

28/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY):*

Context: Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today chaired a virtual review meeting to assess the utilisation of funds released under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and to consider the issuance of the Second Installment (Second Mother Sanction) to the Government of Maharashtra. Maharashtra becomes the first State to qualify for the Second RKVY Installment.

About Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY):

- ❖ Launched: 2007–08 as a flagship Centrally Sponsored Scheme to boost agricultural growth through higher state investment.
- ❖ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- ❖ Main Objective: Incentivize states to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors.
- ❖ State Flexibility: Provides autonomy to states to design and implement agriculture projects based on local needs and agro-climatic conditions.
- ❖ Infrastructure Development: Supports creation of pre- and post-harvest infrastructure such as storage, markets, irrigation, and quality input facilities.
- ❖ Farmer Income: Promotes value-chain development, productivity enhancement, and value addition to increase farmers' income.
- ❖ Youth Empowerment: Encourages agri-startups, innovation, skill development, and agribusiness entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Funding Pattern: 90:10 (Northeastern & Himalayan States), 60:40 (Other States), and 100% Central Assistance for Union Territories.
- ❖ Major Reform: Renamed as RKVY-RAFTAAR in 2017–18, emphasizing infrastructure, innovation, and agricultural entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Latest Restructuring: Reorganized as the RKVY Cafeteria Scheme from 2022–23, integrating and rationalizing multiple agriculture schemes.
- ❖ Implementation: Projects are approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by the Chief Secretary, after which funds are released.
- ❖ Key Components: Includes Soil Health Management, Rainfed Area Development, Agroforestry, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Agricultural Mechanization (including Crop Residue Management), Per Drop More Crop (PDMC), Crop Diversification Programme, and Accelerator Fund for Agri-Startups, with special focus on small & marginal farmers, SCs, STs, women, and other weaker sections.

2. *Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC):*

Context: India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets for 2031–2035 feature a 47% reduction in GDP emissions intensity, 60% non-fossil electric capacity, and a 3.5 to 4.0 billion tonne carbon sink.

About Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC):

- ❖ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are national climate action plans under the Paris Agreement, outlining targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build climate resilience, and transition to clean energy. Submitted every five years, they reflect each country's individual progression and highest possible ambition.
- ❖ India has achieved a reduction of 37.38% in the emissions intensity of its GDP in 2022 from the 2005 level, against the NDC goal of reducing emissions intensity by 45% by 2030.
- ❖ The share of cumulative installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources crossed 50% in June 2025, thereby achieving the NDC goal five years ahead the committed timeline. As of 30th June 2026, non-fossil fuel-based energy resources accounted for 54.18% of the country's total installed electric power capacity.
- ❖ India has created an additional carbon sink of 2.44 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent during 2005 to 2022, against the NDC goal of creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5–3.0 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030 through additional forest and tree cover.
- ❖ The NDC targets for the year 2035 have been enhanced, with quantitative targets to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 47% from the 2005 level, achieve 60% cumulative installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources, and create carbon sink of 3.5 to 4.0 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through forest and tree cover as compared to the baseline year of 2005.
- ❖ The NDC also includes five qualitative targets aimed at promoting sustainable lifestyles, adoption of climate friendly and cleaner path and enhancing adaptation capacity, etc. aligned with the goal of Viksit Bharat @2047.

3. *Kosi–Mechi Intra-State Link Project:*

Context: The Kosi–Mechi Intra-State Link Project has been included under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana – Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP) for balance cost of works of Rs. 6,143.22 crore, with central assistance of Rs. 3,652.56 crore.

About Kosi–Mechi Intra-State Link Project:

- ❖ Project: Links the Kosi River with the Mechi River (a tributary of the Mahananda River) across Bihar and Nepal.
- ❖ Implementing Agency: Executed by the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ Primary Objective: Provide annual irrigation and improve water availability for agriculture and other uses.
- ❖ Irrigation Benefit: Will irrigate 4.74 lakh hectares, including 2.99 lakh hectares in Bihar.
- ❖ Water Supply: Will provide 24 million cubic metres (MCM) of water for domestic and industrial purposes.
- ❖ Additional Water Release: Expected to release 5,247 cusecs of additional water from the Kosi Barrage.
- ❖ Irrigation Focus: Mainly designed to support 2.15 lakh hectares in the Mahananda basin during the Kharif season.

