

14/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *SwaYaan initiative:*

Context: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with Drone Federation India (DFI), today launched the second edition of the National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research (NIDAR 2.0, 2026-27) under the SwaYaan initiative. The first edition of NIDAR 2025-26 was launched in March 2025. It drew 3,448 students from 22 States, 4 Union Territories and 109 cities, who built autonomous drone solutions for Disaster Management and Precision Agriculture. Ninety-three teams reached the Grand Finale out of which Twenty-four teams won prizes worth a total of Rs. 40 Lakh. NIDAR 2.0 raises the level of the challenge. It moves the focus from conventional airframes to autonomous systems, indigenous avionics and core drone components. The challenge runs across two tracks.

About SwaYaan initiative:

- ❖ The SwaYaan initiative, approved by MeitY in July 2022 with an outlay of about Rs 89.87 crore over five years, builds the skilled workforce needed for India's drone sector.
- ❖ It runs through a Hub-and-Spoke model of 30 premier institutions, including IISc, IITs, IIITs, NITs, C-DAC and NIELIT, across five work themes: Aeromechanics, Drone Electronics, GNC Algorithms and Simulation, Drone Applications, and Allied UAS Technologies.
- ❖ The project has trained more than 51,000 people so far. It has also supported M.Tech and minor degree programmes, retrofitting electives, online courses, research papers and patents in drone technology. NIDAR is its flagship innovation platform.

2. *Bureau of Port Security(BoPS):*

Context: The Union Home Minister reviewed the establishment of the Bureau of Port Security and directed that only licensed private security guards trained by the CISF to be deployed at ports.

About Bureau of Port Security(BoPS):

- ❖ Statutory Body: Established under Section 13 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.
- ❖ Nodal Ministry: Functions under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- ❖ Primary Role: Acts as the single statutory authority for maritime security of ships and port facilities in India.
- ❖ Key Functions: Enforces the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code across all Indian ports and coordinates security among the Indian Coast Guard, CISF, Indian Navy, and State Police.
- ❖ Objective: Strengthens maritime security and supports the goals of Maritime India Vision 2030.

3. *Green Hydrogen Train:*

Context: India's First Green Hydrogen-Powered Train: The Prime Minister will flag off India's first green hydrogen-powered train from Jind, Haryana, on 17 July 2026, marking a major step towards clean, zero-emission rail transport. The train is part of the "Hydrogen for Heritage" initiative launched by Indian Railways in 2023, which aims to introduce 35 hydrogen-powered trains on ecologically sensitive and heritage routes, with an estimated cost of ₹80 crore per train and ₹70 crore per route.

About Green Hydrogen train:

- ❖ **Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technology:** The train runs on hydrogen fuel cells instead of diesel or overhead electric wires.
- ❖ **Electricity Generation:** Hydrogen reacts with oxygen inside the fuel cell to produce electricity, with water vapour as the only emission.
- ❖ **Continuous Power:** The fuel cell supplies a steady and continuous source of electricity to power the train.
- ❖ **Energy Storage:** Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO₄) batteries store excess electricity generated during low power demand.
- ❖ **Peak Power Support:** During acceleration, the batteries supplement the fuel cell to meet higher energy requirements.
- ❖ **Regenerative Charging:** When the train slows down, surplus electricity recharges the batteries, improving energy efficiency.

4. *Standing Deposit Facility (SDF):*

Context: RBI absorbed ₹1.67 lakh crore from banks through the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF).

About Standing Deposit Facility (SDF):

- ❖ Introduced by Reserve Bank of India in April 2022 to manage liquidity.
- ❖ Used to absorb excess liquidity from commercial banks.
- ❖ No collateral required, unlike reverse repo (no government securities involved).
- ❖ Acts as the floor of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor, replacing reverse repo.
- ❖ Allows banks to park surplus funds with RBI and earn interest, especially during liquidity surplus

5. *Gramodyam initiative:*

Context: NABARD launched Gramodyam on 13 July 2026 on its 45th Foundation Day. Gramodyam is an entrepreneurship development programme for rural youth, and it is designed to support the creation of sustainable businesses in rural India.

