitution Bench can consist of five or more Supreme Court judges under Article 145.
- Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa was decided in 1978.
- Industrial Relations Code, 2020 is part of India’s labour-law consolidation framework.

Supreme Court Reduced Judicial Service Practice Requirement to 1 Year



- The Supreme Court reduced the mandatory active bar practice requirement for Civil Judge, Junior Division posts from three years to one year.
- The decision came through a 2:1 verdict of a three-judge Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice August George Masih and Justice K. Vinod Chandran.
- The judgment modified the Supreme Court’s earlier May 2025 decision that restored the three-year practice requirement.
- Selected candidates must complete one year of intensive training at their respective State Judicial Academies.
- The Court also required six months of clerkship under a District and Sessions Judge and six months under a sitting High Court judge.
- A transitional waiver applies to candidates appearing in judicial examinations notified between May 2025 and March 2027, who do not need to produce a practice certificate.
- Recruitment notifications issued from April 2027 will require at least one year of verified active practice.
- Justice K. Vinod Chandran dissented, stating that classroom training cannot replace experience gained through active bar practice.

Static GK

- The Supreme Court functions as the apex court of India under Article 124.
- Civil Judge, Junior Division is an entry-level post in the subordinate judiciary.
- A District and Sessions Judge is the senior-most judicial officer at the district level.

North Eastern Railway Ran the Longest Awadh Mahashakti Freight Train



- The Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway operated the Awadh Mahashakti freight train in August 2026 as the longest train in the history of the zonal railway.

- The train was formed by combining three cargo trains and consisted of 129 wagons and three heavy-duty locomotives.
- It departed from Gonda Junction and travelled towards the Moradabad Division via Sitapur.
- The train was assembled at the Gonda ROH depot, where rolling stock undergoes inspection, maintenance and servicing.
- The operation reduced track usage, fuel consumption and transit time by combining three freight movements into one.

Static GK

- North Eastern Railway is one of the railway zones of Indian Railways.
- Gonda Junction is located in Uttar Pradesh and falls under the North Eastern Railway zone.
- Freight trains transport commodities such as coal, cement, foodgrains, fertilisers, petroleum products and containers.

NBSS&LUP Developed India's First Soil Texture Map



- The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, headquartered in Nagpur and functioning under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, developed India's first soil texture map.
- The map was released in July 2026 and provides digitised soil classification data at the hectare level across the country.
- Soil texture represents the relative proportion of sand, silt and clay and is important for soil classification, irrigation design, land-use planning and crop suitability.
- The map was prepared using field studies, remote sensing, satellite imagery and artificial intelligence.
- It provides village-level information for agricultural planning, crop suitability mapping and government resource allocation.

- India's first soil depth map was developed and released one year before the soil texture map.
- The bureau's next project focuses on mapping soil water retention and absorption capacity, particularly in Maharashtra and Southern India.

Static GK

- NBSS&LUP is based in Nagpur, Maharashtra, and received official status in 1976.
- The bureau marked 50 years in 2026.
- Soil texture is determined by the proportion of sand, silt and clay.

MHA Transferred CAA Application Processing to District Collectors



- The Ministry of Home Affairs transferred processing of pending citizenship applications under the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, to District Collectors in eight specified States and Union Territories.
- The change applies to applications under Section 6B of the Citizenship Act, 1955, through the Citizenship (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026.
- The revised mechanism covers Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and the non-tribal areas of Assam and Tripura.
- District Collectors can verify documents, conduct inquiries, administer the oath of allegiance and grant citizenship to applicants found eligible.
- The earlier framework, introduced in March 2024, used Empowered Committees and District Level Committees involving officials from the Census, Intelligence Bureau and postal departments.
- The new notification rescinded two administrative orders issued in February and March 2026, while actions already completed under those orders remain valid.

- The revised mechanism places the first level of processing within the district administration structure for the specified regions.

Static GK

- The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 amended the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- Section 6B provides a legal route to citizenship for eligible persons covered under the 2019 amendment.
- The Citizenship Act, 1955 governs citizenship by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory.

Government Restricted Two-Ingredient Cough and Cold Combinations for Children



- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare prohibited the manufacture, sale and distribution of fixed-dose combinations containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride for children below four years.
- The restriction was issued under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and applies to formulations including syrups and drops.
- The mandatory warning "Fixed Dose Combination shall not be used in children below four years of age" must appear on medicine packs, labels, package inserts and promotional materials.
- The restriction followed assessment by an Expert Committee and consideration by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board.
- The order expanded an earlier April 2025 notification concerning specific formulations containing the same ingredients and followed the ban on 16 other irrational fixed-dose combinations in June 2026.
- The restriction is age-specific and does not constitute a blanket ban on all cough and cold medicines.

Static GK

- Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 empowers the Central Government to regulate or prohibit drugs in the public interest.
- A fixed-dose combination contains two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients in a single dosage form.
- Chlorpheniramine Maleate is an antihistamine, while Phenylephrine Hydrochloride is a nasal decongestant.
- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation is India's national drug regulatory authority.

ICAR Registered 16 New Indigenous Livestock Breeds



- ICAR registered 16 new indigenous livestock and dog breeds in 2026 through ICAR-NBAGR in Karnal, Haryana, raising India's total registered animal breeds to 262, including 258 indigenous and 4 synthetic breeds.
- The Breed Registration Committee recommended the 16 breeds at its 14th meeting in New Delhi, while ICAR-NBAGR assigned unique accession numbers in August 2026.
- The four new cattle breeds were Koppal from Karnataka, Mahakaushali from Madhya Pradesh, Periyar from Kerala and Umarda from Maharashtra.
- The four new sheep breeds were Asomi from Assam, Kow Debar from Uttarakhand, Madgyal from Maharashtra and Karnataka, and Seemanchali from Bihar.
- The other new breeds were Gomanchali buffalo from Goa, Totapuri and Battisi goats from Rajasthan, Nagal pig from Nagaland, Sikkimese yak from Sikkim, Braj donkey from Uttar Pradesh, Kashmiri pony from Jammu and Kashmir and Kombai dog from Tamil Nadu.
- Breed registration supports the official documentation and conservation of India's indigenous animal genetic diversity.

Static GK

- ICAR functions under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ICAR-NBAGR is based in Karnal, Haryana, and deals with animal genetic resources.
- Registered breeds include cattle, sheep, buffalo, goat, pig, yak, donkey, pony and dog.

Parliament Passed Bill to Rename Kerala as 'Keralam'



- Both Houses of Parliament passed the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, paving the way to rename the state as “Keralam”.
- The Bill amends the First Schedule of the Constitution to reflect the new official name in government records.
- The approval followed a unanimous resolution of the Kerala Legislative Assembly seeking the name change.
- The change aligns the official English name with the traditional Malayalam name “Keralam”.

Static GK

- Constitutional Article: Article 3 empowers Parliament to alter the names of states.
- Kerala Formation: Kerala was formed on 1 November 1956.
- First Schedule: It lists the states and Union Territories of India.
- Official Language: Malayalam is the official language of Kerala.

Chapter 2

International Affairs

India, China to Resume Nathu La Border Trade from August 1



- India and China decided to resume border trade through the Nathu La Pass in East Sikkim from 1 August 2026.
- The trade route remained suspended from 2020 for six years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and border tensions.
- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited China in July 2026 and met Vice Minister Sun Haiyan to discuss bilateral relations and priority issues.
- India strengthened connectivity in Sikkim through the 45-km Sivok-Rangpo railway link, which neared completion, with plans to extend it towards Nathu La Pass.
- India-China border trade continued through designated passes under bilateral arrangements and remained separate from regular commercial trade.
- The border trade routes served border communities and traders in the frontier regions of Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

Static GK

- Nathu La Pass is located in East Sikkim on the India-China border.
- Nathu La Pass was reopened for border trade in 2006 and is linked to the historic Silk Road.
- Border trade through Nathu La is generally permitted from May to November each year.
- Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand is the other designated India-China border trade route.

Russia Charges Telegram Founder Pavel Durov with Aiding Terrorism



- Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) charged Pavel Durov, founder of Telegram, with aiding terrorist activities under Article 205.1 of the Russian Criminal Code in July 2026.
- The FSB placed Pavel Durov on an international wanted list over allegations related to assistance to terrorist activities.
- The FSB accused Telegram's administration of failing to remove channels, chats and bots allegedly used for sabotage, terrorism and cyberfraud activities.
- Pavel Durov holds dual citizenship of the United Arab Emirates and France and resides in Dubai.

Static GK

- Telegram was launched in 2013 by Pavel Durov and his brother Nikolai Durov as a cloud-based instant messaging platform.
- Telegram is based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Russia's Federal Security Service is the main domestic security agency of Russia.

Venezuela Formally Withdrew from the International Criminal Court

- Venezuela formally notified the United Nations of its withdrawal from the Rome Statute, the treaty establishing the ICC.



- The decision was announced by Foreign Minister Felix Plasencia on the instructions of Interim President Delcy Rodríguez.
- Venezuela cited geographical bias and unequal treatment by the ICC as the reason for its withdrawal.
- Under Article 127 of the Rome Statute, the withdrawal will take effect one year after the notification.
- The withdrawal will not affect ongoing ICC investigations, including the crimes against humanity investigation in Venezuela that began in 2021.
- The ICC had opened the investigation over alleged crimes committed during the 2017 anti-government protests.
- The development added to growing challenges facing the ICC, as several countries questioned the court's impartiality.

Static GK (if required)

- ICC Headquarters: The Hague, Netherlands.
- The Rome Statute came into force in 2002.
- ICC investigates genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.

Nauru Officially Became the Republic of Naoero

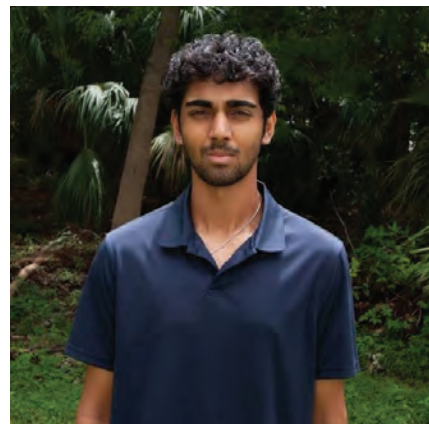


- Nauru officially changed its name to the Republic of Naoero in August 2026 to reflect the traditional spelling and pronunciation used in the Nauruan language.
- President David Adeang stated that the change aimed to restore the country's traditional identity, preserve its language and culture, and promote patriotism.
- The name change was approved through a parliamentary vote after consultations, without holding a public referendum.
- The new country code became NRO, replacing NRU, and citizens were referred to as dei-Naoero instead of Nauruans.
- The United Nations updated its records with the new name, while Australia, New Zealand and other countries also began using it.
- The country had a population of about 12,000 and gained independence in 1968 after a period of Australian administration following German colonial rule.
- Naoero faced economic challenges after its phosphate resources declined and remained vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Static GK

- Naoero is an island country located in the South Pacific Ocean.
- Its capital is Yaren, which serves as the de facto seat of government.
- Naoero is one of the world's smallest sovereign states by area and population.
- Phosphate mining was a major source of Naoero's economic growth in the 1970s.

Nathan Thomas Became the World's Youngest Male Professor at 18



- Nathan Thomas became the world's youngest male professor at the age of 18 years and 346 days, breaking a 306-year-old Guinness World Record.
- He was appointed as a lecturer at Miami Dade College, Florida, where he taught COP 2270: C for Engineers.
- Thomas broke the previous record set by Scottish mathematician Colin Maclaurin, who became a professor at the age of 19 in the early 1700s.
- He entered Miami Dade College at the age of 10 and later joined Florida International University at the age of 14.
- He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in Electrical Engineering with distinction within four years.
- He became the youngest male professor, while Alia Sabur remained the youngest woman professor and was only 16 days older than Thomas at the time of his record.

Russia Launched Project 885M Yasen-M Submarine Ulyanovsk



- Russia floated out the K-563 Ulyanovsk, a nuclear-powered attack and cruise missile submarine, at the Sevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk.
- The submarine belongs to the advanced Project 885M Yasen-M class and was designed by the Malakhit Design Bureau for stealthy, long-range naval operations.
- It was laid down on July 28, 2017, and was launched nine years later for fitting-out work afloat.
- The submarine weighs approximately 13,800 tonnes and can carry Kalibr, Oniks, and Zircon cruise missiles, including hypersonic weapons.
- After completion of fitting-out work and sea trials, Ulyanovsk is scheduled to be delivered to the Russian Navy in 2027.

Oman and Saudi Arabia Launched Green Land Corridor

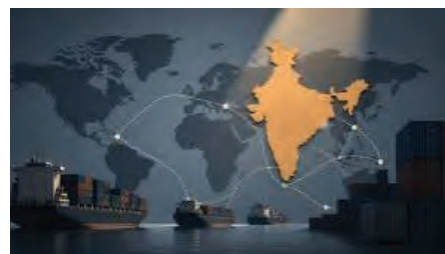


- Oman and Saudi Arabia launched the Secure Green Land Corridor in August 2026 as a direct land logistics route across the Rub' al Khali or Empty Quarter.
- The corridor connects Sohar Port in Oman with an inland dry-port facility in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province and supports freight movement between the two countries.
- The route uses a cross-border highway and bypasses the Strait of Hormuz while avoiding UAE transit borders for selected freight movements.
- The Saudi section of the highway is 564 km long and cost SAR 2 billion, with construction involving 150 million cubic metres of sand.
- The corridor reduces freight transit time by 14 to 18 hours and is intended to improve logistics efficiency rather than replace large-scale maritime crude oil transport.

Static GK

- Rub' al Khali, or Empty Quarter, is one of the world's largest continuous sand deserts and extends across Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, and Yemen.
- The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
- Sohar Port is a major Omani port on the Gulf of Oman.

India Was Named in US Shadow Transshipment Network



- The United States named India in a “shadow transshipment network” linked to Chinese goods entering the US market through third countries.
- A US report placed India in Tier 1 under the category “Diversified Scale Leaders” alongside Canada, the European Union, Israel, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, and Taiwan.
- The report stated that Chinese exporters used third countries to bypass high US import tariffs and estimated potentially illegal transshipments at about \$60 billion annually.
- The report identified the Pune-Gujarat-Chennai industrial production belt as a possible route for China-linked pumps and compressors entering the US market.
- The US administration planned to use artificial intelligence systems to detect, track, and penalise shipments routed through such networks.

Static GK

- Transshipment involves routing goods through an intermediate country before their final export to another market.
- Rules of origin determine the country in which a product is treated as manufactured for tariff purposes.

Syrian Court Sentenced Ousted Leader Bashar al-Assad to Death



- A Syrian court sentenced ousted former president Bashar al-Assad to death in absentia following a landmark trial.
- The tribunal convicted Assad along with key former officials, including his brother Maher al-Assad and former political security chief Atef Najib.
- The charges involved crimes against humanity, murder, and widespread atrocities committed during the 14-year Syrian civil war.

- The verdict marked the first official criminal conviction against former regime leadership since Assad’s overthrow.
- As Assad remained in exile outside Syria, the death sentence was pronounced in absentia under the new Syrian judiciary.

Static GK

- Syria’s capital is Damascus.
- Syria’s currency is the Syrian Pound.

Russia Appointed Former CJI D.Y. Chandrachud as Arbitrator in Ukraine Dispute

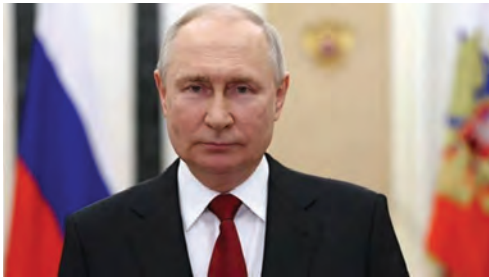


- Russia appointed former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud as its nominee arbitrator in an international investment treaty arbitration.
- The dispute was initiated by Ukraine’s state-owned Oschadbank under the 1998 Ukraine–Russia Bilateral Investment Treaty.
- The claim involved lost banking assets and operational damages in Russian-occupied regions including Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia.
- Justice Chandrachud will serve on a three-member arbitral tribunal alongside an Oschadbank-appointed arbitrator and a mutually agreed presiding arbitrator.

Static GK

- Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud served as the 50th Chief Justice of India from 2022 to 2024.
- Article 124(2) provides for the appointment of judges of the Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice of India.
- Russia’s capital is Moscow, and its currency is the Russian Ruble.
- The Permanent Court of Arbitration is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.

Putin Visited Iturup Island Amid the Japan-Russia Dispute



- Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Iturup Island in August 2026 amid the territorial dispute between Japan and Russia.
- Iturup is one of the four disputed islands in the southern Kuril Islands, which Japan calls the Northern Territories.
- The other disputed territories are Kunashir, Shikotan and the Habomai islets.
- Iturup is the largest island in the disputed group and is administered by Russia as part of Sakhalin Oblast.
- Japan protested the visit by summoning the Russian Ambassador, while Russia later protested Japan's criticism.
- The Kuril Islands form a volcanic archipelago between Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula and Japan's Hokkaido.

Static GK

- Iturup is known as Etorofu in Japanese.
- The Kuril Islands are located in the north-western Pacific Ocean.
- Russia and Japan have not signed a peace treaty formally ending their territorial dispute over the islands.
- Putin became the second Russian leader to visit the disputed archipelago.

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir Was Elected Bangladesh President



- Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, a Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader, was elected the 23rd President of Bangladesh in August 2026.
- He secured 255 votes against Colonel (retd) Oli Ahmed of the Liberal Democratic Party, who received 88 votes.
- The election was held through a parliamentary vote in the Jatiya Sangsad, with 343 valid votes out of 349 eligible members.
- The election was Bangladesh's first contested presidential election in 35 years.
- Former President Mohammed Shahabuddin resigned in July 2026, while Parliament Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed served as interim president.
- Alamgir was scheduled to take the oath at Bangabhaban in August 2026.

