



July - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new species of porcelain crab named *Pachycheles ravichandrani* in the Lakshadweep Islands.
- ❖ Researchers from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, discovered five new species of *Allographa* (lichen-forming fungi) in the Western Ghats: *Allographa keralensis*, *A. nayakae*, *A. paraconsanguinea*, *A. persistinspersa*, and *A. semicarbonisata*.
 - *Allographa* lichens act as indicators of forest health and environmental quality due to their sensitivity to pollution and habitat changes.
- ❖ India hosted the International Governing Board (IGB) meeting of the BRICS Network University (BRICS NU) and the conference on Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems under its BRICS Presidency 2026.
 - The meeting reviewed the BRICS Network University Action Plan (2025–2028) and adopted the BRICS Network University International Governing Board Declaration.
- ❖ India is hosting the 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting in Chandigarh to strengthen cooperation in global health priorities.
 - Discussions focus on health security, pandemic preparedness, digital health, affordable medicines, tuberculosis (TB), mental wellness and resilient health systems.
- ❖ The Indian Navy is hosting Operation Southern Readiness 26-2, a four-day multinational maritime security training exercise at the Southern Naval Command (SNC), Kochi, Kerala, in collaboration with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), a coalition of more than 40 countries.
- ❖ National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval has been selected for the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 for his contribution to India's national security.
- ❖ Eight-year-old Iya Krish from Thrissur, Kerala, became one of the youngest Asian climbers to summit Mount Toubkal, the highest peak in North Africa.
 - Mount Toubkal is located in Morocco and is the highest peak of the Atlas Mountains range and of North Africa.

NATIONAL NEWS

India's "White Gold" – Cotton Sector

- ❖ The Government of India released a factsheet titled "White Gold: India's Cotton Story", highlighting India's position as the world's largest cotton-growing country by area and the second-largest producer and consumer.
- ❖ India is the only country cultivating all four recognised cotton species and produced 290.91 lakh bales of cotton in 2025-26 (provisional).
- ❖ Cotton contributes around 19% of global fibre production and supports nearly 6 million cotton farmers.
- ❖ India ranks first globally in cotton cultivation area with 114.84 lakh hectares and second in production and consumption.
- ❖ The Mission for Cotton Productivity aims to increase cotton production from around 297 lakh bales to 498 lakh bales by 2031.



BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme for Chemical Parks

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) Scheme with an outlay of ₹3,030 crore to establish three dedicated chemical parks in India.

- ❖ The scheme aims to strengthen the chemical sector by providing world-class infrastructure and promoting domestic manufacturing.
- ❖ The Central Government will provide a grant of up to ₹1,000 crore per chemical park, with a minimum state government contribution of ₹500 crore.
- ❖ The parks will provide plug-and-play infrastructure including Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), waste management facilities, logistics, and utility networks.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented from Financial Year (FY) 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 to boost investments, exports, employment, and reduce import dependence.

**Cabinet approves Bharat Audyogik
Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA
Rasayan) Scheme**

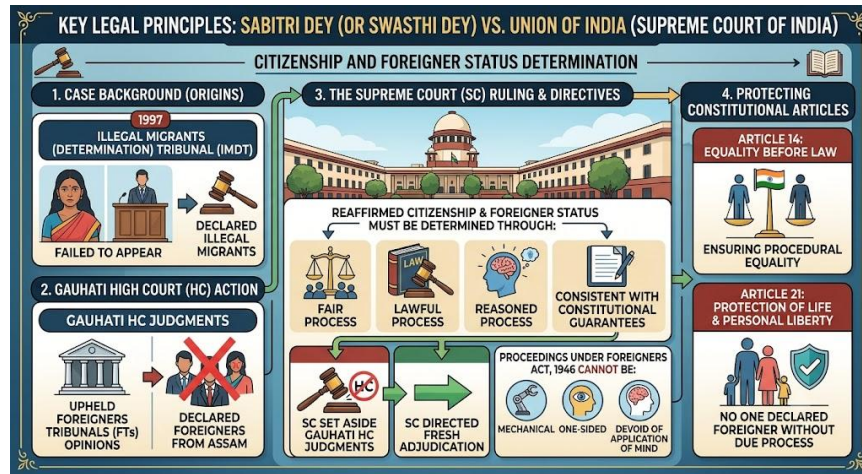
**Establishment of 3 dedicated Chemical
Parks with plug-and-play infrastructure
& basic utilities**

Outlay: ₹3,030 crore
Duration: 5 years (FY 2026-27 to 2030-31)
Land: Minimum 8 sq. km. (2,000 acres) each

Sabitri Dey or Swasthi Dey vs Union of India

- ❖ The Supreme Court (SC) reaffirmed that citizenship and foreigner status must be determined through a fair, lawful, and reasoned process, consistent with constitutional guarantees.
- ❖ It was setting aside a batch of Gauhati High Court judgments.
- ❖ The HC judgements had upheld the opinions of the Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) declaring several individuals from Assam as foreigners.
- ❖ The SC directed fresh adjudication, emphasizing that citizenship proceedings must adhere to the principles of fairness, reasonableness and due process.
- ❖ The Supreme Court reaffirmed that proceedings under the Foreigners Act, 1946 must be fair, lawful and reasoned, and cannot be mechanical, one-sided or devoid of application of mind.

