

THEIAS AKADEMIA · MORNING EDITION · 08:00 IST

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PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

Wednesday, 29 July 2026

§1 · TOP 10 HEADLINES

1. International Tiger Day 2026 observed globally; India home to over 70% of world's wild tigers **ENV**
2. Supreme Court issues notice on plea challenging exclusion clause in Transgender Persons Amendment Act, 2026 **GS2**
3. Supreme Court sets aside Assam Foreigners Tribunal orders against 27 residents, orders fresh, fair hearings **GS2**
4. Delhi Assembly's two-day Monsoon Session convenes, July 29-30 **GS2**
5. Health Ministry marks 8 years of National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme on World Hepatitis Day **GS2**
6. Khelo India Scheme achievements reviewed as India targets Top-10 sporting nation status by 2036 **GS2**
7. MEA rebuffs SAARC revival calls, says everyone aware which country is "stymying SAARC" **GS2**
8. Indian Coast Guard completes Factory Acceptance Tests for indigenous MJP waterjet propulsion in Goa **GS3**
9. Union Minister Vaishnaw: domestically developed semiconductor chips to power India's space launch vehicles **GS3**
10. India's IIP growth accelerates to 7.3% in June 2026 — fastest in nearly two years **GS3**
11. GST collections rise 13.9% YoY to ₹1.94 lakh crore in June 2026, highest growth in 13 months **GS3**
12. NTCA: 5th All India Tiger Estimation (2022) recorded 3,167 tigers; India now has 58 tiger reserves **ENV**

§2 · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

GS2

Fundamental Rights · Gender Justice

28-29 July 2026 · Source: Supreme Court of India / LiveLaw / SCC Online

Supreme Court Issues Notice on Plea Challenging Transgender Persons Amendment Act's Exclusion Clause

Why in News: On July 28, 2026, a bench led by CJI Surya Kant issued notice to the Union Government on a writ petition challenging the proviso to Section 2(k) of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026, which excludes persons with "self-perceived" gender identities from the statutory definition of "transgender person."

Background: The original 2019 Act had already drawn criticism for requiring a District Magistrate's certificate for legal gender recognition, seen as diluting the self-identification principle the Supreme Court laid down in *NALSA v. Union of India* (2014).

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Bench: CJI Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, Justice V Mohana.
- Challenged provision: proviso to Section 2(k), Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026.
- *NALSA v. Union of India* (2014) recognised self-identification as the constitutional standard for gender identity, without surgery or medical certification.
- The 2019 parent Act's District Magistrate-certificate requirement had already been criticised as contrary to *NALSA*.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember the "self-ID dilution chain" — *NALSA* (2014) set self-perceived identity as the gold standard; the 2019 Act's DM-certificate rule was Step 1 of dilution; the 2026 Amendment's exclusionary proviso is Step 2 — each step away from self-identification has triggered

fresh litigation.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "Constitutional recognition of gender identity and the NALSA judgment."

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Supreme Court's self-identification principle for transgender persons was laid down in: (a) Puttaswamy v. Union of India (b) NALSA v. Union of India (c) Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (d) Shafin Jahan v. Union of India. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

NALSA 2014

Transgender Rights

Self-Identification

GS2

State Legislature · Procedure

29-30 July 2026 · Source: Deccan Herald / Delhi Assembly Secretariat

Delhi Legislative Assembly Convenes Two-Day Monsoon Session

Why in News: The Delhi Legislative Assembly convened its two-day Monsoon Session on July 29-30, 2026, with pending legislative and financial business listed for consideration.

Background: Article 174 requires that not more than six months elapse between two sessions of a State/UT Legislature; Delhi's Assembly, drawing powers from Article 239AA, works within a legislative competence narrower than a full State Legislature's.

KEY FACTS

- Delhi Assembly's Monsoon Session convened July 29-30, 2026 — a two-day sitting.
- Article 174: gap between two sessions of a State/UT Legislature cannot exceed six months.
- Article 239AA excludes Police, Public Order, and Land from the Delhi Assembly's legislative competence.
- Question Hour and Zero Hour remain key accountability tools even in short, abbreviated sessions.

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "239AA takes away P-P-L" — Police, Public Order, Land are the three subjects excluded from Delhi's legislative competence, unlike full-fledged State Legislatures.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "Special status of Delhi under Article 239AA and session periodicity under Article 174."