Static GK

- The Jatiya Sangsad is the unicameral national parliament of Bangladesh.
- Bangabhaban is the official residence and principal workplace of the President of Bangladesh.
- The Bangladesh Nationalist Party was founded in 1978.
- Bangladesh became independent in 1971.

Pakistan's Defence Reforms Were Implemented



- Pakistan enacted the Defence Forces of Pakistan Act, 2026 and amended the National Command Authority Act, 2010, creating major changes in its defence and nuclear command structure.
- The 27th Constitutional Amendment of November 2025 abolished the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and created the statutory post of Chief of Defence Forces.
- Field Marshal Asim Munir became the first Chief of Defence Forces in December 2025 while also serving as Chief of Army Staff.

- The Defence Forces of Pakistan Act placed all military services under a unified command at Defence Forces Headquarters in Chaklala, Rawalpindi, under the Chief of Defence Forces.
- The Chief of Defence Forces became the Prime Minister's principal military adviser on national security and tri-service matters and received extensive administrative powers over military personnel.
- The National Command Authority amendment replaced references to the former joint-chiefs structure with the Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces and incorporated the National Strategic Command.
- General Syed Aamer Raza became the National Strategic Command head in July 2026 for a three-year term, with a possible further three-year extension on the Chief of Defence Forces' recommendation.
- The National Command Authority remained Pakistan's apex body for nuclear policy, operational control and

employment, supported by the Employment Control Committee, Development Control Committee and Strategic Plans Division.

- The reforms concentrated conventional and strategic command under a unified military leadership and raised concerns about civil-military balance, democratic oversight, inter-service autonomy and escalation risks in South Asia.

Static GK

- The National Command Authority is Pakistan's apex body for nuclear policy and operational control.
- The Strategic Plans Division provides administrative and secretariat support to Pakistan's strategic command system.
- The Chief of Defence Forces is a statutory military leadership position created through Pakistan's 27th Constitutional Amendment.



Telangana Launches Family Register Initiative



- Telangana issued an order in July 2026 to create a statewide electronic Family Register and launch the Family Register Certificate.
- The electronic Family Register will mainly use data from the Food Security Card database of the Civil Supplies Department.
- Each family will receive a Family Register Identification Number, which will be the same as the ration card number.
- The Family Register Certificate will record family details such as relationship, age, date of birth, gender, Aadhaar number, and present address.
- A major family member can apply for the certificate through MeeSeva centres, the online portal, or the mobile app.
- The government will issue the certificate within two working days from the date of application.
- The certificate will not determine property rights, legal heirship, or eligibility for any government welfare scheme.
- The initiative aims to provide a uniform digital record of family details across Telangana.

Static GK

- MeeSeva is Telangana's digital platform for government-to-citizen services.

- Food Security Cards are commonly known as ration cards and are linked to the Public Distribution System (PDS).

L&T Secured NTPC Contract for Lara Stage-III Thermal Power Project



- Larsen & Toubro received a Limited Notice to Proceed from NTPC for the 2×800 MW Lara Stage-III Thermal Power Project in Chhattisgarh.
- The contract, valued between ₹5,000 crore and ₹10,000 crore, falls under L&T's "Mega" project category.
- L&T will execute the complete EPC package for two 800 MW units using high-efficiency ultra-supercritical technology.
- The project will use lower-emission technology to improve thermal power generation efficiency.
- The order became L&T's third major ultra-supercritical thermal power project from NTPC within the last two years.

Static GK

- NTPC was established in 1975 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- Chhattisgarh's capital is Raipur and the Mahanadi is its major river.
- L&T is headquartered in Mumbai.

Delhi Cabinet Approved Delhi Lakshmi Yojana



- The Delhi Cabinet approved the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana to provide ₹2,500 per month to eligible women.
- The government allocated ₹5,110 crore for the scheme in FY 2026–27.
- Online registration will begin in August 2026, and the first instalment will be released on 28 August 2026.
- Women aged 21–60 years with an annual family income of up to ₹2.5 lakh will be eligible for the scheme.
- The scheme received initial approval for three years, subject to future review.

Static GK

- The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is appointed under Article 239.
- Delhi received special status under the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991.
- The National Capital Territory Act was enacted in 1991.

Chhattisgarh Launched DWEEPTI Yojana for Women-Led Solar Entrepreneurship



- Chhattisgarh launched the DWEEPTI Yojana as India's first women-led distributed renewable energy policy.
- The scheme aims to establish 5,000 women-led solar enterprises, create about 50,000 green jobs, and provide clean energy to 5 lakh families and 10,000 public institutions.
- It empowers SHGs through training, financial support, and solar business opportunities under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.
- Kabirdham became the first implementation district, where women were trained as "Solar Didis" for rooftop solar installation and maintenance.
- The initiative is implemented with CSPDCL and is linked with the Lakhpati Didi Initiative to strengthen rural livelihoods.

Static GK

- First Implementation District: Kabirdham.
- Implementing Department: Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Chhattisgarh.
- Partner Organisation: Transform Rural India (TRI).

Ladakh Declared 23 Heritage Sites as Protected Monuments



- The Ladakh administration declared 23 historic locations as Protected Monuments under the Jammu and Kashmir Ancient Monuments Preservation Act.
- The notified heritage sites include petroglyph complexes at Sharnos, Domkhar, Lehdo, Alchi, Murgi and Mangmore, along with the Maitreya Buddha Rock Carving at Shey, Tingmosgang Fort, Sumoor Fort and Saspol Caves.
- Important Buddhist heritage sites in Nubra Valley include Stongday Gonpa, meditation caves, rock-carved Buddha statues, Maitreya carvings, Rigsum Gonbo rock sculpture, Chamba Karpo and Folang Singey.
- The list also includes Dechen Tsomo Khar Fort in Nubra and the Yourbaltak rock inscription in Kargil, reflecting Ladakh's traditions of rock art, inscriptions, Buddhist heritage and historic fortifications.

- The notification provided statutory protection against unauthorized construction, encroachment, and unregulated human activity around the heritage sites.
- The move aimed to promote scientific restoration, expert maintenance, and sustainable cultural tourism.

Static GK

- Ladakh became a Union Territory on October 31, 2019.
- Hemis National Park is located in Ladakh and is known for snow leopards.
- Pangong Tso is a high-altitude endorheic lake in Ladakh.

Gujarat's Pithora Painting Received GI Tag



- Gujarat's centuries-old Pithora painting received the Geographical Indication tag as a traditional ritualistic wall art practiced mainly by the Rathwa, Bhil, and Bhilala tribal communities.
- The art form is mainly associated with Chhota Udepur and Panchmahal districts and is created on mud walls during sacred ceremonies to honor Pithora Dev, the tribal deity associated with joy, peace, and prosperity.
- Traditional artists known as Lakharas use natural pigments mixed with milk and mahua to depict horses, village life, and revered deities.
- The GI recognition aimed to protect the art from imitation, enhance its global visibility, and improve economic opportunities for tribal artisans.

Static GK

- The Geographical Indications Registry is located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- GI registration is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999.
- Darjeeling Tea became the first Indian product to receive a GI tag in 2004.

Bengaluru Police Launched Operation Mukta



- Bengaluru City Police launched Operation Mukta to identify suspected illegal immigrants and strengthen verification of identity and residency documents.
- Around 500 police personnel conducted coordinated early-morning raids across more than 30 to 50 locations, including the Whitefield technology corridor.
- Police checked passports, visas, Aadhaar cards, and other documents to identify illegal residents and persons using forged papers.
- At least four Bangladeshi nationals were detained during the initial raids for allegedly lacking valid travel and identification documents.
- The operation also focused on tenant verification, preventing illegal stays, and strengthening security across residential and commercial areas.

Static GK

- Bengaluru is the capital of Karnataka and is known as the Silicon Valley of India.
- The Foreigners Act was enacted in 1946.
- Articles 5 to 11 of the Constitution deal with citizenship.
- The BSF guards India's international borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Karnataka Approved SAMASTA for Health Record Digitisation



- Karnataka approved the phased rollout of SAMASTA, a digital health platform designed to replace manual paper-based health records.
- The platform is linked with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and will be used at Ayushman Arogya Kendras and Primary Health Centres.
- SAMASTA supports online and offline data entry for ASHA workers, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, and health inspectors during field-level health services.
- It reduced the ASHA diary's manual data elements from 485 to 134 digital data points, with an estimated 75% reduction in data-entry workload.
- The platform integrates family IDs, Aadhaar-based verification, and Ayushman Bharat Health Account IDs.
- A pilot in Udipi recorded 95% beneficiary registration and 85% completion of health check-ups, while more than 400,000 Ayushman Bharat Health Account IDs were linked.

Static GK

- ASHA workers form part of India's community health workforce.
- Auxiliary Nurse Midwives provide maternal and child health services at the primary level.
- Ayushman Bharat Health Account is a digital health ID under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.
- Ayushman Arogya Kendras function within India's primary healthcare framework.

Karnataka Cabinet Approved 'Sandhya Kiran' Healthcare Scheme



- The Karnataka Cabinet approved 'Sandhya Kiran', a contributory cashless healthcare scheme for retired state government employees.
- The scheme provides annual cashless medical cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family on a family-floater basis for secondary, tertiary, and emergency healthcare.

- Implemented under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka framework, the scheme is expected to benefit nearly 4.93 lakh pensioners and family pensioners.
- Coverage applies to state pensioners below 70 years and eligible dependents at empanelled public and private hospitals.
- The initiative aims to reduce high out-of-pocket medical expenses and strengthen social security for senior citizens.

Static GK

- Karnataka's capital is Bengaluru.
- Karnataka has five national parks: Bannerghatta, Bandipur, Nagarhole, Kudremukh, and Anshi.
- Kannada received Classical Language status in 2008.

CBDC-Based DBT Was Set to Launch in Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli



- The Government of India announced the launch of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli in August 2026.
- Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli were set to become the first Union Territories to operationalise food subsidy transfers through programmable Digital Rupee tokens directly into eligible beneficiaries' CBDC wallets.
- Beneficiaries could use the subsidy to purchase foodgrains from empanelled merchants through secure, traceable and real-time digital payments.
- The initiative aimed to reduce leakages, diversion and cash handling while improving transparency, accountability and financial inclusion.
- Earlier pilot implementations of the model took place in Puducherry and Gujarat.
- The rollout was presented as a proof of concept and a scalable model for other States and Union Territories.

Static GK

- CBDC is the digital form of a country's sovereign currency issued by its central bank.
- The Digital Rupee is India's CBDC.

West Bengal Hosted the First Kaushal Mahotsav in Balurghat



- West Bengal hosted its first Kaushal Mahotsav in August 2026 at Balurghat Stadium in Dakshin Dinajpur; it was the 11th such event in India.
- The event was organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, National Skill Development Corporation and the Government of West Bengal.
- The fair offered more than 7,000 career opportunities across IT, banking, logistics, hospitality, healthcare, manufacturing and retail.
- Wipro, Tata Group and Axis Bank were among the participating employers.
- Union Minister of State for Education Dr. Sukanta Majumdar and other state ministers attended the event.

Static GK

- Kaushal Mahotsav is associated with the Skill India Mission.
- National Skill Development Corporation supports vocational training and employability initiatives.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was created in 2014.

Tamil Nadu Raised CMCHIS Cover to ₹25 Lakh

- Tamil Nadu increased the annual health insurance cover under CMCHIS from ₹5 lakh to ₹25 lakh in August 2026.



- The scheme provides cashless treatment to eligible families in empanelled hospitals and added specialised medical and surgical services for transgender persons at seven government medical college hospitals.
- The state approved ₹300 crore for a 400-bed multi-super-speciality hospital in Perambur and ₹677.44 crore for the Chief Minister's Cancer Care Mission.
- ₹471.80 crore was allocated for an integrated cancer treatment unit at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, along with five new regional cancer centres.
- The government announced ₹351 crore for seven new nursing colleges and expansion of nursing and pharmacy seats.
- Paid maternity leave for female government employees having a third child was extended to 365 days.
- Tamil Nadu also announced a full waiver of cooperative farm loans up to ₹75,000 for more than 1.38 lakh farmers and revised Aavin milk procurement prices.

Static GK

- CMCHIS is a health insurance scheme of Tamil Nadu.
- Rule 110 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly is used for special government statements.
- Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital is a major tertiary-care hospital in Chennai.
- Aavin is the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited.

RIL Proposed India's First Integrated Underground Coal Gasification Complex

- Reliance Industries Limited proposed an investment of about ₹2.73 lakh crore over 30 years for India's first integrated Underground Coal Gasification complex in Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh.



- The project will use deep coal reserves from the Chintalapudi and Recherla blocks, containing an estimated 3,130.61 million tonnes of coal at depths beyond 600 metres.
- Underground Coal Gasification converts coal into synthesis gas below the ground without conventional mining.
- The project includes pilot, development and production phases, with production planned from 2030.
- The syngas can be used to produce hydrogen, methanol, urea, ammonia and synthetic fuels.
- RIL estimated that the project may create 3,000–5,000 direct jobs and 20,000–35,000 indirect and induced livelihoods.

Static GK

- Syngas mainly contains carbon monoxide, hydrogen, carbon dioxide and methane.
- The Ministry of Coal conducts commercial e-auctions for coal blocks.
- Eluru district is located in the coastal region of Andhra Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Approved 180-Day Maternity Leave Twice



- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a policy in August 2026 allowing female state government employees 180 days of paid maternity leave twice during their service career.

- The same 180-day leave benefit was extended to adoptive mothers who adopt children.
- The Cabinet amended Rule 153(1) of the Uttar Pradesh Financial Handbook, removing the earlier requirement of a minimum two-year gap between the first and second maternity leaves.
- The decision followed Allahabad High Court rulings in July and August 2026, which held that state executive rules cannot override the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, or the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- The Cabinet also approved the proposal through circulation along with ten other state proposals.
- It approved a waiver of stamp duty and registration fees for transferring closed sugar mill lands of Uttar Pradesh State Spinning Company Limited and Uttar Pradesh Yarn Company Limited to the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority.
- The Cabinet approved State Finance Commission funding for producing one crore flags for the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan 2026 in urban areas.

Static GK

- The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 regulates maternity benefits for women employees in India.
- The Code on Social Security, 2020 is one of the four labour codes enacted by Parliament.

Uttar Pradesh and Yamanashi Announced ₹600-Crore MSME Fund



- Uttar Pradesh and Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture signed multiple Memoranda of Understanding in August 2026 at the UP-Japan Investment Meet in Lucknow.
- A ₹600-crore fund was announced for Yamanashi-based Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises investing in Uttar Pradesh.
- Uttar Pradesh announced a dedicated Yamanashi Desk at Invest UP for investor coordination and approval support.

- The two sides agreed to a 90-day review mechanism for monitoring land allotments and resolving investment-related issues.
 - Four MoUs covered technical training, skills development, tourism and Japanese Global Capability Centres in Noida and Greater Noida.
 - Invest UP and the Technical Training & Research Centre in Kanpur signed an MoU for workforce development and placement linkages.
 - The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department signed an MoU to promote Buddhist-based tourism and related investments.
- A separate MoU on legislative cooperation was signed by Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana and Yamanashi Prefectural Assembly Chairman Hidenori Miyamoto.

Static GK

- Yamanashi is one of Japan's 47 prefectures.
- Invest UP is Uttar Pradesh's state investment promotion agency.
- Noida and Greater Noida are major industrial and services hubs in the National Capital Region.

Chapter 4

Business and Economy



Vizag Port Handled 50.87% of Marine Exports in 2025



- Visakhapatnam Port handled 50.87% of India's total marine product exports in FY 2024-25 and accounted for 48.89% share in FY 2025-26.
- Visakhapatnam Port remained a major port on India's eastern coast and supported cargo movement through the Bay of Bengal region.
- India's marine product exports reached ₹72,325.82 crore (\$8.28 billion) with a volume of 1.93 million tonnes in FY 2025-26.
- Frozen shrimp remained the leading marine export product and contributed ₹47,973.13 crore (\$5.51 billion) in FY 2025-26.
- The Marine Products Export Development Authority supported marine export promotion, quality control, and market development.

Static GK

- Visakhapatnam Port is located in Andhra Pradesh on the eastern coast of India.
- The Marine Products Export Development Authority works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

India Decided to Adopt Producer Price Index for GDP Deflation

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation decided to adopt the output Producer Price Index as the deflator for annual and quarterly GDP calculations.



- The output PPI will gradually replace the Wholesale Price Index across applicable sectors in national accounts compilation.
- Unlike the WPI, the output PPI excludes indirect taxes, trade margins, and transportation markups, providing a more accurate measure of factory-gate prices.
- The transition aims to align India's national accounting framework with international statistical standards.
- MoSPI plans to roll out PPI-deflated GDP estimates from the Q1 GDP data of FY 2026-27.

Static GK

- WPI base year is 2011-12 and is released by DPIIT.
- CPI base year is 2012 and is released by NSO under MoSPI.

ADB Approved \$850 Million Loan for PM Surya Ghar Rooftop Solar Scheme



- The Asian Development Bank approved an \$850 million loan to support PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.
- The loan will support the second phase of policy reforms to accelerate residential rooftop solar adoption across India.
- The project targets installation of at least 3.5 million new rooftop solar systems in households.
- The initiative focuses on strengthening digital application platforms, improving grid integration, and enhancing monitoring infrastructure.
- The scheme aims to reduce household electricity bills, lower carbon emissions, and accelerate India's renewable energy transition.

Static GK

- ADB was established in 1966 and is headquartered in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- ADB President is Masatsugu Asakawa.
- PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana was launched in February 2024 and provides up to 300 free electricity units per month.

RBI Received Approval to Issue ₹10 and ₹20 Polymer Banknotes for Field Trials



- The Government approved RBI's proposal to issue one billion ₹10 and one billion ₹20 polymer banknotes for field trials.
- The polymer notes will be tested under different climatic and circulation conditions before any decision on wider public circulation.
- Polymer banknotes are more durable, moisture-resistant, dirt-resistant, and secure against counterfeiting than paper currency.
- The Government clarified that polymer notes will circulate alongside paper notes and will not replace existing currency.
- The initiative aims to reduce currency replacement costs and improve the durability of banknotes.

