



July - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Former World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand has taken charge as the Interim President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) after Arkady Dvorkovich stepped aside due to European Union (EU) sanctions.
- ❖ Hyderabad-based Paninian India Private Ltd unveiled Yantur, India's first private-sector turbofan engine development programme.
 - The 4.5 kilo Newton (kN) turbofan engine is being developed for the Svayatt L1 long-range autonomous cruise missile platform.
- ❖ Punjab has become the first Indian state to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a mainstream school subject from Classes I to XII under the Sarbat.AI initiative.
 - The initiative aims to create an AI-literate and innovation-driven student community with digital and technological skills.
- ❖ Spain declared a national emergency for the first time due to severe wildfires in Madrid and Ávila provinces.
 - More than 100,000 hectares of land have been burned in Spain in 2026, with 13 deaths reported due to wildfires.
- ❖ First Scientific Report on AI is the preliminary scientific assessment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) prepared by the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and commissioned by the United Nations (UN).
 - 7 Themes of the Report: AI science advances; applications in healthcare, education, and agriculture; economic implications; security and environmental impacts; human rights and democracy; cultural and individual wellbeing; and governance and reliability.
- ❖ The Panchayat Union Primary School at Kondappanaickenpatti, Salem, became the first government primary school in Tamil Nadu to receive ISO 9001:2015 certification.
 - The 71-year-old panchayat union primary school at Kondappanaickenpatti is the first government primary school in the district to receive the recognition.

NATIONAL NEWS

Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026

- ❖ The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 is set to be introduced in the Rajya Sabha by the Union Home Minister.

- ❖ The Bill seeks to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 by including the National Song (Vande Mataram) under its protection.
- ❖ It aims to provide legal protection to the National Song similar to the National Flag, Constitution, and National Anthem.
- ❖ The Bill proposes punishment of up to three years imprisonment, a fine, or both for intentionally preventing the singing of the National Anthem or National Song or disturbing such gatherings.
- ❖ Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1875 and later published in his novel Anandamath (1882).
- ❖ The Bill refers to Dr. Rajendra Prasad's statement (24 January 1950) that Vande Mataram should have equal status with Jana Gana Mana.



India's Installed Wind Power Capacity in 2026

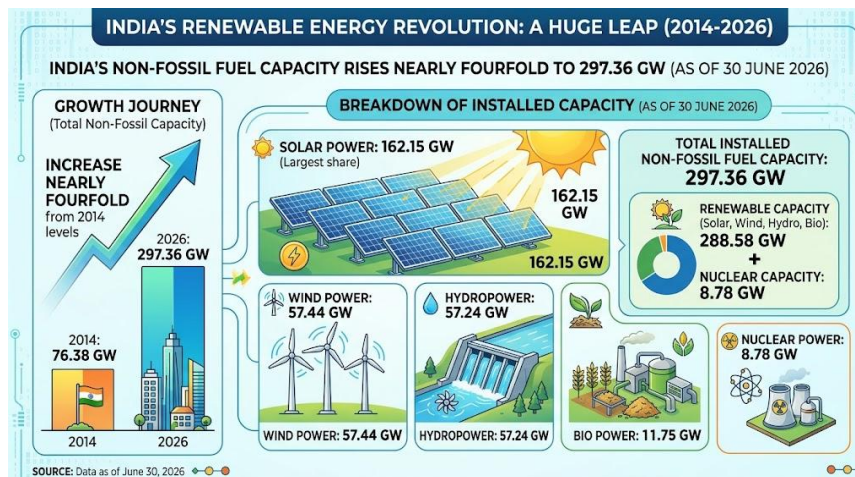
- ❖ India's Installed Wind Power Capacity reaches 57,443 MW as on June 30, 2026.
- ❖ While wind energy generation touched 106 billion units in FY 2025-26.
- ❖ India also retained its 4th position globally in wind energy installations after China, the United States, and Germany.
- ❖ It was according to the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) Report 2026.
- ❖ State-wise data shows Gujarat continues to lead the country with an installed wind power capacity of 16,086 MW, followed by Tamil Nadu (12,273 MW), Karnataka (8,896 MW), Maharashtra (6,318 MW) and Rajasthan (5,516 MW).
- ❖ 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in the renewable energy sector under the automatic route.
- ❖ To encourage investments in clean energy, the government has also waived Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) charges for eligible solar and wind power

projects and introduced a graded ISTS charge mechanism for projects commissioned after the notified timelines.

- ❖ The government has also notified the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) and Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) trajectory up to 2029–30.
- ❖ The RCO, applicable to designated consumers under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, mandates renewable energy consumption and includes specified procurement from decentralised renewable energy sources.



