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DAILY GK BYTES- 06/7/2025

1.Nehal Modi, co-accused in PNB case, held in U.S.:-

Context:

- Nehal Modi, brother of fugitive Nirav Modi, was arrested in the U.S. on July 4, 2025.
- He is a co-accused in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud — one of India's biggest banking scams.

» Key Highlights:

Why He Was Arrested:

- Based on a joint extradition request by India's Enforcement Directorate (ED) and CBI.
- Charged with:
 - ◇ Money laundering (PMLA, Section 3)
 - ◇ Criminal conspiracy and destruction of evidence (IPC Sections 120-B, 201).

Key Allegations:

- Helped Nirav Modi launder funds using shell companies and foreign accounts.
- Removed and hid assets:
 - ◇ \$6 million in diamonds, 150 boxes of pearls, 50 kg of gold from Dubai
 - ◇ ₹3.5 million AED (UAE Dirham)
- Destroyed digital evidence: Phones, servers, records.

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- Intimidated witnesses: Confined them, took passports, forced them to sign forged documents.
- Allegedly offered ₹20 lakh to one witness to give false testimony.

Interpol & Extradition Timeline:

- Sept 2019: Interpol issues Red Notice against him.
- May 2020: His Interpol profile briefly disappears, restored later.
- March 2021: India sends official extradition request to the U.S.

Current Status:

- Extradition proceedings underway in the U.S.
- Next hearing: July 17, 2025.
- U.S. prosecution to oppose bail.

Linked Entities:

- Managed firms like Samuels Jewellers Inc. and Diamlink Inc.
- Allegedly received \$19 million from Mehul Choksi's (his uncle's) shell companies in Dubai.

2. India, Trinidad and Tobago ink deals on pharma, finance:-

Context:

- PM Narendra Modi visited Trinidad and Tobago, where the two nations signed multiple bilateral agreements to boost ties in pharma, finance, education, disaster resilience, and capacity building.

» Key Agreements & Announcements:

Pharma & Finance Boost:

- Agreements signed to make India a major player in Trinidad and Tobago's pharma and financial sectors.
- MoU on pharmacopoeia to standardize quality and safety of medicines.

Disaster & Biofuel Initiatives:

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- T&T to join two Indian global initiatives:
 - ◇ Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
 - ◇ Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA)
- Quick Impact Projects (QIPs):
 - ◇ India to fund 5 small-scale projects per year, with a maximum of \$50,000 each.
 - ◇ Target: High-visibility, short-term development impact.

Education & Skill Development:

- India to gift 2,000 laptops to students.
- Agreement to train diplomats and Caribbean bureaucrats in Indian institutions.
- Support for training of Hindu priests (Pandits) in the region.

Agriculture & Natural Farming:

- India gifted \$1 million in agro-machinery to NAMDEVCO (T&T's national agri body).
- Support for:
 - ◇ Millet cultivation
 - ◇ Seaweed fertilizer
 - ◇ Natural farming

Healthcare Assistance:

- India donated:
 - ◇ 20 hemodialysis units
 - ◇ 2 sea ambulances for island healthcare services.

Other Areas of Cooperation:

- Agreements also covered:
 - Sports
 - Capacity building
 - Anti-terror cooperation

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Geopolitical Significance:

- Reaffirmed solidarity in fighting terrorism (reference to support after the Pahalgam attack in India).
- Pushed for greater unity among Global South countries.
- Strengthened India–CARICOM (Caribbean Community) relations.

3. Three Kerala districts on high alert over Nipah; 425 people under observation:-

Context:

- Nipah virus outbreak reported in three Kerala districts: Malappuram, Palakkad, and Kozhikode.
- Two confirmed cases so far — one deceased, one in critical condition.

» Key Highlights:

Current Situation:

- 425 people traced as contacts:
 - ◇ Malappuram: 228
 - ◇ Palakkad: 110 (61 health workers)
 - ◇ Kozhikode: 87 (all health workers)
- 12 persons undergoing treatment in Malappuram (5 in ICU).
- One person tested negative; other results awaited.

High Alert & Containment:

- Kerala Health Department on high alert.
- Fever survey initiated in 3-km radius around infected persons' homes.
- Palakkad Collector warns against rule violations in containment zones.
- 24×7 control room set up and 26 outbreak response teams formed.

Mental Health Support:

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- Health Minister Veena George emphasized psychological aid for those in contact lists.

Search for Source:

- 65 health teams visited 1,655 homes in Malappuram — no new symptoms detected.
- Source of infection still under investigation.

Central Govt. Involvement:-

- Union Health Ministry may send National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT) to assist in disease control efforts.

What is Nipah Virus?:-

- Zoonotic virus (transmitted from animals to humans).
- Can also spread via human-to-human transmission.
- High fatality rate, no specific cure or vaccine.
- Causes fever, headache, drowsiness, and can lead to coma or death.

4. Amit Shah lays foundation for India's first co-op university:-

Context:

- Union Cooperation & Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for India's first national cooperative university in Anand, Gujarat—the birthplace of Amul.

» Key Highlights:

Tribhuvan Sahkari University:

- India's first national-level cooperative university.
- Named after Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel, founder of Amul and a pioneer of India's cooperative movement.
- Aims to train professionals in cooperative management and promote values of service, transparency, and innovation.

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Courses & Training Focus:

- Will offer education in:
 - ◇Accounting
 - ◇Marketing
 - ◇Finance
 - ◇Rural development
 - ◇Cooperative values
- Will help build a skilled workforce for the ₹80,000 crore Indian cooperative sector, which includes 36 lakh women.

Co-op Education in Schools:

- CBSE has launched a new course on cooperatives.
- Shah urged the Gujarat government to introduce cooperatives as a subject from Classes 9 to 12 in State Board schools.

Historical Context:

- India's cooperative movement began in 1946, led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- Focused on self-reliance, especially in rural and agricultural sectors.

5. Supreme Court introduces quota for OBCs, SCs and STs in direct staff recruitments:-

Context:

- The Supreme Court of India has amended its recruitment rules to introduce reservation for OBCs, SCs, and STs, along with other eligible categories.

» Key Highlights:

What Has Changed:

- Rule 4A of the Supreme Court Officers and Servants (Conditions of Service and Conduct) Rules, 1961 has been amended.
- This allows reservation in direct recruitment for:

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- ◇ Scheduled Castes (SCs)
- ◇ Scheduled Tribes (STs)
- ◇ Other Backward Classes (OBCs)
- ◇ Physically challenged persons.
- ◇ Ex-servicemen
- ◇ Dependents of freedom fighters

Initiative by:

- Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, the second Dalit CJI in history, led this major reform.
- Recruitment will follow Central Government reservation rules and the 200-point roster system.

Legal Basis:

- Amendment done under Article 146(2) of the Constitution, which gives the CJI power to regulate service conditions of SC staff.

Reactions:

- Senior advocate & Rajya Sabha MP P. Wilson called it a “historic reform” aligning with national affirmative action standards.
- This comes 33 years after the 1992 Indira Sawhney judgment, which allowed 27% OBC reservation in Central services.