



August - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ IIT Bombay Associate Professor Karthikeyan Lanka was selected for the National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) Young Scientist Award 2026, which will be presented during the 96th NASI Annual Session at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in December 2026.
- ❖ The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Moderna's mFlusiva, the first mRNA-based seasonal influenza vaccine.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati developed "E-Eye", a low-cost portable optical sensing device for rapid detection of toxicants and cancer-causing heavy metals.
- ❖ The Ministry of Railways approved reforms to the Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for Container Train Operators (CTOs).
 - A single All-India Licence will replace route-specific restrictions, allowing CTOs to operate across the Indian railway network.
- ❖ National Javelin Day is observed every year on August 7 in India, as the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) chose the date in 2021 to mark Neeraj Chopra's Olympic javelin gold.
 - On August 7, 2021, Neeraj Chopra won the Tokyo Olympics men's javelin throw gold with 87.58 metres, becoming the first Indian athlete to win an Olympic gold in athletics.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

500-Year-Old Vishnu Idol Found

- ❖ A Vishnu idol believed to be around 500 years old was unearthed from the dry Palar riverbed at Puliyanakannu village in Ranipet, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The granite idol, about 2 feet tall and 1.5 feet wide.
- ❖ Local historians believe it may belong to the Vijayanagara period, when temple construction expanded in the region.
- ❖ The idol's head was slightly damaged, while two arms, including the one holding the chakra, remained intact.
- ❖ Under the Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878, treasure found buried below one foot is treated as government property and must be handed over to the authorities.



NATIONAL NEWS

Bankers' Books Evidence Bill 2026



- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 on 5 August 2026 by voice vote.

- ❖ The Bill seeks to replace the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891, which was enacted during the colonial period.
- ❖ The existing law allows certified copies of bank records, including ledgers, cash books and account books, to be used as evidence in legal proceedings.
- ❖ The Bill updates the legal framework to reflect modern banking practices and electronic records.
- ❖ It provides a legal framework for the use of bank records as evidence in courts and other legal proceedings.

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission - WHO

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) recognised the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) as a South-East Asia Regional Centre of Excellence in Pharmacovigilance and a Technical Centre for Quality of Medicines.
- ❖ The recognition was announced during the 10th anniversary meeting of the South-East Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN) held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ❖ SEARN was established by the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) in 2016 to strengthen medicine regulatory systems among member countries.
- ❖ The recognition acknowledges IPC's work in medicine safety monitoring, pharmaceutical quality standards and regulatory capacity-building across the region.



Commercial coal mining in India

- ❖ Domestic coal production has crossed one billion tonnes for two consecutive years, and private sector participation has expanded significantly since the launch of commercial coal auctions in 2020.

- ❖ Coal meets nearly 55 per cent of the country's primary energy requirements and contributes more than 70 per cent of electricity generation.
- ❖ India possesses the world's fifth-largest coal resources and is the second-largest producer and consumer of coal globally.
- ❖ Around five lakh mine workers are engaged in coal production across more than 350 mines.
- ❖ The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 subsequently established a statutory framework for the reallocation of coal blocks through transparent auctions.
- ❖ In 2020, commercial coal mining was launched.
- ❖ The reform allowed companies to sell coal freely to any consumer at market-determined prices, removing the earlier restriction that coal could only be used for captive purposes.
- ❖ The new regime also replaced the fixed per-tonne payment system with a revenue-sharing model under which successful bidders pay the government a percentage of their revenue linked to the National Coal Index.
- ❖ It also allows 100 per cent foreign direct investment through the automatic route.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting 2026

- ❖ The 16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.

- ❖ Members finalised the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2030 for submission to BRICS leaders at the upcoming summit in New Delhi.
- ❖ They endorsed the Global Value Chains Action Plan 2026–2030, including the BRICS Technical Council and BRICS Connect initiative.
- ❖ The meeting adopted Guiding Principles for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) credit, promoting cash-flow-based lending to help address the global trade finance gap of about \$2.5 trillion.
- ❖ India highlighted food security, farmers' interests and Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) for developing countries under the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework.



BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting

- ❖ The 10th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
- ❖ The meeting adopted a Joint Declaration to strengthen industrial cooperation in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), photovoltaics, start-ups, innovation, transport and logistics.
- ❖ A Framework for Cooperation in the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Working Group was adopted to strengthen MSME ecosystems among BRICS countries.
- ❖ The Terms of Reference and Action Plan for the BRICS Working Group on Photovoltaic Industry were adopted to promote cooperation in solar energy.
- ❖ India proposed a BRICS Incubator Network and BRICS Startup Innovation Fund to support innovation-led growth and start-ups.

- ❖ The meeting was held under the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability” through the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR).



Danube River Crisis – Europe

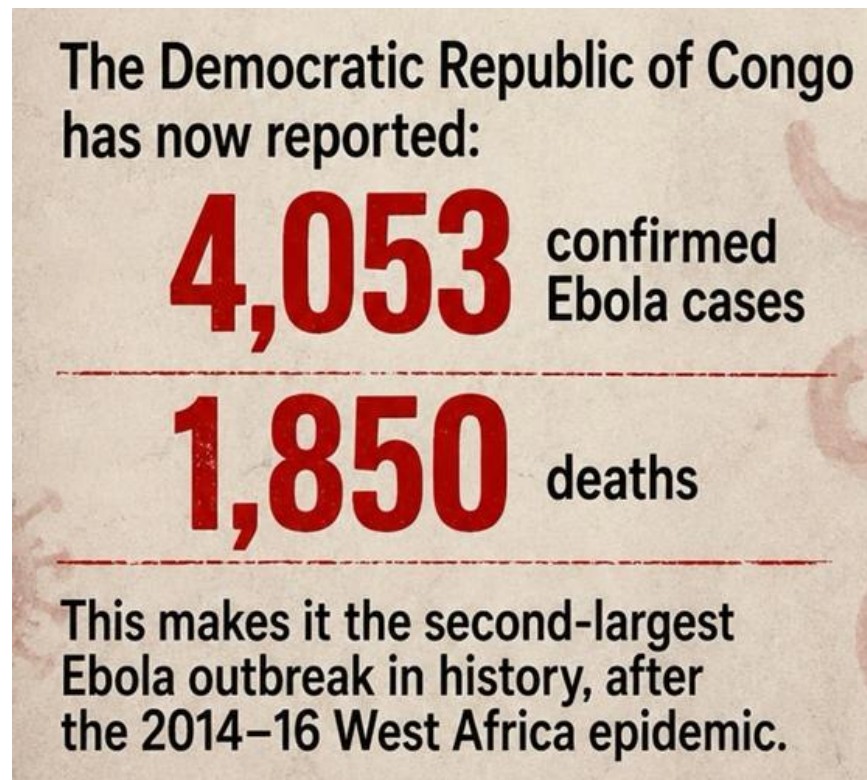


- ❖ The Danube River in Europe has reached record-low levels due to prolonged heatwaves and below-average rainfall.

- ❖ The nearly 2,900-km-long river flows through or borders 10 countries and is an important route for transporting goods such as grain, steel and fuel.
- ❖ Low water levels have disrupted shipping, ferries and tourism, while exposing shipwrecks, wartime relics and other objects from the riverbed.
- ❖ Hungary's Paks Nuclear Power Plant has reduced operations because the warm and low Danube water affects its cooling system; Romania is also considering emergency measures for the Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant.
- ❖ The crisis shows how extreme weather and drought can affect transport, energy, tourism and local livelihoods across Europe.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Congo Ebola Outbreak



- ❖ The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has recorded 4,053 Ebola infections and 1,850 deaths in the current outbreak.
- ❖ The outbreak was officially declared on 15 May 2026, but researchers found that it may have started in January 2026 or earlier in Ituri Province.
- ❖ Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is a severe viral disease that can cause fever, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhoea and bleeding.



