

03/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Oryza rufipogon*:

Context: The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, has achieved a significant milestone in the conservation of India's wild rice genetic resources through its funded project titled "In-situ Conservation and Management of Wild Rice (*Oryza rufipogon*) in Sonitpur District of Assam." The project has been implemented since 2022 by the ICAR–National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR), New Delhi, in collaboration with the Assam State Biodiversity Board.

About *Oryza rufipogon*:

- ❖ Wild Ancestor: It is the wild progenitor (ancestor) of cultivated Asian rice, *Oryza sativa*, making it an important genetic resource for crop improvement.
- ❖ Family: Belongs to the Poaceae (Grass) family and the genus *Oryza*.
- ❖ Habitat: Naturally grows in marshes, swamps, wetlands, floodplains, and shallow freshwater bodies, especially in tropical and subtropical Asia.
- ❖ Distribution in India: Found in states such as Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, mainly in natural wetlands.
- ❖ Importance: It possesses valuable genes for disease resistance, pest resistance, flood tolerance, drought tolerance, salinity tolerance, and climate resilience, which are used in rice breeding programmes.
- ❖ Conservation Status: Wild populations are declining due to wetland destruction, urbanisation, agricultural expansion, and genetic contamination from cultivated rice. Hence, it is conserved in situ (natural habitats) and ex situ (gene banks).

2. *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)*:

Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a landmark reform to improve the quality of rice supplied under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and Other Welfare Schemes. For the first time in nearly three decades, the Government has revised the quality specifications of rice supplied under the Public Distribution System ensuring that beneficiaries receive rice with substantially lower broken grain content while maintaining their existing entitlements.

About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY):

- ❖ Launched: 2020, to provide free food grains and ensure food security for poor, migrant, and vulnerable households during crisis periods.
- ❖ Beneficiaries: Covers Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- ❖ Benefit: Provides 35 kg of food grains per month per AAY household and 5 kg per person per month for PHH beneficiaries, free of cost.
- ❖ Implementation: Food grains are distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS) to strengthen food security.
- ❖ Launch: Introduced in April 2020 by the Government of India as a relief measure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ❖ Objective: To ensure food security and provide financial support to poor and vulnerable households affected by the pandemic.
- ❖ Part of: Implemented under the broader Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP).
- ❖ Food Grain Benefit: Provided 5 kg of free food grains per person per month, over and above the subsidised ration under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- ❖ Cash Assistance: Included cash transfers to vulnerable groups such as women and senior citizens under the PM Garib Kalyan Package.
- ❖ Beneficiaries: Covered Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) under the NFSA.
- ❖ PHH Identification: State Governments/UT Administrations identify PHH beneficiaries based on their own prescribed criteria.
- ❖ AAY Eligibility: Includes households headed by widows, disabled persons, terminally ill persons, elderly (60+ years), and single persons with no assured means of livelihood or social support.
- ❖ Other Eligible Groups: Covers primitive tribal households, landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans, slum dwellers, and informal sector workers (e.g., porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, handcart pullers).
- ❖ BPL Coverage: Primarily benefits Below Poverty Line (BPL) families covered under the NFSA.
- ❖ Distribution Mechanism: Food grains are distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS) across the country.
- ❖ Significance: Strengthened food security, reduced hunger during the pandemic, and protected vulnerable sections from the economic impact of COVID-19.

Recent reforms by cabinet:

- ❖ Raw rice supplied under PMGKAY will contain up to 10% broken grains, replacing the existing specification of up to 25%.
- ❖ Parboiled rice will contain up to 5% broken grains, replacing the existing specification of up to 16%.
- ❖ Under the revised specifications, the broken rice generated during milling will be separated and utilised productively for other purposes . This will ensure that superior edible rice reaches beneficiaries under PMGKAY.
- ❖ The reform also envisages QR-code tagging of rice bags to enable end-to-end traceability across the supply chain, strengthening transparency, accountability and inventory management in the Public Distribution System, effectively plugging any scope for leakages.

3. *Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY):*

Context: The Ministry of Culture has invited applications for various components of the Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY) Scheme for the Grant Year 2026–27. Eligible Cultural Organisations, NGOs, Artists, Researchers and Institutions across the country can submit applications within the prescribed timelines under the respective scheme components.

About Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY):

- ❖ Ministry: A Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Culture for the promotion and preservation of India's art and cultural heritage.

- ❖ Objective: Provides financial assistance to artists, cultural organisations, NGOs, researchers, and institutions engaged in cultural activities.
- ❖ Buddhist & Tibetan Support: Offers grants to voluntary Buddhist and Tibetan organisations, including monasteries, for preserving and promoting Buddhist/Tibetan culture and traditions.
- ❖ Funding: Provides up to ₹30 lakh per organisation per year for eligible Buddhist and Tibetan organisations.
- ❖ Nature: Functions as an umbrella scheme, covering multiple cultural promotion and preservation initiatives.
- ❖ Art Promotion: Includes the Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture.
- ❖ Infrastructure: Supports the Scheme of Financial Assistance for Creation of Cultural Infrastructure.
- ❖ Intangible Heritage: Includes the Scheme for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, focusing on India's 13 UNESCO-recognised intangible cultural heritage elements.

4. *Viksit Bharat – G Ram G Yojana:*

Context: The nationwide launch of ‘Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Yojana’ took place today from Mukkavaripalli village in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh. Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan spoke in detail about the financial aspects of the scheme and said that in the very first year of the ‘Viksit Bharat – G Ram G Yojana’, the Centre’s share will be more than Rs. 95,000 crore and adding the states’ 40 per cent share, the annual expenditure will reach around Rs. 1.51 lakh crore.

About Viksit Bharat – G Ram G Yojana:

What makes Viksit Bharat-G RAM G better than MGNREGA?	
MGNREGA	Viksit Bharat-G RAM G
100 days of wage employment per rural household	125 days of wage employment per rural household
Multiple and scattered categories of works with limited strategic focus	4 clearly defined priority areas focusing on water security, rural infrastructure, livelihoods and climate resilience
Center bears unskilled wage costs, states bear unemployment allowance	State cost-sharing for wages, 60:40 for most states, 90:10 for certain special-category regions
No explicit statutory ‘pause window’	States can notify up to 60 days in a FY when work will not be executed
Demand based funding with unpredictable allocations	Normative funding ensuring predictable budgeting while protecting the employment guarantee
Gram Panchayat planning is central	Integrates institutionalised convergence and infrastructure planning

Source: Ministry of Rural Development

- ❖ The Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 replaces and comprehensively reforms MGNREGA, marking a major shift in rural employment policy.
- ❖ The Act aligns rural employment with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision by improving accountability, strengthening infrastructure creation, and enhancing income security in rural areas.
- ❖ Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin Act guarantees 125 days of wage employment per rural household annually (increased from 100 days).
- ❖ Employment is provided to adult members willing to undertake unskilled manual work, strengthening rural income security.

- ❖ A 60-day no-work period is built in to ensure availability of agricultural labour during peak sowing and harvesting seasons.
- ❖ Workers can still complete 125 days of employment within the remaining 305 days of the year.
- ❖ The design aims to balance the needs of farmers and rural labourers.
- ❖ Wages are to be paid weekly, and in any case within a fortnight of work completion.

5. ***Bharat Tex 2026:***

Context: Bharat Tex 2026, India's largest global textile event, is set to be held from 14th- 17th July 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, showcasing the complete breadth and depth of India's textile ecosystem on a unified global platform.

About Bharat Tex 2026:

- ❖ Organised by the Bharat Tex Trade Federation, a consortium of Textile Export Promotion Councils and Industry Bodies, with the support of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, the event showcases growing India's global leadership in textiles, fashion, sustainability, technology, innovation, investment and international trade.
- ❖ Inspired by the Prime Minister's 5F Vision - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign, Bharat Tex 2026 has evolved into a premier global platform for business, investment, sourcing, innovation, policy dialogue and strategic partnerships across the textile value chain.
- ❖ The event brings together manufacturers, exporters, global buyers, brands, sourcing consultants, investors, policymakers, States, international delegations, designers, artisans, start-ups and technology providers.
- ❖ Bharat Tex 2026 is also host the CITI Textile Sustainability Awards 2026, structured around seven core focus areas of Resource Efficiency, Energy & Emissions, Circular Economy, Sustainable Materials, Social Responsibility, Responsible Business and Industry Collaboration, reflecting the full spectrum of sustainable and responsible practices across the textile value chain

6. ***MANAS (Madak Padarth Nishedh Asoochna Kendra):***

Context: The Government of India has identified substance abuse and drug trafficking as major social and public health concerns. Beyond individuals, these issues affect families, communities, and public safety.

