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Monday, 13 July 2026

1. The 28th Meeting of the reconstituted Wildlife Institute of India Society has been organised in which city?

- (A) Mysuru (B) Hyderabad
(C) Coimbatore (D) Dehradun

2. World Population Day has recently been observed on which day of July 2026?

- (A) 09 July (B) 10 July
(C) 11 July (D) 12 July

3. Which state has recorded the highest Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education according to AISHE 2023–24?

- (A) Karnataka (B) Kerala
(C) Maharashtra (D) Tamil Nadu

4. Who has recently become the 12th Indian cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame?

- (A) Virat Kohli (B) Sourav Ganguly
(C) Rohit Sharma (D) Yuvraj Singh

5. India's first dedicated Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research will be established in which state/UT?

- (A) Himachal Pradesh (B) Sikkim
(C) Uttarakhand (D) Ladakh

6. Which country has recently announced the repatriation of the Chola-era bronze trident of Goddess Bhadrakali, the granite Nandi idol, and the basalt sculpture of six-headed Karthikeya to India?

- (A) France (B) Italy
(C) Germany (D) Australia

7. The Geological Survey of India has recently identified thorium-bearing mineral deposits in which state?

- (A) Karnataka (B) Odisha
(C) Kerala (D) Andhra Pradesh

8. In which state was Cyananthus hookeri rediscovered after 158 years?

- (A) Sikkim (B) Arunachal Pradesh
(C) Uttarakhand (D) Himachal Pradesh

9. New Delhi was ranked at which position in the Global Liveability Index 2026?

- (A) 118th (B) 119th
(C) 120th (D) 121st

10. Which initiative won the WSIS Prizes 2026 Global Winner award under the Enabling Environment category?

- (A) Samridhh Gram (B) BharatNet Project
(C) Digital India (D) India Stack

1-{C} - 2-{C} - 3-{D} - 4-{B} - 5-{A} - 6-{D} - 7-{A} - 8-{B} - 9-{C} - 10-{A}

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Monday, 13 July 2026

LODI DYNASTY (1451-1526 CE)

The Fifth and Final Dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate

INTRODUCTION

- The Lodi Dynasty was the fifth and final dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate.
- Rulers of Afghan origin who ruled from 1451 to 1526.
- Founder** : Bahlul Lodi
- Last Ruler** : Ibrahim Lodi
- Capital** : Initially Delhi, later Agra
- Religion** : Sunni Islam
- Languages** : Persian and Hindavi
- End** : Defeated by Babur in the First Battle of Panipat (1526)

HISTORY OF THE LODI DYNASTY



ESTABLISHMENT

- Bahlul Lodi seized power in 1451 from Alauddin Alam Shah.



EXPANSION AND ADMINISTRATION

- Conquered regions such as Jaunpur, Bihar, Gwalior, and Chanderi.
- Administrative structure included: *Wazir, Shiqdar, Chaudhary, Diwan-i-Ariz (military department)*
- Emphasis on irrigation, roads, and agricultural development.



CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Development of Persian-Sanskrit literature, music, and architecture.
- Notable examples: Lodi Garden and the tomb of Sikandar Lodi.

MAJOR RULERS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS



1. BAHUL LODI (1451-1489 CE)

- Founded the Lodi Dynasty.
- Gained support from Afghan chieftains.
- Conquered Jaunpur.
- Established the city of Sultanpur Lodi.
- Issued Bahluli coins.



2. SIKANDAR LODI (1489-1517 CE)

- Founded the city of Agra and made it the capital.
- Known for a strict justice system and a strong espionage network.
- Introduced Sikandari Gaz (a unit of measurement).
- Reformed agriculture and trade.
- Patronized literature, art, and music.
- Demolished Hindu temples and re-imposed jizya tax.



3. IBRAHIM LODI (1517-1526 CE)

- Faced power struggles and rebellions.
- Conflicted with Jalaluddin and Daulat Khan.
- Defeated by Rana Sanga in the Battle of Khatauli.
- Defeated by Babur in the First Battle of Panipat (1526).

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

	Wazir	Chief minister; assisted the Sultan in administration.
	Shiqdar	In charge of law and order in a district.
	Chaudhary	Village head; revenue collection and local administration.
	Diwan-i-Ariz	Military department; responsible for recruitment, salary and equipment.

