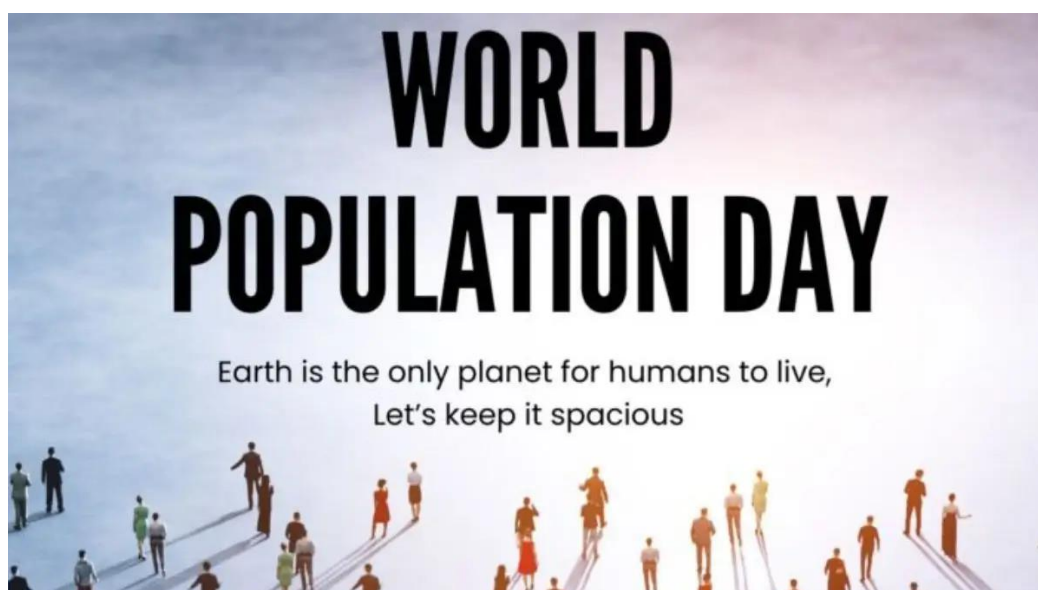


Daily Current Affairs

11 July 2026

World Population Day 2026

- Every year, July 11 is celebrated as World Population Day, the day observes to raising awareness regarding important population-related issues and challenges.
- This day was set up by the UNDP in the year 1989 and emphasizes the importance of reproductive health, family planning, gender equality, and the importance of making informed decisions.
- World Population Day is observed annually worldwide to promote awareness about the various population-related issues being faced by people around the world.
- The official theme for World Population Day 2026 is **“Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people: today and in the future.”**
- The introduction of World Population Day can be traced back to the event termed as “Five Billion Day” celebrated on July 11, 1987 when five billion estimation of the global population was made that day.



Acharya Ranchhodlal Goswami Wins Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

- Acharya Ranchhodlal Goswami from Ahmedabad was selected for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025, it was announced by the Sangeet Natak Akademi under the Union Ministry of Culture for the 2024–25 awards. This recognition celebrates his outstanding contribution to preserving and promoting Haveli Sangeet.
- Acharya Ranchhodlal Goswami is the 16th-generation Acharya of the historic Goswami Haveli, which is situated in Doshiwada ni Pol, Kalupur, in the old city of Ahmedabad. This haveli is approximately 450 years old and it serves as an important center of the Pushtimarg tradition.
- Haveli Sangeet is a unique devotional music tradition which is closely associated with the Pushtimarg sect, founded by Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya around 550 years ago.



DoT's Samriddh Gram Wins WSIS Prize 2026

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) of India has secured the prestigious WSIS Prize 2026 for the its flagship Samriddh Gram: Integrated Phygital Service Delivery Model which is enabled by the Bharat Net initiative.
- This award was presented during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2026 in Geneva under Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment.

