



Military Brat Defence Academy

Current Affairs Related to 24 July 2026

- ◆ **The Central Government has launched the eighth round of auctions for 20 blocks of critical and strategic minerals** across the country. These mineral blocks are located in nine states, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, and West Bengal. The initiative aims to boost the domestic availability of minerals essential for sectors such as clean energy, electric vehicles, defense, electronics, and advanced manufacturing, while also reducing import dependency. A total of 20 blocks have been included in this eighth round of auctions.
- ◆ **The Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India, has invited global tenders for setting up gigawatt-scale Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery manufacturing units** with a capacity of 10 GWh in the country. This capacity has been specifically reserved for grid-scale stationary storage applications. The initiative is being undertaken under the National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage, which is part of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme designed to promote domestic battery manufacturing.
- ◆ **Amid the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence in India, OpenAI has announced the appointment of Prabhjeet Singh as its new Managing Director for India.** He will assume office in September 2026 and report to Kiran Mani, the Managing Director for the Asia-Pacific region. This appointment is seen as a crucial step in the company's rapid expansion in India and its strategy to drive the widespread adoption of AI technology. Prabhjeet Singh will be OpenAI's most senior executive in India. His responsibilities will include expanding the user base, promoting AI adoption among enterprises, forging strategic partnerships, coordinating with regulatory bodies, and strengthening the company's operations.
- ◆ **Achieving a historic milestone in the clean energy and nuclear technology sectors, India inaugurated the world's first nuclear process heat-based hydrogen production facility** at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. This state-of-the-art facility is based on the Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) thermochemical cycle, with the necessary heat sourced from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR). This project stands as a significant example of India's scientific prowess and self-reliant technological development in the realm of clean, carbon-free hydrogen production.
- ◆ **A Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between India and the United Kingdom** has come into effect. The Indian liquor industry has welcomed this agreement. According to the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies, this pact will provide fresh momentum to trade, investment, technical cooperation, and industrial partnerships between the two nations. In particular, the reduction in import duties on Scotch whisky is expected to create new opportunities for both Indian and British industries. The India-UK CETA is a free trade agreement encompassing goods, services, investment, and regulatory cooperation.
- ◆ **The demand for restoring full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir has once again taken center stage** in the political arena. The National Conference organized protests at district headquarters across Jammu and Kashmir as well as in New Delhi. In Delhi, the protest commenced from Prithviraj Road after permission to hold it at Jantar Mantar was denied. The protest coincided with the opening day of the Parliament's monsoon session, thereby lending greater political significance to the demand. National Conference President Farooq Abdullah led the demonstration in Delhi, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also participating.
- ◆ **Achieving a significant technological milestone in civil aviation, India successfully conducted the first-ever satellite-based landing system approach** for a jet-engine aircraft at Udaipur Airport. The test was carried out using an IndiGo Airbus A320 aircraft under the supervision of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). During the operation, the aircraft successfully completed the approach using the GAGAN system.
- ◆ **The Helina missile represents a major indigenous achievement in bolstering India's defense capabilities.** Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), this third-generation anti-tank guided missile is specifically designed to be launched from helicopters. The full name of Helina is 'Helicopter-Launched Nag'. This modern missile is equipped with state-of-the-art imaging infrared seeker 'fire-and-forget' technology and top-attack capability, enabling it to effectively destroy enemy armored vehicles and tanks.



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National & International Current Affairs

1. When is National Thermal Engineer Day celebrated annually?

- (A) 23 July (B) 24 July
(C) 25 July (D) 26 July

(B) National Thermal Engineer Day is celebrated annually on July 24. It aims to recognize the hard work and dedication of professionals working in thermal engineering.



2. Apart from Odisha, in which other state have two rail multi-tracking projects recently been approved?

- (A) Chhattisgarh (B) Bihar
(C) Jharkhand (D) Manipur

(C) Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved two significant multi-tracking projects for the Ministry of Railways. These include the doubling of the Paradeep-Haridaspur rail line in Odisha and the construction of a fourth rail line on the Rajkharsawan-Dangoaposi route.



