



July - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is setting up India's first High-Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research Centre at Keylong in Lahaul and Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has appointed Layola Mani as Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation for a three-year term, succeeding Dindigul I. Leoni.
- ❖ ISRO successfully completed the flight acceptance hot test of the indigenous CE20 Cryogenic Engine for the upcoming LVM3-M7 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3 Mission-7) at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri.
 - The CE20 is an indigenous high-thrust cryogenic rocket engine that powers the upper stage of the LVM3, India's heaviest operational launch vehicle.
- ❖ At least 15 Indian tourists died after a speedboat capsized near May Rut Ngoai Islet, Phu Quoc, Vietnam, on 11 July 2026.
- ❖ Ahmedabad, Gujarat, created a Guinness World Record by planting 3.61 lakh saplings in one hour on 12 July 2026 at Bhadaj.
- ❖ ONGC completed drilling its second geothermal well in Puga Valley, Ladakh, in July 2026.
- ❖ India's Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) secured the runner-up position at the Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) 2026 held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
 - The award recognised FIU-IND's investigation into a large-scale cyber fraud and money laundering network.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Supreme Court on Cow Slaughter Ban

- ❖ The Supreme Court (SC) stayed the Madras High Court (HC) order directing a complete ban on cow and calf slaughter in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Madras High Court had ordered a State-wide ban on May 27, 2026, but the Tamil Nadu Government challenged the order before the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The State argued that the Tamil Nadu Animal Preservation Act, 1958, allows the slaughter of cows above 10 years of age if certified unfit for work and breeding.
- ❖ The Supreme Court observed that the High Court's order required prima facie correction and stayed the blanket ban.

- ❖ The Court also noted that existing laws regulate slaughter in licensed slaughterhouses rather than imposing a complete prohibition.



NATIONAL NEWS

Central Vista Update

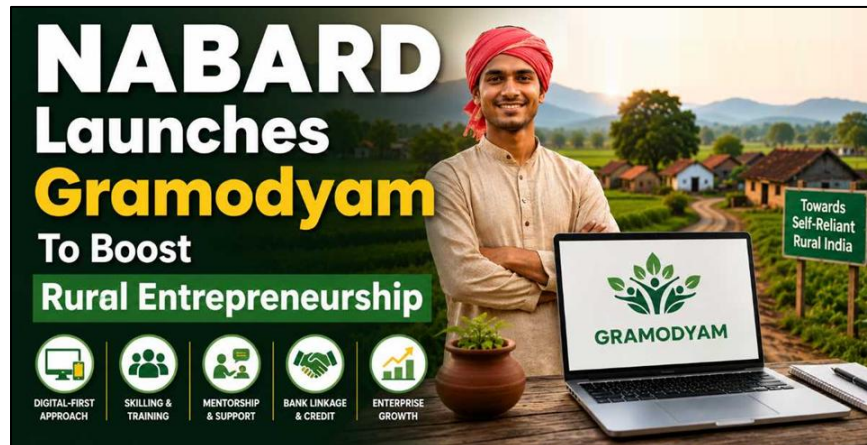


- ❖ The Central Vista area in New Delhi is being referred to as the Kartavya Bhawan Complex or Kartavya Bhawan Area from 12 July 2026.
- ❖ The renamed area includes government buildings, Kartavya Marg, and upcoming structures under the Central Vista Redevelopment Project.
- ❖ Central Vista is the central administrative zone of India, located between Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate in New Delhi.

- ❖ Three buildings under the project have been completed and named Kartavya Bhawans, with the first inaugurated in August 2025.
- ❖ Earlier, Rajpath was renamed Kartavya Path in 2022, and the new Prime Minister's Office (PMO) complex was renamed Seva Teerth in 2025.

Gramodyam Programme

- ❖ NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) bank launched Gramodyam on its 45th Foundation Day on 13 July 2026 to promote rural entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Gramodyam is a three-year pilot programme aimed at creating around 4,000 rural entrepreneurs across India.
- ❖ The programme follows a digital-first hybrid model and will support rural youth in starting sustainable businesses.
- ❖ It is a joint initiative of NABARD and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ❖ The programme provides skill training, entrepreneurship development, mentoring, counselling, and enterprise setup support.

