

7. SHORT NEWS

VB-G Ram G Youth Digital Campaign

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, has launched a nationwide 'VB-G Ram G Youth Digital Campaign' in collaboration with the 'MY Bharat' portal

About 'VB-G Ram G Youth Digital Campaign'

1. **Objective-**

1. To encourage participation of rural youth in development activities.
2. To channel the energy and creativity of young people towards rural development, employment generation, and local livelihood initiatives.
2. **Participation-** All interested youth between the ages of 15 and 29 years can register online through the 'MY Bharat' or 'MyGov' portals
3. A Logo Design competition has been announced, where the winner will receive a cash prize of ₹50,000 along with recognition.

South Pars and Ras Laffan Industrial City

Context- Israel's strike on South Pars and Iran's retaliatory attack on Ras Laffan have intensified regional tensions and triggered a worsening global energy crisis.

Key Highlights of Energy Crisis

1. **Weaponisation of Energy Infrastructure-** Strikes on oil and gas facilities (Iran, Qatar, Gulf states) show energy assets becoming strategic military targets. Escalation risks prolonged disruption of global supply chains.
2. **Global Market Shock-** Brent crude prices surged sharply due to supply uncertainty. Blockade/instability near the Strait of Hormuz threatens ~20% of global oil trade.
3. **Long-term Strategic Impact-** Countries may accelerate diversification of energy sources and routes. Push towards renewables and strategic petroleum reserves likely to intensify.

About South Pars

1. **Introduction-** One of the largest natural gas fields in the world and Iran's shared between Iran and Qatar (North Dome).
 1. Iran's share of the field stands at about 33 percent.
 2. It provides 80 percent of Iran's natural gas needs.
2. **Location-** Located in the Persian Gulf, off Iran's southern coast (Bushehr Province).
3. **Key Features**
 1. Holds ~1,800 trillion cubic feet of gas and large condensate reserves.
 2. Accounts for a major share of Iran's gas production and energy security.
 3. Critical for domestic consumption and export potential.

About Ras Laffan Industrial City

1. World's largest LNG export hub, central to Qatar's energy economy.
2. **Location-** Situated on Qatar's northeast coast, along the Persian Gulf.
3. **Key Features**
 1. Processes and exports LNG from the North Dome gas field.
 2. Houses major LNG terminals, refineries, and petrochemical facilities.
 3. Vital node in global LNG supply chains, especially for Asia and Europe.

The crisis highlights how energy security and geopolitics are deeply intertwined, with direct implications for India's import-dependent economy.

Yoga 365

The Ministry of Ayush has launched Yoga 365 initiative to promote yoga as a daily lifestyle practice beyond annual celebrations.

About Yoga 365

1. The campaign was unveiled during Yoga Mahotsav-2026 in New Delhi.



2. **Objective-** It aims to bridge the gap between high awareness of yoga and low regular practice by encouraging consistent daily engagement.
3. **Health Care Focus-** The initiative promotes yoga as a tool for physical health, mental clarity, and emotional well-being, aligning with preventive healthcare goals.
4. **Digital Outreach-** It includes digital outreach such as free daily online yoga sessions through collaboration between MDNIY and wellness platform Habuild.
5. **Umbrella Programme-** Acts as an umbrella campaign integrating multiple initiatives such as-
 1. Common Yoga Protocol (CYP)
 2. Y-Break (workplace yoga)
 3. Therapeutic yoga for diseases
6. **Yoga Mahotsav-2026-** It is a flagship event organised by the Ministry of Ayush to mark the 100-day countdown to International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026.

International Day of Yoga

1. **UN Recognition-** International Day of Yoga is observed annually on 21 June, declared by the UN in 2014 following India's proposal.
2. **First Celebration-** The first IDY was celebrated in 2015, witnessing massive global participation led by India.
3. **Significance of Date-** 21 June marks the summer solstice, the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere.

Semaglutide Drug

Expiry of the patent of Semaglutide drug in India has enabled entry of cheaper generic weight-loss drugs, improving accessibility amid rising obesity and diabetes burden.

