

09/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Prambanan Temple Complex:*

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today visited the iconic UNESCO World Heritage site Prambanan Temple Complex in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

About Prambanan Temple Complex:

- ❖ Location: Prambanan is the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia, located in Sleman, Yogyakarta, Central Java (Southern Java).
- ❖ Local Name: It is popularly known as Roro Jonggrang, meaning "Temple of the Slender Virgin."
- ❖ Period of Construction: It was built in the 9th century CE by the Sanjaya Dynasty, a Hindu kingdom that ruled central Java.
- ❖ Dedication: The temple is dedicated to the Hindu Trimurti—Shiva (Destroyer), Vishnu (Preserver), and Brahma (Creator).
- ❖ UNESCO Status: It was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991 for its outstanding cultural and architectural significance.
- ❖ Rediscovery: The temple remained buried and abandoned for centuries before being rediscovered and restored during the 19th century.
- ❖ Architectural Style: It reflects a blend of indigenous Javanese architecture and South Indian Pallava-style influences.
- ❖ Temple Complex: The complex originally consisted of 240 temples, showcasing the grandeur of ancient Hindu architecture.
- ❖ Central Compound: The main compound contains 8 principal temples and 8 smaller (minor) temples, built on a raised platform.
- ❖ Main Temples: The three principal temples are dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma, with each accompanied by a temple dedicated to their respective vahana (vehicle).
- ❖ Shiva Temple: The Shiva Temple is the largest and tallest (47 m), making it one of the tallest Hindu temples in Southeast Asia.
- ❖ Sculptures and Surroundings: The temple walls are adorned with intricate bas-reliefs depicting the Ramayana and other Hindu epics. Although primarily a Hindu complex, it is surrounded by Buddhist temples and shrines, reflecting the coexistence of Hinduism and Buddhism in ancient Java.

2. *Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR):*

Context: Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur on July 08, 2026.

About Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR):

- ❖ The Pinaka LRGR rocket is designed by Armament Research and Development Establishment in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, with support from Defence Research and Development Laboratory and Research Centre Imarat.

- ❖ **About:** The Pinaka Missile System is an indigenously developed multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) through its Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE). It is named after Lord Shiva's bow, Pinaka.
 - ❖ **Key Features:** It is a high-precision, highly mobile, and quick-deployment artillery system capable of delivering intense and concentrated fire on enemy targets with high accuracy.
 - ❖ **Pinaka Mark I:** The first operational variant has an effective range of about 40 km.
 - ❖ **Pinaka Mark II:** An upgraded version with a range of 70–80 km, which is planned to be extended to 120 km and eventually 300 km.
 - ❖ **Launch Capability:** The system can fire 12 rockets in a single salvo from upgraded launchers, enabling rapid saturation of a target area.
 - ❖ **Significance:** Pinaka strengthens India's indigenous defence capabilities, enhances long-range artillery firepower, and supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence manufacturing.
- 3. *Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU):***

Context: Centre approved the nationwide rollout of the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU).

About PM-SETU:

- ❖ PM-SETU, a flagship initiative of the Government of India with an outlay of ₹60,000 crore, aims to transform 1,000 Government ITIs through an industry-led Hub-and-Spoke model.
- ❖ The scheme seeks to modernise infrastructure, strengthen industry engagement, improve employability outcomes, and establish National Centres of Excellence (NCoEs) in high-growth sectors, building, through stronger government-industry partnerships — a future-ready workforce equipped for advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies.
- ❖ **Component I – Upgradation of 1,000 Government ITIs (200 Hub ITIs and 800 Spoke ITIs)** in a Hub and Spoke model wherein upgradation includes smart classrooms, modern labs, digital content, and new courses aligned to industry needs.
- ❖ **Component II – Capacity Augmentation of five NSTIs** located in Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur, and Ludhiana, including setting-up sector-specific National Centres of Excellence for skilling, with focus on advanced training of trainers with global partnership.

