

06/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD):*

Context: India will chair the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, organised by the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, from 06 to 08 July 2026.

About United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

- ❖ Establishment: Permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964 to promote trade and development.
- ❖ Status: Functions as part of the UN Secretariat, reporting to the UN General Assembly and ECOSOC, while maintaining its own membership, leadership, and budget.
- ❖ Headquarters: Located in Geneva.
- ❖ Membership: Comprises 195 member countries, including India.
- ❖ Objective: Supports developing countries in benefiting more fairly and effectively from globalization through inclusive and sustainable development.
- ❖ Key Functions: Conducts trade and economic analysis, facilitates intergovernmental consensus-building, and provides technical assistance on trade, investment, finance, and technology.
- ❖ Development Support: Assists countries in addressing macroeconomic challenges, integrating into the global trading system, diversifying economies, and reducing vulnerability to commodity dependence, financial volatility, and debt.
- ❖ Major Publications: Publishes flagship reports such as the Trade and Development Report, World Investment Report, and The Least Developed Countries Report.

2. *Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme:*

Context: Under the EBP Programme, ethanol blending has increased from less than 1.5 percent in 2013-14 to 20 percent in 2025-26. India achieved the 20 percent blending target five years ahead of schedule.

About Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme:

- ❖ Ethanol (C_2H_5OH), considered a renewable fuel, is an anhydrous ethyl alcohol produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, and other crops with high starch content.
- ❖ It is naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration.
- ❖ Launch: Started in 2003 to promote ethanol blending in petrol.
- ❖ Definition: Mixing ethanol with petrol to make fuel cleaner and more sustainable.
- ❖ Blending Types: E10 (10% ethanol), E20 (20%), E85 (85%).
- ❖ E20 Benefits: Better acceleration, improved ride quality, and 30% lower carbon emissions vs. E10.
- ❖ Target: 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025-26 (advanced from 2030).
- ❖ Achievement: Ethanol production rose from 38 crore liters (2014) to 660+ crore liters (2025).

ETHANOL BLENDED PETROL (EBP) PROGRAMME

Powering India's Energy Security • Empowering Farmers • Protecting the Environment

Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has emerged as a key pillar of India's energy transition and biofuel strategy. It aims to improve energy security, support farmers, and reduce environmental impacts. The programme also promotes greater use of domestically produced renewable fuel.

- Under the EBP Programme, ethanol blending has increased from less than **1.5%** in 2013-14 to **20%** in 2025-26.
- India achieved the **20%** blending target **five years ahead** of schedule.



Ethanol procurement rose from about **38 crore litres** in Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2013-14 to **over 1,200 crore litres** (projected) in 2025-26.



Production capacity expanded nearly **fivefold** from **421 crore litres** in 2014 to about **2,000 crore litres** in 2026.



This expansion has **reduced crude oil imports** and **saved valuable foreign exchange**. It has also **lowered greenhouse gas emissions** and **strengthened farmers' incomes** through new market opportunities.

STRENGTHENING ENERGY SECURITY THROUGH ETHANOL BLENDING

India imports close to **88.5%** of the crude oil it consumes. That single number explains a great deal about why ethanol blending sits so high on the policy agenda. Every barrel of oil bought from abroad exposes the country to price swings and supply shocks that are entirely outside its control. Ethanol produced from Indian sugarcane, maize and rice offers a way to blunt that exposure using resources grown at home.

Since the ESY 2014-15 (up to May 2026), the programme has delivered results that go well beyond a policy target on paper.



₹1.90+
lakh crore
Saved in foreign
exchange since
2014-15



310+
lakh MT*
Crude oil
substituted



~930
lakh MT*
CO₂ emissions
cut



₹1.60+
lakh crore
Additional farmer
earnings



Cleaner air
Stronger rural
economy
Stronger India

*MT – Metric Tonnes

3. National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) Scheme:

Context: The National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) Scheme is a focused initiative designed to empower entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

About National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) Scheme:

- ❖ Launch: Launched in 2016 under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- ❖ Implementing Agency: Implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation.
- ❖ Objective: Provides professional support and capacity-building to SC/ST entrepreneurs to strengthen their businesses.
- ❖ Procurement Support: Helps SC/ST-owned MSEs benefit from the 4% procurement sub-target under the Central Government Public Procurement Policy for MSEs, 2012.
- ❖ Entrepreneurship Promotion: Encourages adoption of best business practices and leverages opportunities under the Stand-Up India initiative.

4. Maritime Investment Fund (MIF):

Context: Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) convened an industry consultation on the Maritime Investment Fund (MIF), currently being established under Maritime Development Fund (MDF).

