

30/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *INS Machilipatnam (BY 529):*

Context: Machilipatnam (BY 529), the seventh of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for the Indian Navy, was launched on 29 Jul 2026.

About INS Machilipatnam (BY 529):

- ❖ The ship is equipped for Underwater Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations, and Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), along with Mine Warfare capability.
- ❖ With indigenous content exceeding 80 percent, the project showcases the growing capability of the Indian shipbuilding industry and will substantially enhance the Indian Navy's operational readiness for safeguarding the nation's maritime interests in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ Machilipatnam carries deep historical and cultural significance as it derives its name from the historic port city of Machilipatnam, in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, known for its rich maritime legacy and flourishing trade along India's eastern seaboard.

2. *Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT):*

Context: 25 years of the successful operations of the 2-m Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) atop Hanle in Ladakh was celebrated with a conference highlighting its history, engineering challenges, scientific research, and the road ahead.

About Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT):

- ❖ Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) is a 2-meter optical–infrared telescope, named after Nobel laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar.
- ❖ It is located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory, at Hanle in Ladakh, at an altitude of about 4,500 m, making it one of the highest optical telescopes in the world.
- ❖ The telescope is operated remotely from the Centre for Research & Education in Science & Technology (CREST) of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, through a dedicated satellite communication link.
- ❖ It is designed for optical and near-infrared astronomical observations, enabling studies of distant stars, galaxies, nebulae, and other celestial objects.
- ❖ Its major instruments include a Faint Object Spectrograph, a near-infrared camera, and an optical CCD camera for imaging and spectroscopy.
- ❖ The HCT plays an important role in astronomical research, including the study of supernovae, exoplanets, variable stars, active galaxies, and gamma-ray burst afterglows.
- ❖ A unique feature of the telescope is that it has been operated remotely in real time from IIA's campus in Hosakote in Bengaluru, since June 2001, through a dedicated INSAT-3B satellite link from ISRO.

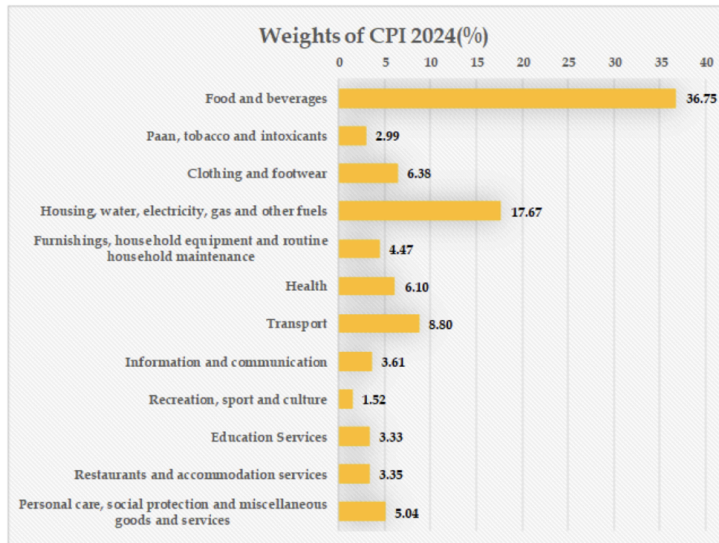
3. *Consumer Price Index(CPI):*

Context: The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2012=100 to 2024=100. The revised series was released on 12th February, 2026.

About Consumer Price Index(CPI) and new changes:

- ❖ Consumer Price Index measures the average change over time in prices paid by consumers for a fixed basket of goods and services used for daily consumption (retail level).

- ❖ The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the primary measure of retail inflation in India. It tracks changes in the prices of goods and services consumed by households and is used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to frame monetary policy under the inflation-targeting framework.
- ❖ CPI reflects the cost of living and directly affects interest rates, wages, pensions, and government welfare schemes.
- ❖ It is based on a “basket” of goods and services that represents typical household consumption patterns.



