

### WEEKLY GK NOTES- 7<sup>TH</sup> to 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY

#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

##### 1. **Kabul at Risk of Running Out of Water by 2030**

A Mercy Corps report warns that Kabul, with nearly six million residents, is on track to become the first modern city to run completely dry by 2030. The city's three main aquifers have dropped 25–30 metres over the past decade due to over-extraction, population growth, and climate stress. Currently, Kabul pulls 44 million cubic metres more water annually than what the aquifers can naturally recharge. Almost half of the city's bore wells have already dried up, and up to 80% of the remaining groundwater is contaminated with sewage, high salinity, arsenic, and nitrates, posing major health risks. Many households spend up to 30% of their income on water, and more than two-thirds are in water-related debt; private vendors capitalised by drilling wells and selling expensive water. If no action is taken, up to 3 million people could be displaced. At present, the city has received only \$8.4 million of the \$264 million needed for essential water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, while roughly \$3 billion remains frozen since 2021 due to international aid suspension.

##### 2. **Trump Imposes 25% Tariffs on Japan, South Korea Over Trade Gap**

US President Donald Trump has announced 25% tariffs on imports from Japan and South Korea, citing persistent trade imbalances. Set to take effect from August 1, the move targets sectors like automobiles and electronics. Trump warned both nations on Truth Social against retaliatory duties, hinting at harsher levies if challenged. The tariffs risk straining ties with key Indo-Pacific allies amid ongoing efforts to counter China's regional influence.

##### 3. **Türkiye Opens Trial in Deadly Hotel Fire Case**

Türkiye has opened trial proceedings in the Grand Kartal Hotel fire case, which killed 78 people and injured 133 in the Bolu ski resort on January 21. The fire broke out during winter school holidays, with many children among the victims. On July 7, a total of 32 defendants went on trial, facing charges of criminal negligence and violating safety regulations. The tragedy remains one of the deadliest hotel fires in Türkiye's history.

## CLAT WHISPERS

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#### **4. China Tried to Undermine Rafale Jet After Operation Sindoor: French Intel**

French intelligence has revealed that China launched a covert diplomatic campaign to discredit the Rafale fighter jet following India's Operation Sindoor. Chinese defence attachés reportedly lobbied nations like Indonesia to cancel or scale down Rafale purchases, while promoting Chinese alternatives like the JF-17 and FC-31. The effort aimed to undermine France's defence exports, particularly in Asia and Africa, amid rising regional competition.

#### **5. ICC Issues Arrest Warrants for Taliban Leaders Over Gender Crimes**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Taliban Supreme Leader Haibatullah Akhundzada and Chief Justice Abdul Hakim Haqqani, accusing them of crimes against humanity, including the systematic persecution of women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people in Afghanistan since August 2021. This marks the first time the ICC has cited gender persecution as the sole basis for such warrants. The charges include bans on education, employment, and mobility, as well as enforced disappearances and ideological repression. The Taliban has rejected the warrants, calling them politically motivated. While enforcement may be difficult, the move has been praised globally as a step toward accountability and justice for Afghan women and minorities.

#### **6. Linda Yaccarino Resigns as CEO of X (Formerly Twitter)**

Linda Yaccarino officially resigned as CEO of X (formerly Twitter) on July 9, marking a major leadership shake-up at the social media platform. She had assumed the role in 2023, with the goal of helping Elon Musk reshape X into a broader digital town square integrating payments, streaming, and commerce. Her departure comes amid continued strategic turbulence and user engagement challenges, raising fresh questions about X's future direction and Musk's leadership approach. The company has not yet named a successor.

#### **7. Spain's PM Unveils Anti-Corruption Reforms Amid Party Scandal**

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has announced new anti-corruption measures in parliament, responding to mounting pressure over a scandal involving a former official from his Socialist Party. The announcement came during a special parliamentary session called to address the growing controversy. While Sánchez acknowledged "poor judgment" in handling the matter, he ruled out resignation, asserting he is "an honest politician." The opposition dismissed the reforms as insufficient and called for early elections, accusing the government of shielding its own from accountability.