Static GK (if required)

- The approval was granted under Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934.
- Australia became the first country to introduce polymer banknotes in 1988.

OmniCard Launched India's First UPI-Based Flexi Benefits Wallet



- OmniCard launched India's first UPI-based Flexi Benefits Wallet, developed by Eroute Technologies Pvt. Ltd., for tax-efficient employee benefits.
- The wallet operates on an RBI-licensed PPI platform and enables UPI Scan-and-Pay at nearly 60 million UPI-enabled merchants.
- It allows employees to manage benefits such as meals, fuel, telecom, books & periodicals, and gadgets through a single digital wallet.
- The platform uses Merchant Category Code (MCC)-based controls to ensure tax-compliant spending and simplify benefit administration.
- The launch aligns with the Income-tax Rules, 2026, under which the tax-free meal benefit increased to ₹200 per meal, allowing eligible employees to receive tax-free benefits exceeding ₹2 lakh annually.

Static GK

- OmniCard: AI-powered corporate spend management platform launched in 2021.
- Developer: Eroute Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- PPI Regulator: RBI.

Willie Walsh Took Charge as IndiGo's New CEO

- Willie Walsh took charge as IndiGo's new CEO in August 2026, succeeding Pieter Elbers.
- IndiGo announced Walsh's appointment in March 2026, and he was chosen to lead the airline's international expansion and improve operational efficiency.



- Walsh previously served as CEO of Aer Lingus, British Airways and International Airlines Group, and as Director General of the International Air Transport Association.
- IndiGo Managing Director Rahul Bhatia welcomed Walsh and highlighted his international aviation experience and leadership in achieving the airline's global objectives.

Static GK

- IndiGo is an Indian low-cost airline headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana.
- Rahul Bhatia is the Managing Director of IndiGo.

RBI Deferred Basel III Pillar 3 Disclosure Framework



- The Reserve Bank of India deferred the implementation of the final Basel III Pillar 3 disclosure framework for commercial banks from September 30, 2026, to April 1, 2027.
- The delay was made after commercial banks sought additional time to align their reporting systems with revised disclosure templates and guidelines.
- The revised framework incorporated templates aligned with the Expected Credit Loss framework and standardized approach for credit-risk capital charges.

- Public sector banks were exempted from disclosing chief executive remuneration because their compensation structures were government-mandated.
- Quarterly disclosures under the revised framework will begin for the period ending June 30, 2027, and banks will maintain public website archives for five years.

Static GK

- Basel III has three pillars: minimum capital requirements, supervisory review, and market discipline.
- Pillar 3 promotes market discipline through enhanced regulatory disclosures.
- RBI mandates a 9% CRAR for Indian commercial banks.

Air India Appointed Tewolde Gebremariam as New CEO



- Air India appointed Tewolde Gebremariam, former CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, as its new CEO in August 2026.
- He succeeded Campbell Wilson, who led Air India during its stabilization and integration phase after the Tata Group took ownership in 2022.
- Gebremariam brought experience in airline operations, organizational transformation, aviation hubs, MRO facilities, training infrastructure, safety, and operational efficiency.
- During his tenure at Ethiopian Airlines, he expanded international routes, passenger and cargo operations, modernized the fleet, and developed aviation training and aircraft maintenance facilities.
- Air India expected his leadership to support operational excellence, international connectivity, customer experience, safety, and the development of India as a global aviation hub.

Static GK

- Ethiopian Airlines is headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Air India is a Tata Group airline headquartered in New Delhi, India.

ADB Approved \$1 Billion Loan for Urban Transformation



- The Asian Development Bank approved a \$1 billion policy-based loan under the Urban Transformation and Investment Program to support urban reforms in India.
- The loan will support the Urban Challenge Fund to attract private capital and market-based financing for municipal infrastructure.
- The programme aims to strengthen city governance, integrated economic and spatial planning, and the financial frameworks of local bodies.
- ADB also approved a \$3 million technical assistance grant for capacity building and an additional \$850 million loan for national rooftop solar development.

Static GK

- ADB is headquartered in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- ADB was established on December 19, 1966.

Income Tax Department Rolled Out Foreign Asset Disclosure Scheme



- The Central Board of Direct Taxes notified the Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers-Disclosure Scheme, 2026, under Chapter IV of the Finance Act, 2026.
- The scheme provides an online voluntary disclosure window from August to December 2026 for eligible small taxpayers, including returned non-residents, young professionals, and certain employees holding foreign assets.
- Eligible taxpayers must file declarations electronically through Form 1, with fair market value calculated using 31 March 2026 as the cut-off date.
- Category 1 covers undisclosed foreign assets or income up to ₹1 crore and requires 30% tax plus 30% penalty, resulting in an effective 60% levy.
- Category 2 covers assets up to ₹5 crore acquired from taxed income or during non-resident status and allows regularisation through a flat ₹1 lakh fee.
- Valid declarations provide immunity from further tax demands, penalties, and criminal prosecution under the Black Money Act, 2015.

Static GK

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes is the apex direct tax administration body under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- The Black Money Act, 2015 deals with undisclosed foreign income and assets held outside India.

India Reduced Windfall Tax on Petrol Exports to Zero



- India reduced the Special Additional Excise Duty on petrol exports to nil in August 2026 from ₹3.5 per litre.
- The duty on diesel exports fell to ₹24 per litre from ₹25.5 per litre, while the duty on aviation turbine fuel exports declined to ₹19.5 per litre from ₹22 per litre.
- The government uses fortnightly revisions for these duties, linking them to international crude oil and fuel price movements.

- Domestic excise duties on petrol and diesel for local consumption remained unchanged.
- India introduced windfall taxes on petroleum exports in July 2022 and reintroduced them in March 2026 after a rise in oil prices linked to the West Asia conflict.

Static GK

- Special Additional Excise Duty is the official name used for India's windfall gains tax on petroleum exports.
- Windfall taxes are imposed on extraordinary profits arising from sudden price movements or market disruptions.

Amit Shah Inaugurated NUCFDC Office and Launched 'Sahkar Nav-Kranti'



- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the new office of the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) in Fort, Mumbai, and launched the 'Sahkar Nav-Kranti' initiatives.
- The initiatives aim to modernise and revitalise the urban cooperative banking sector across India.
- NUCFDC functions as an umbrella organisation supporting Urban Cooperative Banks through financial, technological, and capacity-building assistance.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was among the prominent leaders present at the event.

Static GK

- The Ministry of Cooperation was established by the Central Government in July 2021.
- Amit Shah is India's first Minister of Cooperation.

N Chandrasekaran Stepped Down as Tata Sons Chairman



- N Chandrasekaran announced in August 2026 that he would not seek reappointment as Tata Sons Chairman after his current term ends in February 2027 and asked the board to begin the succession process.
- His proposed five-year extension did not receive unanimous support from the Tata Sons Board, leading to the decision not to seek another term.
- He joined the Tata Group in 1987, became CEO and MD of Tata Consultancy Services in 2009, and became Chairman of Tata Sons in 2017.
- Under his leadership, the Tata Group expanded across technology, automobiles, steel, aviation, defence, electronics, and semiconductors while managing challenges involving Air India, the IT sector, and Jaguar Land Rover.
- Tata Sons is the principal investment company of the Tata Group, with major companies including TCS, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Power, and Air India.

Static GK Facts

- Tata Sons was established in 1868 by Jamsetji Tata.
- Tata Group headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- TCS headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

SAIL Bhilai Steel Plant Launched a CO₂ Dashboard



- SAIL launched a digital CO₂ Dashboard at Bhilai Steel Plant in August 2026 to track carbon emissions from Bhilai Steel Plant and Chandrapur Ferro Alloy Plant.
- The dashboard provides real-time analysis of daily emissions at both plant-wide and individual shop levels for anomaly detection.
- It uses World Steel Association methodology, the GHG Protocol and the European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism framework for carbon-footprint assessment.
- The system aligns with India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme and monitors emission-intensity targets that can support carbon credit generation.

Static GK

- SAIL is a Maharatna public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Steel.
- Bhilai Steel Plant is located in Chhattisgarh, while Chandrapur Ferro Alloy Plant is located in Maharashtra.
- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism is an EU policy linked to carbon pricing on imports.

Government Amended Insurance Ombudsman Rules



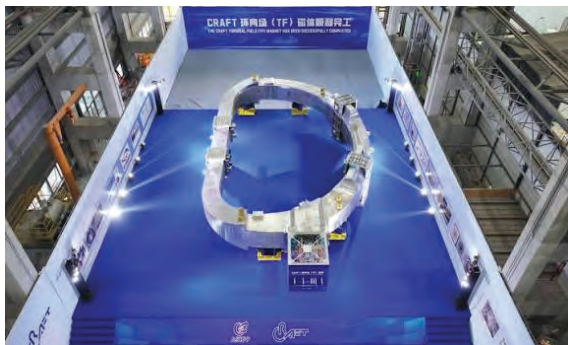
- The Ministry of Finance notified amendments to the Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017, in March 2021 to strengthen grievance redressal for insurance policyholders.
- The 2021 amendments expanded the Ombudsman's scope from disputes to deficiencies in service and covered insurers, agents, brokers and other insurance intermediaries.
- Policyholders received facilities for electronic complaint filing, online grievance tracking and participation in hearings through videoconferencing.
- The Executive Council of Insurers was renamed the Council for Insurance Ombudsmen, while the Ombudsman selection committee was modified to include a person with a record of promoting consumer rights.
- The Draft Insurance Ombudsman (Amendment) Rules, 2025, proposed a two-tier redressal structure with an Appellate Authority constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.
- The draft also proposed action against insurers and brokers that fail to comply with an Ombudsman award within 30 days, and remained under discussion in 2026.

Static GK

- The Insurance Ombudsman mechanism provides low-cost grievance redressal outside ordinary civil courts.
- The Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017 form the basic framework for the mechanism.
- The Council for Insurance Ombudsmen serves as its administrative structure.



China Completes Testing of World's Largest Fusion Magnet



- China completed expert acceptance and full-parameter testing of two domestically developed superconducting magnets on 27 June 2026 at the Institute of Plasma Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, in Hefei, Anhui Province.
- The tested systems included a toroidal field superconducting magnet and a high-temperature superconducting central solenoid coil for fusion research.
- The toroidal field superconducting magnet became the largest fusion reactor superconducting magnet built so far, with a length of 21 metres, width of 12 metres, and weight of 582 tonnes.
- The toroidal field magnet was used to confine high-temperature plasma inside a vacuum chamber through a strong magnetic field in fusion devices.
- The high-temperature superconducting central solenoid coil was tested to support plasma current control, ignition, and stable operation in tokamak-type fusion devices.
- Both magnet systems achieved internationally leading performance levels and were manufactured through 100% domestic production, including raw materials and fabrication processes.
- The project was linked to China's Comprehensive Research Facility for Fusion Technology (CRAFT) under the "artificial sun" programme.

- China targeted fusion power generation around 2030, while the tested toroidal field magnet had higher volume and stored energy compared to comparable magnets used in ITER.

Static GK

- Institute of Plasma Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences is located in Hefei, Anhui Province, China.
- ITER is an international fusion energy project located in France.
- Tokamak is a magnetic confinement device used for fusion research.

SHetA2 Therapy for HPV-Related Cervical Disease



- ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research validated SHetA2, an oral small-molecule therapy for further development in India in July 2026.
- SHetA2 targeted HPV E6 and E7 oncoproteins, which interfere with tumour suppressor proteins p53 and Rb involved in cell cycle regulation.
- The therapy was designed for treating precancerous cervical lesions, including Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia, and cervical cancer lesions.
- SHetA2 was transferred to Emcure Pharmaceuticals for larger human trials in India and remained under clinical evaluation.
- The molecule was developed through collaboration between scientists from ICMR-NICPR and the Stephenson Cancer Center at the University of Oklahoma.

- Preclinical studies showed oral bioavailability, safety, tolerability and selective activity against HPV-induced abnormal cells.

Static GK

- Human Papillomavirus is a DNA virus associated with cervical cancer.
- Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia is a precancerous condition of the cervix.
- ICMR-NICPR is located in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Sarvam AI Launched Epoch Builder Edition



- Sarvam AI launched Epoch Builder Edition in July 2026 as a developer and enterprise platform for building, fine-tuning, and deploying large language models for Indian languages and applications.
- The platform included 7-billion and 70-billion parameter multilingual models trained on 2 trillion tokens and supported more than 10 Indian languages, including Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Marathi, and Bengali.
- Sarvam AI commercially launched Sarvam Vision Edge in July 2026 as a document intelligence platform for processing complex documents.
- Sarvam AI launched Sarvam Vision, an optical character recognition system, in February 2026 and introduced Bulbul, a text-to-speech model supporting more than 35 voices across 11 Indian languages.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology selected Sarvam AI in April 2025 to develop an indigenous foundational model under the IndiaAI Mission.
- Sarvam AI announced plans to build a one trillion-plus parameter foundational model in India with a pricing strategy aimed at being cheaper than leading global models.

Static GK

- Sarvam AI is an Indian artificial intelligence company focused on language technologies.
- IndiaAI Mission is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Tech Companies Launched Open Secure AI Alliance



- NVIDIA, Microsoft, IBM, Cisco, and over 35 partners launched the Open Secure AI Alliance to strengthen AI safety and cybersecurity.
- The alliance will develop open-source AI security tools, frameworks, and benchmarks to protect digital infrastructure from AI-enabled threats.
- Members contributed technologies such as Microsoft's AI bug-hunting agent and Hugging Face's secure model-storage framework.
- The initiative was launched following cybersecurity concerns related to autonomous AI agents.
- Backed by the Linux Foundation, the alliance supports transparent AI security and advocates against restrictions on open-weight AI models.

Static GK

- NVIDIA was founded in 1993 and is headquartered in Santa Clara, California.
- Microsoft is headquartered in Redmond, Washington, and its CEO is Satya Nadella.
- IBM was founded in 1911 and is headquartered in Armonk, New York.

IARC Classified Three Medicines as Group 1 Carcinogens

- The International Agency for Research on Cancer classified hydrochlorothiazide, voriconazole, and tacrolimus as Group 1 "carcinogenic to humans."



- Hydrochlorothiazide is a diuretic used for conditions such as high blood pressure, voriconazole is an antifungal medicine, and tacrolimus is an immunosuppressant used to prevent organ-transplant rejection.
- The Group 1 classification indicated cancer-causing hazard but did not determine the exact level of cancer risk at standard therapeutic doses.
- The assessment was conducted by 22 international expert scientists after a comprehensive review of published clinical and scientific evidence.
- Patients were advised not to stop or change these medicines without medical advice because their established clinical benefits remained important.

Static GK

- IARC was established in 1965 and is headquartered in Lyon, France.
- IARC is a specialized cancer research agency of WHO.
- WHO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and was established on April 7, 1948.

China Harvested First Rice Crop Grown in Space



- China harvested the first batch of rice grown from space seeds aboard the Tiangong Space Station

after more than two months of cultivation under microgravity conditions.

- The cultivation experiment was conducted by the Shenzhou-23 crew, comprising astronauts Zhu Yangzhu, Zhang Zhiyuan, and Lai Ka-ying.
- The rice seeds were sent to orbit in May 2026 and were cultivated in space before the first harvest.
- The experiment became the world's first "two consecutive generations" cultivation experiment for space-grown rice, building on China's earlier space-seed trials in 2022.
- The harvested rice ears and seeds were preserved at -80°C and will be returned to Earth for analysis of genetic stability and adaptation to space conditions.

Static GK

- Tiangong is China's permanent space station in low Earth orbit.
- China Manned Space Agency manages China's human spaceflight missions.
- The scientific name of rice is *Oryza sativa*, and it belongs to the Poaceae family.

Astrobase Unveiled 'EVEREST' Rocket Engine



- Bengaluru-based Astrobase Space Technologies unveiled 'EVEREST', India's first privately built 800 kN rocket engine.
- The engine uses a Full-Flow Staged Combustion cycle powered by liquid oxygen and liquid methane.
- Designed for reusable medium-lift launch vehicles, EVEREST has 340 seconds of specific impulse and a 50%–110% throttle range.
- The achievement places India among the countries developing Full-Flow Staged Combustion technology.
- The development was supported under IN-SPACe's Technology Adoption Fund to accelerate indigenous space technology innovation.

Static GK

- IN-SPaCe was established in June 2020 and is headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ISRO was established on 15 August 1969.

ISRO Strengthened Space Debris Mitigation Measures

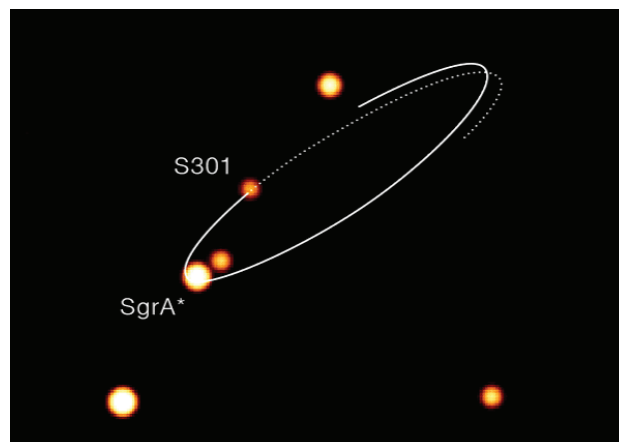


- ISRO is implementing measures to reduce space debris from satellite constellations in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), including the Debris Free Space Mission, Active Debris Removal, post-mission disposal, and orbital decay norms.
- Space debris includes defunct satellites, spent rocket stages, and fragments from orbital collisions or explosions.
- ISRO has begun precursor on-orbit demonstrations for Active Debris Removal, but no operational launch date for a full debris-removal system has been announced.
- Indian space actors must follow internationally recognised post-mission disposal practices under the Indian Space Policy and norms issued by IN-SPaCe.
- India follows a 5-year orbital decay guideline for certain missions, requiring spacecraft and upper stages to re-enter the atmosphere within five years after mission completion.
- The upper stage of the LVM3 M5 rocket re-entered the atmosphere over the Atlantic Ocean in July 2026, complying with the 5-year orbital decay guideline.

