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1. Andy Burnham (56), leader of the ruling Labour Party, was formally sworn in as the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. He later delivered his first official address from the Prime Minister's official residence at 10 Downing Street in London.
2. Iran-backed Houthi rebels operating in Yemen have announced a naval blockade against Saudi Arabia.
 - i. As a result, Saudi vessels will be barred from passing through the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, a 32-km-wide strategic waterway that serves as the southern gateway to the Suez Canal, through which nearly 25% of global container shipping passes.
 - ii. The Houthis stated that the move was in retaliation for Saudi Arabia's blockade of Yemen and its recent attack on Sanaa International Airport.
3. Khalil al-Hayya has been appointed as the new leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

He succeeds Yahya Sinwar, who was killed in clashes with Israeli forces in October 2024.
4. Spain won the 2026 FIFA World Cup, defeating defending champions Argentina in the final.
 - i. The tournament, held every four years, took place over one month across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. For the first time, the competition was expanded from 32 teams to 48 teams, with a total of 104 matches played.
 - ii. The final was held at MetLife Stadium, New Jersey, between defending champions Argentina and former champions Spain.
 - iii. Spain claimed their second FIFA World Cup title, winning prize money of ₹430 crore. Argentina, the runners-up, received ₹328 crore, England (third place) ₹289 crore, and France (fourth place) ₹270 crore.

- iv. The awards were presented by U.S. President Donald Trump, FIFA President Gianni Infantino, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.
- v. The 2030 FIFA World Cup will be jointly hosted by Spain, Portugal, and Morocco. Spain will aim to defend its title on home soil.

5. The fourth season of the Global Chess League (GCL) will be held in Bengaluru from September 3 to 14.

- The launch event took place in Mumbai on July 20, coinciding with World Chess Day, with chess legend Viswanathan Anand participating in an awareness campaign.
- The tournament featured World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and Women's World Cup champion Divya Deshmukh.

6. India and Moldova Agree to Strengthen Trade, Investment, and Supply Chains

President Droupadi Murmu announced that India and Moldova have agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, and supply chains.

- i. During her official visit to Moldova—the first-ever by an Indian President—Murmu met Moldovan President Maia Sandu to discuss bilateral relations.
- ii. According to an official statement:
 - Economic cooperation remains a key pillar of India–Moldova relations.
 - Both countries agreed to enhance cooperation in agriculture, logistics, infrastructure, healthcare, renewable energy, public digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, innovation, trade, investment, and supply chains.
 - They also agreed to improve the ease of doing business.
 - An India–Moldova Business Forum was held as part of the visit.
 - India will double the number of training opportunities for Moldovan experts in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.
- iii. As part of her three-country state visit, President Murmu visited Moldova first, followed by North Macedonia (July 21–22) and Romania (July 23–25).

7. India Grants First Marketing Approval for a Dengue Vaccine

India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has granted its first-ever marketing approval for a dengue vaccine. The approval was given to QDENG (TAK-003), developed by Japanese pharmaceutical company Takeda, marking a significant milestone in India's dengue prevention efforts.

(i) Significance

- Dengue cases in India rise significantly during the monsoon season, affecting thousands each year.
- Until now, mosquito control, public awareness, and supportive treatment were the primary preventive measures.
- The availability of an approved vaccine marks a major advancement in dengue prevention.

(ii) Vaccine Type

- QDENG is a live-attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine.
- It provides immunity against all four dengue virus serotypes:
 - DENV-1
 - DENV-2
 - DENV-3
 - DENV-4

(iii) Dosage

- The vaccine is administered in two doses.
- The second dose is given three months after the first.
- Unlike some earlier dengue vaccines, no blood test is required beforehand to determine whether the individual has had a previous dengue infection.

(iv) Who Can Receive It?

- Approved for individuals aged 4 to 60 years.
- It can be given to both:
 - People who have previously had dengue.
 - People who have never had dengue.
- Therefore, recipients do not need to be screened based on prior dengue infection history.

(v) Effectiveness

- Clinical trials conducted in several countries indicate that:
 - The vaccine reduces symptomatic dengue infections by approximately 80%.
 - It lowers the risk of hospitalization due to severe dengue by 84–90%.
- Long-term studies suggest that protection lasts for at least seven years.

(vi) Side Effects

Most reported side effects are mild to moderate, including:

- Pain or redness at the injection site.
- Headache.
- Muscle pain.
- Mild fever.

These side effects are generally temporary and resolve on their own.

(vii) Who Should Not Receive It?

Since QDENG A is a live-attenuated vaccine, it is not recommended for:

- Pregnant women.
- Breastfeeding mothers.
- Individuals with weakened immune systems.

(viii) Global Use

- QDENG A has received World Health Organization (WHO) Prequalification.
- It is already approved and in use in more than 40 countries, including:
 - European Union member states.
 - United Kingdom.
 - Brazil.
 - Indonesia.
 - Thailand.
 - Argentina.
 - Australia.

India's approval marks a new chapter in dengue prevention. However, detailed guidelines regarding its use, pricing, and inclusion in the national immunization programme are expected to be announced later.