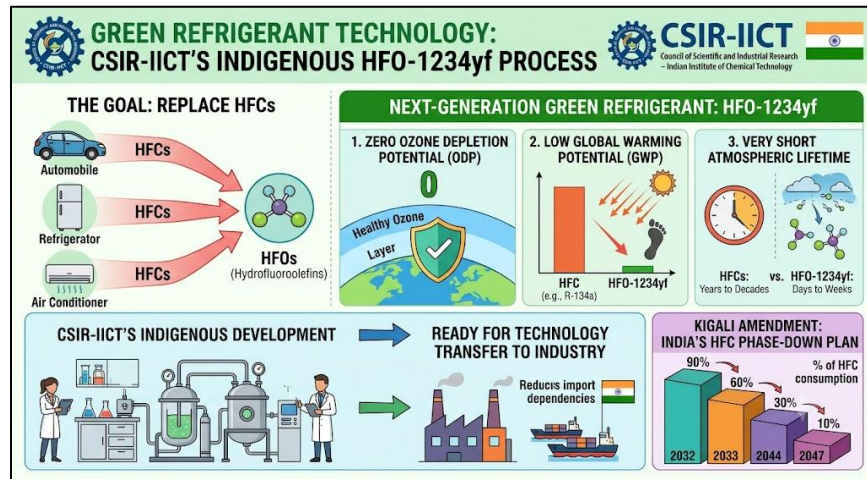


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Green Refrigerant Technology - CSIR-IICT

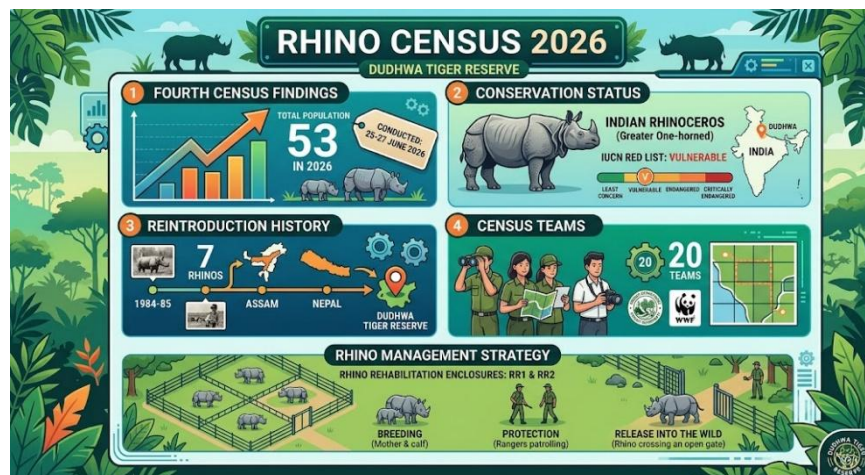
- ❖ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) has developed India's first indigenous process technology to manufacture Hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs), a next-generation green refrigerant.
- ❖ Hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs) are designed to replace Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) used in air conditioners, refrigerators, and automobile cooling systems.

- ❖ The technology produces HFO-1234yf, which has zero Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP), low Global Warming Potential (GWP), and a very short atmospheric lifetime.
- ❖ The indigenous process is ready for technology transfer to industry, reducing dependence on imported refrigerant technology.
- ❖ India will phase down Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in four stages from 2032 to 2047 under the Kigali Amendment.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Rhino Census 2026



- ❖ The rhino population in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh, increased to 53 after the fourth rhino census conducted from 25–27 June 2026.
- ❖ The Indian Rhinoceros (Greater One-horned Rhinoceros) is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List.

- ❖ The rhino reintroduction programme in Dudhwa began in 1984–85 with seven rhinos brought from Assam and Nepal.
- ❖ The 2026 census was conducted by 20 teams of forest officials and World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) staff.
- ❖ Dudhwa Tiger Reserve manages rhinos through Rhino Rehabilitation enclosures (RR1 and RR2) for breeding, protection, and release into the wild.

India's Forest Wealth



- ❖ A study published in Environmental and Sustainability Indicators estimated that India's forests provide ecosystem services worth around \$2.5 trillion per year.
- ❖ The study analysed 45 valuation studies (2000–2024) and estimated an average value of \$31,001 per hectare per year.
- ❖ India's forest and tree cover of about 8.27 lakh sq km provides services like carbon storage, water regulation, flood control, pollination, and biodiversity conservation.
- ❖ Tropical dry deciduous forests contribute the highest total value, while tropical thorn forests have the highest per-hectare value.

- ❖ The study highlighted the need to include forest ecosystem value in national accounting through the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework.

REPORTS AND INDICES

World Intangible Investment Report 2026

- ❖ The World Intangible Investment Report 2026, launched by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Luiss Business School, highlighted India's growth as a global innovation hub.
- ❖ The report stated that India recorded the fastest growth in intangible investment among the world's 15 largest economies.
- ❖ India's intangible investment reached \$78.2 billion in 2023, growing by 7.9%, driven by software, research and development (R&D), intellectual property (IP), innovation and organisational capabilities.
- ❖ The report highlights India's shift towards a knowledge-driven economy supported by digital transformation, startups and innovation.
- ❖ It reflects India's strengthening innovation ecosystem through reforms, technology adoption and entrepreneurship.



