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Thursday, 30 July 2026

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently received government approval to conduct field trials of polymer banknotes in which denominations?

- (A) ₹5 and ₹10 (B) ₹10 and ₹20
(C) ₹20 and ₹50 (D) ₹50 and ₹100

2. Which country successfully completed expert acceptance and full-parameter testing of two domestically developed superconducting magnets for fusion research in June 2026?

- (A) Japan (B) South Korea
(C) China (D) France

3. The recently GI-tagged Unjha Cumin and Unjha Fennel are associated with which state?

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

4. Who won the silver medal in the men's 79 kg weightlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2026?

- (A) Jeremy Lalrinnunga
(B) Achinta Sheuli
(C) Erry Hidayat Muhammad
(D) Valluri Ajaya Babu

5. Recently, International Tiger Day has been observed on which day of July 2026?

- (A) 26 July (B) 27 July
(C) 28 July (D) 29 July

6. Which Indian state has integrated ANNAM.AI smart weather stations under its 100-day climate-smart agriculture action plan?

- (A) Tamil Nadu (B) Karnataka
(C) Kerala (D) Andhra Pradesh

7. The newly discovered fungal species *Microporellus kolhapurensis* has been named after which district of Maharashtra?

- (A) Kolhapur (B) Satara
(C) Ratnagiri (D) Sindhudurg

8. The Kosi-Mechi intra-state river linking project, approved under the PMKSY-AIBP, is being implemented in which state?

- (A) Bihar (B) Assam
(C) West Bengal (D) Odisha

9. What is the official theme of World Hepatitis Day 2026?

- (A) One Life, One Liver
(B) Hepatitis Can't Wait
(C) Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down
(D) Eliminate Hepatitis Now

10. Who won the silver medal in the women's 53 kg weightlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2026?

- (A) Gyaneshwari Yadav (B) Mirabai Chanu
(C) Bindyarani Devi (D) Harjinder Kaur

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

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IMPORTANT RESEARCH REACTORS OF INDIA



Built and operated by BARC (Bhabha Atomic Research Centre), Mumbai

1. APSARA – 1956



- Asia's first nuclear reactor.
- Known as a "Swimming Pool Type Reactor."
- Developed with British assistance.



Fuel: Low Enriched Uranium (LEU).



Purpose:

- Neutron physics studies
- Radioisotope production
- Scientific training

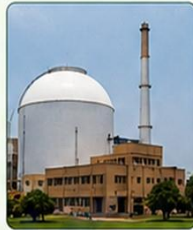


Upgraded after 2000 as "Apsara-U".



India's nuclear programme began with this reactor.

2. CIRUS (Cyrus) – 1960



Heavy-water moderator supplied by Canada.



Fuel material supplied by the USA; hence the term "US" in the name.



Capacity: 40 MW.



Fuel: Natural uranium.



Known for producing high neutron flux.



Used for research, isotope production and plutonium production.



Permanently shut down in 2010.



Made major contributions to India's nuclear weapons programme.

3. ZERLINA – 1961



- Full name: Zero Energy Reactor for Low Intermediary Neutron Flux Applications.

- Capacity: approx. 0.1 MW (essentially a zero-energy reactor).



Purpose:

- Testing reactor design
- Studying neutron behaviour & reactions



Fuel: Metallic uranium.



Provided essential data for BARC's fast breeder programme.

4. PURNIMA-I – 1972



- India's first plutonium-fuelled reactor.
- Energy output: 0 (Zero Power Reactor).



Purpose:

- Fast-neutron physics studies
- Testing breeder reactor technology
- Indirectly assisted scientific preparation for the 1974 Pokhran nuclear test.



A completely safe, low-energy research reactor.

5. PURNIMA-II – 1984



- Important for thorium-based nuclear fuel cycle research.
- Used for experiments with U-233.



Zero-energy reactor.



A key stage in India's three-stage nuclear programme.

6. PURNIMA-III – 1990



- Built for advanced studies on U-233 and the thorium fuel cycle.
- Used for neutron experiments, fuel testing and breeder reactor design research.



Zero Power Reactor – produces no energy.



