



**SSC  
WALLAH**

# DAKSH

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

**AUGUST 2026**

FIFA World Cup 2026: Spain Emerges Winner at 23rd Edition

India Hosted the 5th BIMSTEC Security Chiefs' Meeting



**BIMSTEC SECURITY  
SUMMIT IN INDIA**



31st Chief of Army Staff of India:  
General Dhiraj Seth

Andy Burnham Takes Oath as  
New UK Prime Minister

**For SSC CGL, CHSL and other Competitive Exams**

## • Author's Note

The authors' views and opinions are their own, and they don't necessarily reflect those of CURRENT AFFAIRS Magazine or Physicswallah Private Limited. They should be seen as the author's or writers' individual viewpoints. Physicswallah Private Limited does not endorse the views and ideas stated in the magazine's advertising, nor does it attest to the veracity of any claims made in them. Although great care has been taken to ensure the correctness and legitimacy of the information published in the Magazine, neither the Publisher, Editor, nor any of its employees assume any liability for any erroneous, shortened, cancelled, omitted, or incorrectly inserted data.

©All rights reserved by Physicswallah Private Limited. Without the previous written consent of the Publisher, no portion of this publication may be duplicated, saved in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way, whether it be electronically, mechanically, photocopying, recording, or otherwise.

# CONTENTS

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| • 1. National News .....         | 1  |
| • 2. International Affairs ..... | 12 |
| • 3. State Affairs.....          | 17 |
| • 4. Business and Economy .....  | 23 |
| • 5. Science and Technology..... | 29 |
| • 6. Defence.....                | 34 |
| • 7. Appointments .....          | 37 |
| • 8. MoUs.....                   | 39 |
| • 9. Summits.....                | 41 |
| • 10. Reports .....              | 43 |
| • 11. Sports.....                | 48 |
| • 12. Awards and Honours .....   | 52 |
| • 13. Government Schemes .....   | 59 |
| • 14. Obituary .....             | 63 |
| • 15. Books and Authors .....    | 65 |
| • 16. Important Days .....       | 66 |

# Chapter 1

## National News

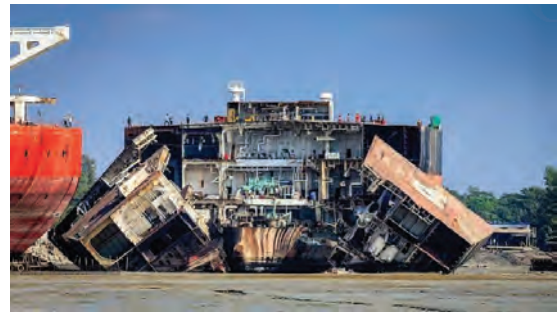


### Government Established Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)



- The Government of India established the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to strengthen maritime security.
- BoPS was created as the apex regulatory authority for the security of ships, ports, and related infrastructure across the country.
- The Bureau was modeled on the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
- It was tasked with regulating port and ship security, conducting inspections and audits, ensuring compliance with security standards, and coordinating among security agencies.
- The Bureau also focused on maritime cybersecurity to protect port IT systems and critical digital infrastructure from cyber threats.
- Initially, BoPS was placed under the Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA), formerly known as the Directorate General of Shipping.
- Shyam Jagannathan was appointed to oversee the Bureau during the transition period.
- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was designated as the Recognised Security Organisation for port facilities and was entrusted with security assessments and training of private security personnel.

### India Became the World's Top Ship Recycling Nation in 2025



- India emerged as the world's largest ship recycling nation in 2025, accounting for 35.4% of global ship recycling, up from 30.1% in 2024.
- According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India recycled 2.99 million Gross Tonnage (GT) of ships in 2025.
- India surpassed all other countries in ship recycling volume during the year.
- The achievement fulfilled the Maritime India Vision 2030 target nearly five years ahead of schedule.
- Government initiatives such as the Ship-breaking Credit Note Scheme, modernization of the Alang Ship Recycling Yard, and adoption of international environmental standards contributed to this success.
- Ship recycling supported the circular economy by recovering valuable materials, generating employment, and promoting sustainable maritime practices.

#### Static GK

- Alang Ship Recycling Yard is India's largest ship-breaking yard.
- The Maritime India Vision aims to strengthen India's maritime sector by 2030.
- India has a coastline of approximately 7,516 km.
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is a permanent intergovernmental body of the United Nations.

## DIKSHA Became “One Nation, One Digital Platform” for School Education



- The Central Government designated DIKSHA as India’s “One Nation, One Digital Platform” for school education on 28 June 2026.
- DIKSHA, launched in 2017, continued to provide curriculum-based digital learning resources from the foundational stage to Class 12.
- The platform followed a federated model, enabling States and Union Territories to customize educational content.
- It offered resources in 36 Indian languages and 7 foreign languages, including QR-coded textbooks, videos, animations, virtual labs, and sign language content.
- DIKSHA supported teacher training through programmes such as NISHTHA and provided self-paced certification modules.
- The platform also ensured inclusive and offline learning through downloadable content and accessibility tools for differently-abled learners.

### Static GK

- DIKSHA stands for Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing.
- DIKSHA was launched in 2017.
- The National Council of Educational Research and Training manages DIKSHA with support from CIET.
- NISHTHA is a teacher training programme linked with DIKSHA.

## India Approved Its First Offshore Airport in Maharashtra

- India approved the preparation of a Detailed Project Report for its first offshore airport near Kore Beach in Palghar district, Maharashtra.
- The proposed airport was planned as the third international airport for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.



- The project included two parallel runways with a planned capacity of 90 million passengers and 3 million metric tonnes of cargo annually.
- It was integrated with major infrastructure projects, including the Uttan-Virar Sea Link, Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train, and Vadhavan Port.
- The project was expected to strengthen regional connectivity, logistics, and economic development.
- Construction was projected to begin in 2026, with operations expected in the early 2030s.

### Static GK

- Palghar district is located in Maharashtra.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport is Mumbai’s main operational airport.
- Offshore airports are built on reclaimed land or marine structures.
- Vadhavan Port is a major planned port project in Maharashtra.

## SUMAN Roadmap 2030 Launched for Maternal Health



- Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the SUMAN Roadmap 2030 on 29 June 2026 in New Delhi.
- The roadmap provided a strategic framework for maternal and newborn healthcare aligned with Sustainable Development Goals.
- It aimed to achieve zero maternal deaths, zero infant deaths, universal antenatal care, institutional deliveries, and full immunisation.
- The framework adopted a life-cycle approach covering pre-pregnancy, antenatal, delivery, and postnatal care.
- Targeted interventions were planned across 130 districts in 13 high-focus states.
- The roadmap included digital monitoring, high-risk pregnancy management, community participation, and improved maternal healthcare infrastructure.

### Static GK

- Maternal Mortality Ratio is measured per 100,000 live births.
- Neonatal Mortality Rate refers to deaths within the first 28 days of life.
- Infant Mortality Rate refers to deaths before one year of age.
- ASHAs are community health workers under India's public health system.

### Akashvani Launched Swar Prerna Veethika to Celebrate 90 Years of India's Musical Heritage



- Akashvani launched *Swar Prerna Veethika*, a permanent photo gallery dedicated to India's legendary musicians, as part of its 90th anniversary celebrations and ahead of the centenary of radio broadcasting in India in 2027.
- The gallery was inaugurated by Padma Vibhushan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia at the Akashvani Rang Bhavan Auditorium in New Delhi.

- The first phase of the gallery features portraits of 20 eminent musicians, including Bharat Ratna awardees such as M.S. Subbulakshmi, Ravi Shankar, Lata Mangeshkar, Bismillah Khan, Bhimsen Joshi, and Bhupen Hazarika.
- The initiative honours artists associated with Akashvani and aims to preserve India's musical heritage while inspiring future generations of musicians and researchers.
- Akashvani highlighted its contribution to promoting classical, folk, devotional, and regional music and preserving recordings of legendary performances for nearly nine decades.
- Akashvani also expanded its digital presence through the 24×7 music channels *Raagam* and *Aaradhana*, available on YouTube, the News-on-Air App, and the WAVES OTT platform.

### Static GK

- Akashvani is the official name of All India Radio (AIR), India's national public service radio broadcaster.
- Akashvani functions under Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcasting corporation.
- Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous body established under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990.

### Indian Business Leaders Joined the AI for Good Global Commission



- The AI for Good Global Commission was launched by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Salesforce on 3 July 2026 to promote responsible and inclusive development of artificial intelligence (AI).

- Indian business leaders Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal, Lakshmi N. Mittal, and Vishal Talwar joined the Commission as founding members.
- The Commission brings together more than 40 global leaders from governments, businesses, academia, and international organisations to promote trustworthy AI, reduce the digital divide, and support sustainable development.
- The initiative was jointly announced by Rwanda President Paul Kagame, Salesforce Chair and CEO Marc Benioff, and ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin.
- Paul Kagame serves as the Co-Chair of the Commission, while Doreen Bogdan-Martin serves as the Vice-Chair.
- The inaugural meeting of the Commission is scheduled during the AI for Good Global Summit 2026, to be held from 7 to 10 July 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland.

### Static GK

- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a specialised agency of the United Nations for information and communication technologies.
- The headquarters of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Salesforce is an American cloud-based software company headquartered in San Francisco, California, United States.
- The AI for Good Global Summit is an international platform that promotes the use of artificial intelligence to achieve sustainable development goals.

### Microsoft and Lightstorm Partnered to Build the I-2SEA Undersea Cable



- Microsoft and Singapore-based Lightstorm partnered with Tata Communications, Singtel, ASEAN Cables, and NEC Corporation to develop the I-2SEA undersea cable system.

and NEC Corporation to develop the I-2SEA undersea cable system.

- The 3,600-km India-2-Southeast Asia (I-2SEA) submarine cable will connect India with Malaysia and Singapore to strengthen regional digital connectivity.
- The project aims to support the growth of artificial intelligence (AI), hyperscale cloud services, data centres, and high-capacity, low-latency digital infrastructure across Asia.
- One of the major landing stations of the cable will be located at Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- The I-2SEA cable is expected to become operational in the fourth quarter of 2029.
- After the project's completion, Lightstorm's network is expected to expand from 19 to 29 connected AI and cloud zones across India.

### Static GK

- Submarine fibre-optic cables carry about 95% of international internet traffic worldwide.
- India currently has around 17 active submarine cable systems connecting it with the global internet network.
- Hyperscale cloud infrastructure refers to large-scale data centre facilities designed to provide highly scalable cloud computing services.
- NEC Corporation is a multinational information technology and electronics company headquartered in Tokyo, Japan.

### Ministry of Tribal Affairs Launched TribeX



- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched TribeX, India's first dedicated digital learning platform for tribal arts, culture, languages, and traditional knowledge.
- Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram launched the platform during the National Workshop on Strengthening Tribal Research Institutes in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- TribeX offers online learning, digital documentation, research support, and skill development through authentic tribal knowledge.
- The platform launched with 20 free certificate courses and plans to expand to more than 100 courses covering tribal arts, handicrafts, textiles, music, and traditional practices.
- It also offers five UGC-recognised one-year hybrid postgraduate diploma programmes in tribal studies.
- The Ministry signed an MoU with Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi, to provide academic support for the diploma programmes.

### **Kamarajar Port Became India's Second Major Port with an 18-Metre Operational Draft**



- Kamarajar Port in Tamil Nadu became India's second major port, after Visakhapatnam Port, to achieve an 18-metre operational draft following the completion of the ₹440 crore Capital Dredging Phase VI project.
- The upgraded infrastructure enables the port to handle fully loaded Capesize vessels of up to 1,70,000 DWT, significantly improving cargo handling capacity.
- The project deepened the approach channels, harbour basin, and berths, transforming Kamarajar into a Cape Compliant Port.
- The enhanced draft is expected to reduce logistics costs, improve turnaround time, increase export-import (EXIM) trade efficiency, and strengthen India's maritime infrastructure.

#### **Static GK**

- Location: Ennore, Tamil Nadu
- First Indian major port with an 18-metre operational draft: Visakhapatnam Port
- Capesize vessels are among the world's largest dry bulk cargo ships.

### **India Launched Its First Greenfield Refinery-Cum-Petrochemical Complex**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex at Pachpadra, Balotra district, Rajasthan, on 4 July 2026.
- The project is a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the Government of Rajasthan, with equity shares of 74% and 26%, respectively.
- The complex was developed with an investment of over ₹79,450 crore.
- It has a refining capacity of 9 MMTPA and a petrochemical production capacity of 2.4 MMTPA.
- The integrated complex combines a crude oil refinery with petrochemical units to support downstream industries such as plastics, polymers, and chemicals.
- The project will serve as the anchor for a Petrochemical and Plastic Park in Rajasthan.
- The inauguration was postponed after a fire in the Crude Distillation Unit (CDU) on 20 April 2026, and the unit resumed operations.
- HPCL plans to commission the petrochemical units in the fourth quarter of 2026, with partial operations expected by November–December 2026.
- During the visit, development projects worth about ₹1.06 lakh crore, including the Jodhpur Airport terminal and Jaipur Metro Phase 2, were also inaugurated or launched.

### **Government Notified Navi Mumbai Airport as a Drug Import Port**

- The Government of India notified Navi Mumbai International Airport as a designated port for the import of drugs under Rule 43A of the Drugs Rules, 1945.



- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued the notification on 8 July 2026 after consulting the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).
- The amendment to Rule 43A added Navi Mumbai International Airport to the list of authorised drug import ports to improve pharmaceutical logistics and trade facilitation.
- The amendment increased the total number of notified drug import ports in India to 42, covering airports, seaports, road entry points, and rail entry points.
- The decision aims to strengthen the pharmaceutical supply chain, reduce congestion at existing ports, improve logistics efficiency, and support ease of doing business.
- The notification was issued under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

### Static GK

- The Drugs and Cosmetics Act was enacted in 1940.
- The Drugs Rules were notified in 1945.
- Rule 43A specifies the authorised ports for the import of drugs into India.
- The Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) is the highest statutory technical advisory body on matters related to drugs and cosmetics in India.
- India now has 42 notified ports for the import of drugs.

### India Launched the LoA Regime for High-Seas Fishing



- India launched the new Letter of Authorisation (LoA) regime to promote sustainable high-seas fishing, strengthen the Blue Economy, and enhance seafood exports.
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar launched the initiative to enable Indian fishing vessels to operate sustainably in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and open seas.
- The LoA regime simplified the authorisation process for deep-sea fishing and aims to reduce pressure on overexploited coastal fisheries while promoting the harvest of high-value marine species.
- India has a coastline of over 11,000 km and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of nearly 24 lakh sq. km, offering significant untapped deep-sea fishing potential.
- The initiative aims to increase fishermen's incomes, create employment opportunities, strengthen Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs) and fishing cooperatives, and improve the sustainable use of marine resources.
- The government stated that India is the world's second-largest fish producer, contributes about 8% of global fish production, and exported seafood worth around ₹73,000 crore in the previous financial year.
- Odisha also launched the Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission (2026–2036) with an outlay of ₹2,295.45 crore to develop deep-sea fishing infrastructure and boost marine exports.

### Static GK

- The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extends up to 200 nautical miles from a country's baseline under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- India became a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982 and ratified it in 1995.
- The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying was established as a separate ministry in 2019.
- The Blue Economy promotes the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and marine ecosystem conservation.

### Centre Renamed Central Vista as Kartavya Bhawan Area

- The Government of India renamed the Central Vista redevelopment area as the Kartavya Bhawan Area (or Kartavya Bhawan Complex).



- Union Minister Manohar Lal announced that all ministries and departments should use the new name in official documents instead of “Central Vista”.
- The government stated that the new name reflects the idea of “Kartavya” (duty) and aligns with efforts to replace colonial-era terminology.
- The Kartavya Bhawan Area includes Kartavya Bhawans, Kartavya Path, the Common Central Secretariat, and other government office buildings developed under the redevelopment project.
- The renaming continued the government’s initiative to give administrative landmarks names reflecting public service and national values.

### Static GK

- Kartavya Path was renamed from Rajpath in 2022.
- The Central Vista Redevelopment Project includes the construction of 10 Common Central Secretariat buildings.

### India Launched Campaign for UNSC Non-Permanent Seat



- India launched its campaign for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for the 2028–29 term.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled the campaign and India’s SHANTI vision at the UN Headquarters in New York.

- India contested the Asia-Pacific Group seat against Tajikistan in the election scheduled for June 2027.
- The SHANTI vision stood for Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity.
- The SHANTI framework focused on peacekeeping, maritime security, terrorism and terror financing, responsible AI, sustainable development, and reforms in global institutions.
- The campaign promoted the interests of the Global South and supported consensus-based multilateral cooperation.
- India served eight terms as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, including its most recent tenure during 2021–22.

### Static GK

- India became a founding member of the UN in 1945.
- The UNSC was established in 1945 under the UN Charter.
- The UNSC has 15 members, including 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members.
- Non-permanent members of the UNSC are elected for two-year terms by the UNGA.
- The five permanent members of the UNSC are China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US.

### Bharat Tex 2026 Held as Textile Trade Exhibition



- Bharat Tex 2026 was scheduled from 14 July to 17 July 2026 at Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi in New Delhi.
- The third edition of the textile and apparel trade platform was organised by the Bharat Tex Trade Federation with support from the Ministry of Textiles.
- The exhibition covered more than 1.6 million square feet and showcased over 20,000 textile products.

