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Tuesday, 04 August 2026



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India Plans ₹45,000 Crore Railway Expansion to Strengthen Border Connectivity

Why is it in News?

- The Government of India is planning a ₹45,000 crore railway infrastructure programme to improve connectivity along the country's borders with China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. The proposed projects aim to strengthen strategic mobility, enhance border security, improve civilian connectivity, and support faster movement of defence personnel and equipment in sensitive border areas.

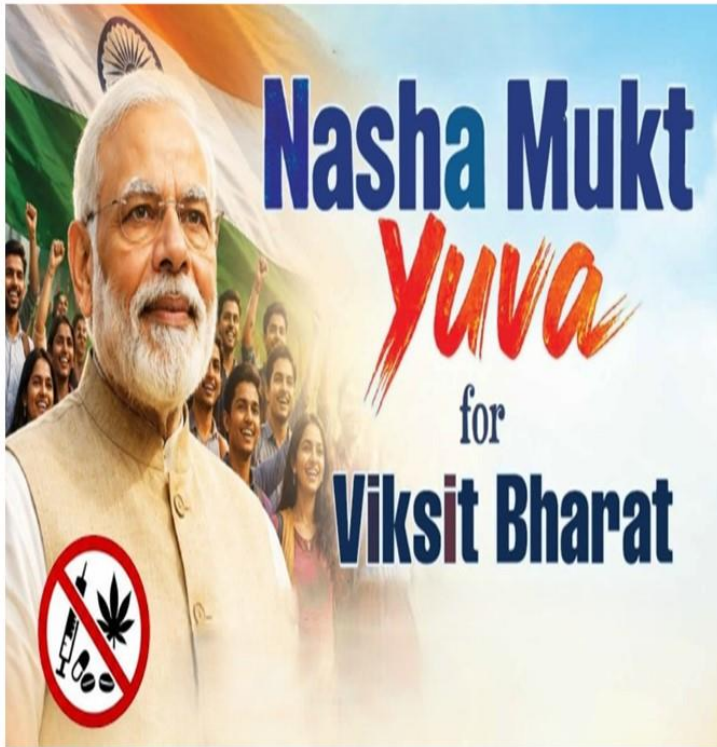
Key Highlights

- India is planning to invest around ₹45,000 crore in railway projects along international border regions.
- The initiative will focus on improving rail connectivity near the China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh borders.
- Several new railway lines and strategic rail links are proposed in border states.
- The projects aim to enable faster deployment of troops, military equipment, and essential supplies during emergencies.

Background

- India has been strengthening infrastructure in border areas following increased security challenges and the need for faster military mobilisation. While roads and bridges have received significant attention in recent years, expanding the railway network has become equally important to ensure efficient logistics and all-weather connectivity in strategically sensitive regions.

Q. What is the estimated cost of India's proposed strategic border railway expansion programme? **₹45,000 crore.**



PM Modi Launches 'Nasha Mukta Yuva' Campaign to Combat Drug Abuse Among Youth

Why is it in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the nationwide 'Nasha Mukta Yuva' Campaign to tackle the growing problem of substance abuse among young people. The campaign aims to spread awareness, promote a drug-free lifestyle, and encourage active participation from educational institutions, communities, and government agencies in preventing drug addiction.

Key Highlights

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva' Campaign.
- The campaign aims to prevent substance abuse and drug addiction among youth.
- It focuses on awareness, prevention, counselling, rehabilitation, and community participation.
- Schools, colleges, youth organisations, NGOs, and government departments will participate in the campaign.
- The initiative promotes a healthy, drug-free, and responsible lifestyle among young people.
- It complements the Government's broader Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA).

Significance

- The campaign aims to reduce substance abuse among young people, improve public health, strengthen social awareness, and protect the country's demographic dividend. It also encourages community participation in creating a drug-free society.

