

07/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Mahendragiri (F38):*

Context: The Indian Navy is set to commission its sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate, Mahendragiri (F38), at Visakhapatnam on 11 Jul 2026.

About Mahendragiri (F38):

- ❖ Named after the majestic Mahendragiri mountain range in the Eastern Ghats, the frigate embodies resilience, strength, and unwavering resolve.
- ❖ As the first Indian Naval warship to bear this name, Mahendragiri is truly sui generis.
- ❖ Designed in-house by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A stealth frigate, exemplifies India's growing expertise in indigenous warship design and construction.
- ❖ Incorporating advanced stealth features, enhanced survivability, reduced radar signature, and a high degree of automation, the frigate is powered by a modern Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system, enabling high-speed operations with exceptional endurance across the full spectrum of maritime missions.
- ❖ With over 75 percent indigenous content, Mahendragiri exemplifies the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- ❖ The frigate is equipped with an advanced suite of indigenous and state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, including surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missile systems, sophisticated electronic warfare capabilities, comprehensive anti-submarine warfare systems, and an integrated Combat Management System.
- ❖ Capable of undertaking anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine operations, Mahendragiri is equally suited for maritime security, power projection, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Search and Rescue (SAR), and sustained presence missions.
- ❖ As the Indian Navy continues to strengthen its maritime capabilities through indigenous warships, Mahendragiri, as a mission primed unit, stands ready to serve the nation with distinction, living up to her motto, 'Mighty–Majestic–Matchless'.

About Project 17A Programme:

- ❖ Project 17A is an Indian Navy programme to build seven advanced stealth guided-missile frigates to enhance maritime combat capability.
- ❖ It is the follow-on project to the Project 17 (Shivalik-class) frigates, incorporating improved stealth, automation, and advanced weapon systems.
- ❖ The project is being executed by two Indian shipyards: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (Mumbai) – 4 frigates and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (Kolkata) – 3 frigates
- ❖ The frigates belong to the Nilgiri-class and are designed with reduced radar, infrared, acoustic, and magnetic signatures, making them difficult to detect.
- ❖ They are equipped with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, surface-to-air missiles, torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, modern sensors, and advanced electronic warfare systems.
- ❖ The ships are built using Integrated Construction (block construction) and Integrated Platform Management Systems (IPMS), reducing construction time and improving operational efficiency.

- ❖ The programme significantly promotes Aatmanirbhar Bharat through high indigenous content, supporting India's domestic defence manufacturing ecosystem.
- ❖ Strategic Importance: Project 17A strengthens the Indian Navy's capability for air defence, anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, and long-range maritime operations in the Indian Ocean Region.

2. *TribeX:*

Context: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will organise a two-day National Workshop on Strengthening Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) on 7–8 July 2026 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. A major highlight of the event will be the launch of TribeX.

About TribeX:

- ❖ TribeX is India's first digital learning platform dedicated to tribal heritage.
- ❖ It focuses on tribal arts, culture, languages, traditional knowledge, and skill development.
- ❖ The platform aims to preserve, document, and disseminate India's rich tribal heritage.
- ❖ It provides structured digital courses, digital repositories, and technology-enabled knowledge sharing.
- ❖ It promotes research, cultural exchange, and wider awareness of tribal traditions.
- ❖ It also seeks to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for tribal communities through skill development and digital outreach.

3. *Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):*

Context: Atal Innovation Mission Strengthens Eastern India Innovation Ecosystem at Regional AIM SUMVAAD-East Chapter 2026. AIM SUMVAAD is a regional stakeholder engagement initiative of the Atal Innovation Mission under NITI Aayog. It serves as a collaborative platform bringing together government, industry, academia, incubators, investors, startups, and innovation ecosystem partners. Its objective is to strengthen regional innovation ecosystems by promoting dialogue, partnerships, and knowledge sharing.

About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):

- ❖ It is the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country
- ❖ It was set up in 2016.
- ❖ It aims to create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.
- ❖ All the initiatives of AIM are currently monitored and implemented by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ Atal Tinkering Labs are state-of-the-art space established in a school with a goal to foster curiosity and innovation in young minds, between grade 6th to 12th across the country.

4. *Global Passport Index (GPI) 2026:*

Context: India's ranking in the Global Passport Index (GPI) has fallen one rank from last year to 125th spot.

About Global Passport Index (GPI) 2026:

- ❖ The Global Passport Index is published by Global Citizen Solutions and evaluates the overall strength of passports across 200 countries.
- ❖ It assesses how effectively a passport enables citizens to travel internationally, invest, live securely, and access global opportunities.
- ❖ The index is based on three core pillars—Enhanced Mobility, Investment Potential, and Quality of Life—using 15 indicators to measure passport strength.
- ❖ Sweden followed by Switzerland topped the rankings.

