

9. Short News

1. Lakkundi Village (Karnataka)

Archaeological excavations have yielded Neolithic relics, strengthening its case for UNESCO World Heritage status.

Historical Identity- Known as *Lokkigundi* in the 11th–12th century; compared to the celestial city of Amaravati.

Political History- Ruled by the Chalukyas, Yadavas, and Hoysalas; served as a capital under Hoysala king Veeraballala in 1192 A.D.

Architecture- Famous for the “Lakkundi School” of Kalyana Chalukya architecture. Known as the “village of a hundred wells and temples.”

Key Monuments- Kashi Visveshwara, Mallikarjun, and Virupaksha temples.

Jain Heritage- Associated with Queen Attimabbe (11th-century philanthropist); home to ancient Jain Basadis.

Recent Finds- Neolithic grey clay pottery, stone axes, cowrie shells, and Jina stone pedestals.

2. Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2026

The Ladakh phase concluded on Republic Day at NDS Stadium, Leh.

Nature- A multidisciplinary national competition under the Khelo India Scheme (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports).

Organized by- Sports Authority of India (SAI).

Structure- Conducted in two chapters–

1. Chapter 1 (Leh, Ladakh)– Focused on Ice Sports (Ice Hockey, Ice Skating).
2. Chapter 2 (Gulmarg, J&K)– Focused on Snow Sports (Skiing, Snowboarding).

New Addition- Figure Skating was introduced for the first time in 2026.

3. India–Canada Energy Cooperation

Joint statement issued at India Energy Week 2026 in Goa.

Strategic Alignment- Canada aims to be an energy superpower; India is the epicentre of global energy demand growth.

Key Commitments- * Bilateral trade in LNG, LPG, and crude oil from Canada to India. Export of refined petroleum products from India to Canada. Cooperation on Carbon Capture (CCUS), Green Hydrogen, and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

Mechanism- Renewal of the Ministerial Energy Dialogue and support for Business-to-Business (B2B) collaboration.

4. Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM)

Showcased by DRDO for the first time at the 77th Republic Day Parade.

Capability- A hypersonic glide missile for the Indian Navy's coastal batteries; can hit both static and moving maritime targets.

Speed- Operates up to Mach 10 (10 times the speed of sound).

Range- Approximately 1,500 km.

Trajectory- Follows a quasi-ballistic trajectory; flies at low altitudes with high maneuverability to evade enemy radar.

Propulsion- Two-stage solid rocket motor.

5. Shikshapatri Dwishatabdi Mahotsav

The Text- A sacred code of conduct authored by Bhagwan Swaminarayan in 1826. 212 Sanskrit verses laying down moral, spiritual, and civic duties. The 2026 Mahotsav marks 200 years (Bicentenary) of its promulgation.

Gyan Bharatam Mission (GBM)- Launched by the Ministry of Culture (Budget 2025–26) to digitize 1 crore manuscripts over 5 years.

6. Sea of Japan (East Sea)

Site of recent North Korean missile tests.

Geography- A marginal sea of the Western Pacific; bordered by Japan, Russia, and the Korean Peninsula.

Key Straits- * Connects to East China Sea via Tsushima Strait. Connects to Sea of Okhotsk via La Perouse Strait.

7. Lonar Lake (Maharashtra)

Origin- Created by a meteorite impact ~52,000 years ago in the basaltic rock of the Deccan Plateau.

Unique Feature- Only known impact crater in basalt; contains two distinct layers of water (alkaline and saline).

Recent Event- A steady 20-foot rise in water levels.

Ecology- Designated as a Wildlife Sanctuary; water turns pink or emerald green due to specialized microorganisms

