

THEIAS AKADEMIA · MORNING EDITION · 08:00 IST

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

Monday, 27 July 2026

§1 · TOP 10 HEADLINES

1. Assam floods death toll rises to 68; situation shows marginal improvement as waters recede in Upper Assam **GS1/GS3**
2. Nepal Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Sharma concludes 5-day India visit, holds bilateral meeting with CJI Surya Kant **GS2**
3. Monsoon Session Day 7: Parliament resumes after weekend break; Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to take up pending legislative business **GS2**
4. Delhi Cabinet's Right of Citizen to Time-Bound Services Bill, 2026 heads toward Assembly introduction **GS2**
5. India concludes Eighth WTO Trade Policy Review in Geneva; 68 members intervene across two sessions **GS2/GS3**
6. Indian Navy's Operation Southern Readiness 26.2 — 26-nation maritime security exercise underway in Kochi **GS3**
7. ISRO targets seven launches in its busiest space year, GSLV F16 among upcoming missions **GS3**
8. Union Cabinet approves ₹1,264 crore for 3rd/4th railway lines on Ballari-Guntakal economic corridor **GS3**
9. MoEFCC's July 13 restructuring of environmental clearance procedures continues to draw expert scrutiny **ENV**
10. Exercise Pitch Black 2026 continues in Darwin, Australia; IAF Rafales fly composite air-combat missions **GS3**

§2 · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

GS2

State Governance · Right to Service

27 July 2026 · Source: PIB / Delhi Government Press Note / Business Standard

Delhi Cabinet Approves "Right of Citizen to Time-Bound and Ease of Delivery of Services" Bill, 2026

Why in News: The Delhi Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has cleared a new Bill replacing the 2011 Right to Service law with a technology-driven framework, now moving toward introduction in the Delhi Assembly's Monsoon Session.

Background: Delhi's original Right to Service law of 2011 lacked strong digital enforcement; the new Bill statutorily guarantees time-bound delivery of notified services and creates penalty and grievance-redressal mechanisms to enforce it.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Every citizen gets a statutory right to receive notified government services within a prescribed time limit.
- Penalty of ₹250/day (capped at ₹5,000) on officials for unjustified delays, after an opportunity to explain.
- Provides for complete digitisation of the service-delivery process, from application to delivery.
- Establishes a Delhi Right to Service Commission plus grievance-redressal authorities in every department.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: India's Right to Service laws form a state-by-state patchwork, not one central law (unlike RTI, 2005, which is central). Madhya Pradesh was the first state to enact one (2010); Delhi's 2026 Bill is a digital-era upgrade of its own 2011 law — remember "RTS = state subject, RTI = central subject" to avoid mixing the two up.

📖 **PYQ LINKAGE**

GS2 2016: "Right to Service legislations have not been able to achieve their objectives... Discuss." | GS2 (recurring): citizen charters and service delivery accountability.

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. Right to Service legislation in India is enacted by: (a) Parliament under a central law applicable to all states (b) Individual state legislatures, resulting in varying provisions across states (c) Local bodies only (d) The Election Commission. **Answer: (b)** — there is no single central Right to Service Act; each state has enacted its own law.

GS2

Right to Service

Delhi Governance

PYQ 2016

GS2

Parliament · National Symbols

27 July 2026 · Source: PIB / Rajya Sabha Bulletin / PRS Legislative Research

Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 — Statutory Protection for "Vande Mataram"

Why in News: Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 during the Monsoon Session, and the legislation remains part of Parliament's pending business as the House resumes for Day 7 today.

Background: The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 currently criminalises disrespect to the National Flag, the Constitution, and the National Anthem; "Vande Mataram," India's National Song since the freedom movement, has never carried the same statutory protection.

 KEY FACTS

- Bill extends the same statutory protection given to the National Anthem to "Vande Mataram."
- Disrupting or preventing its singing would attract penalties currently applicable to National Anthem-related offences (imprisonment up to 3 years).
- Amends the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 — India's principal law criminalising disrespect to national symbols.
- "Vande Mataram," from Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's "Anandmath" (1882), was adopted as the National Song by the Constituent Assembly in 1950.

 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana) vs National Song (Vande Mataram) — both hold "equal respect" per a 1950 Constituent Assembly statement, but only the Anthem historically had matching statutory teeth under the 1971 Act. This 2026 Bill is designed to close that legal-status gap, not create a new symbol.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS1 2016: "Vande Mataram was written originally in Sanskrit... Discuss." | GS2 (recurring): national symbols and constitutional/statutory protection.

