

Daily Current Affairs

24 July 2025

India Extends Ban On Pakistani Aircraft

- India has extended the **ban on Pakistani aircraft** from entering the domestic airspace till August 23. This was informed by the Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Murlidhar Mohol, saying, **Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) restricting Pakistani aircraft** from entering Indian airspace has been officially extended until 23rd August 2025.



- He said this extension reflects continued strategic considerations and is in line **with prevailing security protocols**. This action followed Pakistan's earlier decision to bar Indian flights from its airspace. Pakistan has extended the closure of its airspace for flights operated by Indian airlines by another month, till August 24.
- Meanwhile, NOTAM has also been issued for a large-scale Indian Air Force (IAF) exercise** scheduled in Rajasthan along the India-Pakistan border for July 23-25. The **Indian Air Force is set to carry out a major military exercise** in Rajasthan, covering areas from Barmer to Jodhpur. The region witnessed Pakistani drone and **missile intrusions during Operation Sindoor**, where Pakistan launched several drone attacks targeting Rajasthan's Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, and Sri Ganganagar districts.

Airspace Ban Extension Sparks New Tensions Between India & Pakistan



World's Largest Grain Storage Plan

- Government has said that **construction of godowns has been completed in 11 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, PACS** in eleven States under World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector which has been rolled out as a Pilot Project.
- The Plan entails creation of **various agri infrastructure at PACS level**, including godowns, custom hiring centers, processing units and Fair Price Shops among others through convergence of various existing schemes.



- In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah has said that more than **500 PACS have been identified for construction of godown** under the project and efforts are being made to complete the construction by December 2026.



- He informed that the Government has also approved the plan to establish new multipurpose **PACS, dairy and fisheries cooperatives**, aiming to cover all panchayats and villages in the country over a period of five years. Mr Shah said that this initiative is supported by The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, State and Union Territory Governments** among others. Union Minister of Cooperation also informed that in order to strengthen PACS, project for Computerization of functional PACS with a total financial outlay of over 2 thousand 925 crore rupees has been approved by the Government.

India & Nepal

- **The Embassy of India, Kathmandu**, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal and Project Implementing Agencies of Government of Nepal today signed Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) for undertaking **5 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs)** in Nepal under the grant assistance of Government of India in Education and Health Sectors, at a total estimated cost of **NRs. 390 million**.



- **These five projects, namely, Construction** of Shree Jan Shakti Secondary School Building in Dhanusha; Construction of Shree Mahobani Padam Secondary School in Parsa; Construction of Shree Basuki Secondary School in Achham; Construction of School Building, Hostel and Library of Benga Sah Secondary School in Bara and Construction of 5 Bed Hospital Building in Manang in Nepal shall be implemented through local authorities and institutions of the Government of Nepal including Municipalities and Rural Municipalities.



- The **construction of these facilities will help provide better** education and health facilities to the people in Nepal. Since 2003, the **Government of India has taken up 579 High Impact Development Projects (HICDPs)** in Nepal. Out of these, 496 projects have been completed in the areas of health, education, drinking water, connectivity, sanitation and creation of public utilities across all 7 provinces of Nepal at the grassroots level.
- **The remaining projects are ongoing at various stages.** As close neighbours, India and Nepal share wide- ranging and multi-sectoral cooperation.

India's First Hornbill Conservation Centre

- The Tamil Nadu government has **initiated India's first Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)** in Coimbatore district. This pioneering effort aims to protect hornbills, vital seed dispersers in tropical forests, threatened by habitat loss and climate change.
- **Funded with ₹1 crore under the Endangered Species Conservation Corpus Fund**, the Centre will focus on research, habitat restoration, and community involvement to safeguard four hornbill species native to the Western Ghats. Hornbills are crucial for forest regeneration.



- They disperse seeds of native trees, maintaining biodiversity and forest health. Known as farmers of the forest, these birds support the growth of species like fig and canarium trees. Their decline affects entire ecosystems and other wildlife dependent on forest habitats.