- ❖ Major Concern: The project is primarily an irrigation project, with no significant flood-control component.
- ❖ Kosi River Facts: Called the "Sorrow of Bihar"; originates in the Himalayas near the Everest–Kanchenjunga region, flows through China, Nepal, and India, and joins the Ganga at Kursela (Katihar, Bihar).
- ❖ Formation & Tributaries of Kosi: Formed by the confluence of Sun Kosi, Arun Kosi, and Tamur Kosi; important tributaries include Trijunga, Bhutahi Balan, Kamla Balan, and Bagmati.
- ❖ Special Feature of Kosi: A highly shifting river, having migrated about 112 km westward in the last 200 years, causing severe floods and erosion in north Bihar.
- ❖ Mechi River Facts: A transboundary perennial river originating in Nepal's Mahabharat Range, flowing through Nepal and Bihar, and joining the Mahananda River in Kishanganj district, Bihar.

4. *Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026:*

Context: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today introduced the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha.

Major highlights:

- ❖ Objective: Strengthens the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 to curb question paper leaks and organized examination malpractices.
- ❖ Purpose: Ensures greater accountability, stronger deterrence, and protection of the integrity and fairness of public examinations.
- ❖ Enhanced Punishment: Increases imprisonment for using unfair means from 3–5 years to 5–10 years.
- ❖ Higher Fine for Individuals: Raises the maximum fine for offenders from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh.
- ❖ Stricter Action Against Service Providers: Increases the maximum fine from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore and extends debarment from conducting public examinations from 4 years to 8 years.
- ❖ Managerial Personnel Liable: Managers of service providers involved in offences face 5–10 years' imprisonment and a maximum fine of ₹5 crore.
- ❖ Organized Exam Crimes: Increases punishment for organized examination-related offences to 7–10 years' imprisonment and raises the maximum fine from ₹1 crore to ₹10 crore.
- ❖ Special Task Force (STF): Empowers the Central Government to refer investigations of offences under the Act to a Special Task Force.
- ❖ Time-bound Investigation: Introduces Section 12A, requiring investigations to be completed within 2 months.
- ❖ Fast-Track Trial: Provides for Special Fast Track Courts, day-to-day hearings, completion of trials within 3 months of filing the charge sheet, and appointment of Special Public Prosecutors.
- ❖ Time-bound Appeals: Introduces Section 12B, allowing appeals to the High Court within 30 days, with disposal, as far as possible, within 3 months.
- ❖ Overall Impact: Aims to ensure swift investigation, speedy justice, stricter penalties, and greater credibility of public examinations across the country.

5. *Anhydrous ammonia:*

Context: India approved the manufacture and use of anhydrous ammonia as a fertiliser for a three-year period on 23 July 2026.

About Anhydrous ammonia:

- ❖ Anhydrous ammonia (NH_3) is a gaseous nitrogen fertilizer containing 82% nitrogen, the highest among commercial nitrogen fertilizers.
- ❖ It is stored under pressure as a liquid and injected below the soil surface to minimize nitrogen loss.
- ❖ It serves as a direct source of nitrogen for crop growth and improves plant productivity.
- ❖ Application requires specialized injection equipment and airtight storage tanks.
- ❖ Due to its corrosive nature, it must be handled only by trained personnel with proper safety precautions.
- ❖ Exposure to anhydrous ammonia can cause severe skin burns, eye injuries, and respiratory irritation.

6. *Amoebic meningoencephalitis:*

Context: A 48-year-old man from Kozhikode died of amoebic meningoencephalitis on Monday. Biju, an autorickshaw driver from Naderi, had been undergoing treatment at the Kozhikode Government Medical College Hospital. He sought treatment for fever earlier this month, and amoebic meningoencephalitis was confirmed on July 22.

More details:

- ❖ Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a rare brain infection that is caused by *Naegleria fowleri*. It is a free-living amoeba or a single-celled living organism.
- ❖ *Naegleria fowleri* lives in warm fresh water and soil around the world, and infects people when it enters the body through the nose.
- ❖ *Naegleria fowleri* enters the body through the nose, usually when people are swimming.
- ❖ It then travels up to the brain, where it destroys the brain tissue and causes swelling.
- ❖ In the recent case, it is being suspected that the victim was infected while swimming in a local river.
- ❖ Notably, people cannot get infected with *Naegleria fowleri* from drinking water contaminated with the amoeba. PAM is also non-communicable.
- ❖ In the initial stage, the symptoms include headache, fever, nausea and vomiting.
- ❖ Later on, the patient may have a stiff neck and experience confusion, seizures, hallucinations and slip into a state of coma.
- ❖ Scientists haven't been able to identify any effective treatments for the disease yet.

7. *Fields Medals:*

Context: The Fields Medal — one of the top honours in mathematics — for 2026 was awarded to Yu Deng, John Pardon, Jacob Tsimerman, and Hong Wang. Of this year's laureates, Wang has become the third woman to win the Medal in its 90-year history, after Maryam Mirzakhani (2014) and Maryna

Viazovska (2022). Wang and Deng are also the first Chinese nationals to win since Shing-Tung Yau in 1982.