About Maritime Investment Fund (MIF):

- ❖ Establishment: Set up in September 2025 with a ₹25,000 crore corpus to meet the long-term financing needs of India's maritime sector.
- ❖ Objective: Provides financial support to boost maritime infrastructure, shipping, ports, and other strategic maritime projects.
- ❖ Maritime Investment Fund (MIF): Allocated ₹20,000 crore, with the Government of India contributing 49% and the remaining funds mobilized from institutional, public sector, and private investors.
- ❖ Interest Incentivization Fund (IIF): Allocated ₹5,000 crore, fully financed through Government of India budgetary support.
- ❖ Significance: Aims to catalyse private investment and strengthen the growth and competitiveness of India's maritime economy.

5. *GNI (Gross National Income) per capita:*

Context: World Bank (WB) elevated Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Jordan, and Micronesia to upper-middle income status. India remains a Lower-Middle-Income Economy.

About GNI (Gross National Income) per capita:

- ❖ GNI per capita= {Mid-year Population/Gross National Income (GNI)}
- ❖ Gross National Income (GNI) is the total income earned by a country's residents and businesses, regardless of whether the income is generated within the country or abroad.
- ❖ Methodology: The World Bank classifies countries based on GNI per capita (in US dollars) using the Atlas Method, which smooths exchange rate fluctuations.
- ❖ Low-Income Economies: GNI per capita of \$1,175 or less.
- ❖ Lower-Middle-Income Economies: GNI per capita between \$1,176 and \$4,635.
- ❖ Upper-Middle-Income Economies: GNI per capita between \$4,636 and \$14,375.
- ❖ High-Income Economies: GNI per capita above \$14,375.
- ❖ Update & Significance: The World Bank updates these classifications every year on July 1 using estimates from the previous calendar year. The classifications determine countries' eligibility for concessional loans, development assistance, and other international financing.

6. *Syama Prasad Mookerjee:*

Context: The Ministry of Culture, in association with the Government of West Bengal, will organise a special commemorative programme on tomorrow (6th July 2026) at Milan Mela Prangan, Kolkata, as part of the two year official commemoration of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Kesari Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

About Syama Prasad Mookerjee:

- ❖ Birth & Family: Born in Calcutta (now Kolkata), he was the son of Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee, the renowned educationist and former Vice-Chancellor of University of Calcutta.

- ❖ Academic Excellence: Represented the University of Calcutta at the Conference of the Universities of the British Empire and became its youngest Vice-Chancellor at the age of 33 in 1934.
- ❖ Journalism: Founded the Bengali journal Bang Wani (1922) and later started The Nationalist newspaper in the 1940s.
- ❖ Political Career: Initially joined the Indian National Congress, later joined the Hindu Mahasabha, and served as Finance Minister in the Progressive Coalition Government of Bengal (1937).
- ❖ National Leadership: Became the acting President of the Hindu Mahasabha in 1940 and strongly advocated complete independence for India.
- ❖ Founder of Bharatiya Jan Sangh: Founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951, which later evolved into the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- ❖ Post-Independence Contributions: Served as Minister for Industry and Supply and played a key role in establishing institutions such as the Chittaranjan Locomotive Factory, Sindri Fertilizer Corporation, and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation.
- ❖ Ideology: Advocated nationalism, cultural unity, and a strong integrated India; strongly opposed Article 370 and the linguistic reorganisation of states.
- ❖ Legacy: Arrested during a protest against the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and died in 1953 under controversial circumstances; remembered as the "Lion of Parliament" for his powerful speeches and debates.

7. ***Pandavani:***

Context: Teejan Bai, an artist who took the ancient Chhattisgarhi folk tradition of Pandavani, the musical narration of the Mahabharata, to the world, died at 70 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Raipur on Sunday after a prolonged illness. Teejan Bai shattered stereotypes by taking up an art form traditionally performed by men, and performed with her lively voice throughout India and across the globe for decades. She was conferred the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honour.

About Pandavani:

- ❖ Definition: Pandavani is a traditional folk-narrative and musical performance art of Chhattisgarh based on the Mahabharata.
- ❖ Meaning: The term Pandavani means "the story/voice of the Pandavas", derived from Pandava (the five brothers) and Vani (voice or narration).
- ❖ Origin: It originated from the oral traditions of central India, particularly Chhattisgarh, with influence in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.
- ❖ Historical Background: It evolved during the 16th–17th centuries, influenced by the Bhakti Movement, to make the Mahabharata accessible to common people.
- ❖ Nature of Performance: It is a solo storytelling performance accompanied by musicians, combining narration, music, singing, acting, gestures, and improvisation.
- ❖ Themes: The performances focus on episodes from the Mahabharata, especially the lives of Bhima, Arjuna, Draupadi, and Krishna, highlighting values such as dharma, truth, courage, loyalty, and sacrifice.
- ❖ Vedamati Style: A traditional and restrained style in which the performer sits and narrates the story with emphasis on devotional storytelling.