- ❖ The case arose from a 1997 Illegal Migrants (Determination) Tribunal (IMDT) declaring Sabitri Dey and her husband as illegal migrants after they failed to appear before the tribunal.
- ❖ The judgment protects Articles 14 and 21, ensuring no one is declared a foreigner without a fair process.



Exercise Pitch Black 2026



- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in Exercise Pitch Black 2026.
- ❖ It is a major multinational air combat exercise hosted by Australia.
- ❖ The main objective is to enhance operational interoperability, military cooperation, and coordination in complex air warfare scenarios.

- ❖ The exercise will include over 19 nations, such as India, Australia, USA, UK, Japan, France, Indonesia, Singapore, South Korea, Canada, and other Indo-Pacific partners.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Europe's Water Crisis

- ❖ Several major European rivers, including the Danube, Rhine, Elbe and Loire, are experiencing very low water levels due to prolonged heatwaves and drought conditions.
- ❖ The Danube River, Europe's second-longest river, has reached its lowest level in 30 years in Romania.
- ❖ The Danube's flow at Bazias, Romania, has declined to around 1,700 cubic metres per second (cu m/s), much below its July average.
- ❖ The Rhine River's low water levels have affected cargo transport, forcing ships to carry reduced loads and increasing shipping costs.
- ❖ The Loire River in France has dried up in several stretches, leaving only isolated pools due to intense heat and drought.



India and Romania Strategic Partnership

- ❖ President of India Droupadi Murmu visited Romania and held bilateral talks with Romanian President Nicușor Dan to strengthen India–Romania relations.
- ❖ This was the first State Visit by an Indian President to Romania in nearly three decades.
- ❖ Both countries agreed to enhance cooperation in trade, investment, supply chains, education, culture, and science and technology.

- ❖ India and Romania aim to double bilateral trade within the next three years and promote business cooperation.
- ❖ Both sides agreed to celebrate 2028 as the “India–Romania Year of Innovation” to mark 80 years of diplomatic relations.



South-North Commission on Development



- ❖ It was formally launched at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference.
- ❖ It aims to rewrite the rules of global engagement by moving past traditional, outdated donor-recipient models.
- ❖ This independent global commission is co-chaired by Olaf Scholz (former German Chancellor) and Laura Chinchilla (former President of Costa Rica).

- ❖ The initiative is explicitly modelled after the historic 1977 Brandt Commission.
- ❖ It is reviving its spirit to address systemic global inequalities in an increasingly multipolar world.

ECONOMY NEWS

FDI Relaxation for Export-Oriented E-commerce

- ❖ The Government has relaxed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rules for e-commerce companies by allowing inventory-based models for exports of domestically manufactured goods.
- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued a Press Note on July 23, 2026, allowing foreign investment in e-commerce firms that hold inventory for export purposes.
- ❖ Earlier, FDI was allowed only in Business-to-Business (B2B) e-commerce and marketplace-based models without inventory ownership.
- ❖ The move aims to increase access to global markets for Indian sellers and promote exports.
- ❖ The relaxation applies only to export-related inventory and does not change existing restrictions on domestic multi-brand retail.



RBI Financial Stability Report 2026

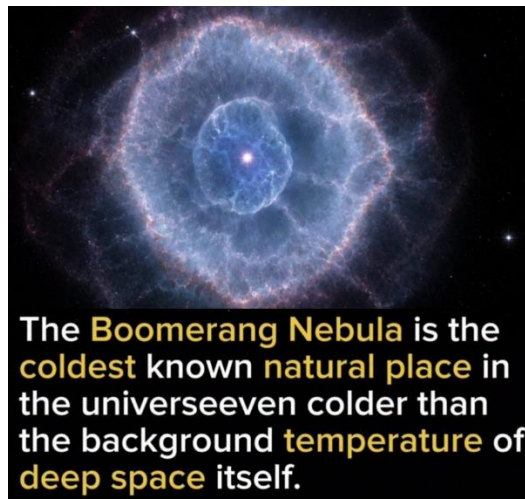
- ❖ It is a comprehensive biannual publication released by the RBI since 2010
- ❖ It gives an overall view of the financial market of the country.