- **Hornbills face threats from deforestation**, habitat fragmentation, and climate change. These factors reduce nesting sites and food availability. Fragmented forests isolate populations, increasing vulnerability. Climate shifts alter flowering and fruiting patterns, disrupting hornbill feeding and breeding cycles. ATR was chosen for its rich biodiversity and strong conservation record. It already protects tigers, elephants, lion-tailed macaques, and other endemic species.
- The reserve's existing infrastructure supports scientific research and monitoring. This makes it an ideal hub for hornbill conservation leadership.



HORNBILL OF INDIA



- The **Centre will focus on four hornbill species found** in the Western Ghats –
- Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*)
- Malabar Grey Hornbill (*Ocyeros griseus*)
- Malabar Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoseros coronatus*)
- Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyeros birostris*)
- Each species plays a distinct ecological role and requires targeted conservation strategies.
- The Centre will conduct habitat mapping, nest monitoring, and climate impact assessments. Restoration of degraded forests will involve planting native tree species that support hornbill diets. Scientific studies will enhance understanding of hornbill ecology and threats.
- **Data will guide adaptive conservation measures.** Local communities will be involved through nest adoption programmes and sustainable livelihoods like

seed collection. Scholarships for students aim to nurture future conservationists. Forest staff will receive training to improve protection efforts.



- **Awareness campaigns and school field visits will encourage public support.** The Tamil Nadu Forest Department will partner with national and international organisations such as the **Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Nature Conservation Foundation, Wildlife Institute of India, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Hornbill Specialist Group.** Similar conservation initiatives will extend to Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, and parts of Kanyakumari district.

China Begins World's Largest Hydropower Dam Project

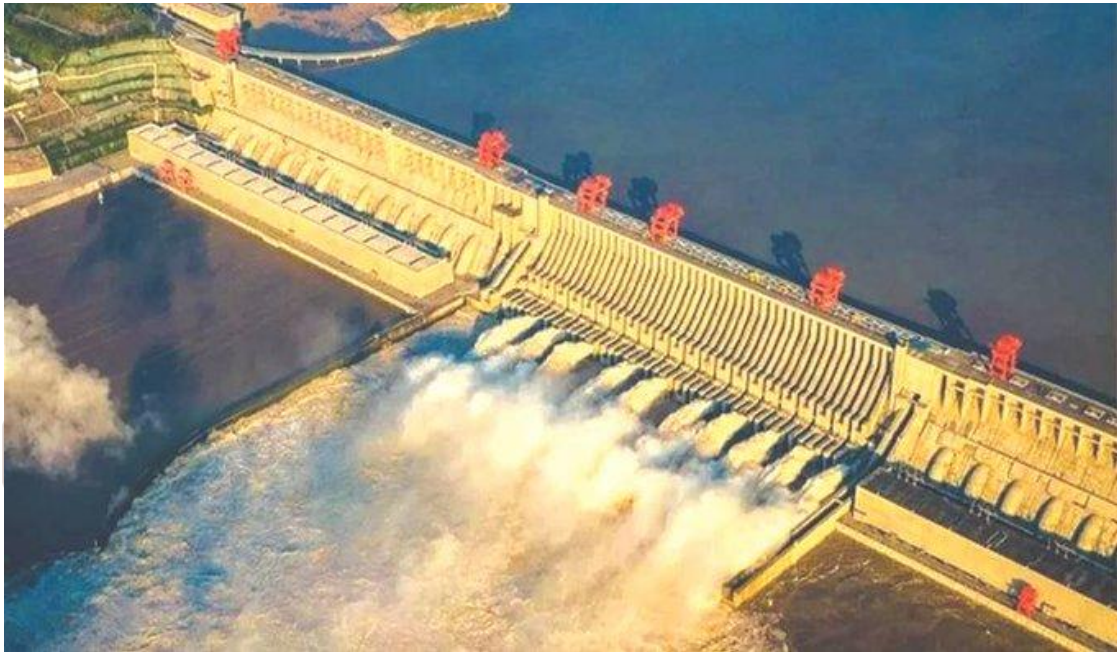
- China has initiated construction of the **world's largest hydropower dam on the eastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau.** The project, costing **over \$170 billion**, is set to become China's most ambitious hydropower venture since the Three Gorges Dam. It aims to **generate 300 billion kilowatt-hours annually**, matching the electricity consumption of the United Kingdom in 2024.