About Semaglutide

1. Semaglutide is a GLP-1 receptor agonist, which mimics a natural hormone regulating blood sugar and appetite.
2. **Developer-** Originally developed by Novo Nordisk and marketed as Ozempic (for diabetes) and Wegovy (for obesity).
3. **Primary Use-** Used for Type-2 diabetes management by improving insulin secretion and lowering blood glucose levels.
4. **Weight Loss Role-** Helps in reducing appetite and slowing gastric emptying, leading to weight loss.
5. **Mode of Administration-** Usually given as a once-weekly injection (pen device).

What are GLP-1 Drugs?

1. GLP-1 receptor agonists are medicines used to treat Type-2 diabetes and obesity by regulating blood sugar and appetite.
2. **How They Work-** They mimic the hormone Glucagon-like peptide-1, which helps increase insulin release, slow digestion, and reduce hunger.
3. **Examples-** Popular GLP-1 drugs include Semaglutide (sold as Ozempic) and Tirzepatide (sold as Mounjaro).

Patent Rules for Drugs

1. **Patent Duration-** Pharmaceutical patents are granted for 20 years from the filing date under the Patents Act, 1970.
2. **Generic Drugs-** Once the patent expires, other companies can manufacture and sell generic versions, increasing competition and lowering prices.
3. **Evergreening Restrictions-** India restricts minor modifications from getting new patents, preventing "evergreening" of drugs. Evergreening is a practice where pharmaceutical companies make minor modifications to an existing drug to extend patent protection without significant improvement in therapeutic efficacy.

4. **Compulsory Licensing Provision-** Government can allow others to produce a patented drug without consent in public health emergencies or high pricing cases.

National Defence Industries Conclave 2026

India emphasised becoming a global drone manufacturing hub at the National Defence Industries Conclave 2026 amid rising geopolitical conflicts.

About National Defence Industries Conclave 2026

1. A national-level platform to promote indigenous defence manufacturing, innovation, and industry integration in line with *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*.
2. **Organised By-** Conducted by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.
3. **Theme-** 'Advanced Manufacturing Technologies'
4. **Objective**
 1. To strengthen India's defence industrial ecosystem by fostering collaboration among Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), start-ups, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), armed forces, and private sector.
 2. To accelerate innovation-led defence production and enhance export potential.
5. **Key Focus Area**
 1. **Drone Ecosystem-** The conclave emphasises end-to-end indigenous drone manufacturing to ensure strategic autonomy and future warfare readiness.
 2. **Innovation Push-** The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework is expanded through Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC-14) and Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI 4.0).
 3. **MSME Integration-** MSMEs are encouraged to adopt Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, automation, and additive manufacturing with horizontal and vertical integration.
 4. **Advanced Tech-** Adoption of Digital Twins, simulation tools, and smart materials is promoted to enhance efficiency and design capabilities.
 5. **Policy Support-** Government reforms, digital platforms, and funding aim to boost defence exports and position India as a global manufacturing hub.

The conclave highlights a shift from import dependence to innovation-driven self-reliance, crucial for India's long-term strategic and economic security

Adopt A Heritage (AAH) 2.0 Programme

The Government launched the revamped Adopt A Heritage (AAH) 2.0 programme to enhance visitor amenities at protected monuments through private and public sector participation.

About Adopt A Heritage 2.0

1. The programme is a structured initiative to involve private/public entities in improving visitor amenities at centrally protected monuments while preserving heritage integrity.
2. **First Phase-** "Adopt a Heritage- Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan" programme was launched in 2017 (1.0).
3. **Nodal Ministry-** It is implemented under the Ministry of Culture with execution and supervision by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
4. **Objective-** To enhance tourist experience and make monuments visitor-friendly by providing basic and advanced amenities.
5. **Implementation**
 1. Private entities, NGOs, and trusts can adopt monuments through MoUs to provide non-conservation services like cleanliness, amenities, and digital experiences.
 2. Core conservation and restoration work remains exclusively under ASI experts, ensuring scientific preservation.
 3. Donors can contribute through the National Culture Fund (NCF) and suggest specific projects.

Significance



1. Promotes public-private partnership (PPP) in heritage management without compromising conservation.
2. Improves tourism infrastructure and accessibility, boosting local economy and employment.
3. Encourages community participation and awareness through events like heritage walks and exhibitions.
4. Balances heritage preservation with sustainable tourism development.

AAH 2.0 reflects a calibrated approach where development of amenities is decentralised, while heritage conservation remains state-controlled, ensuring both preservation and usability.

