

SHORT NEWS:

1. 2,000-year-old Buddhist Site Found in Haryana

- **Discovery:** IIT Kanpur found signs of ancient Buddhist stupas in Haryana's Yamuna Nagar district.
- **Method:** Used Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to "see" buried structures like circular shapes and old walls, 6-7 feet deep.
- **Sites:** Found at Topra Kalan (likely a stupa) and 'Jarasandha ka Qila' (another circular structure).
- **Significance:** Could be 2,000 years old, maybe even from the Mahabharata era. Shows ancient trade and religious networks.
- **GPR:** A non-invasive technology using radar to image what's underground without digging.
- **Key Buddhist Sites (India & Nepal):** Lumbini (Nepal - Buddha's birthplace), Bodh Gaya (Bihar - enlightenment), Sarnath (UP - first sermon), Kushinagar (UP - final passing), Sanchi (MP - stupas), Rajgir & Nalanda (Bihar - learning centers), Vaishali (Bihar - final sermon), McLeod Ganj (HP - Tibetan Buddhist hub), Ellora & Ajanta Caves (Maharashtra - rock-cut sites).

2. Prithvi-II & Agni-I Ballistic Missiles Test-Fired

- **Event:** India successfully test-fired short-range ballistic missiles Prithvi-II and Agni-I on July 17, 2025, from Chandipur, Odisha.
- **Purpose:** Boosts India's nuclear and air defence.
- **Prithvi-II:**
 - **Type:** Short-range, surface-to-surface, liquid-fueled.
 - **Range:** 250-350 km.
 - **Payload:** 500-1000 kg (conventional/nuclear).
 - **Developed by:** DRDO.
 - **User:** Indian Air Force (Strategic Forces Command).
- **Agni-I:**
 - **Type:** Short to medium-range, solid-fueled.
 - **Range:** 700-1200 km.
 - **Payload:** 1000 kg (conventional/nuclear).
 - **Developed by:** DRDO (after Kargil War).
 - **Mobility:** Road and rail mobile.

- **User:** Indian Army (Strategic Forces Command).
- **Future:** Agni-1P (upgraded version) being developed.

3 Tawke Oilfield, Iraq

- **Context:** Drone strikes hit Tawke oilfield in Iraq's Kurdistan region on July 17, 2025, disrupting oil output.
- **Location:** Northern Iraq, in the Kurdistan Region (area primarily inhabited by ethnic Kurds).
- **Operator:** Norway's DNO.
- **Importance:** Significant oil production site (78,615 barrels/day in 2024).
- **Iraq:**
 - **Location:** Western Asia.
 - **Borders:** Turkey (N), Iran (E), Persian Gulf & Kuwait (SE), Saudi Arabia (S), Jordan (SW), Syria (W).

4. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

- **News:** CARA issued new rules for mandatory counselling in adoptions.
- **New Directives:**
 - **Mandatory Counselling:** Required before, during, and after adoption.
 - **Qualified Counsellors:** State adoption boards must appoint trained professionals.
 - **Support:** Aims to help adoptive parents, adopted children (especially older ones), and biological parents.
 - **Specific Situations:** Counselling for root searches, adjustment issues, or potential adoption disruptions.
 - **Legal Basis:** Under Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (amended 2021) and Adoption Regulations, 2022.
- **About CARA:**
 - **Apex Body:** India's top statutory body for adoption, under Ministry of Women & Child Development.
 - **Status:** Gained statutory status through JJ Act 2015.
 - **Role:** Monitors and regulates both in-country and international adoptions of orphan, abandoned, and surrendered children.
 - **International Role:** Central Authority for inter-country adoptions under the Hague Convention (1993).

5.OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2025-2034

- **Report:** Joint report by OECD and FAO assessing global agricultural prospects for the next 10 years.
- **Key Global Trends (by 2034):**
 - **Cereal Use:** Only 40% for human food; 27% for biofuel/industry; 33% for animal feed.
 - **Biofuel Growth:** 0.9% yearly growth, led by India, Brazil, Indonesia.
 - **Production Growth:** 1.1% yearly (mostly better yields). India and Southeast Asia drive 39% of cereal consumption growth.
 - **Animal Products:** Rising demand (especially in middle-income countries), leading to 17% more meat/dairy and 6% more agricultural GHG emissions.
 - **Cotton:** India expected to become the top producer, surpassing China.
- **India's Agri-Marketing Challenges:**
 - **Weak Infrastructure:** ₹92,000 crore in post-harvest losses due to poor cold storage/transport.
 - **Fragmented Markets:** No national integrated market; State-regulated APMCs.
 - **Limited Access:** Small farmers struggle to reach markets and get good prices.
- **Indian Government Steps:**
 - **e-NAM:** Online platform for price transparency.
 - **FPOs Scheme:** 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations to link small farmers to markets.
 - **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF):** Financial aid for post-harvest infrastructure (warehouses, cold chains).
 - **Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI):** Enhances rural storage capacity.

6.Senegal

- **News:** France handed back its last military bases in Senegal, ending its permanent military presence in West and Central Africa.
- **Context:** Sahel region faces growing jihadist conflict.
- **About Senegal:**
 - **Capital:** Dakar.
 - **Government:** Presidential Republic.

- **Location:** Westernmost Africa, bordered by Mauritania, Mali, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Geography:** Dominated by Sahara desert, Senegal River.
- **Climate:** Dry, hot, windy; desertification is a concern.
- **History:** Gained independence from France in 1960.