



7. Short News

1. International Conflicts & Security

White Phosphorus Allegations– Human Rights Watch alleges the Israeli military used white phosphorus in southern Lebanon.

Nature– It is a waxy chemical that ignites at 30°C upon contact with oxygen, causing severe chemical burns that can reach the bone.

Legal Status– Not banned under international law for smoke screens or signalling, but prohibited if used indiscriminately against civilians.

UNSC Resolution on Iran– India co-sponsored a resolution (passed 13-0, Russia/China abstained) demanding Iran stop attacks on Gulf states and the Strait of Hormuz.

India's Interest– Protecting 10 million Indian diaspora members and securing energy (50% of crude and 90% of LPG imports come from this region).

Shadow Fleet– During the 2026 conflict, a "Shadow Fleet" of ships is evading the Strait of Hormuz closure by turning off transponders and using shell companies to bypass regulations.

2. Connectivity & Regional Cooperation

Operation Sagar Bandhu– The Indian Army is building a major bridge in Sri Lanka connecting Colombo to Puttalam.

Background– Part of a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission launched in 2025 after Cyclone Ditwah.

GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)– A 6-member union (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE) headquartered in Riyadh. Its military arm is the Peninsula Shield Force.

3. Science, Health & Medicine

GLP-1 Drugs (e.g., Ozempic)– India has banned advertisements for these drugs to prevent misuse for weight loss without medical supervision.

Function– They mimic hormones to regulate insulin and hunger but carry risks if used without a doctor's guidance.

Peptide Therapy– Uses short chains of amino acids (messengers) to target specific biological pathways. More precise than traditional medicine but requires strict regulation.

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)– The 2025-26 Budget allocated ₹20,000 crore for these advanced nuclear reactors.

Features– Smaller than traditional plants (up to 300 MW), factory-assembled, and safer due to passive cooling systems.

4. Agriculture & Trade

Purple Potatoes– A Punjab farmer is growing these antioxidant-rich tubers (originally from the Andes). India recently launched its own variety, Kufri Jamunia.

Joha Rice– India exported 25 metric tonnes of this GI-tagged aromatic rice from Assam to the UK and Italy.

International Year of the Woman Farmer– The UN has declared 2026 to honour this role, focusing on closing gender gaps in the agri-food system.

5. Environment & Geography

Bull Sharks in Iran– Bull sharks have been spotted in the Karun River (Iran's largest navigable river).

Unique Trait– They can survive in both saltwater and freshwater due to specialized osmoregulation.

Thermal Independence– India is pushing for Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) technology to reduce gas imports for industrial heat (textiles, ceramics). India has a 6.4 GW potential in this sector.

6. Governance & Culture



NXT Summit- PM Modi linked India's goal of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) to the spirit of the historic Dandi March.

Global Engagement Scheme- A new Ministry of Culture initiative (launched 2025) to promote Indian heritage via "Festivals of India" and grants to cultural societies abroad.

Operation White Hammer- A DRI raid in Andhra Pradesh that shut down an illegal manufacturing unit for Alprazolam (a controlled anxiety medication often misused).

7. History Snippet- Dandi March (1930)

Start- March 12, 1930, from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi (24 days).

Purpose- To break the British salt monopoly.

Leader- Mahatma Gandhi and 78 followers; triggered the Civil Disobedience Movement.