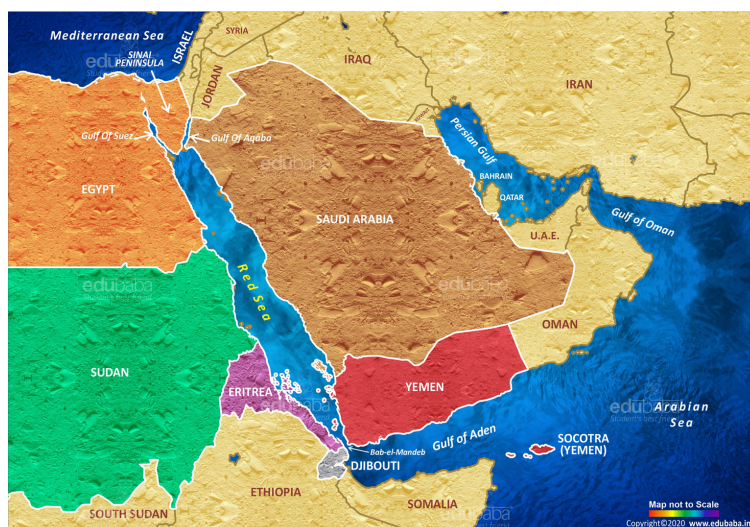
About Fields Medals:

- ❖ Fields Medal is the highest international award in mathematics, presented every four years to one or more mathematicians below 40 years of age.
- ❖ It is awarded during the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) organized by the International Mathematical Union (IMU).
- ❖ The IMU is an international, non-governmental, non-profit scientific organization that promotes international cooperation in mathematics.
- ❖ The medal recognizes outstanding mathematical achievements as well as the recipient's potential for future contributions to mathematics.
- ❖ The Fields Medal Committee is appointed by the Executive Committee of the IMU and is usually chaired by the IMU President.
- ❖ History: The idea originated at the 1924 International Congress of Mathematicians (Toronto). It was funded by Canadian mathematician John Charles Fields and first awarded in 1936.
- ❖ Since 1966, the number of medals awarded at each Congress has been increased from two to a maximum of four, reflecting the growth of mathematical research.
- ❖ Indian-origin Fields Medalists: Manjul Bhargava (2014) and Akshay Venkatesh (2018)

8. *Red Sea:*

Context: Ship traffic through Bab el-Mandeb fell on Sunday after Yemeni Houthis attacked Saudi oil installations along the Red Sea coast, while transit through the Strait of Hormuz stayed low over the weekend. The Houthis is a Shia Islamist political and military organization that aim to govern all of Yemen and support external movements against the United States, Israel, and Saudi Arabia.

About Red Sea:



- ❖ Trade through the Red Sea accounts for 15% of total global sea trade, including vital supplies of grains, seaborne liquid natural gas and oil.
- ❖ Red Sea is a semi-enclosed inlet of the Indian Ocean, located between Africa and Asia.
- ❖ It is connected to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean through the Gulf of Aden and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the south.
- ❖ The Sinai Peninsula divides its northern end into the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez; the Gulf of Suez is linked to the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal.
- ❖ Bordering countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea, and Djibouti.
- ❖ Geologically, it lies in a rift (fault) depression between the Arabian Plate and the African (North African) Plate.
- ❖ The sea is famous for its hot, highly saline waters, and its reddish appearance during seasonal blooms of certain algae (cyanobacteria).
- ❖ It is one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes, connecting Europe and Asia via the Suez Canal.
- ❖ The Red Sea region is rich in mineral resources, including petroleum, evaporites, sulfur, phosphates, and heavy-metal deposits.
- ❖ The Red Sea receives very little precipitation in any form and no major water enters the Red Sea from rivers.
- ❖ Important islands: Tiran Island (near the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba) and Shadwan Island (at the entrance of the Gulf of Suez).

Quick Bites:

- ☐ India's Raja Muthupandi won the silver medal in men's 65kg weightlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ Ministry of Culture operates Museum Grant Scheme under which financial assistance is provided for setting up of New Museums/development of the existing museums/digitization of museum collections/setting up of virtual museums and training of museums professionals of museums managed by Central/State Governments, Societies, Autonomous bodies, Public sector Undertaking, local bodies, Academic Institutions and Trusts registered under the societies Act at the regional, State and District Level in the country.
- ☐ There are 57 Central Universities presently operational in the country, out of which 47 Central Universities, excluding Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), are under the administrative purview of the Ministry of Education.
- ☐ The Government of India launched the PM-Vidyalaxmi, as a new central sector scheme in November 2024. The main objective of the scheme is to ensure that no student is denied the opportunity to pursue higher education due to financial constraints. Under the scheme, collateral free and guarantor-free education loan is provided to all students who get merit-based admission in top Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) and who desire to avail the education loan.
- ☐ The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) Scheme provides access to over 13,000 journals from 32 publishers to all eligible institutions. These journals cover a wide range of disciplines, including science, technology, medicine, arts and humanities.