- The event focused on sustainability, circular economy, innovation, Industry 5.0, digital transformation, technical textiles, and export competitiveness.
- More than 7,000 buyers and 130,000 trade visitors from over 20 countries were expected to participate.
- Eight states, including Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, participated as sponsor states.

### Static GK

- Bharat Mandapam is located at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- Yashobhoomi is the India International Convention and Expo Center in New Delhi.
- The 5F Vision stands for Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

### GSI Discovered Thorium and Rare Earth Deposits in Karnataka



- GSI identified significant thorium-bearing mineral deposits in Gundlupet taluk of Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka.
- The deposits were mapped across around 700 acres, covering Koothanur and nearby villages.
- The reserve contained monazite, a phosphate mineral that served as a source of thorium, uranium, and rare earth elements.
- A 20-acre core zone was designated for potential commercial mining auctions by the Union government.
- The discovery strengthened India's mineral security and supported nuclear energy and high-tech industries.

### Static GK

- GSI headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- GSI was established in 1851.
- GSI functions under the Ministry of Mines.

### India's First Immersive Language Museum Opened in Kolkata



- India's first immersive language museum, Shabdlok (Museum of Word), was inaugurated in July 2026 at the National Library campus in Kolkata.
- The museum functions under the Union Ministry of Culture and is housed in Belvedere House.
- Shabdlok showcases India's linguistic heritage and the historical evolution of languages through nearly 380 languages, including the 121 languages recorded in the 2011 Census.
- The museum features nine galleries with interactive exhibits using touchscreens, gesture sensors, audio-visual installations, holograms and immersive display systems.
- The visitor experience integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technologies.

### Static GK

- Shabdlok is India's first immersive language museum.
- Belvedere House is located inside the National Library campus in Kolkata.
- The 2011 Census of India recorded 121 languages.
- The National Library is India's largest library and is located in Kolkata.

### India Introduced a Digital Monthly Toll Pass



- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) introduced a digital Local Pass facility on the RajmargYatra mobile application in July 2026.
- The facility allowed residents living within a 20-km radius of an eligible toll plaza to purchase a monthly pass for unlimited travel through that toll plaza.
- The system used consent-based verification through DigiLocker, VAHAN, and GIS-based location validation.
- Users could complete the entire application process digitally through the RajmargYatra app without visiting the toll plaza.
- The facility was first launched at the Mundka-Bakkarwala Toll Plaza on Urban Extension Road-II in Delhi.
- NHAI also launched the AI-enabled MargMitra Help Centre on the RajmargYatra app to provide digital assistance to National Highway users.

### Static GK

- FASTag is India's electronic toll collection system based on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology.
- NHAI is the statutory authority responsible for the development, maintenance and management of National Highways in India.
- DigiLocker is a digital document wallet platform under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- VAHAN is India's national vehicle registry database.
- GIS (Geographic Information System) is used for location-based verification and mapping services.

### India Approved Its First 100 MWh Flow Battery Project



- India approved its first utility-scale 100 MWh Vanadium Redox Flow Battery Energy Storage System (VRFB BESS) at Khavda Solar Park, Gujarat.

- NTPC Renewable Energy Limited awarded the project contract in July 2026, and deployment is scheduled for 2027 with a 10-year operations and maintenance period.
- Bondada Engineering Limited secured the EPC contract, while Delectrik Systems Pvt. Ltd. became the technology partner.
- The project became India's first and largest grid-scale VRFB system and the first non-lithium utility-scale battery storage system fully designed, engineered and manufactured in India.
- The battery system will support renewable energy integration, grid balancing and peak load management at Khavda Solar Park.

### Static GK

- A Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) stores energy in vanadium-based liquid electrolytes.
- Utility-scale battery energy storage systems are used for grid-level electricity storage.
- Khavda Solar Park is located in Gujarat and is planned to achieve 30 GW capacity by 2029.

### Centre Announced a 50% Quota for Ex-Agniveers in CAPFs



- The Union Government announced 50% reservation for Ex-Agniveers in recruitment to Constable (GD) posts in CAPFs and Rifleman posts in the Assam Rifles.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs created a separate Ex-Agniveer category for recruitment.
- Ex-Agniveers will receive three years of age relaxation, while the first batch will receive a total relaxation of eight years.
- Eligible candidates will be exempt from the Physical Standards Test, Physical Efficiency Test and written examination.
- No recruitment had taken place under the policy as the first batch of Agniveers had not completed its four-year tenure.

## Static GK

- CAPFs function under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Agnipath Scheme was launched in 2022 for four-year military service.

## Former ISRO Chief Dr. S. Somanath Joined Agnikul Cosmos



- Former ISRO Chairman Dr. S. Somanath joined Agnikul Cosmos as an Observer on its Board of Directors.
- Agnikul Cosmos appointed him as it prepared for Mission 02, which will test orbital-class rocket booster recovery and an on-orbit upper-stage platform.
- Mission 02 will be launched using the two-stage Agnibaan launch vehicle.
- The mission will demonstrate indigenous semi-cryogenic propulsion technology and a 3D-printed rocket engine.
- Agnikul Cosmos stated that Dr. Somanath's experience will support the company's next phase of space technology development.
- During his tenure as ISRO Chairman, Dr. S. Somanath led major missions including Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1.

## Static GK

- Dr. S. Somanath is the former Chairman of ISRO.
- Agnikul Cosmos is a space technology start-up headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Agnibaan is a two-stage launch vehicle developed by Agnikul Cosmos.
- Aditya-L1 is India's first solar observatory mission.
- Chandrayaan-3 achieved India's first successful soft landing near the Moon's south polar region.

## PM Modi Flagged Off India's First Indigenous Hydrogen-Powered Train

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first indigenous hydrogen-powered train from Jind Railway Station in Haryana.



- The train was developed by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, and operates on the 89-km Jind-Sonipat section.
- It uses a 2,400 kW hydrogen fuel cell system that generates electricity by combining hydrogen and oxygen and emits only water vapour.
- The 10-coach train has a seating and standing capacity of over 2,600 passengers and operates at a maximum speed of 75 km/h.
- The project was developed under the Make in India initiative and marked a major milestone under the Green Rail Mission.
- With this launch, India joined a select group of countries deploying hydrogen-powered zero-emission railway technology.

## Static GK

- The Integral Coach Factory is located at Perambur, Chennai, and was established in 1955.
- Germany launched the world's first hydrogen-powered train in 2018.
- Indian Railways operates 19 administrative zones.

## India Commissioned First Geothermal Wells in Puga Valley



- India commissioned its first geothermal wells at Puga Valley in eastern Ladakh.
- Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena inaugurated the project, which was executed by the ONGC Energy Centre.

- Two geothermal wells were drilled to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of over 14,000 feet.
- The wells will serve as the core infrastructure for India's first 1 MW pilot geothermal power plant.
- The project aims to generate clean, round-the-clock electricity by utilising the Earth's natural geothermal heat despite the extreme Himalayan conditions.

### Static GK

- Puga Valley is located in the Changthang region of eastern Ladakh.
- ONGC was established on 14 August 1956 and is headquartered in New Delhi.

# Chapter 2

## International Affairs

### UN Chief António Guterres Launched Global Methane Action Plan



- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres launched a global Call to Action on Methane in London amid rising concerns over climate change.
- He warned that global temperatures reached about 1.37°C above pre-industrial levels and could cross the 1.5°C threshold before the end of this decade.
- The initiative focused on reducing methane emissions from the fossil fuel, agriculture, and waste management sectors.
- The UN called for better landfill management, methane-capture technologies, reduced open dumping, and wider adoption of circular economy practices.
- The initiative strengthened the Global Methane Pledge, under which 159 countries and the European Commission committed to reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2030 compared to 2020 levels.
- Guterres also highlighted the growing environmental impact of artificial intelligence due to the rising energy demand of data centres.
- The Global Urban Data Centres Pact was launched, and 36 cities across six continents joined the initiative.

#### Static GK

- The Global Methane Pledge was launched during COP26.
- The headquarters of the United Nations is located in New York City, United States.

- António Guterres has served as the UN Secretary-General since 2017.

### India Extended Support to Venezuela After Devastating Earthquakes



- India launched Operation Amistad to assist Venezuela after the devastating earthquakes of 24 June 2026.
- Two earthquakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 occurred near Montalbán and Yumare, west of Caracas.
- The earthquakes caused widespread destruction, particularly in western Venezuela and the capital region.
- At least 32 people died, more than 700 were injured, and several buildings and critical infrastructure suffered damage.
- Acting President Delcy Rodríguez declared a state of emergency on 25 June 2026 to accelerate rescue and relief operations.
- Emergency agencies were deployed across affected regions to assist survivors and restore essential services.

#### Static GK

- Venezuela is located in northern South America.
- Capital: Caracas.
- Official Language: Spanish.
- Currency: Venezuelan Bolívar.

## PM Modi Visited the Prambanan Temple in Indonesia



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Prambanan Temple complex in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on 8 July 2026 during his three-day state visit.
- He visited the temple with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and offered prayers at the Hindu temple dedicated to the Trimurti.
- India and Indonesia agreed to support the conservation and restoration of the Prambanan Temple complex, with the Archaeological Survey of India collaborating with Indonesian authorities.
- The two countries had agreed to cooperate on the restoration of the temple under the 2025 India-Indonesia Joint Statement.
- India and Indonesia designated the year 2026–2027 as the Tagore-Dewantara Year to strengthen cultural cooperation.

### Static GK

- Prambanan Temple is the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia and was built in the 9th century.
- The temple is dedicated to the Trimurti, comprising Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Brahma.
- Prambanan Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The temple is famous for its stone reliefs depicting scenes from the Ramayana.
- Prambanan Temple is located in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

## Archaeologists Discovered 2,000-Year-Old Indian Gold Rings in Thailand

- Archaeologists discovered two 2,000-year-old Indian gold rings at the Don Yai Thong archaeological site in Phetchaburi province, Thailand.
- One ring bears a Brahmi script inscription reading “pusarakhitasa”, which means “protected by Pushya”.



- The rings were found with human skeletal remains, indicating they may have belonged to wealthy individuals or Indian merchants.
- The discovery provides evidence of ancient maritime trade and cultural exchanges between India and Southeast Asia during the Iron Age.
- The artefacts were transferred to the Phra Nakhon Khiri Museum for preservation and public display.

### Static GK

- Brahmi is the ancient script from which most modern Indian scripts evolved.
- Pushya is one of the 27 Nakshatras in Indian astronomy.
- Phra Nakhon Khiri is a historical park and museum located in Phetchaburi, Thailand.

## India and Kyrgyzstan Launched the ‘Manas and Mahabharata’ Centre



- India and Kyrgyzstan inaugurated the International Centre for Civilizational Studies “Manas and Mahabharata” in Bishkek to strengthen cultural and academic cooperation.
- The centre was established by the Manas National Academy in collaboration with the Centre for Studies of International Relations (CSIR), New Delhi.

- The initiative aims to promote comparative civilizational research, cultural dialogue, humanitarian diplomacy, and academic exchanges centred on the Mahabharata and the Manas epic.
- Trilateral cooperation agreements were signed among the Manas National Academy, CSIR, New Delhi, and seven leading universities of Kyrgyzstan to promote joint research, faculty exchanges, and educational collaboration.
- The event also marked the release of the first Hindi translation of the Kyrgyz national epic *Manas*, prepared by Professor Hem Chandra Pande and Professor Ramakant Dwivedi.
- The centre is expected to strengthen cultural diplomacy and deepen the understanding of the shared civilizational heritage of India and Kyrgyzstan.

### Static GK

- *Manas* is the national epic of Kyrgyzstan and one of the longest epic poems in the world.
- The *Mahabharata* is traditionally attributed to Maharishi Ved Vyasa.
- Bishkek is the capital and largest city of Kyrgyzstan.
- Kyrgyzstan became independent from the Soviet Union on 31 August 1991.

### US, UK and 12 Nations Reaffirmed 2016 Hague Ruling



- Fourteen countries, including the US, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy and the Philippines, reaffirmed the 2016 South China Sea arbitral ruling on in 2026.
- The joint statement declared that China's maritime claims based on "historic rights" have no legal basis under UNCLOS and described the 2016 award as final and legally binding.

- The statement marked the 10th anniversary of the Hague tribunal's ruling, which was delivered on 12 July 2016 in a case initiated by the Philippines.
- China rejected the ruling, calling it "null and void", and continued to refuse third-party dispute settlement over the South China Sea.
- The participating countries opposed the use of force, coercion and intimidation in disputed waters and stressed the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight.
- The statement highlighted the strategic importance of the South China Sea as a major global trade route and called for peaceful resolution of maritime disputes under international law.

### Static GK

- The 2016 South China Sea arbitration award was delivered by a tribunal constituted under UNCLOS at The Hague.
- The arbitration case was filed by the Philippines against China in 2013.
- The South China Sea is claimed wholly or partly by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

### Nine European Countries and Ukraine Formed Missile Defence Coalition



- Nine European countries and Ukraine formed an Integrated Anti-Ballistic Missile Coalition in July 2026 in Paris, France.
- The coalition was formed to develop anti-ballistic capabilities and create a shared missile defence architecture for Europe.
- The founding members included Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.
- The coalition focused on common operational requirements, joint technical cooperation, and development of initial missile defence capabilities.

- The initiative aimed to combine defence industries, research expertise, and operational experience to counter missile threats.
- The coalition's main project focused on Ukraine's Freyja anti-ballistic system, which was developed as a more affordable alternative to the Patriot system.

### Static GK

- Anti-ballistic missile defence detects, tracks, intercepts, and destroys incoming ballistic missiles.
- The Patriot system is a surface-to-air missile system used for air and missile defence.

### Andy Burnham Became the U.K. Prime Minister



- Andy Burnham became the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in July 2026 after accepting an invitation from King Charles III at Buckingham Palace.
- He succeeded Keir Starmer, who resigned following pressure after local election results.
- Burnham became the leader of the governing Labour Party in July 2026 after an uncontested leadership election.
- He became the seventh Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in a decade.
- Burnham served as the Mayor of Greater Manchester since 2017 and won re-election in 2021 and 2024.

### Static GK

- The Prime Minister is the head of government in the United Kingdom and is usually the leader of the majority party in the House of Commons.
- The Prime Minister advises the monarch on the appointment of ministers and the formation of the government.
- The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government.

- The House of Commons is the lower house of the U.K. Parliament.
- The Labour Party and the Conservative Party are the two major political parties in the United Kingdom.

### China Suspended Rare Earth Exports to Japan



- China suspended exports of several rare earths and rare metals to Japan from January 2026.
- The restrictions followed diplomatic tensions after remarks by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on a possible Taiwan contingency in November 2025.
- The export controls affected critical minerals used in the defence, automotive, electronics and aerospace sectors.
- China imposed export restrictions on rare earth elements and rare-earth magnets in January 2026 and later tightened controls on dual-use goods for 20 Japanese companies while placing 20 others on a watch list in February 2026.
- Chinese customs data for June 2026 showed no exports of gallium, dysprosium, terbium or yttrium to Japan.
- Japan and the United States launched a Critical Minerals Action Plan in March 2026 to strengthen supply chain resilience.

### Static GK

- Rare earth elements are a group of 17 metals comprising the lanthanides, scandium and yttrium.
- China accounts for over 90% of global rare earth magnet production and refining.
- Dysprosium and terbium are used in heat-resistant permanent magnets for electric vehicles, wind turbines and defence equipment.
- Rare earth elements are abundant in the Earth's crust but are difficult to separate and refine.
- China also restricted rare earth exports to Japan in 2010 during the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands dispute.

## U.K. Appointed Kanishka Narayan as Its First AI Minister



- The United Kingdom appointed Kanishka Narayan as its first Minister for Artificial Intelligence in July 2026.
- The appointment made the AI Minister a Cabinet-level position for the first time in the U.K. government.
- Kanishka Narayan is an Indian-origin British politician, born in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, and has represented the Vale of Glamorgan as a Labour MP since 2024.
- He served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for AI and Online Safety from September 2025 to July 2026.
- The U.K. government created the new post to strengthen policymaking on artificial intelligence, online safety and digital regulation.
- During the cabinet reshuffle, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) was dissolved, and its functions were transferred to the Department for Business and Trade and the Culture Department.

### Static GK

- Cabinet ministers are members of the Prime Minister's highest decision-making body.
- Artificial intelligence enables computer systems to perform tasks such as learning, pattern recognition and language processing.
- Whitehall is the administrative centre of the U.K. government in London.

- Google DeepMind is a U.K.-based artificial intelligence research company.

## Khalil al-Hayya Was Elected Hamas Political Bureau Chief



- Khalil al-Hayya was elected head of Hamas's political bureau after the death of Yahya Sinwar.
- Al-Hayya, born in the Gaza Strip in 1960, has been associated with Hamas since its formation in 1987.
- He served as Hamas's lead negotiator in indirect ceasefire and hostage-release talks with Israel through mediators from Qatar, Egypt and the United States.

