

23/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA):*

Context: The Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA), an industry and academia-led society, has expanded to become a 90 member organisation as of 15th July 2026. These members represent a broad and diverse ecosystem comprising telecom service providers, telecom equipment manufacturers, startups, research and development institutions, academia and other stakeholders from the telecom sector.

About Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA):

- ❖ **Launched:** Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) was launched on 3 July 2023 by the Union Minister of Communications.
- ❖ **Vision:** It was established to implement the Bharat 6G Vision, unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 March 2023.
- ❖ **Nature:** It is an industry-led, government-facilitated alliance promoting collaboration in India's telecom innovation ecosystem.
- ❖ **Members:** Brings together industry, startups, academia, research institutions, public/private companies, and Standards Development Organizations (SDOs).
- ❖ **Purpose:** Strengthens the domestic R&D, innovation, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) ecosystem through industry-academia collaboration.
- ❖ **Key Functions:** Identifies technology gaps, develops advanced research projects, and creates 6G testbeds aligned with India's 6G Vision.
- ❖ **Major Goal:** Position India as a global leader and supplier of affordable 5G, 6G, and future telecom technologies, products, and intellectual property (IP).
- ❖ **6G Features:** Aims to deliver ultra-high speeds, ultra-low latency, high reliability, AI-enabled intelligent networks, and integrated wireless sensing & communication, surpassing 5G capabilities.
- ❖ **Long-term Target:** By 2030, deploy 6G as a force multiplier for India's digital economy while ensuring energy efficiency, sustainability, and reduced carbon footprint.

2. *Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):*

Context: Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Shri Durgadas Uikey informed Rajya Sabha that in the State of Telangana, 23 EMRSs have been sanctioned and all are functional including one in alternative building.

About Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):

- ❖ EMRS started in the year 1997-98.
- ❖ They aim to impart quality education to Scheduled Tribe children in remote areas to enable them to access the best opportunities in education.
- ❖ The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization has been set up under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to establish and manage EMRS across the country.
- ❖ EMRS are co-educational residential schools from Class VI to XII.

- ❖ Eklavya schools will be on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development.
- ❖ Each school has a capacity of 480 students with equal number of seats for boys and girls.
- ❖ Non-ST students can be admitted in these schools on seats up to 10% of the total seats.
- ❖ CBSE curriculum is followed in these schools, and education is completely free.

3. ***SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Scheme:***

Context: SMILE Scheme rehabilitates over 10,200 persons engaged in begging across 216 cities

About SMILE Scheme:

- ❖ Type: A Central Sector Scheme of the Government of India.
- ❖ Objective: To provide comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging through a dignity-based and livelihood-oriented approach.
- ❖ Coverage: Currently operational in 216 cities, with a target to expand to 295 cities and rehabilitate 35,000 persons by FY 2030–31.
- ❖ Two Sub-Schemes: Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons and Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging.
- ❖ Comprehensive Rehabilitation: Includes identification, rescue, shelter, healthcare, counselling, and rehabilitation of beneficiaries.
- ❖ Livelihood & Social Reintegration: Provides skill development, education, sustainable employment, and supports mainstreaming beneficiaries with dignity and self-reliance.
- ❖ Convergence-Based Implementation: Implemented through coordination among the Central Government, States/UTs, District Administrations, with convergence with schemes such as DAY-NULM, NRLM, and Mission Vatsalya.
- ❖ Digital Monitoring: Uses the SMILE-Beggary National Portal for registration, monitoring, and tracking of rehabilitation centres and beneficiaries.

4. ***Kolleru Lake:***

Context: The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has issued directions over illegal fish ponds and environmental degradation in the Kolleru Lake.

