

THEIAS AKADEMIA • MORNING EDITION • 08:00 IST

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PART I • HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

Saturday, 25 July 2026

"The Topper's Last Read. Every Morning."

§1 · TOP 10 HEADLINES — 25 JULY 2026

1. **Assam floods: death toll crosses 50, over 7 lakh displaced** — Brahmaputra breaches danger mark in multiple districts; IMD forecasts heavy rain across Assam-Meghalaya till July 30. **GS1-GS3**
2. **Ravneet Singh Bittu resigns as Union Minister** — MoS Railways & Food Processing Industries steps down; President Murmu accepts with immediate effect; Punjab poll speculation. **GS2**
3. **Parliament adjourned till Monday** — Day 6 of Monsoon Session disrupted over Opposition's Dharmendra Pradhan resignation demand; Houses to resume July 27. **GS2**
4. **President Murmu's landmark Romania visit concludes** — 3 agreements signed in Bucharest; first Indian Head-of-State visit in three decades; trade to double in 3 years. **GS2**
5. **MEA objects to Chinese "illegal occupation"** — Beijing's infrastructure projects on Indian territory in J&K and Ladakh draw sharp protest; CPEC through PoK reiterated as violation. **GS2-GS3**
6. **DRDO's Kusha LR-SAM completes maiden flight-test** — Indigenous long-range interceptor family (150/250/400 km tiers) tested off Odisha coast; India joins elite LR-SAM club. **GS3**
7. **India's first indigenous expendable turbojet engine delivered** — GTRE-designed, 350-kg-thrust class; built by private firm Azad Engineering, Hyderabad. **GS3**
8. **Cabinet clears ₹3,030-crore BHAVYA-Rasayan Scheme** — 3 dedicated Chemical Parks; Centre-State co-funding model; runs FY2026-27 to FY2030-31. **GS3**
9. **IAF's Rafale debuts at Exercise Pitch Black 2026** — 20-nation air-combat exercise in Darwin, Australia; first-ever Rafale participation. **GS3**
10. **NGT's Daily Court Digest flags fresh orders** — Yamuna pollution, Delhi dumpsite biomining, Andhra Pradesh aquaculture ponds under tribunal scrutiny. **GS3**

SAHYOG Today's headlines span 4 GS papers and a live disaster. Sahyog Mentorship structures daily current affairs into PYQ-mapped answer banks — theiasakademia.com.

§2 · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

GS2

Council of Ministers · Article 75

25 July 2026 · New Delhi · Source: PIB / Rashtrapati Bhavan

Ravneet Singh Bittu Resigns as Union Minister — President Accepts Immediately; Article 75 Tenure Rules Back in Focus

Why in News: Ravneet Singh Bittu resigned on July 25, 2026 as Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries; President Droupadi Murmu accepted the resignation with immediate effect. The exit follows the lapse of his Rajya Sabha term and comes amid speculation that he may contest the Punjab Assembly elections due in 2027.

Background: A former Lok Sabha MP from Ludhiana who joined the BJP in 2024 after losing his seat, Bittu was subsequently accommodated in the Rajya Sabha to continue as a minister. His resignation reopens a familiar constitutional question — how long a non-elected minister can continue in office once their House membership lapses.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Portfolio held: Minister of State, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

- Constitutional basis: the Union Council of Ministers holds office "during the pleasure of the President" (Art. 75(2)); a person who is a Minister but not a member of either House for six consecutive months automatically ceases to be a Minister (Art. 75(5)).
- 91st Amendment (2003) added Art. 75(1A): total Council of Ministers, including PM, cannot exceed 15% of total Lok Sabha strength.
- Political context: resignation timed close to the Punjab Assembly polls (2027); fuels speculation of a shift to state-level electoral politics.

🔴 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Memory trick — Article 74 vs 75: Art. 74 = Council of Ministers to AID and ADVISE the President (mandatory since 42nd/44th Amendments). Art. 75 = APPOINTMENT and tenure rules — pleasure doctrine (75(2)), 15% Cabinet-size cap (75(1A), 91st Amendment), and the "six-month rule" for non-MP ministers (75(5)). Trap to avoid: "pleasure of the President" is not arbitrary — by convention, it operates strictly on the advice of the Prime Minister.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "Discuss the collective and individual responsibility of the Union Council of Ministers to the Lok Sabha." | GS2: "Examine the constitutional provisions governing the tenure of Ministers who are not members of Parliament."