About MANAS (Madak Padarth Nishedh Asoochna Kendra):

- ❖ It was built under the aegis of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with the Digital India Corporation (DIC).
- ❖ Built as a secure, technology-driven platform, MANAS enables citizens to report drug-related activities, seek counselling, and access rehabilitation support at any time.
- ❖ MANAS brings together the vision of Digital India and the mission of a Nasha Mukta Bharat.
- ❖ The platform is accessible through the national helpline number 1933, the official portal, email and the UMANG app.
- ❖ By making support available through these platforms, MANAS empowers citizens to actively participate in the fight against drug abuse instead of remaining silent bystanders.
- ❖ MANAS is designed around citizen needs, combining reporting, counselling, and awareness within a single architecture.

Did You Know?

India's first comprehensive **report on Magnitude of Substance Abuse of India (2019)** revealed the true scale of the drug abuse problem.

- Around **16 crore** people consume **alcohol**, out of these over 5.7 crore are severely affected.
- **3.1 crore** use **cannabis**, **2.26 crore** use **opioids**, and about **1.18 crore** use **sedatives**.
- Roughly **2.8 crore** people depend on **opioids** alone, including about 28 lakh needing urgent treatment.

7. *Van Mahotsav:*

Context: Van Mahotsav is India's annual week-long tree plantation festival observed from 1 July to 7 July. The campaign began in 1950 under K.M. Munshi, then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food, to promote tree planting and tree protection.

About Van Mahotsav:

- ❖ Also Known As: Popularly called the "Festival of Forests" in India.
- ❖ Objective: Promotes tree plantation, afforestation, environmental conservation, and public awareness.
- ❖ Celebration: Observed annually across States and Union Territories through plantation drives, awareness campaigns, and sapling distribution.
- ❖ 2026 Observance: Celebrated from 1–7 July 2026.
- ❖ Manipur Initiative: Target of 15 lakh saplings under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 3.0 campaign.
- ❖ Assam Initiative: State-wide Van Mahotsav campaign launched on 1 July 2026.
- ❖ Delhi Initiative: Planned 70 lakh sapling plantation through a phased drive with live telecasts from 50 locations starting 7 July 2026.
- ❖ Forest Cover: As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, India's forest and tree cover is 25.17% of its geographical area.
- ❖ Coverage: Total forest and tree cover stands at 827,357 sq km, an increase of 1,445 sq km since 2021.

8. *Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach:*

Context: India approved its first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedure for helicopter operations on 1 July 2026. The procedure was approved for Undavalli Heliport in Andhra Pradesh and was developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) before clearance by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

About Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach:

- ❖ A PinS Instrument Approach Procedure is a satellite-based helicopter approach procedure used for operations at heliports that do not have conventional instrument landing systems.

- ❖ It uses instrument flight rules and navigation data to guide helicopters to a defined point near the heliport.
- ❖ The procedure is designed for helicopter operations in low-visibility conditions and in locations where ground-based navigation aids are unavailable.
- ❖ It is part of modern aviation navigation systems that use global navigation satellite system technology.
- ❖ The PinS procedure for Undavalli Heliport was designed in accordance with DGCA regulations and the International Civil Aviation Organization's Standards and Recommended Practices.
- ❖ The DGCA is India's civil aviation regulator, and the AAI manages civil aviation infrastructure and air navigation services in the country.
- ❖ Instrument approach procedures are standardised flight procedures used by aircraft to descend and land using cockpit instruments.
- ❖ PinS procedures are used in emergency medical services, disaster relief, tourism, offshore operations, and regional connectivity. Such procedures are relevant for all-weather access because they support operations in adverse weather conditions.
- ❖ The Undavalli Heliport approval is the first such clearance for helicopter operations in India.

