



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 12, 2026

INTERNATIONAL

Kashmir women get UN grants consultative status

- The UN has granted accreditation to a US-based non-profit organisation dedicated to empowering displaced and underserved Kashmiri women, a status that will enable it to engage actively with the world organisation and provide a global platform to advocate for “women whose voices are often unheard.”
- Founder and President of HemAth INC Dr Shakun Malik told PTI that the “distinguished recognition” by UN ECOSOC marks a significant milestone in HemAth’s journey from a grassroots initiative serving displaced Kashmiri women to an internationally recognised civil society organisation contributing to global dialogue on women’s empowerment, sustainable development and social inclusion.
- Through the status, HemAth will be able to engage more directly with the UN by participating in relevant meetings and conferences, submitting written statements, making oral presentations where appropriate, organising side events, and collaborating with Member States, UN entities, and other civil society organisations on issues aligned with its mission.
- HemAth, named after the Kashmiri word for ‘strength’, was established to support displaced Kashmiri women by preserving their rich cultural heritage while creating pathways for their economic independence.

NATIONAL

India, NZ agree to double trade to Rs 35,000 cr

- India and New Zealand on Saturday elevated their ties to a strategic partnership, set a target of doubling their annual bilateral trade to Rs 35,000 crore by 2030 and decided to ramp up maritime security ties, as PM Modi and his Kiwi counterpart Christopher Luxon vowed to work towards a peaceful Indo-Pacific.
- The talks between the two leaders yielded 18 concrete outcomes, including 10 agreements. Key among them were a four year roadmap to expand overall relations alongside three crucial pacts aimed at boosting hydrographic data sharing, facilitating mutual naval logistics and framing enhanced maritime engagement in the Indo-Pacific.
- Expanding bilateral trade through the early implementation of the free trade deal was also a key focus of the talks, underscored by Wellington's commitment to invest \$20 billion in India over the next 15 years.

STATE

State's Total Fertility Rate stands at 1.3

- Voicing concern over Tamil Nadu's rapidly declining fertility rate, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare KG Arunraj on Saturday called upon families to have more children, saying the State could not afford to ignore its changing demographic profile and that population should be regarded as a valuable resource rather than burden.
- Addressing a World Population Day awareness programme in the city, Arunraj said Tamil Nadu's fertility rate had dropped to 1.3, substantially below the replacement level of 2.1 and lower than the national average of 1.9, making it imperative to create a social environment that encouraged parenthood.
- "Population is not a burden; it is human capital. A large population is an opportunity if it is utilised properly. Every child's birth brings joy not only to a family but also contributes to the nation's future," he said.

DEFENSE

INS Mahendragiri joins Navy duty at Vizag

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday commissioned Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate, into the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet here, marking another milestone in India's journey towards defence self-reliance and indigenous warship construction.
- INS Mahendragiri can effectively counter threats from the air, enemy vessels on the surface and submarines beneath the sea. As a blue-water warship, it can protect India's maritime interests not only near the coast but also in distant and deep oceans for weeks at a time.
- The warship reflects India's growing defence manufacturing capability and commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).
- With a full-load displacement of about 6,670 tonnes and a top speed of 28 knots, INS Mahendragiri is a multi-mission stealth frigate capable of undertaking the full spectrum of maritime operations. It incorporates advanced stealth features, enhanced survivability, reduced radar signature and a high degree of automation.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Japan conducts test flight of reusable rocket

- Japan's experimental reusable rocket took off and safely landed in a first test flight on Saturday as the country seeks to achieve the technology key to cut launch costs and compete in the global space market dominated by SpaceX.
- The RV-X rocket lifted off, hovered and moved horizontally before landing during its less than one-minute flight at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Noshiro Testing Centre in northeastern Japan, which was livestreamed by the NVS, a group of space fans.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day Against Child Labour 2026

- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.
- Each year on 12 June, the World brings together government employers and workers organisations, civil society as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done help them.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by world leaders in 2015, include a renewed global commitment to ending Child Labour.

