

02/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Build–Operate–Transfer BOT (Toll) Mode:*

Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved the construction of 117.7 km Kanpur–Kabrai Access-Controlled Greenfield Highway, a four-lane access-controlled corridor with structures designed for future six-laning, forming a key segment of the Bhopal–Kanpur Economic Corridor under the National Highways (O) Programme. With an estimated total capital cost of Rs.7145.14 crore, the project will be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on BOT (Toll) mode, together with the operation and maintenance of the existing Kanpur-Kabrai section of NH-34.

About Build–Operate–Transfer BOT (Toll) Mode:

- ❖ BOT stands for Build–Operate–Transfer, a type of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model used for infrastructure development.
- ❖ Meaning: A private company builds the infrastructure, operates it for a fixed concession period, and finally transfers it to the government.
- ❖ Funding: The private developer arranges most or all of the project financing through equity and loans.
- ❖ Revenue Source (Toll Mode): The developer collects toll directly from users during the concession period to recover investment and earn profits.
- ❖ Traffic Risk: The private concessionaire bears the traffic and revenue risk. If traffic is lower than expected, losses are borne by the developer.
- ❖ Ownership: The asset generally remains with the government, while the private company has the right to operate and collect tolls during the concession period.
- ❖ Concession Period: Typically ranges from 15–30 years, depending on project cost and expected revenue.
- ❖ Government Role: The government provides land, approvals, and regulatory oversight but does not guarantee revenue in BOT (Toll) projects.

2. *Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar committee:*

Context: The High Level Committee on Demographic Changes called upon the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah at his Residence in New Delhi and had a Courtesy meeting.

About Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar committee:

- ❖ The Government of India has constituted a High-Level Committee on Demographic Change in May 2026..
- ❖ The Committee is chaired by Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar (Retired).
- ❖ Members include the Census Commissioner, Shri Durga Shankar Mishra (Retd. IAS), Shri Balaji Srivastava (Retd. IPS), and Dr. Shamika Ravi.
- ❖ The Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I), Ministry of Home Affairs, will serve as the Member Secretary.
- ❖ The Committee was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 August 2025.

- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated that illegal infiltration and unnatural demographic change pose challenges to sovereignty, national security, and social stability.
- ❖ The Committee will scientifically assess demographic changes caused by illegal immigration and other abnormal reasons.
- ❖ It will analyse demographic shifts among religious and social communities, especially where trends significantly differ from national patterns.
- ❖ The Committee will study causes such as cross-border activities, illegal immigration, economic opportunities, and socio-environmental factors.
- ❖ It will identify factors behind abnormal settlement patterns and orchestrated migration.
- ❖ The Committee will recommend legal, fair, and time-bound mechanisms for identification, detention, and deportation of illegal immigrants.
- ❖ It will suggest institutional mechanisms for stronger border management, population stabilization, and monitoring systems.
- ❖ The Committee will propose a policy framework to improve coordination between the Central and State Governments on issues related to illegal immigration and demographic imbalance.
- ❖ The Committee may recommend additional measures necessary to address demographic challenges in the country.
- ❖ The Committee has been asked to submit its report within one year, with a possible extension of up to six months by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

3. MECON Limited (Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (India) Limited):

Context: The Ministry of Steel has approved the grant of Miniratna Category-I status to MECON Limited, a Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel. The Miniratna Category-I status provides enhanced financial and operational autonomy to the Board of MECON Limited. The enhanced delegation of powers will enable the Company to undertake investments, modernization initiatives, technological upgradation and business expansion projects with greater flexibility and speed, thereby supporting its future growth trajectory.

About MECON Limited:

- ❖ MECON Limited, established in 1959 and headquartered in Ranchi, is one of India's premier engineering, consultancy, project management and contracting organizations.
- ❖ The Company has made significant contributions to the development of the country's steel sector and has diversified its operations across mining, infrastructure, power, oil & gas and other core sectors of the economy.
- ❖ The Company has reported continuous profits during the last three financial years, recording a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs. 77.62 crore in FY 2023-24 (restated), Rs. 32.08 crore in FY 2024-25 (restated), and Rs. 104.53 crore in FY 2025-26.
- ❖ The Company also reported a positive net worth of Rs. 535.42 crore as on 31 March 2026, thereby fulfilling the eligibility criteria prescribed by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for grant of Miniratna Category-I status.