Foundation for India's future advanced thorium-based reactors.

7. DHRUVA – 1985



A high-power research reactor of indigenous design.



Capacity: 100 MW (the most powerful reactor in BARC).



Heavy-water moderator and coolant.



Fuel: Natural uranium.



Uses:

- Radioisotope production
- Neutron beam research
- Plutonium production



These research reactors have played a crucial role in India's nuclear research, self-reliance in nuclear technology and strategic capabilities.

Note: Most of these reactors are Zero Power Reactors (They produce no electricity).



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Thursday, 30 July 2026

1. Shri Keshav Chandra assumed charge as the Secretary of the Ministry of Mines. In context to the same tell us, Khetri, Kolar, and Jharia are prominent mining centers in India associated respectively with which of the following?

- (A) Copper, Gold, and Coal
- (B) Iron Ore, Gold, and Coal
- (C) Copper, Silver, and Iron Ore
- (D) Gold, Copper, and Coal

2. Prem K Vora Honoured With Rashtriya Ashok Samman Bharat Samman. In context to the same tell us, In which year was the Ashoka Chakra originally established under the name "Ashoka Chakra, Class I"?

- (A) 1947
- (B) 1950
- (C) 1952
- (D) 1954

3. SBI Life Becomes Principal Partner Of Indian Paralympic Contingent 2026. In context to the same tell us, Who among the following was the first Indian athlete to win a medal in Badminton at the Paralympic Games?

- (A) Suhas Yathiraj
- (B) Krishna Nagar
- (C) Manoj Sarkar
- (D) Pramod Bhagat

4. UNESCO Adds Mount Olympus and D-Day Beaches to Heritage List. In context to the same tell us, Mount Olympus was designated as the first National Park of which European country in 1938?

- (A) Greece
- (B) Italy
- (C) Spain
- (D) Bulgaria

5. Mirabai Chanu Wins Golden Hat-trick: Glasgow CWG 2026. In context to the same tell us, In which weight category did Mirabai Chanu compete and win her medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics?

- (A) 35 kg
- (B) 40 kg
- (C) 42 kg
- (D) 49 kg

6. Fatal Methane Gas Explosion Strikes Sikkim's Teesta Stage VI Hydroelectric Project, Trapping Workers. Consider the following statements regarding methane gas and its geological behavior:

- (1) Methane is a colorless, odorless, and highly flammable gas that can accumulate naturally in rock

formations and confined spaces.

(2) It ignites and causes explosions only when exposed to direct open flames, regardless of its concentration in the air.

(3) Drilling during tunnel excavation can disturb methane-bearing rocks, triggering a sudden escape of gas into enclosed spaces.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3)
- (B) Only (1) and (2)
- (C) Only (2) and (3)
- (D) All of the above

7. India's Electronic Gold Receipt Ecosystem Gains Traction, Driving Transparency in Exchange-Based Physical Gold Trading.

Consider the following statements regarding Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs):

(1) An EGR is a SEBI-regulated electronic security representing ownership of physical gold held in demat form.

(2) Every EGR is fully backed by an equivalent quantity and purity of physical gold stored in SEBI-accredited vaults.

(3) EGRs enable investors to trade physical gold electronically on stock exchanges without the option of converting them into physical gold.

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. Indian Lifters Shine at Glasgow 2026 CWG as Gyaneshwari Yadav Bags Silver and Jhandu Kumar Scripts Historic Bronze.

Consider the following statements regarding the history and governance of the Commonwealth Games:

(1) The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) serves as the governing body responsible for the direction and control of the Games.

(2) Since its inception in 1930, the Games have been conducted every four years without any interruption.

(3) The multi-sport event was officially renamed the "Commonwealth Games" in the year 1978.

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

TOPIC OF THE DAY

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Thursday, 30 July 2026

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Why in News?

In July 2026, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, located off the coast of Odisha.

Expository: -

Introduction-

- India's missile programme is one of the world's most advanced indigenous defence initiatives.
- It has been developed primarily by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to strengthen India's conventional military capability, strategic deterrence, and national security.
- India's missile systems are known for their high accuracy, quick reaction capability, indigenous technology, and powerful strike capability, enabling the Armed Forces to operate effectively across land, air, sea, and strategic domains.