Q. Which campaign was recently launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to combat substance abuse among youth? **Nasha Mukta Yuva Campaign.**



Cabinet Approves Expanded Khelo India Scheme with ₹36,441 Crore Outlay

Why is it in News?

- The Union Cabinet has approved an expanded Khelo India Scheme and enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs) with a combined outlay of ₹36,441 crore for the period 2026–27 to 2030–31. The move aims to strengthen grassroots sports, identify young talent, improve sports infrastructure, and prepare athletes for international competitions.

Key Highlights

- Total outlay: ₹36,441 crore for 2026–27 to 2030–31.
- Covers the expanded Khelo India Scheme and Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs).
- Focus on grassroots talent identification, athlete development, coaching, and sports infrastructure.
- Aims to create a clear pathway for athletes from the grassroots to elite international competitions.

About Khelo India

- Launched: 2017–18.
- Ministry: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Objective: Promote sports culture, identify young talent, develop sports infrastructure, and improve India's performance in international competitions.
- Major events include Khelo India Youth Games, University Games, Winter Games, Para Games, Beach Games, and Tribal Games.

Q. Which scheme has been expanded by the Union Cabinet with a total outlay of ₹36,441 crore? **Khelo India Scheme.**

Maldives-India Favara-UPI Link

Enables Real-Time Cross-Border Transfers.



India and Maldives Launch Favara–UPI Payment Corridor for Instant Cross-Border Money Transfers

Why is it in News?

- India and the Maldives have launched the Favara–UPI Cross-Border Payment Corridor, enabling real-time money transfers from the Maldives to UPI-enabled bank accounts in India. The initiative strengthens digital financial connectivity and deepens economic cooperation between the two countries.

Key Highlights

- The Maldives' instant payment system, Favara, has been integrated with India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- Individuals in the Maldives can now send money instantly to UPI-linked bank accounts in India through mobile banking apps.
- The service has been launched by the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) in partnership with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL).
- Bank of Maldives and Maldives Islamic Bank are the first participating banks.
- Future phases will include QR-code merchant payments and additional cross-border payment services.

What is UPI?

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a real-time digital payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It enables instant bank-to-bank transfers using mobile applications and is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Q. Which two countries have launched the Favara–UPI Cross-Border Payment Corridor? **India and the Maldives.**



Varsha Ashok Aglawe Becomes First Woman Director General of GSI in Its 176-Year History

Why is it in News?

- Varsha Ashok Aglawe has become the first woman Director General (DG) of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in its 176-year history. Her appointment marks a historic milestone for one of India's oldest scientific organisations and reflects the growing role of women in leadership positions in the country's scientific and technical institutions.

Key Highlights

- Varsha Ashok Aglawe has been appointed as the Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- She is the first woman to head the organisation since its establishment in 1851.
- GSI is India's premier agency for geological mapping, mineral exploration, and geoscientific research.
- Her appointment is expected to strengthen scientific research, mineral resource exploration, and sustainable management of geological resources.

About the Geological Survey of India (GSI)

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is one of India's oldest scientific organisations, established in 1851. It functions under the Ministry of Mines and is responsible for geological mapping, mineral exploration, geoscientific studies, natural hazard assessment, and environmental geology. GSI also provides scientific inputs for mineral policy, infrastructure development, and disaster management.

Q. Who has become the first woman Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI)? **Varsha Ashok Aglawe.**



Willie Walsh Takes Charge as CEO of IndiGo

- Veteran global aviation executive Willie (William) Walsh has officially assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiGo (InterGlobe Aviation Ltd.), succeeding Pieter Elbers.
- Walsh joined the airline after completing his tenure as the Director General of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- Former Leadership Roles: CEO of British Airways, Aer Lingus, and International Airlines Group (IAG).
- Focus Areas: Global expansion, operational excellence, network growth, and customer experience.

