



Military Brat Defence Academy

Current Affairs Related to 17 July 2026

- ◆ **Strengthening cultural cooperation between India and Australia, Australia has announced the return of three significant ancient artifacts to India**—items that had been illegally removed from temples in Tamil Nadu. These include a Chola-era bronze trident of Goddess Bhadrakali, a granite statue of Nandi, and a basalt stone statue of the six-faced Lord Kartikeya. The return of these rare artifacts is considered a major milestone in India's efforts to safeguard and preserve its cultural heritage. Among the returning artifacts is an 11th-century Chola-period bronze trident associated with Goddess Bhadrakali.
- ◆ **Taking a significant step towards promoting a clean and sustainable transport system, India has launched pilot trials for hydrogen fuel-based transport on 10 key routes.** This initiative is being undertaken as part of the National Green Hydrogen Mission under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. These projects were approved on March 26, 2025, and will now test the feasibility of hydrogen-based public and freight transport in the country. This initiative will not only accelerate India's green energy goals but also help reduce carbon emissions from the transport sector.
- ◆ **The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified thorium-bearing mineral deposits in the Gundlupet Taluk of Karnataka's Chamarajanagar district.** These deposits are spread across an area of approximately 700 acres in Koothanur and surrounding villages. Of this, about 20 acres have been designated as a 'core area' in preparation for mining and auctioning. This discovery is considered significant for India's nuclear energy program and strategic mineral resources. Thorium is a naturally occurring radioactive metallic element with the atomic number 90 and the chemical symbol 'Th'.
- ◆ **Scientists have identified significant patterns in the communication system of sperm whales with the help of artificial intelligence.** During the research, 156 distinct types of 'codas'—recurring click sequences—were identified, appearing to function much like a phonetic system. This study was conducted under Project CETI, an international non-profit initiative launched in 2020 with the aim of deciphering the language of marine mammals.
- ◆ **Tamil Nadu has once again demonstrated its strong standing in the higher education sector in India.** According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (2023-24) released by the central government, the state recorded a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 52.3 percent. This is the highest among all states in the country and significantly above the national average of 30 percent. The steadily rising enrolment ratio indicates that access to higher education and student participation in the state are continuously strengthening. The Gross Enrolment Ratio represents the number of students enrolled at a specific level of education as a percentage of the total population belonging to the official age group for that level.
- ◆ **A massive and historic shift is set to take place in India's smartphone market. The central government has officially approved a joint venture between the domestic electronics manufacturer Dixon Technologies and the Chinese smartphone brand Vivo.** The green-lighting of this major deal—which had been stalled for nearly 18 months—has created a buzz across India's tech and business circles. This is not merely a partnership between two companies; rather, it is part of a deliberate strategy to transform India into a global manufacturing hub.
- ◆ **A significant milestone has been achieved in the conservation efforts for the Great Indian Bustard, one of India's rarest and most critically endangered birds.** A second chick, hatched via the 'jumpstart' technique in the Naliya region of Gujarat's Kutch district, has successfully survived the critical 40-day period following its hatching on May 21, 2026. This achievement brings renewed hope to the country's conservation campaign for this endangered bird. The Great Indian Bustard is one of the heaviest flying birds in India and is classified as 'Critically Endangered' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.
- ◆ **Rusting of iron and fires in buildings or factories are challenges that cause losses amounting to billions of rupees to economies worldwide every year.** Whether it involves massive ships amidst ocean waves, bridges, or our vehicles, rust gradually hollows out any metal from within. On the other hand, a single small spark can reduce everything to ashes in an instant.



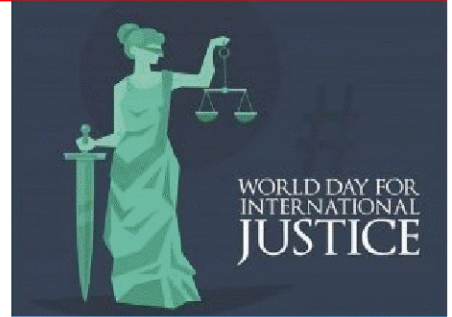
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National & International Current Affairs

1. When is World Day for International Justice observed every year?

- (A) 15 July (B) 16 July
(C) 17 July (D) 18 July

(C) International Criminal Justice Day is observed on 17 July. It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998—the founding treaty of the ICC—which aims to protect people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. 17 July unites all those who wish to support justice.