Classification of Missiles-

- Missiles are classified on the basis of their range, trajectory, speed, launch platform, strategic importance, propulsion system, and guidance system.
- Each category is designed to perform specific military and strategic roles.

Missiles Based on Range-

Short-Range Ballistic Missiles (SRBM)-

- Short-Range Ballistic Missiles have a range of up to 1,000 km and are mainly used for battlefield operations.
- Prithvi-I and Prithvi-II are examples of SRBMs.

Medium-Range Ballistic Missiles (MRBM)-

- Medium-Range Ballistic Missiles have a range of 1,000-3,000 km and are capable of striking strategic targets. Agni-I and Agni-II belong to this category.

Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBM)-

- Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missiles have a range of 3,000-5,500 km. Agni-III and Agni-IV are India's IRBMs.

Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM)-

- Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles have a range of more than 5,500 km and are capable of carrying nuclear warheads across continents. Agni-V, with an approximate range of 5,000-8,000 km, is India's first ICBM-class missile.

Missiles Based on Trajectory Ballistic Missiles

- Ballistic missiles follow a ballistic trajectory after the boost phase and move under the force of gravity during most of their flight. India's Agni and Prithvi series are examples of ballistic missiles.

Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV)-

- A Hypersonic Glide Vehicle travels at hypersonic speed during the re-entry phase and can manoeuvre before striking the target. India is currently in the technology demonstration stage of HGV development.
- Cruise Missiles- Cruise missiles remain within the atmosphere throughout most of their flight and fly at a controlled speed with high precision. BrahMos and Nirbhay are India's major cruise missiles.

Missiles Based on Speed-

- Subsonic Missiles-Subsonic missiles travel at speeds below Mach 1. Nirbhay is India's subsonic cruise missile.
- Supersonic Missiles-Supersonic missiles travel at speeds between Mach 1 and Mach 5. BrahMos, which travels at approximately Mach 3, is one of the world's fastest operational supersonic cruise missiles.
- Hypersonic Missiles- Hypersonic missiles travel at speeds greater than Mach 5. India's Shourya and Sagarika achieve hypersonic speeds, while BrahMos-II is currently under development.

Evolution of India's Missile Programme-

- India's modern missile programme began in 1983 with the launch of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) under DRDO. In 1998, BrahMos Aerospace was established as a joint venture between India and Russia. In 1999, India launched the Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Programme. Since 2008, India has undertaken several independent missile projects, including the Agni Series, K-Series, and the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV).

Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)-

- The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) was launched in 1983 by DRDO and was completed in 2008.
- Its primary objective was to establish indigenous missile development capabilities and produce a comprehensive family of missiles for the Indian Armed Forces.
- The programme successfully developed Prithvi, Agni, Akash, Nag, and Trishul missiles.

Ballistic Missiles-

- Ballistic missiles are surface-to-surface missiles that follow a ballistic flight path after launch. They are capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads.
- India's major ballistic missiles include the Prithvi Series, Agni Series, Agni Prime, K-15 Sagarika, and K-4.

Cruise Missiles-

- Cruise missiles are guided throughout their flight, fly at low altitudes, and provide exceptional accuracy. India's principal cruise missiles are BrahMos, Nirbhay, and the BrahMos-II, which is currently under development.

Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs)-

- Surface-to-Air Missiles are designed to destroy enemy aircraft, helicopters, drones, and incoming missiles. India's important SAM systems include Akash, MRSAM, and Barak-8 (Naval LR-SAM).

Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs)-

- Anti-Tank Guided Missiles are specifically designed to destroy enemy tanks and heavily armoured vehicles. India's major ATGMs include Nag, Helina, and the Anti-Tank Guided Missile developed for the MBT Arjun.

Air-to-Air Missiles (AAMs)-

- Air-to-Air Missiles are launched from aircraft to engage hostile aircraft during aerial combat. India's primary air-to-air missile is the Astra Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Missile.