- Samridhh Gram is the Department of Telecommunications flagship rural digital transformation initiative which is built on the BharatNet broadband network.
- This project was declared the Global Winner under Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment, it is one of the categories of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2026.
- Samridhhi Kendras function as the comprehensive village-level digital service centers, it offering multiple citizen-centric services, such as,
 - Healthcare Services
 - Education and Skill Development
 - Agriculture Support
 - Financial Inclusion and Governance



Sourav Ganguly Joins ICC Hall of Fame

- The former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly was inducted into the prestigious ICC Hall of Fame. He became the 12th Indian cricketer to receive one of the world's cricket big honour.
- He is known for transforming Indian cricket with his leadership style, aggressive approach. Now he joins an elite group of legends that includes MS Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, and Anil Kumble.
- The ICC Hall of Fame is one of the highest individual honours in world cricket. it is established by the International Cricket Council (ICC), and it recognises former

players who have made exceptional contributions to the game by outstanding performances, leadership, and lasting influence.



Andy Burnham Poised Britain's Next Prime Minister

- Andy Burnham set to become the next Prime Minister of the United Kingdom after receiving significant support by Labour Members of Parliament (MPs) in the party's leadership competition.
- Burnham has revealed that he had the approval of 322 out of Labour's 403 MPs on the first day of nominations, just one away from being the only candidate eligible for the position. If he is confirmed, Burnham will take over from Keir Starmer, who has resigned from the position after the last week's poor results of the party.
- The leadership contest is happening because Keir Starmer's resignation on the last month after some dissatisfaction within the Labour party.
- The pressure increased after Labour's poor showing performance in the May local elections, which was below expectations.



India–New Zealand Strategic Partnership

- India and New Zealand have taken a major step towards strengthening bilateral relations by launching the India–New Zealand Strategic Partnership during the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon in Auckland on 11 July 2026. Along with the partnership, both leaders endorsed the Roadmap to 2030, a comprehensive framework designed to deepen cooperation across political, economic, defence, cultural, and technological sectors over the next four years.
- The Roadmap to 2030 aims to provide structured guidance for expanding bilateral engagement and enhancing collaboration on regional and global issues. It is based on six major pillars that outline shared priorities for the future.
- **Strengthening Political and Diplomatic Engagement**
- Under the first pillar, India and New Zealand agreed to maintain regular high-level political dialogue through meetings between Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, and Foreign Ministers. The two countries will also encourage frequent parliamentary exchanges and official visits to strengthen mutual understanding.
- Both governments decided to institutionalise annual meetings between senior officials of their foreign ministries to review progress and ensure effective implementation of the Strategic Partnership and the Roadmap to 2030.
- **Expanding Defence and Security Cooperation**
- Defence and security cooperation forms a key pillar of the new partnership. Both nations will continue military exchanges through joint exercises, defence dialogues, personnel training programmes, and visits by naval, air, and land forces.

- India and New Zealand also committed to implementing the 2025 Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation and recently concluded agreements on maritime cooperation, hydrography, nautical cartography, and mutual logistics support.
- The two countries will conduct bilateral naval exercises and establish an Annual Maritime Security Dialogue to strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Recognising the importance of tackling emerging security challenges, both sides agreed to operationalise a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, enhance cooperation on cybersecurity, combat narcotics trafficking, and improve law enforcement coordination through closer collaboration between India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the New Zealand Police.
- The partnership also includes stronger cooperation under the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) to improve the resilience of critical infrastructure.
- **Boosting Trade and Economic Relations**
- India and New Zealand have set an ambitious target of doubling bilateral trade in goods and services to NZ\$7 billion (approximately ₹35,000 crore) by 2030.
- Both countries will work towards the early implementation of the proposed India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and simplify customs procedures through the Authorised Economic Operators Mutual Recognition Arrangement (AEO-MRA).
- Cooperation will also expand in agriculture and primary industries through agreements on horticulture, forestry, animal husbandry, and dairy development. These initiatives aim to promote research collaboration, technology exchange, sustainable farming practices, and market development.
- In the tourism sector, both governments will encourage direct air connectivity under the updated Air Services Agreement while promoting greater two-way tourism and industry cooperation.
- **Promoting Cultural, Sports and People-to-People Ties**
- The fourth pillar focuses on strengthening people-to-people relations. Both countries acknowledged the valuable role of the Indian diaspora in New Zealand and agreed to further encourage cultural exchanges.