- ☐ Under the Gyan Bharatam Mission, National Manuscript Survey was launched across all States and Union Territories of the country to identify and document manuscript holdings, repositories and custodians representing diverse languages and scripts.
- ☐ In March 2026, the Union Cabinet has approved the extension of Jal Jeevan Mission period up to December 2028 with enhanced outlay and restructured implementation focusing on structural reforms in rural drinking water supply sector under JJM 2.0. The total financial outlay of the Mission has now been enhanced from ₹ 3.60 lakh crore to ₹ 8.69 lakh crore with the central share increasing from ₹ 2.08 lakh crore to ₹ 3.59 lakh crore i.e. additional central outlay of Rs. 1.51 lakh Crore.
- ☐ As informed by the Government of Gujarat, the proposed Gulf of Khambhat (Kalpasar) Project is an ambitious water resources initiatives of the State Government. The project envisages the creation of one of the world's largest coastal freshwater reservoirs through the construction of a dam across the Gulf of Khambhat. Upon implementation, the project is expected to significantly augment the availability of freshwater and substantially mitigate water scarcity in the Saurashtra region by providing a dependable source of water for irrigation and other identified uses.
- ☐ Indian astronomers, along with their international collaborators, have reported the rare discovery of a Blue Straggler Star (BSS) caught in the act of formation, providing direct evidence of how such stars are created. Blue Straggler Stars (BSS) are a peculiar class of stars found in star clusters that appear hotter, brighter, and more massive than their peers, and have long puzzled astronomers seeking to understand their origin and evolution.
- ☐ The Ministry of Tourism today in New Delhi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Air India Limited to establish a strategic framework to promote India as a preferred global tourism destination under the Incredible India brand.
- ☐ Kerala launched the Digital Square education initiative as part of its 100-day action plan for the education sector. Digital Square is designed to strengthen technology-based learning in primary schools across Kerala. The programme uses Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS)-based educational tools for classroom use. It also includes an edutainment package developed by KITE CEO K. Anvar Sadath.
- ☐ UNESCO added Mount Olympus in Greece and the D-Day Landing Beaches in northern France to the World Heritage List on 26 July 2026. The decision was taken at the 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea. Mount Olympus is Greece's highest mountain and rises to 2,918 metres. UNESCO inscribed it as a mixed cultural and natural heritage site, a category used for places with both natural and cultural value.
- ☐ Indian shooter Esha Singh won the gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) in Hangzhou, China, on 27 July 2026. Manu Bhaker won the bronze medal in the same final, and India finished with three medals at the competition.
- ☐ Farmers from Rajasthan have opposed the proposed Geographical Indication (GI) registration of 'Unjha Jeera' and 'Unjha Fennel', arguing that Unjha is mainly a trading hub rather than the actual production area. Unjha, located in Gujarat, is one of Asia's largest agricultural markets for seed spices such as cumin (jeera), fennel (saunf), and isabgol. Since a significant share of the cumin and fennel traded through the Unjha APMC is produced in Rajasthan, farmers contend that granting a GI tag to "Unjha" would unfairly associate the products with a trading centre instead of their true geographical origin.

- ☐ Sudan's Army has regained control of a key highway linking the capital Khartoum with the flashpoint city of El-Obeid, military sources said on Monday. Their rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have for months amassed troops around El-Obeid, attempting to encircle it ahead of an apparent large-scale assault. They have now been pushed west, off the 400-kilometre highway that connects Khartoum with the largest city in the embattled Kordofan region.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme primarily aims to:

- (a) Provide scholarships for school education
- (b) Offer collateral-free education loans for higher education
- (c) Finance research projects in universities
- (d) Support skill development programmes

Mount Olympus, recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage List (2026), is located in:

- (a) Italy
- (b) Albania
- (c) North Macedonia
- (d) Greece

Consider the following statements: (CSP 2024)

1. The Red Sea receives very little precipitation in any form.
2. No water enters the Red Sea from rivers.

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 Anhydrous Ammonia, consider the following statements:

1. It contains the highest percentage of nitrogen among commercial nitrogen fertilizers.
2. It is stored under pressure as a liquid.
3. It is applied by broadcasting over the soil surface.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

How many of the following is/are part of India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2035?

1. Reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 47% from the 2005 level.
2. Achieve 60% cumulative installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources.
3. Create an additional carbon sink of 3.5–4.0 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through forest and tree cover.
4. Achieve net-zero emissions by 2035.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

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