



Military Brat Defence Academy

Current Affairs Related to 16 July 2026

- ◆ **Imagine mixing certain chemicals in a test tube and witnessing the sudden onset of activity:** the mixture begins to 'feed,' grow in size, and reproduce by creating offspring similar to itself. While this might sound like the plot of a science fiction movie, it has become a reality in the scientific world. Scientists at the University of Minnesota have created an artificial cell in the laboratory that behaves exactly like a living organism. Scientists have named this unique invention 'Spudcell.' In the realm of science, this is considered the greatest achievement to date in the field of 'bottom-up synthetic biology.'
- ◆ **The dense and beautiful forests of Assam are not only part of India's natural heritage but also a vast treasure trove of valuable timber.** However, a dark shadow has loomed over these forests for years: the menace of illegal logging. The timber mafia fells valuable trees overnight, fabricates documents, and—deceiving check-post officials—sells timber worth crores of rupees in other states. This illicit activity causes massive revenue loss to the government and inflicts irreparable damage on the environment.
- ◆ **The Andhra Pradesh government launched the latest phase of the 'Mee Bhumi-Mee Hakku' (My Land-My Right) program** from Banganapalle in Nandyal district. The objective of this initiative is to provide farmers and landowners with digitally updated and error-free Pattadar passbooks. These are being distributed in villages where the land resurvey process has been completed. This program is viewed as a significant step towards the modernization of land records and transparent land administration in the state. The Pattadar passbook is an official land record document issued to landowners in Andhra Pradesh; it contains details regarding land ownership, survey numbers, and other crucial information.
- ◆ **The 'Samridh Gram Integrated Phyigital Services' project of India's Department of Telecommunications** won the 'Global Winner' title in the 'Enabling Environment' category at the WSIS Prizes 2026 held in Geneva, Switzerland. This achievement represents significant global recognition of India's efforts toward digital inclusion and modern service delivery in rural areas.
- ◆ **The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways plans to centralize the 'National Bridge Health Monitoring Software'** to enhance the effectiveness of the monitoring system for bridges located on national highways. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) will play pivotal roles in this initiative. The system is linked to the 'Bridge Health Monitoring System,' which utilizes sensors to monitor bridges in real-time. The move aims to bolster bridge safety and detect potential risks in a timely manner. The Bridge Health Monitoring System is a sensor-based technical framework used to continuously track the structural condition of bridges.
- ◆ **India's Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan launched a national program in Bhubaneswar, Odisha,** to issue authorization letters for the sustainable exploitation of high-seas fisheries. On this occasion, he also inaugurated the 'Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission Coverage.' The event was organized by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India. The initiative aims to develop a safe, transparent, and innovative fishing regime for Indian fishing vessels in high-seas areas.
- ◆ **India, Australia, and Canada launched the 'Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation Partnership' (ACITI).** This trilateral partnership focuses on the development of artificial intelligence, green energy technology, critical minerals, and robust supply chains. The initiative seeks to foster innovation by pooling the technological capabilities of the three nations, develop secure supply chains, and strengthen cooperation toward a clean-energy-based future. ACITI is a trilateral technology and innovation partnership between India, Australia, and Canada.
- ◆ **Marking significant progress in the higher education sector in India, total enrollment reached 4.5 crore** in the 2023-24 academic year. This figure represents an increase of approximately 31.5 percent compared to the 3.42 crore enrollments recorded in 2014-15. This information was provided in the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) reports for 2022-23 and 2023-24, released by the Union Ministry of Education. According to the report, female student enrollment stood at 2.24 crore in 2023-24, reflecting the growing participation of women in higher education in the country.



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National & International Current Affairs

1. From when will the 'Pink Saheli Smart Card' become mandatory for free bus travel, as recently announced by the Delhi government?

