



Military Brat Defence Academy

Current Affairs Related to 20 July 2026

- ◆ In a significant decision, the Ladakh administration has announced the formation of Autonomous Hill Development Councils across all seven districts of the Union Territory. This decision follows the creation of five new districts in April 2026. Consequently, elected Hill Councils will now operate in all seven districts: Leh, Kargil, Nubra, Changthang, Sham, Zaskar, and Dras. The move aims to strengthen local self-governance and enhance the effectiveness of development activities at the district level. The Autonomous Hill Development Council is a district-level elected local body in Ladakh that functions under the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act.
- ◆ A significant milestone has been achieved in promoting agricultural products with Geographical Indication (GI) in India. The famous Unjha Cumin and Unjha Fennel from North Gujarat have been granted the GI tag by India's Geographical Indications Registry. Certificates for both products have been issued. They have been registered under the 'spices' category in the name of the Unjha Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), Unjha. This recognition provides legal protection for the unique quality, reputation, and regional identity of these spices. A Geographical Indication is a sign used on products that possess specific qualities, a reputation, or other characteristics linked to a particular geographical region.
- ◆ The Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini, arrived at the port of Boston, USA, and participated in the prestigious 'Grand Parade of Sails' at 'Sail Boston 2026'. This international event featured over 60 traditional tall ships from more than 20 countries. INS Sudarshini was also opened to the general public in Boston, offering people an opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the Indian Navy's maritime heritage and training traditions. INS Sudarshini is a sail training ship of the Indian Navy.
- ◆ The 'Pradhan Mantri Micro Food Processing Enterprises Formalisation Scheme'—launched by the Central Government with the aim of organizing and empowering the micro food processing sector—has achieved a remarkable milestone. Under this scheme, loans have been sanctioned to over two lakh micro food processing enterprises across the country.
- ◆ The Bihar government has launched the 'Chief Minister Bihar Heli-Tourism and Air Tourism Service Scheme 2026' in Patna with the aim of giving a new direction to tourism in the state. This scheme is a joint initiative of the Tourism Department and the Civil Aviation Department, under which subsidized helicopter and air tourism services will be provided to tourists visiting the state's major tourist destinations. The initiative aims to facilitate access to religious, historical, and natural tourist sites and to boost tourism activities in Bihar. Under this scheme, the state government will provide a subsidy of up to 15,422 per ticket.
- ◆ Uttarakhand inaugurated the state's first Geographical Indication (GI) product gallery at the Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy in Haldwani. The gallery showcases over 30 GI-tagged products from the state, including agricultural produce, handicrafts, and traditional products linked to cultural heritage. The initiative aims to gain national and international recognition for products unique to Uttarakhand and to provide better market access for local farmers, artisans, and craftspeople.
- ◆ India's private space sector has achieved a major milestone. Hyderabad-based space-tech company Dhruva Space has secured an investment of 60 crore from the Space Venture Capital Fund. With this investment, Dhruva Space has become the first company to receive financial assistance from this fund. This sovereign space-tech fund, with a total corpus of 1,600 crore, aims to provide institutional financial support to India's private space industry and foster innovation. The Space Venture Capital Fund is a specialized investment fund established to foster the growth of India's private space sector.
- ◆ In a significant discovery, scientists in Arunachal Pradesh have identified two new species of solitary bees. The discovery describes species named Elaphropoda triangulata and Habropoda adi. This discovery was made by researchers from the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment during the Siang expedition. The study has been published in the prestigious European Journal of Taxonomy.



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1. When is World Chess Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 20 July (B) 21 July
(C) 22 July (D) 23 July

(A) World Chess Day is celebrated annually on July 20. This day marks the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924. On this day, one can teach the game to others or play it. Chess provides a significant mental workout, which is why it is also known as a "mind game."