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. "Vande Mataram" was first published as part of which work by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay? (a) Anandmath (b) Devi Chaudhurani (c) Kapalkundala (d) Durgeshnandini. **Answer: (a)** — Anandmath (1882).

GS2

Vande Mataram

National Symbols

PYQ 2016

Nepal Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Sharma Concludes Five-Day Judicial Diplomacy Visit to India

Why in News: Nepal's Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Sharma concluded a five-day official visit to India at the invitation of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, returning to Kathmandu on July 27 after a bilateral meeting and observing Supreme Court proceedings.

Background: The visit forms part of an international judicial exchange programme; the Supreme Court of India also hosted judges from four other countries around an international conference marking 60 years of UNCITRAL (UN Commission on International Trade Law).

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Nepal CJ Sharma's delegation included his spouse and a Joint Registrar; visit ran across five days on an official invitation basis.
- Bilateral meeting held with CJI Surya Kant; delegation observed live Supreme Court of India proceedings.
- Coincided with an international conference marking 60 years of UNCITRAL, with senior judges from five countries visiting India.
- India-Nepal judicial cooperation supplements the wider bilateral relationship under the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship framework.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: distinguish "judicial diplomacy" (CJI-to-CJI exchanges, court-observation visits) from "treaty diplomacy" (foreign-ministry-led pacts like the 1950 Treaty). Judicial exchanges build institutional trust and legal-system familiarity, which is distinct from — but complements — formal treaty-based cooperation.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "India's neighbourhood-first policy — institutional and people-to-people dimensions." | GS2: UNCITRAL and India's role in international trade law harmonisation.

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. UNCITRAL, whose 60th anniversary conference the Supreme Court of India hosted judges around, stands for: (a) UN Commission on International Trade Law (b) UN Council on International Territorial Law (c) UN Committee for International Tariff Law (d) UN Council for Investment and Trade Law. **Answer: (a).**

GS2

India-Nepal

Judicial Diplomacy

UNCITRAL

India Concludes Its Eighth WTO Trade Policy Review in Geneva

Why in News: India concluded its Eighth Trade Policy Review (TPR) at the WTO in Geneva on July 23, 2026, with 68 members intervening across two review sessions and reaffirming India's commitment to a transparent, rules-based multilateral trading system.

Background: The Trade Policy Review Mechanism, one of the WTO's core functions, periodically examines member countries' trade policies for transparency; larger economies like India are reviewed more frequently than smaller ones.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- India received 1,094 written questions from 44 WTO members ahead of the review.
- Review sessions held on July 21 and 23, 2026; 68 members made interventions.
- Members raised queries on PLI schemes, Quality Control Orders (QCOs), and trade remedy measures.
- Members highlighted India's Digital Public Infrastructure, customs modernisation, and MSME global-value-chain integration.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) is a WTO transparency tool, NOT a dispute-settlement mechanism — it does not penalise or adjudicate, unlike the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body. Remember "TPRM = report card, DSB = courtroom."

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2/GS3 (recurring): "WTO and its Trade Policy Review Mechanism — significance for India." | GS3: PLI schemes and India's industrial policy.

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The WTO's Trade Policy Review Mechanism primarily serves to: (a) Impose trade sanctions on non-compliant members (b) Periodically assess and enhance transparency of members' trade policies (c) Settle bilateral trade disputes (d) Set global tariff ceilings. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

WTO

Trade Policy Review

PLI

§4 · DEFENCE & SECURITY

GS3

Maritime Security · Multinational Exercise

27 July 2026 · Source: PIB / Indian Navy Press Release

Indian Navy Hosts Operation Southern Readiness 26.2 — 26-Nation Maritime Security Exercise in Kochi

Why in News: The Indian Navy is hosting Operation Southern Readiness 26.2, a four-day multinational maritime security exercise at the Southern Naval Command, Kochi, from July 20 — the first time this Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)-linked exercise has been hosted in India.

Background: The exercise runs under Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154), a CMF construct focused on maritime security cooperation; India has increasingly partnered with CMF-linked frameworks to strengthen Indian Ocean Region maritime domain awareness.