DECLINE OF THE LODI DYNASTY

- Weak governance and discontent among nobles and Afghan chiefs.
- Power struggles and rebellions weakened the empire.
- Invasion by Babur and decisive defeat in the First Battle of Panipat (1526).
- Ended the Lodi rule and led to the foundation of the Mughal Empire.

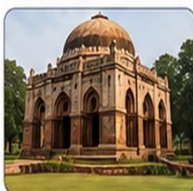
IMPORTANT FACTS

- The Lodi Dynasty ruled for about 75 years (1451-1526).
- All rulers were of Afghan (Pathan) origin.
- Sikandar Lodi was the most powerful ruler of the dynasty.
- Agra was founded by Sikandar Lodi in 1504.
- The defeat of Ibrahim Lodi in 1526 marked the end of the Delhi Sultanate.

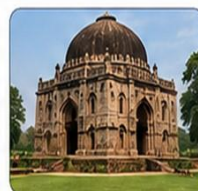
ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY



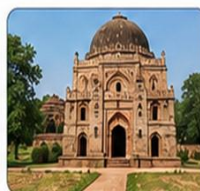
Bara Gumbad, Lodi Garden, Delhi



Tomb of Sikandar Lodi, Delhi



Tomb of Muhammad Shah, Lodi Garden



Tomb of Shisha Gumbad, Delhi

SUMMARY

The Lodi Dynasty was the last dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate. It was established by Bahlul Lodi and ruled by three main rulers: Bahlul Lodi, Sikandar Lodi and Ibrahim Lodi. The dynasty contributed to administration, agriculture, literature, art and architecture. However, internal conflicts and weak leadership led to its decline and it ended after the First Battle of Panipat (1526), paving the way for the Mughal Empire.



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Monday, 13 July 2026

1. Every year since 1990, 11 July has been observed as World Population Day around the world. In context to the same tell us, according to the 2011 Census of India, which of the following statements is incorrect?

- (A) The decadal growth rate of the population was 17.7%.
- (B) The child sex ratio (0-6 years) was 919 females per 1000 males.
- (C) The urban population constituted 31.16% of the total population.
- (D) The state with the lowest population density was Sikkim.

2. Koppal Forms Panel To Address Farmers' Grievances Over Renewable Energy Projects. In context to the same tell us, which state in India has the largest certified agricultural land under organic farming?

- (A) Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Tamil Nadu

3. NCPCR declares mica mines in Jharkhand 'child labour free'. In context to the same tell us, which country is the largest producer of Mica in the world?

- (A) China
- (B) Japan
- (C) India
- (D) Russia

4. Every year, 6 July is observed as World Zoonosis Day. In context to the same tell us, who invented the first vaccine in the world?

- (A) Louis Pasteur
- (B) John Hunter
- (C) Edward Jenner
- (D) James Phipps

5. Sanju Samson named ICC Player of the Month for March after T20 World Cup 2026 heroics. In context to the same tell us, in which year did the International Cricket Council (ICC) relocate its headquarters to Dubai?

- (A) 2005
- (B) 1999
- (C) 2001
- (D) 2008

6. Four States Sign One-Time Settlement Agreement

to Resolve Long-Pending Sardar Sarovar Project Financial Disputes.

Consider the following statements regarding the Narmada River:

- (1) It originates from the Amarkantak Plateau in Madhya Pradesh.
- (2) It is the longest river flowing into the Bay of Bengal.
- (3) It flows into the Arabian Sea through the Gulf of Khambhat.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3)
- (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3)
- (D) None of the above

7. Geneva Conventions Come into Focus Amid Hummus Trail Controversy in India.

Consider the following statements regarding the Geneva Conventions:

- (1) The First Geneva Convention protects wounded and sick soldiers on land.
- (2) The Third Geneva Convention deals with the protection of prisoners of war.
- (3) The Fourth Geneva Convention exclusively regulates naval warfare.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3)
- (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3)
- (D) None of the above

8. Union Environment Minister Chairs 28th Meeting of the Wildlife Institute of India Society.

Consider the following statements regarding the objectives of WII:

- (1) It regulates wildlife tourism across all protected areas in India.
- (2) It trains personnel for wildlife conservation and management.
- (3) It collaborates with international organizations on wildlife research and training.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3)
- (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3)
- (D) None of the above

1-{D} - 2-{C} - 3-{A} - 4-{C} - 5-{A} - 6-{A} - 7-{B} 8-{C}

TOPIC OF THE DAY

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Monday, 13 July 2026

Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, approved the **Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026** to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, investment, and employment opportunities across the state.