2. Who will host the Global AI Summit 2027?

- (A) Paris (B) Tokyo
(C) Geneva (D) None of these

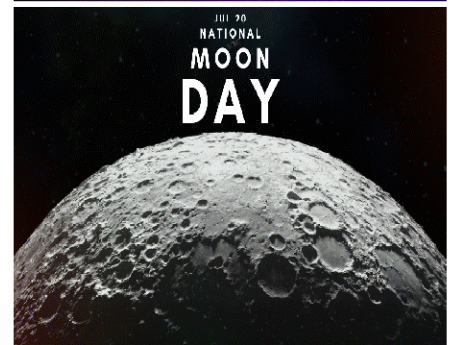
(C) Geneva, Switzerland, will host the Global AI Summit scheduled for June 21–22, 2027. The primary objective of this conference is to establish regulations for the safe, responsible, and human-centric use of artificial intelligence worldwide. Geneva was chosen as the venue because it is a major global hub for international diplomacy and multilateral dialogue.



3. When is International Moon Day celebrated annually?

- (A) 20 July (B) 21 July
(C) 22 July (D) 23 July

(A) International Moon Day is celebrated annually on July 20, the day astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin set foot on the Moon in 1969. Landing on the Moon is still considered one of humanity's greatest achievements; therefore, the aim of International Moon Day is to commemorate the Apollo 11 mission and educate people about the Moon and astronomy.



4. Which country has recently launched a campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2028–2029 term?

- (A) India (B) China
(C) Australia (D) Japan

(A) India recently launched its official bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2028–2029 term. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled India's vision for peace during an event held at the UN headquarters in New York.



5. How many fraudulent mobile connections has the Department of Telecommunications deactivated over the last two years?

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

(D) The Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, has achieved a major milestone by deactivating over 5 crore fraudulent mobile connections in two years. This action is part of a comprehensive campaign aimed at curbing cybercrimes, ensuring the safety of mobile users, recovering lost or stolen mobile phones, and strengthening the verification process for mobile subscribers.





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6. Who has recently become the 10th Indian to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame?

- (A) Sourav Ganguly (B) Rohit Sharma
(C) Virat Kohli (D) None of these

(A) Recently, Indian captain Sourav Ganguly became the 12th Indian overall—and the 10th in the men's category—to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. The International Cricket Council conferred this honor upon him at a special ceremony held in Edinburgh.



7. Which country recently hosted the AITIGA Joint Committee meeting?

- (A) Thailand (B) Indonesia
(C) India (D) Germany

(C) Recently, India hosted the 13th ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee meeting and related sessions at Vanijya Bhawan in New Delhi. The primary objective is to modernize the trade agreement between India and ASEAN nations and expedite the completion of pending review chapters.



8. Which state recently received the Agricultural Leadership Award for outstanding performance in horticulture?

- (A) Bihar (B) Odisha
(C) Punjab (D) Gujarat

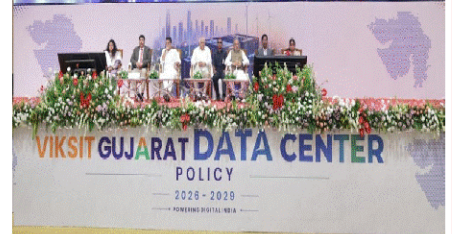
(D) Recently, Gujarat received the Agricultural Leadership Award for its excellent work in horticulture. This honor was presented at the 17th Agricultural Leadership Conclave held in New Delhi. Gujarat's Agriculture Minister Jitu Vaghani received the award from Union Minister Rajnath Singh.



9. Who has recently been appointed as the chairperson of the high-level committee constituted for the UCC?

- (A) Sujit Pandey (B) Ranjana Prakash Desai
(C) Jasvir Singh Mann (D) None of these

(B) Recently, retired Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai has chaired expert committees constituted to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). She first prepared the UCC draft for Uttarakhand. Subsequently, she has also been appointed to head UCC committees for several other states.



10. What percentage has the ADB recently projected for India's GDP growth rate for 2026-27?

- (A) 6.6% (B) 6.9%
(C) 7.1% (D) 7.8%

(A) Recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered its projection for India's GDP growth rate for the 2026-27 fiscal year from 6.9% to 6.6%. Due to rising costs, the inflation forecast for 2026-27 has been raised from 4.5% to 5.2%.

