

12/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Global Biofuels Alliance:*

Context: New Zealand's joining of the Global Biofuels Alliance during the PM visit strengthens international cooperation to accelerate the development and adoption of sustainable biofuels for cleaner energy transition.

About Global Biofuels Alliance:

- ❖ Nature: A multi-stakeholder alliance comprising governments, international organizations, and industries.
- ❖ Initiative: Launched by India to bring together major biofuel producers and consumers.
- ❖ Launch: Unveiled on the sidelines of the G20 Summit 2023 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Objective: To promote biofuels as a key component of the global energy transition and support economic growth and job creation.
- ❖ Focus Areas: Strengthens global biofuel markets, trade, policy cooperation, and technical support for national biofuel programmes.
- ❖ Capacity Building: Promotes technology transfer, value-chain development, and wider adoption of sustainable biofuels.
- ❖ Standards & Knowledge: Facilitates international standards, sustainability principles, regulations, and serves as a global knowledge and expert hub.
- ❖ The Global Biofuels Alliance is a coalition of 34 member countries and 14 international organisations.
- ❖ The Global Biofuel Champion Fellowship is a programme for early-career researchers in biofuels. It aims to support biofuel innovation, research-driven solutions, and leadership development in the biofuels sector.

2. *INS Mahendragiri:*

Context: The Indian Navy inducted the indigenously-built advanced stealth frigate 'INS Mahendragiri' into its Eastern Fleet during a ceremony presided over by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on July 11, 2026.

About INS Mahendragiri:

- ❖ 'INS Mahendragiri' is the sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate to be inducted into the Indian Navy in a span of just 1.5 years. The first ship of the series 'INS Nilgiri' was commissioned in January 2025, followed by 'INS Udaygiri' & 'INS Himgiri' in August, 'INS Taragiri' in April this year and 'INS Dunagiri' last month.
- ❖ Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, the ship is capable of undertaking the full spectrum of maritime operations, including fleet air defence, anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, maritime interdiction, surveillance and humanitarian assistance & disaster relief (HADR).
- ❖ The warship, with over 75 percent indigenous content, has a displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and the capability to reach speeds of up to 28 knots.

- ❖ It is equipped with supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, anti-submarine warfare capabilities and an embarked multi-role helicopter, as well as advanced stealth features, modern sensors, network-centric combat systems and state-of-the-art weapon suites.
- ❖ “INS Mahendragiri can be equipped with the BrahMos surface-to-surface missile, one of the world's fastest and most lethal cruise missiles.
- ❖ It also features a combination of multifunction radar and Surface-to-Air Missiles capable of detecting and neutralising aerial threats at extended ranges.
- ❖ Its arsenal also includes an indigenous rocket launcher, torpedo launchers, an Integrated Anti-Submarine Defence System, an Electronic Warfare suite and a Close-In Weapon System.
- ❖ Named after the Mahendragiri mountain range in the Eastern Ghats, INS Mahendragiri symbolises strength, steadfastness and indomitable resolve, and bears the motto ‘Mighty, Majestic, Matchless’.
- ❖ Built through the contribution of more than 200 Indian industries, including numerous MSMEs, the ship reflects India's growing defence manufacturing capability.
- ❖ The frigate features advanced stealth characteristics, a Combined Diesel or Gas propulsion system, an Integrated Platform Management System and advanced indigenous combat systems.

3. *PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi):*

Context: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh today disclosed the Government of India's decision to give approval for establishing a "Street Food Hub" at Lakhanpur in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir under the PM SVANidhi initiative.

About PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi):

- ❖ It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020.
- ❖ It aims to provide affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to the Covid-19 lockdown.
- ❖ It is a micro-credit facility that provides street vendors with a collateral-free loan of Rs 10,000 with low rates of interest.
- ❖ The duration of the scheme initially was until March 2022. It has been extended till December 2030, with a focus on increased adoption of digital transactions and holistic socio- economic development of the Street Vendors.
- ❖ All vendors who have been vending from or before (March 24, 2020) and with a certificate of vending can avail the loan.
- ❖ As per the Street Vendors Act 2014, the Town Vending Committees issue a certificate of vending after a survey has been conducted of all the vendors.
- ❖ Vendors can avail of a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly installments in the tenure of one year.
- ❖ On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries on a quarterly basis.
- ❖ The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.

- ❖ The vendors can avail the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan.
- ❖ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the Implementation agency.
- ❖ Since its launch in June 2020, PM SVANidhi has emerged as a transformative initiative for street vendors which has facilitated access to formal credit and enabled beneficiaries to strengthen and expand their livelihoods.
- ❖ The scheme has also facilitated more than 1.05 crore loan sanctions amounting to over ₹17,800 crore, benefiting street vendors across the country.

4. *Parrot bornavirus 4 (PaBV-4):*

Context: A team of scientists has, for the first time in India, identified and genetically characterised a virus that often causes rapid death in captive psittacine birds, raising concerns about the health of exotic pets and conservation of threatened parrot species. Psittacine, which means relating to or resembling a parrot, describes the bird family Psittacidae and order Psittaciformes. It includes budgerigars, cockatiels, cockatoos, lovebirds, macaws, and parakeets. The team, led by Pankaj Deka and Sangeeta Das of the Assam Veterinary and Fishery University in Guwahati, found and characterised parrot bornavirus 4 (PaBV-4) circulating among captive psittacine birds in India.