#### **8. UAE Denies Rumours of Lifetime Golden Visas via Nomination**

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The UAE's Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security (ICP) has denied recent rumours suggesting the existence of a nomination-based system for lifetime Golden Visas. In an official statement, the ICP clarified that no such provision exists, and all Golden Visa applications must adhere strictly to established guidelines and eligibility criteria. The clarification comes after misinterpretations by some local media outlets, which led to widespread speculation about informal nomination pathways. Authorities have urged the public to rely only on verified government sources for visa-related information.

### **9. Japan Sets New Internet Speed World Record: 1.02 Petabits/sec**

Japanese researchers at the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) have broken the global internet speed record, achieving a staggering 1.02 petabits per second—equivalent to 1.02 million gigabytes/sec—across a distance of about 1,118 miles (1,808 km). This was made possible with a novel 19-core optical fibre, each core functioning like a separate high-speed lane, yet fitting within standard cable dimensions. To visualise: this speed is roughly 3.5 million times faster than average U.S. broadband, and about 16 million times faster than India's average subscriber rate (~63.55 Mbps). In real-world terms, it implies downloading the entire Netflix library or English Wikipedia—many tens of terabytes—in under a second.

### **10. Gunshots Fired at Kapil Sharma's Newly Opened Café in Canada**

Kapil Sharma's recently launched restaurant, Kap's Café, in Surrey, British Columbia, was targeted in a shooting incident late on July 9, with eight to nine shots fired at the premises. Thankfully, no one was injured, but the café's glass windows were shattered and riddled with bullet holes, and staff members inside at the time were shaken. Harjeet Singh Laddi, affiliated with the extremist group Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)—a proscribed Khalistani organisation—has claimed responsibility for the attack. Laddi, listed as one of India's most wanted by the NIA, cited remarks allegedly made by Kapil Sharma as the motive and reportedly filmed the shots from within a vehicle before fleeing the scene.

### **11. World's Largest Atomic Clock Comparison Paves Way for Redefining the 'Second'**

Scientists have completed the world's largest comparison of atomic clocks, a milestone that could soon redefine how we measure a second. Currently based on caesium (Cs) clocks, the global standard may shift to ultra-precise optical clocks. The breakthrough holds major implications for GPS, climate science, and astronomy, where even microsecond-level accuracy is crucial.

### **12. U.S. and Russia Exchange Fresh Proposals for Ukraine Peace Talks**

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U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on July 10 in Kuala Lumpur during the ASEAN Regional Forum, where they exchanged new ideas aimed at advancing peace in Ukraine. Rubio described the proposals as a “new and different approach,” although he cautioned that it doesn’t guarantee peace. He committed to briefing President Trump on the concepts, emphasising the urgent need for a clear roadmap to resolve the conflict. The conversation also reflected growing frustration from the White House over Russia’s continued aggression, particularly during intensified strikes on Kyiv, including attacks involving missiles and drones. Alongside peace dialogue, Rubio and Lavrov reviewed broader issues such as the resumption of diplomatic ties, cooperation on Iran and Syria, and U.S. efforts to impose tougher sanctions or tariffs on Moscow. While the new proposals are promising, serious obstacles such as the need for Russian flexibility and resolution on territorial and NATO-related demands remain.

### **13. UN Demands U.S. Reverse Sanctions on Gaza Critic**

The United Nations has strongly urged the United States to reverse sanctions against Francesca Albanese, the U.N. Special Rapporteur for the West Bank and Gaza. Albanese was sanctioned by the Trump administration after accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza and criticising U.S. policy. UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk described the sanctions as setting a “dangerous precedent”, undermining the independence of international legal and human rights institutions, especially as this marks the first time a U.N. expert has been targeted in this manner. Albanese herself condemned the action as “obscene” and a form of intimidation, likening it to Mafia-like tactics aimed at silencing her investigations. Human rights organisations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have criticised the move as an attack on justice and free speech, stating the sanctions threaten to chill U.N. reporting and dissuade experts from documenting abuses.