🔴 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. Under the Constitution, a person appointed as a Union Minister who is not a member of either House of Parliament ceases to be a Minister after: (a) 3 months (b) 6 months (c) 9 months (d) 1 year. **Answer: (b) 6 months** — Article 75(5).

GS2

Article 75

Council of Ministers

Pleasure Doctrine

91st Amendment

GS2

Parliamentary Proceedings · Legislative Business

25 July 2026 · New Delhi · Source: PIB / Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha Secretariat

Parliament Adjourned Till Monday — Day 6 of Monsoon Session Disrupted Over Dharmendra Pradhan Resignation Demand

Why in News: For the third consecutive sitting, both Houses were adjourned — this time till Monday, July 27 — after Opposition MPs led by LoP Rahul Gandhi intensified their demand for Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over the NEET-UG controversy, with Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh unable to restore order.

Background: Monsoon Session 2026 has been repeatedly disrupted since Day 3 (July 22) over the NEET paper-leak fallout and Rule 267 adjournment notices; Bittu's same-day resignation has fed into the Opposition's broader charge of governmental accountability failure.

📄 MEMORY TECHNIQUE — RETURNING TOPIC

Previously covered: 22-24 July 2026 editions (Day 3, 4, 5 disruptions over NEET fallout and Rule 267 notices)

What's new today:

Houses adjourned till Monday specifically over the Pradhan resignation demand, with Bittu's resignation compounding the accountability narrative

UPSC relevance shift:

Tests whether the specific trigger of each sitting's disruption can be distinguished — a common Mains GS2 differentiator

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "Assess the impact of frequent disruptions on the deliberative function of the Indian Parliament." | GS2: "Individual and collective responsibility of Ministers to Parliament."

🔴 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. A notice for raising a matter of urgent public importance, often leading to suspension of listed business in the Rajya Sabha, is moved under: (a) Rule 193 (b) Rule 267 (c) Rule 377 (d) Rule 184. **Answer: (b) Rule 267** — subject to the Chair's discretion to allow.

§3 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GS2

Bilateral Relations · State Visit

23-25 July 2026 · Bucharest · Source: Ministry of External Affairs / PIB

President Murmu's Romania Visit Concludes — First in Three Decades; 3 Agreements Signed; Trade to Double in 3 Years

Why in News: President Droupadi Murmu concluded a landmark State Visit to Romania (July 23-25, 2026) — the first by an Indian Head of State in over three decades — signing three agreements with President Nicusor Dan covering science & technology cooperation, a Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Bucharest, and expanded ITEC training including AI and cyber-diplomacy courses.

Background: India-Romania ties date to 1948; Romania's EU and NATO membership gives the visit added weight following the India-EU Free Trade Agreement concluded earlier in 2026. Both sides set a target to double bilateral trade within three years and designated 2028 as the "India-Romania Year of Innovation," marking 80 years of diplomatic relations.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Three agreements signed: Science & Technology Cooperation Programme (Romania's National Authority for Research + India's DST); MoU for a Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Bucharest; expanded ITEC training slots including AI and cyber-diplomacy.
- Sectoral cooperation expanded: pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, agriculture, and — per MEA — deepening defence cooperation in drones and aerospace.
- Context: follows the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (2026); Romania's EU membership adds market-access significance to the visit.
- 2028 designated "India-Romania Year of Innovation," marking 80 years of diplomatic relations (established 1948).

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: several 2025-26 high-level visits to lesser-focus European states (Romania here) reflect India's "diversify beyond P5 + immediate neighbourhood" outreach — useful for supply-chain de-risking and EU-bloc access post India-EU FTA. Distinguish visit types: State Visit (President-level, most ceremonial + substantive) vs Official Visit (PM-level) vs Working Visit (functional, minimal ceremony).

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2: "Significance of the India-EU FTA for India's trade diversification." | GS2 (recurring): "Discuss India's outreach to non-traditional partners in Europe under its 'Extended Neighbourhood' approach."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. India's July 2026 diplomatic engagement with Romania was: (a) A Working Visit by the Vice President (b) A State Visit by the President — first in three decades (c) A PM-level Official Visit (d) A multilateral summit visit. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

India-Romania

State Visit

India-EU FTA

ITEC

GS2

India-China Relations · Border Dispute

24 July 2026 · New Delhi · Source: Ministry of External Affairs / PIB

MEA Objects to Chinese "Illegal Occupation" of J&K and Ladakh Territories — CPEC Through PoK Reiterated as Violation

Why in News: The Ministry of External Affairs on July 24, 2026 objected to Chinese infrastructure projects on what it called Indian territory under "illegal occupation" in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, reiterating that J&K and Ladakh are, and will remain, integral parts of India

and that New Delhi does not recognise any China-Pakistan arrangement affecting this territory.