Criteria for Maharatna Status	Criteria for Navratna Status	Criteria for Miniratna Status
1. Shall have Navratna status	1. Miniratna Category–I or Schedule ‘A’ CPSEs	Miniratna Category-I status - Made profit in the last 3 years continuously - Pre-tax profit is ₹ 30 crore or more in at least 1 of the 3 years
2. Listed on ‘the Indian stock exchange with prescribed public shareholding	2. Obtained ‘ Excellent ’ or ‘ Very Good ’ rating in 3 of the last 5 years	
3. Average annual turnover > ₹25,000 crore (last 3 years)	3. Composite score of 60 or above in 6 performance indicators including Net Profit to Net Worth Cost of Services, Earnings per Share, etc.	Miniratna Category-II status - Made profit for the last 3 years continuously - Having positive net worth status - Not defaulted in the repayment of loans/interest payment on any loans due to Government
4. Average annual net worth > ₹15,000 crore (last 3 years)		
6. Significant global presence/international operations		

4. Bharat Life Sciences Award (BLSA) 2026:

Context: Applications Open for Bharat Life Sciences Award 2026.

About Bharat Life Sciences Award (BLSA) 2026:

- ❖ It aims to recognise excellence in scientific research, innovation, and public health impact across India’s life sciences ecosystem.
- ❖ Backed by Rs 7 crore in grant support, the Award is instituted to recognise outstanding scientists, research institutions, universities, startups, and ecosystem leaders advancing healthcare and life sciences.
- ❖ This initiative is organised by FICCI with Lilly and supported by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) & Invest India.
- ❖ The Award comprises six honours across five categories, covering individual excellence, collaborative innovation, institutional excellence, healthcare and life sciences startups and scientific ecosystem development.
- ❖ While four categories carry grant support, two categories recognise outstanding contributions to innovation and ecosystem building.

5. ***SHE-LEAPS:***

Context: SHE-LEAPS stands for Self-Help Entrepreneur-Livelihoods and Enterprise Application for Prosperity and Sustainability. SHE-LEAPS was launched on June 29, 2026, at the Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan held in New Delhi. This two-day conference, themed ‘Gramodaya Se Rashtrodaya’, reviewed the implementation and progress of major rural development schemes. The focus was on formulating strategies to translate the government’s vision of ‘Viksit Gram - Viksit Bharat’.

About SHE-LEAPS:

- ❖ It is a digital platform for empowering women associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across rural India.
- ❖ This is being accomplished through a unified platform for enterprise creation and performance tracking.
- ❖ SHE-LEAPS supports livelihood creation, enterprise growth, and financial inclusion for rural women.
- ❖ It supports both farm and non-farm rural enterprises, aiming to build a stronger and more sustainable rural economy.
- ❖ The SHE-LEAPS mobile application has been developed by the Digital India Corporation, and implemented under the LokOS platform.
- ❖ LokOS is a digital system designed to capture the activities of community-based organizations (CBOs) across India. These include SHGs, Village Organizations, and Cluster Level Federations.
- ❖ LokOS helps in digitizing CBO activities like maintaining member records, financial transactions, and livelihood records, and tracking convergence initiatives.

6. ***Climate Change Action Plan [CCAP]:***

Context: Following disapproval from the U.S. administration, the World Bank Group (WBG) has indicated that it would do away with its funding target for climate-centric projects. It will retire the 45% climate co-benefits target and the 35% target in the Climate Change Action Plan [CCAP], World Bank said.

About Climate Change Action Plan [CCAP]:

- ❖ Launched in 2020 and over a five-year period ending 2026, the CCAP mandated the WBG to allocate 35% of its total financing for projects that reduced emissions or helped communities adapt to climate change. The goal was increased to 45% in 2023.
- ❖ The World Bank Group’s Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) is a five-year strategy aligning the bank's investments with the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ It helps developing countries lower emissions (mitigation) and build defenses against extreme weather (adaptation).
- ❖ Align with the Paris Agreement: Ensures all financial flows support low-carbon, climate-resilient development.

- ❖ Integrate Climate and Development: Merges poverty reduction with climate action.
- ❖ Leverage Private Capital: Unlocks private funds for green projects in developing countries

7. Road map ‘VIJAY’:

Context: Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth on Wednesday unveiled a road map titled “VIJAY”, outlining his vision for transforming the Indian Army into a technology-enabled, future-ready force capable of operating across multiple domains. The road map, inspired by the Defence Minister’s vision for the Decade of Transformation, was unveiled a day after he assumed charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff.

GENERAL DHIRAJ SETH
CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF

UNVEILS ROAD MAP “VIJAY”

Inspired by the Defence Minister’s vision for the Decade of Transformation, the road map charts a bold path to transform the Indian Army into a technology-enabled, future-ready force capable of operating across multiple domains.

The Indian Army is a combat-ready and battle-hardened force, fully prepared to meet emerging security challenges.