Expository: -

Objective

- The policy aims to strengthen the startup ecosystem, attract investments, promote emerging technologies, and support Uttar Pradesh's vision of becoming a **\$1 trillion economy**.

Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026

- The policy provides comprehensive financial and institutional support to startups from the early stage to expansion and seeks to establish Uttar Pradesh as a leading hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Startup Financial Support

- The sustenance allowance has been increased from **₹17,500 per month for one year** to **₹20,000 per month for two years**.
- The prototype grant has been enhanced from **₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh**.
- Seed funding has been increased from **₹7.5 lakh to ₹15 lakh**, with provision to raise it up to **₹50 lakh** in special circumstances.

Deep-Tech Startup Support

- The policy provides special incentives for startups working in **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, Quantum Technology, Space Technology, and other emerging technologies**.
- Eligible startups can receive **prototype assistance up to ₹20 lakh, seed funding up to ₹30 lakh, and patient capital support up to ₹100 crore**.

Startup Mission Directorate

- A **Startup Mission Directorate** will be established under the **Department of IT & Electronics, Uttar Pradesh**, to provide institutional support to the startup ecosystem. The Directorate will enhance coordination among investors, industries, academic institutions, startups, incubators, and Centres of Excellence.

Centres of Excellence (CoEs)

- The state will establish **20 new Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** in the fields of **AI, Machine Learning, Space Technology, HealthTech, Agritech, and Robotics**.
- Financial assistance for each Centre of Excellence has been increased to **₹12 crore**.

Major Policies of the Government of Uttar Pradesh

- Tourism Policy-2022** → Tourism & Investment.
- Film Policy-2023** → Film City & Film Shooting.
- Sports Policy-2023** → Sports Infrastructure & Athletes.
- Startup Policy-2026** → Innovation, Startups & Employment.
- EV Policy-2022** → Electric Vehicle Industry.
- Semiconductor Policy-2024** → Chip Manufacturing & High-Tech Investment.
- Defence & Aerospace Policy-2024** → Defence Corridor Development.
- Data Centre Policy-2021** → Digital Infrastructure & Data Centre Investment.
- Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy-2021** → Encourages data centre investments, digital infrastructure, and cloud ecosystem development.



MAP OF THE DAY - BHARAT

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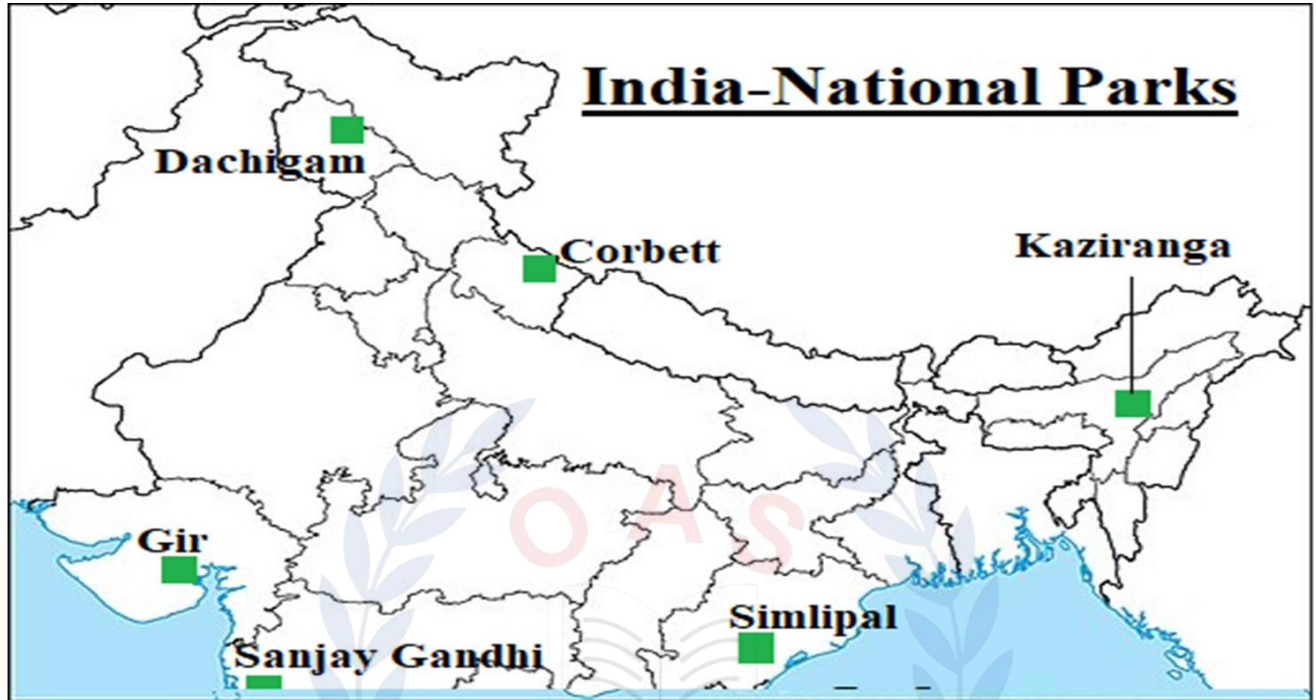