### Static GK

- Hamas is a Palestinian Islamist organisation founded in 1987 during the First Intifada.
- Hamas originated from the Muslim Brotherhood, which was founded in Egypt in 1928.
- The political bureau is Hamas's principal body for political and diplomatic affairs.
- Qatar has hosted much of Hamas's external leadership, while Iran has remained a key regional supporter of the group.
- Previous heads of Hamas's political bureau include Ismail Haniyeh and Khaled Meshaal.

# Chapter 3

## State Affairs

### Odisha Launched GO-EAST Policy to Boost Industrial Growth



- The Odisha government launched the GO-EAST (Government of Odisha Eastern Investment Accelerator and Special Task Force) policy to attract investments and accelerate industrial development.
- Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced the initiative during the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Eastern Region Council meeting in Bhubaneswar.
- The policy aimed to provide faster project approvals, single-window facilitation, real-time investment tracking, and continuous investor support.
- The government revised the Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) 2022 to encourage industries beyond the mining sector.
- The revised policy focused on 15 backward districts and offered additional incentives for non-mineral-based industries.
- Odisha proposed a dedicated GO-EAST Cell and a special Go SWIFT digital module to monitor project implementation and incentive disbursement.
- The state signed MoUs with seven companies involving proposed investments of about ₹24,823 crore across chemicals, power, green energy, textiles, and steel sectors.

#### Static GK

- Capital of Odisha: Bhubaneswar.
- Chief Minister of Odisha: Mohan Charan Majhi.

### Rajasthan and Haryana Signed Agreement for Yamuna Water Project



- The governments of Rajasthan and Haryana signed an agreement for the Yamuna Water Project on 29 June 2026 in New Delhi.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of Amit Shah and aimed to resolve a nearly 30-year-old water dispute between the two states.
- The project was designed to transport Rajasthan's allocated share of Yamuna water from the Western Yamuna Canal through an underground pipeline network.
- It enabled Rajasthan to utilise its share of water allocated under the 1994 Upper Yamuna Basin agreement.
- The project established a framework for water allocation, infrastructure development, cost sharing, operation, maintenance, and dispute resolution.
- About 580 million cubic metres (MCM) of water were planned to be conveyed through three large-diameter underground pipelines.
- The project was expected to improve drinking water availability in Sikar, Churu, and Jhunjhunu districts of Rajasthan and in Bhiwani and Fatehabad districts of Haryana.
- The initiative also promoted groundwater recharge, water conservation, and sustainable water management.

## Static GK

- The Yamuna River is the largest tributary of the Ganga River.
- The 1994 agreement dealt with the sharing of utilisable surface waters of the Upper Yamuna Basin.
- The Central Water Commission (CWC) provided technical support for the project.
- Capitals: Rajasthan – Jaipur; Haryana – Chandigarh.

## Delhi EV Policy 2026



- The Delhi Cabinet approved the Delhi EV Policy 2026 on 29 June 2026 under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.
- The policy remained valid from 1 July 2026 to 31 March 2030 and focused exclusively on battery-powered electric vehicles.
- It provided road tax and registration fee exemptions for eligible electric cars registered in Delhi.
- Purchase incentives were announced for electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and electric goods carriers.
- The policy introduced phased registration restrictions for non-electric vehicle categories and promoted a transition towards pure EVs.
- More than 30,000 EV charging points were planned to strengthen charging infrastructure across Delhi.

## Static GK

- N1 category vehicles are goods carriers with a gross vehicle weight of up to 3.5 tonnes.
- BS-IV refers to Bharat Stage IV emission norms.
- Road tax exemptions are commonly used to promote EV adoption.
- Delhi is among the leading Indian regions promoting electric mobility.

## Delhi Government Launched Mission Kayakalp

- The Delhi Government launched Mission Kayakalp to modernise infrastructure in government schools

and provide a safe, clean, and inclusive learning environment.



- The mission focuses on repairing school buildings, upgrading laboratories, improving sanitation, providing safe drinking water, and enhancing campus facilities.
- The initiative also aims to improve accessibility for children with disabilities, promote green campuses, and strengthen community participation in school development.
- Mission Kayakalp is being implemented with support from district administrations, the Education Department, CSR initiatives, social organisations, market associations, and local communities.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to the statutory responsibility of eligible companies to contribute towards social and developmental activities.

## West Bengal Approved ₹313.3 Crore PMCSKY Package for Tea Garden Workers



- West Bengal approved a ₹313.3 crore package under the Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana (PMCSKY) for the welfare of over 3 lakh tea garden workers.
- The package allocated ₹177 crore for education, ₹72 crore for healthcare, and ₹63 crore for worker welfare infrastructure, including 321 rest sheds.

- The scheme aims to improve education, healthcare, and living conditions in tea garden areas of North Bengal.
- The North Bengal Development Department (NBDD) was designated as the implementing agency.

### UP Mahila Samarthya Yojana Strengthened Rural Women SHGs



- UP Mahila Samarthya Yojana strengthened rural women by promoting skill development, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and self-employment.
- The scheme is implemented by the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission (UPSRLM) under the Women Welfare Department.
- Eligible Self-Help Groups (SHGs) receive free skill training, a ₹15,000 revolving fund, enterprise development support, and market linkages.
- The scheme gives preference to women from BPL families, SC/ST communities, women with disabilities, and Aspirational Districts.
- It aims to increase women's income, strengthen SHGs, and promote sustainable rural livelihoods.

### Four States Signed Narmada Project Payment Pact



- Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra signed a payment agreement to resolve long-pending financial disputes related to the Narmada River projects.
- The agreement settled cost-sharing issues involving the Sardar Sarovar Project and Indira Sagar Project under the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) Award.
- The settlement covered rehabilitation costs, submerged land compensation, construction expenses, interest on borrowings, and pending financial liabilities.
- The agreement was signed in New Delhi in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil.
- The pact is expected to strengthen cooperative federalism and improve interstate water resource management.

### Static GK

- The Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal was constituted under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.
- Narmada River flows through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat before draining into the Arabian Sea.

### Assam Began Commercial Matcha Tea Production



- Assam became the first Indian state to commercially produce Matcha tea in July 2026.
- The first commercial production took place at the Chota Tingrai Tea Estate in Tinsukia district.
- The first batch was sold through the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre to Sheosons Chai Co. of Guwahati.
- The tea estate established a fully automated Japanese tea manufacturing facility after nearly a decade of collaboration with Japanese experts.
- The initiative diversified Assam's tea industry, which is primarily known for black tea, orthodox tea, and CTC tea.

## Static GK

- Matcha is a powdered green tea made from shade-grown tea leaves and originated in Japan.
- Major tea-producing districts of Assam include Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, and Sivasagar.
- Guwahati Tea Auction Centre is one of India's major tea auction centres.

## Delhi Approved the ₹8,300-Crore "Clean Air, Healthy Delhi" Initiative



- The Delhi Government approved the ₹8,300-crore "Clean Air, Healthy Delhi" initiative to reduce air pollution and improve public health.
- The seven-year project will run from September 2026 to August 2033 with financial and technical support from the World Bank.
- The initiative focuses on strengthening air quality monitoring, upgrading monitoring sensors, and enforcing stricter emission control measures.
- The project aims to implement multi-sectoral measures to improve air quality across the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

## Static GK

- The World Bank is headquartered in Washington, D.C., United States.
- Ajay Banga is the President of the World Bank.
- India launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 to reduce particulate air pollution.
- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) manages Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) monitoring.

## Gujarat Started Constructing Its First Air-Filled Rubber Dams

- Gujarat started constructing its first two air-filled rubber dams across the Heran River in Chhota Udepur district and the Ambika River in Tapi district using South Korean technology.



- The projects include the Rajvasana Rubber Dam and the Pathakwadi Rubber Dam, with a combined cost of more than ₹162 crore.
- The Rajvasana Rubber Dam was 75% complete and is expected to be commissioned by September 2027, while the Pathakwadi Rubber Dam was about 90% complete.
- The Rajvasana project will irrigate about 3,420 hectares across 25 villages, while the Pathakwadi project will provide assured irrigation to about 650 hectares.
- The dams use an imported rubber bladder with a service life of about 30 years and are equipped with SCADA-based automation systems.
- The dams can be deflated during heavy monsoon flows to allow floodwater and silt to pass, helping in flood management and river regulation.

## Uttar Pradesh Launched Mahila Udyam Nidhi Yojana for Women Entrepreneurs



- The Uttar Pradesh Government launched the Mahila Udyam Nidhi Yojana to provide affordable loans for women to start or expand micro and small enterprises.
- The scheme offers loans ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹10 lakh at an interest rate of around 4%, with no collateral required for loans up to ₹2 lakh.
- Eligible applicants must be women aged 18–60 years, permanent residents of Uttar Pradesh, have an

annual family income below ₹3 lakh, and possess an Aadhaar-linked bank account.

- Priority under the scheme is given to SHG members, widows, women with disabilities, and women belonging to minority communities.
- Eligible women can apply online through the official portal or at the nearest UP Mahila Nidhi district office by submitting the required documents and a business plan.
- The scheme aims to promote women entrepreneurship, self-employment, financial inclusion, and economic empowerment in Uttar Pradesh.

### Karnataka Announced India's First Government-Driven AI University



- Karnataka announced India's first government-driven Artificial Intelligence (AI) University in July 2026 in Bengaluru.
- The announcement was made during the Google I/O Connect India 2026 event.
- The proposed university will be linked with an AI Hub to support startups, researchers, and industry collaboration.
- The university is expected to offer undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programmes in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Data Science, and related technologies.
- Karnataka also proposed setting up two green data centres to strengthen AI infrastructure, with planned locations at Hoskote (Bengaluru) and near Mangaluru.

### Uttarakhand Became India's Sixth Fully Literate State

- Uttarakhand became the sixth fully literate state in India after achieving adult literacy benchmarks under NEP 2020 and the ULLAS initiative.



- The state recorded a literacy rate of over 98.7% in 2026, rising from 83.8% in 2023–24.
- A state or Union Territory was recognised as fully literate after crossing the 95% adult literacy threshold under ULLAS guidelines.
- Uttarakhand joined Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim among India's fully literate states.

### Static GK

- Capital of Uttarakhand: Dehradun (winter capital) and Gairsain (summer capital).
- ULLAS stands for Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society.
- First fully literate state: Kerala.
- National Literacy Day: September 8.

### Killai Became Tamil Nadu's First Climate-Resilient Village



- Killai village in Cuddalore district became Tamil Nadu's first fully operational climate-resilient village.
- The project was implemented under the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC) to strengthen climate adaptation and rural resilience.
- The initiative focused on protecting the village from cyclones, sea-level rise, and coastal erosion.
- The project promoted ecosystem restoration, renewable energy adoption, biodiversity conservation, and resilient community infrastructure.

- The village also utilised the nearby Pichavaram mangrove forests to support coastal ecosystem conservation.

### Static GK

- TNGCC stands for Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company.
- Pichavaram Mangrove Forest is located near Killai in Tamil Nadu.
- TNSAPCC is the State Climate Action Plan of Tamil Nadu.

### Mission Golden Spice Was Launched for Lakadong Turmeric



- The Ministry of DoNER launched Mission Golden Spice for Lakadong Turmeric in July 2026 with an outlay of ₹175.45 crore for 2026–2030.
- The mission aims to expand cultivation from 2,500 hectares to 7,000 hectares and increase production to 49,400 metric tonnes by 2030.
- The project seeks to raise farmers' income to about ₹80 per kg and benefit over 17,500 farmers, of whom about 99% are women.
- The initiative includes cultivation expansion, processing, branding and export promotion targeting the US, EU, Japan and Gulf countries.
- The DoNER Ministry will provide 50% of the project funding.

### Static GK

- Lakadong turmeric is a GI-tagged variety from Meghalaya with 7–12% curcumin content.
- Curcumin is the principal bioactive compound in turmeric.
- GI tags in India are governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- Meghalaya is a major producer of Lakadong turmeric in the Jaintia Hills region.

# Chapter 4

## Business and Economy



### India's External Debt Rose to \$762.8 Billion in FY26: RBI



- India's external debt increased to \$762.8 billion at the end of FY26, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The external debt rose by \$26.3 billion compared to FY25, while the external debt-to-GDP ratio increased from 19.8% to 20.8%.
- RBI stated that valuation effects due to currency movements reduced the reported increase in external debt by \$24.6 billion.
- The US dollar remained the largest component of India's external debt, accounting for 55.5% of the total debt stock.
- Long-term external debt increased to \$613.5 billion, while the share of short-term debt rose to 19.6% of total external debt.
- The ratio of short-term debt to foreign exchange reserves increased from 20.1% to 21.6%.
- RBI noted that India's external debt profile remained diversified across currencies and maturities, supporting macroeconomic stability.

#### Static GK

- External debt refers to borrowings from foreign governments, international institutions, banks, and overseas investors.
- The Reserve Bank of India was established in 1935.
- Headquarters of the RBI: Mumbai.

### ADB Approved USD 42.2 Million SEFF to Boost Bamboo Economy in Northeast India



- The Asian Development Bank approved a USD 42.2 million Small Expenditure Financing Facility (SEFF) in June 2026 to strengthen the bamboo sector in Northeast India.
- The project aimed to promote sustainable bamboo cultivation, improve processing infrastructure, and encourage value addition.
- It supported MSMEs, FPOs, and bamboo artisans through skill development and better market access.
- The initiative promoted climate-resilient livelihoods through sustainable harvesting and efficient use of bamboo resources.
- The programme aligned with India's Act East Policy and aimed to transform the Northeast into a hub for bamboo-based industries.
- It was expected to increase exports, raise farmers' income, and support regional economic development.

#### Static GK

- The Asian Development Bank was established in 1966.
- ADB headquarters is located in Manila, Philippines.
- India is a founding member of ADB.
- Bamboo is popularly known as "Green Gold".

## RBI's Revamped Integrated Ombudsman Scheme Came into Effect from 1 July 2026



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) implemented the revamped Integrated Ombudsman Scheme from 1 July 2026, replacing the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021.
- The scheme provides a unified, free, and transparent grievance redressal mechanism for customers of RBI-regulated financial entities under the “One Nation, One Ombudsman” principle.
- The scheme covers scheduled commercial banks, eligible Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuers, and Credit Information Companies (CICs).
- Customers can approach the RBI Ombudsman if the regulated entity fails to resolve the complaint within 30 days or if the response is unsatisfactory, and the complaint must be filed within 90 days.
- The scheme introduced uniform complaint handling, a simplified online complaint process, non-adversarial dispute resolution, expanded roles for Deputy Ombudsmen, and clearly defined maintainability criteria.
- The Ombudsman can direct corrective action and award compensation of up to ₹30 lakh for financial losses and up to ₹3 lakh for loss of time, expenses, harassment, and mental anguish.

### Static GK

- A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) provides financial services but does not hold a banking licence.
- A Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) allows users to make payments using stored monetary value, such as digital wallets and prepaid cards.
- A Credit Information Company (CIC) collects and maintains credit information of individuals and businesses to generate credit reports.

## NPCI Partnered with HSBC India and JP Morgan Payments for Real-Time FX Settlement



- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with HSBC India and JP Morgan Payments to enable real-time foreign exchange (FX) conversion and settlement for cross-border UPI transactions.
- The partnership enables instant currency conversion and real-time settlement, making international UPI payments faster, more transparent, and more efficient.
- The new system reduces settlement delays and risks while providing customers with immediate exchange rates and quicker payment confirmation.
- Under the arrangement, international UPI payments are routed through participating banks, with foreign currency conversion and settlement completed in real time.
- The initiative is expected to improve customer experience and strengthen the global acceptance of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- The partnership supports India's efforts to expand UPI as a leading global real-time digital payment platform.

### Static GK

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is the umbrella organisation for retail payment systems in India.
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by NPCI.
- Foreign Exchange (FX) settlement is the process of converting one currency into another and settling international financial transactions.
- NPCI operates under the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

## Government Released First Services Production Index



- MoSPI released India's first trial Index of Services Production for April 2026 on 14 July 2026.
- The index measured short-term changes in the output of the formal services sector and complemented the IIP.
- The trial index covered 19 formal services sub-sectors with 2024–25 as the base year.
- The covered sectors represented about 60% of India's formal services economy.
- In April 2026, 14 out of 19 sub-sectors recorded double-digit year-on-year growth, while air transport and railway transport recorded declines.
- The index was developed to support economic analysis, national accounts, and measurement of services sector performance.

### Static GK

- MoSPI is the nodal ministry for official statistics in India.
- The Technical Advisory Committee on ISP was constituted in May 2025.
- The monthly sub-sectoral indices are released on the 29th of every month.
- IIP measures changes in industrial output in India.

## NABARD and NSDC Launched Gramodyam Programme



- NABARD launched the Gramodyam rural entrepreneurship development programme on 13 July 2026 during its 45th Foundation Day celebrations.
- The initiative aimed to develop around 4,000 rural entrepreneurs across India during a three-year pilot phase.
- The programme was launched in collaboration with NSDC and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- Gramodyam used a digital-first hybrid model to provide training, assessments, registrations, and bank credit linkages.
- The initiative aimed to promote rural entrepreneurship and strengthen livelihood opportunities.

### Static GK

- NABARD was established on July 12, 1982.
- NABARD headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- NSDC was formed in 2008.