- ❖ **Kapalik Style:** A dramatic and theatrical style in which the performer stands, enacts different characters, interacts with the audience, and uses expressive movements.
- ❖ **Famous Exponent:** Teejan Bai popularised the Kapalik style and brought Pandavani to national and international recognition.
- ❖ **Social Relevance:** Performers often incorporate contemporary social issues such as gender equality, corruption, and communal harmony into the traditional narrative.
- ❖ **Cultural Significance:** Pandavani preserves India's oral storytelling tradition, promotes the values of the Mahabharata, and remains an important part of the cultural heritage of central India.

8. *Gaganyaan mission:*

Context: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully carried out the first ground test of the solid motor-based Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments (SOLVE) at its Static Test Facility at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The SOLVE solid motor is a key component for conducting Gaganyaan test missions and the first ground test was carried out on July 3. The ISRO is developing a solid motor-based SOLVE as a test platform to carry out Integrated Parachute Tests for validation of deceleration system of Gaganyaan's crew module under various test conditions.

About Gaganyaan mission:

- ❖ It is India's ongoing project to send a 3-day manned mission to the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) with a crew of 4 members and bring them safely back to Earth.
- ❖ It will circle Earth at a low-earth-orbit at an altitude of 300-400 km from earth for 5-7 days.
- ❖ Its immediate aim is to demonstrate indigenous capability to undertake human space flights.
- ❖ **Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM-3):** It is a 3-stage space launch vehicle operated by the ISRO to launch satellites and other space objects into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbits.
- ❖ The third stage of this vehicle uses a Cryogenic engine, which uses liquefied oxygen and hydrogen as fuel.
- ❖ It has been designed for launching communication satellites.
- ❖ **GSLV** delivers satellites into a higher elliptical orbit - GTO.
- ❖ **Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1):** Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) will evaluate the crew module's readiness for the Gaganyaan mission. It is a single-stage liquid rocket developed specifically for this abort mission.
- ❖ The payloads consist of the Crew Module (CM) and Crew Escape Systems (CES).
- ❖ This flight will simulate the abort condition during the ascent trajectory.
- ❖ Crew Escape System is engineered to automatically function across various altitudes should the onboard computer detect any malfunctions.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Indian Naval Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini sailed into New York Port on 4 Jul 2026 to represent India at the United States International Naval Review 250 and Sail4th 250 celebrations. The visit is part of the ship's 10-month transoceanic expedition, Lokayan 2026, which reflects the Indian Navy's commitment to strengthening maritime cooperation, building international goodwill and deepening engagement with partner navies.
- ☐ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)'s flagship initiative, ICMR-MINDS, a National Health Research Priority project, has been conferred the Gold Award under Category 2 — Innovation by Use of AI and Other New Age Technologies for Providing Citizen-Centric Services — at the National Awards for e-Governance, instituted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. ICMR-MINDS is an implementation research study on the integration of screening and management of mental and substance use disorders with other non-communicable diseases. Its Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) enables task-shifting of standardised mental health screening, assessment, follow-up, and routine management from specialists to trained non-specialist frontline healthcare providers, backed by evidence-based digital decision support.
- ☐ India will host BRICS Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies Meeting on 6–7 July 2026 in Guwahati, Assam. The meeting will bring together the Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies and senior officials from BRICS member countries to strengthen institutional continuity and foster deeper operational cooperation among grouping drug control agencies.
- ☐ Union Minister for Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today reviewed the implementation of the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G-RAM-G] through a video conference with Rural Development Ministers of all States and Union Territories. During the meeting, he released the first installment (Mother Sanction) of ₹25,863 crore to the States for implementation of the scheme.
- ☐ India will host the BRICS Women Working Group (WWG) Meeting on 6-7 July 2026 in Kochi, Kerala, under its BRICS Chairship this year. Guided by India's BRICS Chairship theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", reflecting a people-centric and humanity-first approach, the BRICS Women Track has focused on four priority areas: women in governance and leadership; women's digital and financial inclusion; women's entrepreneurship and skill development; and women's role in climate action, food security and nutrition.
- ☐ ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI), Kochi has discovered a new deep-sea fish 'Cyttopsis indica' (Indian dory) from the Arabian Sea off Kerala.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

The Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G-RAM-G] is implemented by which Ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (b) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- (c) Ministry of Rural Development
- (d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Consider the following statements regarding the Maritime Investment Fund (MIF):

1. The Maritime Investment Fund component has an allocation of ₹20,000 crore.
2. The Government of India contributes 49% to the Maritime Investment Fund component.
3. The remaining funds are mobilised from institutional, public sector, and private investors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Pandavani is a traditional folk-narrative and musical performance art associated with which state?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Chhattisgarh
- (d) Jharkhand

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