About IndiGo

- IndiGo, operated by InterGlobe Aviation Limited, is India's largest airline by market share and passenger traffic.
- Parent Company: InterGlobe Aviation Ltd.
- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana

About IATA:

- The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is the global trade association representing the airline industry.
- Established: 1945
- Headquarters: Montreal (Canada) and Geneva (Switzerland)

Q. Who has taken charge as the new CEO of IndiGo? **Willie (William) Walsh.**





Japan and U.S. Confirm Rare Joint Yen-Buying Intervention

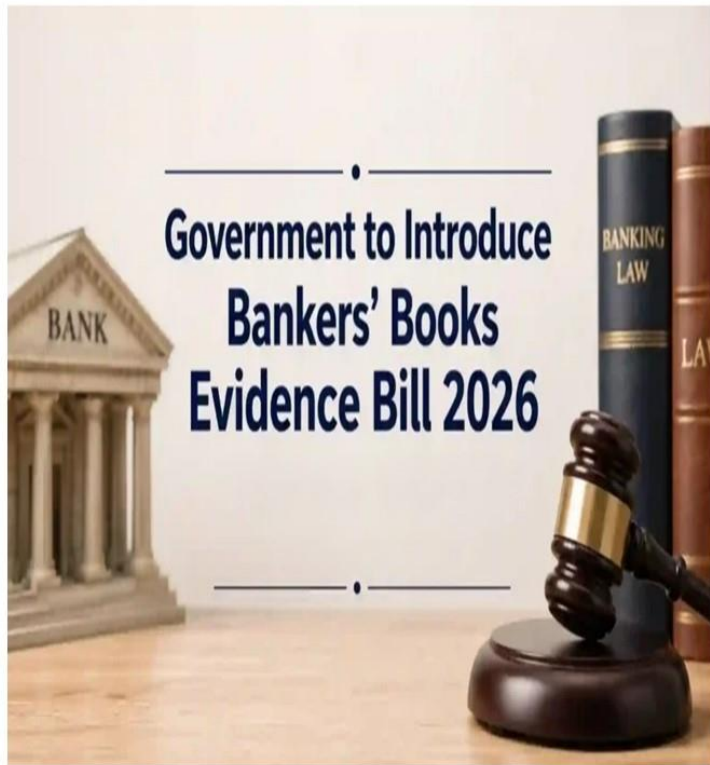
- Japan and the United States have confirmed a rare coordinated intervention in the foreign exchange market to support the Japanese yen, which had fallen to its weakest level in nearly 40 years against the U.S. dollar.
- The two countries jointly purchased yen and sold U.S. dollars to curb excessive volatility and stabilize financial markets.
- Japan also indicated that it is prepared to undertake further coordinated interventions, if necessary, to prevent disorderly movements in the exchange rate.
- This marks the first joint yen-buying intervention since 2011.

Why Was the Intervention Needed?

The Japanese yen has weakened significantly due to:

- Large interest rate differential between the United States and Japan.
- Higher U.S. interest rates attracting global capital.
- Japan's prolonged accommodative monetary policy.
- Rising import costs, especially for fuel and food.
- Increased inflationary pressure in Japan.
- The coordinated intervention was intended to restore confidence in the currency and prevent disorderly market movements.

Q. Which two countries recently carried out a joint yen-buying intervention? **Japan and the United States.**



Government to Introduce Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 in Lok Sabha

- The Central Government has proposed the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 for introduction in the Lok Sabha to replace the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891, a colonial-era legislation governing the admissibility of bank records as evidence in judicial proceedings.
- The proposed law seeks to modernise the legal framework by recognising digital banking records, aligning the law with contemporary banking practices, and harmonising it with the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, which replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

Why is a New Law Needed?

- The existing Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 was enacted when banking transactions were maintained primarily in physical ledgers and registers. With the rapid expansion of core banking systems, internet banking, digital payments, and electronic record-keeping, the government considers it necessary to replace the colonial-era law with legislation that reflects present-day banking technology and digital evidence requirements.

