

TNPSC WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

July 26 – 31, 2026

1. NATIONAL NEWS

1.1 India's "White Gold" – Cotton Sector

- Release: The Government of India released a factsheet titled "White Gold: India's Cotton Story", highlighting India's global cotton position.
- Global standing: India is the world's **largest cotton-growing country by area** and the second-largest producer and consumer.
- Unique feature: India is the only country cultivating all four recognised cotton species, producing 290.91 lakh bales of cotton in 2025-26 (provisional).
- Global contribution: Cotton contributes around 19% of global fibre production and supports nearly 6 million cotton farmers in India.
- Cultivation area: India ranks first globally in cotton cultivation area with 114.84 lakh hectares.
- Target: The Mission for Cotton Productivity aims to increase cotton production from around 297 lakh bales to 498 lakh bales by 2031.

Learn Basics:

- White Gold: a popular term for cotton, reflecting its high economic value as a cash crop, similar to how sugarcane is sometimes called green gold.

1.2 BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme for Chemical Parks

- Approval: The Union Cabinet approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) Scheme with an outlay of **₹3,030 crore** to establish three dedicated chemical parks.
- Aim: The scheme aims to strengthen the chemical sector by providing world-class infrastructure and promoting domestic manufacturing.
- Funding pattern: The Central Government will provide a grant of up to ₹1,000 crore per chemical park, with a minimum state government contribution of ₹500 crore.
- Infrastructure: Parks will provide plug-and-play infrastructure including Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), waste management, logistics, and utility networks.
- Duration: The scheme will be implemented from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 to boost investments, exports, employment, and reduce import dependence.

Learn Basics:

- CETP: Common Effluent Treatment Plant, a shared facility that treats wastewater collectively generated by multiple industrial units in a cluster or park.

1.3 Sabitri Dey vs Union of India — SC on Citizenship Determination

- Ruling: The Supreme Court reaffirmed that citizenship and foreigner status must be determined through a fair, lawful, and reasoned process, consistent with constitutional guarantees.
- Action taken: The Court set aside a batch of Gauhati High Court judgments that had upheld Foreigners Tribunals' opinions declaring several Assam individuals as foreigners.

- Direction: The SC directed fresh adjudication, emphasising that citizenship proceedings must adhere to fairness, reasonableness and due process, not be mechanical or one-sided.
- Background: The case arose from a 1997 Illegal Migrants (Determination) Tribunal (IMDT) declaring Sabitri Dey and her husband illegal migrants after they failed to appear before the tribunal.
- Constitutional protection: The judgment protects **Articles 14 and 21**, ensuring no one is declared a foreigner without a fair process.

Learn Basics:

- Foreigners Tribunals: quasi-judicial bodies set up under the Foreigners Act, 1946 in Assam to determine whether a person is a foreigner.
- **Exam point of view:** Don't confuse the Foreigners Tribunals (Foreigners Act, 1946, Assam-specific) with the earlier Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 (IMDT Act), which was struck down by the SC in 2005.

1.4 Bharat Tex 2026

- Event: Bharat Tex 2026, India's largest global textile event, was held in Delhi.
- Participation: It opened with record international participation from **138 countries**.
- Organisers: It is the world's largest integrated textile value chain event, organised by the Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF) with support from the Ministry of Textiles.

Learn Basics:

- Integrated textile value chain: covers the entire textile production process from fibre and yarn to fabric, garment manufacturing and exports.

1.5 India's Largest Village-Level Telecom Network Performance Survey

- Joint venture: The all-India survey is a joint venture of the Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications) and TRAI.
- Scale: It aims to execute India's largest village-level telecom network performance survey across **5.68 lakh villages**.
- Method: Over 1.4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks (rural postal workers) will use a TRAI-developed Android app during routine deliveries to rate coverage of Airtel, Jio, Vi, and BSNL.
- Objective: It aims to generate granular field-level data to identify "not-spots" and guide future telecom infrastructure investments.

Learn Basics:

- TRAI: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the statutory regulatory body for the telecommunications sector.
- Not-spot: an area with no mobile network coverage at all, distinct from a low-signal or dead zone within an otherwise covered area.

1.6 Vishwas Scheme 2026 (EPFO)

- Full form: Vishwas stands for Voluntary Initiative for Speedy Hearing and Waiver of Adverse Surcharges.
- Launch: The Ministry of Labour & Employment officially launched the Vishwas 2026 Scheme, a one-time dispute resolution scheme by the EPFO.

- Scope: It applies strictly to disputes concerning damages/penalties levied under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 or the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- Objective: It aims to promote voluntary compliance, curb prolonged litigation, and ensure fast-track digital settlement of long-pending employer disputes.

Learn Basics:

- Code on Social Security, 2020: one of the four labour codes that consolidates and simplifies laws relating to social security, including provident fund and insurance.

1.7 Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026

- Introduction: The Bill is set to be introduced in the Rajya Sabha by the union home minister.
- Purpose: It seeks to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 by including the National Song (Vande Mataram) under its protection.
- Effect: It aims to give the National Song legal protection similar to the National Flag, Constitution, and National Anthem.
- Punishment proposed: Up to **three years imprisonment**, a fine, or both, for intentionally preventing the singing of the National Anthem or National Song or disturbing such gatherings.
- Historical reference: The Bill refers to Dr. Rajendra Prasad's statement (24 January 1950) that Vande Mataram should have equal status with Jana Gana Mana.

Learn Basics:

- Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971: penalises insults to the National Flag, the Constitution, and the National Anthem; this Bill extends that protection to the National Song.
- **Exam point of view:** Link this to last week's news that the Union Cabinet already approved an amendment to the 1971 Act protecting Vande Mataram — this Bill is the parliamentary follow-through of that Cabinet decision.

