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School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 27 July 2026

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE



- It is a premier central police force of the Union of India, entrusted with the critical task of maintaining internal security.
- It functions under the authority of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** of the Government of India.
- **Historical Background:**
 - It was initially established as the **Crown Representative's Police** on **July 27, 1939**, in response to escalating political turmoil and unrest within the princely states.
 - Post-independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on enactment of the **CRPF Act on 28th December 1949**.
- The force is **headed by a Director General** and is further divided into four zones located in **Jammu, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Guwahati**, each under the command of Special Directors General (DGs).

Key Functions of Central Reserve Police Force:

- **Crowd Control and Riot Control:** CRPF personnel are trained in crowd management techniques to handle large gatherings, protests, and demonstrations.
- **Critical Infrastructure Protection:** CRPF personnel are dedicated to protecting **critical Central and State Government facilities**, especially in insurgency-affected regions.
- **UN Peacekeeping Missions:** CRPF personnel have a commendable record of contributing to international **peacekeeping efforts under the UN flag**.
- **Disaster Management:** The force actively participates in rescue and relief operations during natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, and cyclones.

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Special Units of Central Reserve Police Force:

- **Rapid Action Force (RAF):** The Rapid Action Force (RAF) is a specialized unit of the CRPF established in October 1992 to handle riots and public disturbances.
- **Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA):** The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) is a specialized unit created to conduct guerrilla and jungle warfare operations.
- **Mahila Battalions:** The CRPF is the only paramilitary force in India with six all-women battalions.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL FILM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF INDIA



(NFDC)?

- It is a specialised organization set up by the Government of India to promote the growth and development of the Indian film industry.
- Founded in 1975, NFDC operates under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- Headquarters: Mumbai,
- Its primary goal is to plan, promote, and organize an integrated and efficient development of the Indian film industry, fostering excellence in cinema.
- In 1980, Film Finance Corporation and Indian Motion Picture Export Corporation were merged with NFDC.
- In 2022, the Government merged four film media units with the NFDC:
 - Films Division
 - Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF)
 - National Film Archive of India (NFAI)
 - Children's Film Society, India (CFSI)
- NFDC's contributions span various aspects of the film industry, including financing, production, and distribution.

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- The corporation has **funded and produced over 300 films** in multiple Indian languages, many of which have **received national and international acclaim**.
 - These films often **address socially relevant themes** and showcase the artistic talents of Indian filmmakers.
- In addition to its production and financing activities, NFDC is committed to **promoting skill development** in the media and entertainment sector.
 - The corporation **offers training programs** for aspiring filmmakers, technicians, and other industry professionals, ensuring that the Indian film industry remains competitive on a global scale.
- Furthermore, NFDC is dedicated to preserving and **promoting India's cinematic heritage**.
 - The corporation **manages the National Museum of Indian Cinema**, which showcases the history and evolution of Indian cinema through various exhibits and interactive displays.
- NFDC **organizes Film Bazaar India**, a co-production and distribution market for the South Asian region alongside the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa.

Key Facts about International Film Festival of India (IFFI):

- The IFFI, founded in **1952**, is **Asia's oldest international film festival**.
- Its goal is to provide a single platform for ambitious filmmakers, cineastes, and industry professionals to have access to excellent cinema from across the world.
- The **first edition** of the event was held in **Mumbai**, which in the subsequent years moved to Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, and Trivandrum.
- **Since its third edition**, the event has become **competitive**.
- **Since 2004**, IFFI has moved to its **permanent venue in Goa**.
- It is **jointly organized** each year by the NFDC, in **collaboration with the State Government of Goa and the Indian Film Industry**.

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TRUMP'S GENERIC DRUG TARIFF THREAT: IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIAN PHARMA

US President Donald Trump announced recently, that tariffs on generic drugs will be raised to 100% after two years and to 200% thereafter, aimed at "reshoring" generic pharmaceutical production to the US.

He warned that companies choosing not to build plants in the US would be "penalised."

- Experts believe these threats are primarily designed to **pressure global pharma giants into boosting US investments**, rather than to actually raise tariffs.

Why This Matters for India?