### **14. UN: 1.5 Lakh Rohingya Fled Myanmar to Bangladesh in 18 Months**

The UNHCR reports that approximately 150,000 Rohingya refugees have crossed into Bangladesh since early 2024, marking the largest influx since the 2017 exodus driven by renewed violence in Myanmar’s Rakhine State. Most arrivals are housed in Cox’s Bazar camps, already the world’s largest settlement, where around 1 million Rohingya are crammed into just 24 sq km. The sharp rise has severely strained humanitarian services. UNHCR’s \$255 million funding appeal is only 35% met, threatening critical aid like healthcare by September and cooking fuel by December. With 121,000 new arrivals biometrically registered, many still lack access to shelter, food, and

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education. Aid partners and UNHCR are urging the global community to increase support or risk a collapse in services for both new refugees and long-term residents.

### **15. U.S., South Korea & Japan Conduct Joint Air Drills in Show of Strength**

On July 11, the United States, South Korea, and Japan launched a major joint aerial exercise over international waters near the Korean Peninsula. The drill featured U.S. B-52H strategic bombers alongside fighter jets from all three allies, marking the first deployment of B-52Hs to the region in 2025. This demonstration of force aimed to reinforce deterrence against North Korea's expanding nuclear and missile capabilities, and coincided with an annual meeting of their defence chiefs in Seoul. The joint drills unfold as Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visits North Korea, underscoring a deepening Moscow–Pyongyang alliance. During his trip to Wonsan, Lavrov warned the U.S., South Korea, and Japan against forming a security alliance targeting North Korea, while North Korea pledged “unconditional support” for Russia's war in Ukraine. The contrasting military cooperation trilateral drills versus Russia-North Korea alignment signals rising strategic tensions and a shifting fault line in regional security.

### **16. U.S. Tightens Visa Screening Over Social Media Activity**

The U.S. State Department has issued a new directive requiring all applicants for F, M, and J non-immigrant visas covering students, vocational trainees, and exchange visitors to set their social media accounts to public. Consular officials will now conduct comprehensive online vetting, reviewing applicants' entire social media presence for signs of hostility to U.S. values, support for designated extremist groups, anti-Semitism, or other red flags. Failure to comply or attempts to conceal online activity may raise suspicions and lead to visa refusal or ineligibility. In India, the U.S. Embassy emphasised that visas can be revoked anytime if applicants withhold or misrepresent social media details or break U.S. laws. Notably, an Indian student's F-1 visa was delayed after consular officials reviewed her private Reddit account. Critics argue that this measure may have a chilling effect on free expression, particularly among international students, as they now prune or privatise their online activity to avoid jeopardising their visa chances.

### **17. Russia Warns Against U.S.-South Korea-Japan Security Alliance**

Russian FM Lavrov, during his visit to North Korea on July 12, issued a stern warning to the U.S., South Korea, and Japan, urging them not to form a security alliance aimed at containing North Korea. Speaking from Wonsan, Lavrov cautioned against exploiting trilateral ties to target either

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North Korea or Russia, framing such actions as provocative and destabilising to regional balance. Lavrov's visit underscores the deepening Russia–North Korea military and strategic partnership established under their 2024 mutual defence treaty. North Korea has already dispatched over 10,000 troops and around 12 million artillery shells to support Russia's war in Ukraine, with commitments to send additional troops and engineers into the Russian front lines. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his government's "unconditional support" for Russia, further cementing the alliance. Meanwhile, the U.S., South Korea, and Japan recently held joint air drills including the first B-52 deployment of 2025—underscoring their trilateral deterrence strategy

### **18. Trump Imposes 30% Tariffs on EU and Mexico Starting August 1**

In a dramatic escalation of trade tensions, President Donald Trump announced via letters posted on his Truth Social account that the U.S. will impose new 30% tariffs on all imports from the European Union and Mexico, effective August 1, 2025. The move targets major trade partners and sectors, including European cheese, electronics, and Mexican goods, with Trump citing trade imbalances, the fentanyl crisis, and cartel-related issues in Mexico as primary motivations. Identical letters threatening retaliatory duties were also sent to 23 other countries, including Canada and Japan. Markets responded cautiously: U.S. stock indices dipped from record highs, while gold surged amid investor concerns over rising global trade friction and inflation risks. Europe reacted swiftly: trade ministers in Brussels called the tariffs "absolutely unacceptable" and outlined a possible €72 billion package of countermeasures, although implementation has been delayed to allow for last-minute negotiations. With the clock ticking toward the August 1 deadline, both sides are nearing a critical point: either reach diplomatic agreements or trigger a full-scale trade war.