9. I-2SEA system:

Context: I-2SEA is a new submarine cable system unveiled on 2 July 2026 for connectivity between Singapore, India and Malaysia. The consortium includes Lightstorm, Microsoft, Singtel and Tata Communications, and the system supplier is NEC Corporation.

About I-2SEA system:

- ❖ The I-2SEA system is estimated to span 3,600 kilometres from Singapore to Machilipatnam in India.
- ❖ It will also have a second landing at South Chennai, giving the project two Indian landing points.
- ❖ Machilipatnam is planned as the landing point with the shortest subsea access to Hyderabad.
- ❖ South Chennai is a major coastal landing location for several undersea communication systems in India.
- ❖ NEC Corporation has been appointed as the system supplier for the cable project.
- ❖ ASEAN Cables, based in Singapore, will serve as the marine installation partner for the I-2SEA system.
- ❖ Lightstorm is the majority owner of I-2SEA. The companies involved have not disclosed the investment size for the project.
- ❖ Submarine cables are fibre-optic communication lines laid on the seabed for international data transmission. These cables carry internet traffic, cloud services and enterprise data across continents and island regions.

10. Vikram-1:

Context: Skyroot Aerospace has announced a launch window for Vikram-1 from 12 July to 4 August 2026. The mission, named Mission Aagaman, is planned from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre-SHAR in Sriharikota and involves India's first privately built orbital rocket.

About Vikram-1:

- ❖ Developer: Developed by Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace.
- ❖ Type: A seven-storey, multi-stage orbital launch vehicle with an all-carbon composite structure.
- ❖ Capacity: Designed to carry small satellites up to 350 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- ❖ Mission Aagaman: Aims to collect real-time flight performance data and validate design parameters for future launch vehicles.
- ❖ Launch Readiness: As of 1 July 2026, all stages were integrated and stacked at the launch pad.
- ❖ Unveiling: The flight-ready Vikram-1 was unveiled by Narendra Modi in November 2025.
- ❖ Earlier Milestone: Vikram-S became India's first privately built rocket to reach space on 18 November 2022.
- ❖ Payloads: The maiden Vikram-1 mission will carry domestic and international customer payloads in a partially commercial configuration.

11. *Gulf of Aden:*

Context: The Indian Navy successfully responded to a piracy attempt on the merchant vessel MV Golden Arsenal in the Gulf of Aden, with stealth frigate INS Trikand swiftly intercepting and securing the ship after the attack.

About Gulf of Aden:



- ❖ Location: An extension of the Indian Ocean situated between the Arabian Peninsula (north) and the Horn of Africa (south).
- ❖ Connections: Connects the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea through the Bab el-Mandeb.
- ❖ Name: Named after Aden, the historic port city on Yemen's southern coast.
- ❖ Dimensions: Approximately 900 km long and 500 km wide.
- ❖ Boundaries: Bounded by Yemen (north), Somalia and the Socotra Islands (south), Arabian Sea (east), and Djibouti (west).
- ❖ Other Connections: Linked to the Somali Sea through the Guardafui Channel and narrows westward into the Gulf of Tadjoura near Djibouti.
- ❖ Relief Feature: The Sheba Ridge, an extension of the Indian Ocean Ridge System, runs through the middle of the gulf.
- ❖ Oceanography: Influenced by southwest and northeast monsoon-driven upwelling, bringing cool, nutrient-rich waters.
- ❖ Salinity: Has lower salinity than the neighbouring Red Sea.

- ❖ Islands: Contains numerous islands belonging mainly to Yemen and Somalia, including the Socotra Islands.
- ❖ Major Ports: Important ports include Aden (Yemen), Berbera (Somalia), and Bosaso (Somalia).
- ❖ Major Coastal Cities: Key cities include Aden, Mukalla, Balhaf, Berbera, Bosaso, and Djibouti City.
- ❖ Strategic Importance: A vital global shipping route, forming part of the Suez Canal–Red Sea–Indian Ocean maritime corridor connecting Europe and Asia.