Anti-Radiation Missiles-

- Anti-Radiation Missiles are designed to destroy enemy radar stations and air-defence systems by homing in on their electromagnetic emissions. India's indigenous anti-radiation missile is the Rudram Series, developed by DRDO.

Anti-Ship Missiles-

- Anti-Ship Missiles are used to destroy enemy warships and other naval targets. India's major anti-ship weapons include the BrahMos Anti-Ship Cruise Missile and its various ship-launched variants.



MAP OF THE DAY - BHARAT

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Thursday, 30 July 2026



POINT CALIMERE WILDLIFE & BIRD SANCTUARY

A Important Bird Area and Ramsar Site in Tamil Nadu



1. LOCATION

- State – Tamil Nadu
- District – Nagapattinam
- Situated at Point Calimere, where Palk Strait meets the Bay of Bengal at the south-eastern tip of Nagapattinam District.



2. ESTABLISHMENT

- Year – 1967
- Main Objective – Conservation of Blackbuck.



3. AREA

- 21.47 sq km (8.29 sq mi)



4. RAMSAR SITE

- Part of Ramsar Site No. 1210.
- On 19 August 2002, declared a place of international importance for the conservation of waterbirds and their wetlands habitats.
- This 385 sq km site is the easternmost and most biologically diverse part of the Great Vedaranyam Swamp.



5. IMPORTANT BIRDS

- Hosts large congregations of waterbirds, especially Greater Flamingos.
- Classified as an Important Bird Area (IBA).

AERIAL VIEW OF POINT CALIMERE



MAP OF THE SANCTUARY



6. PART OF RAMSAR SITE NO. 1210

This 385 sq km site comprises:

- Point Calimere Wildlife & Bird Sanctuary (PCWBS)
- Panchanadikulam Wetland
- Unsurveyed Salt Swamp
- Thalainayar Reserved Forest
- Muthupet Mangroves



It is all part of the Great Vedaranyam Swamp, except the reserved forest.

7. GEOGRAPHY & LANDSCAPE

- The sanctuary is an island.
- Surrounded by Bay of Bengal (east), Palk Strait (south), swampy backwaters and salt pans (west & north).
- Low sand dunes along the coast and western periphery.
- Coastal plains, tidal mud-flats and shallow seasonal ponds are present in between.
- Eastern dunes are mostly stabilised by *Prosopis juliflora*.
- Higher dunes in the west are stabilised by dense dry evergreen forests.
- The tallest dune and the highest point of land in Nagapattinam District is 7 m (23 ft) at the north-west corner at Ramar Padam.

8. MAJOR ECOSYSTEMS



Mangroves



Tidal Mud-flats



Salt Marsh (Salt Pans)



Sand Dunes



Seasonal Ponds



Coastal Plains

9. SIGNIFICANCE (For Exams)

- ✓ Important Wildlife & Bird Sanctuary in South India.
- ✓ Established in 1967 for Blackbuck conservation.
- ✓ Famous for Greater Flamingo and other waterbirds.
- ✓ Located at the confluence of Palk Strait and Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ Part of Ramsar Site No. 1210 (declared on 19 Aug 2002).
- ✓ Easternmost and most biologically diverse part of Great Vedaranyam Swamp.
- ✓ Classified as an Important Bird Area (IBA).



GREATER FLAMINGOS



BLACKBUCK (MAIN OBJECTIVE OF CONSERVATION)

MAP OF THE DAY - WORLD

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Thursday, 30 July 2026



STRAIT OF MALACCA



THE WORLD'S MOST BUSY STRAIT

1. OVERVIEW

- A narrow sea route between Southeast Asia.
- Connects the Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) and the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean).
- A vital choke point for global maritime trade and energy flow.

