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Thursday, 16 July 2026

1. Which one of the following is the official mascot unveiled for the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026?

- (A) Shera (B) Appu
(C) Mayur (D) Veera

2. The recent proposal to strengthen local self-governance in Ladakh through Autonomous Hill Development Councils has revived discussions around which constitutional provision?

- (A) Article 371 (B) Article 244
(C) Article 243 (D) Article 368

3. Who chaired the All India Water Secretaries' Conference held in New Delhi on 13–14 July 2026?

- (A) Bhushan Choudhary (B) Bhupender Yadav
(C) C. R. Patil (D) V. L. Kantha Rao

4. Which welfare scheme has the Delhi Government recently renamed as the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana?

- (A) Mahila Shakti Yojana
(B) Nari Samman Yojana
(C) Delhi Mahila Yojana
(D) Mahila Samridhi Yojana

5. Which State has announced the establishment of India's first government-driven Artificial Intelligence University?

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

6. India launched its official campaign for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for which term?

- (A) 2026–27 (B) 2027–28
(C) 2028–29 (D) 2029–30

7. Which State recently opened its first Geographical Indications (GI) Products Gallery?

- (A) Uttarakhand (B) Sikkim
(C) Assam (D) Kerala

8. Which country has hosted the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting on 15–16 July 2026?

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

9. Unjha Cumin (Jeera) and Unjha Fennel (Variyali), which have recently received Geographical Indication (GI) tags, belong to which state?

- (A) Rajasthan (B) Gujarat
(C) Maharashtra (D) Bihar

10. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has recently prepared India's first draft Indian Standard for the restoration of which ecosystems?

- (A) Coral Reef Ecosystems
(B) Grassland Ecosystems
(C) Wetland Ecosystems
(D) Mangrove Ecosystems

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

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Thursday, 16 July 2026

Major River Valley / Irrigation Projects of India

- **Kakrapar Project** – Tapi River – Gujarat
- **Tawa Project** – Tawa River – Madhya Pradesh
- **Waiyapur (Koyna) Power Project** – Koyna River – Maharashtra
- **Indira Gandhi Canal Project** – Sutlej River – Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana
- **Ukai Project** – Tapi River – Gujarat
- **Ghataprabha Project** – Ghataprabha River – Karnataka
- **Malaprabha Project** – Malaprabha River – Karnataka
- **Mahanadi Delta Project** – Mahanadi River – Odisha
- **Rihand Project** – Rihand River – Uttar Pradesh
- **Kunda Project** – Kunda River – Tamil Nadu
- **Durgapur Barrage Project** – Damodar River – West Bengal & Jharkhand
- **Idukki Project** – Periyar River – Kerala
- **Tehri Dam Project** – Bhagirathi River – Uttarakhand
- **Matatila Project** – Betwa River – Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh
- **Koyna Project** – Koyna River – Maharashtra
- **Ramganga Project** – Ramganga River – Uttar Pradesh
- **Upper Krishna Project** – Krishna River – Karnataka
- **Ghataprabha Project** – Ghataprabha River – Karnataka
- **Bhima Project** – Bhima River – Maharashtra
- **Bhadra Project** – Bhadra River – Karnataka
- **Jayakwadi Project** – Godavari River – Maharashtra
- **Ranjit Sagar Dam Project** – Ravi River – Punjab
- **Hidkal Project** – Ghataprabha River – Karnataka
- **Salal Project** – Chenab River – Jammu & Kashmir
- **Nathpa-Jhakri Project** – Sutlej River – Himachal Pradesh
- **Panam Project** – Panam River – Gujarat
- **Kol Dam Project** – Sutlej River – Himachal Pradesh
- **Kangsabati Project** – Kangsabati River – West Bengal
- **Parambikulam-Aliyar Project** – (8 small rivers) – Tamil Nadu & Kerala
- **Machkund Project** – Machkund River – Odisha & Andhra Pradesh



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Thursday, 16 July 2026

1. EPFO Introduces Amnesty Scheme 2026 For Exempted PF Trusts. In context to the same tell us, The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (EPF & MP Act, 1952) is primarily applicable to establishments employing how many persons?