Static GK

- Low Earth Orbit generally extends up to 2,000 km above Earth and hosts communication, remote sensing, scientific, and crewed missions.
- The Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee was formed in 1993, and ISRO became a member in 1996.
- The Kessler syndrome refers to a chain reaction in which orbital collisions generate more debris and increase the risk of further collisions.

Scientists Identified S301 as the Fastest Star in the Milky Way



- Scientists identified S301 as the fastest-moving star recorded on a secure orbit, with a maximum speed of about 25,000 km/s or 8% of the speed of light.
- S301 follows a highly elliptical 8.7-year orbit around Sagittarius A*, the supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way.
- The star passes within about 12 astronomical units, or 1.8 billion km, of Sagittarius A* at its closest approach.
- The discovery used the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope Interferometer at Paranal Observatory in Chile, with archival observations traced to 2017.
- The international research team was led by K. Abd El Dayem of the Paris Observatory, with Felix Mang and Stefan Gillessen also involved.
- S4714 was reported as a faster star in 2020, but later measurements did not reproduce those results, leaving S301 as the verified fastest star on a secure orbit.

Static GK

- Sagittarius A* is the supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way.
- One astronomical unit is about 149.6 million km, approximately the average Earth-Sun distance.
- The GRAVITY collaboration conducts high-precision observations of stars near Sagittarius A*.

Scientists Discovered Mega-Earth GJ 523b

- Scientists identified GJ 523b as a "mega-Earth" with a radius about 2.55 times that of Earth and a mass of 23.5 Earth masses.

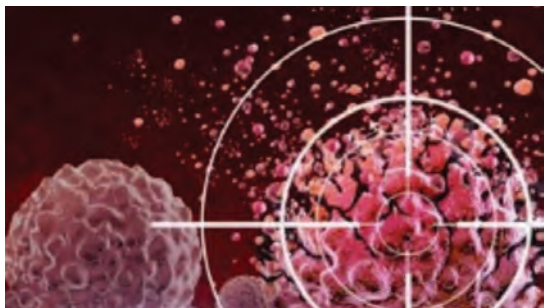


- The exoplanet orbits a mid-K dwarf star and has an estimated bulk density of about 7.8 g/cm^3 .
- GJ 523b completes one orbit in 17.75 days and has an estimated equilibrium temperature of 538 Kelvin.
- Its properties were determined using transit observations from TESS and radial velocity measurements from the NEID spectrograph.
- The planetary system is estimated to be 169 million years old.

Static GK

- Exoplanets are planets that orbit stars outside the Solar System.
- Transit photometry detects the dip in starlight when a planet passes in front of its host star.
- Radial velocity detects the movement of a star caused by the gravity of an orbiting planet.

Scientists Developed RK-251 Cancer Drug



- Indian researchers announced RK-251 in August 2026 as a smart cancer drug designed to remain inactive in healthy tissue and activate inside tumour cells.
- The drug was developed through a collaboration led by Dr Asis Bala and Dr K.P. Bhabak of the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology and IIT Guwahati.
- RK-251 works as a prodrug activated by reactive oxygen species, which are present at higher levels in many cancer cells.

- The drug releases NBDHEX after activation, targeting proteins used by cancer cells for survival.
- Preclinical tests against triple-negative breast cancer cells showed targeted activity while sparing healthy cells in laboratory conditions.
- RK-251 has not entered human clinical trials and requires further studies before regulatory clearance.

Static GK

- Triple-negative breast cancer lacks oestrogen receptor, progesterone receptor and HER2 expression.
- Danio rerio is the scientific name of the zebrafish.
- A prodrug becomes active after chemical or metabolic activation.

India Launched Genome-Edited Rice Varieties



- India launched DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala) and Pusa DST Rice 1 as its first two genome-edited rice varieties in May 2025.
- DRR Dhan 100 was developed from Samba Mahsuri and matures about 15–20 days earlier, with a crop duration of around 130 days.
- Pusa DST Rice 1 was developed from Cotton Dora Sannalu, also known as MTU1010, and is designed for drought and salinity tolerance.
- Under saline stress, Pusa DST Rice 1 showed yield gains of up to 30.36%, while DRR Dhan 100 showed yield gains of 19–25%.
- ICAR, ICAR-IIRR, ICAR-IARI and the All India Coordinated Research Project on Rice were associated with development and testing.

- Genome editing alters specific DNA sequences without necessarily introducing foreign DNA, with CRISPR-Cas9 being a major genome-editing tool.

Static GK

- SDN-1 and SDN-2 are genome-editing categories that do not introduce foreign genes.
- Rice belongs to the family Poaceae.
- India is one of the largest producers and consumers of rice globally.

NASA Abandoned the Swift Telescope Rescue Mission



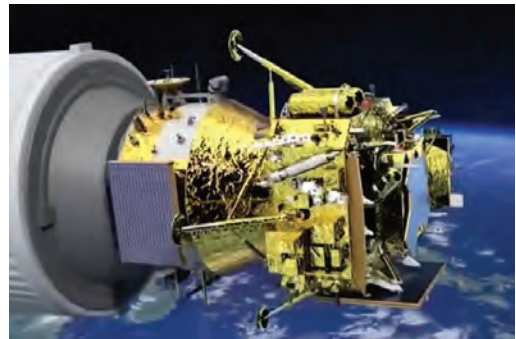
- NASA and Katalyst Space Technologies cancelled the planned capture and reboost of the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory in August 2026 because repeated control failures made safe docking impossible.
- Swift was launched in November 2004 to study gamma-ray bursts and other high-energy cosmic events and has observed about 1,800 cosmic explosions.
- The \$500-million observatory was orbiting at about 347 km before the rescue mission was abandoned.
- NASA awarded Katalyst a \$30-million contract in September 2025 for the commercial rescue mission using the LINK robotic spacecraft.
- LINK was launched in July 2026 aboard a Northrop Grumman Pegasus XL rocket from Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.
- LINK entered a multi-axis spin in July because of a critical attitude-control failure; engineers uploaded new controllers in August, but pointing and positioning problems continued.
- NASA and Katalyst called off the primary capture and reboost operation in August 2026.
- LINK will still attempt rendezvous and proximity operations near Swift to collect technical data.

- The Swift Observatory is expected to burn up during atmospheric re-entry later in 2026, likely no earlier than October.

Static GK

- Gamma-ray bursts are brief, intense flashes of high-energy radiation linked to distant cosmic explosions.
- Attitude control refers to controlling the orientation of a spacecraft in space.
- Kwajalein Atoll is a Pacific launch site used for rocket missions.

China Scheduled Chang'e-7 Mission for Lunar South Pole



- China scheduled the Chang'e-7 lunar mission for August 2026 from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan aboard a Long March 5 Y14 rocket.
- The mission uses a four-in-one configuration consisting of an orbiter, lander, rover and hopping probe.
- The lander will attempt a touchdown near Shackleton Crater, while the rover will explore the lunar surface and the hopping probe will investigate difficult terrain.
- The mission primarily targets the lunar south pole and will search for water ice in permanently shadowed craters.
- The hopping probe uses active shock-absorption technology to enter shadowed craters and analyse water molecules.
- The mission carries six scientific payloads supplied by six countries and one international organisation.
- The Queqiao-2 relay satellite, launched in March 2024, will provide communication support between Earth and the lunar surface.
- Chang'e-7 is part of China's broader lunar exploration programme focused on polar science, surface mobility and resource detection.

Static GK

- Chang'e is China's lunar exploration programme named after the Chinese moon goddess Chang'e.
- Shackleton Crater is a prominent impact crater near the Moon's south pole.
- Permanently shadowed regions can preserve volatile substances such as water ice.
- Queqiao-2 supports communications for lunar missions, particularly areas not directly visible from Earth.

Sophie Adenot Became First French Woman to Walk in Space



- European Space Agency astronaut Sophie Adenot became the first French woman and second European woman to perform a spacewalk in August 2026.
- She conducted U.S. Spacewalk 97 outside the International Space Station with NASA astronaut Anil Menon during a 6-hour 23-minute extravehicular activity.
- The main task was to replace a failed Space-to-Ground antenna on the ISS Z1 truss, which supports high-speed data communication with Mission Control in Houston.
- Stuck bolts and electrical cables delayed the installation, so Mission Control instructed the astronauts to secure the failed unit with a long-duration tie-down.
- NASA commander Jessica Meir and flight engineer Jack Hathaway assisted from inside the ISS and operated the Canadarm2 robotic arm.

- The mission became the 282nd spacewalk in the history of ISS assembly, maintenance and upgrades.
- Sophie Adenot and Anil Menon were scheduled to conduct EVA-98 in August 2026 to complete installation of the spare antenna.

Static GK

- The International Space Station is a multinational orbital laboratory operated through international space-agency cooperation.
- Canadarm2 is a robotic arm used for ISS assembly, maintenance and cargo-handling operations.
- The Z1 truss is a structural component of the ISS that supports station systems and equipment.

Singapore Launched a Biological Data Centre with Living Neurons



- Singapore launched a prototype biological data centre at the National University of Singapore's Centre for Life Sciences using living human neurons grown from stem cells and connected to silicon hardware.
- The system uses biological computing, where living cells or biological processes perform computing functions, while "wetware" combines biological material with electronic hardware.
- The prototype contains a 20-unit rack of CL1 systems, with about 800,000 neurons in each unit and approximately 16 million living neurons in the full rack.
- The neurons require laboratory maintenance with a nutrient and pH-buffer mixture every three days, supported by a gas-mixing life-support system.
- Professor Rickie Patani oversees cell maintenance, DayOne manages data-centre infrastructure and Cortical Labs provides the biological hardware.
- The prototype was officially launched in July 2026 and later showcased at the NUS Life Sciences Institute in August 2026.

- A CL1 unit uses about 25 watts, while a full rack consumes around 800–1,000 watts, though comparative workload-per-watt benchmarks are not yet available.
- Planned applications include neuro-inspired AI, biomedical modelling, drug discovery and neurological disease research.

Static GK

- The National University of Singapore is a major public research university in Singapore.
- Stem cells can differentiate into specialised cells such as neurons.
- Silicon hardware remains the standard foundation of most conventional digital data centres.
- Green data-centre policies aim to reduce energy use, cooling demand and carbon emissions.

India Planned the Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035



- India approved the first module, BAS-01, of the proposed Bharatiya Antariksh Station, which is planned for completion by 2035.

- The station is designed as a 52-tonne platform in low-Earth orbit at an altitude of 400–450 km and is planned to accommodate three to four astronauts for three to six months.
- The station is planned to consist of five modules and forms part of India's human spaceflight roadmap under ISRO.
- The Union Cabinet approved BAS-01 by extending the scope of the Gaganyaan Programme, with an estimated development and launch cost of ₹1,763 crore over four years from 2025 to 2028.
- The Baseline Design Review and System Engineering for BAS-01 were completed, and 31 baseline design documents were released.
- ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre invited Indian industries to participate in fabrication and realisation of the module's physical structure.
- The overall structural configuration of the station was finalised by the National Level Review Committee in December 2025.
- The broader Gaganyaan roadmap includes eight missions, with the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission scheduled within 2026.

Static GK

- The Bharatiya Antariksha Station is planned as India's first space station.
- BAS is designed for low-Earth orbit at 400–450 km altitude.
- The proposed station has five modules and a total mass of 52 tonnes.
- Gaganyaan is India's human spaceflight programme under ISRO.



DRDO Successfully Tested Long-Range Air Defence Missile Kusha



- DRDO conducted the maiden flight test of Kusha, a long-range surface-to-air missile system, from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Developed under Project Kusha, the indigenous air defence system successfully intercepted a high-speed and high-altitude simulated aerial target.
- The system was designed to neutralize stealth fighters, unmanned aerial vehicles, cruise missiles, and precision-guided munitions at ranges up to 350 km.
- The test validated the performance of multi-function radar, indigenous seeker, ground control elements, and advanced propulsion systems.
- Kusha enhanced India's multi-layered air defence capability and was considered an indigenous equivalent of Russia's S-400 system.

Static GK

- DRDO was established in 1958 under the Ministry of Defence.
- DRDO headquarters is located in New Delhi.
- Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme was launched in 1983.

Indian Army Launched Indigenous XWG Diesel for Extreme Cold Conditions



- The Indian Army introduced indigenous Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) diesel, which remained usable at temperatures as low as -42°C .
- The fuel was developed using Indian technology in partnership with leading Indian oil companies to support military mobility in extreme cold and high-altitude areas.
- XWG diesel met BS-VI standards and IS 1460:2025 specifications and remained fluid at very low temperatures.
- The fuel was designed to prevent problems such as clogged filters, engine-starting difficulties and reduced vehicle performance caused by conventional diesel in extreme cold.
- XWG diesel was compatible with the existing Army fleet without requiring major engine modifications, mechanical changes or re-homologation.
- The fuel could be used in T-90 and T-72 tanks, BMP-2K infantry combat vehicles, K-9 Vajra self-propelled howitzers and high-altitude transport and logistics vehicles.
- The deployment supported military operations in high-altitude regions, including areas along the LAC and LoC.
- The Army operated high-altitude armoured vehicle maintenance facilities at Nyoma and Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO), located at around 14,500 feet.

- XWG diesel was also expected to support civilian vehicles and essential services in regions affected by severe winter conditions.

Static GK

- Nyoma and Daulat Beg Oldie are located in Ladakh.
- Eastern Ladakh is a high-altitude region of the Himalayas.
- T-90 and T-72 are main battle tanks used by the Indian Army.
- BMP-2K is an infantry combat vehicle, while K-9 Vajra is a self-propelled howitzer.

Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth Became IAF's First Woman Fighter Combat Leader



- Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth became the Indian Air Force's first woman Fighter Combat Leader after completing the 20-week course at TACDE in Gwalior.
- She became qualified to plan and lead complex multi-aircraft combat missions and instruct future formation leaders.
- She became India's first female "Top Gun" and was inducted into the fighter stream in 2016 as one of India's first three female fighter pilots.
- She previously became the first woman pilot to clear daytime combat missions in a MiG-21 Bison.
- She later transitioned to the multi-role Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet, marking a major milestone for women in military aviation.

Static GK

- The Indian Air Force was established on 8 October 1932.
- TACDE is located at Maharajpur Air Force Station in Gwalior.
- The Indian Air Force motto is "Touch the Sky with Glory".

IAF and Royal Malaysian Air Force Commenced Exercise Udara Shakti 2026



- The Indian Air Force and Royal Malaysian Air Force commenced bilateral air exercise Udara Shakti 2026 at Subang Air Base in Malaysia.
- The exercise featured combat aircraft, including India's Su-30MKI fighters, and focused on tactical coordination and air combat capabilities.
- Both air forces participated in joint planning, complex aerial combat manoeuvres, and professional academic exchanges.
- The exercise strengthened operational interoperability, mutual understanding, and defence cooperation between India and Malaysia.

Static GK

- The Indian Air Force was established on 8 October 1932, which is observed as Air Force Day.
- The Indian Air Force motto is "Nabha Sparsham Deeptam" or "Touch the Sky with Glory".
- The Indian Air Force headquarters is located in New Delhi.
- Malaysia's capital is Kuala Lumpur, and its currency is the Malaysian Ringgit.

PM Modi Announced Modern Civil Defence Volunteer Force



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a “massive, modern” Civil Defence volunteer force during the 80th Independence Day celebrations in August 2026.
- The proposed force will focus on civilian protection during modern security challenges and emergency situations.
- Civil Defence in India protects civilians, property, and essential services during war, disasters, air raids, and other emergencies.
- The volunteer force will receive training in modern systems and advanced emergency protocols, while supporting warning, evacuation, rescue, first aid, and fire-fighting operations.
- Civil Defence works with state administrations, district authorities, and local volunteers, while Home Guards function as a related auxiliary force under state control.
- The Independence Day address also mentioned Sapta Dhara, free online coaching for competitive examinations, and a nationwide sports talent hunt.

Static GK

- The Civil Defence Act and Rules of 1968 provide the legal framework for Civil Defence in India.
- Civil Defence volunteers support rescue, evacuation, first aid, and warning activities during emergencies.

Reliance and Rolls-Royce Joined AMCA Engine Programme



- Reliance Industries and Rolls-Royce announced a strategic partnership in August 2026 to design, develop, and manufacture an indigenous combat engine in India.
- The partnership is linked to the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft programme, India’s planned fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft project.
- The companies may establish an Aerospace Gas Turbine Complex in India for engine design, development, manufacturing, testing, and through-life maintenance.
- The proposed engine programme aims to support indigenous engine development and strengthen India’s strategic autonomy in aerospace propulsion.
- The partnership is a private commercial arrangement and does not itself constitute an official Government of India engine contract.
- Safran of France is also linked with DRDO’s Gas Turbine Research Establishment on a high-thrust AMCA engine proposal.
- The government earmarked ₹15 billion in May 2026 to support and accelerate the AMCA programme.

Static GK

- AMCA is India’s planned fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft programme.
- Fifth-generation fighters generally feature low observability, advanced avionics, sensor fusion, and internal weapons carriage.
- Gas turbine engines are used in aircraft, ships, and power generation systems.

Chapter 7

Appointments

Harjit Singh Grewal Took Charge as Chairman of National Commission for Minorities



- Harjit Singh Grewal assumed office as the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities in New Delhi after an official notification was issued by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- He succeeded Iqbal Singh Lalpura as the Chairman of the Commission.
- Grewal was tasked with safeguarding the constitutional rights and welfare of minority communities and strengthening grievance redressal mechanisms.
- His leadership will focus on improving trust with minority communities and promoting inclusive development schemes of the government.

Static GK

- The National Commission for Minorities received statutory status under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- The notified minority communities are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains.
- The headquarters of the National Commission for Minorities is located at Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi.