- The US is India's **largest pharmaceutical export market**, accounting for almost 40% of India's pharma exports.
- Around 90% of India's pharmaceutical exports to the US are generic medicines.
- In 2025, India exported \$9.7 billion worth of pharmaceuticals to the US.
- The US imported \$213 billion worth of pharmaceutical products in 2025 overall, including \$94.1 billion in finished medicines sold in retail packs — the category covering generics.

Indian Pharma's Response: Rising US Investment

- Tariff-related uncertainty appears to be driving Indian pharma companies to secure US market access through investment:
 - Sun Pharmaceutical Industries (India's largest pharma company) announced the acquisition of US-listed Organon & Co. for \$11.8 billion — the largest overseas acquisition by an Indian pharmaceutical company to date.

Why Full Relocation Is Unlikely?

- GTRI cautions that large-scale relocation of generic drug production to the US faces structural hurdles:
 - Generic medicines operate on **extremely thin margins**.

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- Production depends on global supply chains, especially for **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)**, many sourced from India and China.
- Building a fully domestic US supply chain would require substantial investment and would **almost certainly raise medicine prices** in the US.

HIGH-POWERED TASK FORCE FOR NTA REFORMS

- The Union Government has constituted a high-powered task force under Infosys co-founder **Nandan Nilekani** to recommend next-generation reforms for the National Testing Agency (NTA) and India's public examination system.

Reasons for Constituting Task Force:

- The government aims to -
 - **Restore credibility**, transparency and integrity of public examinations.
 - Maximise the use of technology in conducting examinations.
 - Prevent paper leaks, unfair means and cyber vulnerabilities.
 - Strengthen **institutional capacity** and governance of the National Testing Agency.
 - Build a secure, technology-enabled and student-centric examination ecosystem.
- The Prime Minister stated that while strict legal action is being taken against those involved in exam malpractices, long-term **structural reforms** are equally necessary.

Composition of the High-Powered Task Force:

- The **multidisciplinary** panel reflects expertise across technology, education, security and administration.
- **Chairperson:** Nandan Nilekani – Infosys co-founder and architect of Aadhaar.
- **Members:**
 - S. Somanath – Former Chairman, ISRO.
 - Tapan Deka – Former Director, Intelligence Bureau.
 - V. Kamakoti – Director, IIT Madras.
 - Anita Karwal – Former Education Secretary.
 - Amrit Lal Meena – Logistics expert and former civil servant.

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Mandate of the Task Force:

- **Technology-based examination reforms:** Secure digital examination infrastructure, advanced cybersecurity mechanisms, greater use of digital authentication and monitoring, and technology-driven prevention of question paper leaks.
- **Institutional reforms:** Structural changes in the functioning of the NTA; improved governance, accountability and operational efficiency; and standardisation of examination processes.
- **Operational improvements:** Better logistics and examination management, enhanced transparency in examination administration, and strengthened mechanisms for conducting large-scale national examinations.

Legislative Backing and Background:

- The announcement coincides with the proposed Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) **Amendment Bill**, 2026, which seeks to:
 - Increase punishment for examination-related offences.
 - Enhance monetary penalties for paper leaks and organised malpractice.
 - Strengthen the legal framework against examination fraud.
- **Fast-track courts** are also established to ensure speedy prosecution of such offences.
- **Significance for India's education system:** The proposed reforms are expected to -
 - Improve fairness and credibility of competitive examinations.
 - Enhance public confidence in recruitment and admission processes.
 - Strengthen cybersecurity and data protection in examination systems.
 - Promote good governance, transparency and accountability in public institutions.
- **Challenges ahead:**
 - Balancing technological innovation with data privacy and cybersecurity.
 - Ensuring digital accessibility across urban and rural regions.
 - Coordinating reforms among multiple examination bodies.
 - Implementing recommendations without disrupting ongoing examinations.
 - Building institutional capacity for long-term monitoring and compliance.

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DO NOT SURRENDER TO CHINA, DO NOT DEPEND ON THE U.S.

- India faces an increasingly **complex geopolitical environment** shaped by rivalry between the United States and China.
- Policy shifts under the Trump administration, including tariffs, tighter H-1B visa rules, and improved ties with Pakistan, have revived calls for a reset in India's China policy.
- While economic engagement with China offers commercial benefits, India's long-term interests require **balancing economic growth**, national security, and strategic autonomy.

