



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 2, 2026

NATIONAL

Southern Birdwing Recorded in Telangana for First Time

- Southern Birdwing butterfly has been recorded in Telangana for the first time.
- The sighting was made at the Amrabad Tiger Reserve.
- It is India's largest butterfly species.
- Southern Birdwing is the State Butterfly of Karnataka.
- Scientific name is *Troides minos*.
- It belongs to the Papilionidae butterfly family.
- The species is endemic to South India.
- It is mainly found in the Western Ghats.
- It has distinctive black wings with yellow markings.
- The IUCN Red List categorises it as Least Concern.
- The discovery highlights the biodiversity of the Nallamala Hills.

STATE

Assam Wild Rice Site Declared Biodiversity Heritage Area

- Borjuli site in Assam declared a Biodiversity Heritage Site.
- Site is located in Sonitpur district.
- It conserves wild rice (*Oryza rufipogon*).
- Project is funded by the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA).
- Conservation is being carried out in natural habitats.
- ICAR-NBPGR is implementing the project.
- Assam State Biodiversity Board is the collaborating agency.
- Wild rice is a valuable genetic resource.

- It helps develop climate-resilient rice varieties.
- It also improves crop productivity and nutrition.
- Initiative supports sustainable agriculture and food security.

APPOINTMENTS

Centre Extends Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's Tenure by One Year

- The Centre extended Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's tenure by one year.
- The extension became effective from 1 July 2026.
- He is a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.
- Vikram Misri became Foreign Secretary on 15 July 2024.
- He succeeded Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
- He has over three decades of diplomatic experience.
- He has served in the PMO and Ministry of External Affairs.
- He has represented India in several important countries.
- He has served as Ambassador to Spain, Myanmar and China.
- He also served as Deputy National Security Adviser.
- The extension ensures continuity in India's foreign policy.

AWARDS

Sunil Bharti Mittal Receives 2026 USISPF Leadership Award

- Sunil Bharti Mittal received the 2026 USISPF Leadership Award.
- He is the Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises.
- The award was presented in Washington, D.C.
- It was conferred during the USISPF Annual Leadership Summit.
- He was honoured for strengthening India-US economic ties.
- His contribution to India's telecom sector was recognised.
- He highlighted the importance of digital connectivity.
- He stressed innovation and investment for future growth.
- Mittal expressed optimism over the India-US trade agreement.
- The award recognises his global business leadership.
- It also honours his contribution to bilateral commercial cooperation.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India Approves First Satellite-Based Helicopter Landing Procedure

- India approved its first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) approach procedure.
- The system is designed for helicopter operations.
- It has been implemented at Undavalli Heliport.
- The procedure is satellite-based.
- It was developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- Approval was granted by the DGCA.
- It enables safe instrument approaches in poor weather.
- The system improves flight safety and operational efficiency.
- It supports emergency medical and disaster relief services.
- It also benefits tourism and regional connectivity.
- The initiative marks a major advancement in aviation navigation.