Naresh Pal Gangwar Was Appointed as Higher Education Secretary

- The Central Government appointed 1994-batch IAS officer Naresh Pal Gangwar as Secretary of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education.



- The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet in July 2026 as part of a major bureaucratic reshuffle involving 13 secretaries.
- He succeeded Vineet Joshi, who was transferred as Secretary of the Department of Panchayati Raj.
- Before this appointment, Gangwar served as Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- He will oversee higher education policy, reforms, coordination with higher educational institutions, Central Universities, Institutions of National Importance, and regulatory bodies.
- Gangwar is a 1994-batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre and holds a B.Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering, an M.Tech from IIT Delhi, and an M.A. in Economics from the University of Rajasthan.

Static GK

- The Department of Higher Education functions under the Ministry of Education.
- The Ministry of Education has two departments: Higher Education and School Education & Literacy.

Varsha Ashok Aglawe Became First Woman Director General of GSI



- Varsha Ashok Aglawe assumed charge as the 54th Director General of the Geological Survey of India on July 31, 2026, succeeding Asit Saha.
- She became the first woman to head the 176-year-old Geological Survey of India since its establishment in 1851.
- She joined GSI in 1992 and brought more than 30 years of professional experience as a palaeontologist.
- Her priorities included deep-seated and critical mineral exploration, glaciology, offshore mineral mapping, natural hazard studies, laboratory infrastructure, and capacity building for young geoscientists.

Static GK

- Geological Survey of India was established in 1851 and is headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- GSI functions under the Ministry of Mines.
- Thomas Oldham was the first Director of GSI.

Vice Admiral Manish Chadha Assumed Charge as DGNO



- Vice Admiral Manish Chadha assumed charge as Director General Naval Operations on August 3, 2026, succeeding Vice Admiral A. N. Pramod.
- The Director General Naval Operations is responsible for key aspects of naval operations, deployment, and maritime security readiness.
- Vice Admiral Chadha was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1991 and brought more than three decades of distinguished military service.
- He received the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service and devotion to duty.

Static GK

- The President of India serves as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

- Indian Navy Day is observed on December 4 to commemorate Operation Trident of 1971.
- The Indian Navy has three operational commands: Western Naval Command, Eastern Naval Command, and Southern Naval Command.
- The motto of the Indian Navy is “Sam no Varunah,” meaning “May the Lord of Water be auspicious.”

Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala Assumed Charge as MoES Secretary



- Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala assumed charge as Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in August 2026, bringing over three decades of experience in oceanography, remote sensing, coastal hazard mitigation, and disaster management.
- He served as Director of ESSO-INCOIS, Hyderabad, from August 2020 and worked on ocean information services and early warning systems.
- He was the Project Manager of India's advanced Tsunami Early Warning System at INCOIS after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, contributing to India's regional tsunami preparedness.
- Under his leadership, INCOIS provided services such as Potential Fishing Zone advisories, Coral Reef Bleaching Alerts, Multi-Hazard Vulnerability Mapping, and ocean observation services.
- He received the National Geoscience Award in 2010 and the Indian National Geospatial Award in 2008 for contributions to tsunami warning, geospatial technology, disaster mitigation, and marine resource mapping.
- He has authored more than 100 research papers in international scientific journals.

Static GK Facts

- MoES headquarters: New Delhi.
- INCOIS headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana.
- INCOIS is an autonomous body under MoES.

S. Somanath Was Appointed to the RBI Central Board



- Former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath was appointed as a part-time, non-official director on the RBI Central Board for a four-year term in August 2026.
- Anand Gopal Mahindra was also reappointed to the board for another four-year term.

- The RBI Central Board is the apex decision-making body of the Reserve Bank of India and functions under the RBI Act, 1934.
- The total strength of the RBI Central Board was reduced from 15 members to 11 members in August 2026.
- External directors after the restructuring included Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, Anand Mahindra, S. Somanath, Anuradha Thakur and Sanjay Lohiya.
- S. Somanath served as the 10th Chairman of ISRO and Secretary of the Department of Space from January 2022 to January 2025.
- His tenure included Chandrayaan-3, which achieved a soft landing near the lunar south pole in August 2023.
- The Department of Space functions under the Prime Minister's Office and oversees ISRO.

Static GK

- The RBI was established in April 1935 under the RBI Act, 1934.
- The RBI is India's central bank and manages monetary policy, currency issuance and banking regulation.

AstraZeneca India Signed MoU to Establish Integrated Genomic Solutions Centre in Amaravati



- AstraZeneca India signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Government to establish an Integrated Genomic Solutions Centre in Amaravati.
- The facility became a key component of India's first Integrated Precision Oncology programme to improve regional cancer care.
- The centre will use artificial intelligence, next-generation genetic sequencing, and advanced computing for high-precision biomarker testing.
- The facility will focus on early detection and personalised treatment strategies for lung and breast cancer.
- The initiative will strengthen Andhra Pradesh's healthcare ecosystem through data-driven research infrastructure for targeted disease intervention.

Static GK

- Amaravati is the Legislative Capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- AstraZeneca is headquartered in Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- DNA structure was discovered by James Watson and Francis Crick in 1953.
- The Human Genome Project was launched in 1990.

CCRAS and BIS Signed MoU to Strengthen Ayurveda Standards

- The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and the Bureau of Indian Standards signed

an MoU to establish stronger quality benchmarks for Ayurveda and traditional healthcare.



- The agreement was signed by CCRAS Director General Prof. Vaidya Rabinarayan Acharya and BIS Deputy Director General Sanjay Pant.
- The partnership will develop standardized guidelines, conformity assessment procedures, and scientific research frameworks for the AYUSH sector.
- It will support international acceptance and improve the safety and quality standards of Ayurvedic formulations and traditional healthcare practices.
- The collaboration will also facilitate joint research, technical committee participation, and capacity-building programmes.

Static GK

- CCRAS functions under the Ministry of Ayush.
- BIS was established in 1986 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Ayush was established in November 2014.

ISMA and ICAR-ISRI Signed MoU for Sugarcane Seed Centre



- ISMA and ICAR-ISRI signed an MoU in August 2026 to establish an Advanced Centre for Quality Sugarcane Seed Production.
- The centre will be established at the ICAR-ISRI campus in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, to serve sugar mills in the subtropical region.
- The project involves an investment of ₹80 crore, with both partners contributing ₹40 crore each.
- The centre will produce disease-free, genetically pure, and high-yielding sugarcane seed material.
- It will provide facilities for nursery raising, disease indexing, hardening, multiplication, storage, and seed distribution.
- Digital traceability and quality monitoring systems will be used for seed verification.
- The Lucknow project is separate from the proposed ₹87.94 crore Centre of Excellence at the ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

Static GK

- Sugarcane is a major commercial crop used for sugar, jaggery, molasses, and bio-energy.
- Seed cane quality affects germination, disease spread, and crop productivity.
- Disease indexing helps detect plant pathogens in seed material.
- Digital traceability helps track the origin, movement, and quality of agricultural inputs.

Digital Bharat Nidhi Signed a BharatNet Agreement with Chhattisgarh



- Digital Bharat Nidhi signed an agreement with the Government of Chhattisgarh in August 2026 for the Amended BharatNet Programme under the State-led model.
- The project covers 11,682 Gram Panchayats, including 4,048 Phase I, 5,964 Phase II and 1,670 newly created Gram Panchayats.

- It will provide on-demand high-speed broadband access to 8,328 villages using optical fibre infrastructure.
- The Central Government approved ₹3,942 crore for the rollout in Chhattisgarh.
- Chhattisgarh State BharatNet Infrastructure Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited are among the implementing institutions.
- The project is expected to support more than three lakh rural home fibre connections and services such as telemedicine, digital payments, e-governance and online education.

Static GK

- Digital Bharat Nidhi operates under the Department of Telecommunications.
- BharatNet aims to provide broadband connectivity to rural India.
- Ring topology connects network nodes in a closed loop.
- Gram Panchayat is the basic unit of rural local self-government.

PhonePe and MeitY Signed an MoU to Integrate PulsePro with GatiShakti



- PhonePe signed an MoU with MeitY in August 2026 to integrate its PulsePro data intelligence platform with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan portal.
- The integration is being coordinated with BISAG-N for geospatial and space-based applications.
- PulsePro converts aggregated and anonymised transaction data into near-real-time market signals and uses data from over 700 million registered users and 50 million merchants.
- The platform covers 99% of India's postal codes and is intended to support infrastructure planning, economic analysis and urban-rural development.

- The integrated data will remain anonymised to protect individual user and merchant identities.

Static GK

- PM GatiShakti is linked with integrated infrastructure planning and geospatial mapping.
- BISAG-N works on geospatial and space-based applications for government projects.

India and Japan Signed a Maritime Security Pact



- India and Japan signed a Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation in August 2026 in New Delhi.

- The pact established cooperation between the Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force in maritime security, operational coordination and logistics support.
- Cooperation includes maritime domain awareness, search and rescue, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, naval exercises, ship visits and personnel exchanges.
- Both sides also agreed to work on under-sea mine countermeasures and a ship repair arrangement.
- India and Japan discussed naval shipbuilding and design cooperation under the Make in India framework.
- The agreement supports the Free and Open Indo-Pacific framework and maritime stability.

Static GK

- India and Japan are members of the Quad along with the United States and Australia.
- MAHASAGAR is associated with India's vision for maritime cooperation and security.
- Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force is the naval branch of Japan's Self-Defense Forces.

Chapter 9

Summits

2nd Bharat Green Hydrogen Summit 2026 Was Held in New Delhi



- FICCI organised the 2nd Bharat Green Hydrogen Summit in July 2026 in New Delhi with the theme "Positioning India as a Global Hydrogen Hub".
- The summit brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and green energy experts to discuss hydrogen development.
- The event focused on scaling domestic electrolyzer manufacturing, establishing integrated green hydrogen hubs, and strengthening port infrastructure.
- Discussions also covered innovative financing mechanisms and regulatory frameworks to make green hydrogen cost-competitive globally.
- Union Minister of State for New & Renewable Energy Shripad Yesso Naik highlighted India's commitment to the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

Static GK

- FICCI was established in 1927 by Ghanshyam Das Birla and Purshottamdas Thakurdas.
- FICCI headquarters is located in New Delhi.
- National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched in 2023.

48th UNESCO World Heritage Committee Session Concluded in Busan

- The 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was held in Busan, South Korea, from July 19 to 29, 2026.
- The committee inscribed 25 new sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List, while Comoros, São Tomé and

Príncipe, and South Sudan received their first-ever World Heritage site inscriptions.



- The committee adopted the Busan Declaration to strengthen international cooperation and heritage protection efforts.
- Tyre in Lebanon and Sebastia in Palestine were added to the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Static GK

- UNESCO is headquartered in Paris, France.
- The World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972.
- The World Heritage Committee consists of 21 State Parties.
- India has 43 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting Concluded in Jaipur



- India chaired and concluded the 16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur under its 2026 BRICS

Chairship, with Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal chairing the meeting.

- Member countries adopted the Jaipur Consensus and guiding principles to improve cash-flow lending and bridge the global trade finance gap for MSMEs.
- The meeting adopted the Global Value Chains Action Plan 2026–2030 to develop resilient, inclusive, and diversified global supply chains.
- Discussions emphasized protecting Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries at the WTO while safeguarding food security and farmers' livelihoods.

Static GK

- The original BRICS members were Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- The first BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009.
- The New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China.
- The WTO was established on January 1, 1995.

India Hosted the 8th BRICS Youth Energy Summit



- India hosted the virtual 8th BRICS Youth Energy Summit in August 2026 under its BRICS Chairship, with over 100 participants from BRICS member countries.
- The summit followed the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability” and the Energy Track theme “सर्वेषां ऊर्जम्” or “Energy for All”.
- Over 20 youth panellists discussed Energy Security and Sustainability, Energy Access and Equity, and Technology and Innovation.
- Discussions covered energy-mix diversification, resilient supply chains, innovative financing and digitalisation of energy systems.
- India highlighted PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar and the BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence on Smart Grids and Energy Storage.

- The BRICS Youth Council Meeting and Youth Summit followed in Gandhinagar, while the BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting was scheduled in Visakhapatnam.

Static GK

- BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia.
- International Solar Alliance was launched in 2015 and is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana.
- IRENA works on renewable energy policy and deployment.
- PM-KUSUM is linked to solar energy use in agriculture.

31st Southern Zonal Council Meeting Was Held in Tamil Nadu



- The 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting commenced in August 2026 at Kovalam near Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- The Southern Zonal Council includes Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Puducherry.
- The meeting discussed the Cauvery and Krishna water disputes, the proposed Mekedatu dam, Mullaperiyar dam safety and other inter-state issues.
- Karnataka proposed retaining the Lok Sabha strength at 543 seats for the next 25 years based on the 1971 Census in the context of delimitation.
- Tamil Nadu also raised concerns over the border shooting of three Tamil men near Karnataka.

Static GK

- Zonal Councils were created under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
- India has five Zonal Councils.
- Zonal Councils are advisory bodies that promote Centre-State and inter-state coordination.



India Becomes World's Second-Largest Supplier of Seafarers



- India became the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers in 2026, with 311,936 maritime professionals in the global workforce.
- India accounted for 12.16% of the global seafaring workforce and ranked behind the Philippines in the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026.
- India supplied 140,718 ship officers and 171,218 ratings, contributing significantly to the global maritime workforce.
- India's share in the global seafaring workforce increased from 5.2% in 2015 to 12.16% in 2026.
- The Indian government pursued Mission 20% to increase India's share of the global seafaring workforce to 20% through training expansion, shipboard opportunities and digital services.
- The number of Indian seafarers increased from 62,267 in 2010 to 3,23,429 in 2025, while female participation increased to more than 7,000 in 2025.
- Indian seafarers were the most abandoned crew members globally for the third consecutive year in 2025, with 1,125 Indian seafarers among 6,223 abandoned seafarers worldwide.

Static GK

- The Philippines is the largest supplier of seafarers globally.
- BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report provides data on the global maritime workforce.

Ministry of Coal Released AAROH Report on Scientific Mine Closure



- The Ministry of Coal released AAROH in July 2026 as India's first report on scientific mine closure, ecological restoration, and land repurposing.
- The report documented the scientific closure of 42 coal mines, including 33 mines completed during the previous year, through visual case studies and QR-linked videos.
- A dedicated corpus of more than ₹40,000 crore was planned for future reclamation projects, with 25% reserved for local community development.
- India signed a EUR 10 million implementation agreement with Germany's GIZ for technical cooperation on mine repurposing until 2030.
- The Ministry introduced RECLAIM, L.I.V.E.S., and SUVIKALP frameworks and inaugurated Coal NEER water purification plants.

Static GK

- Major coal mines in India were nationalized in 1973.
- The Ministry of Coal is headed by Union Cabinet Minister G. Kishan Reddy.

UN SOFI Report Showed Global Hunger Declined Slightly in 2025

- The 2026 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report stated that global hunger declined for the third consecutive year in 2025.



- Around 645 million people, representing 7.8% of the global population, faced hunger in 2025, but progress remained insufficient to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.
- Africa surpassed Asia for the first time as the region with the highest number of hungry people, with 309 million affected individuals.
- Around 2.1 billion people experienced moderate or severe food insecurity, while nearly one-third of the global population could not afford a healthy diet.
- Conflicts, extreme weather events, rising food inflation, and cuts in development assistance and humanitarian funding threatened future progress.

Static GK

- The report was jointly released by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO.
- SDG 2 aims to end hunger and achieve food security by 2030.
- FAO and WFP headquarters are located in Rome, Italy.

India Ranked 81st in Henley Passport Index



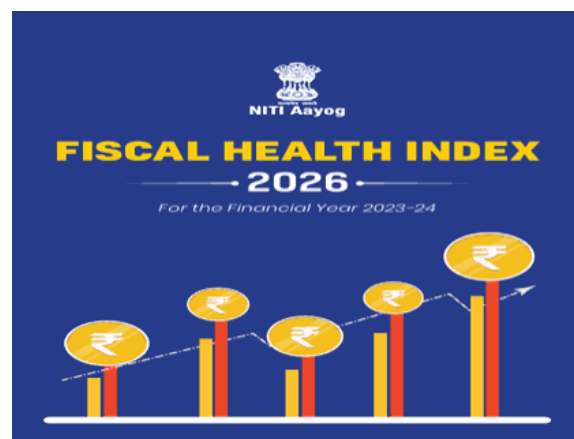
- India ranked 81st in the latest Henley Passport Index update, declining from its previous 75th position.

- Indian passport holders received visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 55 destinations worldwide.
- Singapore retained the top position as the world's strongest passport with access to 192 countries.
- Japan, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates shared the second position with access to 188 visa-free destinations.
- The ranking reflected changes in global mobility policies, visa arrangements, and international agreements.

Static GK

- The Henley Passport Index is based on exclusive data from IATA since 2006.
- IATA headquarters is located in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Singapore's currency is the Singapore Dollar.

NITI Aayog Released Fiscal Health Index 2026



- NITI Aayog released the Fiscal Health Index 2026 to evaluate the fiscal health of states using data from FY2014-15 to FY2023-24.
- The report advised states with rising revenue deficits to control expenditure and strengthen local revenue sources for debt sustainability.
- Odisha topped the Fiscal Health Index for FY2023-24, followed by Goa, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh.
- Bihar and Telangana improved their fiscal performance compared to FY2022-23.
- Punjab, West Bengal, and Kerala remained the lowest-ranked states in the index.
- Fiscal Health Index 2026 was released by NITI Aayog.

