

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Government launches 'Jal Jeevan Survekshan 2026' to assess functionality of household tap connections and water quality.
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj releases e-GramSwaraj Version 4.0 with advanced analytics and planning features.
- Ministry of Labour & Employment notifies Social Security Code Rules, 2026 for gig and platform workers.
- India's first Digital Crop Survey using GIS, Remote Sensing and DPRs expanded to 150 districts in Kharif 2026.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- India and EU hold 10th round of Trade and Technology Council meeting in New Delhi; focus on digital, green and strategic tech.
- Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting held in Tokyo; reiterate commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

ECONOMY & BANKING

- Government raises ₹25,000 crore through sovereign green bonds; proceeds to fund renewable energy projects.
- RBI issues draft guidelines on Gold Loan Regulation to improve transparency and customer protection.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- CSIR develops indigenous 'Supercap' device with high energy density for EV and grid storage applications.
- Indian scientists develop low-cost paper-based biosensor for early detection of antibiotics residues in milk.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

- India's first 'Blue Carbon' assessment report released for Gulf of Mannar; highlights potential of seagrass meadows.
- Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2026 notified to strengthen protection of Ramsar and non-Ramsar wetlands.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

- Government notifies Model Rules on Transparency in Beneficiary Selection, 2026 for all Central Schemes.
- Central Information Commission releases 'Right to Information (Amendment) Guidelines, 2026' to reduce pendency and improve disclosures.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

- Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force conduct JIMEX-26 in Bay of Bengal to enhance interoperability in maritime domain awareness and HADR operations.

REPORTS & INDICES

- NITI Aayog releases States' Multidimensional Health Index (SMHI) 2025; Kerala ranks first followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

SPORTS UPDATE

- India's men's compound archery team wins gold at Archery World Cup Stage 4 in Berlin.
- R Praggnanandhaa finishes runner-up at SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz Croatia 2026.
- Neeraj Chopra qualifies for men's javelin final at World Athletics Championships 2026.

PLACES IN NEWS

- Mount Spurr (Alaska) – Increased volcanic activity.
- Anak Krakatau (Indonesia) – Volcanic eruption reported.
- Gulf of Mannar – India's first Blue Carbon assessment report released.

PRELIMS QUICK FACTS

- Jal Jeevan Survekshan – Annual survey to assess rural tap water supply.
- Blue Carbon – Carbon stored in coastal ecosystems like mangroves and seagrasses.
- Supercap – Supercapacitor; stores energy through electrostatic charge.

MAINS ENRICHMENT

Social Security Code Rules, 2026 aim to extend benefits like health cover, insurance and pension to gig and platform workers, marking a shift towards universal social protection in the informal economy.

PRACTICE MCQ

Q. Consider the following statements:

- Blue Carbon ecosystems are more effective carbon sinks than tropical forests.
- Ramsar Convention deals only with international wetlands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) Only 1 B) Only 2
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A) Only 1

EDITORIAL INSIGHT

The new Social Security Code Rules represent a crucial step towards inclusive growth. The challenge lies in effective implementation and awareness among gig workers.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“ The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing. ”
– Walt Disney

TODAY IN HISTORY

26 July 1945 – The United Nations Charter was signed by 50 nations in San Francisco, laying the foundation for the United Nations.