- ❖ Ebola mainly spreads through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of infected people and through contact with infected bodies.
- ❖ The 2026 outbreak is the second-largest Ebola outbreak recorded, after the 2014–16 West Africa outbreak, which caused more than 28,000 cases.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

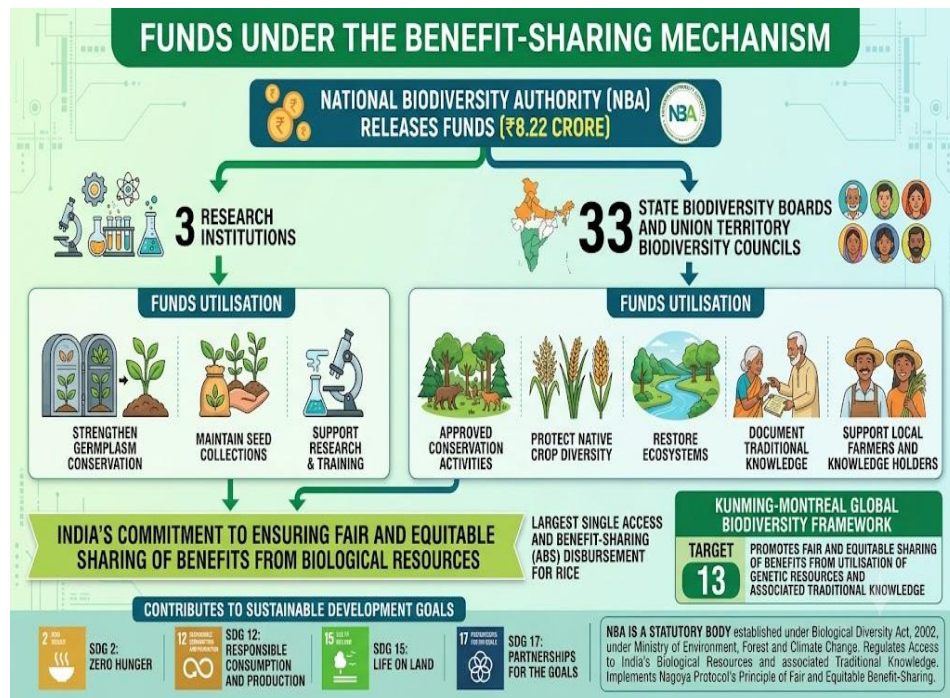
Funds under the benefit-sharing mechanism

- ❖ The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has released funds (₹8.22 crore) to three research institutions and 33 State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils.
- ❖ It is marking one of the largest single access and benefit-sharing (ABS) disbursements for rice.
- ❖ This disbursement reflects India's commitment to ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of the country's biological resources.
- ❖ The research institutions will utilise the funds to strengthen germplasm conservation, maintain seed collections and support research and training.
- ❖ The State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils will use their allocations for approved conservation activities, including protecting native crop diversity, restoring ecosystems, documenting traditional knowledge and supporting local farmers and knowledge holders.
- ❖ It supports Target 13 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which promotes fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.
- ❖ It also contributes to several Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
- ❖ NBA is a statutory body established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ❖ It regulates access to India's biological resources and associated traditional knowledge and implements the Nagoya Protocol's principle of fair and equitable benefit-sharing.

CBD

- ❖ The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a global legal treaty from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit with three core goals - the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

- ❖ The United States is the only UN member state which has not ratified the Convention.
- ❖ It has two supplementary agreements, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol.
- ❖ The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty governing the movements of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology from one country to another.
- ❖ The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity is another supplementary agreement to the CBD.