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. Under Article 239AA, which of the following subjects is EXCLUDED from the Delhi Legislative Assembly's competence? (a) Education (b) Public Order (c) Health (d) Transport. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

Article 239AA

Article 174

Delhi Assembly

GS2

Citizenship · Natural Justice

13 July 2026 (still developing) · Source: LiveLaw / Deccan Herald / The Week

Supreme Court: Citizenship Status Must Be Determined Through a "Fair, Lawful and Reasonable" Process

Why in News: A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta set aside Gauhati High Court orders that had upheld Foreigners Tribunal declarations against 27 Assam residents, remanding all cases for fresh hearings and directing no coercive action until rehearing —

a ruling that continues to shape pending Assam citizenship litigation.

Background: Many of the 27 appellants, including Sabitri Dey and Ajbahar Ali, had been declared "foreigners" over minor discrepancies such as typographical errors in electoral records, reviving concerns about the fairness of Assam's Foreigners Tribunal process under the Foreigners Act, 1946.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Bench: Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta; all 27 appeals allowed and remanded to the Foreigners Tribunal for fresh consideration.
- Petitioners were declared foreigners over discrepancies such as spelling/typographical errors in electoral rolls, not substantive evidence of foreign origin.
- Court directed no coercive action (including detention) against the petitioners until the tribunals complete fresh, fair hearings.
- The Court balanced this relief with acknowledging the Centre's legitimate interest in preventing false claims to Indian citizenship.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "ex-parte ≠ evidence" — many Assam Foreigners Tribunal orders were passed ex-parte (without the person present) on clerical mismatches; the Supreme Court's insistence on a "fair, lawful and reasonable" process reinforces that citizenship cannot be stripped on procedural technicalities alone.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "Foreigners Tribunals in Assam and due process in citizenship determination."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. Foreigners Tribunals in Assam derive their power primarily from which legislation? (a) The Citizenship Act, 1955 (b) The Foreigners Act, 1946 (c) The Passports Act, 1967 (d) The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

Foreigners Tribunals

Assam

Natural Justice

GS2

Public Health Policy

28 July 2026 · Source: PIB / Ministry of Health & Family Welfare / ANI

Health Ministry Marks 8 Years of the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme on World Hepatitis Day

Why in News: On World Hepatitis Day, July 28, 2026, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare marked eight years of the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP), reporting about 21.06 crore beneficiaries screened and roughly 6.12 lakh Hepatitis B and C patients treated as of March 2026.

Background: Launched in 2018, NVHCP aims to eliminate Hepatitis C and reduce Hepatitis B transmission in line with India's commitment to the WHO's global hepatitis elimination goals by 2030, decentralising testing and treatment down to the primary-care level.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- NVHCP launched 2018; as of March 2026, ~21.06 crore beneficiaries screened, ~6.12 lakh Hepatitis B/C patients treated across 1,153 treatment sites.
- Over 7.64 crore pregnant women screened; 2.24 lakh newborns of Hepatitis B-positive mothers given Hepatitis B Immunoglobulin (HBIG).
- Treatment access has decentralised from district hospitals down to Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs).
- Aligned with India's commitment to the WHO's global goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "B for Birth, C for Cure" — Hepatitis B transmission is chiefly prevented at birth (HBIG for newborns of positive mothers), while Hepatitis C, unlike B, is now fully curable with directly-acting antivirals — a key distinction NVHCP's dual strategy targets.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "National health programmes for communicable disease elimination."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP) was launched in: (a) 2014 (b) 2018 (c) 2020 (d) 2022. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

NVHCP

World Hepatitis Day

Public Health

GS2

Sports Policy

28 July 2026 · Source: PIB / Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

Khelo India Scheme's Achievements Reviewed as India Targets Top-10 Sporting Nation Status by 2036

Why in News: A PIB press note reviewed the Khelo India Scheme's achievements as of July 2026, anchoring India's stated goal of becoming a top-10 Olympic/Paralympic sporting nation by 2036 and top-5 by 2047.

Background: Khelo India works alongside the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) as the government's twin-track sports strategy — building grassroots infrastructure and talent pipelines while separately supporting elite podium-ready athletes — with the Union Budget 2026-27 raising the sports ministry's allocation to ₹4,479.88 crore.