- The dam is located on the **Yarlung Zangbo River**, which flows into India and Bangladesh as the Brahmaputra. The **project has sparked environmental and geopolitical concerns while also boosting Chinese markets**. The dam consists of five cascade hydropower stations.
- It **exploits a 2,000-metre drop in the river across 50 kilometres**. This drop offers immense potential to generate electricity. The project is expected to be operational by the 2030s. It will supply power primarily to Tibet and other parts of China. The scale of investment is unprecedented, with an estimated cost of at least \$170 billion. The announcement triggered a positive reaction in Chinese financial markets.



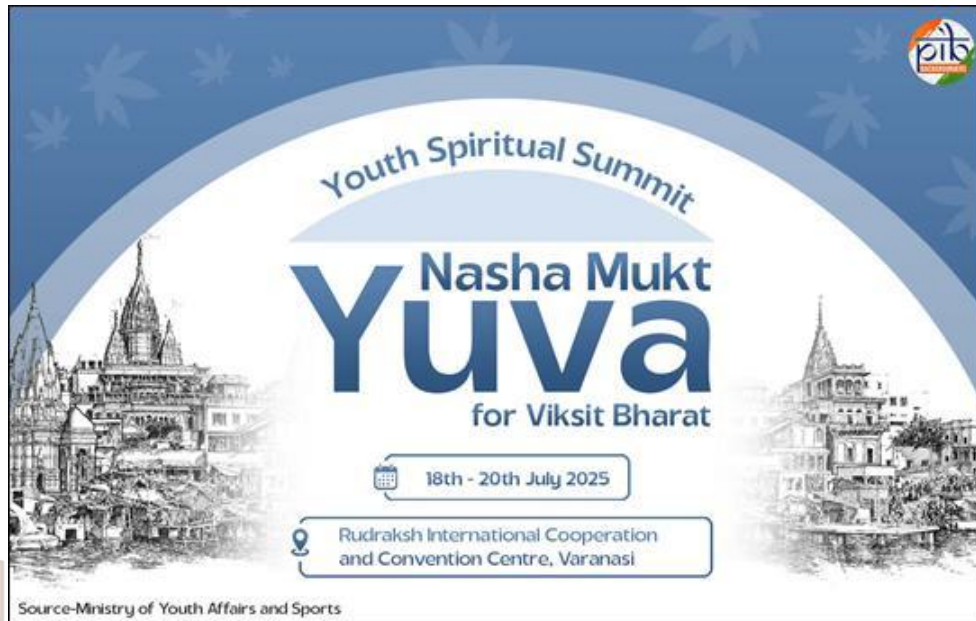
- It is estimated to add up to **120 billion yuan to GDP in a peak construction year**. Chinese authorities have emphasised ecological conservation during construction. However, NGOs warn of irreversible damage to the Tibetan Plateau's rich biodiversity.
- The area is one of the **world's most diverse environments**. The dam's impact on river flow and ecosystems downstream remains uncertain. The project site lies in a seismically active zone, raising safety concerns. The Yarlung Zangbo River becomes the Brahmaputra in India and Bangladesh. These countries have expressed apprehension about water security.



- **State of Indias like Arunachal Pradesh fear reduced river flow** could affect 80 per cent of water passing through. Flooding risks are also noted for Assam and other downstream regions. The dam's proximity to international borders adds to geopolitical tensions.
- **The Three Gorges Dam previously created nearly a million jobs** but displaced a similar number of people. The current project's employment impact is not yet disclosed. Displacement of local communities remains a concern. The Chinese government has not provided data on possible relocations or resettlements.