- India and New Zealand will implement existing cooperation agreements in sports, traditional medicine, maritime heritage, and cultural preservation. Collaboration between local governments and maritime institutions will also be encouraged to strengthen long-term partnerships.
- **Advancing Education, Science and Disaster Management**
- Education and innovation remain central to the Strategic Partnership. The two countries will implement the 2025 Education Cooperation Arrangement to expand academic collaboration, institutional partnerships, and student exchanges.
- Both governments also agreed to deepen cooperation in research, science, technology, agriculture, digital transformation, climate action, and emerging technologies.
- India and New Zealand will work together under the International Solar Alliance and the Global Biofuels Alliance to promote clean energy, renewable technologies, and sustainable development.
- In disaster management, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of India and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of New Zealand will collaborate on disaster preparedness, emergency response, and capacity building.
- **Enhancing Regional and Global Cooperation**
- The final pillar focuses on cooperation in regional and multilateral institutions. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific and pledged to strengthen engagement through ASEAN-led mechanisms and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
- India and New Zealand also agreed to work more closely at the United Nations, support reforms of the UN system, and back India's candidature for permanent membership of a reformed UN Security Council. The two nations will continue supporting each other's candidatures in international organisations wherever possible.
- **Nature of the Roadmap**
- The India–New Zealand Strategic Partnership: Roadmap to 2030 serves as a policy framework for future cooperation. It does not create any legally binding

obligations or financial commitments but provides a shared vision for expanding bilateral engagement across multiple sectors.

- The launch of this Strategic Partnership reflects the growing trust between India and New Zealand and marks a significant milestone in building a stronger, comprehensive, and future-oriented relationship. The roadmap is expected to strengthen cooperation in trade, security, education, technology, climate action, and regional stability, benefiting both countries in the years ahead.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Population Day is observed every year on which date?

- A) 5 June
- B) 11 July
- C) 24 October
- D) 8 March

Answer: B) 11 July

2. What is the official theme of World Population Day 2026?

- A) Population and Climate Change
- B) Healthy Families, Healthy Future
- C) Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people: today and in the future
- D) Sustainable Population for All

Answer: C) Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people: today and in the future

3. Acharya Ranchhodlal Goswami received the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for preserving which traditional music form?

- A) Dhrupad
- B) Haveli Sangeet
- C) Ghazal
- D) Carnatic Music

Answer: B) Haveli Sangeet

4. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) won the WSIS Prize 2026 for which flagship initiative?

- A) Digital India
- B) PM-WANI
- C) Samriddh Gram
- D) Bharat Connect

Answer: C) Samriddh Gram

5. The WSIS Prize 2026 was presented under which Action Line?

- A) C2 – Information Infrastructure
- B) C4 – Capacity Building
- C) C6 – Enabling Environment
- D) C9 – Media

Answer: C) C6 – Enabling Environment

6. Which former Indian captain became the 12th Indian cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame?

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) Kapil Dev
- C) Sourav Ganguly
- D) Rohit Sharma

Answer: C) Sourav Ganguly

7. Andy Burnham is poised to become the next Prime Minister of which country?

- A) Australia
- B) Canada
- C) United Kingdom
- D) New Zealand

Answer: C) United Kingdom

8. India and New Zealand launched the Strategic Partnership along with which long-term framework?

- A) Vision 2040
- B) Roadmap to 2030
- C) Indo-Pacific Strategy 2035
- D) Partnership Vision 2028

Answer: B) Roadmap to 2030

9. India and New Zealand have set a target to increase bilateral trade to what amount by 2030?

- A) NZ\$5 Billion
- B) NZ\$6 Billion
- C) NZ\$7 Billion
- D) NZ\$10 Billion

Answer: C) NZ\$7 Billion

10. The Samridh Gram initiative is primarily built on which national digital infrastructure?

- A) Aadhaar
- B) DigiLocker
- C) BharatNet
- D) UMANG

Answer: C) BharatNet