### **19. France to Boost Defence Spending by €6.5 Billion Amid Rising Global Threats**

French President Emmanuel Macron announced on July 13, ahead of Bastille Day, that France will increase its military budget by an extra €6.5 billion over the next two years, adding €3.5 billion in 2026 and €3 billion in 2027. This brings France's annual defence spending to €64 billion by 2027, effectively doubling the €32 billion spent in 2017 when Macron first became president. Macron emphasised that Europe is living in an era with "unprecedented threats since WWII", citing Russia's aggression in Ukraine, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, cyber incursions, and

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disinformation campaigns targeting the youth. He made it clear that sovereignty and security require strength, including stronger nuclear cooperation with Britain. Despite France's high debt, the funds will be raised through economic growth, not increased borrowing. Macron's announcement aligns with a broader shift as NATO members commit to a 3.5% of GDP defence spending target, improving Europe's strategic autonomy amid U.S. uncertainty.

### **20. PTI Launches "Free Imran Khan" Movement in Lahore Ahead of August Rally**

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has kicked off its "Free Imran Khan" campaign from Lahore, urging the release of its jailed founder just weeks ahead of a planned nationwide protest on August 5. Led by senior PTI figures, including Ali Amin Gandapur, who is coordinating efforts from a Raiwind farmhouse near the Sharif residence, the movement aims to increase pressure on the government and military establishment. Authorities have responded by arresting around 20 party workers and conducting raids across Punjab to disrupt mobilisation.

### **21. Walmart Recalls 850,000 Ozark Trail Water Bottles After Lid Hazard Causes Vision Loss**

Walmart and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) have initiated a recall of approximately 850,000 Ozark Trail 64-oz stainless steel water bottles (model 83-662), sold since 2017, following incidents where cap lids forcefully ejected, striking consumers in the face. The design flaw has caused three injuries, including two cases of permanent vision loss. Consumers are urged to stop using the bottles immediately and return them to any Walmart for a full refund.

### **22. Mob Lynches Scrap Trader in Dhaka; Student Protests Erupt**

Bangladesh has been rocked by protests after Lal Chand Sohag, a scrap dealer, was brutally lynched with concrete slabs near Mitford Hospital in Old Dhaka on July 9. The harrowing video, showing attackers dancing on the body, was widely circulated, prompting outrage. Authorities have arrested five suspects, two found with illegal firearms, and identified 19 accused in the FIR. Hundreds of students from Dhaka University and other campuses staged demonstrations, accusing the interim government of failing to prevent mob violence.

**NATIONAL NEWS****23. India's First Digital Census to Begin in 2026**

The Indian government will launch the country's first-ever digital Census in two phases starting April 2026. The Housing Listing & Housing Census will be conducted first, followed by Population Enumeration in February 2027. For the first time, citizens will be allowed to self-enumerate using a mobile app or online portal, marking a major shift from traditional paper-based surveys. Enumerators will also be equipped with mobile tablets, enabling them to collect and upload data in real time to centralised servers. This is expected to drastically reduce processing time, with preliminary results likely available within months instead of years. The digital census will also integrate data from other national databases like Aadhaar and NPR to improve accuracy and reduce duplication. The initiative, postponed since 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is now set to be a landmark in India's data governance and demographic planning.