Global Liveability Index 2026

- ❖ The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the Global Liveability Index 2026, ranking 173 cities based on living conditions and urban resilience.
- ❖ The index evaluates cities using five parameters: Stability (25%), Culture & Environment (25%), Healthcare (20%), Infrastructure (20%) and Education (10%).

- ❖ Copenhagen ranked as the world's most liveable city, while Indian cities received lower rankings due to pollution, healthcare gaps and urban challenges.
- ❖ Among Indian cities, New Delhi ranked 120th, followed by Mumbai (121st), Chennai (123rd) and Bengaluru (127th) globally.
- ❖ The index is published annually by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the research division of The Economist Group.

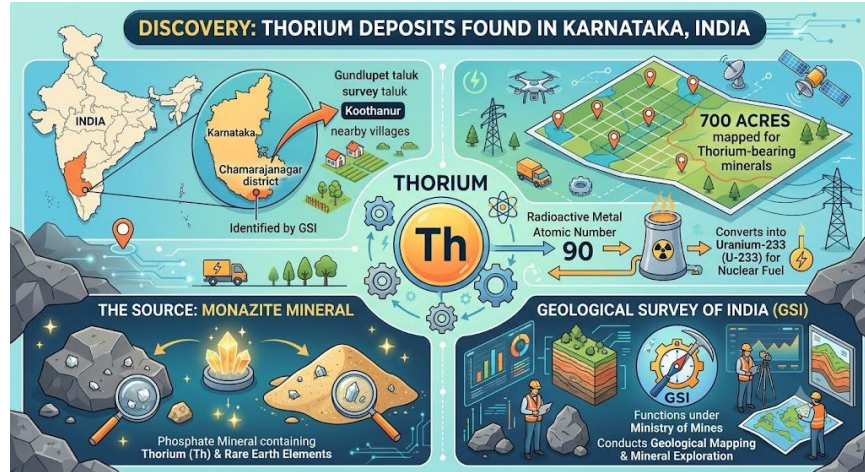


STATE NEWS

Thorium Deposits in Karnataka

- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) identified thorium-bearing mineral deposits in Gundlupet taluk, Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka.
- ❖ The deposits were mapped across around 700 acres in Koothanur and nearby villages.
- ❖ Thorium (Th) is a radioactive metal with atomic number 90 and can be converted into Uranium-233 for nuclear fuel use.
- ❖ The deposits are mainly associated with monazite, a phosphate mineral containing thorium and rare earth elements.

- ❖ GSI functions under the Ministry of Mines and conducts geological mapping and mineral exploration in India.



Jodhpuri Mojari – Rajasthan

What Exactly is a
Jodhpur Mojari?

Jodhpur Mojari is a traditional handcrafted leather footwear made entirely by **skilled artisans**.

- Handmade using genuine leather
- Stitched by hand instead of machines
- Known for its pointed toe and **intricate embroidery**
- Traditionally worn by **Rajput royalty**, nobles and locals

- ❖ Jodhpur's nearly 200-year-old Mojari craft received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Centre.
- ❖ Jodhpuri Mojari is a traditional handcrafted footwear from Jodhpur, Rajasthan, mainly made by the Jinagar community.
- ❖ The craft uses leather from camel, goat, cow, and buffalo and is known for being flexible, durable, and suitable for Rajasthan's climate.

- ❖ The Jinagar community historically made jeen (saddles) and myaan (leather sword/dagger covers) for armies.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Tamil Writer Poomani Demise

- ❖ Sahitya Akademi Award-winning Tamil writer Poomani passed away in Chennai at the age of 79.
- ❖ Poomani (born Manickavasagam) was known for portraying the lives of people in the karisal region of southern Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2014 for Agnaadi, based on the Sivakasi (1899) and Kazhugumalai (1895) communal riots.
- ❖ His notable books include Vekkai, Piragu, Neivedhyam, Kommai, Vaikkaal, Agnaadi, and the short-story collection Kizhisal.
- ❖ Vekkai was adapted into the National Award-winning Tamil film Asuran, and he also directed Karuvelam Pookal for the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).



SPORTS NEWS

Wimbledon 2026 Winners

- ❖ The winners of Wimbledon 2026, one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments, were announced across various categories.

- ❖ Jannik Sinner (Italy) won the men's singles title by defeating Alexander Zverev (Germany) and secured his second consecutive Wimbledon title.
- ❖ Linda Nosková (Czechia) won the women's singles title by defeating Karolina Muchová (Czechia) to claim her maiden Grand Slam title.
- ❖ Harri Heliövaara (Finland) and Henry Patten (United Kingdom) won the men's doubles title.
- ❖ Guo Hanyu (China) and Kristina Mladenovic (France) won the women's doubles title.
- ❖ Marcelo Arévalo (El Salvador) and Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia) won the mixed doubles title.