Environmental Performance Index 2026 Ranked Estonia First and India 176th

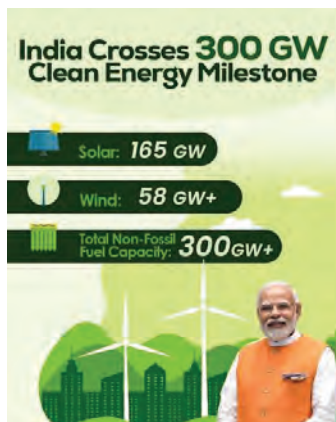


- The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026 ranked Estonia first and India 176th among 177 countries.
- The index assessed countries using 47 indicators across 12 environmental categories, including climate change, biodiversity, air quality, and ecosystem vitality.
- India scored 22.46 and ranked only above Laos, reflecting challenges in air quality, biodiversity, and ecosystem protection.
- The index was prepared by Yale University and Columbia University with support from the McCall MacBain Foundation.
- India reiterated its concerns over the methodology used in previous EPI rankings.

Static GK

- Top Rank: Estonia.
- Countries Covered: 177.
- Released By: Yale University and Columbia University.

India Achieved Landmark 300 GW Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity



- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy reported that India crossed 300 GW of installed non-fossil fuel electricity capacity in July 2026, reaching 300.50 GW, which was over 60% of the 500 GW target for 2030.
- The capacity included 164.59 GW of solar, 58.14 GW of wind, 57.24 GW of hydro, 11.75 GW of bio-power and 8.78 GW of nuclear power.
- Non-fossil fuel sources accounted for over 54% of India's total electricity generation capacity of around 552 GW.
- During 2025–26, India added a record 55.29 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity, including 44.6 GW of solar and 6 GW of wind power.
- Renewable energy generation increased from 190.96 billion units in 2014–15 to 477.79 billion units in 2025–26.
- The Approved List of Models and Manufacturers for solar photovoltaic modules crossed 200 GW, compared with 2.3 GW in 2014.
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission supported India's efforts to promote industrial decarbonisation and develop a global hub for green hydrogen and its derivatives.

Static GK

- The Government of India set a target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity capacity by 2030.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is responsible for promoting renewable energy development in India.
- The Production Linked Incentive scheme supports domestic manufacturing of high-efficiency solar modules.
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to develop green hydrogen production and its derivatives in India.

Great Barrier Reef Coral Cover Rebounded



- Hard coral cover in the Northern Great Barrier Reef rose to 35.1% in 2026 from a record low of 30% in 2025.
- In the Central region, hard coral cover increased from 28.6% to 31.6%, while the Southern region declined from 26.9% to 26.4%.
- The Australian Institute of Marine Science released its 2025/26 Long-Term Monitoring Program Annual Summary Report in August 2026.
- The survey covered 121 reefs, with coral cover unchanged on 56% of reefs, increased on 28%, and declined on 16%.
- A late-summer monsoon in early 2026 brought cloud cover and cooler sea temperatures, reducing heat stress on corals.

- Climate-induced disruptions, cyclones, and outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish continued to put pressure on reef health.

Static GK

- The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system and lies off Queensland, Australia, in the Coral Sea.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Coral bleaching occurs when corals expel symbiotic algae called zooxanthellae due to heat stress.
- The Australian Institute of Marine Science is a statutory Australian research body that studies marine ecosystems.
- Crown-of-thorns starfish are coral predators that can rapidly reduce live coral cover.

Hockey India Junior Men Championship Begins in Coimbatore



- The 16th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2026 began in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, in July 2026.
- The Hockey India Junior Men National Championship is an annual national-level field hockey competition for junior men's teams in India.
- The championship follows a divisional format, where teams are placed in different groups based on performance and rankings.
- The championship featured 30 teams and was organised across three divisions: Division A, Division B and Division C.
- Hockey India is the national sports federation for hockey in India.

SBI Life Became Principal Partner of Indian Para Sports Contingent for 2026 Season



- SBI Life Insurance signed an agreement with the Paralympic Committee of India to become the Principal Partner of the Indian contingent for the 2026 para sports season.

- The partnership continued SBI Life's support for Indian para-athletes after its association during the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.
- As the Official Life Insurance Partner, SBI Life supported Indian contingents participating in major international events, including the 2026 Commonwealth Para Games in Glasgow and the 2026 Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- The collaboration aimed to provide financial support, promote inclusivity, and strengthen sports infrastructure for differently-abled athletes.

Static GK

- The Paralympic Committee of India was founded in 1992 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- SBI Life Insurance is a joint venture between State Bank of India and BNP Paribas.
- The 2026 Commonwealth Para Games are scheduled in Glasgow, Scotland.

Anahat Singh Became First Indian to Win World Junior Squash Title



- Indian squash player Anahat Singh became the first Indian to win the World Junior Squash Championship title.
- The 18-year-old defeated Egypt's Ruqayya Salem by 3-0 in the girls' singles final with a scoreline of 11-3, 11-7, and 11-9.
- She achieved the historic victory at the World Squash Junior Championships 2026 held in Canada.

- Her achievement was praised by national leaders for inspiring young Indian athletes.

Static GK

- The World Squash Federation is headquartered in Hastings, United Kingdom.
- Squash will make its Olympic debut at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.
- Joshna Chinappa won India's first World Junior Squash medal in 2005.

Ajinkya Rahane Retired from International Cricket



- Former India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane announced his retirement from all formats of international cricket.
- He represented India in 85 Tests, 90 ODIs, and 20 T20Is, scoring more than 8,000 international runs.
- Rahane captained India to a historic 2–1 Test series victory in Australia during the 2020–21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy.
- He earned recognition for his overseas Test centuries at Lord's and Melbourne and his calm leadership.
- Rahane ended his international career with the message, "Cap 278, signing off."

Static GK

- BCCI was established in December 1928 and is headquartered in Mumbai.
- Ajinkya Rahane was India's 278th Test cricketer.
- The Border-Gavaskar Trophy began in 1996 between India and Australia.
- C. K. Nayudu was India's first Test captain.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Became the Youngest Player to Score a T20I Fifty

- Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the youngest player to score a T20I fifty during the first T20I against Zimbabwe in Harare in July 2026.
- He achieved the milestone at the age of 15 years and 118 days with a 19-ball half-century.



- His innings included four fours and four sixes with a strike rate of over 263.
- He broke the previous record held by Gibraltar's Louis Bruce, who achieved the feat at 16 years and 56 days.
- Sooryavanshi also became the youngest player from an ICC Full Member nation to score a T20I fifty, the youngest player to score an international fifty, and the youngest Indian to score an international fifty, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar and Rohit Sharma.

Static GK

- The ICC is headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- The Border-Gavaskar Trophy is played between India and Australia.

Mirabai Chanu Won Third Consecutive Commonwealth Games Gold



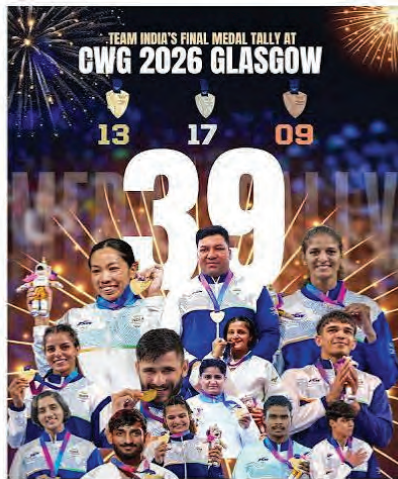
- Mirabai Chanu won the gold medal in the women's 48 kg event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- She lifted a total of 190 kg to win her third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal and India's first gold medal of the 2026 Games.
- She set a Games record by lifting 85 kg in the snatch and secured the title with a successful 105 kg lift in the clean and jerk.
- Ruth Asuquo Nyong of Nigeria won the silver medal, while Irene Jane Henry of Malaysia won the bronze medal.

- Mirabai became one of India's most successful Commonwealth Games athletes with four medals, including three gold and one silver.

Static GK (if required)

- Commonwealth Games 2026 Host: Glasgow, Scotland.
- Mirabai won Commonwealth Games medals in 2014 (Silver), 2018 (Gold), 2022 (Gold), and 2026 (Gold).

India Finished 4th at the Commonwealth Games 2026 with 39 Medals



- India finished 4th at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow with 39 medals, comprising 13 gold, 17 silver and 9 bronze medals.
- India matched Scotland's total of 39 medals but secured 4th position because India won more silver medals, 17 compared with Scotland's 9.
- Boxing was India's most successful sport, contributing 10 medals, including 7 gold and 3 silver medals.
- Weightlifting contributed 8 medals, while athletics and para-athletics together produced 16 medals; judo contributed 4 medals and para powerlifting contributed 1 medal.
- Mirabai Chanu won gold in women's 48 kg weightlifting and became the first Indian woman to win three consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medals.
- Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh won gold medals in judo, while Tejaswin Shankar won bronze in the decathlon and became India's first Commonwealth Games decathlon medallist.
- Gulveer Singh won silver in the 10,000 m and bronze in the 5,000 m, becoming the first Indian track and field athlete to win two individual medals at a single Commonwealth Games.
- The Games were held in Glasgow, Scotland, from July to August 2026, with the competition concluding on 2 August 2026.

Gold Medal Winners	Silver Medal Winners	Bronze Medal Winners
Mirabai Chanu — Weightlifting, Women's 48 kg	Rishikanta Singh — Weightlifting, Men's 60 kg	Jhandu Kumar — Para Powerlifting, Men's Heavyweight
Sharmila Dhankar — Para Athletics, Women's Shot Put F57	Muthupandi Raja — Weightlifting, Men's 65 kg	Bindyarani Devi — Weightlifting, Women's 58 kg
Dilip Gavitt — Para Athletics, Men's 100 m T47	Gyaneshwari Yadav — Weightlifting, Women's 53 kg	Shilpa K Shyla — Para Athletics, Women's Shot Put F57
Asmita Dey — Judo, Women's -48 kg	Sarvesh Kushare — Athletics, Men's High Jump	Seema Kaliramna — Athletics, Women's Discus Throw
Harsh Singh — Judo, Men's -60 kg	Valluri Ajaya Babu — Weightlifting, Men's 79 kg	Tejaswin Shankar — Athletics, Men's Decathlon
Preeti Pawar — Boxing, Women's 54 kg	Harjinder Kaur — Weightlifting, Women's 69 kg	Yash Vir Singh — Athletics, Men's Javelin Throw
Jaismine Lamboria — Boxing, Women's 57 kg	Gulveer Singh — Athletics, Men's 10,000 m	Selva Prabhu — Athletics, Men's Triple Jump
Sakshi Chaudhary — Boxing, Women's 51 kg	Murali Sreeshankar — Athletics, Men's Long Jump	Unnati Sharma — Judo, Women's -63 kg

Priya Ghanghas — Boxing, Women's 60 kg	Mohammed Basil — Para Athletics, Men's 100 m T47	Gulveer Singh — Athletics, Men's 5,000 m
Arundhati Choudhary — Boxing, Women's 70 kg	Lovepreet Singh — Weightlifting, Men's +110 kg	—
Soman Rana — Para Athletics, Men's Shot Put F57	Yamini Mourya — Judo, Women's -57 kg	—
Sachin Siwach — Boxing, Men's 60 kg	Neeraj Chopra — Athletics, Men's Javelin Throw	—
Ankush Panghal — Boxing, Men's 80 kg	Pravreen Chithravel — Athletics, Men's Triple Jump	—
—	Jadumani Singh — Boxing, Men's 55 kg	—
—	Shubham Juyal — Para Athletics, Men's Shot Put F57	—
—	Lovlina Borgohain — Boxing, Women's 75 kg	—
—	Narender Berwal — Boxing, Men's +90 kg	—

Static GK

- Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland and is located on the River Clyde.
- The 2030 Commonwealth Games will be held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 Was Scheduled in Belgium and the Netherlands



- The FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 was scheduled from August 15 to August 30, 2026, in Belgium and the Netherlands.
- The tournament featured a new format with simultaneous men's and women's competitions involving 16 men's and 16 women's teams.
- The matches were scheduled at Amstelveen in the Netherlands and Wavre in Belgium.

- India's men's team was placed in Pool D with England, Pakistan and Wales, while the women's team was placed in Pool D with China, England and South Africa.
- India's men's team was scheduled to face Wales under captain Harmanpreet Singh, while the women's team was scheduled to face China under captain Salima Tete.

Static GK

- Netherlands and Belgium are countries in Western Europe.
- Amstelveen is a city in the Netherlands, while Wavre is a city in Belgium.

Ashmita Chaliha Won Maiden Korea Masters Title



- Indian badminton player Ashmita Chaliha won her maiden BWF World Tour title at the Korea Masters 2026 in women's singles.
- She defeated fourth-seeded Han Qian Xi of China 14–21, 21–14, 21–14 in 53 minutes after making a strong comeback in the final.
- With the victory, Ashmita became the first Indian player to win the Korea Masters title in any category.
- The victory came in a BWF Super 300 tournament after she recovered from losing the opening game and dominated the final two games.

Static GK Facts

- BWF headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Thomas Cup: Established in 1949.
- Uber Cup: Established in 1957.

Magnus Carlsen Retained Esports World Cup Chess Title



- World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen won the Esports World Cup Chess 2026 title in Paris, securing his second consecutive tournament victory.
- Representing Team Liquid, Carlsen defeated Belarusian Grandmaster Denis Lazavik 2–0 in sets, with both sets ending 3–1.
- Carlsen remained undefeated throughout the tournament without dropping a single game.
- He won a \$250,000 first-place prize and 1,000 Club Championship points for Team Liquid.
- American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura finished third after defeating Team Falcons' Alireza Firouzja 4–1.

Static GK

- FIDE Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- First Indian GM: Viswanathan Anand became India's first GM in 1988.
- Chess Board: 64 squares, including 32 light and 32 dark squares.

Vignesh Vemula and Saranya Devi Narahari Won Asian Junior Blitz Titles



- Indian chess players Vignesh Advait Vemula and Saranya Devi Narahari won gold medals in the Open and Girls' categories at the Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship 2026.
- The championship was hosted by the Maharashtra Chess Association at ITC Maratha in Mumbai.
- Vignesh Vemula won the Open title with 6 points from 7 rounds.
- Saranya Devi Narahari finished first in the Girls' section with 6.5 points from 7 rounds.
- The 7-round Swiss-system event used a blitz time control of 3 minutes per player with a 2-second increment per move.

Static GK

- AICF President: Nitin Narang.
- Asian Chess Federation Headquarters: Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.
- First Indian Woman GM: S. Vijayalakshmi became India's first WGM in 2001.



President Droupadi Murmu Received Honorary Doctorate from Romania's ASE University



- President Droupadi Murmu received an honorary doctorate (Doctor Honoris Causa) from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies during her state visit to Romania.
- She accepted the award on behalf of the people of India and highlighted it as a symbol of strong India-Romania friendship.
- President Murmu emphasized the role of education in community development and stressed ethical guidance in artificial intelligence technology.
- She called for stronger academic cooperation through joint research, student exchanges, and increased ITEC training opportunities.
- She also recalled historical India-Romania cultural ties, including Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Bucharest a century ago.

Static GK

- Romania's capital is Bucharest.
- Romania's currency is Romanian Leu.
- The President of India serves a 5-year term under Article 56.
- ITEC programme was launched in 1964.

Annapurni Subramaniam Won COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026

- Indian astrophysicist Annapurni Subramaniam won the COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026 for her contributions to space research.



- The award was announced in August 2026 at the 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Florence, Italy.
- She became the first Indian woman and the fourth Indian scientist to receive the medal, as well as the third woman scientist globally to receive the honour.
- Subramaniam served as Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics and the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences in Bengaluru.
- Her research focused on stellar populations, star clusters, stellar evolution and galaxy evolution.
- The COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal was introduced in 1990 and was jointly conferred by COSPAR and ISRO to recognise scientists from developing nations for major contributions to space research.
- The award recognised substantive scientific work mainly conducted during the five years preceding the COSPAR Scientific Assembly at which the award was given.
- Other Indian recipients were U. R. Rao (1996), Gurbax Singh Lakhina (2014) and Anil Bharadwaj (2024).

Static GK

- COSPAR was established in 1958 and is affiliated with the International Science Council.
- The COSPAR Scientific Assembly is organised once every two years.
- Vikram Sarabhai is regarded as the father of India's space programme.
- The Indian Institute of Astrophysics is headquartered in Bengaluru.

IIT Bombay Professor Karthikeyan Lanka Selected for NASI Young Scientist Award 2026



- IIT Bombay Associate Professor Karthikeyan Lanka was selected for the NASI Young Scientist Award 2026 for significant contributions to science and technology.
- He works at the Centre of Studies in Resources Engineering and the Interdisciplinary Programme in Climate Studies at IIT Bombay.
- His research focuses on remote sensing of terrestrial processes, land-atmosphere interactions, and agricultural droughts.
- The award will be formally presented during NASI's 96th Annual Session at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, in December 2026.

Static GK

- NASI was established in 1930 and is India's oldest science academy, with headquarters in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
- IIT Bombay was established in 1958 at Powai, Mumbai.

President Droupadi Murmu Conferred Sant Kabir and National Handloom Awards



- President Droupadi Murmu presented the Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards 2025 during the 12th National Handloom Day celebrations in New Delhi.
- A total of 22 outstanding weavers were honoured, including three recipients of the Sant Kabir Handloom Award.
- Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh and Minister of State for Textiles Pabitra Margherita also attended the ceremony.
- President Murmu emphasized connecting traditional handloom art with modern designs, global value chains, and stronger branding.
- She highlighted the potential of handloom to support youth-led startups and sustainable economic development.

Static GK

- National Handloom Day is observed on August 7 every year.
- August 7 marks the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905.
- The Sant Kabir Handloom Award is India's highest award for handloom weavers.

President Presented Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2024 and 2025



- President Droupadi Murmu presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2024 and 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, in August 2026.
- The honours recognised artists from different States and Union Territories for contributions to music, dance, theatre, puppetry and folk traditions.
- Seven artists received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship, also known as Akademi Ratna, the highest honour of the Akademi.