5. *North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO):*

Context: North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) military alliance's annual summit, scheduled to be held from July 7-8 in Türkiye's capital Ankara.

About North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO):

Alphabetical list of NATO member countries

 Albania 2009	 Belgium 1949	 Bulgaria 2004	 Canada 1949
 Croatia 2009	 Czechia 1999	 Denmark 1949	 Estonia 2004
 Finland 2023	 France 1949	 Germany 1955	 Greece 1952
 Hungary 1999	 Iceland 1949	 Italy 1949	 Latvia 2004
 Lithuania 2004	 Luxembourg 1949	 Montenegro 2017	 Netherlands 1949
 North Macedonia 2020	 Norway 1949	 Poland 1999	 Portugal 1949
 Romania 2004	 Slovakia 2004	 Slovenia 2004	 Spain 1982
 Türkiye 1952	 United Kingdom 1949	 United States 1949	

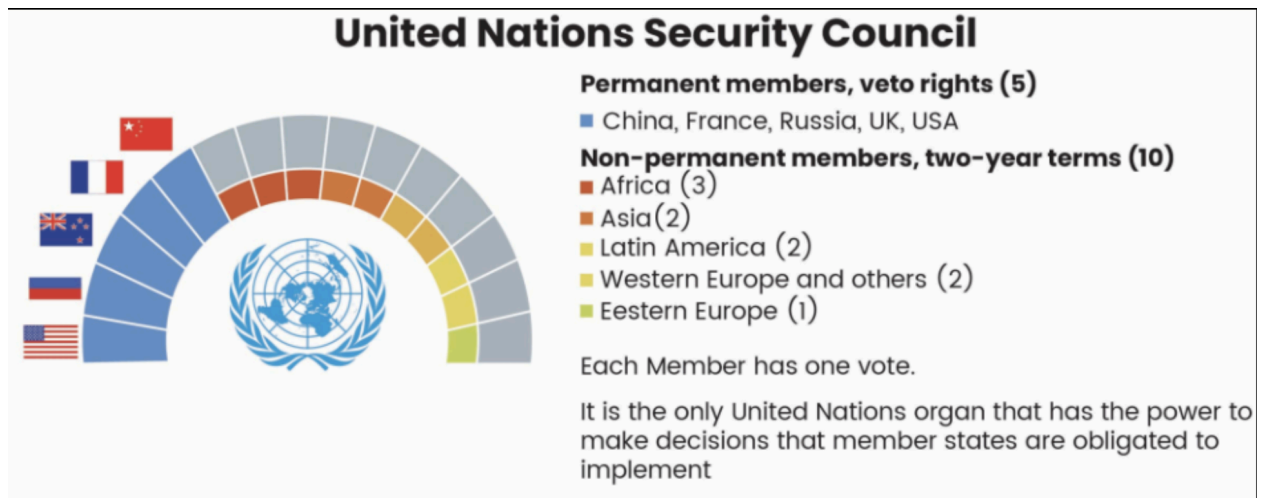
- ❖ It was formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty.
- ❖ It is a security alliance of 32 countries from North America and Europe.
- ❖ It is headquartered at Brussels, Belgium.

- ❖ NATO's fundamental goal is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security by political and military means.
- ❖ It is a system of collective defence where independent member states agree for mutual defence in case of any attack by an external party.
- ❖ Article 5 of the Washington Treaty states that an attack against one Ally is an attack against all.

6. **UN Security Council(UNSC):**

Context: India on July 13 will launch the official campaign for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council during 2028-29. While India has received support from countries such as Fiji, United States, Austria and Sri Lanka, it will have to do considerable diplomatic heavy lifting as Tajikistan has already secured the support of the OIC bloc that consists of 57 member-states of the United Nations. That apart, both countries are members of the SCO that will hold the next summit meeting in Kyrgyzstan, adding a special significance to the summit from the point of view of UNSC ambitions of India and Tajikistan.

About UN Security Council(UNSC):



- ❖ Genesis: Established in 1945 through the UN Charter as one of the 6 principal organs of the UN.
- ❖ Purpose: Maintaining international peace and security.
- ❖ Members: 5 permanent members (P5) and 10 non-permanent members.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ World Zoonoses Day is observed on July 6 to raise awareness about diseases that spread between animals and humans, like rabies or COVID-19. The 2026 theme is "One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses". It is guided by the slogan: "Zoonoses Are Rising – Shared Responsibility, Shared Space".
- ☐ Hayabusa2 is Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's asteroid sample-return mission, launched on 3 December 2014. It explored the carbon-rich asteroid Ryugu, becoming the first mission to deploy rovers on an asteroid, and successfully returned asteroid samples to Earth on 6 December 2020. The spacecraft is now on an extended mission and is expected to reach the asteroid 1998

KY26 in July 2031. Asteroids are small rocky or metallic bodies orbiting the Sun, mostly found in the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter.