About Parrot bornavirus 4 (PaBV-4):

- ❖ Parrot Bornavirus-4 (PaBV-4) is a highly contagious single-stranded RNA virus belonging to the species Orthobornavirus alphapsittaciforme.
- ❖ It is the primary cause of Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD), a progressive and often fatal neurological and gastrointestinal disease affecting psittacine birds (parrots, macaws, parakeets, cockatiels, lovebirds, etc.).
- ❖ Global distribution: Reported in North America, Europe, Japan, South Korea, and Israel.
- ❖ India: Detected in captive aviculture centres in Assam, Bengaluru (Karnataka), and Kolkata (West Bengal); July 2026 marks the first official confirmation of its circulation in India.
- ❖ The association between avian bornaviruses and PDD was first established in 2008; earlier, the disease was known as Macaw Wasting Disease.
- ❖ The virus causes a persistent, non-cytolytic infection, with nerve damage resulting mainly from immune-mediated inflammation rather than direct destruction of infected cells.
- ❖ Transmission: Spreads through contaminated food, water, saliva, feces, and can also be transmitted from infected parents to eggs (vertical transmission).
- ❖ Diagnosis: Best detected by RT-PCR, using cloacal swabs in live birds and brain/proventriculus tissues in dead birds.
- ❖ Impact: Causes digestive nerve damage leading to enlarged proventriculus, poor digestion, weight loss, undigested food in droppings, and death; asymptomatic carriers enable silent spread, threatening captive breeding and conservation of endangered parrot species.

5. *Interpol Notices:*

Context: The J&K Police's special cell, State Investigation Agency (SIA), on Saturday secured an Interpol Red Corner Notice against designated Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo alias Fayaz alias Sajad, who is accused in the 2013 Hygam terror attack in Sopore that claimed the lives of four Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel.

About Interpol Notices:

- ❖ Interpol, formally known as the International Criminal Police Organization, is an intergovernmental organization with 194 member countries.
- ❖ It was established in 1923.
- ❖ Its primary objective is to facilitate international cooperation between national police forces in combating transnational crimes.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Lyon, France.
- ❖ Interpol notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.
- ❖ Silver notice: To identify and trace criminal assets.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has expressed deep grief over the tragic boat accident involving Indian nationals near Phu Quoc, Vietnam. Fifteen Indian tourists were killed in Vietnam on Saturday when a sightseeing boat capsized off the coast of Phu Quoc, a major attraction known for its coral reefs and island-hopping excursions.
- ☐ Under the Agricultural Productivity Partnership between India and Newzealand, under the Free Trade Agreement, a Kiwifruit Action Plan is being launched along with the establishment of two Centres of Excellence in Nagaland and Uttarakhand, supported by collaboration in education, skills development, and agricultural innovation to boost productivity.
- ☐ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah today inaugurated the Jayaprakash Narayan Library in New Delhi.
- ☐ The Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, in collaboration with the Bar Council of India (BCI), today organised a National Conference on "Strengthening Legal Education through Integration of Regional Languages" at the premises of the Bar Council of India, New Delhi.
- ☐ The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will commemorate the 3rd NAMASTE Day on July 14, marking three years since the launch of the National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme in 2023.
- ☐ Financial Stability Report (FSR): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the June 2026 edition of the Financial Stability Report (FSR), reaffirming the resilience of India's financial system. The report highlights that banks and NBFCs remain financially strong, supported by robust capital buffers, adequate liquidity, healthy profitability, low non-performing assets (NPAs), and sustained credit growth. Published half-yearly since 2010, the FSR assesses risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial sector.
- ☐ Petroglyphs: Work has begun on India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park in Leh by relocating ancient rock carvings from vulnerable sites across Ladakh. Petroglyphs are rock carvings created by pecking directly onto rock surfaces using stone tools (unlike pictographs, which are rock paintings). They are threatened by natural weathering, infrastructure development, unregulated tourism, human interference, and lack of awareness.

- ☐ Aero India 2027 will be the 16th edition of Asia's largest airshow and will be held at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ☐ The Indian Air Force (IAF) was ranked third among military aviation powers by country in the World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA) 2026 Global Air Powers Rankings, behind the United States and Russia. In the same ranking, the IAF was placed sixth when individual service branches were assessed.
- ☐ The legendary playback singer S. Janaki, whose extraordinary voice dominated South Indian cinema for decades and whose songs continue to resonate across generations, died at the age of 88 in Mysuru, Karnataka.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists: (CSP 2026)

List I (INTERPOL Notice)	List II (Description)
A. Silver Notice	1. To seek information on unidentified bodies
B. Blue Notice	2. To collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities in relation to a criminal investigation
C. Black Notice	3. To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety
D. Green Notice	4. To identify and trace criminal assets

Choose the correct code using the codes given below:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	3	1	2	4
(b)	3	2	1	4
(c)	4	2	1	3
(d)	4	1	2	3

With reference to the Financial Stability Report (FSR), consider the following statements:

1. It is published by the Reserve Bank of India.

2. It is published every month.
3. It assesses risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial sector.

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 statements regarding Petroglyphs:

1. Petroglyphs are ancient rock carvings made by pecking directly onto rock surfaces.
2. Rock paintings are known as pictographs.
3. India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park is being established in Leh.

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

The recently observed 'NAMASTE Day' commemorates the implementation of the NAMASTE Scheme. The scheme is primarily aimed at:

- (a) Mechanised sanitation and welfare of sanitation workers
- (b) Nutrition support for pregnant women
- (c) Rural employment generation
- (d) Urban housing development

The Global Biofuels Alliance was launched on the sidelines of:

- (a) COP28 Climate Conference 2023
- (b) G20 Summit 2023
- (c) World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2023
- (d) International Energy Forum 2024

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