

TOP NATIONAL NEWS

India's Private Space Sector Achieves Historic Milestone with Vikram-1



Why in News?

Skyroot Aerospace successfully launched Vikram-1 under Mission Aagaman, becoming India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle to place payloads into Low Earth Orbit. The mission marks a major step in India's commercial space ecosystem.

- First privately developed Indian orbital rocket.
- Launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- Multiple technology demonstration satellites deployed.
- Boosts India's New Space Policy and private participation.
- Strengthens IN-SPACe ecosystem.

Government Intensifies Green Hydrogen Mission



- Green hydrogen produced through electrolysis.
- Supports India's Net Zero target.
- Reduces fossil fuel imports.
- Promotes indigenous manufacturing and innovation.

Monsoon Advances Across Central India



- IMD predicts widespread rainfall over central and western India.
- Heavy showers expected in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- Improves Kharif sowing.
- Reservoir storage expected to increase.
- Flash flood advisories issued.

Consumer Protection Strengthened



The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) directed restaurants to discontinue automatic service charges and modify billing practices.

- Protects consumer rights.
- Ensures transparency in billing.
- Strengthens Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”

— Alan Kay

TODAY IN HISTORY

20 July 1969

Apollo 11 became the first mission to land humans on the Moon. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin made history.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Exercise Pitch Black 2026 Strengthens Indo-Pacific Cooperation



- Multinational air exercise hosted by Australia at Darwin Air Base.
- Participation from India, Australia, USA, Japan, France, Germany, Indonesia and others.
- Enhances interoperability and combat readiness.
- Focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- Supports a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

UPSC Link: India-Australia Relations | Defence Cooperation | Indo-Pacific Strategy

ECONOMY & BANKING

- RBI MPC keeps Repo Rate unchanged at 5.75%.
- India's exports in June 2026 rise 6.2% YoY to \$36.9 billion.
- Forex reserves rise to around \$678 billion.
- GST collections in June touch ₹2.10 lakh crore, up 9% YoY.
- Digital payments in June 2026 cross ₹23 lakh crore.
- Capital expenditure remains a priority under Budget 2026.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AI Applications Expand in Public Administration



- Government departments adopt AI for citizen services, agriculture and healthcare.
- Faster grievance redressal and decision making.
- Predictive governance improves efficiency.
- Ethical AI framework under IndiaAI Mission.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Urban Heat Island Mitigation Initiatives



- Promotion of cool roofs, urban forests and water-body restoration.
- Reduces urban temperatures and energy demand.
- Improves climate resilience and air quality.
- Supports sustainable urban planning.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Parliament Monsoon Session Continues

- Key focus on economic, social and infrastructure reforms.
- Several Bills and policy discussions taken up.
- Strengthens legislative oversight and governance.

PLACES IN NEWS

1. Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

In News: Vikram-1 launch. Home to Satish Dhawan Space Centre.



2. Darwin, Australia

In News: Host of Exercise Pitch Black 2026.



3. New Delhi

In News: Parliament Monsoon Session.



PRELIMS QUICK FACTS

- **Vikram-1:** India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle (20 July 2026).
- **IN-SPACe:** Regulator for private space activities in India.
- **Green Hydrogen:** Produced using renewable energy through electrolysis.
- **Exercise Pitch Black:** Multinational air exercise hosted by Australia.
- **CCPA:** Statutory authority under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

MAP OF THE DAY

Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh



PRACTICE MCQ

Q. With reference to Vikram-1 Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Vikram-1 is India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle.
2. The mission was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
3. IN-SPACe regulates private participation in India's space sector.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

(Answer Tomorrow)



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