About Kolleru Lake:

- ❖ Kolleru Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in India and the largest shallow freshwater lake in Asia.
- ❖ It is located in Andhra Pradesh between the Krishna and Godavari river deltas, near Eluru.
- ❖ The lake acts as a natural flood-balancing reservoir for the Krishna and Godavari rivers.
- ❖ It has a core area of about 308 sq. km and expands to nearly 954 sq. km during peak floods.
- ❖ Kolleru is a shallow lake fed by Budameru, Ramileru, Tammileru, Errakalva, and several drains and canals.
- ❖ It drains into the Bay of Bengal through an outlet known as Upputeru.
- ❖ The lake is renowned as a “Bird Heaven” and “Peerless Fisherman’s Paradise.”
- ❖ It supports over 20 million resident and migratory birds annually, including pelicans, painted storks, and ibises.

- ❖ Migratory birds arrive from Siberia, Central Asia, and the Himalayan region during winter.
- ❖ The lake was notified as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1999 under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ It was designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 2002.
- ❖ The Ramsar designation allows traditional livelihoods such as fishing and aquaculture for local communities.
- ❖ Kolleru Lake sustains thousands of livelihoods dependent on fishing, duck farming, and paddy cultivation.

5. *Amazon forests:*

Context: Forest fires in the Brazilian Amazon fell to a historic low in 2025 after peaking the previous year, according to a report published on Tuesday. The data gathered by environmental monitoring network MapBiomas show that fires eased off across the country as well, with burned areas nationwide at their smallest since 2018.

About Amazon forests:

- ❖ Location: Largest tropical rainforest in the world, located in South America.
- ❖ Area: Covers about 6 million sq. km, nearly twice the size of India.
- ❖ Countries: About 60% lies in Brazil, with the rest in Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana.
- ❖ River Basin: Occupies the Amazon River Basin, the world's largest river basin.
- ❖ Natural Boundaries: Bounded by the Guiana Highlands (North), Andes Mountains (West), Brazilian Plateau (South), and Atlantic Ocean (East).
- ❖ Climate: Characterised by high rainfall, high humidity, and uniformly warm temperatures.
- ❖ Biodiversity: Hosts about 10% of the world's known species, making it a global biodiversity hotspot.
- ❖ Important Flora: Includes rubber tree, Brazil nut tree, mahogany, cedar, rosewood, palm, acacia, myrtle, and laurel.
- ❖ Important Fauna: Home to jaguar, capybara, tapir, manatee, sloth, monkey, caiman, anaconda, tarantula, toucan, and macaw.
- ❖ Protected Areas: Includes Yasuní, Jaú, Tumucumaque, Pico da Neblina, Amacayacu, Manu, and Pacaya-Samiria protected areas.
- ❖ Global Importance: Called the "Lungs of the Earth", it is a major carbon sink and plays a key role in regulating the global climate.
- ❖ Amazon River: The world's largest river by discharge and second-longest after the Nile, originating in the Peruvian Andes and flowing into the Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ Major Tributaries: Rio Negro, Madeira, and Xingu are among its principal tributaries.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, along with President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova of North Macedonia, unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Museum of the City of Skopje.
- ☐ Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, today inaugurated Prakriti Café at Ayush Bhawan, a first-of-its-kind workplace initiative of the Ministry of Ayush aimed at promoting healthy dietary practices inspired by Ayush Ahaar.
- ☐ Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged-in ‘Samudra Pradakshina’, the first ever Tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition through video conferencing on July 22, 2026. Aboard the Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni, nine women officers of the three Services returned to Mumbai after successfully completing a 314-day voyage covering nearly 25,500 nautical miles across four oceans. The expedition was virtually flagged-off by Shri Rajnath Singh on September 11, 2025 from Mumbai.
- ☐ Government Approves 2 Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) in Tamil Nadu at Manallur (474.3 Acres) & Pillapaikkam (379.3 Acres); Projects worth ₹1,012 Cr to Boost Electronics Manufacturing.
- ☐ As of 30 June 2026, India's total installed wind power capacity stood at 57,443 MW. Gujarat leads the country with 16,086 MW, followed by Tamil Nadu (12,273 MW), Karnataka (8,896 MW), Maharashtra (6,318 MW), Rajasthan (5,516 MW), Andhra Pradesh (4,461 MW), and Madhya Pradesh (3,686 MW). Other states have comparatively smaller capacities, including Telangana (128 MW), Kerala (71 MW), and Others (4 MW). Gujarat and Tamil Nadu together account for nearly half of India's total installed wind power capacity, highlighting their dominant role in the country's wind energy sector.
- ☐ India Emerges as Global Leader in Railway Electrification with 99.6% Broad Gauge Network Electrified, Second Only to Switzerland. By network coverage, Indian Railways is now among the most extensively electrified large railway systems in the world. Indian Railways had electrified 99.6% of its broad-gauge network, completing one of the world's largest infrastructure transformation programs in a decade.
- ☐ Scientists have achieved a significant breakthrough in sustainable lubrication by demonstrating, for the first time, the use of borophene, a two-dimensional (2D) nanomaterial, as a high-performance lubricant additive in castor oil. This research has the potential to transform the lubrication industry by advancing renewable energy systems, marine applications, green lubrication technologies, and sustainable manufacturing.
- ☐ The Segur Plateau, located in the Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu, is an ecologically significant landscape that connects the Western Ghats with the Eastern Ghats, serving as a vital elephant corridor that supports elephant movement and maintains genetic diversity. It is bounded by the Nilgiri Hills to the southwest and the Moyar River Valley to the northeast. The plateau forms part of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and is an important component of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves site. Recognizing its ecological importance, the Supreme Court upheld the removal of all commercial activities in the area to protect the elephant corridor and conserve its rich biodiversity.