- The seven Fellows were Ramlal Bareth, A V Anand, Rita Ganguly, Puru Dadheech, Chittaranjan Jyotishi, Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma and Sudharani Raghupathy.
- A total of 115 artists were selected for the combined 2024 and 2025 Akademi Awards, also known as Akademi Puraskar.
- The awardees represented disciplines including Hindustani and Carnatic music, Bharatanatyam, Kathak, theatre, puppetry, Nautanki, Sambalpuri and Kalbeliya.
- Each Akademi Fellow received ₹3 lakh, a Tamrapatra and an Angavastram, while each Akademi Awardee received ₹1 lakh along with a Tamrapatra and an Angavastram.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi functions as India's national academy for music, dance and drama and runs programmes for preserving and documenting traditional arts.

Static GK

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi was established in 1953 as India's national academy for music, dance and drama.
- Akademi Ratna is the highest honour of the Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- Kalbeliya is a folk dance tradition associated with Rajasthan.
- The headquarters of the Sangeet Natak Akademi is located in New Delhi.

Shubhada Varadkar Received Sangeet Natak Akademi Award



- Odissi exponent Shubhada Varadkar received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, in August 2026.
- The award included a ₹1 lakh cash prize, Tamrapatra, and Angavastram.

- Shubhada Varadkar is a Mumbai-based Odissi exponent and former economics professor who studied Odissi after attending a workshop with guru Kelucharan Mohapatra.
- She authored the Marathi autobiographical book Mayurpankh and the English book The Celestial Plume.

Static GK

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi was established in 1953 as India's national academy for music, dance, and drama under the Ministry of Culture.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, also called the Akademi Puraskar, recognises excellence in performing arts.
- Odissi is one of the eight classical dance forms of India and originated in Odisha.
- Odissi is known for tribhanga posture, fluid torso movements, and sculptural hand gestures.

Three Indians Participated in a Guinness World Record-Setting Skydive in Libya



- Three UAE-based Indian skydivers participated in a Guinness World Record skydive over Benghazi, Libya, in August 2026.
- The jump involved 65 skydivers from 38 nationalities who exited a single military Ilyushin Il-76TD aircraft at an altitude of 13,000 feet.
- The Indian participants were Jamsheer Thanalot from Kerala, Abhishek Rawat from Uttar Pradesh, and Isha Raj from Bihar.
- All three displayed the Indian Tricolour during the jump, and the group had a combined experience of more than 1,500 jumps.
- Guinness World Records verified the feat in August 2026 as the most skydivers jumping simultaneously with national flags from a single aircraft.

Static GK

- Guinness World Records was founded in 1955 and documents measurable achievements in sports, science, nature, and other fields.
- Benghazi is a major city in eastern Libya and a key city of the Cyrenaica region.

Indian Physicist Deepak Dhar Received 2026 Dirac Medal



- Renowned Indian theoretical physicist Prof. Deepak Dhar received the 2026 Dirac Medal from the International Centre for Theoretical Physics for his seminal contributions to statistical mechanics and complex systems.
- He shared the 2026 award with Bernard Derrida, Kirone Mallick, and Herbert Spohn.
- Prof. Dhar is an INSA Distinguished Professor and previously served as faculty at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and IISER Pune.
- He became the second Indian physicist to receive the Dirac Medal after E. C. George Sudarshan received it in 2010.

Static GK

- The ICTP Dirac Medal was instituted in 1985.
- The ICTP headquarters is located in Trieste, Italy.

Two Mumbai Doctors Were Proposed for Nishan-e-Imtiaz



- Pakistan proposed two Mumbai-based Parsi doctors, Dr Jal Ratanji Patel and Dr Jal Dhaybho-Koo, for the Nishan-e-Imtiaz.
- The doctors were associated with the medical examination of Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Bombay in 1946.
- Historical accounts state that they examined Jinnah's X-rays and diagnosed terminal tuberculosis with an estimated life expectancy of one to two years.
- The proposed honours are scheduled for presentation at a presidential investiture ceremony on Pakistan Day in March 2027.

Static GK

- Nishan-e-Imtiaz is Pakistan's highest civilian award.
- Muhammad Ali Jinnah was the founder of Pakistan and died in 1948.
- Pakistan Day is observed on 23 March and marks the Lahore Resolution of 1940.
- Bombay was the colonial-era name of present-day Mumbai.

Ashutosh Parida Was Selected for the 47th Sarala Puraskar



- Odia poet, essayist and former CSIR-IMMT scientist Dr. Ashutosh Parida was selected for the 47th Sarala Puraskar for his poetry collection Bishwas De Pruthwi.
- The award carries a citation, copper plaque and ₹7 lakh cash prize, with the ceremony scheduled in Bhubaneswar in October 2026.
- Bishwas De Pruthwi was published by Prabha Publication in 2024 and was selected from a final shortlist of seven books.
- The Sarala Puraskar is administered by the Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust, the charitable arm of IMFA, and recognises works in Odia literature.

- IMPaCT also announced the 2026 Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman for Odissi maestro Guru Durga Charan Ranbir and sculptor Damodar Behera, with ₹2.5 lakh for each recipient.
- The jury included Dr. Sucheta Mishra, Dr. Hrushikesh Mallick, Sangram Jena, Swapna Mishra, Prof. Dr. Natabar Satapathy, Dr. Sarojini Sahoo and Ajay Kumar Mohapatra.

Static GK

- The Sarala Puraskar is a prominent literary award associated with Odisha.
- The Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman recognises lifetime excellence in the arts.



Cabinet Approved ₹84,084 Crore Samudra Manthan Scheme



- The Union Cabinet approved the ₹84,084 crore Samudra Manthan scheme under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, with implementation planned through 2030–31.
- The scheme will focus on seismic data acquisition, deepwater drilling, frontier exploration, and the establishment of an integrated Oil and Gas Manufacturing and Services Zone.
- It targets reserve accretion of more than 600 million tonnes of oil equivalent to increase domestic oil and gas production.
- The scheme will promote shared production and evacuation infrastructure to reduce exploration risks and project costs.

Static GK

- India's first oil well was drilled at Digboi, Assam, in 1889.
- Mumbai High is India's largest offshore oil field and is located in the Arabian Sea.

Cabinet Approved Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana



- The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana with a financial outlay of ₹5,070 crore under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- The scheme targets 5,000 MW of floating solar photovoltaic capacity between FY 2026–27 and FY 2030–31.
- It mandates co-located Energy Storage Systems with a minimum storage capacity of 10,000 MWh to support grid stability and power dispatch.
- The scheme will use reservoirs, canals, and ponds for floating solar installations, reducing land requirements and water evaporation.
- The Solar Energy Corporation of India will implement the scheme.

Static GK

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is the nodal ministry.
- The Solar Energy Corporation of India was established in 2011.
- India's largest floating solar park is located at Ramagundam, Telangana, with a capacity of 100 MW.

Union Cabinet Extended PM-KISAN Scheme for Four Years



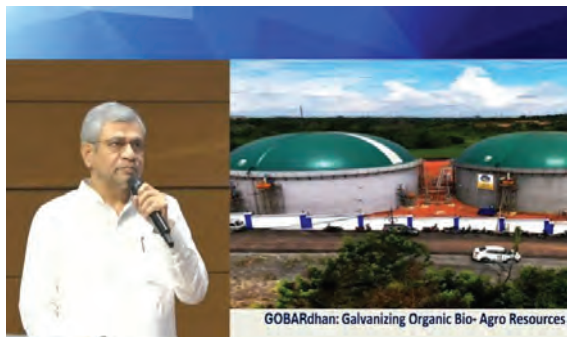
- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the PM-KISAN scheme for four years from FY 2026–27 to 2030–31 with a total financial outlay of ₹3.15 lakh crore.
- The scheme provided eligible farmer families across India with annual income support of ₹6,000.

- Since its launch in February 2019, more than ₹4.47 lakh crore was transferred directly into farmers' bank accounts through 23 installments.

Static GK

- PM-KISAN is a Central Sector Scheme funded 100% by the Government of India.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare implements the scheme.

Union Cabinet Approved ₹23,731 Crore GOBARdhan Scheme



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the ₹23,731 crore GOBARdhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme for FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36.
- The integrated framework aimed to increase domestic Compressed Biogas production by 10 times using agricultural residue, cattle dung, press mud, and municipal organic waste.
- The scheme fixed an administered CBG price of ₹2,110 per MMBTU for a minimum period of 10 years to provide revenue certainty to project developers.
- City Gas Distribution entities will follow mandatory CBG blending targets of 3% in FY 2026–27, 4% in FY 2027–28, and 5% from FY 2028–29 onwards in CNG and PNG segments.
- Projects will receive capital assistance of up to ₹2 crore per TPD capacity, along with MSME credit guarantees, pipeline connectivity support, and an Ecosystem Challenge Fund.

Static GK

- GOBARdhan stands for Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan and was launched in 2018 under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
- The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in coordination with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

MC²+ Launched the Ignite Programme for Energy Startups



- MC²+ Ignite was launched at IIT Madras in August 2026 as a sector-specific accelerator for deep-tech startups in India's energy sector.
- The first cohort plans to select about 30 startups at the prototype-to-early-pilot stage.
- Selected startups can receive up to ₹2 crore in milestone-linked convertible funding, including ₹50 lakh initially and up to ₹1.5 crore based on milestones.
- The programme will be headquartered in Delhi and use decentralised nodes inside R&D centres of sponsoring public sector companies for pilot testing.
- Institutional partners include IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Bombay, C-CAMP and Venture Center, Pune.
- Participating energy PSUs include ONGC, Indian Oil, BPCL, HPCL, GAIL, Oil India and Petronet LNG, which are expected to commit ₹70–80 crore in the first year.
- The application window opened in August 2026 and was scheduled to close at the end of August.

Static GK

- Deep-tech startups use advanced scientific and engineering research in areas such as energy, materials, artificial intelligence and biotechnology.
- IIT Madras is an Institute of National Importance under the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.
- Convertible funding can be converted into equity under specified conditions.

Centre Notified ₹62,500 Crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology notified the ₹62,500 crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme in August 2026, which will run for five years from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.



- The Union Cabinet approved the scheme in July 2026 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, replacing the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing.
- Target Segment 1 covers global and large-scale manufacturers and provides base incentives of 2.25%–5% for companies meeting the minimum FY 2025-26 turnover of ₹10,000 crore.
- Target Segment 2 covers domestic brands and provides a flat 5% incentive, with an additional 3% for domestic design and research and development, subject to a ₹1,000 crore turnover threshold.
- Companies sourcing key components domestically for at least 25% of total mobile units manufactured in a financial year can receive an additional incentive of up to 1.5%.
- Indian brands must undergo screening to verify genuine intellectual property and design rights.
- The scheme targets cumulative mobile phone production of ₹39 lakh crore, higher exports and around 60,000 direct jobs.
- The scheme forms part of India's broader electronics manufacturing policy aimed at strengthening domestic mobile phone assembly and component ecosystems.



Dr. Gunther von Hagens, Inventor of Plastination, Died at 81

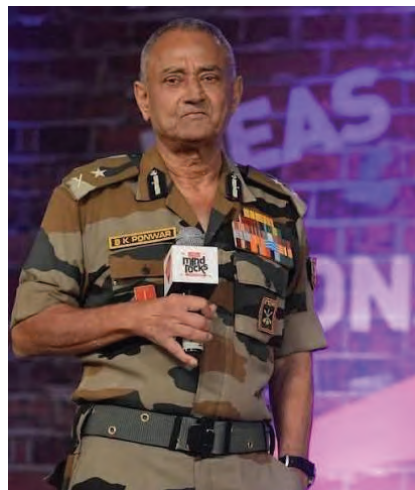


- German anatomist Dr. Gunther von Hagens died on 24 July 2026 at the age of 81 in Heidelberg, Germany, after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage.
- Dr. Gunther von Hagens invented plastination in 1977, a preservation technique that replaces body fluids with liquid plastic for long-term anatomical specimen preservation.
- He created the Body Worlds exhibitions, which began in Japan in 1995 and displayed preserved human bodies for educational purposes.
- The Body Worlds exhibitions attracted more than 58 million visitors worldwide and became his major contribution to anatomy education.
- Dr. Gunther von Hagens was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2008, which affected his movement, speech, and motor control.
- The Institute for Plastination announced his death and his body was planned to be plastinated according to his wish.

Static GK

- Plastination was invented by Dr. Gunther von Hagens in 1977.
- The Plastinarium was established in Guben, Germany, in 2006.
- Body Worlds exhibition was first launched in Japan in 1995.

Brigadier B.K. Ponwar, Jungle Warfare Pioneer, Died at 77

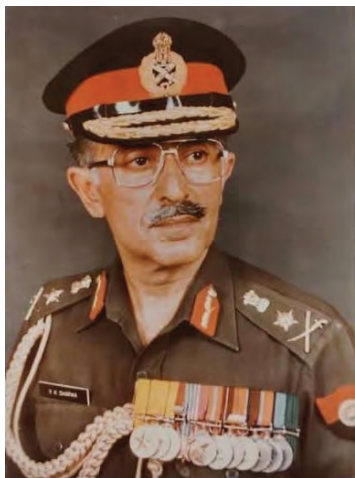


- Brigadier (Retired) Basant Kumar Ponwar, founder of the Counter Terrorism and Jungle Warfare College in Kanker, Chhattisgarh, died at the age of 77 in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
- Brigadier Ponwar joined the Indian Army in December 1969 after commissioning into the 1st Battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry and served in the 1971 India-Pakistan War.
- He served as Commandant of the Army's Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School at Vairengte, Mizoram.
- Brigadier Ponwar supervised the first Indo-US military exercise Yudh Abhyas in 2004.
- The Counter Terrorism and Jungle Warfare College was established in August 2005 at Kanker in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh and trained more than 37,000 security personnel in guerrilla warfare and jungle operations.
- After retirement, he was appointed Inspector General of Police by the Chhattisgarh government for operations against Maoist insurgency.
- Brigadier Ponwar received the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service.

Static GK

- The Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School is located at Vairengte, Mizoram.
- Yudh Abhyas is a bilateral military exercise between India and the United States.

Former Army Chief General V.N. Sharma Passed Away



- Former Indian Army Chief General Vishwa Nath Sharma passed away in July 2026 and served as the 14th Chief of the Army Staff from May 1988 to June 1990.
- General V.N. Sharma was commissioned into the 16th Light Cavalry in June 1950 and became the first post-Independence commissioned officer to become Army Chief.
- As Eastern Army Commander, he played an important role during the Sumdorong Chu stand-off with China in 1987 in Arunachal Pradesh.
- His younger brother Major Som Nath Sharma was Independent India's first Param Vir Chakra awardee, and the award is India's highest wartime military decoration.
- General Sharma's last rites were scheduled at Brar Square in Delhi Cantonment in August 2026.

Static GK

- The Chief of the Army Staff is the professional head of the Indian Army.
- The Param Vir Chakra was instituted in 1947 and is awarded for exceptional bravery in the presence of the enemy.
- The 16th Light Cavalry is an armoured regiment of the Indian Army.

Hindi Litterateur Kailash Chandra Pant Passed Away at 90



- Renowned Hindi writer, journalist, and Padma Shri awardee Kailash Chandra Pant passed away at the age of 90 following a cardiac arrest in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- He made significant contributions to Hindi language, journalism, and literature during his long career.
- He served as Director of the Madhya Pradesh Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti and played an important role in promoting Hindi literature.
- He received the Padma Shri in 2026 for his distinguished contribution to Hindi literature and public service.

Static GK

- Padma Shri is the fourth-highest civilian award in India.
- Padma Awards were instituted in 1954 and are announced on Republic Day.
- World Hindi Day is observed on January 10.

Former Bihar and Tripura Governor D. Y. Patil Passed Away



- Renowned educationist, philanthropist, and former Governor Dr. Dnyandeo Yashwantrao (D. Y.) Patil passed away on August 4, 2026, at the age of 90 in Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

- He served as Governor of Bihar from 2012 to 2014 and Governor of Tripura in 2013, and also held additional charge as Governor of West Bengal from 2013 to 2014.
- He founded the D. Y. Patil Group and developed a wide network of educational institutions, universities, and hospitals across India.
- He received the Padma Shri in 1991 for his contributions to social work and education.

Static GK

- The President appoints the Governor of a state under Article 155 of the Constitution.
- The Governor holds office for a normal term of five years under Article 156, subject to the President's pleasure.
- The Padma Awards were instituted in 1954.
- Agartala is the capital of Tripura, while Patna is the capital of Bihar.

Hall of Fame Coach Don Nelson Passed Away at 86



- Legendary NBA player and coach Don Nelson passed away at the age of 86.
- As a player, he won five NBA championships with the Boston Celtics during the 1960s and 1970s.
- As a coach, he recorded 1,335 regular-season victories across 31 seasons, making him the second-winningest head coach in NBA history.
- He pioneered the fast-paced "Nellie Ball" offence and popularised the point-forward position while coaching teams including the Milwaukee Bucks, Golden State Warriors, New York Knicks, and Dallas Mavericks.
- A three-time NBA Coach of the Year, Nelson was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012.

Static GK

- The National Basketball Association was founded in 1946 in New York.
- James Naismith invented basketball in December 1891.
- The International Basketball Federation is headquartered in Mies, Switzerland.
- A standard NBA basketball court is 94 feet long.

Historian Sumit Sarkar Passed Away at 87



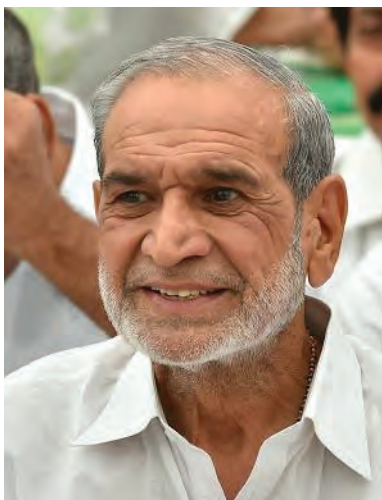
- Eminent historian Professor Sumit Sarkar passed away in New Delhi at the age of 87 following age-related illness.
- He specialised in modern Indian history, particularly colonialism, nationalism, and social movements.
- He served as a history professor at Delhi University and previously taught at Calcutta University and Presidency College.
- His book Modern India: 1885–1947 remains an important reference for modern Indian history and competitive examinations.
- He contributed to the Subaltern Studies collective and authored The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal: 1903–1908.