## India Amended Foreign Trade Policy to Prohibit Forced Labor Imports



- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued a notification amending the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 to explicitly ban the import of goods produced wholly or partly using forced labor.
- The new trade rule inserts Paragraph 2.20B into the FTP and will formally come into effect 30 days after its publication in the Official Gazette.
- Under the amended framework, the DGFT is empowered to launch investigations either suo motu or based on credible complaints to inspect supply chains and recommend bans on specific goods.
- This policy shift directly aligns India's trade rules with international standards, formally adopting the definition laid out by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29).

- The strategic move comes amid an ongoing US Section 301 probe that proposed an additional 12.5% tariff on dozens of nations, including India, for lacking sufficient forced labor import restrictions.

### Static GK

- DGFT stands for: Directorate General of Foreign Trade.
- International Labour Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

### India Revised the Windfall Tax on Petroleum Exports



- India revised the windfall tax on petroleum product exports with effect from 16 July 2026 under the fortnightly review mechanism.
- The export duty on diesel increased from ₹8.50 per litre to ₹15.50 per litre.
- The export duty on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) increased from ₹7.50 per litre to ₹14.50 per litre.
- The export duty on petrol decreased from ₹4 per litre to ₹2.50 per litre.
- The revision followed a rise in global crude oil prices due to tensions between the United States and Iran and concerns over supply disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.
- The revised tax structure aimed to regulate petroleum exports and ensure adequate domestic fuel availability.

### Static GK

- Windfall tax is a special levy imposed on unexpected or excess profits in specific sectors.
- In India, the windfall tax applies to exports of diesel, ATF and petrol, but not to their domestic sales.
- India reviews certain fuel export duties every fortnight.
- The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and is one of the world's most important oil shipping routes.

### India Tightened the Tax Treaty Rule with Sri Lanka



- India introduced an anti-abuse rule in its tax treaty framework with Sri Lanka.
- The new rule allowed tax authorities to deny treaty benefits if obtaining those benefits was one of the principal purposes of an arrangement or transaction.
- The amendment aimed to prevent misuse of the tax treaty through treaty shopping and other tax avoidance practices.
- The rule applied to cross-border income covered under the India-Sri Lanka tax treaty, including dividends, interest, royalties and business profits.
- The revised framework strengthened tax compliance in bilateral trade and investment between India and Sri Lanka.

### Static GK

- A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) is a bilateral treaty that prevents the same income from being taxed twice.
- The Principal Purpose Test (PPT) is an international anti-abuse rule used to deny treaty benefits obtained mainly for tax advantages.
- Treaty shopping is the practice of routing income through an intermediary jurisdiction to claim favourable tax treaty benefits.
- Anti-abuse provisions are included in modern tax treaties to promote fair taxation and prevent tax avoidance.

### NPCI Developed an Offline Tap-to-Pay UPI Feature

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) developed an offline UPI feature for tap-to-pay transactions at merchant point-of-sale (PoS) terminals.



- The system enabled payments even when both the customer's mobile device and the merchant's PoS terminal had no internet connection.
- The feature used Near-Field Communication (NFC) technology to complete contactless transactions.
- The proposed transaction limit for the offline NFC-based UPI payment was ₹2,000 per transaction.
- Users were required to preload money into their UPI Lite wallet while online before making offline payments.
- NPCI planned to certify compatible point-of-sale devices from leading manufacturers during 2026.
- The feature expanded offline payment capability from smartphone-to-smartphone transactions to merchant PoS terminals, making it useful in low-connectivity locations such as aircraft and underground metro networks.

### Static GK

- NPCI manages the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem in India.
- UPI is a real-time bank-to-bank digital payment system.
- Near-Field Communication (NFC) is a short-range wireless technology used for contactless payments.
- UPI Lite X was launched in September 2023 for offline phone-to-phone payments.
- The USSD service \*99# enables basic UPI services without internet access and supports transactions up to ₹5,000 for eligible banking functions.

### India Joined the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement

- India became a party to the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies by depositing its Instrument of Acceptance in July 2026.
- India became the 123rd WTO member to accept the agreement.

- The agreement prohibited subsidies supporting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and those contributing to overfishing and overcapacity.



- The agreement applies to marine wild capture fishing and excludes aquaculture and inland fisheries.
- India continued to seek a 25-year transition period for developing countries during Phase II negotiations.
- India also demanded stronger rules on distant-water industrial fishing fleets and a permanent exemption for small-scale and artisanal fishers.
- India stated that its fisheries subsidies remained among the lowest globally at about 15 US dollars per fisher family annually.

### Static GK

- The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies was adopted at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Geneva in June 2022.
- The agreement entered into force on 15 September 2025 after acceptance by two-thirds of WTO members.
- Marine wild capture fishing refers to harvesting wild fish from oceans and seas, while aquaculture refers to fish farming.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) regulates global trade rules among member countries.

### NITI Aayog Launched 10-Year Bioeconomy Roadmap



- NITI Aayog launched the “Roadmap for Building India as a Leading Bioeconomy Powerhouse by 2035” to expand India’s bioeconomy to \$691 billion by 2035 and \$2.6 trillion by 2047.
- The 10-year strategy aims to place India among the world’s top three biotechnology economies and create more than 30 million high-value jobs.
- The roadmap proposes six National BioMissions covering gene and cell therapies, climate-resilient agriculture, synthetic biology, marine biotechnology, disease surveillance, and biopharmaceuticals.
- It recommends establishing a ₹50,000-crore BioEconomy Growth Fund for 2026–2035 to support the transition from research to commercial manufacturing.
- The framework also recommends regulatory reforms, PLI-style incentives, faster approval mechanisms, and new engineering biology courses.

### Static GK

- NITI Aayog was established on 1 January 2015, replacing the Planning Commission.
- The Prime Minister of India is the Chairperson of NITI Aayog.
- NITI Aayog is headquartered in New Delhi.
- NITI stands for National Institution for Transforming India.

### RBI Released Draft Foreign Investment Rules 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India released the draft Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Investment) Rules,

2026 to simplify the foreign direct investment (FDI) framework.



- The draft rules proposed replacing the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) Rules, 2019, as announced in the Union Budget 2026–27.
- The framework created a clear division between procedural FEMA provisions regulated by the RBI and policy-related provisions handled by the Central Government.
- The draft was prepared after the recommendations of a government-appointed committee to make the rules transparent, principle-based, and investor-friendly.
- The RBI invited public comments on the draft rules until 31 August 2026 through its website and email.

### Static GK

- FEMA came into force on 1 June 2000, replacing the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1973.
- RBI is India’s central bank and regulates foreign exchange under FEMA.



### India Commissioned the World's First Nuclear Heat-Based Hydrogen Production Facility



- India inaugurated the world's first hydrogen production facility using nuclear process heat on 26 June 2026 at Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam.
- The facility used nuclear reactor heat for hydrogen production through high-temperature thermochemical processes.
- The project marked a major breakthrough in clean energy technology and supported the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Nuclear-assisted hydrogen production offered higher efficiency and lower carbon emissions than conventional methods.
- The technology showed potential for supplying clean hydrogen to industries such as steel, fertilisers, refineries, transport, and power generation.
- The achievement strengthened India's position in advanced nuclear technology and sustainable energy innovation.

#### Static GK

- IGCAR is located in Kalpakkam.
- IGCAR primarily focuses on Fast Breeder Reactor technology.
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched in 2023.

- Hydrogen is considered the fuel of the future because it produces water during combustion.

### ISRO Successfully Hot Tested Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head

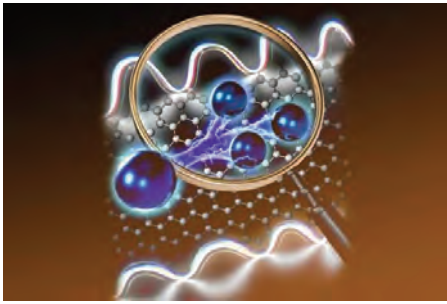


- Indian Space Research Organisation successfully conducted a hot test of the Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test Article on 24 June 2026 at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- The test validated the integrated performance of critical engine subsystems under real operating conditions.
- The engine used Liquid Oxygen (LOX) as the oxidiser and refined kerosene as fuel, providing higher thrust and improved efficiency.
- It was being developed to power the booster stage of future launch vehicles and enhance payload capacity.
- The successful test marked a major milestone in India's indigenous propulsion technology.
- It supported future heavy-lift missions and advanced space exploration programmes.

#### Static GK

- IPRC is located at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- Liquid Oxygen (LOX) is widely used as an oxidiser in modern launch vehicles.
- ISRO was established on 15 August 1969.
- ISRO headquarters is located in Bengaluru.

## Scientists Created a New Exotic Quantum State



- Physicists at the University of Innsbruck created a new exotic quantum state known as the Fractional Fermi Sea using about 70,000 ultracold cesium atoms.
- The experiment confined the atoms in one-dimensional tubes at temperatures of only a few nanoKelvin, allowing researchers to observe a new state of matter.
- The discovery demonstrated quantum behaviour beyond the Tomonaga-Luttinger liquid theory and was reported in the journal Physical Review Letters.
- The breakthrough is expected to improve the understanding of quantum matter and support future developments in quantum computing and quantum technologies.

### Static GK

- Cesium is an alkali metal with atomic number 55.
- Tomonaga-Luttinger liquid theory describes interacting particles in one-dimensional systems.

## Indian Scientists Developed a Placenta-on-Chip Platform



- Indian researchers from IIT Bombay and ICMR–National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health (NIRRH), Mumbai, developed a placenta-on-chip platform.

- The platform is a microfluidic organ-on-chip device that recreates key functions of the human placenta under laboratory conditions.
- It mimics the placenta's role in transferring nutrients and oxygen to the foetus while blocking harmful substances.
- The device was fabricated using photolithography and soft lithography, which are standard microengineering techniques.
- The platform will support pregnancy research, drug testing, and reduce dependence on animal models.
- It will help study pregnancy-related disorders such as preeclampsia and gestational diabetes.
- The project involved Prof. Abhijit Majumder, Prof. Debjani Paul (IIT Bombay), and Dr. Deepak Modi (NIRRH).
- The patent application for the technology is under process.
- The project received funding under IMPRINT II-C of the Science, Engineering and Research Board (SERB).

### Static GK

- Placenta: A temporary organ that develops during pregnancy and exchanges oxygen, nutrients, and waste between the mother and the foetus.
- Preeclampsia: A pregnancy disorder characterized by high blood pressure and organ-related complications.
- Gestational diabetes: Diabetes first diagnosed during pregnancy.
- Organ-on-chip: A microfluidic device that simulates the functions of human organs for research and drug testing.

## Scientists Discovered the Earth-Like Exoplanet GJ 3378b

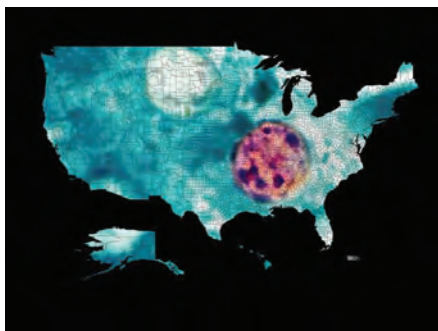


- Astronomers re-analysed the exoplanet GJ 3378b, and the revised findings were published on 1 July 2026.
- GJ 3378b orbits the red dwarf star Gliese 3378, which is located about 25 light-years away in the constellation Camelopardalis.
- Scientists revised the planet's mass to about 2.3 times that of Earth from the earlier estimate of about 5.3 Earth masses.
- The planet completes one orbit in 21.45 days and lies within the habitable zone of its host star.
- GJ 3378b receives about 90% of the radiation that Earth receives from the Sun, making it a promising candidate for supporting liquid water.
- Scientists detected the planet using the radial-velocity method with the Habitable-zone Planet Finder on the Hobby-Eberly Telescope and the NEID Spectrometer on the WIYN Telescope.
- Scientists have not confirmed the presence of an atmosphere on GJ 3378b, and future observations with NASA's Habitable Worlds Observatory may search for atmospheric features and biosignatures.

### Static GK

- An exoplanet is a planet that orbits a star outside the Solar System.
- A red dwarf is a small, cool, and low-mass star that commonly hosts closely orbiting planets.
- The habitable zone is the region around a star where liquid water can exist on a planet's surface if the planet has a suitable atmosphere.
- The radial-velocity method detects exoplanets by measuring changes in a star's motion caused by the gravitational pull of an orbiting planet.
- NASA's Habitable Worlds Observatory is a proposed space telescope planned for the 2040s to search for habitable planets and biosignatures.

### Cyclospora Outbreak Spread Across the United States

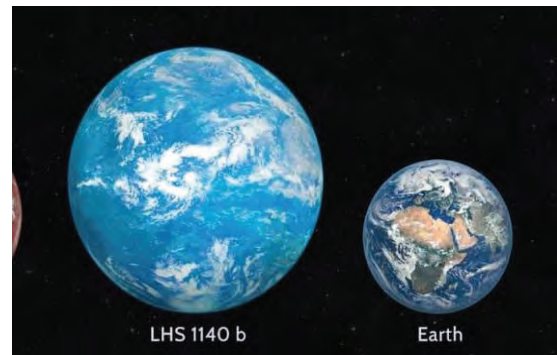


- A Cyclospora outbreak affected thousands of people across the United States in July 2026 due to a foodborne intestinal infection.
- The CDC confirmed 1,645 domestically acquired cases across 34 states and reviewed additional suspected cases.
- Cyclospora cayetanensis is a protozoan parasite that spreads through contaminated food or water.
- The infection caused symptoms such as watery diarrhoea, stomach cramps, nausea, fatigue, and weight loss.
- Investigations focused on fresh produce, especially bagged salad and lettuce, as possible sources of infection.
- The outbreak highlighted the importance of food safety surveillance and monitoring of foodborne diseases.

### Static GK

- Cyclosporiasis is caused by Cyclospora cayetanensis.
- CDC is the main public health agency of the United States.
- FoodNet is a surveillance network for tracking foodborne infections.
- Cyclospora is a parasite and not a bacterium or virus.

### Scientists Detected Helium in the Atmosphere of LHS 1140b



- Researchers detected helium escaping from the atmosphere of LHS 1140b, making it one of the few rocky exoplanets in the habitable zone with observational evidence of an atmosphere.
- LHS 1140b is a super-Earth located about 48–49 light-years away in the constellation Cetus and orbits a red dwarf star.
- The planet has a mass of 5.6 Earth masses and a radius of 1.73 Earth radii.

- Scientists detected helium using the Warm Infrared Echelle Spectrograph on the Magellan Clay Telescope at Las Campanas Observatory, Chile.
- Observations detected helium in 2024 but not in 2025, indicating that atmospheric escape on rocky exoplanets can vary over time.
- The findings suggested a helium-rich upper atmosphere, while heavier gases such as water may exist at lower altitudes.
- LHS 1140b remained an important target for astrobiology because it lies in the habitable zone and has retained an atmosphere for at least 3.1 billion years.
- No atmosphere has been detected on the nearby rocky exoplanet LHS 1140c.

### Static GK

- A super-Earth is an exoplanet larger than Earth but smaller than Uranus or Neptune.
- The habitable zone is the region around a star where liquid water can exist under suitable conditions and is also called the Goldilocks zone.
- The James Webb Space Telescope and Hubble Space Telescope are used to study exoplanet atmospheres.

### Indian Startup Unveiled the Yantur Turbofan Engine Programme



- Paninian India Pvt. Ltd. unveiled the Yantur 4.5 kN turbofan engine programme in New Delhi in July 2026.
- The programme aimed to develop indigenous propulsion technology for long-range autonomous systems, including combat drones and cruise missiles.
- The engine completed the conceptual and detailed design phases and entered subsystem testing, validation and certification.
- The 4.5 kN engine design can be scaled up to 12.5 kN for the Svayatt CCAV platform.

- The programme included five patent claims covering engine architecture, combustor and diffuser-nozzle design, compressor technology, digital-twin health monitoring and advanced manufacturing.
- The engine is intended to power the Svayatt L1 long-range autonomous cruise missile platform under the Ministry of Defence's Make-I programme.
- Paninian India Pvt. Ltd., based in Bengaluru and Hyderabad, sought \$3 million to accelerate engine testing and integration.

### Static GK

- A turbofan engine is a gas turbine engine that generates thrust using a fan and a core engine.
- kN (kilonewton) is the standard unit used to measure engine thrust.
- Digital twin technology creates a virtual model of a physical system for monitoring and testing.
- Make-I is a category under the Ministry of Defence's indigenous defence procurement framework.

### Scientists Identified the World's Second-Oldest Orbicular Rock in Madhya Pradesh



- Scientists dated the Pichhore orbicular granite in Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh, to about 2.56 billion years.
- The rock became the second-oldest known orbicular rock in the world after a similar formation in Western Australia.
- Researchers determined its age using Uranium-Lead (U-Pb) zircon dating.
- The study identified inherited zircon crystals as old as 3.5 billion years, indicating recycling of ancient continental crust.

- The granite occurs in the Bundelkhand Craton, one of India's oldest geological regions.

### Static GK

- Orbicular granite is a rare igneous rock containing rounded orbicules.
- Zircon is widely used for U-Pb dating of ancient rocks.
- A craton is a stable part of the continental crust.
- The study was published in the journal Geosystems and Geoenvironment.