- (A) 10 or more employees (B) 20 or more employees
(C) 50 or more employees (D) 100 or more employees

2. India Tops 56th International Physics Olympiad With 5 Gold Medals. In context to the same tell us, In which year and country was the first International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) held?

- (A) 1959, Romania (B) 1965, USA
(C) 1972, UK (D) 1980, India

3. Ahmedabad Sets Guinness World Record Planting 3.61 Lakh Miyawaki Saplings. In context to the same tell us, who pioneered and developed the Miyawaki Method of tree plantation?

- (A) Kenji Miyawaki (B) Miyawaki Takahashi
(C) Akira Miyawaki (D) Sunderlal Bahuguna

4. Central Vista Renamed As Kartavya Bhawan Complex. In context to the same tell us, What is the renamed name of New Delhi's historic ceremonial boulevard, formerly known as Rajpath?

- (A) Janpath (B) Swaraj Path
(C) Vikas Path (D) Kartavya Path

5. ISRO Completes Three Gaganyaan Crew Module Qualification Tests. In context to the same tell us, what is the name of India's first-ever human spaceflight mission, which aims to send Indian astronauts into space?

- (A) Chandrayaan (B) Mangalyaan
(C) Shukrayaan (D) Gaganyaan

6. India-New Zealand Ties Elevated to 'Strategic Partnership' with Visionary 'Roadmap to 2030'. With reference to the historical and diplomatic ties between India and New Zealand, consider the following statements:

(1) Indian soldiers fought alongside the Australian and

New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) forces at Gallipoli during World War I.

(2) Formal diplomatic relations between India and New Zealand were established immediately after India's independence in 1947.

(3) Both nations are common members of the Commonwealth and advocate for a rules-based global order.

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. High-Tech & Medical Sectors on Edge as China Enacts Temporary Ban on Critical Helium Exports. Consider the following statements regarding the basic properties and physical characteristics of Helium (He):

(1) It is the lightest and most abundant element in the observable universe.

(2) It belongs to the Noble Gas group and is completely colorless, odourless, and non-flammable.

(3) It has the lowest boiling point of any element, allowing it to remain liquid at ultra-low temperatures.

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. India is accelerating the procurement of 87 indigenously developed Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) drones.

Consider the following statements regarding India's indigenous drones -

(1) Nishant is a long-endurance combat UAV developed for strategic strike missions deep into enemy territory.

(2) Lakshya is a target drone developed for reconnaissance and target acquisition, launched using rocket boosters and powered by a turbojet engine.

(3) TAPAS (Rustom-2) is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAV developed for ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance) roles.

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

TOPIC OF THE DAY

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Thursday, 16 July 2026

PM SVANidhi Street Food Hub

Why in News?

Lakhanpur in Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir has been selected among the first towns approved under the **PM SVANidhi Street Food Hub** initiative.

Expository: -

Location

- The Street Food Hub will be established at **Lakhanpur** in **Kathua district, Jammu & Kashmir**, which serves as the main gateway to the Union Territory from **Pathankot, Punjab**.

Street Food Hub Initiative

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** plans to establish up to **50 Street Food Hubs** across India to promote organized and hygienic street food vending.

Selection Criteria

- Towns are selected based on their **tourism potential, cultural and heritage significance, unique local food traditions**, and convergence with flagship initiatives such as **Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and UNESCO Creative Cities**.

Significance

- The approval of Lakhanpur as a Street Food Hub is particularly important during the **Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra**, as it will enhance food services and facilities for pilgrims, tourists, and transit travellers.

Objectives

- The initiative aims to develop **organized, hygienic, and world-class vending spaces**, preserve and promote **local culinary heritage**, and ensure **dignified and sustainable livelihood opportunities** for street vendors.

About PM SVANidhi

- The **PM SVANidhi (Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi)** scheme was launched in **June 2020** as a **Central Sector Scheme**.

Features of PM SVANidhi

- The scheme provides **affordable working capital loans**, promotes **financial inclusion**, encourages **digital transactions**, and extends **social security benefits** to street vendors.

Implementation

- The scheme is jointly implemented by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**.



MAP OF THE DAY - BHARAT

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Thursday, 16 July 2026

KEIBUL LAMJAO NATIONAL PARK (MANIPUR)

1. LOCATION

- Located in Bishnupur district of Manipur, India.
- Situated in the southern part of Loktak Lake.
- Latitude: 24°32'N to 24°45'N
- Longitude: 93°45'E to 93°57'E
- Nearest city: Imphal (approx. 53 km)
- Total Area: 40.39 sq. km.

