

SHORTNEWS:

1.DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE

Context: On **July 6, 2025**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his **124th Birth Anniversary** recalling his sacrifice and vision for a self-reliant India.

About Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

- **Early Life:** Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was born on July 6, 1901, in Kolkata, West Bengal, into a prominent Bengali family.
- **Academic Excellence:** He earned **degrees in English, Bengali, and Law** from Calcutta University.
 - He started the Bengali journal **“Bang Wani”** in **1922**.
- **Legal Career:** In 1926, he became a barrister after being called to the **English Bar at Lincoln’s Inn in London**.

Contribution to Freedom Struggle and Ideological Stand

- **Opposition to Quit India Movement:** He opposed the **Quit India Movement in 1942**, believing it would weaken India during World War II.
- **Voice for Hindu Rights:** He joined the **Hindu Mahasabha** and worked to safeguard the rights of Hindus, particularly in Bengal.
- **Liaquat-Nehru Pact Protest:** He resigned from **Nehru’s cabinet in 1950** over concerns that the **pact endangered Hindus in East Bengal**.

Political Contributions

- **Youngest Vice-Chancellor:** In 1934, he became the youngest-ever Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University.
- **Coalition Politics in Bengal:** He served as Bengal’s Finance Minister in a coalition government supported by the Hindu Mahasabha.
- **Part of the Constituent Assembly:** He was a member of the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities, and Tribal and Excluded Areas in the Constituent Assembly.
- **Founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh:** In 1951, he founded the BJS, a political party that laid the foundation for today’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- **Parliamentary Influence:** He played a role in shaping the early structure of opposition politics and contributed to the formation of the **National Democratic Party in Parliament**.
- **The Lion of Parliament:** It is a title used to refer to him, for his **strong personality, powerful oratory, and uncompromising stance** on issues related to India’s unity and integrity.

- Key role in establishing institutions like the Chittaranjan Locomotive Factory, Sindri Fertilizer Corporation, and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation.

Legacy

- **First Industry Minister:** He was independent India's first Minister for Industry and Supply.
- **Martyrdom:** Dr. Mookerjee died on **June 23, 1953**, under controversial circumstances **while protesting the special status of Jammu and Kashmir**.
 - **He opposed Article 370**, asserting that one nation cannot have two constitutions, heads, or flags.
- **Literary Contribution:** “**Leaves from a Diary**” contains the autobiographical writings of parliamentarian Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

2.AMARAVATI QUANTUM VALLEY DECLARATION

Context: Recently, the Andhra Pradesh government approved the **Amaravati Quantum Valley Declaration (AQVD)** to position the state as a global quantum technology hub.

About Amaravati Quantum Valley Declaration

- It is a strategic framework jointly signed by the Andhra Pradesh government and industry leaders like **IBM, TCS, and L&T** to build a **quantum technology ecosystem** in Amaravati.
 - The declaration sets a **guiding framework of six joint commitments** on **research, infrastructure, talent, and global partnerships**.
- The AQVD was the key outcome of the **Amaravati Quantum Valley Workshop**.
 - It was organised to **catalyse cross-sectoral collaboration** involving leading firms like **IBM, TCS, and L&T**.
- **Significance:**
 - With AQVD, Andhra Pradesh aligns itself with the global movement toward **quantum supremacy and digital sovereignty**.

3.ANCIENT CITY OF PEÑICO, PERU

Context: Recently, archaeologists announced the discovery of a **3,500-year-old city** named **Peñico** in Peru's northern Barranca province.

About Ancient City of Peñico

- **Introduction:** Peñico is an ancient city located around 200 km north of **Lima**, situated 600 metres above sea level in the Barranca province.

- **Historical Context:** It dates back to between 1800 and 1500 BC, a period parallel to early civilisations in **Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley**.
- **Strategic Role:** The city likely served as a **major trade hub**, connecting the Pacific coast, Andes mountains, and the Amazon basin.

Significance and Recent Discovery

- **Artefacts Found:** Excavations revealed **clay sculptures of humans and animals, ceremonial items, and necklaces made from beads and seashells**.
- **Architectural Features:** **Circular ceremonial structure** on a terrace, surrounded by **stone and mud buildings**.
- **Cultural Continuity:** Experts believe Peñico reflects the **cultural legacy of the Caral civilisation, the oldest known in the Americas**.
- **Importance:** The discovery provides insight into the evolution and migration of early Peruvian societies following the **decline of Caral due to climate change**.