4. *Haveli Sangeet:*

Context: The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar-2025 was announced for the years 2024-25 by the Sangeet Natak Akademi under the Union Ministry of Culture. Acharya Shri Ranchhodlalji Goswami, a Haveli Sangeet scholar from Ahmedabad, received the honour for the Pushtimarg Haveli Sangeet tradition.

More details:

- ❖ Haveli Sangeet is a devotional music tradition associated with the Pushtimarg sect and the temple culture of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

- ❖ It is performed as part of temple worship and incorporates devotional hymns (bhajans), vocal compositions, and Indian classical music.
- ❖ Acharya Shri Ranchhodlalji Goswami, the 16th Acharya of the historic Goswami Haveli, Kalupur (Ahmedabad), is a renowned exponent of Haveli Sangeet.
- ❖ At the age of 32, he has composed over 22,000 devotional hymns and authored eight books on devotional music and spirituality.
- ❖ He has been conferred the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, an annual award recognizing outstanding young artists (below 40 years) in Indian performing arts.
- ❖ The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar carries a cash prize of ₹25,000, along with a plaque and an angavastram, to encourage young talent in the performing arts.

5. *Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System (PABS):*

Context: World Health Organisation (WHO) member states kicked off another attempt at finalising the missing piece of the pandemic treaty here on Monday, with the Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) injecting a fresh sense of urgency. Wealthy countries and developing nations are at loggerheads in talks at the WHO's headquarters over how the pandemic agreement, adopted last year, will work in practice. Though the treaty was agreed in May 2025, how its key mechanism would operate was left out to get the deal over the line.

About Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System (PABS):

- ❖ Definition: The Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System (PABS) is a global framework adopted by the World Health Organization in 2024 to ensure equitable sharing of pathogens and fair distribution of benefits arising from their use.
- ❖ Purpose: It balances rapid pathogen sharing for global health security with the principles of fairness, equity, and national sovereignty over biological resources.
- ❖ Background: The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of sharing pathogen samples and genetic data while exposing inequalities in access to vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics.
- ❖ Legal Context: The system addresses challenges posed by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol, whose access procedures sometimes delayed outbreak response.
- ❖ Adoption: PABS was endorsed in May 2024 during the World Health Assembly as part of the WHO Pandemic Agreement negotiations.
- ❖ Objective – Pathogen Sharing: It promotes timely, transparent, and secure sharing of pathogen samples and genetic sequence data during public health emergencies.
- ❖ Objective – Benefit Sharing: It ensures fair and equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, technology transfer, training, and other benefits derived from shared pathogens.
- ❖ Governance: The system is administered by the WHO with participation from Member States, research institutions, industry partners, and international health organisations.
- ❖ Access Component: It uses WHO Pathogen Access Nodes (PANs), standardized material transfer agreements, and secure data-sharing mechanisms to facilitate responsible pathogen exchange.
- ❖ Benefit-Sharing Component: Benefits include financial contributions, technology transfer, capacity building, reserved medical supplies, and advance purchase commitments for participating countries during health emergencies.