- ❖ Increase in Items Covered: Total items increased from 299 to 358; goods 259 → 308; services 40 → 50.
- ❖ Wider Data Collection: Price data now collected from 1,465 rural markets (earlier 1,181) and 1,395 urban markets (earlier 1,114); 12 online marketplaces included for the first time.
- ❖ More Detailed Classification: Items now grouped into 12 broad groups instead of 6, giving more granular inflation estimates.
- ❖ Change in Food Weight: Weight of food and beverages reduced to 36.75% from 45.86%, which may reduce volatility in headline inflation.
- ❖ Housing and Utilities Combined: Housing expanded to include water, electricity, gas and other fuels; combined weight increased to 17.67% (earlier housing alone 10.07%).
- ❖ New / Expanded Categories: Furnishings and household maintenance (4.47%), Health (6.1%), Transport (8.8%), Information and communication (3.61%), Recreation, sports and culture (1.52%), Education services (3.33%), Restaurants and accommodation (3.35%), Personal care and miscellaneous (5.04%).
- ❖ Other Weight Changes: Paan, tobacco and intoxicants increased to 2.99% (from 2.38%); Clothing and footwear reduced to 2.38% (from 6.53%).

4. PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme:

Context: PM-Vidyalaxmi supplements the PM-USP CSIS (Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme). Under PM-USP CSIS, students who are pursuing technical/ professional courses from approved NAAC accredited HEIs/ NBA accredited courses and whose annual family income is up to ₹4.5 lakhs, shall be eligible for 100% interest subvention during moratorium period for education loan up to ₹ 10 lakhs.

About PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme:

- ❖ Launched: Approved by the Union Cabinet on 6 November 2024.
- ❖ Objective: To ensure that no meritorious student is deprived of quality higher education due to financial constraints.
- ❖ NEP Link: The scheme is based on the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ❖ Coverage: Applicable to students admitted on merit to 1,425 designated Quality Higher Educational Institutions (QHEIs) across India (public and private).
- ❖ Exclusions: Students admitted through Management Quota, NRI Quota, and similar categories are not eligible.
- ❖ Education Loan: Provides collateral-free and guarantor-free education loans.
- ❖ Loan Amount: No upper limit on the education loan; amount depends on course fees and related educational expenses.
- ❖ Eligible Expenses: Covers tuition fees, hostel/mess charges, refundable and non-refundable institutional fees, a reasonable-quality laptop, and living expenses.
- ❖ Credit Guarantee: The Government provides a 75% credit guarantee for education loans up to ₹7.5 lakh to reduce banks' lending risk.
- ❖ Interest Rate: Interest is capped at the bank's Externally Benchmarked Lending Rate (EBLR) + 0.5%, making it lower than regular education loan rates.
- ❖ Repayment Period: Up to 15 years, excluding the moratorium period (course duration + 1 year).
- ❖ Participating Banks: Loans are provided through Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), and Cooperative Banks.
- ❖ 3% Interest Subvention: Students with annual family income up to ₹8 lakh receive 3% interest subvention on education loans up to ₹10 lakh during the moratorium period.
- ❖ Existing CSIS Benefit Continues: Students with family income up to ₹4.5 lakh remain eligible for 100% interest subvention under the PM-USP Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme (CSIS) for eligible technical/professional courses.
- ❖ Higher Loan Amounts: If the education loan exceeds ₹10 lakh, the 3% interest subvention is limited to the first ₹10 lakh of the loan.
- ❖ Restriction: Students already receiving any Central/State Government scholarship, fee reimbursement, or another interest subvention scheme are not eligible for interest subvention under PM-Vidyalaxmi or CSIS.

5. Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport:

Context: The Ministry of Civil Aviation has notified that all scheduled commercial flight operations will shift from the civil enclave at Visakhapatnam Airport (INS Dega) to Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram from 00:01 hours on August 17, 2026.

About Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport:

- ❖ Also known as Bhogapuram Airport, is an upcoming greenfield airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh, India.
- ❖ It is intended to serve the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region and is located off National Highway 16, about 45 km from Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The airport is being developed by GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited, a subsidiary of the GMR Group.

