



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 9, 2026

INTERNATIONAL

Switzerland to Host Geneva AI Summit 2027

- Switzerland has announced that it will host the Geneva AI Summit 2027 on 21–22 June 2027.
- The summit will be held at Palexpo, Geneva, alongside the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) AI for Good Global Summit.
- The announcement was made by Swiss Federal Councillor Albert Rosti during the AI for Good Global Summit 2026.
- The event aims to strengthen global cooperation on artificial intelligence governance, innovation, safety, and responsible AI development.
- The summit will bring together world leaders, policymakers, researchers, technology companies, international organizations, civil society, and AI experts.
- Discussions will focus on AI applications in healthcare, education, economic growth, climate action, disaster management, and sustainable development.
- A major objective is to promote trustworthy, ethical, inclusive, human-centric, and responsible AI.
- The summit will also encourage international collaboration on AI safety, regulatory frameworks, and governance standards.
- It builds upon previous international AI summits held in New Delhi, Bletchley (UK), Seoul (South Korea), and Paris (France).

- Hosting the summit further strengthens Geneva's position as a global centre for multilateral diplomacy, supported by the presence of numerous UN agencies and international organizations.

NATIONAL

Union Minister Launches PRAGATI Initiative for Sustainable Agriculture

- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the PRAGATI initiative to promote sustainable agriculture and rural entrepreneurship.
- PRAGATI stands for Promoting Regenerative Agriculture, Growth, Agri-Entrepreneurship and Transformative Innovation.
- The programme aims to empower 20,000 rural agri-entrepreneurs across the country.
- It also seeks to improve the livelihoods of nearly 20 lakh small and marginal farmers.
- The initiative promotes regenerative farming, climate-resilient agriculture, digital technologies, innovation, and value addition.
- Village-level agri-entrepreneurs will provide services such as soil testing, scientific crop advisory, farm mechanization, machine rental, and financial literacy.
- The programme is expected to reduce cultivation costs while increasing agricultural productivity and farmers' income.
- PRAGATI will initially be implemented in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, and Jharkhand.
- It is regarded as India's largest private-sector-led agri-entrepreneurship programme.
- Major supporting organizations include the PepsiCo Foundation, SBI Foundation, Gates Foundation, IDH, Heifer International, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Global Agri Entrepreneurship Academy, SAFIA, AEGF, and TRIF.

STATE

Uttarakhand Becomes India's Sixth Fully Literate State Under ULLAS Programme

- Uttarakhand has become India's sixth fully literate state under the ULLAS - New India Literacy Programme.
- The achievement was made after meeting the adult literacy benchmarks prescribed under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- The declaration received formal approval from the Governor of Uttarakhand on 8 July 2026.
- The literacy standards were determined by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- Uttarakhand now joins Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim among India's fully literate states.
- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami described the achievement as a historic milestone for the state.
- He credited the success to the combined efforts of the government, volunteers, educators, and citizens.
- The state government has committed to expanding digital literacy, financial literacy, and continuing education programmes.
- The ULLAS programme also emphasizes life skills, vocational learning, and lifelong education opportunities.
- The initiative supports inclusive and equitable education by ensuring adult learners continue to develop knowledge and essential skills.

DEFENSE

DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR).
- The test took place on 8 July 2026 at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- The trial successfully validated the rocket's user-defined minimum operational range of 60 km.
- During the test, the rocket accurately followed its planned trajectory and executed all in-flight manoeuvres with high precision.
- The LRGR successfully struck the designated target, demonstrating its precision strike capability.

- The rocket has been developed to strengthen the Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) system of the Indian Army.
- It incorporates advanced guidance, navigation, and control (GNC) technologies for improved long-range accuracy.
- The project was led by Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), with contributions from HEMRL, DRDL, and RCI.
- Testing support was provided by the Integrated Test Range (ITR) and the Proof & Experimental Establishment (PXE).
- The successful test enhances India's indigenous defence capabilities, improves battlefield precision and stand-off strike capability, and supports the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative by reducing dependence on imported precision-guided weapons.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO Successfully Tests Main Parachutes for Gaganyaan Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test-05 (IMAT-05) for the Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission.
- The test was carried out on 7 July 2026 at the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) drop zone in Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh.
- A simulated Crew Module payload with a dummy mass was dropped from an altitude of 2.5 km.
- The payload was released using an Indian Air Force IL-76 transport aircraft.
- The complete parachute deployment sequence—including the extractor, drogue, and main parachutes—functioned successfully.
- The parachute system safely reduced the payload's descent to the required terminal velocity, ensuring a controlled landing.
- The Crew Module Deceleration System (CMDS) of Gaganyaan consists of 10 parachutes belonging to four different types.
- These parachutes are designed to ensure the safe ocean splashdown of astronauts after atmospheric re-entry.
- The test was conducted jointly by ISRO, DRDO, the Indian Air Force, and the Indian Army.

- The successful trial validated the parachute system's structural integrity and design margins under maximum expected load conditions, marking a significant milestone before the uncrewed Gaganyaan G1 mission and India's first human spaceflight.

SPORTS

Aswath S Becomes India's 98th Chess Grandmaster

- Seventeen-year-old Aswath S from Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, has become India's 98th Chess Grandmaster (GM).
- He secured his final Grandmaster norm at the 2026 Pune International Grandmaster Round Robin tournament.
- Aswath achieved the title by defeating USA's FM Kannan Vaidyanathan with the black pieces in the final round.
- He finished the tournament with 7 points from 9 rounds, securing second place overall.
- His performance included six victories, two draws, and one defeat.
- He earned his first Grandmaster norm at the Grenke Open tournament.
- His second GM norm came at the First Saturday GM Round Robin in Budapest, Hungary.
- During the Budapest event, he also crossed the required 2500 FIDE Elo rating, fulfilling another essential criterion for the Grandmaster title.
- Despite an early setback in the Pune tournament, he staged a remarkable comeback to achieve the prestigious title.
- Aswath's achievement further strengthens India's growing reputation as one of the world's leading chess nations and brings the country closer to its milestone of 100 Grandmasters.