2. IMPORTANCE

- It is the world's only floating national park.
- Plays a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance of Loktak Lake.
- Provides a unique habitat for the endangered Sangai (dancing deer).
- Acts as a natural water filtration system.
- Supports livelihoods of local communities through fisheries, phumdis (biomass) and tourism.



3. GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

- The park is a part of Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India.
- The park is made up of floating masses of decomposed vegetation, soil and organic matter called "phumdis".
- The phumdis vary in thickness from 1 meter to several meters.
- These floating masses move, sink and regenerate naturally.
- Loktak Lake is fed by rivers like Nambul, Thoubal and Imphal.
- The park experiences a subtropical climate with distinct wet and dry seasons.

KEIBUL LAMJAO NATIONAL PARK

(The Only Floating National Park in the World)



4. FLORA

- Dominant vegetation type is phumdi vegetation.
- Common plants:** *Zizania latifolia* (major phumdi grass), *Scirpus* spp., *Phragmites karka*, *Hydrilla verticillata*, *Nelumbo nucifera* (lotus) etc.
- Supports diverse aquatic and semi-aquatic plant species.

5. FAUNA

- Famous for the endangered Sangai (*Rucervus eldii eldii*) or dancing deer.
- Other mammals:** Hog deer, Wild boar, Otter, Fishing cat.
- Birds:** More than 200 species including Lesser Whistling Duck, Pheasants, Herons, Egrets, Kingfishers.
- Reptiles:** Turtles, Water snakes.
- Fish:** Several species of fish inhabiting the lake.

6. SANGAI (DANCING DEER)

- Scientific Name:** *Rucervus eldii eldii*
- State Animal** of Manipur.
- Endemic to Manipur.
- Unique brow-tined antlers.
- Gets its name "dancing deer" due to its unique gait on floating phumdis.
- IUCN Status:** Endangered
- Conservation efforts are focused on habitat protection and anti-poaching.

7. OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS

- Declared as a National Park in 1977.
- The park is included in the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Part of Loktak Lake Ramsar Site (designated in 1990).
- Loktak Lake is the largest Ramsar site in India.
- The park is an important eco-tourism destination in Manipur.
- Phumdis are a threatened ecosystem due to human activities and climate change.

8. THREATS

- Degradation of phumdis due to excessive fishing, land use change and pollution.
- Invasive species like water hyacinth.
- Encroachment and floating settlements.
- Climate change and fluctuating water levels.

9. CONSERVATION MEASURES

- Protection of phumdi ecosystem.
- Anti-poaching drives for Sangai.
- Community participation in conservation.
- Eco-development and sustainable tourism.

10. EXAM RELEVANCE (UPSC/STATE PCS)

- ✓ Important for Environment & Ecology, Biodiversity, Current Affairs.
- ✓ Related to Ramsar Sites, Endangered Species, National Parks of India.
- ✓ Example of unique ecosystem - Floating National Park.

MAP OF THE DAY - WORLD

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Thursday, 16 July 2026

ATLANTIC OCEAN

The Atlantic Ocean is the second largest ocean in the world and has played a vital role in geography, trade, exploration and history.