2. LOCATION



3. DIMENSIONS

- Length : ~900 km (560 miles)
- Width : 65 to 250 km (40 to 155 miles)

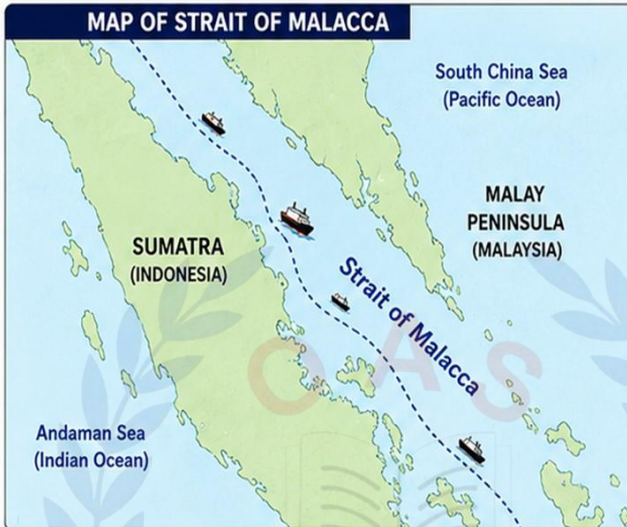
4. NARROWEST POINT

Philipp Channel
(near southern Singapore)

Only 2.8 km
(1.5 nautical miles) wide

9. ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

- Supports rich marine biodiversity.
- Mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds and diverse fish species.
- Important for fisheries and coastal ecosystem.



7. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Historically a contested region.
- Controlled by powerful regional states to dominate the spice trade.
- Key powers that controlled the strait: Srivijaya Empire (7th century), Malacca Sultanate, Johor Sultanate, British Straits Settlements, and the Singapore City-State.



8. ORIGIN OF THE NAME



- The name "Malacca" is traditionally associated with the Malacca tree (Phyllanthus emblica), also known as Indian gooseberry tree.
- Derived from the local Malay word "Melaka".
- According to historical tradition, Prince Parameswara of Sumatra founded Malacca Sultanate and named his new settlement "Melaka" after the tree under which he rested.
- Over time, the name came to refer not only to the city of Malacca but also to the strategic waterway between the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra – the Strait of Malacca.

10. SECURITY CONCERNS

- High volume of traffic makes it vulnerable to:
 - Piracy
 - Armed robbery
 - Smuggling
 - Illegal fishing
- Littoral countries work together to ensure maritime security.



11. COUNTRIES BORDERING THE STRAIT

-  Malaysia (West Coast – Malay Peninsula)
-  Indonesia (East Coast – Sumatra Island)
-  Singapore (to the southeast, near the narrowest point)



5. IMPORTANCE

- Main shipping route between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.
- Connects major Asian economies: India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, China, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea.
- Part of the Maritime Silk Road.
- Links Chinese coast to India's southern tip (Mumbai) and beyond via the Suez Canal to Europe.



6. TRAFFIC & TRADE SIGNIFICANCE



In 2008, more than 94,000 ships passed through this strait every year.

World's busiest strait.



Carries about 25% of the world's traded goods.

Goods include: oil, Chinese manufactured products, coal, palm oil, Indonesian coffee, etc.



By 2024, more than 35% of oil transported by sea and 20% of gas passed through this strait.



In 2007, an estimated 13.7 million barrels per day of oil were transported.

In 2011, it increased to an estimated 15.2 million barrels per day.



One of the world's most congested shipping choke points.

12. KEY FACTS (QUICK REVISION)

Type	Natural Strait / Chokepoint
Connects	Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) – South China Sea (Pacific Ocean)
Length	~900 km (560 miles)
Width	65 – 250 km (40 – 155 miles)
Narrowest Point	Philipp Channel – 2.8 km (1.5 nautical miles)
Ships (2008)	More than 94,000 ships per year
Share of World Trade	~25%
Oil Transport (by 2024)	>35% of oil by sea
Gas Transport (by 2024)	~20% of gas
Strategic Importance	One of the most important maritime chokepoints in the world



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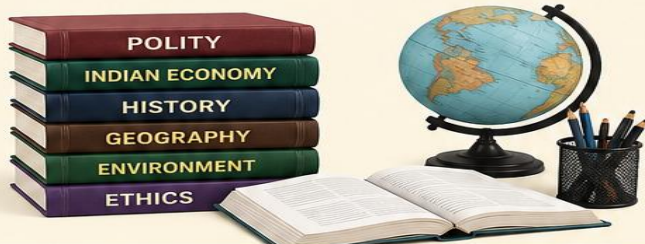
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