1.8 India's Wind & Renewable Energy Capacity 2026

- Wind capacity: India's installed wind power capacity reached **57,443 MW** as on 30 June 2026, per the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) Report 2026.
- Global wind rank: India retained 4th position globally in wind energy installations, after China, the United States, and Germany.
- State-wise wind leaders: Gujarat leads with 16,086 MW, followed by Tamil Nadu (12,273 MW), Karnataka (8,896 MW), Maharashtra (6,318 MW) and Rajasthan (5,516 MW).
- Overall renewable capacity: India's renewable energy capacity rose nearly fourfold to **288.58 GW** since 2014 (from 76.38 GW), as of 30 June 2026.
- Capacity mix: Solar leads with 162.15 GW, followed by wind (57.44 GW), hydropower (57.24 GW) and bio power (11.75 GW); total non-fossil capacity stands at 297.36 GW.
- 2030 target status: India has already achieved 50% installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, five years ahead of the 2030 deadline, and ranks 3rd globally (after China, USA) in total renewable capacity.

Source	Installed Capacity (as of 30 June 2026)
Solar	162.15 GW
Wind	57.44 GW
Hydropower	57.24 GW
Bio power	11.75 GW

Learn Basics:

- Non-fossil fuel capacity: electricity generation capacity from sources other than coal, oil and gas — includes renewables (solar, wind, hydro, bio) plus nuclear power.
- **Exam point of view:** Distinguish 'renewable energy capacity' (288.58 GW) from 'non-fossil fuel-based capacity' (297.36 GW) — the difference is nuclear power (8.78 GW), which counts as non-fossil but not renewable.

1.9 Abdul Hameed v. State of Rajasthan — SC on Fair Trial

- Ruling: The Supreme Court set aside the death sentence of Dr. Abdul Hameed in the 1996 Samleti Bus Bomb Blast case in Dausa, Rajasthan.
- Reasoning: The SC held that the trial was fundamentally vitiated due to denial of effective legal representation, violating his constitutional right to a fair trial.
- Remedy ordered: The Court ordered a fresh (de novo) trial to be completed within one year.
- Key observation: The Court ruled that the constitutional guarantee of a fair trial is "absolutely non-negotiable and cannot be sacrificed at the altar of practical convenience."
- Evidentiary principle: The SC reiterated that the confession of a co-accused is not substantive evidence and can only lend assurance to a conclusion otherwise reached.

Learn Basics:

- De novo trial: a fresh trial conducted from the beginning, as if the earlier trial never took place, ordered when the original proceedings are found fundamentally flawed.

1.10 Examination Reforms Task Force

- Announcement: The Prime Minister announced the formation of a high-powered task force to suggest reforms in the examination system.
- Chair: The task force will be headed by technology expert Nandan Nilekani to improve transparency, credibility, and use of technology in examinations.
- Members: Members include former IB Director Tapan Deka, former ISRO Chairman S. Somnath, IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti, former Education Secretary Anita Karwal, and logistics expert Amrit Lal Meena.
- Legislative follow-up: The government will introduce a new law in Parliament with strict provisions to prevent examination irregularities and protect students' interests.

Learn Basics:

- This task force's formation is directly connected to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 introduced the same week — both target exam paper leaks.

1.11 Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026

- Introduction: The Union Government introduced the Bill in the Lok Sabha to prevent exam paper leaks.
- Punishment hike: It proposes increasing punishment for unfair means from a maximum of **5 years to 10 years imprisonment** and fines up to ₹50 lakh.
- Organised offences: Organised offences may attract up to 7 years imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹10 crore.
- Institutional measures: It proposes setting up Special Task Forces, Special Fast Track Courts, and completing investigations within two months.
- Trial timeline: Fast Track Courts must conduct daily hearings and aim to complete trials within three months after filing the charge sheet.

Learn Basics:

- This Bill amends the original Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which was enacted after a series of exam paper leak controversies.
- **Exam point of view:** Don't mix up the punishment tiers: individual unfair means (5→10 years, ₹50 lakh fine) versus organised offences (up to 7 years, ₹10 crore fine) — these are separate provisions.

1.12 Supreme Court on Protest Rights

- Observation: The Supreme Court observed that the right to peaceful protest is constitutionally protected and considered framing uniform guidelines for police action during protests.
- Bench: A Bench led by CJI Surya Kant said peaceful protests cannot be met with police excesses and stressed discipline by both protesters and law enforcement agencies.
- Context: The court was hearing petitions related to alleged police action during the July 20, 2026 Parliament march and other protests over examination paper leaks.
- Proposed mechanism: The court considered creating a pan-India Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) to regulate police conduct during large-scale demonstrations.
- Constitutional basis: Petitions sought restrictions on pellet guns for crowd control, citing the fundamental right to peaceful assembly under **Article 19(1)(b)** of the Constitution.

Learn Basics:

- Article 19(1)(b): guarantees all citizens the right to assemble peaceably and without arms, subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(3).

1.13 New Nitrogen Fertiliser — Anhydrous Ammonia

- Approval: India approved the manufacture and use of anhydrous ammonia as a fertiliser for three years.
- Nitrogen content: Anhydrous ammonia contains **82% nitrogen**, far more concentrated than urea, which contains about 46% nitrogen.
- Handling: It is stored under pressure and injected below the soil surface using specialised equipment, as it can cause burns and inhalation hazards.
- Import context: India produces about 30 million tonnes of urea every year but imports nearly 10 million tonnes to meet domestic demand.
- Green linkage: Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the Government plans to procure 7.24 lakh metric tonnes of Green Ammonia annually to produce Green Urea.

Learn Basics:

- Green Ammonia: ammonia produced using renewable energy-based green hydrogen instead of fossil fuels, used as a cleaner precursor for urea and other fertilisers.