India's renewable energy capacity

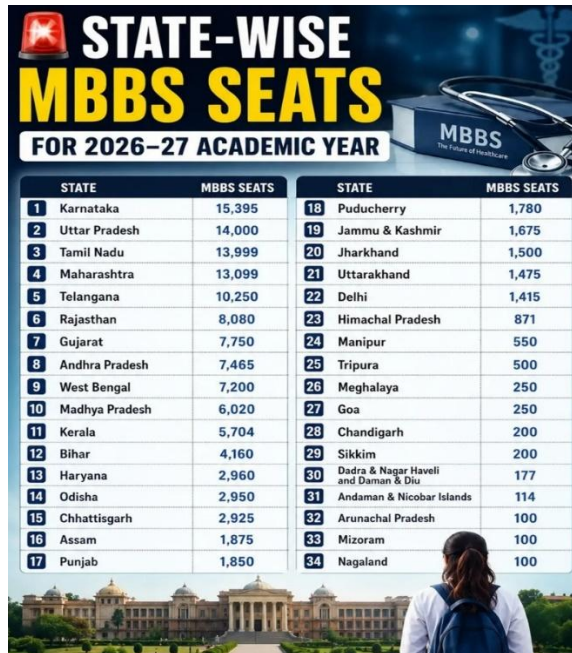


- ❖ India's renewable energy capacity at 288 GW.
- ❖ India's renewable energy capacity rises nearly fourfold to 288.58 GW since 2014.
- ❖ It was increasing nearly fourfold from 76.38 GW in 2014 as of 30 June 2026.
- ❖ The solar power accounts for the largest share of installed renewable capacity at 162.15 GW.

- ❖ It is followed by wind power (57.44 GW), hydropower (57.24 GW) and bio power (11.75 GW). Including 8.78 GW of nuclear capacity.
- ❖ India's total installed non-fossil fuel-based electricity capacity has reached 297.36 GW.

Highest Medical Seats in India

- ❖ Karnataka leads all Indian states with the highest number of medical seats, boasting 15,395 MBBS seats.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has a total of 88 medical colleges (51 government and 37 private) with 14,000 seats.
- ❖ Maharashtra has 84 medical colleges with 13,099 seats available.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has 78 medical colleges with 13,999 medical seats.
- ❖ The total number of medical colleges in Karnataka has increased to 75 this year.
- ❖ It is including 24 government medical colleges and 51 private medical colleges.

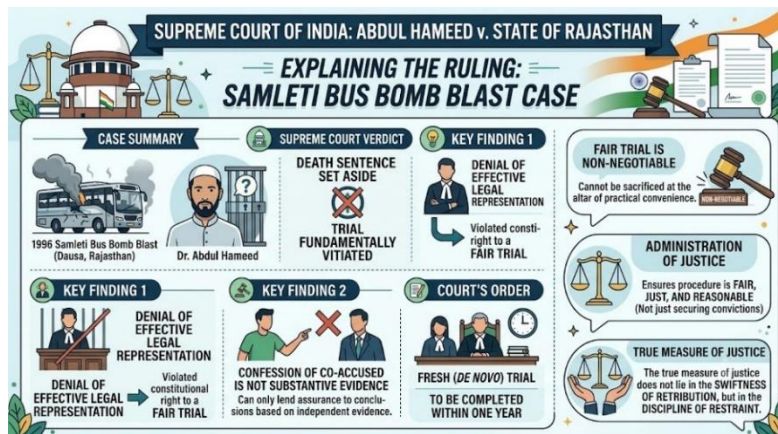


STATE	MBBS SEATS	STATE	MBBS SEATS
1 Karnataka	15,395	18 Puducherry	1,780
2 Uttar Pradesh	14,000	19 Jammu & Kashmir	1,675
3 Tamil Nadu	13,999	20 Jharkhand	1,500
4 Maharashtra	13,099	21 Uttarakhand	1,475
5 Telangana	10,250	22 Delhi	1,415
6 Rajasthan	8,080	23 Himachal Pradesh	871
7 Gujarat	7,750	24 Manipur	550
8 Andhra Pradesh	7,465	25 Tripura	500
9 West Bengal	7,200	26 Meghalaya	250
10 Madhya Pradesh	6,020	27 Goa	250
11 Kerala	5,704	28 Chandigarh	200
12 Bihar	4,160	29 Sikkim	200
13 Haryana	2,960	30 Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	177
14 Odisha	2,950	31 Andaman & Nicobar Islands	114
15 Chhattisgarh	2,925	32 Arunachal Pradesh	100
16 Assam	1,875	33 Mizoram	100
17 Punjab	1,850	34 Nagaland	100

Abdul Hameed v. State of Rajasthan

- ❖ The Supreme Court (SC), in Abdul Hameed v. State of Rajasthan, set aside the death sentence of Dr. Abdul Hameed in the 1996 Samleti Bus Bomb Blast case in Dausa, Rajasthan.
- ❖ Th SC holds that the trial was fundamentally vitiated due to the denial of effective legal representation, which violated his constitutional right to a fair trial.