- ❖ It was named after the Indian revolutionary and freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju in September 2024.
- ❖ The airport features a single 3,800-metre Code 4E runway designed to handle wide-body aircraft.
- ❖ The modern integrated passenger terminal has an initial capacity to handle 6 million passengers per annum (MPPA) in its first phase, with scalability to 40 MPPA in future phases.
- ❖ The facility also includes a dedicated cargo terminal to support exports in the pharmaceuticals, electronics, and seafood sectors.
- ❖ The airport was built with sustainability features, including renewable energy systems and rainwater harvesting.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Gulveer on winning the Silver medal in the Men's 10,000m event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Harjinder Kaur on winning the Silver medal in the Women's 69 kg weightlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ The YUVIKA 2026 programme was successfully conducted during May 11-22, 2026 at nine ISRO Centers. During the YUVIKA 2026 programme, the students got exposure to space science, technology, and applications through experiential learning and various activities such as interaction with senior scientists & Gaganyaatris, lectures on space science and ISRO achievements
- ☐ The present installed nuclear power capacity in the country is 8,780 MW comprising of 24 nuclear power plants, contributing about 3.1% in 2025-26 in total electricity generation. The Government has drawn up a roadmap for reaching the 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047, as announced in the Nuclear Energy Mission. As per the roadmap, the present nuclear power capacity of 8.78 GW is expected to reach about 22 GW by 2031-32.
- ☐ Marking a significant milestone for Assam's dairy sector and the North Eastern Region's processed food exports, the first international consignment of 5,627 litres of Purabi Ice Cream was exported from Assam to Bhutan, opening new avenues for value-added dairy exports from the region.
- ☐ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, and the Government of Madhya Pradesh will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 30 July 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, for the establishment of India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ), Phase-I, at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. The initiative seeks to create a world-class manufacturing ecosystem for telecom equipment and allied technologies by attracting investments, fostering innovation, encouraging indigenous design and manufacturing, and accelerating the development of next-generation telecom products and solutions.
- ☐ As per the National Cooperative Database (NCD), as on 15.07.2026, there are 8,53,430 Cooperative Societies across the country. Sector-wise Primary Cooperative Societies: 1) Housing Cooperative Societies – 1,95,411, 2) Dairy Cooperatives – 1,58,216, 3) Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) – 1,06,126. State-wise Total Cooperative Societies: 1) Maharashtra – 2,27,177, 2) Gujarat – 88,119, 3) Telangana – 60,680.

- ☐ The Ministry of Home Affairs administers Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana, a scheme for grant of pension to Freedom Fighters and their eligible dependents. Central Samman Pension under the scheme is granted only to those Freedom Fighters who fulfill the eligibility criteria and evidentiary requirements prescribed under the Scheme and apply for the same through the concerned State Government.
- ☐ India became the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers as of 28 July 2026, with 311,936 maritime professionals in the global workforce. India accounted for 12.16% of the world's seafaring workforce and ranked behind the Philippines in the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026.
- ☐ World Nature Conservation Day is observed annually on 28 July across the world. The National Zoological Park in Delhi marked the day on 28 July 2026 with awareness activities, a plastic removal drive, and visitor outreach on conservation themes.
- ☐ SHetA2 is an oral small-molecule therapy linked to Human Papillomavirus-related cervical disease. On 29 July 2026, the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research validated the molecule for further development in India.
- ☐ Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated the Department of Military Medicine at Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on 29 July 2026. It is India's first dedicated academic and operational department exclusively focused on military medicine.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) is being established at:

- (a) Kakinada
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Jabalpur
- (d) Gwalior

India's first dedicated Department of Military Medicine has been established at:

- (a) AFMC, Pune
- (b) Army Hospital (R&R), New Delhi
- (c) Military Hospital, Jodhpur
- (d) Command Hospital, Lucknow

Consider the following statements regarding the Himalayan Chandra Telescope:

1. It is designed for optical and near-infrared astronomical observations.
2. It can be used to study distant galaxies and nebulae.
3. It uses a dedicated satellite communication link for remote operation and has been remotely operated since June 2001.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Which of the following changes were introduced in the revised Consumer Price Index (CPI)?

1. Total items increased from 299 to 358.
2. Services covered increased from 40 to 50.
3. Twelve online marketplaces have been included.
4. Housing weight has been reduced in the new CPI index.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Consider the following statements regarding the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport:

1. It is a brownfield airport being developed at Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh.
2. The airport includes a dedicated cargo terminal for pharmaceuticals, electronics, and seafood exports.

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

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