- ☐ The Himalayan pangolin has been confirmed as a distinct species, separate from the Chinese pangolin, with scientists attributing their divergence to climate change during the early Pleistocene Epoch (~1.8 million years ago). It is found in the southern Himalayan foothills (Nepal, South Tibet, and Northeast India) and is larger than the Chinese pangolin but has smaller ears and a shorter, broader nasal bone. Pangolins are scaly, nocturnal mammals that rely heavily on their sense of smell to feed on ants and termites and curl into a ball for defence. Globally, there are eight pangolin species, including the Indian pangolin, and they face major threats from poaching, illegal wildlife trade, and habitat-related pressures.
- ☐ The Changpa are a semi-nomadic pastoral community inhabiting the Changthang Plateau, mainly within the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary. They are renowned for rearing the indigenous Changthangi (Changra) goats, which produce the world-famous Pashmina (cashmere) wool, and also rear yaks and sheep while practising seasonal transhumance. Recognised as a Scheduled Tribe (ST), the Changpa are the custodians of Ladakh's fragile high-altitude pastoral ecosystem and its traditional Pashmina heritage.
- ☐ Scientists Discover Earth-Like Exoplanet GJ 3378b GJ 3378b is an exoplanet orbiting the red dwarf star Gliese 3378, which lies about 25 light-years from the Solar System in the northern constellation Camelopardalis.
- ☐ India is participating in the inaugural United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance in Geneva, Switzerland, on 6-7 July 2026. The Indian delegation is led by Minister of State for External Affairs and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh. The dialogue is the first universal, multi-stakeholder forum on AI governance under the United Nations system.
- ☐ Adani Defence & Aerospace laid the foundation stone for a ₹2,500 crore missile manufacturing facility in Pali, Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh, on 5 July 2026. The project is planned as a private-sector missile ecosystem for medium and long-range missile systems.
- ☐ Officials of the Fisheries department sounded alarm about the outbreak of White Gut Disease (WDG), also known as White Feces Disease (WFD), in shrimp ponds in Andhra Pradesh. Explaining the symptoms of the disease, scientists appealed to the shrimp farmers to take measures to prevent the spread of the disease.
- ☐ A diamond jewellery creation mounted on an aluminium base plate and a miniaturised artwork cast in the shape of a rocket using 18K gold are among the payloads which will be launched by India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket, Vikram-1. It is expected to be launched some time between July 12 and August 4. Skyroot Aerospace on Monday announced that the orbital launch vehicle will carry six payloads. The rocket will carry technology demonstration payloads from Graaha Space, Dcubed, and Skyroot's own SCOPE. Also aboard will be the Embrace payload, developed by Cosmoserve Space. During the mission, the robotic arm will remain attached to Vikram-1's payload deck while carrying out its planned demonstration.
- ☐ As on March 31, non-fossil installed capacity reached 283.46 GW — 150.26 GW of solar, 56.09 GW of wind, 51.41 GW of large hydro and 8.78 GW of nuclear — after a record 44.6 GW of solar and 6 GW of wind were added in 2025-26. Coal remains the largest single source of power, at about 42% of installed capacity, though coal generation fell 3.69% over the year. Peak demand touched 270.82 GW on May 21, according to official data.

Practice questions:***Objective questions:***

White Gut Disease (White Feces Disease), recently seen in news, primarily affects:

- (a) Poultry
- (b) Dairy cattle
- (c) Shrimp
- (d) Rice crops

Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket, has been developed by:

- (a) Agnikul Cosmos
- (b) Bellatrix Aerospace
- (c) Pixxel
- (d) Skyroot Aerospace

TribeX, recently launched in India, is best described as:

- (a) A digital platform for tribal handicraft marketing.
- (b) A digital portal for tribal product sales.
- (c) A digital learning platform for tribal heritage.
- (d) A digital mapping platform for tribal settlements.

With reference to INS Mahendragiri (F38), consider the following statements:

1. It is the sixth stealth frigate built under Project 17A of the Indian Navy.
2. It was designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.
3. It is powered by a nuclear propulsion system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Consider the following countries: (CSP 2025)

- I. Austria
- II. Bulgaria
- III. Croatia
- IV. Serbia

V. Sweden

VI. North Macedonia

How many of the above are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?

- (a) Only three
- (b) Only four
- (c) Only five
- (d) All the six

Atal Innovation Mission is set up under the (CSP 2019)

- (a) Department of Science and Technology
- (b) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

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