2. TAMIL NADU NEWS

2.1 New Findings at Keeladi — 11th Phase Excavation

- Development: The 11th phase of excavation at Keeladi has uncovered new brick structures, drainage features, and many artefacts.
- Conducted by: The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) is excavating Keeladi near Madurai in Sivagangai district.
- Timeline: The 11th phase began on 18 March 2026 and was carried out south of the on-site museum area.
- Structural finds: Continuous brick structures were found in all nine quadrants, extending west and north beyond the dug area; a terracotta pipeline and closed drainage system indicate planned settlement.
- Artefact count: More than **1,300 artefacts** were recovered, including terracotta beads, spindles, iron knives, chisels, swords, nails, and tiny gold ornaments.

Learn Basics:

- Keeladi: an archaeological site near Madurai providing evidence of an urban Sangam-Age settlement, considered central to establishing early Tamil civilisation's antiquity.

2.2 Extension of Seventh State Finance Commission

- Extension: The Tamil Nadu Government extended the tenure of the Seventh State Finance Commission by four months, from 31 August 2026 to 31 December 2026.
- Chairperson: The Commission was constituted in May 2025 under the chairmanship of K. Allaudin (Retired IAS officer).
- Mandate: It reviews the financial position of Village Panchayats, Panchayat Union Councils, District Panchayats, Town Panchayats, Municipalities, and Municipal Corporations.
- Deliverable: It will submit its report by 31 December 2026, covering the five years starting from 1 April 2027.

Learn Basics:

- State Finance Commission: a constitutional body (Article 243-I) set up every five years to recommend the distribution of state revenue between the state and local bodies.

2.3 Tamil Nadu Revenue Augmentation Committee

- Constitution: Tamil Nadu constituted a Revenue Augmentation Committee under the chairmanship of Montek Singh Ahluwalia to strengthen the State's revenue base.
- Tax mandate: The committee will recommend measures to increase tax and non-tax revenues, improve tax compliance, plug leakages, and rationalise tax rates and fees.
- Non-tax revenue focus: It will examine PSU dividends, land and asset monetisation, improved user charges, and revenue from alcohol taxation.
- Duration: The committee will function for three months to help strengthen Tamil Nadu's fiscal self-reliance.

Learn Basics:

- Montek Singh Ahluwalia: former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India, known for his role in India's 1991 economic reforms.

2.4 Female Labour Force Participation — Tamil Nadu's Manufacturing Lead

- TN's share: Tamil Nadu accounts for **40% of all women directly employed in Indian factories**, replicating China's women-led electronics manufacturing model.
- City rankings: MoSPI reported Coimbatore (41.3%) and Madurai (37%) rank among the top 3 Indian cities in female-LFPR, alongside Surat (40.6%) — all well above the urban India average of 27.7%.
- Electronics manufacturing growth: Tamil Nadu's share of women employed in computer, electronics and optical manufacturing grew from 20% to 43% (2013-14 to 2023-24), while Gujarat's stagnated at 10%.
- Trend: Tamil Nadu's overall share of women in factories declined only slightly, from 43% (2021-22) to 40% (2023-24), while Maharashtra and Karnataka saw declines in this sector.

Learn Basics:

- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): the percentage of the working-age population that is either employed or actively seeking work.

2.5 Property Rights for Hindu Daughters — Madras High Court Ruling

- Ruling: The Madras High Court ruled that Hindu daughters who died before September 9, 2005 are not entitled to equal coparcenary rights in ancestral property.
- Key date: A Hindu daughter must have been alive on **September 9, 2005**, when the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 came into force, to get equal coparcenary rights.
- Effect on heirs: Legal heirs of a daughter who died before that date cannot claim coparcenary rights, as she never acquired them.
- Clarification: The Court clarified that a daughter's date of birth is not important; only her being alive on the amendment date matters.

Learn Basics:

- Coparcenary right: an equal right by birth in ancestral (joint family) property, which the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 extended to daughters on par with sons.
- **Exam point of view:** Remember: it's the date the daughter was alive (September 9, 2005), not her date of birth, that determines eligibility for coparcenary rights.

2.6 Inter-State Neyyar Water Dispute

- Issue: The long-pending legal dispute between Tamil Nadu and Kerala over Neyyar River water continues before the Supreme Court.
- Origin: The Neyyar Irrigation Project began in 1951; Tamil Nadu started receiving irrigation water through the Neyyar Left Bank Canal from 1958 without a formal written agreement.
- Beneficiary area: The project was designed to irrigate 36,000 acres, including about 9,000 acres in Kanniyakumari district, Tamil Nadu.

- Dispute trigger: In 2004, Kerala stopped releasing Neyyar water (which it had supplied at around 150 cusecs for nearly 40 years), leading to a dispute over whether the Neyyar is an inter-State river.
- Current status: Tamil Nadu approached the Supreme Court in 2012, and the case is pending, with arguments yet to begin.

Learn Basics:

- Cusec: a unit of water flow rate meaning cubic feet per second, commonly used in India to measure river or canal discharge.

3. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

3.1 Europe's Water Crisis

- Situation: Several major European rivers — the Danube, Rhine, Elbe and Loire — are experiencing very low water levels due to prolonged heatwaves and drought.
- Danube: Europe's second-longest river has reached its **lowest level in 30 years in Romania**, with flow at Baziaş declining to around 1,700 cu m/s.
- Rhine: Low water levels have affected cargo transport, forcing ships to carry reduced loads and increasing shipping costs.
- Loire: The Loire River in France has dried up in several stretches, leaving only isolated pools due to intense heat and drought.

Learn Basics:

- The Danube is Europe's second-longest river (after the Volga), flowing through 10 countries before emptying into the Black Sea.