### CDSCO Approved Wegovy for MASH Treatment



- CDSCO approved Novo Nordisk's Wegovy (semaglutide 2.4 mg) for the treatment of Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH) in India.
- Wegovy became the first GLP-1 receptor agonist approved in India for treating non-cirrhotic MASH in adults with moderate to advanced liver fibrosis.
- The approval was based on global clinical trial results, including the ESSENCE trial, which showed improvement in liver inflammation and fibrosis.
- The treatment is prescribed along with a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity.
- The approval marked a significant advancement in the treatment of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in India.

### Static GK

- CDSCO functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The Drugs Controller General of India heads the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation.

# Chapter 6

## Defence

### HELINA Strengthened India's Indigenous Anti-Tank Missile Capability



- HELINA, a helicopter-launched version of the Nag missile, was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation for deployment from armed helicopters.
- The missile was designed to destroy modern battle tanks using an advanced tandem HEAT warhead.
- It operated on the fire-and-forget principle, eliminating the need for guidance after launch.
- HELINA used an Imaging Infrared seeker for accurate target tracking during day and night operations.
- The missile had an operational range of about 7–10 km and was integrated with the LCH Prachand.
- It significantly enhanced India's indigenous defence capability and reduced dependence on imports.

#### Static GK

- DRDO was established in 1958.
- DRDO headquarters is located in New Delhi.
- Nag is India's indigenous family of anti-tank guided missiles.
- LCH Prachand is India's first indigenously developed combat helicopter.

### RIMPAC 2026 Maritime Exercise Began in Hawaii

- The 30th edition of the RIMPAC exercise began on 24 June 2026 and was scheduled to continue until 31 July 2026 in and around Hawaii.



- The exercise involved 30 nations, around 30 ships, 5 submarines, more than 206 aircraft, and over 30,000 personnel.
- RIMPAC remained the world's largest multinational maritime exercise led by the United States Pacific Fleet.
- The exercise covered anti-submarine warfare, air defence, amphibious operations, disaster response, counter-piracy, and mine clearance activities.
- Chile served as deputy commander, Japan as vice commander, South Korea led the maritime component, and Canada commanded the air component.
- The exercise promoted interoperability, maritime security, and multinational cooperation.

#### Static GK

- RIMPAC stands for Rim of the Pacific.
- RIMPAC is conducted biennially.
- Hawaii serves as the primary operating area for the exercise.
- The 2026 edition was the 30th iteration of RIMPAC.

### Project BRAHMANK Marked Its 16th Raising Day



- Project BRAHMANK marked its 16th Raising Day on 29 June 2026 in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Project BRAHMANK, a Border Roads Organisation project commissioned in 2011, continued to develop and maintain strategic road and bridge infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh and adjoining areas.
- The project maintained about 811 km of roads and around 86 bridges in key border regions, strengthening connectivity and military logistics.
- During FY 2025–26, it completed 13 bridges and upgraded 61 km of roads to National Highway Double Lane standards.
- The project also developed helipads and major bridge infrastructure in difficult mountainous terrain to improve accessibility and strategic mobility.
- Its activities enhanced transportation, border connectivity, and operational readiness in northeastern India.

### Static GK

- The Border Roads Organisation was established in 1960.
- Arunachal Pradesh shares international borders with Bhutan, China, and Myanmar.
- NHDL stands for National Highway Double Lane standards.
- Helipads play an important role in connectivity and emergency operations in remote border areas.

### Indian Army Established 'Baaz Battalions' for Drone Warfare



- The Indian Army established specialised 'Baaz Battalions' under the Army Aviation Corps to strengthen drone operations, aerial surveillance, and battlefield awareness.
- The battalions will consist of trained personnel to operate, maintain, and manage an expanding fleet of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA).
- The initiative aims to enhance the Army's Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities by enabling real-time intelligence and faster operational responses.
- The Army developed the initiative based on lessons from the Russia-Ukraine war, the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and Operation Sindoor.
- Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi stated that the Army's drone inventory increased from a few hundred to more than 50,000 in the last two years and may double within the next two to three years.

### Static GK

- The Army Aviation Corps operates the Indian Army's helicopters and unmanned aerial systems.
- ISR stands for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance.
- The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the de facto border between India and China.
- A Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) is an unmanned aircraft controlled from a remote ground station.

### Bangladesh and the United States Launched Military Exercise Tiger Lightning 2026



- Bangladesh and the United States began the bilateral military exercise Tiger Lightning 2026 in July 2026 for a 13-day duration until 31 July 2026.
- The exercise focused on jungle warfare, counter-terrorism operations and tactical combat casualty care.
- The opening ceremony was held at the Para Commando Brigade, Jalalabad Cantonment, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
- U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen and Bangladesh Army Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Md Mainur Rahman attended the opening ceremony.
- Tiger Lightning started in 2017 and resumed after a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Static GK

- Tiger Lightning is an annual bilateral military exercise between Bangladesh and the United States.
- The exercise is conducted by the Bangladesh Army and the United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC).

### Indian Navy Hosted Operation Southern Readiness 26-2



- The Indian Navy hosted the multinational maritime exercise Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 from 20–23 July 2026 at the Southern Naval Command, Kochi, Kerala.
- The exercise was conducted in partnership with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) under the Indian Navy-led Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154).
- The exercise aimed to strengthen regional maritime security, interoperability, and capacity building among participating countries.
- The training covered maritime law, maritime domain awareness, counter-narcotics operations, force protection, and maritime uncrewed systems.
- Practical sessions included damage control, firefighting, boarding procedures, maritime communications, survival at sea, and onboard training aboard an Indian Naval ship.

### Static GK

- Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) is a multinational maritime partnership comprising more than 40 countries.
- Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154) is the CMF's dedicated Training Task Force.
- Southern Naval Command is located in Kochi, Kerala.

# Chapter 7

## Appointments



### **Mahesh Dixit Appointed Director of the Intelligence Bureau**



- Mahesh Dixit was appointed as the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) on 25 June 2026.
- He is a 1993-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre.
- As Director of IB, he assumed responsibility for intelligence collection, counter-intelligence operations, counter-terrorism efforts, and internal security assessments.
- He also oversaw coordination between central and state security agencies on matters related to national security.
- The appointment placed him at the head of India's premier internal intelligence and domestic security agency.

#### **Static GK**

- The Intelligence Bureau was established in 1887.
- The Intelligence Bureau functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Director of the Intelligence Bureau is generally an IPS officer.
- The Intelligence Bureau is one of the world's oldest intelligence organisations.

### **Dr. U.P. Rajeev Appointed Director of VSSC**



- Dr. U.P. Rajeev was appointed Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in June 2026.
- VSSC plays a leading role in the design, development, and testing of India's launch vehicles.
- His appointment was expected to strengthen launch vehicle programmes, human spaceflight missions, and next-generation space technologies.
- The centre continued to contribute to the Gaganyaan Mission, reusable launch vehicle research, and advanced propulsion systems.
- His leadership came at a time when India expanded its space capabilities through commercial launches and deep-space exploration.
- The appointment reflected ISRO's focus on innovation and self-reliance in space technology.

#### **Static GK**

- VSSC is located in Thiruvananthapuram.
- VSSC is named after Vikram Sarabhai.
- ISRO was established on 15 August 1969.
- ISRO headquarters is located in Bengaluru.

### **Ravi Agrawal Was Reappointed as CBDT Chairman**

- The Central Government reappointed Ravi Agrawal as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for six months, effective from 1 July to 31 December 2026.



- The reappointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on a contractual basis after relaxing the applicable recruitment rules.
- Ravi Agrawal is a 1988-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer.
- He was first appointed as CBDT Chairman in June 2024, and his tenure was subsequently extended before the latest extension.
- CBDT is the apex policy-making body for direct taxes in India and functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- CBDT administers the Income-tax Act, 1961, formulates direct tax policies, oversees tax administration, combats tax evasion, and issues circulars and guidelines to improve taxpayer services.

### Static GK

- CBDT functions under the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance.
- CBDT derives its powers from the Income-tax Act, 1961.
- CBDT is the apex policy-making body for direct taxes in India.

### General Dhiraj Seth Took Charge as Chief of Army Staff



- Dhiraj Seth assumed charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff on 30 June 2026.
- He succeeded Upendra Dwivedi after his retirement.
- General Seth previously served as the 49th Vice Chief of the Army Staff.
- His military career spanned nearly four decades and included commands in the Desert Sector, Jammu and Kashmir, and major Army Commands.
- He became the first Armoured Corps officer to lead the Indian Army since 1997.
- His tenure was scheduled to continue until 31 August 2028.

### Anurag Jain Was Appointed CEO of NITI Aayog



- The Centre appointed Anurag Jain as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog in July 2026 for a two-year term.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment.
- Anurag Jain is a 1989-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre and served as the Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh before this appointment.
- He succeeded B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, whose extended tenure ended in July 2026.

### Static GK

- NITI Aayog was established on 1 January 2015, replacing the Planning Commission.
- The Planning Commission functioned from 1950 to 2014.
- The Prime Minister of India is the Chairperson of NITI Aayog.
- The CEO is the senior administrative head of NITI Aayog.

### Ministry of Tourism Signed an MoU with Google India to Promote Digital Tourism



- The Ministry of Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Google India Pvt. Ltd. in New Delhi to strengthen the digital promotion of India's tourism destinations.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- The partnership aims to enhance the digital visibility of India's cultural, historical, spiritual, and natural attractions through artificial intelligence (AI), digital technologies, and data-driven insights.
- The collaboration focuses on improving online discoverability of tourism destinations, strengthening digital marketing, sharing global travel trends, and building digital capacity among Ministry officials.
- The agreement is non-commercial, non-binding, non-exclusive, and does not involve any financial commitment from either party.
- The initiative supports the Incredible India campaign by using AI-powered engagement, immersive digital experiences, and innovative online platforms to attract more domestic and international tourists.

### Agnikul Cosmos and ICEYE Signed an Agreement for Sovereign SAR Missions

- Chennai-based Agnikul Cosmos and Finland's ICEYE signed an MoU to develop, launch, and operate Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Earth observation systems from India.



- The partnership aims to strengthen India's sovereign space capabilities for disaster response, national security, and monitoring of sensitive areas.
- Agnikul will use its Agnibaan small satellite launch vehicle with 3D-printed engines to provide dedicated and mission-specific launches.
- The collaboration combines ICEYE's proven SAR satellite technology with Agnikul's responsive launch infrastructure.
- The partnership aims to establish a rapid and repeatable satellite deployment model while reducing dependence on foreign technology and external launch schedules.

### Static GK

- Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) uses radar to generate high-resolution images of the Earth's surface in all weather conditions.
- Agnikul Cosmos is a space-tech startup incubated at IIT Madras.
- ICEYE is a satellite company headquartered in Espoo, Finland.
- Agnibaan is India's first privately developed launch vehicle powered by 3D-printed engines.

### India and Japan Signed a \$1 Billion Green Methanol Supply Agreement

- India's ACME Green Molecules and Japan's Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company signed a long-term green marine fuel supply agreement valued at about \$1 billion.



- Under the agreement, ACME will supply 100,000 tonnes of green methanol per annum to the Japanese company.
- The green methanol will be produced at ACME's upcoming production facility in Paradip, Odisha.
- The fuel is fully RFNBO-compliant and meets the carbon-intensity standards prescribed by the European Union and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- The agreement aims to strengthen India-Japan cooperation in clean energy and sustainable maritime transport.

#### Static GK

- Paradip Port is a major natural deep-water port located in Odisha.
- Japan's capital is Tokyo, and its official currency is the Yen.
- India launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2023.
- The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is headquartered in London, United Kingdom.

### Department of Posts and TRAI signed MoU to Launch India's Largest Telecom Network Survey

- The Department of Posts and TRAI signed an MoU to conduct India's largest village-level telecom network performance survey.

- The survey will assess the quality and availability of mobile services in more than 5.68 lakh villages across all States and Union Territories.



- The survey will evaluate the performance of major telecom operators, including Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea, and BSNL.
- An app-based system and the nationwide postal network will be used to collect real-time field data on mobile network coverage and service quality.
- The survey aims to identify connectivity gaps, improve rural telecom infrastructure, and support evidence-based policy decisions for digital connectivity.
- The initiative was launched under the leadership of Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia to strengthen India's digital infrastructure and improve telecom services in underserved areas.

#### Static GK

- TRAI was established in 1997 under the TRAI Act, 1997.
- The Department of Posts functions under the Ministry of Communications.
- India Post is the world's largest postal network.
- The headquarters of TRAI is in New Delhi.

# Chapter 9

## Summits



### Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi Visited India for the 16th India–Japan Annual Summit



- Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi visited India from 1 to 3 July 2026 to attend the 16th India–Japan Annual Summit in New Delhi.
- The visit marked her first official trip to India since assuming office and followed an invitation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Both leaders reviewed bilateral cooperation and discussed strategic, economic, and regional issues.
- The summit focused on defence and security, economic partnership, infrastructure development, technology, clean energy, and climate action.
- The meeting strengthened the India–Japan Strategic and Global Partnership and enhanced cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The summit followed Prime Minister Modi's visit to Tokyo for the 15th India–Japan Annual Summit in August 2025.
- Both countries reiterated cooperation on multilateral issues, including the QUAD, G20, and UN Security Council reforms.

#### Static GK

- Capital of Japan: Tokyo.
- Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen.
- India and Japan are members of the QUAD and the G20.

### India Hosted 5th BIMSTEC Security Summit



- India hosted the 5th BIMSTEC National Security Advisers' Meeting on 16 July 2026 in New Delhi.
- The meeting focused on regional security cooperation, including cyber security, terrorism, trafficking, transnational crime, and satellite cooperation.
- BIMSTEC connected South and South-East Asian countries through cooperation in security, trade, transport, energy, and other sectors.
- Bangladesh, the current BIMSTEC chair, participated in the meeting with its delegation led by Brig. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. A.K.M. Shamsul Islam.
- India strengthened BIMSTEC cyber security cooperation by hosting expert group meetings in 2022 and 2025.

#### Static GK

- BIMSTEC stands for Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- It was established in 1997 as BIST-EC.
- It has seven member states: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- BIMSTEC Secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### Hyderabad Hosted 12th BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting

- India hosted the 12th BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting in Hyderabad on 15–16 July 2026 under its BRICS Chairship.
- Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chaired the meeting with ministers and senior officials from BRICS countries.



- The discussions focused on social security, women's workforce participation, global skills mapping, and digital transformation for gig workers.
- India showcased the e-Shram and National Career Service portals as Digital Public Infrastructure models for labour welfare.

### Static GK

- BRICS was formed in 2009.
- The New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China.
- The first BRICS Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009.

### IIT Tirupati Hosted the 5th BRICS Geospatial Meeting



- IIT Tirupati hosted the fifth BRICS Working Group Meeting on Geospatial Technologies and its Applications from 20 to 22 July 2026.
- The meeting was organised under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) with participation from BRICS and partner countries.
- Discussions focused on geospatial infrastructure, climate resilience, AI-based geospatial analytics, positioning, navigation, timing technologies and data interoperability.
- The meeting was expected to produce the Tirupati Recommendations (2026), the BRICS Working Group Action Plan (2026–27), the BRICS Geodesy and Positioning Cooperation Framework and the BRICS Framework for Interoperable Geospatial Data Infrastructure.

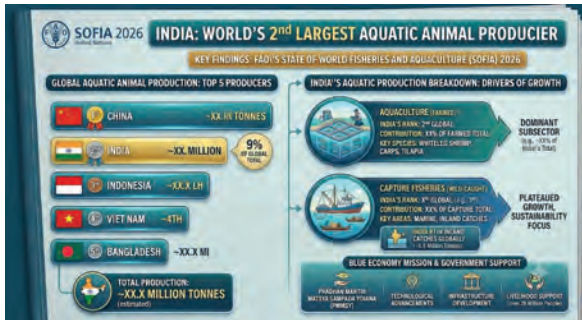
### Static GK

- GIS is a computer-based system used to collect, analyse and display spatial data.
- Global Navigation Satellite Systems include GPS, GLONASS, Galileo and BeiDou.
- Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) services support aviation, navigation, telecommunications and emergency services.

# Chapter 10

## Reports

### FAO's SOFIA 2026 Report: India Became the World's 2nd Largest Aquatic Animal Producer



- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2026 Report.
- India became the world's second-largest producer of aquatic animals, after China.
- The report highlighted the rapid growth of India's fisheries and aquaculture sector due to technological progress and policy support.
- Inland aquaculture and marine fisheries contributed significantly to the increase in production.
- India remained one of the leading exporters of seafood products in the world.
- Government initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana strengthened fisheries infrastructure and value chains.
- The fisheries sector supported millions of livelihoods and contributed to rural economic development.

#### Static GK

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was established in 1945.
- FAO headquarters is located in Rome, Italy.
- India has a coastline of about 7,500 km.
- Fisheries come under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

### India's Unemployment Rate Fell to an Eight-Year Low in 2025



- India's unemployment rate declined to 3.1% in 2025, the lowest level recorded in the last eight years, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).
- The decline reflected improved employment generation, economic recovery, and higher labour market participation, supporting India's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of achieving full and productive employment by 2030.
- Urban female unemployment at the national level declined from 10.8% in 2017-18 to 6.4% in 2025, although large disparities remained across states.
- Arunachal Pradesh (18.4%), Himachal Pradesh (18.3%), Bihar (16.8%), Nagaland (15.7%), and Rajasthan (14.6%) recorded the highest urban female unemployment rates in 2025.
- Bihar, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh recorded a rise in urban female unemployment during the period, while Jharkhand remained almost unchanged and Assam showed only marginal improvement.
- Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, and Karnataka recorded significant improvements in urban female employment, with Gujarat reducing its urban female unemployment rate to 1.5%.