VIJAY – FIVE PILLARS OF TRANSFORMATION

V	I	J	A	Y
VIGILANCE	INNOVATION & TRANSFORMATION	JOINTNESS & INTEGRATION	ATMANIRBHARTA	YODHA FIRST
Maintaining operational readiness and constant alertness along the borders.	Modern doctrine, cutting-edge technologies and capability development to keep pace with the changing character of warfare.	Deeper synergy among the Army, Navy and Air Force, alongside greater military-civil fusion through a Whole-of-Nation approach to strengthen national security.	Reiterating the Army’s unwavering commitment to indigenous technologies and self-reliance.	Every soldier is our greatest strength. Focus on improving training standards, technological skills, welfare and the empowerment of veterans and Veer Naris.

★ ★ TRANSFORMING TODAY • READY FOR TOMORROW • VICTORIOUS ALWAYS ★ ★

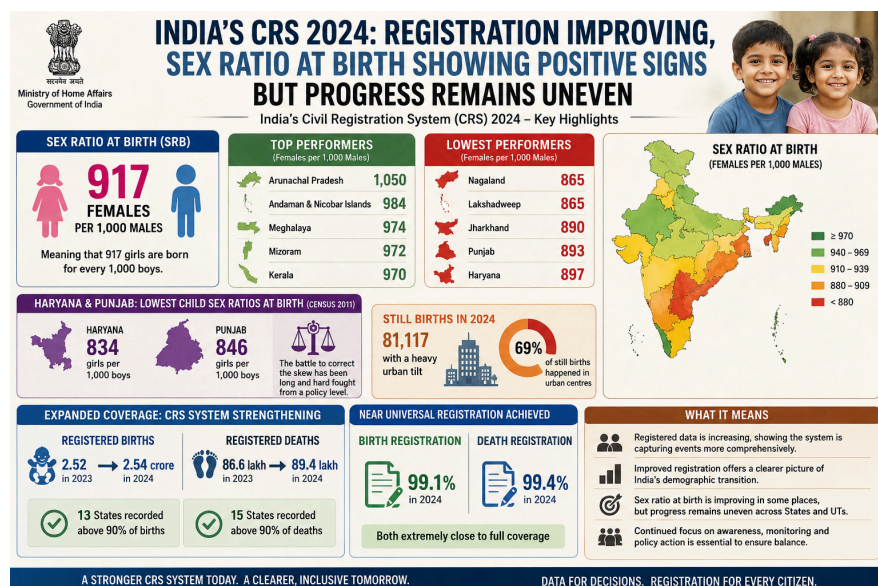
“ It is a moment of great pride and humility to lead the Indian Army. I reaffirm my commitment to the timeless principles of Duty, Honour and Nation First. **”**

– General Dhiraj Seth
Chief of the Army Staff

8. Civil Registration Data, CRS 2024:

Context: India’s latest civil registration data, CRS 2024, released on Wednesday, suggest that registration is improving across the country, and that sex ratio at birth is improving in some places, but progress remains uneven across the States and Union Territories.

Highlights of Civil Registration Data, CRS 2024:



Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Government of India, and the Agriculture Department, Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy, Republic of Seychelles, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the official visit of the Prime Minister to the Republic of Seychelles to strengthen bilateral cooperation in agricultural research and education.
- ☐ Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, an advanced Common Incubation Center (CIC) established at the College of Food Technology, Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani, with financial assistance from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, New Delhi, and in collaboration with Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani and the State-Level Nodal Agency of the Agriculture Department, Government of Maharashtra, was inaugurated on June 28, 2026 by Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Shri Chirag Paswan.
- ☐ Celebrating 90 years of Akashvani and in the run-up to the centenary of Radio Broadcasting in India in 2027, Akashvani today inaugurated 'Swar Prerna Veethika', a dedicated photo gallery celebrating the enduring bond between Akashvani and India's legendary musicians. The gallery was inaugurated by Padma Vibhushan Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia at the Akashvani Rang Bhavan Auditorium, Akashvani Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ☐ India and South Korea have expanded defence cooperation through the K9 Vajra-T self-propelled howitzer programme. The K9 Vajra-T is an Indian variant of the South Korean K9 Thunder 155 mm self-propelled tracked artillery gun.
- ☐ The Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) are digital systems linked to India's higher education framework under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The ABC is a Ministry of Education platform regulated

by the University Grants Commission (UGC), while APAAR is a 12-digit student identification number under the “One Nation, One Student ID” initiative.

- ☐ India’s Technology Development Board (TDB), under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), provided financial assistance to Puretronics India Private Limited on 30 June 2026 for the commercialisation of its Load Magnetic Overload (LMO) Sensor. The company describes the LMO Sensor as India’s first fully contactless programmable load measurement system.
- ☐ Agnikul Cosmos, an Indian private space transportation company, and ICEYE, a Finnish Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite company, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 30 June 2026 and 1 July 2026 to explore building, launching and operating SAR earth observation systems from India. The MoU was signed at Bharat Innovates in Nice, France.

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