6. *What is the right to be forgotten?*

- ❖ Definition: The Right to be Forgotten (RTBF) is the right of an individual to have personal information erased or de-indexed from the public digital space when its continued availability causes harm and serves no overriding public interest.
- ❖ Origin: The concept originated from the 2014 Google Spain SL v. Agencia Española de Protección de Datos (Mario Costeja González) judgment and was later incorporated under Article 17 (Right to Erasure) of the General Data Protection Regulation act of the European Union.
- ❖ Constitutional Basis: In India, the RTBF flows from the Right to Privacy recognised as a fundamental right under Article 21 by the K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India.
- ❖ Earlier Position: Before 2026, Indian High Courts followed inconsistent approaches, with some allowing anonymisation while others prioritised the principle of open justice.
- ❖ Delhi HC Judgment: On 29 May 2026, the Laksh Vir Singh Yadav v. Union of India established a structured framework for implementing the Right to be Forgotten.
- ❖ Proportionality Test: The Court held that retention of information must serve a legitimate purpose, privacy harm must be balanced against public interest, and the least restrictive measure should be adopted.
- ❖ Preferred Remedy: Instead of deleting judgments, the Court directed masking/redaction of parties' names while retaining the facts and legal reasoning to preserve judicial records.
- ❖ Compliance Timeline: The Court directed legal databases to comply within two weeks by de-indexing or anonymising names wherever applicable.
- ❖ Constitutional Balance: RTBF must be balanced with Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and expression), open justice, and the public's right to know, especially in matters involving serious crimes.
- ❖ Practical Challenges: Effective enforcement remains difficult because search engines, archives, mirror websites, and social media can continue to display old information despite court orders.
- ❖ DPDP Act, 2023: The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 provides only a limited right to erasure based on consent and does not specifically cover judicial records or public archives.
- ❖ Institutional Mechanism: A tiered system has been suggested—routine requests by platforms, disputed cases by the Data Protection Board, and judicial record-related cases by courts.
- ❖ Significance: The Delhi High Court ruling marks a major step in protecting informational privacy, but comprehensive implementation requires Supreme Court guidance, an effective Data Protection Board, and platform compliance.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ India hosted the 13th ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee (JC) and related meetings at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, from July 6 to 10, 2026, to review the progress of negotiations under the AITIGA Review.
- ☐ In a significant step towards strengthening the pharmaceutical supply chain and facilitating ease of trade, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has enabled the import of drugs through the recently inaugurated Navi Mumbai Airport in Maharashtra. The amendment to Rule 43A of the

Drugs Rules, 1945 now includes Navi Mumbai in the list of airports through which drugs may be imported into the country.

- ☐ The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, has launched Handloom Hackathon 2026 – “Weaving Innovation”, a national innovation challenge aimed at harnessing technology, design, entrepreneurship and sustainable solutions to strengthen India’s handloom sector. The initiative is being organised as part of the celebrations of National Handloom Day 2026.
- ☐ The two-day National Workshop on Strengthening Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Odisha, concluded today in Bhubaneswar with the adoption of the Bhubaneswar Declaration, marking an important milestone in advancing the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for Viksit Bharat@2047 through stronger institutions that promote tribal knowledge, research, innovation and evidence-based policymaking.
- ☐ The Guwahati Declaration was adopted by BRICS nations to strengthen cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking. It emphasizes enhanced intelligence sharing, exchange of information, data-driven approaches, and the use of innovative technologies to disrupt drug trafficking networks. The declaration also focuses on reducing drug demand through awareness campaigns, preventive measures, rehabilitation, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles, while fostering greater collaboration among BRICS countries to address the global drug menace.
- ☐ India added 52.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of regasification capacity across eight terminals, as it surpassed Spain to become the fourth largest market for regasification capacity in 2025, according to the International Gas Union’s (IGU) World LNG Report. Among operational LNG regasification terminals in India, Dahej LNG (17.5 mtpa), located at the Port of Dahej in the Bharuch district of Gujarat, stands out as the only ultra-large facility and ranks as the sixth largest globally.
- ☐ India currently has eight operational LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) import terminals: Dahej (Gujarat), Hazira (Gujarat), Mundra (Gujarat), Chhara (Gujarat), Dabhol (Maharashtra), Kochi (Kerala), Ennore (Tamil Nadu), and Dhamra (Odisha). Gujarat has the highest concentration with four terminals, making it India's leading LNG import hub, while Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha each have one operational terminal.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Consider the following LNG terminals and their States:

1. Dahej – Gujarat
2. Dabhol – Maharashtra
3. Ennore – Tamil Nadu
4. Dhamra – Odisha

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) Three only
- (d) Four

Consider the following statements regarding the Guwahati Declaration 2026:

1. It was adopted by BRICS nations.
2. It focuses on combating transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

With reference to the Pinaka Missile System, consider the following statements:

1. It is a multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) designed by DRDO in collaboration with Rostec (Russian Technologies State Corporation).
2. It is a highly mobile and quick-deployment artillery system.
3. It is primarily designed for anti-submarine warfare, especially targeting from land.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Under Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU), the upgraded ITIs will include all of the following except:

- (a) Smart classrooms
- (b) Modern laboratories
- (c) Digital learning content
- (d) Residential housing for trainees

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