The Economic Argument for a China Reset

- Supporters of closer engagement contend that:
 - China is a major supplier of industrial inputs and capital.
 - **Affordable Chinese imports** enhance industrial competitiveness.
 - Restored supply chains can accelerate manufacturing and exports.
 - Economic cooperation may ease bilateral tensions.
- While these arguments address immediate economic concerns, they overlook broader **geopolitical realities**.

Strategic Limitations of an Unconditional Reset

- **Ignoring China's Record of Aggression**
 - India-China relations have been shaped by repeated border confrontations, including Depsang (2013), Chumar (2014), Doklam (2017), and the Galwan Valley (2020) clashes.
 - China has pursued salami-slicing tactics along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), continued claims over Arunachal Pradesh, issued stapled visas, and attempted to alter the status quo through sustained military pressure.
- **China-Pakistan Strategic Partnership**
 - China has consistently supported Pakistan by shielding Pakistan-based terrorist groups at the UNSC, opposing India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), and strengthening military cooperation with Islamabad.

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The Way Forward

- India should pursue a balanced strategy by:
 - Strengthening Make in India and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) programmes.
 - Diversifying trade partnerships with Europe, Japan, S. Korea, ASEAN, Australia, Global South.
 - **Investing in semiconductors**, A I, defence manufacturing, and critical technologies.
 - Enhancing border infrastructure and military preparedness.
 - Encouraging selective economic engagement with China while safeguarding strategic sectors.
 - **Building resilient supply chains** and reducing dependence on any single country.

Conclusion

- India's foreign policy should neither be dictated by fluctuations in Washington nor driven solely by **short-term commercial interests**.
- The most sustainable path lies in **strengthening strategic autonomy**, expanding economic resilience, diversifying partnerships, and enhancing comprehensive national power.
- Rather than choosing between Washington and Beijing, India must **build the capacity** to engage both confidently while protecting its sovereignty, security, and long-term national interests.



KEY FACTS ABOUT GOBIND SAGAR LAKE

- It is a **manmade reservoir** located in the Bilaspur district of **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The lake is **named after Guru Gobind Singh**, the **tenth and last Sikh guru**, who spent some time in the region during his military campaigns.
- It was created by the **construction of the Bhakra Dam** on the **Sutlej River** in the 1950s and 1960s.
- It is **one of the deepest man-made lakes** in the world.
- It is surrounded by lush green hills and the **snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas**.
- It is also the **third-largest in the country** concerning the **storage of water**.
- To maintain the level of water, the **flow of river Beas** was **channelized to Gobind Sagar** by the **Beas-Sutlej link**, which was accomplished in 1976.

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- It helps in **supplying water for irrigation** to the states of **Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan**, significantly benefiting agriculture in the region.
- **Flora and Fauna:**
 - In 1962, the lake was recognized as the **‘waterfowl refuge.’**
 - Even today, the lake is home to many species of birds and animals like **Panther, Wolf, Chausinga, Sambar, Hyena, Sloth bear**, Nilgai, Chinkara, and wild boar.
 - It is home to fifty species and sub-species of fishes, namely **Tor Putitora (Mahasheer), Labeo Dero (Gid)**, Mystus Seenghala (Singhara), and mirror carp.



ASIATIC WILD DOG

- The Asiatic wild dog, also called **Dhole**, is a **wild Asian carnivore** of the dog family (Canidae).
- **Other Names:** Indian wild dog, whistling dog, red wolf, red dog, and mountain wolf.
- **Distribution:**
 - They are found throughout **Central, Eastern and Southeastern Asia**.
 - In India, they are found in three clusters across India, namely the **Western and Eastern Ghats, the central Indian landscape, and Northeast India**.
 - The Western and Eastern Ghats are stronghold regions for dholes.
- **Habitat:** They inhabit **dense jungles, steppes, mountains**, scrub forests, pine forests.
- **Features:**
 - It is a sleek, reddish-brown, medium-sized dog.
 - Males are generally more muscular than females.
 - This species **tends to live in groups** with numbers ranging from 2-25 individuals.
 - They are **fast runners, excellent swimmers**, and impressive jumpers.
 - They are **great communicators** and use an **eerie whistle to communicate** with each other.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Endangered