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Dachigam National Park

- **Dachigam National Park** is located near **Srinagar** in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The park is situated in the **Zabarwan mountain range**.
- It was established as a national park in **1981**.
- Earlier, it served as a **hunting reserve of Maharaja Hari Singh**.
- The name "**Dachigam**" means "**ten villages**", as ten villages were relocated to create the park.
- The park covers an area of about **141 square kilometres**.
- Its altitude ranges from approximately **1,700 metres to 4,300 metres**.
- The park forms part of the **catchment area of the Dagwan River**.
- It includes **dense forests, grasslands, and alpine pastures**.
- **Dachigam National Park** is famous for the **Hangul (Kashmir stag)**.
- **Hangul** is a **rare and endangered species** found here.
- Other wildlife found in the park includes: **Leopard, Himalayan black bear, Musk deer, Langur**.
- The park is home to **many bird species**, making it important for **bird watchers**.
- It is **rich in biodiversity** and **ecologically significant**.
- **Dachigam National Park** is important for both **tourism and wildlife conservation**.
- It also serves as a **source of water supply for Srinagar city**.

MAP OF THE DAY - WORLD

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Monday, 13 July 2026



Kharg Island

- **Kharg Island** is a continental island of Iran located in the **Persian Gulf**.
- It is also spelled as **Kharg Island** and is often referred to as the "**Forbidden Island**."
- The island lies about **25 kilometres (16 miles)** off the coast of Iran.
- It is situated approximately **660 kilometres (410 miles)** northwest of the Strait of Hormuz.
- Administratively, it is part of **Bushehr Province**.
- Kharg Island serves as a major **sea port for Iran's oil exports**.
- It handles **up to 90% of Iran's oil products exports**.
- The island also provides storage facilities for about **30 million barrels (5 million cubic metres)** of oil.
- The island is located close to several offshore oil fields, including: **Faridun , Darius , Cyrus , Ardashir**
- The **city of Kharg** is situated on the island.
- The **Jazireh-ye Khark Lighthouse** is also located there.
- The island has its own **freshwater supply**, which is significant for its sustainability.
- Before becoming a major oil terminal in the 1960s, Iranian writer **Jalal Al-e-Ahmad** described it as "The Orphan Pearl of the Persian Gulf."
- Kharg Island contains several important **archaeological sites**.
- These include the ruins of a **Christian monastery dating back to the 7th century CE**.
- There are also **ancient tombs and temples** on the island.
- An **Achaemenid cuneiform inscription (550–330 BCE)** has also been discovered here.
- The island has been an important **trading post for centuries**.
- It was controlled by the **Portuguese Empire** from the 16th to 17th century.
- Later, it came under the control of the **Dutch Empire** in the 18th century.



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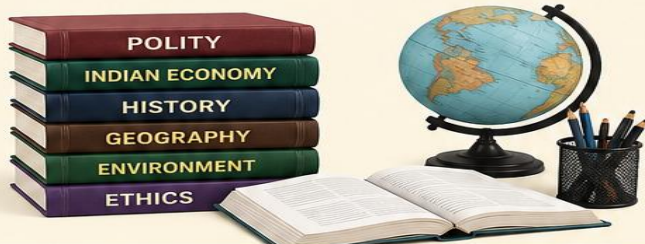
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