

THE DAILY GK DOSE

Former ISRO Chief S. Somanath Joins Agnikul Cosmos Board



- S. Somanath served as the Chairman of ISRO from 2022 to 2025 and led the successful Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 missions.
- Agnikul Cosmos is a Chennai-based space startup that developed the Agnibaan launch vehicle with 3D-printed rocket engines.
- His appointment is expected to strengthen India's private space ecosystem and accelerate commercial space innovation.

Cabinet Approves ₹1.27 Lakh Crore for Semicon Mission 2.0



- the Union Cabinet approved Semicon Mission 2.0 with an outlay of ₹1.27 lakh crore and the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme with a budget of ₹62,500 crore.
- Semicon Mission 2.0 extends the India Semiconductor Mission (launched in 2021) from 5 years to 12 years to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem.

- The mission is based on six pillars, including chip design, to boost domestic semiconductor manufacturing and reduce import dependence.

Google India Signs MoU with Tripura to Build AI Ecosystem



- Google India signed an MoU with the Government of Tripura during the Destination Tripura Business Conclave 2026 to strengthen the state's AI ecosystem, cloud infrastructure, and digital governance.
- The partnership focuses on AI skill development, digital literacy, education, entrepreneurship, workforce training, and modernizing citizen services.
- The initiative will be supported by the Tripura IT & Data Ecosystem Zone (TIDEZ) and a 10-acre IT Park with an AI Centre of Excellence (CoE).

Centre Approves 2 Rail Projects in Odisha & Jharkhand



- the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved two railway multi-tracking projects for Odisha and Jharkhand.
- The projects include the doubling of the Paradeep–Haridaspur line and the construction of a fourth line on the Rajkharsawan–Dangoaposi route, with a total cost of ₹3,907 crore.
- The projects will add about 145 km to the Indian Railways network and are targeted for completion by FY 2029–30.

NABARD Launches 'Gramodyam' Programme



- NABARD launched the Gramodyam Programme on 13 July 2026 during its 45th Foundation Day to promote rural entrepreneurship among youth.
- It is a three-year pilot programme with a target of developing around 4,000 rural entrepreneurs across all States and Union Territories of India.
- Gramodyam is implemented in partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and provides entrepreneurship training, mentoring, skill development, and enterprise setup support to participants.

Russia Launches 'Soyuz MS-29 Mission'



- Russia successfully launched the Soyuz MS-29 crewed mission to the International Space Station (ISS) from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- The launch was attended by NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman, marking the first visit by a NASA chief to the Baikonur Cosmodrome since 2018.

- The Soyuz-2.1a rocket launched NASA astronaut Anil Menon and Roscosmos cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina to the ISS for the 75th long-duration expedition.

SpaceX Launches First Commercial Nuclear Satellite



- BOHR (Betavoltaic Orbital High-Reliability) is the world's first commercially built nuclear-powered satellite, developed by City Labs (Florida, USA).
- It was launched aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket during the Transporter-17 rideshare mission from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California (USA).
- BOHR uses a NanoTritiumbetavoltaic nuclear battery, which generates electricity from the radioactive decay of tritium, to demonstrate long-life power technology for future space missions.

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY LINES

Durand Line – Pakistan and Afghanistan

Radcliffe Line – India and Pakistan

McMahon Line – India and China (Arunachal Pradesh–Tibet)

Line of Control (LoC) – India and Pakistan (Jammu & Kashmir)

Line of Actual Control (LAC) – India and China

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

16-07-2026 / THURSDAY

World Snake Day is celebrated annually on July 16 to create awareness about the conservation of snakes and their importance in maintaining ecological balance.