Background: China has occupied roughly 38,000 sq km of Indian territory in Aksai Chin (Ladakh) since the 1950s-60s, while Pakistan ceded a further ~5,180 sq km — the Shaksgam Valley — to China under the 1963 Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement, which India has never recognised. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) also runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, a long-standing Indian objection at multilateral forums.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Aksai Chin: ~38,000 sq km under Chinese control since annexation in the 1950s/60s; India claims it as part of Ladakh (Union Territory since 2019).
- Shaksgam Valley: ~5,180 sq km ceded by Pakistan to China under the 1963 Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement — never recognised by India.
- CPEC: ~\$62-billion infrastructure corridor running through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, repeatedly protested by India as a violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- India's consistent position: the Parliament resolution of 1994 mandates recovery of all territories under "illegal occupation," including Aksai Chin and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick — three distinct China-J&K/Ladakh terms not to conflate: (1) Aksai Chin = China's direct occupation since the 1962 war; (2) Shaksgam Valley = Pakistan-to-China cession, 1963; (3) CPEC = economic corridor through PoK, ongoing since 2015. All three feed the same MEA objection but arise from different historical events — a classic Prelims trap.

📖 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2022: "China's assertive policies pose challenges to India's sovereignty — critically examine." | GS2 (recurring): "Discuss the legal and political basis of India's position on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Shaksgam Valley was ceded by Pakistan to China under an agreement signed in: (a) 1947 (b) 1963 (c) 1972 (d) 1999. **Answer: (b) 1963** — the Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement, never recognised by India.

GS2

GS3

Aksai Chin

Shaksgam Valley

CPEC

PoK

ANTIM 2027 ANTIM 2027 Mains Programme maps India's border disputes and bilateral diplomacy onto PYQ-tested GS2 frameworks. theiasakademia.com.

§4 · DEFENCE & SECURITY

GS3

Indigenous Air Defence · DRDO

23 July 2026 · APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha · Source: DRDO / Ministry of Defence (PIB)

DRDO's 'Kusha' Long-Range SAM Completes Maiden Flight-Test — India Joins Elite Indigenous LR-SAM Club

Why in News: DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of the indigenously developed 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile system from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast on July 23, 2026, intercepting a simulated high-speed, high-altitude aerial target and placing India among a handful of nations with a home-grown long-range air-defence interceptor family.

Background: Project Kusha was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security in 2022 at an estimated cost of ₹21,700 crore, intended to reduce India's dependence on imported long-range systems such as Russia's S-400 by building a fully indigenous, layered alternative developed by DRDO with domestic industry partners.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Kusha is a 3-tier interceptor family: M1 (~120-150 km), M2 (~250 km), M3 (~350-400 km) — engaging fighter aircraft, missiles, UAVs and large enemy aircraft across a wide range-altitude envelope.
- All elements — missiles, radars, command & control — are DRDO-developed with domestic industry production partners; no foreign systems integrated.
- Approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security in 2022; project cost ~₹21,700 crore; expected induction window 2028-2030.
- Complements India's existing layered air defence — Akash (short range), MRSAM (medium range, DRDO-IAI), S-400 Triumf (imported, long range) — Kusha indigenises the long-range tier.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick — India's air-defence "range ladder": Akash (SR, ~25-30 km) → MRSAM (MR, ~70 km) → Kusha (LR, up to 400 km, indigenous) → S-400 (imported LR/VLR, up to 400 km). Kusha is India's answer to "why keep importing S-400 when we can build our own" — a recurring Atmanirbhar Bharat defence theme.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Indigenisation of defence production — examine India's progress under Atmanirbhar Bharat." | GS3: "Discuss India's layered air-defence architecture and its strategic significance."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. Project Kusha, cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security in 2022, refers to India's indigenous: (a) Anti-satellite weapon (b) Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile system (c) Hypersonic cruise missile (d) Ballistic missile defence radar. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

Project Kusha

DRDO

LR-SAM

Atmanirbhar Bharat

§5 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GS3

Aerospace · Indigenous Propulsion

22 July 2026 · Hyderabad · Source: DRDO-GTRE / Ministry of Defence (PIB)

India's First Indigenous 350-kg-Thrust Expendable Turbojet Engine Delivered — Built by Private Firm Azad Engineering

Why in News: DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) delivered India's first domestically designed expendable turbojet engine of the 350-kg-thrust class on July 22, 2026, manufactured and assembled by Hyderabad-based private aerospace firm Azad Engineering — a milestone for India's indigenous propulsion base for drones, target aircraft, and loitering munitions.