2. In which state will India's first high-altitude medical and public health research center be established?

- (A) New Delhi (B) Himachal Pradesh
(C) Arunachal Pradesh (D) Telangana

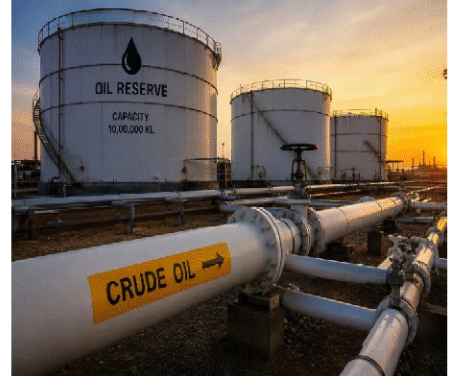
(B) As a significant initiative to address health challenges associated with high-altitude regions in India, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is setting up the country's first dedicated high-altitude medical and public health research center in Keylong, Lahaul-Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh. This center will be developed into a multidisciplinary research facility by upgrading the existing ICMR field station.



3. ONGC has recently approved a strategic petroleum reserve of how many million metric tonnes in Karnataka?

- (A) 1.75 million (B) 2.10 million
(C) 3.75 million (D) 4.55 million

(A) Taking a significant step towards strengthening India's energy security, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has granted in-principle approval for the construction of a strategic petroleum reserve with a capacity of 1.75 million metric tonnes in Mangaluru, Karnataka. This project is part of the expansion of the first phase of India's strategic crude oil storage network.



4. How much financial assistance (in million dollars) has the World Bank recently approved for the PM Surya Ghar Yojana?

- (A) \$570 million (B) \$690 million
(C) \$780 million (D) \$890 million

(D) Taking a significant step towards promoting clean energy in India, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a financial package of US\$890 million for the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. This assistance aims to accelerate the expansion of residential rooftop solar systems for rural and urban households across the country.



5. How many safety and maintenance projects worth ₹381 crore has Indian Railways recently approved?

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

(A) Indian Railways approved two key infrastructure projects worth ₹381 crore to strengthen rail safety and maintenance. These projects include the deployment of 'Kavach' Version 4.0 across 680 route kilometers in the Delhi Division of Northern Railway and the development of additional housing facilities for electric locomotives in Raipur, South East Central Railway.





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6. Which state government has recently launched the 'Dakshayani' scheme for the empowerment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women?
- (A) Assam (B) Punjab
(C) Meghalaya (D) Kerala
- (D)** The Kerala government has recently launched the 'Dakshayani' scheme to empower women from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and turn them into entrepreneurs. The scheme is named after Dakshayani Velayudhan, the first Dalit woman representative in the Constituent Assembly.
7. Where did ISRO recently conduct the first ground test for the Gaganyaan mission?
- (A) Odisha (B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) New Delhi (D) Rajasthan
- (B)** ISRO recently conducted the first ground test of the solid-fuel test rocket developed for the Gaganyaan mission. This rocket is designed to safely bring back the crew module and validate the parachute system tests. ISRO successfully conducted the ground test of the solid motor at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
8. Which country recently tested the nuclear missile named Julang-3?
- (A) China (B) Russia
(C) Japan (D) USA
- (A)** China recently successfully tested the long-range ballistic missile 'Julang-3' from its nuclear-powered submarine. The missile was launched from the South China Sea with a dummy warhead and successfully landed in international waters in the Pacific Ocean.
9. The Natural History Museum located in which state has recently been declared India's 21st repository of biological collections?
- (A) Manipur (B) Assam
(C) Meghalaya (D) Mizoram
- (D)** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently declared the Natural History Museum located at Mizoram University as the country's 21st designated repository under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. This museum is situated in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.
10. Who has recently been appointed as the head of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)?
- (A) Sujit Pandey (B) Amit Garg
(C) Jasveer Singh Mann (D) None of the above
- (B)** Senior IPS officer Amit Garg has recently been appointed to this position. The NCRB, which operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs, is the key central agency responsible for maintaining a nationwide database of crimes and criminals and for technologically empowering the police force. Prior to assuming this role, he served as the Director of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad.