- ☐ Muga silk is one of the five major natural varieties of silk produced in India (Mulberry, Tropical Tasar, Oak Tasar, Eri, and Muga). It is produced by the semi-domesticated multivoltine silkworm *Antheraea assamensis*, which is endemic to Northeast India. Renowned as the world's only naturally golden silk, Muga became India's first GI-tagged silk in 2007. Assam contributes about 90% of the world's Muga silk production, making it the global hub of this premium silk. Recently, the Assam Government launched Mission Senehgori to convert GI-tagged Muga silk waste into high-value spun yarn, promoting value addition and sustainable livelihoods.
- ☐ France's parliament approved a law on 21 July 2026 that bans social media access for children under 15 years of age.
- ☐ The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, has compiled INvenTree-meta, a meta-dataset of tree inventory studies from India. The dataset covers 465 published studies conducted between 1991 and 2023 and includes forest data from more than 4,650 hectares across India's major biomes.
- ☐ The Udmaroo Bridge over the Shayok River was inaugurated in the Nubra district of Ladakh on 21 July 2026. The bridge was built at a cost of ₹27.18 crore under the Union Territory Administration's Special Development Package and is designed to improve road connectivity in a remote border region.
- ☐ India's first AI-powered bird sanctuary has been announced for development at the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The project is named Bhandup Bird Park and has received administrative approval with an allocation of ₹45 crore from the District Planning Committee's special fund.
- ☐ EnKash, an Indian business payments and spend management platform, launched India's first meal card with Unified Payments Interface-based payments on 22 July 2026. The card allows employees to pay from their meal card balance by scanning eligible UPI QR codes at food and grocery merchants across India.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Consider the following statements

1. All Indian states at least produce some solar energy.
2. All Indian states at least produce some form of wind energy.

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

Which state has the highest installed wind power capacity in India as of June 2026?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Gujarat

- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Maharashtra

With regards to Indian ecology and environment, the Segur Plateau serves as an important corridor for:

- (a) Tigers
- (b) Lions
- (c) Elephants
- (d) Snow leopards

India's first AI-powered bird sanctuary, Bhandup Bird Park, will be developed at:

- (a) Chilika Lake
- (b) Sultanpur National Park
- (c) Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary
- (d) Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary

Consider the following statements regarding Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):

1. EMRS were launched during 1997–98 to provide quality education to Scheduled Tribe children in remote areas.
2. The schools are managed by the Ministry of Education through Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.
3. EMRS are co-educational residential schools offering education from Class VI to XII.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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