Background: GTRE (Bengaluru) is DRDO's dedicated gas-turbine engine laboratory, best known for the long-running Kaveri engine programme for the Tejas fighter. Expendable turbojet engines — designed for one-time or limited-reuse missions such as target drones and loitering munitions — form a distinct, lower-cost segment where India has historically relied on imports; this delivery marks the entry of a private firm into engine manufacturing under DRDO design transfer.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Engine class: 350-kg-thrust expendable turbojet, designed for target drones, decoys, and loitering munitions rather than manned aircraft.
- Design: DRDO's GTRE; manufacturing & assembly: Azad Engineering, Hyderabad — a private-sector aerospace component maker.
- Significance: reduces import dependence on foreign expendable/target-drone engines; extends Atmanirbhar Bharat to the private sector at the propulsion-component level, not just airframes.

- GTRE's broader mandate includes the Kaveri engine (Tejas) and its unmanned-systems derivatives — this expendable engine is a distinct, smaller-scale programme.

🔥 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: "Expendable" ≠ "reusable." Expendable turbojets power one-way/limited-use platforms (target drones, loitering munitions), unlike the Kaveri engine built for repeated-use fighter aircraft. The real UPSC-testable shift here is private-sector entry into engine manufacturing — not just airframes or structures.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Private sector participation in India's defence manufacturing — challenges and opportunities." | GS3: "Examine India's progress in indigenous aero-engine development."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. GTRE, which designed India's first indigenous 350-kg-thrust expendable turbojet engine, is primarily associated with which other engine programme? (a) Agni missile propulsion (b) Kaveri engine for Tejas (c) Cryogenic engine for GSLV (d) INS Vikrant propulsion. **Answer: (b) Kaveri engine.**

GS3

GTRE

Turbojet Engine

Azad Engineering

Atmanirbhar Bharat

📌 LAKSHYAM AIR1

LAKSHYAM AIR1 covers India's defence-industrial ecosystem including DRDO labs, private-sector entry, and indigenisation timelines for GS3. theiasakademia.com.

§6 · ECONOMY

GS3

Industrial Policy · Chemicals Sector

24 July 2026 · New Delhi · Source: PIB / Cabinet Secretariat

Cabinet Clears ₹3,030-Crore BHAVYA–Rasayan Scheme — 3 Dedicated Chemical Parks with Centre-State Co-Funding

Why in News: The Union Cabinet on July 24, 2026 approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana–Rasayan (BHAVYA) Scheme with an outlay of ₹3,030 crore to establish three dedicated Chemical Parks, aiming to build plug-and-play infrastructure for India's chemicals industry and reduce reliance on imported intermediates.

Background: First announced in the Union Budget 2026-27, the scheme runs for five years (FY2026-27 to FY2030-31) and follows a broader pattern of sector-specific industrial-park schemes (semiconductors, textiles, pharma) aimed at de-risking India's manufacturing supply chains through dedicated infrastructure clusters rather than unit-level subsidies alone.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Total outlay: ₹3,030 crore — ₹3,000 crore for common infrastructure/utilities inside the parks, ₹30 crore for administrative expenditure.
- Funding structure: Centre provides up to ₹1,000 crore per park, subject to a minimum ₹500 crore contribution from the concerned State Government.
- Each park: minimum contiguous, encumbrance-free area of 8 sq km (~2,000 acres), offering plug-and-play common facilities and utilities.
- Scheme runs FY2026-27 to FY2030-31; complements existing PLI schemes in specialty chemicals and downstream sectors.

🔥 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: distinguish "Park schemes" (BHAVYA-Rasayan for chemicals; PM MITRA for textiles; India Semiconductor Mission for fabs) from "PLI schemes" (production-linked, output-based incentives). Park schemes fund shared infrastructure — land, utilities, effluent treatment; PLI

schemes fund production output. BHAVYA is a park scheme, not a PLI scheme — a common Prelims trap.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Industrial policy and infrastructure-led manufacturing growth in India — assess with examples." | GS3: "Significance of the chemicals and petrochemicals sector for India's manufacturing self-reliance."

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The BHAVYA-Rasayan Scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2026, provides for: (a) Production-linked incentives to chemical exporters (b) Three dedicated Chemical Parks with shared infrastructure (c) Tax holiday for petrochemical refineries (d) Subsidised natural gas for fertiliser units. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

BHAVYA Rasayan

Chemical Parks

Industrial Policy

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