 KEY FACTS

- Target: Top-10 sporting nation (Olympics/Paralympics) by 2036, Top-5 by 2047.
- Achievements to date: 349 new sports infrastructure projects (₹3,176 crore); 1,067 Khelo India Centres; 267 supported academies; 2,745 Khelo India Athletes receiving coaching, equipment, medical care and a monthly allowance.
- KIRTI (Khelo India Rising Talent Identification) uses 174 Talent Assessment Centres nationwide with AI/data-analytics-based, merit-based athlete selection.
- Sports Ministry allocation raised from ₹3,346 crore (RE 2025-26) to ₹4,479.88 crore (BE 2026-27).

 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "Khelo India builds the base, TOPS builds the podium" — Khelo India is the grassroots/talent-pipeline scheme (KIRTI, Khelo India Centres), while TOPS is the separate elite-athlete scheme funding already-identified podium contenders — Prelims often tests which scheme does what.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "Government schemes for sports development — Khelo India and TOPS."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. India's stated target under its sporting-nation roadmap is to be a top-10 Olympic/Paralympic nation by which year? (a) 2028 (b) 2032 (c) 2036 (d) 2040. **Answer: (c).**

GS2

Khelo India

KIRTI

Sports Policy

India Rebuffs SAARC Revival Push, Blames Pakistan for "Stymying" Regional Cooperation

Why in News: Responding on July 28-29, 2026 to renewed SAARC-revival calls — including Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu's mediation offer during Maldives' 61st Independence Day address on July 26 — MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said "everyone in South Asia is aware" which country is responsible for "stymying SAARC."

Background: SAARC has been largely dormant since its 2016 summit was called off after the Uri terror attack, with India increasingly channelling regional cooperation through BIMSTEC, which excludes Pakistan.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Muizzu's SAARC-revival call came during Maldives' 61st Independence Day address, July 26, 2026.
- MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal's rebuttal, blaming Pakistan, was reported July 28-29, 2026.
- SAARC (founded 1985, 8 members) last held a full summit in 2014 (Kathmandu); the 2016 Islamabad summit was called off.
- India has prioritised BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal grouping, excludes Pakistan) as its preferred regional platform since 2016.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: "SAARC stalled, BIMSTEC bloomed" — 2016 (Uri attack, summit called off) is the pivot year after which India's regional-cooperation energy shifted decisively toward BIMSTEC.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 (recurring): "SAARC vs BIMSTEC — India's changing regional cooperation strategy and Neighbourhood First policy."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The SAARC summit called off after the 2016 Uri terror attack was scheduled to be held in: (a) Kathmandu (b) Islamabad (c) Colombo (d) Thimphu. **Answer: (b).**

GS2

SAARC

BIMSTEC

Neighbourhood First

§4 · DEFENCE & SECURITY

Indian Coast Guard Completes Factory Acceptance Tests for Indigenous Waterjet Propulsion in Goa

Why in News: The Indian Coast Guard announced successful Factory Acceptance Tests (FATs) of indigenously designed Marine Jet Power (MJP) waterjet propulsion systems in Goa, a fresh Aatmanirbhar Bharat milestone in naval propulsion technology.

Background: Waterjet propulsion, used in shallow-water and high-speed patrol vessels for its manoeuvrability and reduced draft, has historically been imported; indigenous FATs cut this import dependency for Coast Guard and Navy shallow-water platforms.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Factory Acceptance Tests for indigenous Marine Jet Power (MJP) waterjet propulsion completed in Goa.
- Waterjet propulsion offers superior manoeuvrability and shallow-draft operation for coastal/riverine patrol craft.
- Indian Coast Guard has grown from 7 surface platforms at inception to 155 ships and 80 aircraft today, targeting 200 ships and 100 aircraft by 2030.
- Complements other indigenous shallow-water platforms such as the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft.

 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "FAT before induction" — a Factory Acceptance Test verifies equipment at the manufacturer's site before installation, distinct from commissioning a platform into service.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing — naval propulsion and shipbuilding."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. A "Factory Acceptance Test" (FAT) in defence procurement refers to: (a) Testing after commissioning into service (b) Verifying equipment at the manufacturer's site before installation (c) A test only for imported equipment (d) A test after five years of service. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Indian Coast Guard

Waterjet Propulsion

§5 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GS3

Space Technology · Semiconductor Mission

27-29 July 2026 · Source: PIB / DigiTimes / Current Affairs Trackers

Domestic Semiconductor Chips to Power India's Space Launch Vehicles, Says Vaishnaw

Why in News: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced on July 27, 2026 that domestically developed semiconductor chips will soon be used in India's space launch vehicles, following discussions with Skyroot Aerospace after its Vikram-1 became India's first privately-developed rocket to reach orbit.