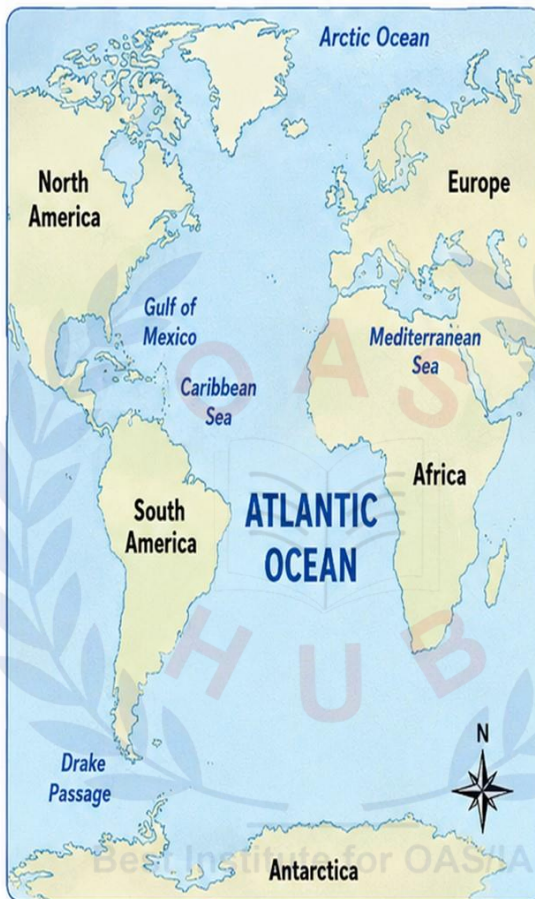
1. LOCATION

- The Atlantic Ocean lies between the Americas in the west and Europe & Africa in the east.
- Extends from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Southern Ocean in the south.
- It connects to the Arctic Ocean through the Greenland Sea and to the Southern Ocean.



2. IMPORTANCE

- **Economic Importance:** A major route for international trade and transport.
- **Historical Importance:** Center of exploration and colonization.
- **Climate Regulation:** Influences global climate and weather patterns.
- **Resource Rich:** Contains rich fishery resources, oil, natural gas, minerals and marine biodiversity.
- **Strategic Importance:** Important for naval operations and international security.
- **Cultural Connection:** Linked with the history and development of many civilizations.



3. GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

- **Area:** Approximately 106,600,000 sq km.
- Covers about 20% of the total surface area of the Earth.
- **Major Extent:**
 - North-South Length: ~ 3,646 km
 - East-West Width (at equator): ~ 8,742 km
- **Bounded By:** North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Antarctica.
- **Major Bays:** Gulf of Mexico, Bay of Biscay, Guinean Gulf.
- **Major Seas:** Caribbean Sea, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea, Baltic Sea.
- **Major Gulfs:** Gulf of Mexico, Gulf of Guinea.
- **Major Straits:** Gibraltar Strait, Danish Strait, Drake Passage.
- **Major Islands:** Greenland, Iceland, British Isles, Newfoundland.
- **Coastal Countries:** North & South America, Europe, Africa, Antarctica.



4. IMPORTANT OCEAN CURRENTS

- **Gulf Stream:** Warm current, flows from the Gulf of Mexico towards Europe.
- **Labrador Current:** Cold current, flows from the Arctic along the coast of Canada.
- **Canary Current:** Cold current, flows along the northwest coast of Africa.
- **Brazil Current:** Warm current, flows along the east coast of South America.
- **Benguela Current:** Cold current, flows along the southwest coast of Africa.



5. IMPORTANT FACTS

- The name 'Atlantic' is derived from 'Atlas' in Greek mythology.
- Shaped like the letter 'S'.
- The Titanic, one of the largest ships, sank in the Atlantic Ocean in 1912.
- The Atlantic Ocean was the center of the Age of Exploration and colonial trade.
- The Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a mountain range under the ocean, runs through the center of the Atlantic.



6. EXAM POINTS (QUICK REVIEW)

- ❖ Second largest ocean in the world.
- ❖ Located between the Americas in the west and Europe & Africa in the east.
- ❖ Extends from the Arctic Ocean to the Southern Ocean.
- ❖ East-West width (at equator): ~ 8,742 km.
- ❖ Important currents: Gulf Stream, Labrador Current.
- ❖ Important strait: Gibraltar Strait.
- ❖ Key seas: Caribbean Sea, Mediterranean Sea.



IN SHORT: The Atlantic Ocean is vital for trade, climate, resources and history. It has shaped human civilization and continues to be important in the modern world.





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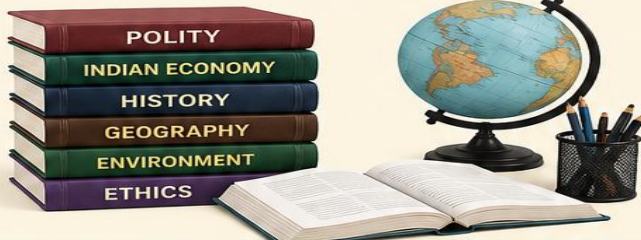
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