3. When is National Refreshment Day celebrated annually?

- (A) 23 July (B) 24 July
(C) 25 July (D) 26 July

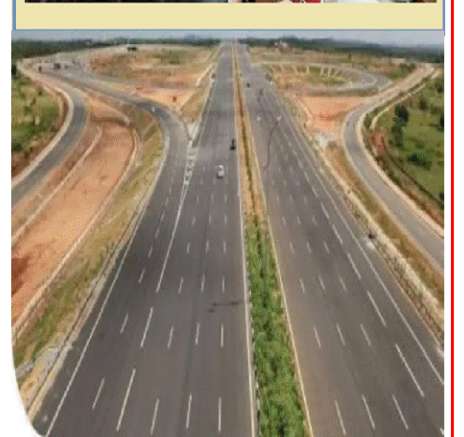
(B) National Refreshment Day is celebrated annually on the fourth Thursday of July. In 2025, this day falls on July 24. It is dedicated to celebrating and enjoying refreshing, cold beverages during the summer. The main objective is to remind people to stay hydrated regularly and enjoy cold drinks to keep themselves refreshed during the summer season.



4. How many highway projects for Varanasi have recently been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs?

- (A) 2 (B) 3
(C) 4 (D) 5

(A) Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved two significant highway projects for Varanasi. An investment of over 25,400 crore will be made in these projects. Both projects are part of the Varanasi Decongestion Plan, aimed at alleviating the city's mounting traffic pressure and establishing better connectivity between national highways, the Varanasi Ring Road, railway stations, and major religious sites.



5. Which country has recently approved the first dengue vaccine, QDenga ?

- (A) India (B) China
(C) Israel (D) Russia

(A) A significant milestone has been achieved in India regarding dengue prevention. The Drug Controller General of India has granted approval for the market use of QDenga. With this, it has become the country's first approved dengue vaccine.





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6. Recently, a UPI-Bizum link has paved a new way for digital payments between India and which country?
(A) Japan (B) Germany
(C) Spain (D) None of these
(C) India and Spain have agreed to advance discussions on technical interoperability between the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Spain's mobile payment system, Bizum. This initiative is considered a significant step towards making digital payments between the two countries more seamless.
7. In which state is the Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary located?
(A) Assam (B) Tripura
(C) Manipur (D) Mizoram
(B) Tripura's Forest Minister announced that the state has received an amount exceeding 57 crore for the modernization and development of the Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary is located in the Sepahijala district of Tripura and includes water bodies such as Abasarika Lake and Amrit Sagar Lake.
8. Under the administrative control of which ministry does the Central Silk Board operate?
(A) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(C) Ministry of Textiles
(D) Ministry of MSME
(C) The Central Silk Board is a statutory body established in 1948 that operates under the Ministry of Textiles. Its headquarters is in Bengaluru. The government has raised the Board's financial sanction limit from 50 lakh to 1 crore. It advises the government on the development of the silk industry and the import-export of raw silk.
9. Who has recently been appointed as the Deputy Chief of the Indian Army?
(A) Ravi Agarwal (B) Sandeep Jain
(C) Prabhat Kumar (D) None of these
(B) Recently, Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain assumed the office of Deputy Chief of the Indian Army. He took over this position from General Dhiraj Seth, who had recently become an Army Commander. Prior to assuming this office, he served as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Command.
10. Who has recently been reappointed as the Chairman of the CBDT?
(A) Ravi Agrawal (B) Sangeeta Roy
(C) Prabhat Kumar (D) None of these
(A) The Central Government has recently appointed Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He has been reappointed on a contractual basis for six months following his retirement. He heads the CBDT, which is India's apex policy-making body for the Income Tax Department.