- ❖ The report is published bi-annually and gives an idea of the current condition of banks, NBFCs, insurance companies, Mutual Funds, etc.
- ❖ It is compiled with inputs from all financial authorities by the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) committee.
- ❖ It has a positive view about the banking sector of India, mentioning the lowest-ever bad loans, high profitability, high liquidity, and strong credit growth.
- ❖ The report also indicates the issues related to cyber threats, geopolitical risks, and inflation, as well as the growth of unsecured loans.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Coldest Known Natural Object - Boomerang Nebula

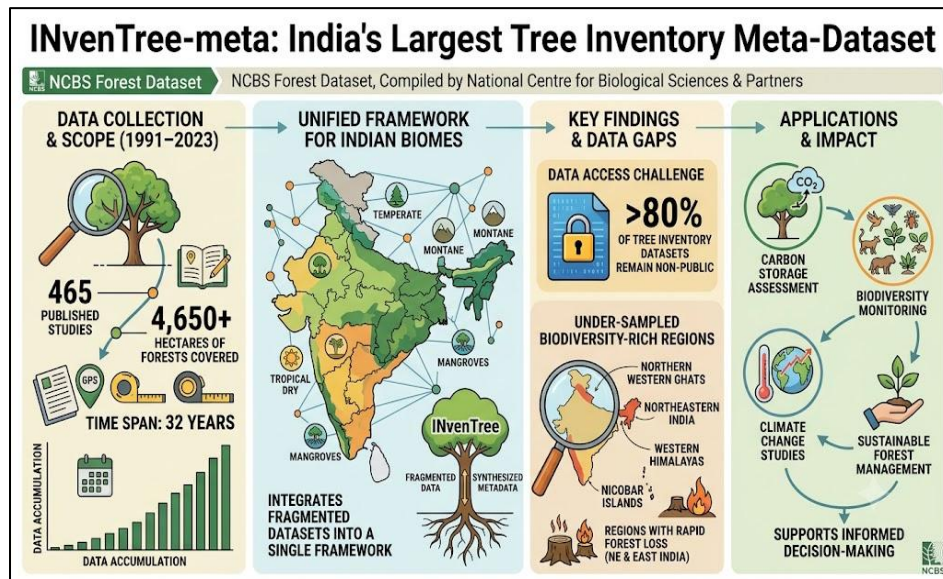


- ❖ The Boomerang Nebula has been identified as the coldest known naturally occurring object in the universe, with a temperature of about -272°C , near absolute zero.

- ❖ The nebula is located around 5,000 light-years away in the Centaurus constellation.
- ❖ It is colder than Antarctica's lowest recorded temperature and even colder than the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation of space.
- ❖ The extreme cold is caused by the rapid expansion of gas expelled from a dying red giant star, which reduces its temperature.
- ❖ Observations by the Atacama Large Milli meter/sub millimeter Array (ALMA) helped scientists study its structure and ultra-cold gas flow.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

NCBS Forest Dataset



- ❖ Researchers from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and partner institutions have compiled the INvenTree-meta, India's largest meta-dataset of tree inventory studies.
- ❖ INvenTree-meta is India's largest tree inventory meta-dataset, covering 465 published studies (1991–2023) across 4,650+ hectares of forests.
- ❖ It integrates fragmented tree inventory datasets into a single framework covering all major Indian biomes.
- ❖ The dataset highlights that over 80% of tree inventory datasets remain non-public, and biodiversity-rich regions such as the Northern Western Ghats, Northeastern India, Western Himalayas, and Nicobar Islands are under-sampled.
- ❖ It also identifies data gaps in regions facing rapid forest loss, especially North East and Eastern India.

- ❖ The dataset supports carbon storage assessment, biodiversity monitoring, climate change studies, and sustainable forest management.

World's first successful scientific reintroduction of tigers

- ❖ The world's first successful scientific reintroduction of tigers into a landscape of local extinction took place at the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, India.
- ❖ After poachers completely wiped out its tiger population by 2005, the reserve underwent a historic, science-based translocation program.
- ❖ Sariska has witnessed remarkable recovery from a situation of local extinction in 2005 to supporting 56 tigers today.
- ❖ Highlighting the country's achievements in tiger conservation, the Government said the number of tiger reserves has increased from 46 to 58 over the past decade.
- ❖ The Government also noted that India has successfully achieved the St. Petersburg Declaration target of doubling its wild tiger population by 2022.
- ❖ Project Cheetah is the world's first inter-continental large carnivore reintroduction.