**24. Delhi HC Quashes 300 Defence Ministry Petitions Against Disability Pensions**

On July 1, the Delhi High Court quashed nearly 300 petitions filed by the Defence Ministry challenging disability pensions granted by the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT). The court strongly upheld that disability pensions are rightful entitlements, not acts of charity, and criticised the ministry for burdening veterans with unnecessary litigation, especially after earlier Supreme Court directions against such appeals. The ruling, delivered by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Mini Pushkarna, has been hailed as a major victory for the rights and dignity of armed forces personnel, ensuring greater respect for those suffering service-related injuries.

**25. Fuel Ban on Overage Vehicles in Delhi-NCR Delayed to November 1, 2025**

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has postponed the planned fuel ban on end-of-life (EOL) vehicles which includes diesel cars over 10 years old and petrol vehicles older than 15 years, from July 1 to November 1, 2025 in Delhi and five high-vehicle-density NCR districts: Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, and Sonipat. Initial rollout is expected across the rest of NCR by April 1, 2026. The delay follows concerns raised by Delhi government officials regarding technical glitches in the ANPR (Automatic Number Plate

Recognition) system, including incomplete coverage, faulty sensors, and lack of database integration across states, which could undermine fair enforcement. Officials warned of cross-border “fuel tourism,” as owners of restricted vehicles may refuel in neighbouring areas unaffected by the ban. Once implemented, fuel stations in affected districts will use ANPR cameras to flag EOL vehicles and deny them fuel. Non-compliance can lead to vehicle impounding under SC and NGT mandates. Meanwhile, the government is encouraging scrapping under the national scrappage policy and advocating for greater use of public transport.

### **26. YouTube to Limit Monetisation for Low-Effort Content from July 15**

Starting July 15, 2025, YouTube will enforce a new monetisation policy under its Partner Programme (YPP), targeting mass-produced, repetitive, or low-effort videos. The update aims to improve content quality by restricting ad revenue for channels relying on minimal originality or automation. Creators publishing such content may face demonetisation or rejection from the YPP, as YouTube tightens standards to promote genuine, value-driven content.

### **27. Bharat Bandh Called by Trade Unions to Protest Labour, Economic Policies**

A joint forum of 10 central trade unions has called a Bharat Bandh on Wednesday, with over 25 crore workers expected to join from key sectors like banking, insurance, coal mining, construction, and more. The nationwide strike protests the Union Government’s “anti-worker, anti-farmer, and pro-corporate” policies, demanding better wages under MGNREGA, greater job creation, and the repeal of new labour codes. While schools and trains are expected to run normally, disruptions are likely in banking and power services. The unions accused the government of eroding labour rights under the guise of improving the ease of doing business.

### **28. PM Modi Conferred Brazil’s Highest Civilian Honour for Strengthening Bilateral Ties**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross, Brazil’s highest civilian honour, during his visit to the country for the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The award was presented by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in recognition of PM Modi’s significant role in deepening India–Brazil strategic, economic, and cultural relations. Established in 1822, the Order of the Southern Cross is traditionally reserved for

foreign heads of state and distinguished individuals who have made major contributions to Brazil's international partnerships. With this, PM Modi has now received 26 international honours from foreign governments since taking office in May 2014, including prestigious decorations from countries like the UAE, Russia, Saudi Arabia, France, and the US. The honour also reflects Brazil's acknowledgement of India's expanding global influence and Modi's leadership in enhancing cooperation across the Global South.

### **29. 8th Pay Commission May Hike Govt Employee Salary to ₹51,480**

The 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC), expected to be implemented around 2027, could bring a significant salary boost for central government employees. If the fitment factor — the multiplier used to calculate revised basic pay — is increased to 2.86, an employee currently earning a basic salary of ₹18,000 under the 7th CPC may see it rise to approximately ₹51,480. This proposed hike reflects the government's intent to align salaries with rising inflation and living costs. The fitment factor plays a crucial role in determining overall pay structure and allowances. While no official confirmation has been issued yet, employee unions and associations have been pressing for a substantial revision, citing the growing gap between pay and expenses. The 8th CPC is also expected to recommend changes in dearness allowance (DA), housing benefits, pensions, and other perks, potentially impacting over one crore employees and pensioners across India.