Background: This is a distinct, application-specific push — beyond the broader Semicon 2.0 equipment-and-materials expansion covered earlier this week — targeting Indian-made chips for launch-vehicle processors and guidance electronics, alongside ISRO's parallel plan to indigenise semiconductor manufacturing within four years.

 KEY FACTS

- Announcement made July 27, 2026 by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, following engagement with Skyroot Aerospace.
- Distinct from the general Semicon 2.0 equipment/materials expansion — this is an application-specific push into space launch vehicles.
- ISRO separately targets indigenous semiconductor manufacturing within 4 years, covering processors, controllers, and specialised launch-vehicle/satellite electronics.
- Reduces import dependence for space-grade electronics used in guidance and control systems.

 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: keep "Semicon 2.0" (the broad ₹1,27,500 crore mission) separate from "space-grade chips" (a specific downstream application of that mission aimed at launch-vehicle self-reliance) — Prelims options often blur mission-level policy with sector-specific applications.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "India's semiconductor self-reliance and its applications in the space sector."

 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 achieved which distinction in 2026? (a) India's first satellite launch (b) India's first privately-developed rocket to reach orbit (c) India's first reusable launch vehicle (d) India's first crewed space mission. **Answer: (b).**

§6 · ECONOMY

GS3

Economic Indicators

28 July 2026 · Source: MoSPI / ANI / Deccan Chronicle

India's IIP Growth Accelerates to 7.3% in June 2026 — Fastest in Nearly Two Years

Why in News: India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth accelerated to 7.3% in June 2026 — its fastest pace in nearly two years — per MoSPI data released July 28, 2026.

Background: The IIP measures short-term changes in industrial output volume across mining, manufacturing, and electricity on base year 2011-12, serving as a key high-frequency indicator of real-sector momentum alongside GDP data.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- June 2026 IIP growth: 7.3%, fastest in nearly two years; May 2026 provisional estimate was 5.1%.
- Manufacturing sector grew 7.8%; Electricity & Gas Supply sector grew 10.6%.
- 19 of 23 manufacturing industry groups recorded positive growth; top contributors: electrical equipment (34%), motor vehicles/trailers (17.5%), food products (10.8%).
- IIP uses base year 2011-12 and covers three sectors: Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember IIP's "3 sectors, 8 core, 2011-12 base" — three broad sectors (Mining, Manufacturing, Electricity), a separate Eight Core Industries sub-index (~40% weight within IIP), and current base year 2011-12.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Index of Industrial Production — base year, coverage, and significance as an economic indicator."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) currently uses which base year? (a) 2004-05 (b) 2011-12 (c) 2015-16 (d) 2017-18. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

IIP

MoSPI

Manufacturing Growth

GS3

Indirect Taxation · GST

Released 1 July 2026 (latest available data) · Source: Finance Ministry / GSTN

GST Collections Rise 13.9% YoY to ₹1.94 Lakh Crore in June 2026 — Highest Growth in 13 Months

Why in News: India's gross GST collections rose 13.9% year-on-year to ₹1,94,812 crore in June 2026, the latest month for which data is available, marking the highest growth rate in 13 months and driven largely by a surge in import revenues.

Background: GST, a destination-based indirect tax subsuming most central and state indirect taxes since July 2017, splits revenue into CGST, SGST, IGST and cess; monthly collection trends are a key real-time indicator of consumption demand and formalisation of the economy.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Gross GST collection, June 2026: ₹1,94,812 crore, up 13.9% YoY from ₹1,71,105 crore in June 2025.
- Net GST revenue (after refunds): ₹1,62,377 crore, up 11.2% YoY.

- Growth was driven primarily by a sharp rise in import-linked GST revenue, outpacing domestic-transaction collections.
- June 2026 marked the highest GST growth rate recorded in 13 months.

🧠 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "gross vs net" for GST headlines — gross collection is the total tax collected before refunds; net revenue subtracts refunds paid out — always check which figure a news report is citing before comparing months.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "GST as an indicator of economic formalisation and consumption trends."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. India's gross GST collection for June 2026 grew, year-on-year, by approximately: (a) 5.1% (b) 8.4% (c) 13.9% (d) 20.2%. **Answer: (c).**

GS3

GST

Indirect Tax

Consumption Trends

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7

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A SINGLE DOCUMENT

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