3.2 India and Romania Strategic Partnership

- Visit: President of India Droupadi Murmu visited Romania and held bilateral talks with Romanian President Nicușor Dan.
- Significance: This was the first State Visit by an Indian President to Romania in **nearly three decades**.
- Areas of cooperation: Both countries agreed to enhance cooperation in trade, investment, supply chains, education, culture, and science and technology.
- Trade target: India and Romania aim to double bilateral trade within the next three years.
- Commemoration: Both sides agreed to celebrate 2028 as the "India–Romania Year of Innovation" to mark 80 years of diplomatic relations.

Learn Basics:

- State Visit: the highest and most formal type of official visit between Heads of State, typically involving ceremonial welcomes and comprehensive bilateral talks.

3.3 South-North Commission on Development

- Launch: The South-North Commission on Development was formally launched at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference.
- Aim: It aims to rewrite the rules of global engagement by moving past traditional, outdated donor-recipient models.

- Leadership: This independent global commission is co-chaired by Olaf Scholz (former German Chancellor) and Laura Chinchilla (former President of Costa Rica).
- Model: The initiative is explicitly modelled after the historic **1977 Brandt Commission**, reviving its spirit to address global inequalities in a multipolar world.

Learn Basics:

- Brandt Commission (1977–1983): an independent commission chaired by former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt that examined global development issues and the North-South economic divide.

3.4 3rd BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction

- Event: India hosted the 3rd BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in New Delhi, where member countries adopted a Joint Statement.
- Organised by: The meeting was organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the MHA, as part of India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
- Commitment: The Joint Statement reaffirmed commitment to implement the BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction Work Plan (2025–2028).
- Priority areas: India highlighted five priority areas: early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, science and technology, nature-based solutions, and community resilience.
- Outputs: Six flagship knowledge products on disaster risk reduction were launched to strengthen policymaking and capacity building across BRICS countries.

Learn Basics:

- NDMA: National Disaster Management Authority, the apex body for disaster management in India, headed by the Prime Minister.

3.5 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting — Concluding Outcomes

- Conclusion: The 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting concluded in Chandigarh under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, adopting the 16th BRICS Health Ministerial Declaration.
- Focus: The meeting focused on public health cooperation, health equity, resilient healthcare systems, and global health challenges.
- New body: BRICS countries supported establishing a BRICS Expert Working Group on Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM).
- New initiatives: The meeting launched the BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle and endorsed the Healthy Lifestyle Promotion Roadmap (2026–2029).
- India's announcement: India announced the BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Mental Wellness, with NIMHANS as the coordinating centre.

Learn Basics:

- NIMHANS: National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru — India's premier institute for mental health and neuroscience research and treatment.

3.6 Forced Labour Tariff on India — US

- Tariff imposed: The US imposed a **10% tariff** on imports from India and 16 other countries over concerns related to forced labour in supply chains.
- Legal basis: The tariff was announced under Section 301 of the Trade Act, 1974, by the United States Trade Representative (USTR).
- India's tier: India was placed in the lower tariff tier of 10% after amending its Foreign Trade Policy to prohibit imports produced using forced labour.
- Scope: A total of 60 economies are covered; 17 countries face a 10% tariff, while 43 countries face a 12.5% tariff.
- Exclusions: The tariffs exclude certain products such as fuel, fertilisers, pharmaceuticals, and goods covered under existing trade agreements.

Learn Basics:

- Section 301, Trade Act 1974: a US trade law provision allowing the President to take retaliatory action against countries whose trade practices are deemed unfair or harmful to US commerce.

3.7 Yemen Attack on Saudi Arabia 2026

- Incident: Yemen's Houthi militia attacked two Saudi Arabian oil tankers in the Red Sea, amid fears of a new front in the US-Iran conflict.
- Escalation: The US military launched its 12th successive night of strikes; Iran also attacked Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan (US allies).
- Strategic chokepoint: Bab el-Mandeb, at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is the gateway to the Red Sea through which around **12% of world trade** usually passes.
- Houthi profile: The Houthis, officially known as Ansar Allah, are an Iran-backed political and military organisation controlling much of Yemen since seizing Sanaa in 2014.
- Saudi role: Saudi Arabia is the world's leading crude exporter (10 million barrels/day) and leads a coalition against the Houthis, having imposed an air and sea blockade on Yemen since 2015.

Learn Basics:

- Bab el-Mandeb Strait: a strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, critical for global oil and container shipping.

3.8 US-Saudi Nuclear Deal 2026

- Deal: The US and Saudi Arabia signed a deal reportedly allowing the Gulf kingdom to develop a civilian nuclear programme.
- Enrichment provision: Saudi Arabia may be allowed to enrich uranium on its soil at a US-built facility, instead of relying on imported fuel.
- Legal framework: A 123 Agreement (under the US Atomic Energy Act of 1954) is the legal framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the US and another country.
- Safeguards gap: The reported agreement does not include the "Gold Standard" safeguard package, which usually bars uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing, nor the IAEA's Additional Protocol.

Learn Basics:

- 123 Agreement: named after Section 123 of the US Atomic Energy Act, 1954, it is a prerequisite legal agreement for the US to engage in civil nuclear cooperation with another nation.

3.9 Rome Declaration for an Unarmed and Disarming Peace

- Signing: A group of Nobel laureates, AI scientists, religious leaders, and other luminaries signed the Rome Declaration for an Unarmed and Disarming Peace.
- Core demand: It calls for an international treaty to ban autonomous systems from accessing nuclear launches, warning the threat is not far-fetched.
- Inspiration: It was inspired by Pope Leo XIV's Magnifica Humanitas, calling for protecting human dignity from unchecked AI.
- Warning: It warns that AI-controlled nuclear systems pose an existential risk, as algorithms lack morality, empathy, and judgment.
- Six principles: Disarming the next arms race, responsible development, responsible use of AI, responsible governance, responsible leadership, and nuclear disarmament.

Learn Basics:

- Autonomous weapons systems: weapons capable of selecting and engaging targets without direct human intervention, a growing focus of international arms-control debate.