12. Nord Stream pipeline:

Context: German prosecutors said on Thursday that the Ukrainian state ordered a 2022 bomb attack on the Nord Stream gas pipelines, complicating relations between Kyiv and its key military backer Berlin. The sabotage, never claimed by any actor, destroyed three of the four Baltic seafloor pipelines of the major energy link from Russia to Germany and released huge amounts of methane into the atmosphere.

About Nord Stream pipeline:



- ❖ Type: An undersea natural gas pipeline system connecting Russia and Germany through the Baltic Sea.
- ❖ Objective: Transports Russian natural gas to Europe while bypassing traditional transit countries, especially Ukraine.
- ❖ Nord Stream 1: Consists of two parallel pipelines completed in 2011 and 2012.
- ❖ Route (NS1): Runs 1,224 km from Vyborg to Lubmin via the Baltic Sea.
- ❖ Nord Stream 2: Extends from Ust-Luga to Lubmin, Germany.
- ❖ Capacity (NS2): Designed to transport 55 billion cubic metres (bcm) of natural gas annually.
- ❖ Significance: A major energy corridor supplying Russian natural gas to Europe.
- ❖ Strategic Importance: Central to European energy security and Russia–Europe geopolitical relations.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The grand finale of the second edition of the National Skill Olympiad on Seafood Value Addition was held during Seafood Expo Bharat 2026 in Kochi on Wednesday. An initiative of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the Olympiad brought together ten trained seafood processing professionals, who demonstrated their culinary skills and technical expertise in preparing value-added seafood products. In a closely contested finale, P. Surya Bhaskar of Devi Fisheries Ltd., Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, emerged as the winner.
- ☐ Indian Naval Ship Trikand, a mission-deployed stealth frigate of the Indian Navy operating in the Gulf of Aden, responded swiftly to a piracy attempt on MV Golden Arsenal, a St. Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged bulk carrier, on 01 Jul 26. The merchant vessel, while transiting from Aden, Yemen, reported an attempted pirate attack approximately 300 nautical miles east-northeast of Djibouti. The piracy incident was reported in coordination with the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), following which INS Trikand, mission deployed in the region, was directed to intercept the merchant vessel.
- ☐ Mount Erebus is an active volcano on Ross Island in East Antarctica, about 1,350 kilometres from the South Pole. It is the southernmost active volcano on Earth and has been continuously erupting since 1972. The volcano releases microscopic crystals of elemental gold into the atmosphere, and the crystals can travel up to 1,000 kilometres from the volcano. The volcano is reported to emit about 80 grams of gold each day.
- ☐ The Arul Mihi Navasakthi Vinayagar Temple is a Hindu temple in Victoria, the capital of Seychelles. It was constructed in 1992 by the Hindu community and is dedicated to Lord Vinayagar, also known as Lord Ganesha.
- ☐ The Southern Birdwing, scientifically named Troides minos, was recorded in Telangana's Amrabad Tiger Reserve on 27 June 2026. The species is endemic to South India and is associated mainly with the Western Ghats. The Southern Birdwing belongs to the family Papilionidae, which includes swallowtail butterflies. It is known as the Sahyadri Birdwing and occurs in forested habitats of the Western Ghats in Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and parts of Maharashtra.
- ☐ On 28 June 2026, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan inaugurated an advanced Common Incubation Centre at the College of Food Technology, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, in Parbhani, Maharashtra. The facility was set up under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme.
- ☐ India and Japan signed their first defence co-development agreement on 2 July 2026 during the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit in New Delhi. The pact covers the co-development of the Naval Radio Antenna 'Unicorn', also called the UNICORN mast, for naval platforms. The UNICORN mast stands for Unified Complex Radio Antenna. It is designed to improve the stealth characteristics of naval platforms by integrating multiple antennas into a single structure. The system is used on warships for communication, radar, and electronic systems.
- ☐ NATO plans to replace its ageing fleet of AWACS aircraft with GlobalEye surveillance planes from Sweden's Saab, four sources said, a move that could test uneasy relations with U.S. President Donald Trump.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Thursday inaugurated Maruti Suzuki's fourth vehicle manufacturing facility at Kharkhoda in Haryana. Two-thirds of Suzuki's cars are made in India and exported to more than 100 countries from New Delhi, Mr. Modi said during the launch at the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum.

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