(A) 31 July 2026 (B) 1 August 2026
(C) 16 August 2026 (D) 2 October 2026

(B) The Delhi government has taken a major step towards fully digitizing the free bus travel system for women and transgender passengers. Starting 1 August 2026, the 'Pink Saheli Smart Card' will be mandatory for free travel on Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and cluster buses. Consequently, the pink paper tickets currently being issued will remain valid only until 31 July 2026.



2. Which state is set to receive a fully developed airport under the Central Government's UDAN scheme?

(A) Andhra Pradesh (B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) Odisha (D) New Delhi

(A) Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh is set to get a fully developed airport under the Central Government's UDAN scheme. The proposed greenfield airport will be developed in the Mandasa Mandal of the Uddanam region, while a site for a domestic airport has also been identified on 1,261 acres of land in Palasa.



3. In which country was the world's first weekly basal insulin, 'Awigli', recently launched?

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

(C) Marking a significant achievement in the field of diabetes treatment, the world's first once-weekly basal insulin, 'Awigli', has been launched in India. This medication contains 'Insulin Icodec' as its active ingredient and is being marketed by the Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk.



4. Which state has recently launched the 'Chief Minister's Cashless Medical Scheme for Teachers'?

(A) Madhya Pradesh (B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) Kerala (D) Rajasthan

(B) Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government launched the 'Chief Minister's Cashless Medical Scheme for Teachers' in Varanasi. The objective of this scheme is to provide quality healthcare services—without the need for cash payments—to the state's teachers, non-teaching staff, and their dependents. This initiative is considered a significant step towards strengthening social security for Education Department employees and alleviating the financial burden associated with healthcare.



5. How many important domestic surveys has the RBI recently launched for monetary policy purposes?

(A) 1 (B) 2
(C) 3 (D) 4

(C) Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched three important domestic surveys aimed at making monetary policy formulation more effective and precise. These include the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households, the Rural Consumer Confidence Survey, and the Urban Consumer Confidence Survey.





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6. With the help of which country is an air-filled rubber dam being constructed in Gujarat?
- (A) Japan (B) USA
(C) South Korea (D) Russia
- (C) Recently, the Gujarat government decided to construct air-filled rubber dams in the state for the first time, utilizing South Korean technology. Two such rubber dams, costing approximately 160 crore, are being built on the Heran River in Chhota Udepur district and the Ambika River in Tapi district.
7. Where was the foundation stone for South Asia's largest private-sector missile manufacturing facility recently laid?
- (A) Kerala (B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Maharashtra (D) Gujarat
- (B) Recently, Adani Defence and Aerospace laid the foundation stone for South Asia's largest private-sector missile manufacturing facility in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh, with an investment of ₹2,500 crore. The event was attended by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Upon completion, this project is expected to generate approximately 5,000 direct and indirect jobs.
8. Which state government recently approved the Green Data Center Policy 2026?
- (A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Rajasthan
(C) Punjab (D) Haryana
- (A) Recently, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, approved the Uttar Pradesh Data Center Policy 2026. The policy aims to develop the state into a green, AI-ready, and globally competitive data center hub. The target of this policy is to develop an additional 2 gigawatts of data center capacity within the state.
9. In which state has a new plant species named *Canscora agni* recently been discovered?
- (A) Karnataka (B) Bihar
(C) Jharkhand (D) Maharashtra
- (D) Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, and the Savanna Science Foundation have recently discovered a new plant species named Canscora agni in the fire-prone savannas of western India. Found during a routine survey of flora on Sass Hill in Pune district, Maharashtra, this small plant highlights the role of natural fires in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.
10. Which state government has recently approved the 'Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana'?
- (A) Assam (B) Meghalaya
(C) West Bengal (D) None of these
- (C) The 'Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana' has recently been launched by the Government of India for the socio-economic upliftment of tea garden workers. A budget of 313.30 crore has been allocated for its implementation in West Bengal. The nodal department for implementing this scheme in West Bengal is the North Bengal Development Department.