- ❖ The Court ordered a fresh (de novo) trial to be completed within one year.
- ❖ The administration of criminal justice relies not just on securing convictions, but on ensuring the procedure is fair, just, and reasonable.
- ❖ The SC ruled that the constitutional guarantee of a fair trial is "absolutely non-negotiable and cannot be sacrificed at the altar of practical convenience."
- ❖ It can only be used to "lend assurance to a conclusion otherwise reached" on the basis of independent and legally admissible evidence.
- ❖ The Supreme Court reiterated that the confession of a co-accused is not substantive evidence.
- ❖ The Court remarked, "The true measure of justice does not lie in the swiftness of retribution, but in the discipline of restraint."



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Forced Labour Tariff on India - US



- ❖ The United States (US) imposed a 10% tariff on imports from India and 16 other countries over concerns related to forced labour in supply chains.

- ❖ The tariff was announced under Section 301 of the Trade Act, 1974, by the United States Trade Representative (USTR).
- ❖ India has been placed in the lower tariff tier of 10% after amending its Foreign Trade Policy to prohibit imports produced using forced labour.
- ❖ A total of 60 economies are covered under the measure; 17 countries face a 10% tariff, while 43 countries face a 12.5% tariff.
- ❖ The tariffs exclude certain products such as fuel, fertilisers, pharmaceuticals, and goods covered under existing trade agreements.

Yemen attack on Saudi Arabia 2026



- ❖ Yemen's Houthis militia attacked two Saudi Arabian oil tankers in the red sea.
- ❖ The threat of new front opening up in the US-Iran war came as the US military launched its 12th successive night of strikes.
- ❖ Iran also attacked Kuwait as well as the other US allies Bahrain and Jordan.
- ❖ Bab el-Mandeb, at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is the gateway to the Red Sea through which around 12% of the world's trade usually passes.
- ❖ East-West Pipeline (Petroline) - Spanning Saudi Arabia, this system has the capacity to transport several million barrels of oil daily from the Eastern Province to the port of Yanbu (city in Saudi Arabia) on the Red Sea.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia is the world leading crude exporter, producing 10 millions barrel per day.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia leads a coalition against the Houthis and imposed an air and sea blockade on Yemen in 2015.

- ❖ Yemen's civil war began in 2014 when the rebels seized the capital, Sanaa, and much of northern Yemen and forced the government into exile.
- ❖ The Houthis, officially known as Ansar Allah, are an Iran-backed, heavily armed political and military organization in Yemen

ECONOMY NEWS

India's First Domestic Gas Futures Contract



- ❖ India will launch its first domestic benchmark-based Natural Gas Futures Contract through the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- ❖ The contract is approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and will trade under the symbol NATGASIND.
- ❖ It is linked to the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) Gujarat (Dahej) hub price and is quoted in mmBtu (million British thermal units).
- ❖ The contract is cash-settled, with a trading unit of 250 mmBtu, and no physical gas delivery will take place.
- ❖ NSE Clearing will manage clearing, settlement, daily mark-to-market adjustments, and margin collection.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Otter Habitat in Mettur Region

- ❖ A study found a large population of smooth-coated otters (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) in the Mettur Dam and Cauvery River stretches of Salem district.

- ❖ The species is classified as Near Threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ The smooth-coated otter is the largest otter species in South Asia and is highly dependent on healthy freshwater ecosystems.
- ❖ Otters are apex semi-aquatic predators that play a key role in maintaining riverine food chain balance by controlling fish populations.
- ❖ The presence of otters indicates good water quality and relatively undisturbed river habitats.
- ❖ The Cauvery stretch near Mettur provides ideal conditions such as sandbanks, vegetation cover, and abundant fish prey for otters.
- ❖ The species is threatened mainly due to habitat loss, sand mining, pollution, and depletion of fish stocks.



New of ginger lily species - *Hedychium zubeengargianum*

- ❖ A new species of ginger lily, *Hedychium zubeengargianum*, has been named after late Assamese music legend Zubeen Garg.
- ❖ The species was discovered by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Shillong, Meghalaya.
- ❖ It was named in recognition of Zubeen Garg's contributions to music and nature conservation.