About Gramodyam initiative:

- ❖ **Pilot Programme:** Gramodyam is a 3-year pilot programme targeting around 4,000 rural entrepreneurs across India.
- ❖ **Delivery Model:** It follows a digital-first hybrid delivery model covering all States and Union Territories.
- ❖ **Institutional Partnership:** The programme is jointly implemented by NABARD and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ❖ **Executing Agency:** The Institute for Industrial Development (IID) is responsible for executing the programme.
- ❖ **Training & Support:** Participants receive psychometric assessments, counselling, entrepreneurship training, industry-specific skill development, mentoring, and enterprise setup support.

6. *Removal of member of a Public Service Commission under Article 317:*

Context: In a first in the history of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Monday suspended its Chairperson Shivashankarappa S. Sahukar, pending inquiry, for alleged misconduct linked to the illegal selection of his daughter through the KPSC recruitment process. The police had filed an FIR against his daughter for submitting a false income certificate and claiming a reserved post. The Governor has recommended to the President to make a reference to the Supreme Court under Article 317(1) of the Constitution for an inquiry into the allegations.

About Article 317:

- ❖ President removes the Chairman or members of a Public Service Commission only on the ground of misbehaviour after a Supreme Court inquiry.
- ❖ The Supreme Court conducts the inquiry under Article 145 and submits its report to the President.
- ❖ The President (UPSC/Joint PSC) or the Governor (State PSC) may suspend the Chairman or member during the pendency of the Supreme Court inquiry.
- ❖ The President may remove a Chairman or member without a Supreme Court inquiry if the person is adjudged insolvent.
- ❖ The President may remove a Chairman or member without a Supreme Court inquiry if the person engages in paid employment outside official duties during the term of office.
- ❖ The President may remove a Chairman or member without a Supreme Court inquiry if the person is unfit due to infirmity of mind or body.
- ❖ A Chairman or member is deemed guilty of misbehaviour if he/she has an interest in or benefits from a government contract or agreement, except as a member of an incorporated company in common with other members.

7. 2+2 Dialogue:

Context: India, Japan review defence ties, prepare ground for 2+2 dialogue. India and Japan on Monday reviewed the entire spectrum of their expanding defence cooperation and agreed to deepen collaboration in emerging domains such as defence industry, cybersecurity, space and advanced technologies during the eighth India-Japan Defence Policy Dialogue held in Tokyo.

About 2+2 Dialogue:

- ❖ The 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue involves the Foreign Minister and Defence Minister of two countries meeting together.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen strategic, defence, foreign policy, and security cooperation between partner countries.
- ❖ The mechanism helps both sides better understand each other's strategic priorities, concerns, and political sensitivities.
- ❖ It facilitates a more integrated and comprehensive strategic partnership in a changing global environment.
- ❖ The United States is India's oldest and most significant 2+2 dialogue partner.
- ❖ India also conducts 2+2 Ministerial Dialogues with Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Russia.

8. Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG):

Context: Multiple vulnerabilities in the UMANG, or Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance, portal that aggregates hundreds of public services offered by the Union and State governments are leaving data of potentially millions of Indians exposed across a variety of databases, including those from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), according to two security researchers.

About UMANG App:

- ❖ UMANG is a Government of India all-in-one, unified, secure, multilingual, and multi-service mobile application for accessing government services.
- ❖ It provides access to 2,000+ Central and State Government services through a single platform.
- ❖ The app aims to promote mobile governance and improve the Ease of Living for citizens.
- ❖ UMANG offers services across sectors such as healthcare, finance, education, agriculture, transport, housing, energy, utilities, employment, and skill development.
- ❖ Major partner organisations include EPFO, ESIC, DBT departments, SSC, and Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, and Animal Husbandry.
- ❖ UMANG was developed by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ❖ It is a flagship initiative under the Digital India Programme.
- ❖ UMANG International was launched in 2020 to provide Government of India services to NRIs, Indian students, and tourists abroad while promoting Indian culture globally.
- ❖ UMANG received the 'Best m-Government Service' Award at the 6th World Government Summit, Dubai, in 2018.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), along with the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), the Computer Security Incident Response Team in Finance (CSIRT-Fin) and SISA, today released the second edition of the Digital Threat Report 2025–26 for the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) and payments ecosystem. The report provides financial institutions, regulators and cybersecurity leaders with an executive assessment of the threats reshaping banking, financial services, insurance and digital payments.
- ☐ In a major breakthrough against interstate synthetic drug trafficking syndicate, the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), Madhya Pradesh Unit has dismantled a sophisticated Mephedrone (MD) manufacturing laboratory in Pune, Maharashtra, and arrested the two chief conspirators of the syndicate from Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh) and Jodhpur (Rajasthan) under Operation Vajra. Mephedrone, chemically known as 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC), is a powerful synthetic stimulant drug belonging to the amphetamine and cathinone classes. It is famously known by street names such as "meow meow," "M-Cat," "bubbles," and "miaow"
- ☐ Typhoon Bavi: A powerful tropical cyclone that formed in the North Pacific Ocean in early July 2026, Typhoon Bavi intensified to Category 5 on the Saffir–Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, the highest category based solely on maximum sustained wind speed. It struck Japan's southern islands before moving towards China's east coast, bringing destructive winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, and widespread disruption.