### **30. PM Modi Conferred Namibia's Highest Civilian Award During Landmark Visit**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with Namibia's highest civilian award, the *Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis*, by President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah during his maiden visit to the southern African nation. This marks Modi's first visit to Namibia and only the third by any Indian Prime Minister, underscoring growing diplomatic and strategic ties between the two countries. The prestigious award is the 27th international honour bestowed upon PM Modi by a foreign government since he assumed office in 2014. It was conferred during the final leg of his five-nation diplomatic tour, which included stops in Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Argentina, and Brazil, aimed at strengthening India's global partnerships across regions.

### 31. UGC Warns: Harassment via Informal WhatsApp Groups Will Be Treated as Ragging

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has declared that harassing juniors through informal WhatsApp or social media groups will be considered an act of ragging. Institutions have been instructed to monitor such platforms and take strict action under anti-ragging regulations. The move aims to address growing concerns over digital harassment in colleges and ensure a safe online environment for students, alongside existing protections on campuses.

### 32. BBMP Launches ₹2.88 Crore “Chicken-Rice” Feeding Scheme for 5,000 Stray Dogs in Bengaluru

The **Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)** has rolled out a novel ₹2.88 crore annual initiative under the banner “**Kukkir Tihar**”, aiming to feed **5,000 stray dogs daily**—about 500 dogs per ward across Bengaluru’s eight zones—with a tasty meal of **150 g rice, 100 g chicken, and sides (~750 kcal per dog)** at ₹22 per serving. Designed not just as an act of compassion but as a public safety intervention, the scheme attempts to **reduce aggression among underfed dogs**, curb dog bite cases (which peaked at ~18,800 in early 2024), and improve sterilization and vaccination outreach through coordinated feeding camps. Vendors registered with FSSAI will manage food prep and distribution, ensuring hygiene, GPS-tracked feeding, and cleanup of designated spots after every session.

### 33. QR Stickers Made Mandatory for Eateries During Pilgrim Yatra

The state government has mandated QR-code-enabled stickers for all eateries during the ongoing Pilgrim Yatra season, linking them to the Food Safety CONNECT App. Officials say the move aims to ensure hygiene, transparency, and better accountability for the estimated 4 crore pilgrims expected this season. However, some eatery owners have criticised the measure as intrusive, comparing it to last year’s controversial “nameplate diktat” that required identity-based signage.

### 34. Supreme Court Flags Timing, But Won’t Halt Bihar’s Electoral Roll Revision

The Supreme Court has refused to stay the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, but raised concerns about its timing just months before the November 2025 Assembly

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elections. While the Court found no issue with the revision itself, it questioned its proximity to polls. It directed the Election Commission to accept Aadhaar, voter ID, and ration cards as valid identification documents. The matter will be heard again on July 28, and draft rolls are barred from publication until then.

### **35. UP Launches ₹6,000 Travel Allowance for Remote Students**

The Uttar Pradesh government is rolling out a ₹6,000 annual travel allowance for government school students in Classes 9–12 who live 5 km or more from their nearest secondary school. The scheme will initially benefit around 24,000 students across Bundelkhand districts—Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda—as well as Sonbhadra, and includes an additional 4,000 girls in PM-SHRI schools. Payments will be made directly to students' bank accounts via DBT, scheduled to begin around September 5, 2025. To qualify, students must submit a self-declaration (verified by local authorities) confirming no school exists within 5 km of their home and maintain at least a 10% increase in attendance. The initiative aims to reduce dropout rates, ease travel burdens, and support educational access in underserved rural regions.

### **36. Air India Flight 171 Crash Report Points to Fuel Switches, Not Mechanical Failure**

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) revealed that both engine fuel-control switches on Flight 171 were deliberately moved from "RUN" to "CUTOFF" seconds after takeoff, causing total thrust loss and a rapid descent, just 32 seconds between liftoff and crash, resulting in 260 deaths, including 19 on the ground. Cockpit Voice Recorder audio captured pilots questioning each other. Pilot unions, including ALPA and ICPA, strongly challenged the AAIB's tone, accusing the investigation of presuming pilot guilt and hinting at suicide, without evidence. They also criticised the leakage of the unsigned preliminary report, citing a lack of transparency and the absence of experienced line pilots in the probe. Meanwhile, regulators have mandated fuel-switch inspections fleet-wide amid concerns over switch-lock reliability, though Boeing and the FAA say systems remain safe. The government expects to issue the final report within a year.