#### Static GK

- The National Statistics Office (NSO) functions under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

- The NSO is responsible for conducting large-scale statistical surveys and publishing official socio-economic data in India.
- Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 aims to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all by 2030.

## India's Passport Ranked 125th in the Global Passport Index 2026



- India ranked 125th among 197 countries in the Global Passport Index 2026 published by Global Citizen Solutions, slipping one position from the previous year.
- India's overall score improved to 45.1, the highest in the last five years, despite the decline in ranking.
- The index evaluates passports based on Enhanced Mobility (50%), Quality of Living (25%), and Investment Opportunities (25%).
- India ranked 136th in Enhanced Mobility, 118th in Quality of Living, and 94th in Investment Opportunities.
- Indian passport holders currently enjoy visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to around 26 destinations.
- Sweden topped the Global Passport Index 2026, followed by Switzerland and Finland.
- The Henley Passport Index ranks passports primarily on the basis of visa-free and visa-on-arrival access.

## RBI Released the Financial Stability Report, June 2026



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the June 2026 edition of the Financial Stability Report (FSR), reflecting the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on India's financial system resilience.
- While the global financial system remains orderly despite the West Asia conflict, global stability risks stay elevated due to public debt, bond market fragilities, and stretched asset valuations.
- India's robust macroeconomic fundamentals and recent policy interventions—including an interim peace deal and measures to boost capital inflows—place it in a stronger position than its global peers.
- Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) maintain strong capital and liquidity buffers, showing sustained profitability and improved asset quality.
- Macro stress tests indicate that the domestic banking system is well-equipped to absorb potential shocks, maintaining capital ratios safely above regulatory limits even under adverse hypothetical scenarios.

### Static GK

- RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das is the current Governor.
- FSDC Chairman: The Union Finance Minister heads the Council.
- RBI Headquarters: Located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- FSR Frequency: RBI publishes this report half-yearly (bi-annually).

## Sustainable Development Report 2026: Key Global and National Insights



- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN) released the 11th edition of the Sustainable Development Report, which provides a comprehensive assessment of progress toward the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Global progress remains severely off-track, with none of the 17 SDGs currently on pace to be achieved by the 2030 deadline, and only about 16% of individual SDG targets progressing as planned.
- India achieved its highest-ever position in the SDG Index, ranking 94th out of 167 countries with a score of 68.3 out of 100, marking significant improvement from its 99th place ranking in 2025.
- Despite India's progress, it continues to trail several other South Asian nations, including Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, in the overall index rankings.
- The report identifies critical areas of concern, noting that global progress is furthest behind on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

### Static GK

- SDGs were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.
- The 2030 Agenda aims to eradicate poverty and ensure prosperity.
- There are 17 global goals and 169 associated targets.
- UNSDSN was established in 2012 under UN Secretary-General auspices.

### Jaipur Ranked Among the World's Happiest Cities in Happy City Index 2026



- Jaipur ranked 6th globally in the Happy City Index 2026 and became the only Indian city to feature in the world's top 10 happiest cities.
- The index recognised Jaipur for its quality of life, good governance, healthcare, environment, mobility, economy, and overall well-being.
- London secured the first position in the Happy City Index 2026, followed by New York City and Paris.
- Jaipur earned global recognition for successfully combining its rich cultural heritage with modern urban development and improved public infrastructure.

- The city's strong tourism sector, heritage conservation, smart city initiatives, and focus on cleanliness and sustainability contributed to its high ranking.

### Static GK

- The Happy City Index is published by the Institute for Quality of Life.
- Jaipur is the capital city of Rajasthan.
- Jaipur is popularly known as the Pink City.
- The Happy City Index evaluates cities based on governance, economy, healthcare, environment, mobility, and quality of life.
- London ranked first in the Happy City Index 2026, while Jaipur ranked sixth globally.

### AISHE Report 2023–24 Reported Record Higher Education Enrolment



- The Ministry of Education released the AISHE Reports for 2022–23 and 2023–24, which showed that higher education enrolment reached a record 4.5 crore students in 2023–24.
- Total enrolment increased by 31.5% compared to 2014–15, reflecting improved access to higher education across the country.
- The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) increased to 30 in 2023–24 from 29.5 in 2022–23 and 23.7 in 2014–15.
- Female enrolment reached 2.24 crore, while the female GER increased to 31.2 and the Gender Parity Index (GPI) remained above 1 at 1.08.
- Enrolment of SC, ST, and OBC students continued to increase, indicating greater participation of socially disadvantaged groups in higher education.
- STEM enrolment crossed one crore for the first time, reaching 1.02 crore, while women accounted for 44% of total STEM enrolment.
- The report also showed that the total faculty strength increased to 17.32 lakh, including 7.78 lakh female faculty members.

## Static GK

- AISHE is conducted annually by the Ministry of Education.
- AISHE collects data from universities, colleges, and standalone higher educational institutions across India.
- AISHE provides official statistics on enrolment, faculty, infrastructure, examinations, and academic programmes.
- The findings of AISHE are used for policy formulation, educational planning, and monitoring the implementation of NEP 2020.

## Indian Air Force Ranked as the World's Third Strongest Air Force



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) ranked as the world's third strongest air force in the WDMMA 2026 Global Air Power Rankings, ahead of China's PLAAF, for the fifth consecutive year.
- WDMMA evaluated 129 military air forces from 103 countries, covering more than 48,000 military aircraft worldwide.
- The rankings were based on the True Value Rating (TVR), which assesses fleet composition, operational capability, modernisation, logistics, mission readiness, and future procurement instead of fleet size alone.
- The United States Air Force secured the first position, followed by the Russian Air Force, while the Indian Air Force ranked third.
- The IAF secured a higher ranking than China's PLAAF due to its balanced fleet, modernisation efforts, operational flexibility, and growing domestic aerospace capability.
- According to WDMMA, the IAF operates a fleet of 1,716 aircraft, including 542 fighter aircraft, 498 helicopters, 374 trainer aircraft, and 20 special mission aircraft.

## Static GK

- WDMMA publishes the Global Air Power Rankings annually.
- TVR is the ranking methodology developed by WDMMA to assess the overall strength of an air force.
- The Indian Air Force was established on 8 October 1932, and the day is celebrated every year as Indian Air Force Day.

## MeitY Released Digital Threat Report 2025–26 for BFSI Sector



- MeitY, in collaboration with CERT-In, CSIRT-Fin and SISA, released the second edition of the Digital Threat Report 2025–26 for the BFSI (Banking, Financial Services and Insurance) sector and digital payments ecosystem.
- The report assessed emerging cyber threats, AI-driven attacks and evolving risks, and provided an 18-month roadmap to strengthen cybersecurity and digital resilience.
- The report noted that six of the seven predictions made in the previous edition became reality, while the time between threat emergence and exploitation reduced significantly.
- The report identified AI asymmetry as a major cybersecurity challenge, where attackers used AI to launch faster and more sophisticated cyberattacks.
- The report introduced the Cyber Failure Anatomy Framework to help organisations identify security gaps, strengthen risk management and improve cyber resilience.

## Static GK

- The report was released by MeitY in collaboration with CERT-In, CSIRT-Fin and SISA.

- The report focused on the BFSI sector and India's digital payments ecosystem.
- This was the second edition of the Digital Threat Report.

### Indian Railways Became the World's Second-Most Electrified Railway Network



- Indian Railways achieved 99.6% electrification of its broad-gauge network as of 22 July 2026, becoming the world's second-most electrified large railway system.
- The report was published by the International Union of Railways (UIC).

- Between 2014 and 2026, Indian Railways electrified 48,072 route kilometres, compared to 21,801 route kilometres electrified before 2014.
- Diesel consumption for train operations declined from 293 crore litres in 2015–16 to 108 crore litres in 2024–25, reducing dependence on imported fuel.
- Indian Railways commissioned more than 1,260 MW of renewable energy capacity by June 2026, including about 1,161 MW of solar power and 103 MW of wind power.
- All new railway line and multi-tracking projects were sanctioned with integrated electrification infrastructure.

#### Static GK

- Switzerland has 100% railway electrification and ranks first among large railway systems.
- China has 82% railway electrification, Spain 67%, Japan 64%, France 60% and the United Kingdom 39%.
- Rail transport emits about 89% less carbon dioxide per tonne-kilometre than road transport.
- The Lok Sabha is the lower house of the Parliament of India.

## India Won Gold in Women's 4×100m Relay at Asian Relays Championships



- India won the gold medal in the women's 4×100m relay at the 2nd Asian Relays Championships held in Shangyu.
- The Indian team registered a season-best performance during the championship.
- India finished the event with a total of three medals.
- The achievement reflected the growing strength of Indian athletics at the international level.
- The victory highlighted effective teamwork, precise baton exchanges, and strong coordination among the relay runners.
- The success was expected to boost India's preparations for upcoming international athletics competitions.
- The performance also showcased the impact of India's high-performance sports development programmes.

### Static GK

- Relay races are governed by World Athletics.
- The standard relay baton length is 28–30 cm.
- Athletics is one of the oldest sports in the Olympic Games.

## Ben Stokes Announced Retirement from International Cricket



- Ben Stokes announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a distinguished career across formats.
- He earned recognition as one of England's finest all-rounders through his match-winning performances with both bat and ball.
- Stokes played a key role in England's victory in the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup and delivered several memorable performances in Test cricket.
- As Test captain, he helped transform England's playing style through the aggressive "Bazball" approach alongside coach Brendon McCullum.
- His career featured iconic innings, remarkable comebacks, and influential leadership.
- His retirement marked the end of a significant era in English cricket.

### Static GK

- Ben Stokes was born in Christchurch.
- He represents Durham County Cricket Club in domestic cricket.
- England won the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2019.
- The headquarters of the England and Wales Cricket Board is located at Lord's Cricket Ground.

## Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Became India's Youngest International Cricketer



- Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became India's youngest international cricketer after making his T20I debut against England at Old Trafford, Manchester, on 4 July 2026.
- He made his international debut at the age of 15 years and 99 days.
- He broke Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing record, as Tendulkar made his India debut at the age of 16 years and 205 days in a Test match against Pakistan in 1989.
- Vaibhav Sooryavanshi also became India's youngest men's T20 International debutant.
- He surpassed Washington Sundar, who made his T20I debut for India at the age of 18 years and 80 days in 2017.
- Vaibhav became the youngest player to debut for a Full Member nation in men's T20 International cricket, while the overall world record is held by Romania's Marian Gherasim, who debuted at the age of 14 years and 16 days in 2020.

## Neymar Jr. Announced Retirement from International Football



- Brazilian football icon Neymar Jr. officially announced his retirement from international competition

following Brazil's 2-1 defeat to Norway in the 2026 FIFA World Cup Round of 16.

- The 34-year-old concluded his 16-year career with the national team, having made his debut and played his final match at the same venue, MetLife Stadium.
- He retires as Brazil's all-time leading men's goalscorer, finishing with an impressive record of 80 goals and 59 assists in 130 appearances.
- Throughout his tenure with the *Seleção*, he secured major international honors including the 2013 FIFA Confederations Cup and a historic Olympic gold medal in 2016.
- The announcement marks the end of an era for Brazilian football, as the star player emotionally confirmed that his time representing his country has reached its conclusion.

## Static GK

- Brazil has won the most FIFA World Cup titles (five).
- The 2026 FIFA World Cup is hosted by three nations.
- MetLife Stadium is located in East Rutherford, New Jersey, USA.
- Pelé is an iconic Brazilian footballer, known as "The King".

## Indian Soldiers Won First World Rowing Cup Gold



- Indian Army rowers Lakshay and Ujjwal Kumar Singh won India's first-ever gold medal at a World Rowing Cup on 27 June 2026.
- They secured the title in the Lightweight Men's Double Sculls event at World Rowing Cup Stage 3 in Lucerne, Switzerland.
- The Indian pair finished the race in 6 minutes 26.09 seconds and edged past competitors from Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

- Both athletes were associated with the Army Rowing Node in Pune.
- The achievement marked a historic milestone for Indian rowing at the international level.
- The victory highlighted the growing competitiveness of Indian athletes in global rowing events.

### Static GK

- Lucerne is a major venue for international rowing competitions.
- World Rowing governs the sport of rowing.
- Sculling events use two oars per rower.
- Sweep rowing events use one oar per rower.

### Delhi Unveiled 'Mayur' as Mascot for Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026



- Delhi unveiled 'Mayur' as the official mascot of the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026.
- The mascot, inspired by India's national bird, symbolises unity, cultural diversity, friendship and sportsmanship among Commonwealth nations.
- Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta unveiled the mascot at a special ceremony in the national capital.
- The championship will be held from 27 July to 2 August 2026 at Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi, with participation from around 35 Commonwealth countries.
- The event is jointly organised by the Delhi Government and the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).

### Jannik Sinner Retained Men's Singles Title at Wimbledon



- World No. 1 Jannik Sinner retained the Wimbledon men's singles title on 12 July 2026 after defeating Alexander Zverev in the final.
- The Italian player won the four-set final with a score of 6-7(7), 7-6(2), 6-3, 6-4.
- The victory became Sinner's fifth Grand Slam title and his second consecutive Wimbledon championship.
- Sinner defeated seven-time Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic in the semifinal.
- He became the first player in 48 years to win the Wimbledon men's singles title after playing a five-set match earlier in the tournament.

### Static GK

- Wimbledon was founded in 1877 in London.
- Roger Federer holds the record for the most Wimbledon men's singles titles.

### Spain Won the FIFA World Cup 2026



- Spain defeated Argentina 1-0 after extra time to win the FIFA World Cup 2026 final at MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, New Jersey, USA.

- Ferran Torres scored the match-winning goal in the 106th minute and won the Man of the Match award.
- Argentina played the entire extra time with 10 players after Enzo Fernández was sent off for receiving a second yellow card in stoppage time.
- Spain won its second FIFA World Cup title after its first triumph in 2010.
- Spain became the first country to hold both the men's and women's FIFA World Cup titles simultaneously.
- The 2026 FIFA World Cup featured 48 teams for the first time, making it the largest edition in the tournament's history.
- Rodri won the Golden Ball as the best player of the tournament.
- The tournament recorded 308 goals, the highest total in FIFA World Cup history.

### Static GK

- FIFA was founded in 1904.
- FIFA is headquartered in Zürich, Switzerland.
- The FIFA World Cup is organised every four years by FIFA.
- The Golden Ball is awarded to the tournament's best player.

### Pakistan Announced the Hosting of the 2027 South Asian Games

- Pakistan announced that it will host the 14th South Asian Games from 23 to 31 March 2027.
- The Games will be held in Lahore, Islamabad and Faisalabad, with more than 3,500 athletes from eight South Asian countries competing in 27 sports.



- The South Asian Olympic Council selected Pakistan as the host in December 2019.
- The event was rescheduled multiple times from 2023 to 2027 before receiving the final schedule.
- Pakistan will host the South Asian Games for the third time after the 1989 and 2004 editions.
- The 2027 edition will be the first South Asian Games in Pakistan to be held across multiple cities.

### Static GK

- The South Asian Games are also known as the South Asian Federation Games.
- The South Asian Games are organised under the South Asian Olympic Council.
- The 2027 edition will be the 14th South Asian Games.
- The participating countries belong to the South Asian region under the SAARC sporting framework.
- The 46th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia, 2026, was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

# Chapter 12

## Awards and Honours

### Green Oscars 2026: Two Indian Women Won Whitley Awards



- Indian conservationists Parveen Shaikh and Dr. Barkha Subba won the 2026 Whitley Awards, popularly known as the “Green Oscars”.
- The awards ceremony was held at the Royal Geographical Society in London.
- The awards were presented by Princess Anne on behalf of the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN).
- Each winner received £50,000 to support environmental conservation projects.
- Parveen Shaikh was honoured for conserving the Indian Skimmer along the Chambal River ecosystem through community-based conservation efforts.
- Dr. Barkha Subba was recognised for protecting the Himalayan Salamander through scientific monitoring, wetland restoration, and community participation in the Darjeeling region.
- The awards highlighted the role of grassroots leadership in biodiversity conservation and environmental sustainability.

#### Static GK

- The Whitley Awards are popularly known as the “Green Oscars”.
- The awards are administered by the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN).
- WFN is based in London, United Kingdom.
- The Indian Skimmer is a rare river bird found mainly in the Chambal River ecosystem.

- The Himalayan Salamander is an endemic amphibian of the Himalayan region.

### India Set Record with 7 Schools Shortlisted for World’s Best School Prizes 2026



- India secured seven places among the top 10 finalists for the World’s Best School Prizes 2026.
- It became the highest number of schools shortlisted by any country in a single year since the awards began.
- The shortlisted schools were recognised for innovation, community engagement, environmental action, leadership, and educational excellence.
- PCMC Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj English Medium School and Army Goodwill School were shortlisted in the Innovation category.
- The awards highlighted schools that created a positive impact in classrooms and communities.
- Winners were scheduled to be selected by an independent Judging Academy and announced in November 2026.