Centre Launches 'Nasha Mukta Yuva For Viksit Bharat'

- Central government has launched a nationwide **youth-led national movement**, '**Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat**'. The initiative was launched at the recently concluded Youth Spiritual Summit in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.



- The Youth Spiritual Summit adopted a '**Kashi Declaration**' that outlined a series of initiatives to be undertaken to lay the foundation for a national youth-led anti-drug campaign in the country.



- The theme of the Youth Spiritual Summit was- **Drug-Free Youth for a Viksit Bharat**.

- The **Youth Spiritual Summit** was organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the MY Bharat initiative of the ministry.
- The **two-day Youth Spiritual Summit was inaugurated** by the Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, at the Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

India To Host 2025 FIDE Chess World Cup

- India will host the **2025 FIDE Chess World Cup** from October 30 to November 27, featuring 206 players in a knockout format; the host city will be announced later.



- The **top 3 players of the tournament** will qualify for the 2026 Candidates Tournament, which decides the challenger for the World Chess Championship.
- This event strengthens India's growing chess legacy, having already hosted prestigious tournaments like the 2022 Chess Olympiad, Tata Steel Chess India, and the 2024 World Junior U20 Championships.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India's First Hornbill Conservation Centre Will Be Opened In

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Karnataka
- D. Telangana

ANSWER: B

2. Where Was The 'Youth Spiritual Summit' Held

- A. Varanasi
- B. Chennai
- C. Surat
- D. Noida

ANSWER: A

3. Which Country Will Host India 2025 FIDE Chess World Cup

- A. Canada
- B. India
- C. China
- D. Australia

ANSWER: B

4. Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan Scheme Launched By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Minority Affairs

ANSWER: D

5. Koraput Kalajeera Rice Got GI Status, Is Cultivated In Which State

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

6. Who Appointed As New Chairperson Of National Medical Commission

- A. Dr. Jagat Ram
- B. Dr. V. K. Paul
- C. Dr. Abhijat Sheth
- D. Dr. Randeep Guleria

ANSWER: C

7. Kanwar Yatra Is Primarily Associated With Which Hindu Deity

- A. Lord Vishnu
- B. Lord Hanuman
- C. Lord Shiva
- D. Lord Krishna

ANSWER: C

8. Plague, Is An Infectious Disease Caused By Which Agent

- A. Bacteria
- B. Virus
- C. Fungus
- D. Protozoa

ANSWER: A

9. Kirkuk Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Israel
- B. Iraq
- C. Australia
- D. Greece

ANSWER: B

10. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana Scheme Launched By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- B. Ministry of Science and Technology
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Agriculture

ANSWER: A

11. INVICTUS Research Programme Is An Initiative Of Which Space Organization

- A. European Space Agency (ESA)
- B. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- C. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- D. China National Space Administration

ANSWER: A

12. A Rare Pale- Capped Pigeon Spotted At Which National Park In Assam

- A. Kaziranga National Park
- B. Orang National Park
- C. Manas National Park
- D. Dehing Patkai National Park

ANSWER: D

13. Which State Has Recently Introduced The Cy- TB Skin Test To Detect Latent Tuberculosis Infection

- A. Odisha
- B. Kerala
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Telangana

ANSWER: B

14. The Bedouin Tribes Are Primarily Found In Which Region

- A. Middle East and North Africa deserts
- B. Amazon rainforest
- C. North Canada
- D. Himalayas

ANSWER: A

15. Which Institution Has Launched The Venture Capital Fund

- A. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- B. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Ministry of Finance

ANSWER: A

16. Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: C

17. Economic Census In India Is Conducted By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: C

18. Saaral Vizha Festival 2025 Is Celebrated In Which State

- A. Telangana
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: C

19. Lungphun Ropui Site In Which State Has Been Officially Declared A Monument Of National Importance By The ASI

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Assam
- C. Mizoram
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: C

20. 'Power Of Siberia' Gas Pipeline Extends From Russia To Which Other Country

- A. Fiji
- B. China
- C. India
- D. Poland

ANSWER: B