### **37. Jaishankar Heads to SCO Foreign Ministers' Meet in Tianjin Amid Evolving India–China Ties**

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External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Tianjin, China, on July 15, marking his first visit to mainland China since the 2020 Galwan clash. The three-day trip, which begins with a stop in Singapore, aims to recalibrate relations through renewed dialogue on regional cooperation, security, and diplomacy within the evolving Eurasian strategic environment. In high-level meetings in Beijing, Jaishankar underlined recent progress in normalising bilateral ties, calling border de-escalation and peace essential for mutual trust. He also urged China to lift restrictive trade measures, particularly on rare-earth magnets and critical minerals, warning against intra-regional “roadblocks” to fair commerce. Both sides pledged to advance people-to-people ties, including resuming the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and exploring direct flights after a five-year pause

### **SPORTS NEWS**

#### **38. AFI Bars Award Nominations for Athletes with Unregistered Coaches**

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has announced that athletes training under unregistered coaches will no longer be recommended for national sports awards like the Arjuna or Khel Ratna. All coaches must register with AFI by July 31, 2025, or face blacklisting. This move aims to tackle doping, often linked to unqualified or rogue trainers. An anti-doping cell will also be set up to identify suspicious coaches and training centres, with data shared with agencies like NADA and the AIU.

#### **39. Italy Qualifies for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026**

Italy has secured its first-ever spot in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, set to take place in February–March 2026, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. In a thrilling Europe Regional Final in the Netherlands (July 5–11), Italy edged out Scotland with a landmark 12-run win, finishing atop the group based on superior net run rate—locking in their maiden tournament berth alongside the Netherlands.

#### **40. Swiatek Clinches First Wimbledon Title with Historic Double Bagel**

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Iga Świątek stormed her way to her first Wimbledon championship, defeating Amanda Anisimova in a dominant 6–0, 6–0 victory in just 57 minutes, making it only the second Grand Slam final in the Open Era to end in a double bagel, and the first at Wimbledon since 1911. This triumph marks her sixth major title across all three surfaces—clay, hard, and now grass—placing her among tennis elites. She also remains undefeated in Grand Slam finals, extending her record to 6–0

### **41. Jannik Sinner Clinches Maiden Wimbledon Title with Thrilling Comeback**

In a spectacular Centre Court showdown on July 13, world No. 1 Jannik Sinner routed two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz with a final score of 4–6, 6–4, 6–4, 6–4, securing his first Wimbledon crown and fourth Grand Slam title. The victory is particularly significant, as Sinner avenged his heartbreaking French Open loss to Alcaraz just five weeks earlier and became the first Italian ever to win the Wimbledon men’s singles title. The match exemplified Sinner's resilience: after dropping the opening set, he rallied to win three straight, breaking Alcaraz at critical moments—including sealing the second and third sets at 6–4 . Alcaraz acknowledged their rivalry as “a class apart,” praising the high level of competition between them. With this win, Sinner narrows their head-to-head to 8–5 and cements his reign as a dominant force on grass.

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### Weekly Quiz (7th July – 13th July)

1. Which city may become the first modern capital to run completely dry by 2030?
  - a) Cape Town
  - b) Damascus
  - c) Kabul
  - d) Santiago
2. What internet speed record did Japan achieve using a 19-core fiber?
  - a) 1.02 terabits/sec
  - b) 10 petabits/sec
  - c) 1.02 petabits/sec
  - d) 100 gigabits/sec
3. Who resigned as CEO of X (formerly Twitter) in July 2025?
  - a) Susan Wojcicki
  - b) Sheryl Sandberg
  - c) Parag Agrawal
  - d) Linda Yaccarino
4. Why did the ICC issue arrest warrants against top Taliban leaders?
  - a) Drug trafficking
  - b) Terror financing
  - c) Gender persecution
  - d) Border violations
5. What rumour did UAE authorities deny regarding Golden Visas?
  - a) Lifetime visa for entrepreneurs
  - b) Golden visa through nomination
  - c) Golden visa through marriage
  - d) Open invitation for all professionals