The proposed Bill aims to:

- Recognise electronic banking records as valid evidence.
- Simplify the production of bank records before courts and investigative agencies.
- Reduce dependence on physical registers and paper documents.

Q. Which colonial-era law is proposed to be replaced by the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026? **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891.**



India's Ramkumar Ramanathan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth Win Bonn Open Doubles Title

- Indian tennis pair Ramkumar Ramanathan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth clinched the Bonn Open 2026 ATP Challenger doubles title in Bonn, Germany, marking another significant achievement for Indian tennis on the international circuit.
- The duo displayed excellent teamwork and consistency throughout the tournament to secure the championship, further strengthening India's presence in ATP Challenger doubles events.
- The victory is expected to improve their ATP doubles rankings and boost their prospects in upcoming ATP Tour tournaments and Grand Slam events.

Ramkumar Ramanathan:

- Indian professional tennis player.
- Specialises in both singles and doubles.
- Has represented India in the Davis Cup.
- Former ATP Tour doubles title winner.
- Known for his powerful serve and attacking style.

Vijay Sundar Prashanth:

- Indian doubles specialist.
- Winner of multiple ATP Challenger titles.
- Won his maiden ATP Tour title at the Hangzhou Open 2024.
- Regular member of India's Davis Cup squad.

Q. Which Indian pair won the Bonn Open 2026 ATP Challenger doubles title? **Ramkumar Ramanathan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth.**



Defence Ministry Launches Indigenous Diving Support Craft (DSC A24)

- The Ministry of Defence has launched DSC A24, the fifth and final Diving Support Craft (DSC) of the Indian Navy's indigenous Diving Support Craft project at Titagarh, Kolkata. Built by Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) under the 'Make in India' and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, the vessel is designed to enhance the Navy's capabilities in underwater diving operations, salvage assistance, underwater inspection, and coastal operational support.
- The induction of DSC A24 marks the successful completion of the five-vessel project and significantly strengthens India's indigenous maritime capabilities.

About DSC A24:

- DSC A24 is an indigenously designed and built catamaran-hull diving support craft developed to support the Indian Navy's underwater missions in coastal waters and harbours.

Major Features:

- Designed for diving support and underwater inspection.
- Equipped with state-of-the-art diving equipment.
- Catamaran hull for improved stability and sea-keeping.
- Approximate displacement of 380 tonnes.
- Around 30 metres in length.
- Built under the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) rules and regulations.

Q. Which company built the indigenous Diving Support Craft (DSC A24) recently launched by the Ministry of Defence? **Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL), Kolkata.**

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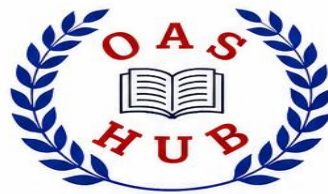
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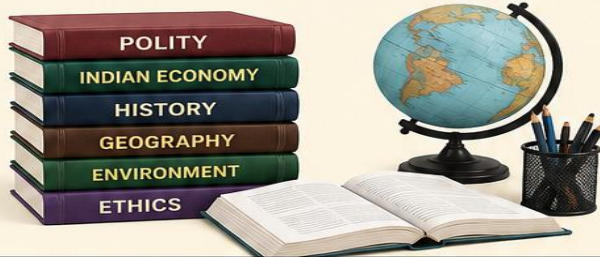
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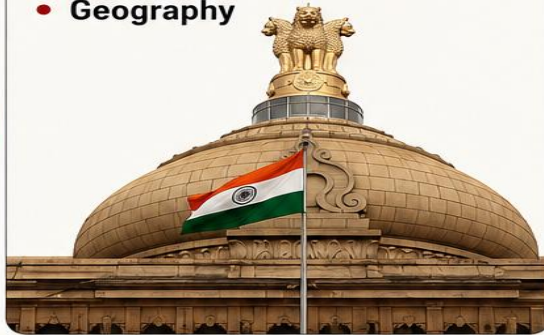
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