Other Ancient Sites in Peru

- **Caral Civilization:** Located in the **Supe Valley**, Caral dates to around **3000 BC** and includes **32 pyramidal monuments**, urban planning, and irrigation systems.
- **Machu Picchu:** The famed **Inca citadel in the Andes**, built in the 15th century, is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and a symbol of Inca engineering.
- **Nazca Lines:** These **geoglyphs etched into the desert**, depicting animals and shapes, remain one of the greatest archaeological mysteries of ancient Peru.

4.RIVER SEINE

Context: Recently, Paris reopened the River Seine to public swimming for the first time **since 1923**, following a massive cleanup campaign.

About River Seine

- **Geographic Overview:** The Seine is a 777 km long river flowing through Paris, originating from the **Langres Plateau in northeastern France** and emptying into the **English Channel at Le Havre**.
- **The Seine River drainage basin:** Also known as the **Paris Basin**, covers approximately **79,000 square kilometers** and primarily drains northern France
 - **Left Bank Tributaries:** Yonne, Loing, and Aube
 - **Right Bank Tributaries:** Marne and Oise

- **Cultural Significance:** The Seine is **central to Parisian identity**, bordered by iconic monuments like the **Eiffel Tower and Notre-Dame Cathedral**, and featured in countless works of art and literature.
- **Historic Pollution:** **Swimming was banned in 1923** due to **severe water contamination** caused by **urban runoff, industrial waste, and untreated sewage**.

5.NOMINATION-BASED GOLDEN VISA

Context: The UAE has launched a ***nomination-based Golden Visa scheme***, offering **lifetime residency** to eligible individuals from India and Bangladesh without requiring investment in property or business.

What is the UAE's Golden Visa?

- A *long-term residency visa* for foreigners without requiring a UAE sponsor.
- Existing categories include:
 - **Investors** (AED 2 million+ in real estate or business)
 - **Entrepreneurs**
 - **Exceptional talents** (doctors, scientists, artists, athletes, PhDs, top students)
- **Duration:** *5 to 10 years*, renewable.

What's new in the nomination-based Golden Visa scheme?

- **Lifetime residency** offered instead of 5–10 years.
- No need for business or property investment.
- Flat fee: **AED 100,000** (approx. ₹23.3 lakh).
- **Pilot** launched for **Indian and Bangladeshi** nationals.

Key Features of the Nomination Scheme

- **Eligibility assessed through:** Criminal & anti-money laundering background checks, Social media review, Evaluation of potential contribution to UAE in fields like culture, finance, science, or startups.
- **Pre-approval possible from home country** (no Dubai visit needed).
- **Right to:** Bring family members, Employ domestic staff (servants/drivers), Work in any profession or start a business.

6.AI-BASED TB MORTALITY PREDICTION MODEL

Context: Tamil Nadu became the **first state to integrate a predictive model for TB mortality** into its state-wide screening tool **under TN-KET (Tamil Nadu – Kasanoi Erappila Thittam)**.

About the Model

- Developed jointly by the **Tamil Nadu Health Department** and the **ICMR–National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE)**.
- Implemented under **Tamil Nadu Kasanoi Erappila Thittam (TN-KET)**. Integrated into the **TB SeWA platform**, a digital tool for real-time triaging of TB patients.
- Result: **20% reduction** in early TB deaths (within 2 months of treatment start) across the state.

How the TB Triage Tool Works

- **Parameters (No lab tests involved):**
 - **BMI < 14 kg/m²** → Severe undernutrition
 - **Respiratory Rate** (sitting) → Sign of insufficiency
 - **Oxygen Saturation** (pulse oximeter)
 - **Pitting Edema** (leg swelling after 15 seconds pressure)
 - **Performance Status** → Inability to stand unaided
- If **any one** parameter is abnormal → Patient marked as ‘**severely ill**’
Immediate referral to **in-patient treatment**
- **Time-to-Care:**
 - **Triaging within 1 day** of diagnosis
 - **98%** of severely ill patients hospitalized within **7 days**