#### Static GK

- The World’s Best School Prizes are organised by T4 Education.
- T4 Education is based in the United Kingdom.
- The awards were established after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The awards recognise schools for innovation, inclusion, leadership, and social impact.

## Dr. Florence Rabier Received the 71st IMO Prize



- The World Meteorological Organization announced Dr. Florence Rabier of France as the recipient of the 71st IMO Prize in June 2026.
- The IMO Prize is the highest international honour in meteorology.
- She received the award for her contributions to numerical weather prediction, satellite data assimilation, and international meteorological cooperation.
- Her work significantly improved the accuracy of global weather forecasting and climate monitoring systems.
- The award highlighted the importance of scientific innovation in disaster preparedness and climate resilience.
- Her research benefited forecasting agencies worldwide through advanced modelling and data-sharing initiatives.

### Static GK

- WMO became a specialized UN agency in 1950.
- WMO headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- World Meteorological Day is observed on 23 March.
- The IMO Prize was established in 1955.

## PM Narendra Modi Received Seychelles' Highest Civilian Honour



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Seychelles' highest civilian honour, "Guardian of the Blue Horizon", during his state visit on 28 June 2026.
- The award recognised his contribution to strengthening India-Seychelles relations and promoting maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.
- It also acknowledged India's support in capacity building, coastal surveillance, digital connectivity, healthcare, and development partnerships.
- The honour highlighted the growing strategic partnership between the two countries under the vision of a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific.
- The visit witnessed agreements in digital payments, maritime cooperation, renewable energy, and capacity development.
- The recognition reinforced India's role as a trusted development and security partner among Indian Ocean island nations.

### Static GK

- Capital of Seychelles: Victoria.
- Currency: Seychellois Rupee (SCR).
- Seychelles is a member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association.
- India launched the SAGAR initiative in 2015.

## Sunil Bharti Mittal Received the 2026 USISPF Leadership Award



- Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, received the 2026 Leadership Award from the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).
- The award was presented during the IX USISPF Annual Leadership Summit held in Washington, D.C.
- He received the award for strengthening India-US economic relations and transforming India's telecommunications sector through leadership, innovation, and digital connectivity.

- Under his leadership, Bharti Enterprises expanded into telecommunications, digital services, infrastructure, space communications, financial services, and real estate.
- During his acceptance message, Sunil Bharti Mittal expressed confidence that India and the United States would soon conclude a bilateral trade agreement to boost trade and investment.
- Other recipients of the 2026 USISPF Leadership Award included Christopher T. Calio, Chairman and CEO of RTX, and V. Prem Watsa, Chairman and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings.

### International Booker Prize Was Renamed as the Bukhman International Booker Prize



- The International Booker Prize was renamed as the Bukhman International Booker Prize from 2027 under a 10-year funding agreement with Bukhman Philanthropies (2027–2036).
- The winner's prize money was doubled from 2027 to £100,000, and the amount will continue to be shared equally between the author and translator.
- Each shortlisted title will continue to receive £5,000, shared equally between the author and translator(s).
- The 2027 judging panel will be chaired by novelist Katie Kitamura and will include Patrick McGuinness, Caleb Azumah Nelson, Olga Ravn, and Tessa Thompson.
- Eligible books must be novels or short story collections translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland between 1 May 2026 and 30 April 2027.

#### Static GK

- The International Booker Prize is awarded annually for the best work of translated fiction published in English.

- The prize recognises both the author and the translator by awarding them equal shares of the prize money.
- The award was launched as the Man Booker International Prize in 2005, became an annual prize in 2016, was renamed the International Booker Prize in 2019, and will be known as the Bukhman International Booker Prize from 2027.

### ICMR-MINDS Won the Gold Award at the National e-Governance Awards 2026



- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) received the Gold Award at the National e-Governance Awards 2026 for its AI-powered mental healthcare platform, ICMR-MINDS.
- The award was presented in the category “Innovation through the Use of AI and Other New Age Technologies to Deliver Citizen-Centric Services” during the 29th National Conference on e-Governance held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ICMR-MINDS is an AI-based platform that supports frontline healthcare workers with standardized mental health screening, clinical assessment, treatment recommendations, and follow-up protocols.
- The platform aims to integrate mental healthcare with primary healthcare, reduce dependence on specialists, and improve access to evidence-based mental health services.

#### Static GK

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is India's apex body for the formulation, coordination, and promotion of biomedical research.
- The National e-Governance Awards are presented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

## PM Modi Received Indonesia's Highest Civilian Honour 'Bintang Adipurna'



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Indonesia's highest civilian honour, Bintang Adipurna, from President Prabowo Subianto during his visit to Jakarta on 7 July 2026.
- The award recognised his contribution to strengthening India-Indonesia bilateral relations and international cooperation.
- PM Modi dedicated the honour to the people of India and reaffirmed commitment to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- India and Indonesia also discussed cooperation in trade, digital payments (UPI), maritime security, critical minerals, and cultural exchanges.

### Static GK

- Capital of Indonesia: Jakarta
- Currency: Indonesian Rupiah

## DoT's Samridh Gram Won the WSIS Prize 2026



- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) won the WSIS Prize 2026 for its flagship Samridh Gram:

Integrated Phygital Service Delivery Model enabled by the BharatNet initiative.

- The award was presented at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2026 in Geneva under Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment.
- Samridh Gram promotes rural digital transformation by establishing Samridh Kendras, which provide integrated digital and assisted physical services in villages.
- The initiative delivers services related to healthcare, education, skill development, agriculture, financial inclusion, and governance through a single village-level platform.
- BharatNet powers the initiative by providing high-speed broadband connectivity to more than 2.17 lakh Gram Panchayats, enabling digital access in rural areas.
- Samridh Gram was recognised for effectively using digital public infrastructure and telecom connectivity to improve public service delivery and rural livelihoods.
- The project emerged as the Global Winner in its category after evaluation by the WSIS Expert Committee and a global public voting process.

### Static GK

- WSIS Forum is organised by the ITU.
- ITU is a specialised agency of the United Nations.
- BharatNet is one of the world's largest rural broadband connectivity projects.
- The headquarters of the ITU is in Geneva, Switzerland.

## Sourav Ganguly Joined the ICC Hall of Fame



- Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame on 8 July 2026, becoming the 12th Indian cricketer to receive the honour.

- The ICC Hall of Fame recognises retired cricketers who have made exceptional contributions to the game through their performances, leadership, and lasting impact.
- Ganguly transformed Indian cricket with his aggressive leadership and guided India to the 2003 ICC Cricket World Cup final while building a strong and competitive team.
- During his international career, Ganguly played 113 Test matches and 308 ODIs for India.
- With this induction, Ganguly joined other Indian cricket legends such as Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, MS Dhoni, and Diana Edulji in the ICC Hall of Fame.

### Static GK

- The ICC Hall of Fame was launched by the ICC in 2009.
- Bishan Singh Bedi, Kapil Dev, and Sunil Gavaskar became the first Indian inductees in 2009.
- Diana Edulji became the first Indian woman to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame in 2023.
- MS Dhoni was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame in 2025.

### R. Vairamuthu Received the 60th Jnanpith Award



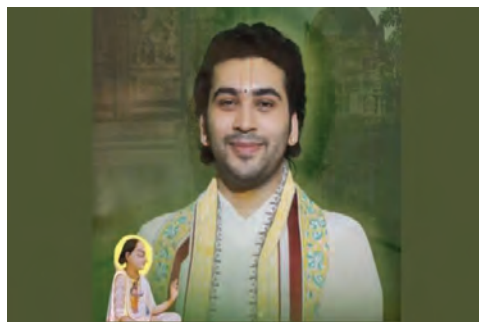
- R. Vairamuthu received the 60th Jnanpith Award for 2025 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Tamil literature.
- The award was presented by Dr. Karan Singh at a ceremony held in New Delhi.
- He became the third writer from Tamil Nadu to receive the Jnanpith Award, after Akilan (1975) and Jayakanthan (2002).
- The award carries a cash prize of ₹11 lakh, a citation and a bronze statue of Goddess Vagdevi.
- Vairamuthu is a noted Tamil poet, lyricist and author, and his work *Kallikattu Ithikasam* received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2003.

- The Jnanpith Award is presented annually for lifetime contribution to literature in any language listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

### Static GK

- The Jnanpith Award is India's highest literary honour.
- It was instituted in 1961 by Bharatiya Jnanpith.
- The first Jnanpith Award was presented in 1965 to G. Sankara Kurup (Malayalam).
- It is awarded annually for lifetime contribution to literature in any language listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- The award comprises a cash prize, a citation and a bronze statue of Goddess Vagdevi.

### Acharya Ranchhodlalji Goswami Received Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar



- Ahmedabad-based scholar and practitioner Acharya Shri Ranchhodlalji Goswami received the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for promoting Haveli Sangeet.
- The recognition marked a major national honour for the centuries-old Haveli Sangeet tradition.
- He became the 16th-generation Acharya of the Goswami Haveli in Ahmedabad and the first practitioner of this genre to receive the award.
- Haveli Sangeet originated from the Pushtimarg tradition founded by Vallabhacharya and included devotional compositions by Ashtachhap poets like Surdas.
- The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar recognised young performing artists below 40 years of age.

### Static GK

- Ustad Bismillah Khan was a famous Indian Shehnai maestro.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi was established in 1953.
- Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar was instituted in 2006.

## Dr. Nandini Azad Received Bharat Samman 2026



- Social activist and cooperative leader Dr. Nandini Azad received the Bharat Samman 2026 for her contribution to women's empowerment, social justice, and the upliftment of economically weaker women.
- She serves as the President of the Working Women's Forum (India) and the Indian Cooperative Network for Women, both based in Chennai.
- Under her leadership, these organisations support more than 6.15 lakh women across four southern states.
- The award was presented in Dehradun by the International Institute of Education and Management and the Economic Growth Foundation.

### Static GK

- The Working Women's Forum (India) was founded in 1978.
- Dr. Nandini Azad serves as the Chairperson of the ICA-AP Women's Committee.
- The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

## 72nd National Film Awards Were Announced



- The 72nd National Film Awards were announced in New Delhi on 18 July 2026 to honour films certified by the CBFC in 2024.
- Article 370 won the Best Feature Film award.
- Mammooty for Bramayugam and Kartik Aaryan for Chandu Champion jointly received the Best Actor award.
- Yami Gautam won the Best Actress award for Article 370, while Rajkumar Periasamy won the Best Director award for Amaran.
- Kalki 2898 AD received the Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment award, and Srikanth was named the Best Hindi Film.

### Static GK

- The National Film Awards were instituted in 1954.
- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest honour in the field of cinema.
- The Central Board of Film Certification was established in 1951 under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- Uttam Kumar became the first recipient of the National Film Award for Best Actor in 1967.

## James Gray Was Chosen for Career Pardo Award



- American filmmaker James Gray was selected to receive the Pardo alla Carriera (Career Achievement Award) at the 79th Locarno Film Festival.
- The award ceremony will be held on 9 August 2026 at Piazza Grande in Locarno, Switzerland.
- The festival will screen his latest film, Paper Tiger, starring Anne Hathaway and Adam Driver.
- A special interaction with James Gray will also be organised during the festival.
- James Gray is known for films such as Little Odessa, The Immigrant, Ad Astra, and Armageddon Time.

### Static GK

- The Locarno Film Festival has been held annually in Switzerland since 1946.
- The Golden Leopard (Pardo d'Oro) is the highest award of the Locarno Film Festival.
- Bern is the capital of Switzerland.
- The Swiss Franc (CHF) is the currency of Switzerland.

### NSA Ajit Doval Was Selected for Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026



- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval was selected for the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 for his contribution to national security, border management, and counter-terrorism.
- The award carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a citation, and a memento.
- The award will be presented in Pune on 1 August 2026, marking the 106th death anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- Ajit Doval was recognised for his role in major security operations, including Operation Black Thunder, the Balakot airstrikes, and the Doklam negotiations.

### Static GK

- The Lokmanya Tilak National Award was instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust.
- Lokmanya Tilak gave the famous slogan, "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it".

# Chapter 13

## Government Schemes

### Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK) Launched



- Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK) during the 16th Central Council of Health and Family Welfare Meeting.
- The programme provided a unified framework for home and community-based healthcare for children from birth to 36 months of age.
- SSBSK integrated the Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care for Young Child (HBYC) schemes under the vision of “Comprehensive Care During the First Three Years”.
- The programme adopted a risk-stratified approach and provided additional monitoring and home visits for at-risk children, including those with low birth weight, prematurity, malnutrition, recurrent illnesses, and developmental delays.
- It strengthened coordination among ASHAs, ANMs, CHOs, and Anganwadi Workers to improve early diagnosis, treatment, counselling, and referrals.
- Well-Baby Sessions and monthly Shishu Shivirs were introduced to support developmental screening, growth monitoring, and child healthcare services at the community level.
- The programme promoted responsive parenting, early childhood development, child safety, and reduced screen-time exposure among young children.

- SSBSK incorporated digital tracking and integrated with national health platforms to ensure continuous monitoring and seamless healthcare delivery.

### DISHA 2.0 Scheme Approved to Strengthen Digital Justice Delivery



- Union Minister for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal approved the DISHA 2.0 Scheme in June 2026.
- The scheme aimed to modernise judicial infrastructure through advanced digital technologies and integrated e-Courts systems.
- It sought to improve accessibility, transparency, efficiency, and accountability in justice delivery across the country.
- DISHA 2.0 promoted paperless courts, digital filing, virtual hearings, AI-assisted case management, and integrated judicial databases.
- The initiative aligned with the Digital India vision and supported the ongoing e-Courts Phase III project.
- It was expected to reduce case pendency, improve access to legal services, and strengthen judicial governance.
- The scheme also promoted interoperability among courts, police, prisons, and forensic institutions.

### Static GK

- Article 39A of the Constitution promotes equal access to justice.

- The Supreme Court of India was established in 1950.
- The e-Courts Project is implemented by the Department of Justice.
- India follows a unified judicial system.

### VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 Came into Force from 1 July 2026



- The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025 came into force on 1 July 2026 to strengthen rural employment and livelihood security.
- The Act increased the statutory guarantee of wage employment from 100 days to 125 days for every eligible rural household.
- The Act focused on durable community asset creation, water conservation, natural resource management, agriculture, rural infrastructure, and sustainable village development.
- The Act promoted greater participation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), technology-enabled implementation, transparency, accountability, and convergence with other rural development programmes.
- The Central Government allocated an interim amount of ₹95,692.31 crore to States and Union Territories for the nationwide rollout and timely implementation of the scheme.
- The Government stated that existing e-KYC verified job cards would remain valid until new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards were issued, ensuring uninterrupted employment and wage payments.
- The national launch of the Mission was scheduled for 2 July 2026 at Mukkavaripalli village in Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh.

#### Static GK

- The Ministry of Rural Development is responsible for implementing major rural development and livelihood programmes in India.
- Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are community-based groups that promote financial inclusion, livelihood generation, and women's empowerment in rural areas.

- Andhra Pradesh is the first state to host the national launch of the VB-G RAM G Mission under the new Act.

### National Steering Committee Approved the Nationwide Rollout of the PM-SETU Scheme



- The National Steering Committee approved the nationwide rollout of the ₹60,000-crore PM-SETU scheme across 200 identified ITI clusters.
- The committee also approved an immediate investment of ₹1,237.58 crore under Strategic Investment Plans for ITI clusters in Odisha, Gujarat, and Telangana.
- The scheme aims to modernise 1,000 Government ITIs by developing 200 hub ITIs and 800 spoke ITIs.
- Major industry partners, including Jindal Naveen Avastar, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel, and Apollo MedSkills, will support the implementation of the scheme.
- The initiative will transform ITIs into industry-managed institutions and establish five National Centres of Excellence for advanced trainer development.

#### Static GK

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) was established in 2014.
- The Directorate General of Training (DGT) governs the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) network in India.
- The Skill India Mission was launched in 2015 to enhance skill development and employability among India's youth.

### Cabinet Approved Semicon 2.0

- The Union Cabinet approved Semicon 2.0 with an outlay of ₹1,27,500 crore to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem.
- The programme aimed to build a complete semiconductor value chain covering chip design,

manufacturing, packaging, materials, research, and workforce development.



- The initiative focused on increasing domestic semiconductor production, reducing import dependence, and making India a trusted global semiconductor hub.
- The programme aimed to attract global semiconductor manufacturers, strengthen the supply chain, promote innovation, and enhance technological self-reliance.
- The policy identified six strategic pillars: semiconductor design, machines and materials, semiconductor fabs, ATMP/OSAT, research and development, and talent development.
- The initiative supported sectors such as electronics, AI, telecommunications, EVs, defence, healthcare, and industrial manufacturing.
- Under Semicon 1.0, the government sanctioned 12 semiconductor manufacturing projects with a projected investment of about ₹1.64 lakh crore.
- The approved projects included two fabrication plants, one silicon wafer manufacturing unit, one silicon carbide wafer plant, one integrated micro LED display facility, and nine semiconductor assembly units.
- The initiative aimed to boost economic growth, strengthen national security, promote technological leadership, and position India as a global semiconductor powerhouse.