 KEY FACTS

- Drew representatives from 26 nations, plus 74 facilitators, subject-matter experts, and delegates from 4 international organisations.
- Conducted under Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154), operating within the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) construct.
- First time Operation Southern Readiness has been hosted in India, reflecting India's expanding maritime-security partnerships.
- Complements India's existing Indian Ocean Region initiatives such as SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and IFC-IOR (Information Fusion Centre).

 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: don't confuse CMF (Combined Maritime Forces — a 40+ nation naval partnership focused on counter-piracy/terrorism, HQ Bahrain, India is a partner not a full member) with the Quad's maritime initiatives (IPMDA) — CMF is a broader multinational coalition; IPMDA is Quad-specific satellite-based maritime domain awareness.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2013: "Terrorists sea route... Indian Navy, Coast Guard's role." | GS2/GS3 (recurring): India's Indian Ocean Region strategy and multinational naval partnerships.

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154), under which Operation Southern Readiness 26.2 was conducted, operates within which multinational framework? (a) Quad (b) Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) (c) BIMSTEC (d) IORA. **Answer: (b).**

§5 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GS3

Space Programme

27 July 2026 · Source: PIB / ISRO Press Statement

ISRO Targets Seven Launches in Its Busiest Space Year, GSLV F16 Among Upcoming Missions

Why in News: ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan has confirmed the agency is targeting seven launches in the current financial year, with the next mission expected within about two months, making 2026 one of ISRO's most crowded flight calendars.

Background: The seven-launch plan combines communication satellites, Earth-observation spacecraft, and technology-demonstration payloads, including precursor missions tied to the Gaganyaan human-spaceflight programme, alongside a roughly 6,500 kg foreign-built heavy communication satellite ISRO has agreed to launch.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Seven launches planned in FY2026-27 — communication, Earth-observation, and tech-demonstration payloads.
- Includes Gaganyaan-linked precursor missions ahead of India's crewed spaceflight programme.
- Comes shortly after a private Indian start-up placed the country among a small club of nations with a privately built rocket in orbit.
- Reflects a shift from sporadic launches toward a sustained, high-cadence Indian launch calendar.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) uses a cryogenic upper stage for heavier, higher-orbit payloads, unlike the PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle), which is optimised for polar/sun-synchronous orbits. Remember: "G for Geo-heavy, P for Polar-light."

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Achievements of Indian space programme in placing satellites in space." | GS3: private-sector participation in India's space ecosystem (IN-SPACe framework).

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The GSLV rocket is distinguished from the PSLV primarily by its use of: (a) Solid-fuel first stage only (b) A cryogenic upper stage for heavier geosynchronous payloads (c) Reusable boosters (d) Air-breathing propulsion. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

ISRO

GSLV

Gaganyaan

§6 · ECONOMY

GS3

Infrastructure · PM-Gati Shakti

27 July 2026 · Source: PIB / Ministry of Railways

Cabinet Approves ₹1,264 Crore for 3rd/4th Railway Lines on the Ballari–Guntakal Economic Corridor

Why in News: The Union Cabinet has approved doubling (adding third and fourth tracks) of the Ballari-Guntakal railway section, a 46 km stretch on a high-economic-activity corridor linking Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, at an estimated cost of ₹1,264 crore.

Background: The project falls under the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan, which seeks integrated, multimodal infrastructure planning; the corridor connects Guntakal (Andhra Pradesh) through Ballari, Hosapete, and Hubballi to Ankola (Karnataka).

⚡ KEY FACTS

- 46 km of new track (3rd and 4th lines) between Ballari and Guntakal, estimated cost ₹1,264 crore.
- Includes a major bridge over the Vedavathi River, 7 additional major bridges, and 52 minor bridges.
- Expected to be completed within three years; will enhance connectivity for ~99 villages with a population of ~7 lakh.
- Approved under the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: "multi-tracking" (adding more lines on an EXISTING route, as here) is different from "new line" projects (laying track where none existed) — multi-tracking targets congestion relief on already-busy corridors, while new lines target connectivity gaps. PM-Gati Shakti covers both categories.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Infrastructure — Railways: significance for economic development." | GS3: PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan and multimodal connectivity.

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Ballari-Guntakal 3rd/4th line project, approved under PM-Gati Shakti, links which two states? (a) Karnataka and Telangana (b) Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka (c) Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

Railways

PM-Gati Shakti

Infrastructure

→ Continued in Part II: Environment · Places in News · Ethics · MCQs · Mains Questions · Direct Hit Tracker

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