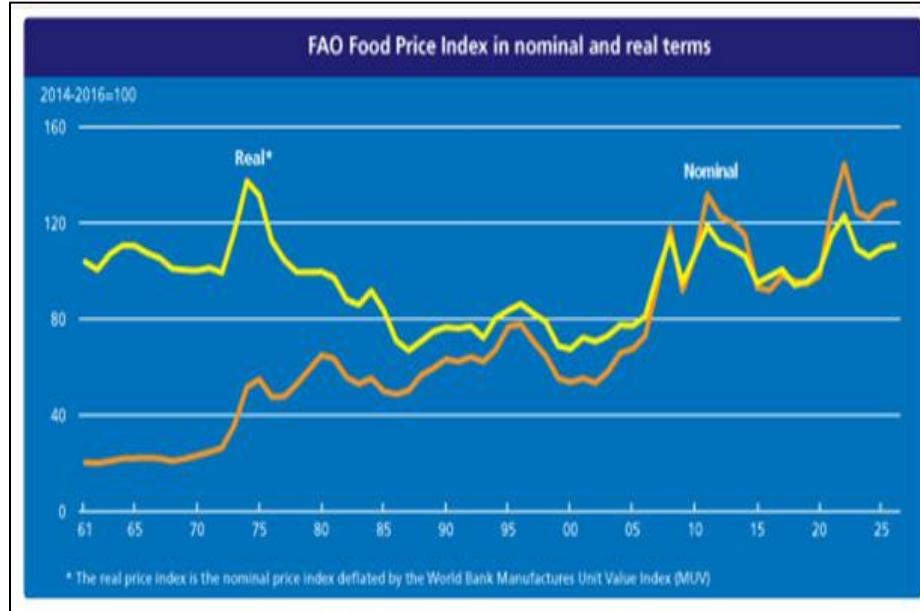


REPORTS AND INDICES

FAO Food Price Index – July 2026

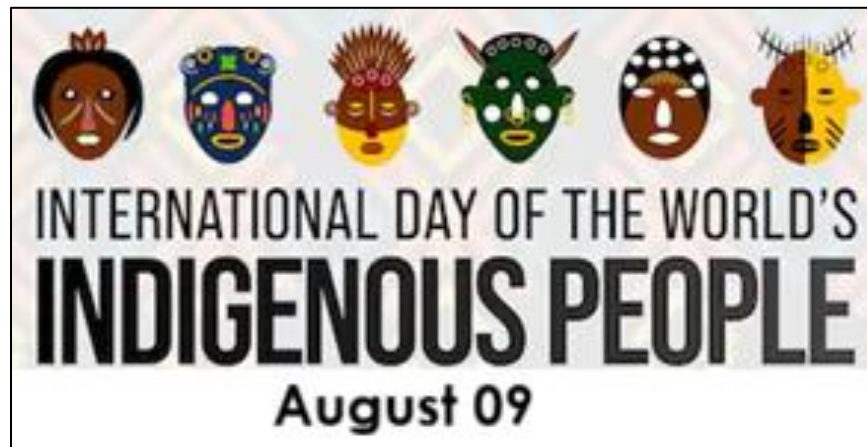
- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Price Index rose to a 3-year high of 131.1 points in July 2026, the highest since January 2023.
- ❖ The rise was mainly driven by a 3.4% increase in cereal prices, including a 5.8% rise in wheat prices due to heat damage and concerns over Black Sea exports.
- ❖ Vegetable oil prices rose by 2%, while sugar prices increased by 5.6% due to weather concerns and stronger ethanol demand.

- ❖ Meat prices fell by 2.8% from their June record high, while dairy prices declined by 0.7%.
- ❖ The FAO linked the rise in food prices to extreme weather, heatwaves, drought and conflicts affecting food production and trade.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2026 - August 09



- ❖ The day aims to promote Indigenous rights, cultures, traditional knowledge, equality and well-being.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established the day in 1994.

- ❖ August 9 marks the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in 1982.
- ❖ The day promotes the protection of Indigenous cultures, languages, traditional knowledge, land rights and self-determination.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being.”

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

81st Nagasaki Bombing Anniversary

- ❖ Japan observed the 81st anniversary of the Nagasaki atomic bombing on August 9, 2026, remembering the victims of the 1945 attack.
- ❖ The United States dropped the atomic bomb “Fat Man” on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, during World War II.
- ❖ Fat Man was a plutonium-based implosion-type nuclear bomb, while the bomb dropped on Hiroshima was the uranium-based “Little Boy.”
- ❖ The Nagasaki bomb had an explosive power of about 21 kilotons of TNT and caused massive destruction and loss of life.
- ❖ Nuclear bombs release enormous energy through nuclear fission or fusion, producing a powerful blast, intense heat and radiation.



India Day Proclamation - August 15

- ❖ Massachusetts declared August 15, 2026, as India Day across the state, while Boston also issued a similar proclamation.

- ❖ The declaration was issued by Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey on August 1, 2026, coinciding with the 79th anniversary of India's Independence.
- ❖ Boston Mayor Michelle Wu also declared August 15 as India Day in the city and welcomed the opening of the new Indian Consulate in Boston.
- ❖ The Indian diaspora in the United States has more than 5 million people of Indian origin, with major contributions in medicine, science, technology, education, business and public service.
- ❖ The proclamation also mentioned the visit of INS Sudarshini, an Indian Navy sail training ship, to Boston for the SAILBOSTON-250 event.
- ❖ Massachusetts had earlier declared August 15 as India Day in 2025, following the 4th International India Day Parade held at Boston Harbor.