4. ENVIRONMENT NEWS

4.1 NCBS Forest Dataset — INvenTree-meta

- Compilation: Researchers from NCBS and partner institutions compiled INvenTree-meta, India's largest meta-dataset of tree inventory studies.
- Scale: It covers **465 published studies (1991–2023)** across 4,650+ hectares of forests.
- Integration: It integrates fragmented tree inventory datasets into a single framework covering all major Indian biomes.
- Data gaps identified: Over 80% of tree inventory datasets remain non-public; biodiversity-rich regions like the Northern Western Ghats, Northeastern India, Western Himalayas, and Nicobar Islands are under-sampled.
- Applications: The dataset supports carbon storage assessment, biodiversity monitoring, climate change studies, and sustainable forest management.

Learn Basics:

- NCBS: National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, a premier research institute under the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

4.2 World's First Successful Scientific Reintroduction of Tigers — Sariska

- Milestone: The world's first successful scientific reintroduction of tigers into a landscape of local extinction took place at Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan.
- Background: After poachers wiped out its tiger population by 2005, the reserve underwent a historic, science-based translocation programme.
- Recovery: Sariska recovered from local extinction in 2005 to supporting **56 tigers today**.

- National context: The number of tiger reserves in India increased from 46 to 58 over the past decade.
- Global target met: India has successfully achieved the St. Petersburg Declaration target of doubling its wild tiger population by 2022.

Learn Basics:

- Project Cheetah, launched in 2022, is the world's first inter-continental large carnivore reintroduction — distinct from Sariska's tiger reintroduction, which was an intra-country translocation.
- **Exam point of view:** Don't confuse Sariska's tiger reintroduction (intra-India, science-based translocation) with Project Cheetah (inter-continental, African cheetahs brought to India) — they are different conservation models.

4.3 Campus Biodiversity Register Initiative

- Launch: The Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), launched the Campus Biodiversity Register (CBR) initiative.
- Purpose: It documents biodiversity on college and university campuses through student, faculty and staff-led surveys and observations.
- Inspiration: CBR is inspired by the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), which documents biodiversity and traditional knowledge at village, town, and city levels.
- Tools used: The initiative uses citizen science platforms such as iNaturalist, eBird, and Season Watch to record biodiversity data.

Learn Basics:

- NBA: National Biodiversity Authority, a statutory body under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 that regulates access to and conservation of India's biological resources.

4.4 Rhino Population in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

- Population rise: The Indian rhinoceros population in Uttar Pradesh's Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) has risen to **53**, per the fourth rhino census conducted in June 2026.
- State significance: Uttar Pradesh is one of only 3 states in India — alongside Assam and West Bengal — to support a wild population of the greater one-horned rhinoceros.
- Location: Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is located on the Indo-Nepal border in Lakhimpur-Kheri district, UP, comprising a unique Terai grassland and swamp ecosystem.
- Genetic management: To improve genetic diversity and combat inbreeding depression, 11 rhinos have been released from enclosures to roam free in the wild.

Learn Basics:

- Terai ecosystem: a belt of marshy grasslands, savannas, and forests at the foot of the Himalayas, spanning northern India and southern Nepal.

4.5 India's First Night Safari — Kukrail, Lucknow

- Clearance: The Supreme Court cleared the Kukrail Night Safari project in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- Significance: It marks India's first night safari and first urban night safari — the **world's fifth such project** after Singapore, Thailand, China and Indonesia.
- Approvals: It has received approval from the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Site significance: The forest is also home to the Kukrail Gharial Rehabilitation Centre — India's first gharial conservation centre, established in 1975 to save the critically endangered gharial.
- Regulation: Night Safaris in India are governed by CZA's Night Safari Guidelines and the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Learn Basics:

- Central Zoo Authority (CZA): the statutory body that regulates zoos in India under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

4.6 Otter Habitat in Mettur Region

- Finding: A study found a large population of smooth-coated otters (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) in the Mettur Dam and Cauvery River stretches of Salem district, Tamil Nadu.
- Protection status: The species is Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Ecological role: Otters are apex semi-aquatic predators maintaining riverine food chain balance by controlling fish populations; their presence indicates good water quality.
- Threats: Habitat loss, sand mining, pollution, and depletion of fish stocks are the main threats to the species.

Learn Basics:

- Schedule I species (Wildlife Protection Act, 1972): the category receiving the highest degree of legal protection, with the most severe penalties for offences.

4.7 White-bellied Heron Habitat Threat

- Threat: A proposed 1,200 MW hydroelectric project on the Lohit River, Arunachal Pradesh, threatens the habitat of the Critically Endangered White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*).
- Population significance: The Lohit River basin supports about 70% of India's White-bellied Heron population, with only **6–9 individuals remaining** in the country.
- IUCN status: Listed as Critically Endangered since 2007 and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Assessment gap: The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project did not include the White-bellied Heron, despite its presence in the basin.

Learn Basics:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): a study conducted before approving major projects to assess their likely environmental consequences, mandated under the EIA Notification, 2006.

4.8 Community Forest Conservation — Bundelkhand Sacred Groves

- Finding: A 2026 study found that sacred groves (Devsthalis) in Bundelkhand (UP and MP) preserve greater biodiversity than nearby degraded forests despite lacking legal protection.
- Comparison: Sacred groves recorded **70–72 plant species**, compared with 40–51 species in nearby degraded forests.
- Community role: These community-protected forests are conserved through traditional beliefs, with tribal and Dalit women playing a key role.
- SC direction: In December 2024, the Supreme Court directed a nationwide survey of sacred groves and recommended recognising local communities as custodians under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

Learn Basics:

- Sacred groves: patches of forest or vegetation traditionally protected by local communities for religious or cultural reasons, often harbouring rich, otherwise-lost biodiversity.

