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6 July 2026 · **POLITY** · **GS2** · **GS3**

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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A roundup of the key current affairs for July 6, 2026, covering the items not taken up as separate deep-dive articles.

NEW BACTERIUM NAMED AFTER SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE

*A newly discovered bacterium was named *Micromonospora shyamaprasadii*, honouring Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 125th birth anniversary on July 6.*

Key Points

- The new actinobacterium of the genus **Micromonospora** (family Micromonosporaceae) was discovered in **West Bengal** and registered under the **SeqCode**, a code for naming prokaryotes from genome sequences.
- It was named to honour **Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee** (1901 to 1953), founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (1951) and a former Union Minister, whose 125th birth anniversary falls on July 6, 2026.
- **Micromonospora** species are valued for producing antibiotics; the aminoglycoside antibiotic gentamicin comes from this genus.

FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

Micromonospora shyamaprasadii: new actinobacterium discovered in West Bengal; named after S.P. Mookerjee.

Genus use: Micromonospora species produce antibiotics such as gentamicin.

S.P. Mookerjee: founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (1951); 125th birth anniversary July 6, 2026.

PASSPORT IS A TRAVEL DOCUMENT, NOT PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

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Amid the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, the Ministry of External Affairs clarified that a passport is a travel document, not proof of citizenship.

Key Points

- The **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** (<https://ujivari.com/terms/sir-special-intensive-revision/>) of electoral rolls is being carried out by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to update and verify voter lists.
- The clarification that a passport establishes identity and nationality for travel but is not, by itself, conclusive proof of citizenship has sharpened the debate over which documents prove citizenship.
- The **Supreme Court** had upheld the legality of the SIR in an earlier 2026 ruling as consistent with the Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951.

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SIR: Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, conducted by the Election Commission of India.

Legal base: Representation of the People Acts, 1950 and 1951.

Passport: a travel document, not conclusive proof of citizenship.

HIMACHAL PRADESH GETS EIGHT NEW GI TAGS

Eight traditional Himachal Pradesh products received Geographical Indication (<https://ujivari.com/terms/geographical-indication/>) tags, raising the state's total to 17.

Key Points

- The new tags, facilitated by the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE), include **Spiti Seabuckthorn (Chharma)**, a cold-desert berry rich in vitamins and antioxidants, and the **Kinnauri apple**.
- A **Geographical Indication (GI)** is granted under the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**, and protects goods tied to a specific origin.
- The GI Registry is at **Chennai**, and a GI is valid for 10 years and renewable.

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Himachal GI: eight new tags, state total 17; include Spiti Seabuckthorn and Kinnauri apple.

Spiti Seabuckthorn: cold-desert berry of the Spiti valley.

GI Act: Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999; Registry at Chennai.

INDIA MANAGES THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ DISRUPTION

India coordinated with shipping firms and maritime agencies to manage energy-supply risks through the Strait of Hormuz (<https://ujivari.com/terms/strait-of-hormuz/>) amid West Asian tensions.

Key Points

- The **Strait of Hormuz** connects the **Persian Gulf** to the **Gulf of Oman** and the Arabian Sea, and roughly **20 per cent of the world's oil** passes through it.
- It is bordered by **Iran** to the north and **Oman** (the Musandam exclave) and the **United Arab Emirates** to the south, making it a critical global **chokepoint** (<https://ujivari.com/vocab/chokepoint/>).
- India has cushioned the risk through diversified crude sourcing, refining capacity and strategic reserves (<https://ujivari.com/terms/strategic-reserves/>), though higher freight and insurance costs remain a concern.

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Strait of Hormuz: links the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman; about 20 per cent of global oil transits it.

Borders: Iran, Oman (Musandam) and the UAE.

India response: diversified crude sourcing, refining and strategic reserves.

DALAI LAMA'S 91ST BIRTHDAY

July 6 marks the 91st birthday of the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso.

Key Points

- The **14th Dalai Lama**, Tenzin Gyatso, was born on July 6, 1935, and is the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism; he has lived in exile in India since 1959, based at **McLeodganj, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh**.

- He was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1989** for his non-violent advocacy for Tibetan autonomy.

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14th Dalai Lama: Tenzin Gyatso, born July 6, 1935; in exile in India since 1959.

Base: McLeodganj, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

Honour: Nobel Peace Prize, 1989.

UPSC RELEVANCE

These items span GS Paper 2 (polity and citizenship, international relations) and GS Paper 3 (science and technology, energy security (<https://ujjyari.com/terms/energy-security/>), intellectual property). Revise them as quick prelims pointers alongside the day's deep-dive articles.

FACTS CORNER

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Micromonospora shyamaprasadii: new bacterium from West Bengal, named after S.P. Mookerjee (125th birth anniversary).

SIR: Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls by the ECI; passport is a travel document, not citizenship proof.

Himachal GI: eight new tags (Spiti Seabuckthorn, Kinnauri apple); state total 17; GI Act 1999.

Strait of Hormuz: Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman; about 20 per cent of global oil; bordered by Iran, Oman, UAE.

Dalai Lama: 14th, Tenzin Gyatso, born July 6, 1935; Nobel Peace Prize 1989.

Sources: *Press Information Bureau* (<https://pib.gov.in>), *Election Commission of India* (<https://eci.gov.in>), *Ministry of External Affairs* (<https://mea.gov.in>)

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