



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 4, 2026

NATIONAL

ACME Signs \$1 Billion Green Methanol Deal with Japan, Boosting India's Green Fuel Ambitions

- ACME Group signed a nearly US\$1 billion long-term agreement with Mitsubishi Gas Chemical (MGC), Japan.
- The agreement provides for the annual supply of 100,000 tonnes of Green Methanol.
- Production will take place at ACME's upcoming facility in Paradip, Odisha.
- The announcement coincided with the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit.
- It is among India's largest Green Fuel export agreements.
- Green Methanol is produced using Green Hydrogen and captured Carbon Dioxide (CO₂).
- It is considered a low-carbon fuel suitable for the shipping and maritime sector.
- The fuel can be transported using existing storage and transport infrastructure.
- The exports will primarily serve Japan's maritime industry.
- The project complies with EU Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origin (RFNBO) standards and future IMO regulations.
- The agreement supports India's National Green Hydrogen Mission and strengthens India-Japan clean energy cooperation.

PM Modi Inaugurates the First Greenfield Integrated Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex at Pachpadra in Rajasthan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the refinery on 4 July 2026.
- The project is located at Pachpadra, Balotra district, Rajasthan.
- It has been developed by HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL).
- HRRL is a joint venture between HPCL and the Government of Rajasthan.
- It is India's first Greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex.
- The refinery has a crude processing capacity of 9 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA).
- The total project investment exceeds ₹79,450 crore.
- The project will strengthen India's energy security.
- It will increase petrochemical self-sufficiency and reduce import dependence.
- The refinery will produce cleaner fuels and value-added petrochemical products.
- The project represents a major milestone in India's energy and petrochemical sector.

STATE

West Bengal's Jalbhara Sandesh, Janai's Manohara and Balagarh's Traditional Boats Receive GI Tags

- The Government of India has granted Geographical Indication (GI) Tags to three traditional products from Hooghly district, West Bengal.
- The products are Chandannagar's Jalbhara Sandesh, Janai's Manohara, and Balagarh's Traditional Wooden (Dingi) Boats.
- The GI tag protects the authenticity and regional identity of these traditional products.
- Jalbhara Sandesh was created in the 19th century by renowned confectioner Surya Modak.
- It is famous for its hidden liquid rose-flavoured syrup inside the sandesh.
- Janai's Manohara is known for its sugar-coated outer layer and soft chhena filling.
- Balagarh's Dingi Boats represent a 500-year-old boat-building tradition associated with the historic Saptagram Port.
- GI recognition provides legal protection against imitation and misuse.
- The recognition enhances market value, branding, and export opportunities.

- It also supports the livelihoods of local artisans, boat makers, and sweet manufacturers.
- The initiative helps preserve West Bengal's rich cultural and culinary heritage.

Eight Traditional Himachal Products Secure GI Tags, Strengthening Heritage and Rural Economy

- Himachal Pradesh has received GI registration for eight traditional products.
- The recognition increases the state's total number of GI-tagged products to 17.
- The newly registered products include Spiti Seabuckthorn (Chharma) and Salooni Safed Makka (White Maize).
- Other products are Chamba Metal Art, Sirmauri Loiya, Kinnauri Topi, and Sepuvadi of Mandi.
- Kinnauri Apple and Kinnauri Jewellery have also received GI status.
- GI registration is granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- The tag protects products with unique geographical characteristics from duplication.
- GI recognition improves market value, branding, and export potential.
- The initiative is expected to benefit farmers, artisans, and rural entrepreneurs.
- Himachal Pradesh is also seeking GI registration for Bhot Jau, Chamba Chukh, Plectranthus Honey, and Sirmaur Ginger.
- The move promotes the state's traditional heritage and rural economy.

SCHEMES

VB-G RAM G Act 2026

- The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM (G)] Act, 2025 came into force on 1 July 2026.
- The Act replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).
- It guarantees 125 days of wage employment per eligible rural household.
- Earlier, MGNREGA guaranteed 100 days of employment.

- The Act introduces a minimum daily wage of ₹300, with an average wage of around ₹327.40.
- Weekly wage payments have been made mandatory.
- The scheme prioritizes climate-resilient infrastructure, water conservation, agricultural assets, and rural development.
- Development planning will be carried out through Gram Panchayats using the National Rural Infrastructure Stack, integrated with PM Gati Shakti.
- States have the flexibility to pause works during peak agricultural seasons.
- The revised funding pattern is 90:10, 60:40, or 100% Central funding, depending on the category of the State/UT.
- The Act supports the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 by strengthening rural livelihoods and infrastructure.

UP Rashtriya Parivarik Labh Yojana 2026

- The Uttar Pradesh Rashtriya Parivarik Labh Yojana provides financial assistance to BPL families after the death of their sole earning member.
- Eligible families receive one-time assistance of ₹30,000.
- The scheme supports families facing sudden financial hardship.
- The deceased breadwinner must have been 18–60 years of age.
- The applicant must be a permanent resident of Uttar Pradesh.
- The annual family income should not exceed ₹56,450 (Urban) or ₹46,080 (Rural).
- Applications are accepted only through the official online portal.
- Required documents include Death Certificate, Aadhaar Card, BPL Ration Card, Aadhaar-linked Bank Account, Domicile Certificate, Age Proof, Photograph, and Mobile Number.
- Applications are verified by the District Social Welfare Officer.
- After verification, the financial assistance is directly transferred to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-linked bank account through DBT.
- The scheme ensures timely financial support and promotes transparent digital benefit transfer.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bihar's 700-Year-Old Munger Banyan Identified as the Oldest Scientifically Dated Banyan Tree

- Scientists have confirmed that a banyan tree in Munger, Bihar, is around 700 years old.

- It is now recognized as the oldest scientifically dated Banyan Tree (*Ficus benghalensis*).
- The discovery was announced by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- Researchers from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) conducted the study.
- Banyan trees cannot be dated using annual growth rings, making age determination challenging.
- Scientists used Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) Radiocarbon Dating.
- The dating was performed on alpha-cellulose extracted from wood samples.
- The results were calibrated using the IntCal20 calibration curve and OxCal software.
- The findings revealed that the tree is much older than the nearby Burra Bunglow.
- The study suggests the tree belonged to an ancient natural forest, rather than being planted during the Mughal or British period.
- The research establishes a scientifically validated protocol for accurately dating Banyan trees.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Cooperatives 2026

- International Day of Cooperatives 2026 was observed on 4 July 2026.
- It is celebrated every year on the first Saturday of July.
- The 2026 theme is "Cooperatives for a Peaceful World!"
- The theme highlights the role of cooperatives in promoting peace, inclusion, and sustainable development.
- The observance recognizes the contribution of cooperative enterprises to economic and social progress.
- Cooperatives promote democratic participation, shared ownership, and community welfare.
- They contribute to employment generation, financial inclusion, rural development, women's empowerment, and sustainable agriculture.
- The day has been officially recognized by the United Nations since 1995.
- The observance is supported by organizations such as the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and COPAC.

- It also promotes the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The day emphasizes people-centric economic development over profit-driven models.