4.9 Malvi Camel Population — Endangered Status

- Status: The Malvi camel (White Camel) has been classified as endangered after its population declined to **102 animals**, per the 2019 Livestock Census.
- Profile: It is the smallest camel breed in India, one of nine recognised camel breeds, found mainly in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan.
- Conservation programme: The National Research Centre on Camel (NRCC) has started a scientific breeding programme to conserve the breed's pure genetic identity, under NBAGR, Karnal.
- Comparable breeds: Malvi, Mewari, and Mewati camel breeds are all considered endangered, having fewer than 300 breeding females.

Learn Basics:

- NBAGR: National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal, Haryana — the national repository for characterisation and conservation of India's livestock genetic resources.

4.10 Kunming-Montreal Framework Update

- Finding: A draft global assessment of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) shows the world is not on track to achieve its biodiversity targets by 2030.
- Framework basics: The KMGBF, adopted in 2022, has 23 targets for biodiversity conservation, but progress on most targets remains slow.
- Only progress area: Only Target 8, on reducing climate change impacts on biodiversity, is progressing — though not at the required speed.
- Next steps: Findings will be discussed at SBSTTA-28 and SBI-7 meetings in Nairobi, Kenya, supporting the COP17 Global Review.

Learn Basics:

- KMGBF: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at CBD COP15 (2022), the global roadmap for halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.

5. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

5.1 Coldest Known Natural Object — Boomerang Nebula

- Identification: The Boomerang Nebula has been identified as the coldest known naturally occurring object in the universe, at about **-272°C, near absolute zero**.
- Location: The nebula is located around 5,000 light-years away in the Centaurus constellation.
- Comparison: It is colder than Antarctica's lowest recorded temperature and even colder than the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation of space.
- Cause: The extreme cold is caused by the rapid expansion of gas expelled from a dying red giant star.
- Observation tool: Observations by the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) helped scientists study its structure and ultra-cold gas flow.

Learn Basics:

- Absolute zero (0 Kelvin, -273.15°C): the theoretical lowest possible temperature, at which molecular motion would stop entirely.

5.2 Low-Cost Zinc-Air Battery Technology

- Development: Indian scientists developed low-cost zinc-air battery technologies for energy storage and electric vehicles.
- Mechanism: Zinc-air batteries use zinc as the anode and oxygen from air as the cathode reactant, offering high energy density.
- SASTRA contribution: Researchers at SASTRA Deemed University developed a stable nanofluid electrolyte and a low-cost copper-doped manganese dioxide catalyst.
- IIT Madras prototype: IIT Madras, with Hindustan Zinc Limited, is building a **1 kWh rechargeable prototype** of mechanically rechargeable zinc-air batteries.
- Safety advantage: Zinc-air batteries use water-based electrolytes, making them less flammable than many lithium-ion batteries.

Learn Basics:

- Energy density: the amount of energy stored per unit mass or volume of a battery — a key metric determining how compact and long-lasting a battery can be.

5.3 India's Indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

- Target: India plans to develop and operationalise at least **five indigenously designed SMRs by 2033**.
- Reactor types: BARC is designing three types: 220 MWe Bharat SMR, 55 MWe SMR, and up to 5 MWth High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (HTGR).
- Technology: The Bharat SMR and SMR-55 use Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) technology, using high-pressure water as both coolant and moderator.
- HTGR application: The HTGR will be developed at Visakhapatnam to produce hydrogen using nuclear heat.
- National target: India aims to achieve 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047, with about 22 GW targeted by 2031–32.

Learn Basics:

- SMR: Small Modular Reactor, a compact nuclear reactor design (typically under 300 MWe) that can be factory-built and is considered safer and faster to deploy than large conventional reactors.

5.4 Borophene-Based Green Lubricant Technology

- Development: Researchers from IASST, Guwahati, developed a borophene-based green lubricant additive using castor oil.
- First-of-its-kind: IASST demonstrated the first use of borophene as a high-performance lubricant additive.
- Material: Borophene is a two-dimensional (2D) nanomaterial made entirely of boron atoms, with high mechanical strength and electrical conductivity.
- Result: Adding 0.1 weight percent borophene to castor oil reduced friction by about **42%** compared to pure castor oil.

Learn Basics:

- 2D nanomaterial: a material only one or a few atoms thick, like graphene (carbon) or borophene (boron), prized for unusual mechanical and electronic properties.

5.5 Rare Blue Straggler Star Discovery

- Discovery: Indian astronomers with international collaborators discovered an actively forming luminous Blue Straggler Star (BSS), providing direct evidence of its formation process.
- What is a BSS: Blue Straggler Stars are a rare class of stars in star clusters that appear younger, hotter, brighter, and more massive than other stars in the same cluster.
- Naming origin: They are called "stragglers" because they appear to remain young even after other stars of the same cluster have evolved.
- Formation theory: The most accepted theory suggests BSS form by mass transfer from a companion star or through the merging of two stars.

Learn Basics:

- Star cluster: a group of stars that formed from the same molecular cloud and are gravitationally bound, useful for studying stellar evolution since all members share a common age.

5.6 Declining Star Formation in Andromeda Galaxy

- Finding: A study using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope found star formation in the Andromeda Galaxy has been declining for the past **500 million years**.
- Profile: The Andromeda Galaxy (M31) is a large spiral galaxy located about 2.5 million light-years from Earth — the closest major galaxy to the Milky Way.
- Structure: It is a barred spiral galaxy, similar in size to the Milky Way, with a bar-like structure of stars at its centre.
- Future event: The galaxy is moving towards the Milky Way at around 110 km/s and may merge with it in the distant future.

Learn Basics:

- Barred spiral galaxy: a spiral galaxy with a central bar-shaped structure of stars, from which spiral arms extend — both the Milky Way and Andromeda fall into this category.

