

15/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Codex Alimentarius Commission:*

Context: India achieved significant milestones at the 49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49) held in Geneva, Switzerland from 6th to 10th July, 2026. The Commission adopted seven Codex standards and guidelines developed under India's chairmanship and co-chairmanship, reinforcing India's contribution to the development of science-based international food standards. In another major achievement, the Commission approved India's proposal to undertake new work for the development of a Codex Standard for Cashew Kernels.

About Codex Alimentarius Commission:

- ❖ Codex Alimentarius is a collection of internationally recognized standards, codes of practice, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization relating to food and food safety.
- ❖ Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an international food safety and quality standard-setting body.
- ❖ It was created by the World Health Organisation and Food and Agriculture Organization in May 1963.
- ❖ Objective: Protecting consumers health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

2. *CapaCITIES project:*

Context: Celebrating the progress made over a decade of the CapaCITIES programme an event 'Scaling Urban Climate Resilience: The CapaCITIES Legacy and Way Forward', organized by ICLEI South Asia and National Institute of Urban Affairs, was held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on 14 July 2026.

About CapaCITIES project:

- ❖ Launched in 2016 and funded by the Embassy of Switzerland to India and Bhutan, the Capacity Building Project on Low Carbon and Climate Resilient City Development in India (CapaCITIES) programme has driven low-carbon, climate-resilient urban development.
- ❖ By directly strengthening local capabilities, the programme has supported India's 2070 net-zero emissions objective by aligning local action with national missions and state-level goals.
- ❖ The initiative was implemented through a collaborative partnership involving ICLEI South Asia, South Pole and econcept, with the National Institute of Urban Affairs as the knowledge partner.
- ❖ Cities of Coimbatore, Thiruchirappalli Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Vadodara, Udaipur and Siliguri and the state governments of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu received support from this project.

3. *Bharat Tex 2026:*

Context: Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, today inaugurated Bharat Tex 2026, India's flagship global textile event, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, marking the commencement of the world's largest integrated textile value chain event with record international participation.

About Bharat Tex 2026:

- ❖ Organised by the Bharat Tex Trade Federation, a consortium of Textile Export Promotion Councils and Industry Bodies, with the support of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, the event showcases growing India's global leadership in textiles, fashion, sustainability, technology, innovation, investment and international trade.
- ❖ Inspired by the Prime Minister's 5F Vision - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign, Bharat Tex 2026 has evolved into a premier global platform for business, investment, sourcing, innovation, policy dialogue and strategic partnerships across the textile value chain.
- ❖ The event brings together manufacturers, exporters, global buyers, brands, sourcing consultants, investors, policymakers, States, international delegations, designers, artisans, start-ups and technology providers.
- ❖ Bharat Tex 2026 is also host the CITI Textile Sustainability Awards 2026, structured around seven core focus areas of Resource Efficiency, Energy & Emissions, Circular Economy, Sustainable Materials, Social Responsibility, Responsible Business and Industry Collaboration, reflecting the full spectrum of sustainable and responsible practices across the textile value chain.

4. *Index of Services Production (ISP):*

Context: As part of the suite of macro – economic indicators, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is commencing release of the ISPs of 19 sub – sectors, with base year 2024 -25. The first set of ISPs is being released for the month of April, 2026. Out of the 19 sub-sectors, 14 recorded double-digit growth in April, 2026 as compared to April, 2025. The yearly top 5 sub-sectors for 2025-26 include accommodation and food (35.6%), retail trade (30.5%), repair services (25.1%), wholesale trade (23.6%) and road transport (22.6%).

About Index of Services Production (ISP):

- ❖ Base Year: The base year of the Index of Services Production (ISP) is 2024–25, aligned with the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series (2024=100).
- ❖ Purpose: ISP measures the volume of production/output in the services sector, similar to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for industries.
- ❖ Key Users: Used by National Accounts, economic ministries, government departments, researchers, and domain experts.
- ❖ Release Frequency: Monthly trial indices will be released with a time lag of about 60 days.
- ❖ Release Date: Data will be published on the 29th of every month or the next working day if the 29th is a holiday.
- ❖ Price Deflation Method: ISP is compiled using different price deflators depending on the service sector.
- ❖ Wholesale Trade: The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is used as the deflator for the wholesale trade sector.
- ❖ Other Sectors: The relevant Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the closest matching CPI is used for most other services.
- ❖ Specific CPI Usage: CPI–General is used for repair & maintenance, banking, and insurance sectors.
- ❖ CPI–Services: Used for service sectors where a specific CPI is unavailable.