- ❖ The fragrant, creamy-white flowering plant was first discovered in 2018.
- ❖ Earlier in 2026, another new plant species, *Osbeckia zubeengargiana*, discovered in Manas National Park, Assam, was also named in his honour.



White-bellied Heron Habitat Threat

The White-bellied Heron is classified as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and is listed among the top 100 Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) species with an estimated population of less than 60 confirmed individuals throughout its range.



- ❖ A proposed 1,200 megawatt (MW) hydroelectric project on the Lohit River, Arunachal Pradesh, threatens the habitat of the Critically Endangered White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*).

- ❖ The Lohit River basin in Arunachal Pradesh supports about 70% of India's White-bellied Heron population, with only 6–9 individuals remaining in the country.
- ❖ The species has been listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List since 2007 and is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ The proposed dam may alter river flow, water turbidity, and riparian forests, affecting the bird's feeding and nesting habitats.
- ❖ The environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the project did not include the White-bellied Heron, despite its presence in the Lohit River basin.

Amazon Forest Fires at Historic Low

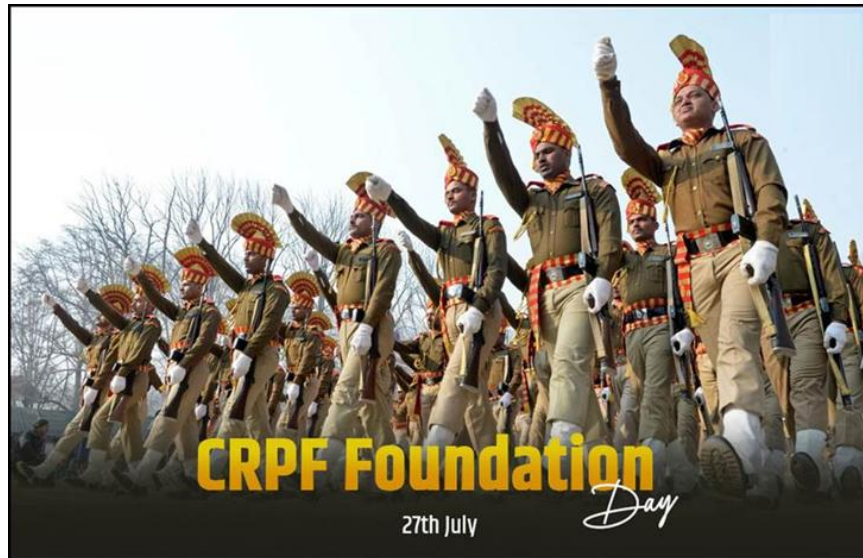


- ❖ Forest fires in Brazil's Amazon rainforest have declined to their lowest level since records began in 1985 due to reduced deforestation and favourable climatic conditions.
- ❖ The decline in fires was supported by a delayed rainy season, reduced deforestation, and increased community monitoring that limited fire spread.
- ❖ Most Amazon fires in 2024 were human-induced, mainly caused by agricultural land clearing, deforestation, and illegal mining activities.
- ❖ Scientists warned that a possible Super El Niño event may increase future fire risks by causing prolonged dry seasons.
- ❖ The Amazon Rainforest is the world's largest tropical rainforest, covering about 6 million sq. km across nine South American countries, with nearly 60% in Brazil.
- ❖ The Amazon Basin is a major biodiversity hotspot, containing around 10% of the world's known wildlife species and acting as an important global carbon sink.

- ❖ The Amazon River, originating in the Peruvian Andes, is the world's largest river by discharge and the second-longest river after the Nile.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Central Reserve Police Force Day 2026 - July 27



- ❖ The day aims to honour the service, sacrifice, and contributions of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in maintaining India's internal security.
- ❖ CRPF was established in 1939 as the Crown Representatives Police and was renamed the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in 1949.
- ❖ It is India's largest Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ CRPF plays a key role in counter-insurgency, anti-Naxal operations, riot control, internal security, and protection of vital installations.
- ❖ More than 2,255 CRPF personnel have laid down their lives in service and have been honoured with gallantry awards such as the Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, and Shaurya Chakra.

World Hepatitis Day 2026 - July 28

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about viral hepatitis and promote its prevention, testing, treatment, and elimination.
- ❖ The day is observed on the birth anniversary of Dr. Baruch Blumberg, who discovered the Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed its first diagnostic test and vaccine.

- ❖ It was first introduced by the World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA) in 2008 and officially recognised by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in 2010 as a World Health Organization (WHO) global health day.
- ❖ Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver caused mainly by Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E viruses.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) aims to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030 through vaccination, testing, and treatment.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down”.