6. ECONOMY NEWS

6.1 FDI Relaxation for Export-Oriented E-commerce

- Relaxation: The Government relaxed FDI rules for e-commerce companies by allowing inventory-based models for exports of domestically manufactured goods.
- Notification: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued a Press Note on July 23, 2026, allowing foreign investment in e-commerce firms holding inventory for export purposes.
- Earlier position: Earlier, FDI was allowed only in Business-to-Business (B2B) e-commerce and marketplace-based models without inventory ownership.
- Scope limit: The relaxation applies only to export-related inventory and does not change existing restrictions on domestic multi-brand retail.

Learn Basics:

- Inventory-based model: an e-commerce model where the company owns and directly sells its own inventory, as opposed to a marketplace model that merely connects buyers and sellers.

6.2 RBI Financial Stability Report 2026

- About the report: It is a comprehensive biannual publication released by the RBI since 2010, giving an overall view of the country's financial market.
- Compiler: It is compiled with inputs from all financial authorities by the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) committee.
- Positive findings: It has a positive view of India's banking sector — the lowest-ever bad loans, high profitability, high liquidity, and strong credit growth.
- Concerns flagged: The report flags cyber threats, geopolitical risks, inflation, and the growth of unsecured loans.

Learn Basics:

- FSDC: Financial Stability and Development Council, an apex body chaired by the Union Finance Minister that coordinates financial sector regulation among RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA.

6.3 RBI Financial Inclusion Index 2026

- Improvement: The RBI's Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) rose to **70.0 in March 2026 from 67.0 in March 2025**.
- Composition: This composite index tracks 97 indicators without a base year, evaluating three parameters: Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%).
- History: The index was first introduced in August 2021 for the financial year ending March 2021, and is published annually.

Learn Basics:

- Composite index without a base year: a special index structure where the score itself (0–100 scale) represents the current status directly, rather than being compared to a fixed reference year.

6.4 Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) — NSE

- Launch: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) announced the launch of Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs), a new segment for gold market transparency.
- What they are: EGRs are dematerialised securities representing ownership of physical gold, stored in SEBI-accredited vaults and held electronically through depositories.
- Backing: Each EGR is fully backed by physical gold and can be traded on the exchange, integrating gold into the formal financial system.
- Investor benefit: Investors can participate even with smaller quantities, enabling seamless conversion between physical and digital gold with improved liquidity.

Learn Basics:

- Dematerialised securities: financial instruments held in electronic form rather than as physical certificates, enabling easier trading and transfer.

6.5 India's First Domestic Gas Futures Contract

- Launch: India will launch its first domestic benchmark-based Natural Gas Futures Contract through the NSE, approved by SEBI, trading under the symbol NATGASIND.
- Price linkage: It is linked to the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) Gujarat (Dahej) hub price and is quoted in mmBtu (million British thermal units).
- Settlement: The contract is cash-settled, with a trading unit of 250 mmBtu, and no physical gas delivery will take place.
- Clearing: NSE Clearing will manage clearing, settlement, daily mark-to-market adjustments, and margin collection.

Learn Basics:

- mmBtu: million British thermal units, a standard unit for measuring the energy content of natural gas, used for pricing gas contracts globally.

6.6 Investment Friendliness Index — NITI Aayog

- Release: NITI Aayog released the first-ever Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) report.
- Purpose: It benchmarks the readiness of Indian States and UTs in attracting, facilitating, and sustaining domestic and foreign investments, across eight pillars.
- Top rank: Gujarat topped the Index as the best place to attract investment, followed by **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Odisha**.
- Other categories: Among hilly/North-Eastern states, Uttarakhand ranked highest, followed by Assam and Himachal Pradesh; among UTs/city-states, Delhi and Chandigarh led.
- Eight pillars: Infrastructure, Business Climate, Resources, Government Policy, Regulatory Ease, Institutional Environment, Financial Health, and Environmental Resilience.

Learn Basics:

- NITI Aayog: National Institution for Transforming India, the government's policy think tank that replaced the Planning Commission in 2015.
- **Exam point of view:** Note that Tamil Nadu ranks 3rd overall on the Investment Friendliness Index (after Gujarat and Maharashtra), distinct from its 3rd rank in merchandise exports covered in an earlier week.

7. STATE NEWS

7.1 First Geothermal Well at Puga Valley

- Commissioning: India commissioned its first and deepest geothermal well at Puga Valley in Ladakh, marking a significant step in the clean-energy transition.
- Location: Puga Valley is located in Ladakh's south-eastern Changthang region, 22 km from the Salt Lake Valley.

Learn Basics:

- This follows up on ONGC's second geothermal well drilling at Puga Valley reported the previous week — Puga Valley remains India's flagship geothermal energy site.

7.2 Bagmati-Budhi Gandak River Interlinking Project

- Inauguration: The Bihar Chief Minister inaugurated the **68.80 km Belwa-Minapur Link Channel (Belwadhar)** in Sheohar, Bihar.
- Function: The channel is designed to divert surplus water from the Bagmati River to the Budhi Gandak, creating a regulated hydraulic bridge between two major river basins.
- Significance: It is Bihar's first completed river-linking project and serves as a model for future projects like the Kosi-Mechi Link.

Learn Basics:

- River interlinking: the practice of connecting rivers via canals to transfer water from surplus basins to deficit basins for irrigation, flood control, or drought mitigation.

IMPORTANT DAYS (JULY 25–30, 2026)

Why Important Days Matter: TNPSC exams regularly test dates, observing bodies, and specific themes.