### National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 Approved



- The CCEA approved the National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 in July 2026 to increase domestic urea production and reduce import dependence.
- The policy created a framework to attract investment in gas-based greenfield and brownfield urea manufacturing units.
- India aimed to bridge the 10 million tonne supply gap between domestic urea demand of about 40 million tonnes and production of around 30 million tonnes.
- The policy introduced a regulated RoE range of 12% to 16% to protect investors and prevent excessive profits.
- NIPU-2026 allowed foreign exchange adjustments during project implementation and fixed cost conversion after four years of operation.
- The policy targeted the establishment of 8 to 9 new production units with an expected capacity addition of about 10 million tonnes.
- The initiative aimed to achieve urea self-sufficiency, save foreign exchange, strengthen food security, and reduce dependence on global markets.

### Static GK

- Urea is a major nitrogenous fertilizer used in agriculture.
- The Department of Fertilizers administers fertilizer-related policies.
- India is the second-largest consumer and largest importer of urea globally.
- The New Investment Policy was introduced in 2012.

### Union Minister Launched PRAGATI Scheme for Farmers



- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the PRAGATI initiative to train 20,000 rural youth as agri-entrepreneurs across eight states.
- The programme aimed to promote climate-resilient farming through cooperation between the government, corporates, and global foundations.

- The trained entrepreneurs provided farmers with advisory services, soil health support, and market linkages at the village level.
- The initiative targeted benefits for 20 lakh farmers and aimed to increase their average income by 30%.
- The programme focused on improving yields of paddy, maize, and potato through regenerative agriculture.

#### Static GK

- Union Minister of Agriculture: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Ministry of Agriculture headquarters: New Delhi.
- National Farmers Day: December 23.

#### EPFO Launched VISHWAS, 2026 Scheme



- EPFO launched the VISHWAS, 2026 Scheme as a six-month one-time dispute resolution scheme for amicable settlement of penalty and damages disputes.
- The scheme will remain open from 29 June to 29 December 2026 and covers disputes under Section 14B of the EPF Act and the Code on Social Security.
- Penalty rates for defaults before 14 June 2024 were reduced to 0.25%–1% per month based on the period of delay.
- Employers must clear provident fund dues and interest and withdraw related legal appeals to avail the scheme.
- The entire settlement process is conducted digitally through the EPFO Employer Portal.

#### Static GK

- EPFO was established on 4 March 1952 under the EPF Act.
- EPFO functions under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- EPFO is headquartered in New Delhi.
- The Central Provident Fund Commissioner is the administrative head of EPFO.

### Girish Bharadwaj, the “Bridge Man of India”, Died at the Age of 76



- Padma Shri awardee Girish Bharadwaj, popularly known as the “Bridge Man of India”, died on 7 July 2026 at the age of 76 in Sullia, Karnataka.
- He was a mechanical engineering graduate from PES College of Engineering, Mandya.
- He built more than 140 low-cost suspension bridges over three decades, mainly in Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, and Odisha.
- His bridges connected remote villages with schools, hospitals, markets, and government services.
- He built his first suspension bridge in 1989 across the Payaswini River at Arambur in Dakshina Kannada.
- The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Shri in 2017 for his contribution to rural infrastructure and social work.

### Pandavani Folk Exponent Teejan Bai Passed Away



- Renowned Pandavani folk singer and Padma awardee Teejan Bai passed away in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, at the age of 70 after a prolonged illness.
- She played a pioneering role in popularising the traditional Pandavani folk art of Chhattisgarh across India and abroad.
- Her performances were based on storytelling from the Mahabharata through the Pandavani tradition.
- She received the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan for her outstanding contribution to Indian folk art and culture.

### Static GK

- Pandavani is a traditional folk storytelling art form based on the Mahabharata, especially the stories of the Pandavas.
- Raipur is the capital of Chhattisgarh.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi is India’s national academy for music, dance, and drama.
- Bharat Ratna is India’s highest civilian award.

### Nightingale of South India S. Janaki Passed Away at 88



- Legendary Indian playback singer S. Janaki, affectionately known as the “Nightingale of South India”, passed away at the age of 88 in Mysuru on July 11, 2026.
- Over an illustrious and record-breaking career spanning more than six decades, she recorded nearly 48,000 songs across 18 to 20 languages, predominantly in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam.

- She was widely revered as the “voice of generations” and was cremated with full state honors in Mysuru, Karnataka, following age-related health complications.
- Her unmatched contributions to Indian cinema earned her four National Film Awards, a historic 33 State Film Awards, and a selection for the Padma Bhushan in 2013, which she famously declined.
- She formally retired from playback singing in 2016, with her final public performance held during a concert in Mysuru in 2017.

### Static GK

- First National Award: Won in 1977 for the Tamil song “16 Vayathinile”.
- National Film Awards: Instituted in 1954
- Mysuru State Capital: Historic capital of the Kingdom of Mysore until 1947.

### India Observed National Mourning for Former Qatari Amir Sheikh Hamad



- India observed a one-day national mourning on 13 July 2026 following the demise of Qatar’s Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani.
- The Ministry of External Affairs announced the decision as a mark of respect for the former Qatari leader.
- The National Flag was flown at half-mast across the country during the mourning period.
- The government suspended official entertainment and public celebrations on the day of mourning.

- Indian leaders expressed condolences and highlighted Sheikh Hamad’s contribution to strengthening India-Qatar relations.

### Static GK

- Capital of Qatar: Doha.
- Currency of Qatar: Qatari Riyal.
- Current Emir of Qatar: Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

### Puppetry Artist Moozhikkal Pankajakshi Passed Away



- Padma Shri awardee Moozhikkal Pankajakshi passed away at the age of 90 in Kottayam, Kerala.
- She revived and popularised Nokkuvidya Pavakali, a rare traditional puppetry art of Kerala.
- She performed the art form for over eight decades and presented stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata in India and abroad.
- She received the Padma Shri in 2020 for her contribution to Indian folk art.

### Static GK

- Nokkuvidya Pavakali is a traditional stringless puppetry art of Kerala.
- The Padma Shri is India’s fourth-highest civilian award.
- The Kerala Folklore Academy is headquartered in Kannur.

# Chapter 15

## Books and Authors



### 'The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts' Memoir Released



- Amar Preet Singh released the memoir "*The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts*" at an event in New Delhi.
- The memoir was written by Shubhanshu Shukla.
- The book chronicled his journey from an Indian Air Force fighter pilot to an astronaut and his mission to the International Space Station (ISS).
- It highlighted astronaut selection, training, mission preparation, and experiences in space.
- The event marked the first anniversary of the Axiom-4 Mission, which was launched on 25 June of the previous year.
- The memoir reflected India's growing participation in human spaceflight and space exploration.
- Students from various schools attended the event and interacted with the astronaut.

#### Static GK

- Amar Preet Singh is the Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.
- The International Space Station (ISS) is a multinational space laboratory in low Earth orbit.

- The headquarters of the Indian Air Force is located in New Delhi.

### Vice President Released the Book RSS @ 100: A Century of Service, Unity & Sacrifice



- Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book *RSS @ 100: A Century of Service, Unity & Sacrifice* at Uprashtrapati Bhavan.
- The book was authored by Shyam Jaju and Anupam Trivedi and documents the 100-year journey and contributions of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).
- The Vice President highlighted the organisation's contribution to nation-building and social service during the release.
- The event was attended by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and IGNCA President Ram Bahadur Rai.

#### Static GK

- RSS was founded on 27 September 1925 by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar.
- The headquarters of RSS is located at Nagpur, Maharashtra.



### World Music Day: June 21



- World Music Day, also known as Fête de la Musique, was celebrated worldwide on 21 June 2026.
- The day promoted music as a universal language and encouraged free public performances.
- Musicians, artists, educational institutions, and cultural organizations participated in various events and concerts.
- The celebration highlighted cultural diversity, creativity, and artistic expression.
- It aimed to make music accessible to people regardless of their background.
- The event was observed in more than 100 countries and promoted cultural exchange and social harmony.

#### Static GK

- World Music Day originated in France in 1982.
- It was initiated by Jack Lang.
- “Fête de la Musique” means “Festival of Music”.
- The day is observed annually on 21 June.

### International Day of the Tropics: June 29



- International Day of the Tropics was observed on 29 June 2026 to highlight the biodiversity, cultural richness, and developmental challenges of tropical regions.
- The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016.
- It commemorated the release of the first State of the Tropics Report on 29 June 2014.
- Tropical regions cover about 40% of the world's land area and are home to nearly 40% of the global population.
- The observance drew attention to climate change, deforestation, food security, public health, and sustainable development.
- Governments and international organisations promoted policies supporting environmental conservation and resilience in tropical nations.

#### Static GK

- The Tropic of Cancer passes through 8 Indian states.
- The Tropic of Capricorn passes through 10 countries.
- Amazon Rainforest is the world's largest tropical rainforest.
- India's major tropical forests are located in the Western Ghats, Northeast India, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

### World MSME Day: June 27



- World MSME Day was observed on 27 June 2026 to recognise the contribution of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to employment, innovation, and economic development.

- The observance promoted entrepreneurship, sustainable industrialisation, and better access to finance for small businesses.
- Various programmes focused on digital adoption, skill development, financial inclusion, and business growth.
- The day highlighted the role of technology, digital payments, green manufacturing, and women entrepreneurship in strengthening MSMEs.
- MSMEs continued to play a significant role in India's GDP, exports, manufacturing output, and the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- The observance also encouraged global cooperation for building resilient and sustainable small enterprises.

### Static GK

- World MSME Day is observed annually on 27 June.
- It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017.
- MSME classification in India is based on investment and annual turnover.
- The responsible ministry is the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

### International Asteroid Day: June 30



- International Asteroid Day is observed every year on 30 June to raise global awareness about asteroids, near-Earth objects (NEOs), and planetary defence.
- The day commemorates the 1908 Tunguska Event in Siberia, Russia, the largest recorded asteroid impact event in modern history, which flattened nearly 2,000 square kilometres of forest.
- The observance was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2016 following a proposal supported by the Association of Space Explorers (ASE).
- Governments, scientists, and space agencies organize educational programmes, public outreach campaigns, and scientific discussions on asteroid detection and impact mitigation.

### Static GK Facts

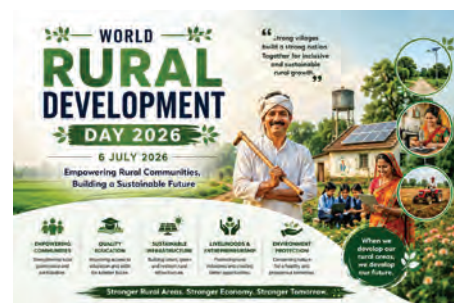
- International Asteroid Day is observed annually on 30 June.
- The Tunguska Event occurred on 30 June 1908 in Siberia, Russia.
- Near-Earth Objects (NEOs) are monitored by space agencies to assess potential impact risks.
- Asteroids are primarily found in the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter.

### World Zoonoses Day: July 6



- World Zoonoses Day was observed on 6 July 2026 to raise awareness about diseases that are transmitted between animals and humans.
- The day commemorates Louis Pasteur's successful administration of the world's first rabies vaccine on 6 July 1885.
- The observance promotes awareness about prevention, surveillance, early detection, and coordinated action against zoonotic diseases.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 60% of known infectious diseases and about 75% of emerging infectious diseases in humans originate from animals.
- The One Health approach was highlighted to promote collaboration among medical professionals, veterinarians, environmental experts, and policymakers for better disease prevention and control.

### World Rural Development Day: July 6



- World Rural Development Day was celebrated globally on July 6, 2026, to honor the resilience of rural communities worldwide.
- The official theme for the 2026 observance was designated as “Financing the First Mile of Food Systems”.
- The annual event marks the founding anniversary of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP).
- Major international institutions, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), actively advocated for grassroots financial empowerment.
- In India, the Ministry of Cooperation emphasized strengthening rural cooperative societies to expand local services and drive inclusive growth.

### Static GK

- CIRDAP Headquarters: Located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- IFAD Headquarters: Located in Rome, Italy.
- World Rural Development Day: Celebrated annually on July 6.
- CIRDAP Establishment Year: Founded in the year 1979.

## India Celebrated 3rd NAMASTE Day to Honor Sanitation Workers



- India observed the 3rd NAMASTE Day on 14 July 2026 to mark three years of the NAMASTE Scheme and honour sanitation workers.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organised the main celebration at Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata, while ULBs conducted similar programmes across the country.
- The observance recognised the contribution of sewer workers, septic tank workers, waste pickers and former manual scavengers, and promoted their safety, dignity and welfare.
- ULBs organised health check-up camps, safety training, demonstrations of mechanised sanitation equipment, PPE awareness programmes and distribution of welfare benefits.

- The NAMASTE Scheme promoted mechanised sanitation services to replace hazardous manual practices and improve the social, economic and occupational well-being of sanitation workers.

### Static GK

- NAMASTE Scheme was launched in FY 2023–24.
- The main event of NAMASTE Day 2026 was held at Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata.
- The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

## World Youth Skills Day: July 15



- World Youth Skills Day 2026 was observed globally on 15 July 2026 with the theme “Skills for a Shared Future”.
- The 2026 theme highlighted the importance of AI, digital, green and vocational skills to prepare young people for future jobs and sustainable development.
- The observance promoted lifelong learning, inclusive education and collaboration among governments, industries and educational institutions to build a future-ready workforce.
- The day emphasised skill development to improve employability, entrepreneurship, innovation and economic growth.

### Static GK

- World Youth Skills Day is observed annually on 15 July.
- The first World Youth Skills Day was observed in 2015.

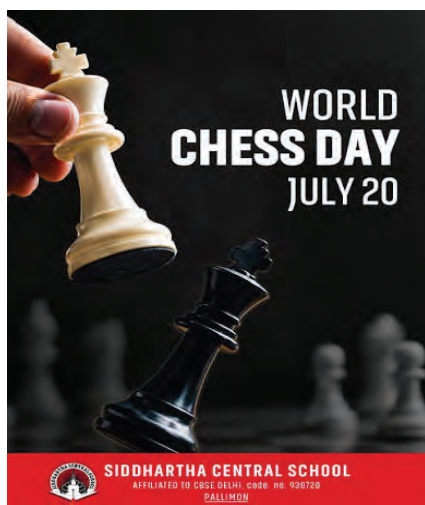
## World Emoji Day: July 17

- World Emoji Day was observed on 17 July 2026 to celebrate the role of emojis in digital communication.
- The 2026 theme was “Universal Expressions, One Digital World”.



- The observance promoted inclusive, expressive, and culturally diverse digital communication.
- The Unicode Consortium continued to support the development of diverse emoji representations.
- The date 17 July was chosen because it appears on the Calendar Emoji (📅) across major operating systems.
- World Emoji Day was founded by Jeremy Burge, the founder of Emojipedia.

### World Chess Day: July 20

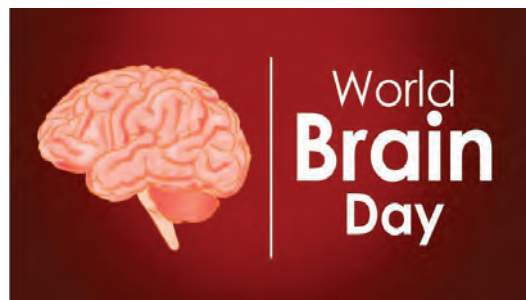


- World Chess Day was celebrated on 20 July 2026 to mark the 102nd anniversary of the founding of FIDE.
- FIDE and the International School Chess Federation declared 2026 as the “Year of Chess in Education”.
- The celebrations promoted chess education and encouraged games in symbolic public locations.
- The observance commemorated the establishment of FIDE in Paris on 20 July 1924.
- World Chess Day promotes the educational, cultural, and intellectual value of chess worldwide.

### Static GK

- FIDE was founded on 20 July 1924 in Paris, France.
- FIDE is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Wilhelm Steinitz became the first official World Chess Champion in 1886.
- Arkady Dvorkovich is the President of FIDE.

### World Brain Day: July 22



- World Brain Day was observed on 22 July 2026 to raise awareness about brain health and neurological disorders.
- The theme for 2026 was “Brain Health: Access for All”.
- The campaign highlighted equitable access to neurological care and focused on equity, early intervention, prevention, and local access to treatment.
- The observance aimed to increase awareness of neurological disorders affecting more than 3.4 billion people worldwide.
- The campaign was coordinated by the World Federation of Neurology (WFN).

### Static GK

- World Brain Day is observed every year on 22 July.
- The World Federation of Neurology was established in 1957.
- The headquarters of the World Federation of Neurology is in London, United Kingdom.

### National Broadcasting Day: July 23

- National Broadcasting Day was observed on 23 July to commemorate India’s first radio broadcast in 1927.
- The first broadcast was made from the Bombay Station by the Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) on 23 July 1927.
- The occasion marked the beginning of organised public broadcasting in India, leading to the establishment of All India Radio (AIR) in 1936.



- The day highlighted the role of radio in public communication, education, disaster management, and national integration.

- Modern broadcasting has expanded through FM radio, online streaming, podcasts, and digital platforms.

### Static GK

- National Broadcasting Day is observed every year on 23 July.
- All India Radio was established in 1936 and was renamed Akashvani in 1956.
- Prasar Bharati became the autonomous broadcaster of AIR and Doordarshan in 1997.
- India's first FM radio service was launched in Chennai on 23 July 1977.