Static GK

- The Swadeshi Movement began in 1905 following the Partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon.
- The Subaltern Studies collective was founded by Ranajit Guha in 1982.
- Presidency College was originally established as Hindu College in Kolkata in 1817.

Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar Died at 80

- Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar died at the age of 80 in August 2026 while serving a life sentence in cases linked to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.



- He represented the Outer Delhi constituency in the Lok Sabha in 1980, 1991 and 2004.
- The Delhi High Court sentenced him to life imprisonment in 2018 for his role in the murder of five Sikhs and the burning of a gurdwara in Raj Nagar, Delhi Cantonment.
- A Delhi court awarded him another concurrent life sentence in a separate riot-related case in 2025.
- He was taken from Tihar Jail to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi in August 2026 and was declared brought dead.

Static GK

- The 1984 anti-Sikh riots followed the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on 31 October 1984.
- Tihar Jail is one of the largest prison complexes in India and is located in Delhi.

Sowcar Janaki Died at 94



- Veteran South Indian actress Sankaramanchi Janaki, popularly known as Sowcar Janaki, died at the age of 94 in Chennai in August 2026.

- She worked in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam cinema and made her film debut with the 1950 Telugu film Shavukaru, directed by L. V. Prasad.
- Her career spanned several decades, with published accounts placing her filmography at nearly 400 to over 450 films.
- Her final on-screen appearance came in the 2023 Telugu film Anni Manchi Sakunamule, directed by Nandini Reddy.
- She received the Padma Shri in 2022, Kalaimamani in 1969 and multiple Nandi Awards for her contributions to cinema and the arts.

Static GK

- Padma Shri is the fourth-highest civilian award in India.
- Kalaimamani is an honour given by the Tamil Nadu government for contributions to arts and culture.
- Nandi Awards are associated with Telugu cinema, theatre and television.

Sri Lankan Singer Nanda Malini Died at 82



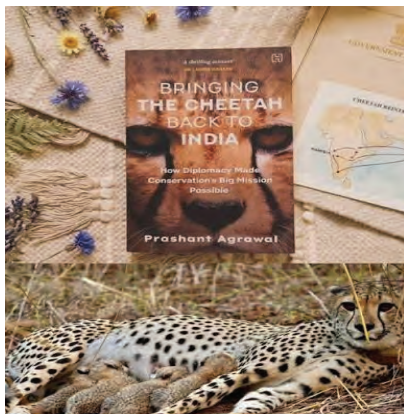
- Sri Lankan vocalist and musician Visharad Dr. Nanda Malini died at the age of 82 in August 2026 after a career spanning nearly 70 years.
- She was a prominent figure in Sinhala music and was known for songs associated with social and cultural themes.
- She received 11 Sarasaviya Awards and eight Presidential Awards for Best Female Singer.
- The Government of Sri Lanka declared a three-day national mourning period in August 2026 following her death.
- The Parliament of Sri Lanka observed a one-minute silence in her memory.
- Her final rites were scheduled at Borella Cemetery in Colombo.

Chapter 15

Books and Authors



Prashant Agrawal Authored Book on Cheetah Reintroduction

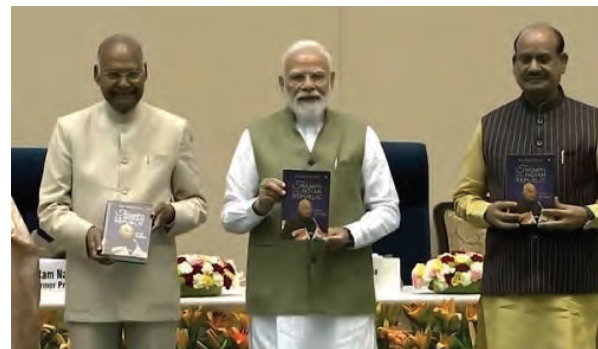


- Former Indian High Commissioner to Namibia and Indian Foreign Service officer Prashant Agrawal authored *Bringing the Cheetah Back to India: How Diplomacy Made Conservation's Big Mission Possible*.
- Published by Hachette India, the book provided an insider account of international negotiations, green diplomacy, treaties, and logistical challenges involved in the cheetah reintroduction programme.
- It documented the multi-agency efforts that enabled the historic translocation of cheetahs to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- The book highlighted India's wildlife conservation effort after the cheetah was officially declared extinct in the country in 1952.

Static GK

- Cheetah was officially declared extinct in India in 1952.
- Kuno National Park is located in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh.
- Project Cheetah was formally launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2022.

PM Modi Released 'Triumph of the Indian Republic'



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released former President Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography, "Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles", at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The book covers Kovind's childhood struggles, legal career, political journey, and tenure as the 14th President of India.
- PM Modi described the book as a reflection of Indian democracy, social empowerment, and constitutional values.
- He encouraged youth to read autobiographies of exemplary leaders and cautioned against the "shortcut culture" of social media reels.

Static GK

- Ram Nath Kovind served as the 14th President of India from 2017 to 2022.
- Article 52 of the Constitution provides for the office of the President of India.
- The minimum age for becoming President is 35 years.
- The oath of the President is administered by the Chief Justice of India.

Chapter 16

Important Days



National Flag Adoption Day: July 22



- National Flag Adoption Day was observed on 22 July 2026 to commemorate the adoption of the Tiranga by the Constituent Assembly on 22 July 1947.
- The original design of the Indian national flag was conceptualised and created by freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya.
- The flag contains saffron, white, and green colours representing courage, truth and peace, and faith and strength, along with a navy blue 24-spoke Ashoka Chakra.
- The observance promoted awareness about the Flag Code of India and encouraged the dignified display of the national flag.

Static GK

- The Indian national flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 22 July 1947.
- Pingali Venkayya designed the Indian national flag.
- The official length-to-height ratio of the Indian flag is 3:2.
- The Ashoka Chakra contains 24 spokes.

Income Tax Day: July 24



- Income Tax Day (Aaykar Diwas) was observed across India on 24 July 2026 to mark the 167th anniversary of the introduction of income tax in India.
- Income tax was introduced on 24 July 1860 by Sir James Wilson to compensate for financial losses caused during the Revolt of 1857.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes organised the main celebration at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, along with regional programmes across the country.
- The observance aimed to honour compliant taxpayers, encourage voluntary tax compliance, and highlight digital reforms in tax administration.
- The deadline for individual taxpayers and non-audit cases to file Income Tax Returns for Assessment Year 2026–27 was 31 July 2026.

Static GK

- Income tax was first introduced in India on 24 July 1860 by Sir James Wilson.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes is a statutory body formed under the Central Boards of Revenue Act, 1963.
- The headquarters of the Central Board of Direct Taxes is located in New Delhi.

Kargil Vijay Diwas: July 26



- India observed the 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July 2026 to commemorate the victory over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil War.
- A wreath-laying ceremony was organised at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass, Ladakh, where tributes were paid to 527 soldiers who sacrificed their lives.

- President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to the martyrs of the Kargil War.
- Nationwide programmes, including youth outreach initiatives and military bike rallies, were organised to honour the legacy of Operation Vijay.

Static GK

- India's military operation during the 1999 Kargil War was named Operation Vijay.
- The Kargil War was fought between India and Pakistan from May to July 1999 in Ladakh.
- The Kargil War Memorial is located in Drass near Tololing Hill.

World Nature Conservation Day: July 28



- World Nature Conservation Day was observed on 28 July 2026 at the National Zoological Park in New Delhi through awareness activities, a plastic removal drive and visitor outreach programmes.
- World Nature Conservation Day was observed every year on 28 July to promote environmental conservation, sustainable living and protection of natural resources.
- Around 35 sanitation workers participated in a plastic removal drive at the National Zoological Park, where about 230 kg of plastic waste was collected.
- The awareness session for visitors focused on the LiFE initiative, waste segregation and converting waste into useful products.
- A doodle activity was also organised for visitors to promote nature conservation and sustainable living.

Static GK

- The National Zoological Park is located in New Delhi and is commonly known as Delhi Zoo.
- LiFE is an initiative related to promoting environmentally sustainable lifestyles.

World Hepatitis Day: July 28



- World Hepatitis Day was observed on 28 July 2026 to raise awareness about the prevention, testing, and treatment of viral hepatitis.
- The 2026 theme was "Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down."
- The observance commemorated the birth anniversary of Dr. Baruch Samuel Blumberg, who discovered the Hepatitis B virus and developed its first vaccine.
- The campaign focused on improving access to testing, vaccination, treatment, and eliminating the stigma associated with hepatitis.
- WHO continued its target of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.
- Global estimates highlighted that around 287 million people were living with Hepatitis B or C, while nearly 1.3 million deaths occurred due to chronic hepatitis in 2024.

Static GK (if required)

- World Hepatitis Day is observed every year on 28 July.
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

International Tiger Day: July 29



- International Tiger Day was observed on 29 July 2026 to promote tiger conservation and protection of natural habitats.

- The 2026 theme was “Securing the Future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the Heart.”
- The observance highlighted threats such as poaching, habitat loss, illegal wildlife trade, climate change, and human-wildlife conflict.
- The day originated after the 2010 St. Petersburg Tiger Summit, where the TX2 goal to double the global wild tiger population by 2022 was adopted.
- India continued to lead global tiger conservation, as it is home to over 70% of the world’s wild tiger population and has 58 tiger reserves.

Static GK (if required)

- Project Tiger was launched in 1973.
- NTCA was established in 2005.
- India’s national animal is the Royal Bengal Tiger.

World FinTech Day: August 1



- World FinTech Day 2026 was observed globally on August 1 to highlight developments in financial technology and digital finance.
- Global fintech leaders emphasized shifting AI models from pilot stages to secure, governed, and operational production environments.
- Clean customer data and identity verification were identified as key foundations for fraud prevention and cross-border digital transactions.
- Indian fintech leaders emphasized localized AI models trained on regional data to reduce demographic and language barriers in Tier 3 cities.
- Digital assets, blockchain-powered settlements, and supply-chain finance emerged as important focus areas for improving global business liquidity.

Static GK

- NPCI was established in 2008.
- UPI was launched by NPCI in 2016.
- Cosimo de’ Medici is known as the father of modern banking.

International Clouded Leopard Day: August 4



- International Clouded Leopard Day was observed annually on August 4 to raise awareness about clouded leopards and their conservation.
- The observance started in 2018 through The Aspinall Foundation, with Howletts Wild Animal Park hosting the first celebration.
- India launched the Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan in August 2026 to strengthen habitat protection, scientific monitoring, anti-poaching measures and community participation.
- The Action Plan was unveiled during the 91st SCNBWL meeting held in Coimbatore in July 2026 through collaboration between the Government of India, GEF and UNDP.
- The plan identified 14 priority landscapes and included species recovery, forest corridor conservation, scientific monitoring, capacity building and climate-resilient conservation.
- Two existing species were recognised: Mainland Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) and Sunda Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis diardi*).
- Both species were classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and faced threats from habitat destruction, illegal wildlife trade and human-animal conflict.
- Clouded leopards were known for their distinctive cloud-like markings, long tails and strong climbing ability.

Static GK

- Clouded leopards are found mainly in forest habitats of South and Southeast Asia.
- The Mainland Clouded Leopard is scientifically known as *Neofelis nebulosa*.
- The Sunda Clouded Leopard is scientifically known as *Neofelis diardi*.

Hiroshima Day: August 6



- Hiroshima Day was observed on August 6, 2026, marking the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945.
- The 2026 theme was “Remembrance, Responsibility, and Resilience,” focusing on the victims, survivors and global efforts to prevent future nuclear conflicts.
- The United States dropped the uranium-based atomic bomb “Little Boy” on Hiroshima during World War II, causing widespread destruction and loss of life.
- An estimated 70,000–80,000 people died immediately, while the total number of deaths reached about 140,000 by the end of 1945 due to injuries and radiation effects.
- The second atomic bomb, “Fat Man,” was dropped on Nagasaki in August 1945, and Japan surrendered later that month.
- The bombing caused blast damage, intense heat, fires and radioactive contamination, along with long-term health problems among survivors.
- Hiroshima Day honoured the victims and Hibakusha, raised awareness about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, and promoted nuclear disarmament and peaceful conflict resolution.

Static GK

- Hiroshima is located on Honshu Island in Japan.
- Enola Gay was the B-29 bomber that carried the Hiroshima atomic bomb.
- The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park is associated with the Flame of Peace, which has burned continuously since 1964.

National Handloom Day: August 7



- India observed the 12th National Handloom Day on 7 August 2026 to honour the weaving community and commemorate the Swadeshi Movement, which began on 7 August 1905.
- National Handloom Day was first observed in 2015 and is celebrated every year on 7 August.
- The handloom sector supported 35.22 lakh weavers and allied workers, with women accounting for more than 72% of the workforce.
- The Union Government conferred 22 awards for 2025, including 3 Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and 19 National Handloom Awards.
- The government also released four commemorative postage stamps and two publications, including Earth. Root. Thread – Aal Dyed Handloom Textiles of Central India and the Handloom Awards Book 2025.
- The e-Pehchan portal was launched in January 2025 as a digital identity system for handloom weavers, with about 84,000 additional workers approved on the portal by July 2026.

Static GK

- National Handloom Day is observed every year on 7 August in India.
- The Swadeshi Movement began on 7 August 1905 and promoted indigenous goods and hand-spun cloth.

World Lion Day: August 10



- World Lion Day was observed globally on 10 August 2026 to highlight big cat conservation and habitat protection.
- India recorded 891 Asiatic lions in 2025 across Gujarat, showing growth in the species' population.
- Project Lion focuses on expanding the lion's habitat into Barda Wildlife Sanctuary to establish a safe second home for Asiatic lions.
- Global conservation efforts also focused on reducing human-wildlife conflict through community-led tracking and livestock enclosure protection.

Static GK

- World Lion Day was first established in 2013.
- The scientific name of the Asiatic lion is *Panthera leo persica*.
- Gir National Park in Gujarat is the primary habitat of the Asiatic lion.

World Biofuel Day: August 10



- World Biofuel Day was observed on 10 August 2026 to highlight the role of non-fossil fuels in sustainable transportation and the energy transition.
- The observance commemorates Sir Rudolf Diesel's 1893 experiment using peanut oil as fuel in a mechanical engine.
- In India, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas leads initiatives focusing on alternative clean energy sources.
- Key initiatives include SATAT for compressed biogas, GOBARdhan for rural organic waste, and PM JI-VAN Yojana for 2G bio-ethanol projects.
- The observance promotes reduced dependence on conventional fossil fuels, lower carbon emissions, and increased farmer income through bio-energy production.

Static GK

- SATAT focuses on promoting compressed biogas production and its use as a clean fuel.

- GOBARdhan promotes the conversion of organic waste into biogas and other useful products.
- PM JI-VAN Yojana supports 2G bio-ethanol projects using lignocellulosic biomass.

World Elephant Day: August 12



- India marked World Elephant Day on 12 August 2026 with a focus on elephant conservation, habitat protection and reducing human-elephant conflict.
- India had 33 Elephant Reserves across 14 States and 150 scientifically validated elephant corridors.
- India was home to nearly 60% of the global wild Asian elephant population, making it a major range country for the species.
- World Elephant Day was observed on 12 August to promote awareness about elephant protection, habitat continuity and human-elephant coexistence.
- The Asian elephant was listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and was protected in India under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Project Elephant was launched in 1992 as a centrally sponsored scheme to support elephant conservation, habitat protection and mitigation of human-elephant conflict.
- Population monitoring, habitat management and local response systems were used to reduce human-elephant conflict, while Andhra Pradesh used trained kumki elephants and HANUMAN teams for wildlife response.

Static GK

- World Elephant Day: 12 August
- Project Elephant: 1992
- Elephant Reserves in India: 33
- Scientifically validated elephant corridors: 150
- Asian Elephant: Endangered category on the IUCN Red List

International Youth Day: August 12



- International Youth Day was observed worldwide on 12 August 2026 to recognise the potential of young people and highlight youth-related issues.
- The 2026 theme was “Different Contexts, Common Aspirations”.
- The observance focused on youth challenges including education gaps, climate change, and employment opportunities.
- The UN organised digital campaigns and interactive events to encourage youth-led solutions and international solidarity.

Static GK

- International Youth Day was designated by the United Nations.
- The UN headquarters is located in New York City, United States.

World Organ Donation Day: August 13



- World Organ Donation Day was observed globally on 13 August 2026 to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation.
- A single deceased organ donor can save up to eight lives, while tissue donation can improve the health of many more recipients.

- Awareness campaigns focused on dispelling myths and encouraging people to register digital donor pledges.
- In India, citizens can register their pledges through the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization digital portal.
- Communicating donation choices with family members remains important because legal consent from close family is required before organ retrieval.

Static GK

- The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization functions under the Directorate General of Health Services, Union Health Ministry.
- Organ transplantation in India is regulated by the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994.
- National Organ Donation Day is observed on 3 August.
- The world’s first successful organ transplant was a kidney transplant performed in 1954.

Third National Space Day: August 23



- India observed the third National Space Day on 23 August 2026 to commemorate the landing of Chandrayaan-3’s Vikram lander at Shiv Shakti Point near the Moon’s south pole in 2023.
- The 2026 theme was “Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership”.
- The national event was hosted by ISRO’s Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad and featured an exhibition, expert talks and panel discussions on India’s space missions and opportunities.
- ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan stated that India ranks first globally in nine space-related areas and uses space technology across more than 50 application sectors.

- Work on the Bharatiya Antariksha Station is underway, with its first module approved and a target of 2035 for the station.
- MyGov launched the National Space Day Quiz 2026 with cash prizes up to ₹1 lakh and ISRO campus visits for top winners, while the Bharat Space Education Research Centre organised a free online session on AI applications in space science.

Static GK

- National Space Day is observed every year on 23 August.
- Shiv Shakti Point is the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.
- The Space Applications Centre is located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The Bharatiya Antariksha Station is India's proposed indigenous space station.