- ☐ The Paizhen Fault is an active tectonic fault in the eastern Himalayan region, formed due to the ongoing collision between the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. It has remained active since the Early Pleistocene (Ice Age) and continues to show significant movement during the Holocene epoch, making it highly prone to earthquakes. A recent study suggests that the fault lies beneath the proposed Brahmaputra hydropower project in Tibet, raising concerns about the project's long-term structural stability and seismic safety.
- ☐ Jodhpuri Mojari: The Jodhpuri Mojari is a nearly 200-year-old traditional handcrafted leather footwear from Jodhpur, Rajasthan, recently awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Renowned for its fine leather craftsmanship, intricate embroidery, decorative motifs, distinctive curved toe, and durability, it is primarily crafted by the Jinagar (Jingar) community, reflecting Rajasthan's rich artisanal and cultural heritage.
- ☐ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) completed drilling its second geothermal well, Puga-OEC-GT#03, in Puga Valley in Ladakh around July 2026. The well was drilled by the ONGC Energy Centre to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet.
- ☐ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is preparing India's first Indian Standard for the restoration of mangrove ecosystems. The draft standard, titled Restoration of Mangrove Ecosystem — Guidelines, was made public in March 2026 and received hundreds of inputs from stakeholders.
- ☐ The rhino population in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh has risen to 53 after the fourth rhino census conducted between 25 June and 27 June 2026. The census counted 17 adult males, 25 adult females, and 11 calves older than one year.
- ☐ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) inaugurated the first edition of the ICAI Global Orbit Summit 2026 in New Delhi on 11 July 2026. The summit series is linked to Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which are also called captive centres or global in-house centres in corporate and professional usage.
- ☐ The United Nations released its first scientific assessment of artificial intelligence in July 2026 under the title Preliminary Report of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI. The panel has 40 members and is co-chaired by Turing Award laureate Yoshua Bengio and Nobel laureate Maria Ressa.
- ☐ The Defence, Security and Resilience Bank (DSRB) is a proposed multilateral financial institution for military, security, and supply chain projects across allied nations. It is planned to have its headquarters in Canada and a European hub in Luxembourg, with a target to raise up to £100 billion, or about \$134 billion. The DSRB is designed to provide low-cost, long-term financing for defence-related procurement and industrial capacity. It uses the creditworthiness of sovereign shareholders to issue triple-A-rated bonds, which is a high credit rating used in international finance for low-risk debt instruments.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Mephedrone (4-MMC), recently seen in the news, is:

- (a) A naturally occurring opioid derived from poppy plants
- (b) A synthetic stimulant from amphetamine and cathinone classes

- (c) A naturally occurring hallucinogen from poisonous mushrooms
- (d) A synthetic cannabinoid used for recreational purposes

The Saffir–Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale classifies tropical cyclones primarily on the basis of:

- (a) Storm surge height
- (b) Rainfall intensity
- (c) Central pressure
- (d) Wind speed

The Puga geothermal project, recently in the news, is located in:

- (a) Sikkim
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Ladakh

With reference to the Gramodyam Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. Gramodyam is a three-year pilot programme launched to promote rural entrepreneurship.
2. The programme is implemented by NITI Aayog in aspirational districts of India

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 Green Hydrogen-powered trains, consider the following statements:

1. They use hydrogen fuel cells to generate electricity.
2. Water vapour is the only direct emission from the fuel cell.
3. Diesel engines act as backup power during peak demand.
4. Hydrogen reacts with oxygen inside the fuel cell to generate electricity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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