- July 25: World In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Day — commemorates the birth of Louise Brown (1978), the world's first IVF baby.
- July 25: International Day for Judicial Well-being — proclaimed by the UNGA in March 2025, building on the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-being (2024).
- July 25: International Day of Women and Girls of African Descent — proclaimed by the UN in 2024, first observed in 2025. Theme: 'Rising Together — Women and Girls of African Descent Leading with Strength'.
- July 26: Kargil Vijay Diwas — marks India's victory in the Kargil War (1999) through Operation Vijay, declared successful on 26 July 1999.
- July 26: International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem — adopted by UNESCO in 2015.

- July 27: Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Day — CRPF was established in 1939 as the Crown Representatives Police, renamed CRPF in 1949.
- July 28: World Hepatitis Day — observed on the birth anniversary of Dr. Baruch Blumberg, discoverer of the Hepatitis B virus. Theme: 'Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down'.
- July 28: World Nature Conservation Day — promotes biodiversity, natural resource, and ecosystem conservation, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- July 29: International Tiger Day — established at the 2010 St. Petersburg Tiger Summit. Theme: 'Securing the Future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the Heart'.
- July 30: International Day of Friendship — promotes peace, unity, and mutual understanding among people and nations.
- July 30: World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. Theme: 'Trapped Behind the Scam'.

PERSONS & AWARDS

- New species: *Pachycheles ravichandrani*, a porcelain crab discovered in the Lakshadweep Islands; five new *Allographa* lichen species discovered in the Western Ghats by ARI, Pune.
- Ajit Doval: National Security Adviser selected for the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 for contributions to India's national security.
- Iya Krish (age 8, Thrissur, Kerala): became one of the youngest Asian climbers to summit Mount Toubkal, the highest peak in North Africa (Morocco).
- WDMMA 2026: Indian Air Force ranked world's 3rd strongest air force among independent air arms (6th overall including all military branches), ahead of China's PLAAF for the fifth consecutive year.
- Lovlina Borgohain: secured India's first medal (bronze, women's 75 kg boxing) at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2026, Glasgow.
- DBS Group: named 'World's Best Corporate Bank' at the 2026 Global Bank Awards by Global Finance.
- Bharat Samman 2026: awarded to social activist Dr. Nandini Azad, president of the Working Women's Forum (India) and the Indian Cooperative Network for Women, for grassroots women's empowerment.
- Viswanathan Anand: took charge as Interim President of FIDE after Arkady Dvorkovich stepped aside due to EU sanctions.
- Punjab: became the first Indian state to introduce AI as a mainstream school subject (Classes I–XII) under the Sarbat.AI initiative.
- Kondappanaickenpatti Panchayat Union Primary School, Salem: became the first government primary school in Tamil Nadu to receive ISO 9001:2015 certification.
- Highest medical seats in India: Karnataka leads with 15,395 MBBS seats, followed by Uttar Pradesh (14,000), Tamil Nadu (13,999) and Maharashtra (13,099).
- Jhandu Kumar (Bihar-born para powerlifter): won India's first CWG 2026 medal at Glasgow — bronze in men's heavyweight para powerlifting.
- Anahat Singh: became the first Indian to win the World Junior Squash Individual Championship 2026, in New Delhi.
- Global Leader in Railway Electrification: India achieved 99.6% Broad Gauge network electrification, ranking 2nd globally after Switzerland.
- Hunger in India: the undernourished population share fell from 21.1% (2004–06) to 9.8% (2023–25), though 35.5% (520.1 million people) still cannot regularly afford a nutritionally adequate diet.

- India's Maritime Workforce: emerged as the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers (12.16% of the global workforce), per the BIMCO–ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026.
- Mission 'Golden Spice': launched by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia for Meghalaya's GI-certified Lakadong Turmeric, known for high curcumin content (7–12% vs global average 2–4%).
- PLI-Auto scheme: Maharashtra tops with 66 manufacturing units, followed by Haryana (35), Karnataka (28); Tamil Nadu has 38 units.
- Moonshot AI's Kimi K3: world's first open-source 3-trillion-parameter class AI model, launched by the Chinese AI startup.
- Raja Muthupandi (Tamil Nadu): won silver in men's 65 kg weightlifting at CWG 2026, Glasgow.
- Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary, Mumbai: site of India's first AI-powered bird sanctuary; it is a Ramsar Site on the Central Asian Flyway.
- Anurag Jain: senior IAS officer appointed CEO of NITI Aayog by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- Mirabai Chanu: won gold in women's 48 kg weightlifting at CWG 2026 (190 kg total), becoming the first Indian weightlifter to win three consecutive Commonwealth Games golds (2018, 2022, 2026).
- Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh: inscribed as India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site at the 48th World Heritage Committee session, Busan, South Korea.
- Henley Passport Index 2026: India's rank declined to 81st (from 75th), with visa-free/visa-on-arrival access to 55 destinations; Singapore retained the top spot (192 destinations).
- Samudra Pradakshina: nine women officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force completed India's first Tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition aboard INSV Triveni (314 days, 25,000+ nautical miles).
- 8th WTO Trade Policy Review: India's trade policy review (covering 2021–2025) was conducted in Geneva, as part of the WTO's five-yearly peer review mechanism.
- Rise of high-income individuals: the number of Indians reporting ₹100 crore+ annual income rose to 576 in AY 2025–26, from 142 in AY 2021–22.
- Amazon Forest Fires: declined to their lowest level since records began in 1985, due to reduced deforestation and favourable climatic conditions.
- New ginger lily species: *Hedychium zubeengargianum*, discovered by BSI Shillong, named after Assamese music legend Zubeen Garg.
- Global road deaths: declined 21% worldwide (2011–2025) per WHO data, though the WHO South-East Asian Region (including India) recorded only a 2% reduction.
- UNESCO World Heritage in Danger List 2026: six sites added, including Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape (South Sudan) and Tyre (Lebanon).
- Sant Guru Ravidas: 650th birth anniversary being commemorated across India (29 July 2026 – 20 February 2027); his hymns are included in the Guru Granth Sahib.