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6. What triggered the U.S. sanctions on UN Gaza critic Francesca Albanese?
  - a) Accusations against U.S. on Syria
  - b) Criticism of NATO
  - c) Remarks calling Israel's actions genocide
  - d) Accusations of human trafficking
7. Which cafe in Canada owned by Kapil Sharma was attacked?
  - a) Sharma Bites
  - b) Comedy Café
  - c) Kap's Café
  - d) Desi Spoon
8. Which court quashed 300 petitions against defence disability pensions?
  - a) Bombay HC
  - b) Delhi HC
  - c) Supreme Court
  - d) Allahabad HC
9. What is India's first-ever digital census timeline?
  - a) Jan 2025 – Aug 2025
  - b) April 2026 – Feb 2027
  - c) July 2025 – Dec 2026
  - d) March 2026 – Jan 2027
10. What new policy is YouTube enforcing from July 15, 2025?
  - a) Ad-free tier removal
  - b) Automatic content translation
  - c) Monetisation limits on low-effort content
  - d) Age-verification for comments
11. What was the key allegation in the Italy–Scotland T20 match controversy?
  - a) Pitch tampering
  - b) Match-fixing

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- c) Ball changes
  - d) None – Italy qualified cleanly
12. Who won their **first Wimbledon** title with a double bagel in 2025?
- a) Coco Gauff
  - b) Aryna Sabalenka
  - c) Iga Świątek
  - d) Amanda Anisimova
13. Who became the first Italian man to win Wimbledon?
- a) Matteo Berrettini
  - b) Lorenzo Musetti
  - c) Jannik Sinner
  - d) Fabio Fognini
14. What does AFI now require for award nominations?
- a) Anti-doping certificate
  - b) Coach registration
  - c) State-level wins
  - d) Medical clearance
15. Which country did PM Modi receive the **Order of the Southern Cross** from?
- a) Ghana
  - b) Brazil
  - c) Namibia
  - d) Argentina
16. What is the new **travel allowance scheme** in UP for rural students?
- a) ₹4,000 one-time aid
  - b) ₹6,000 yearly DBT
  - c) ₹1,500 per month
  - d) Free buses to school

## CLAT WHISPERS (WEEKLY GK NOTES)

17. Why was India's fuel ban on overage vehicles delayed in NCR?
- a) Public protest
  - b) Oil company opposition
  - c) ANPR system glitches
  - d) High court stay
18. What did researchers say about prolonged droughts and violence?
- a) No impact
  - b) Increase in sexual violence among young women
  - c) Caused migration only
  - d) Led to rise in crime rates
19. Where will India's first digital census allow **self-enumeration**?
- a) Only for urban households
  - b) Only via enumerators
  - c) Via app or online portal
  - d) Through Aadhaar card
20. What is the projected hike in basic salary under 8th Pay Commission?
- a) ₹42,000
  - b) ₹51,480
  - c) ₹46,000
  - d) ₹48,750

### Answer Key

- 1. c (Kabul)
- 2. c (1.02 petabits/sec)
- 3. d (Linda Yaccarino)
- 4. c (Gender persecution)
- 5. b (Golden visa through nomination)

## CLAT WHISPERS (WEEKLY GK NOTES)

6. c (Remarks calling Israel's actions genocide)
7. c (Kap's Café)
8. b (Delhi HC)
9. b (April 2026 – Feb 2027)
10. c (Monetisation limits on low-effort content)
11. d (None – Italy qualified cleanly)
12. c (Iga Świątek)
13. c (Jannik Sinner)
14. b (Coach registration)
15. b (Brazil)
16. b (₹6,000 yearly DBT)
17. c (ANPR system glitches)
18. b (Increase in sexual violence among young women)
19. c (Via app or online portal)
20. b (₹51,480)