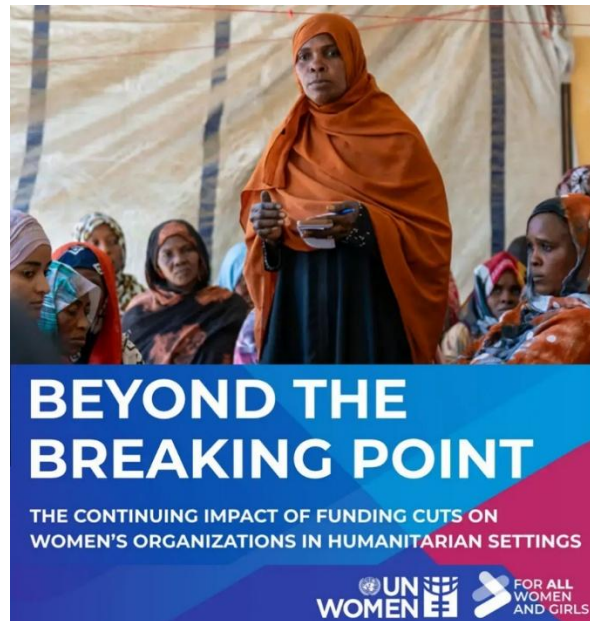


REPORTS AND INDICES

Beyond the Breaking Point - UN Women report

- ❖ At least one million women and girls have lost access to critical support in humanitarian crises because of aid cuts.
- ❖ The women-led and women's rights organisations working in conflict and crisis-affected countries are running out of money as demand for their services rises.

- ❖ Nearly nine in 10 organisations said they could no longer meet current levels of need.



STATE NEWS

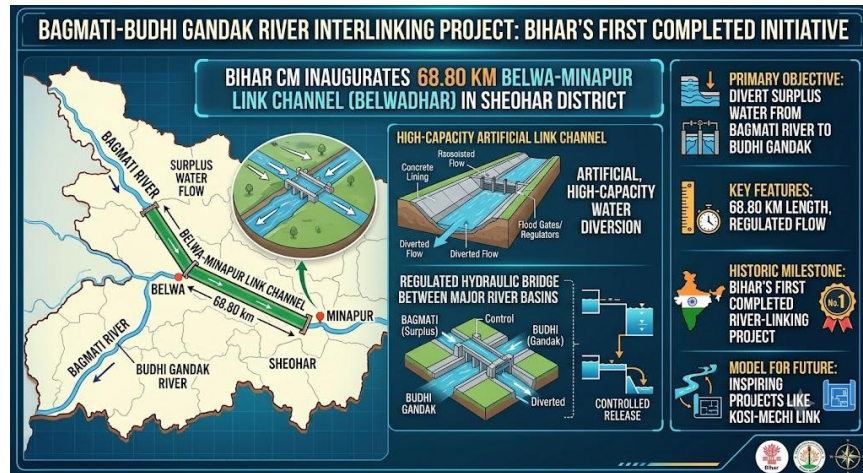
First Geothermal Well at Puga Valley



- ❖ India Commissions First Geothermal Wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh.
- ❖ It is India's first and deepest geothermal well.

- ❖ It is marking a significant step in the country's clean-energy transition.
- ❖ Puga Valley is located in Ladakh's south-eastern Changthang region, 22 km from the Salt Lake Valley.

Bagmati-Budhi Gandak River Interlinking Project



- ❖ Bihar Chief Minister inaugurated the 68.80 km Belwa-Minapur Link Channel (Belwadhar) in Sheohar, Bihar.
- ❖ The Belwa-Minapur Link Channel is designed to divert surplus water from the Bagmati River to the Budhi Gandak.
- ❖ It is an artificial, high-capacity water diversion
- ❖ It creates a regulated hydraulic bridge between two major river basins in Bihar.
- ❖ It is Bihar's first completed river-linking project.
- ❖ It serves as a model for future projects like the Kosi-Mechi Link.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Kargil Vijay Diwas 2026 - July 26

- ❖ The day marks India's victory in the Kargil War (1999) and pays tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during Operation Vijay.
- ❖ The conflict began in May 1999 after intruders crossed the Line of Control (LoC) and occupied Indian positions in the Kargil sector.
- ❖ The Line of Control (LoC) is the de facto military boundary that separates Indian- and Pakistani-controlled areas of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The Indian Army launched Operation Vijay, while the Indian Air Force (IAF) supported it through Operation Safed Sagar to recapture the occupied posts.

- ❖ India regained all occupied positions without crossing the Line of Control (LoC), and Operation Vijay was declared successful on 14 July 1999.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

WDMMA Global Air Power List



- ❖ Indian Air Force Ranked World's 3rd Strongest Air Force in WDMMA (World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft) 2026.



- ❖ It retains 6th overall (including all military air branches) in the rankings.
- ❖ The IAF has maintained its position ahead of China's People's Liberation Army Air Force for the fifth consecutive year.
- ❖ US Air Force and Russian Air Force rank higher as independent air arms.
- ❖ The World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft is a database that ranks air forces using its proprietary TruVal Rating (TVR) system.

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