- ❖ Excluded Sectors: ISP excludes public administration & defence, central bank and other non-banking financial services, social work without accommodation, membership organisations, personal services, private household employment, extraterritorial organisations, government health & education services, and gambling & betting activities.
- ❖ Reason for Exclusion: These sectors are core government functions, non-market activities, or are dominated by the informal sector, making production measurement difficult.
- ❖ Data Sources: ISP is compiled using three major data sources: Administrative/secondary data, GST data and ASISSE (Annual Survey of the Incorporated Services Sector Establishments)
- ❖ Administrative Data: Used for air transport, railway transport, banking, and insurance sectors.
- ❖ ASISSE: Launched in April 2026, ASISSE will provide data for private health and education services (excluding Government) and aims to create a comprehensive database of the incorporated services sector.

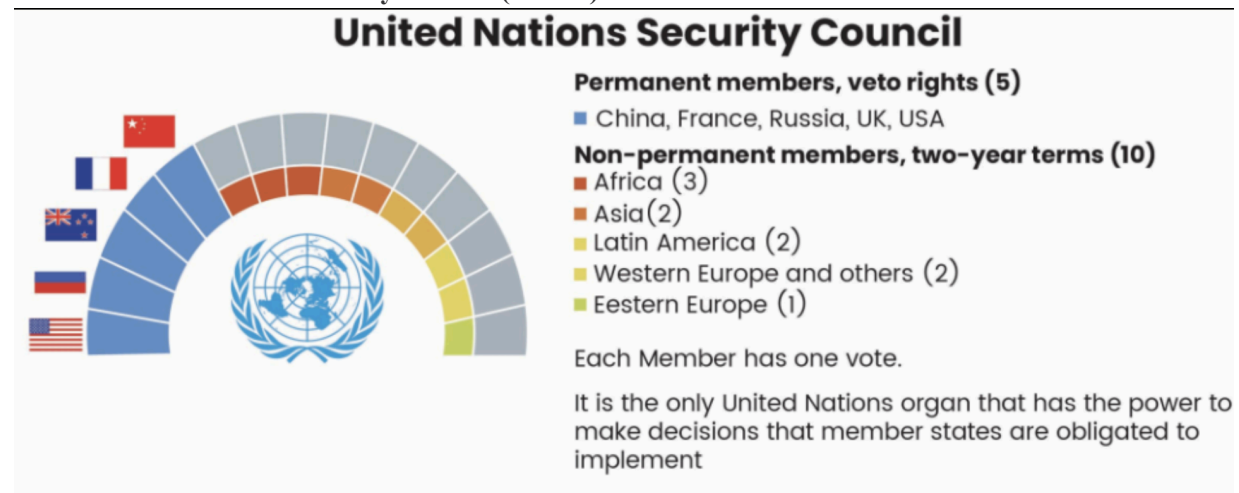
5. *Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity (SHANTI):*

Context: India launched its official campaign on 13 July 2026 for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2028-29 term. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled the campaign and India's SHANTI vision at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

What is *SHANTI*?

- ❖ SHANTI stands for Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity. The framework covers peacekeeping operations, maritime security, terrorism and its financing, responsible use of artificial intelligence, sustainable development, and reforms in global institutions.
- ❖ The campaign links India's UNSC bid with support for the voice of the Global South and with consensus-building on international security and development issues.
- ❖ The SHANTI vision places emphasis on norms, trust, and integrity as guiding principles for multilateral cooperation.

About United Nations 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.

6. *High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (HAPS):*

Context: India has initiated the Airship-based High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (AS-HAPS) programme for indigenous stratospheric airships designed for long-endurance surveillance missions. The programme has an estimated outlay of ₹15,000 crore and is linked to border monitoring, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), and long-range communications.

About High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (HAPS):

- ❖ High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (HAPS) are lighter-than-air or fixed-wing platforms that operate in the stratosphere, usually at altitudes of 20 km to 30 km.
- ❖ These platforms remain below low-Earth orbit satellites, which generally operate between 500 km and 2,000 km, and above many high-altitude drones that fly at around 12 km.
- ❖ The airships are designed to remain aloft for months and to be steerable in flight.
- ❖ They can carry optical surveillance systems, electronic intelligence payloads, radars, electro-optical systems, and communication equipment for persistent observation over fixed or mobile areas.

7. *Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD) 2016:*

Context: The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Tuesday of amending the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD) of 2016 to extend the definition of “acid attack victim” to mean persons who have internal injuries caused by the ingestion of acid or any other similar corrosive substances. The amendment would have a retrospective effect, which would allow victims with internal injuries that occurred prior to May 22, 2026 to also claim benefits under the 2016 Act. The 2016 law had previously recognised only victims of acid-throwing, and not forcible acid ingestion. The Act had remained unchanged although the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which replaced the Indian Penal Code, accepted both the act of acid-throwing and administration of acid as offences punishable from 10 years’ imprisonment to a life sentence under Section 124 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt).

About Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD) 2016:

- ❖ It was enacted in the year 2016 and came into force on 19th April, 2017.
- ❖ It replaced the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights, and Full Participation) Act, 1995.
- ❖ The objective of the RPwD Act is to ensure that all persons with disabilities can lead their lives with dignity, without discrimination, and with equal opportunities.
- ❖ The Act lays down specific provisions to uphold such rights.
- ❖ The types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21, and the Central Government will have the power to add more types of disabilities.

- ❖ It increases the quantum of reservation for people suffering from disabilities from 3% to 4% in government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher education institutes.
- ❖ Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education.
- ❖ Stress has been given to ensure accessibility in public buildings in a prescribed time frame along with Accessible India Campaign.
- ❖ The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the State Commissioners will act as regulatory bodies and Grievance Redressal agencies, monitoring implementation of the Act.
- ❖ A separate National and State Fund be created to provide financial support to the persons with disabilities.
- ❖ The Act provides for the grant of guardianship by the District court or any authority designated by the State Government.
- ❖ The Act provides for penalties for offences committed against PwDs and also for violations of the provisions of the new law.
- ❖ Any person who violates provisions of the Act, or any rule or regulation made under it, shall be punishable with imprisonment up to six months and/ or a fine of Rs 10,000, or both.
- ❖ For any subsequent violation, imprisonment of up to two years and/or a fine of Rs 50,000 to Rs five lakh can be awarded.
- ❖ Whoever intentionally insults or intimidates a PwD or sexually exploits a woman or child with a disability, shall be punishable with imprisonment between six months to five years and fine.
- ❖ Special Courts will be designated in each district to handle cases concerning violations of the rights of PwDs.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ As part of the nationwide observance of Kargil Vijay Diwas 2026, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, on July 14, 2026, flagged-off the 13-day 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra', a commemorative motorcycle expedition, from the National War Memorial, New Delhi to the Kargil War Memorial in Dras, Ladakh.
- ☐ Union Minister for Labour & Employment Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya today inaugurated the 15th BRICS Trade Union Forum (TUF) Summit 2026 in Hyderabad and called for building a worker-centric global order where technological advancement is guided by social justice, responsible innovation and human dignity.
- ☐ Unjha Cumin (Jeera) and Unjha Fennel (Variyali) from North Gujarat received Geographical Indication (GI) tags from the Geographical Indications Registry of India. The certificates were issued on 28 March 2026, and the registration was made in the name of the Unjha Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), Unjha, under Class 30 for spices.
- ☐ Uttarakhand opened its first Geographical Indications (GI) Products Gallery at the Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy in Haldwani on 13 July 2026.
- ☐ Two new solitary bee species, Elaphropoda triangulata and Habropoda adi, were identified in Arunachal Pradesh on 11 July 2026. The discovery was made by researchers from the Ashoka

Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru, during the Siang Expedition.

- ☐ Karnataka announced a plan to establish India's first government-driven Artificial Intelligence University on 14 July 2026. The announcement was made in Bengaluru during the inauguration of Google I/O Connect India 2026, and the proposed institution is linked with an AI Hub for startups, researchers, and companies.
- ☐ On 13 July 2026, nine European countries and Ukraine formed an Integrated Anti-Ballistic Missile Coalition in Paris, France. The founding members are Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. The coalition has been set up to develop anti-ballistic capabilities and a shared missile defence architecture for Europe.
- ☐ Delhi unveiled Mayur as the mascot for the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026 on 14 July 2026. The 22nd edition of the championship will be held at Thyagaraj Stadium in Delhi from 27 July to 2 August 2026.
- ☐ The Centre has notified a ban on paraquat dichloride, a herbicide linked to thousands of deaths due to self-harm, homicides, and accidental deaths in India.
- ☐ NASA astronaut Anil Menon and two Russian cosmonauts on Tuesday lifted off onboard a Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft from Kazakhstan on an eight-month mission to the International Space Station. The Roscosmos spacecraft carrying Mr. Menon and Russian cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina lifted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Which State has announced India's first government-driven Artificial Intelligence University?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Maharashtra

The Centre recently banned which herbicide due to its link with deaths from self-harm and accidental poisoning?

- (a) Glyphosate
- (b) Atrazine
- (c) Paraquat Dichloride
- (d) Pendimethalin

Consider the following statements regarding the CapaCITIES Project:

1. The CapaCITIES programme was launched in 2016.
2. It is funded by the Embassy of Switzerland to India and Bhutan.
3. Its primary objective is to promote low-carbon and climate-resilient urban development in India.

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

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