

Current Affairs Revision

Category: Infrastructure · Entries: 22

July 15, 2026

Science and Technology

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

India's First Hydrogen Train to Run Between Jind and Sonipat

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will flag off India's first **hydrogen train** from **Jind railway station, Haryana**, on **17 July 2026**. The train will operate between **Jind and Sonipat**, marking an important step towards clean and sustainable rail transport in India.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's first **hydrogen train** will be flagged off from **Jind railway station** in Haryana.
- The train will operate between **Jind and Sonipat**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will flag off the train on **17 July 2026**.
- In **Jind**, PM Modi will lay the foundation stone and dedicate projects worth around **₹14,700 crore**.
- The Jind event will be held at **Eklavya Stadium**.
- In **Chandigarh**, projects worth over **₹6,600 crore** related to healthcare, education and road infrastructure will be inaugurated or launched.
- PM Modi will inaugurate the **Advanced Mother and Child Centre** and **Advanced Neurosciences Centre** at **PGIMER Chandigarh**.
- In **Jalandhar**, projects worth over **₹5,470 crore** will be inaugurated or launched.
- **75 redeveloped railway stations**, including **Jalandhar Cantt**, will be inaugurated under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**.
- Important places in news: **Jind, Sonipat, Chandigarh, Jalandhar and Jalandhar Cantt**.

July 12, 2026

Economy

Places in News

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Shipping Shocks Expose India's Container Vulnerability

NEWS ITEM

A report highlighted how global shipping disruptions have exposed India's dependence on foreign container ships and limited domestic container capacity. The first outcome of the **₹10,000 crore container manufacturing scheme** announced in **Union Budget 2026-27** came on **3 July 2026**, when an India-made **EXIM container** built by **DCM Shriram Group** was unveiled at **Dadri for Maersk**, which placed a follow-on order for another **1,000 containers**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- A **₹10,000 crore container manufacturing scheme** was announced in **Union Budget 2026-27**.
- Its first outcome came on **3 July 2026** with an India-made EXIM container built by **DCM Shriram Group**.
- The container was unveiled at **Dadri for Maersk**.
- Maersk placed a follow-on order for another **1,000 containers**.
- India manufactured around **24,000 TEUs in FY24**.
- China's container output runs into several million TEUs annually.
- Foreign shipping lines carry around **90-95% of India's cargo**, increasing vulnerability during global disruptions.
- Indian-made containers cost roughly **20% more** than Chinese containers due to logistics and location disadvantages.
- Manufacturing containers closer to ports such as **Dadri** can reduce transport cost disadvantages.
- Coffee exporters are affected as ships avoid the **Red Sea-Suez route** and move around the **Cape of Good Hope**.
- Rice exports to Iran are affected by uncertainty around the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- Freight from **Kochi to Jebel Ali** reportedly rose from around **\$1,000-\$1,500** to nearly **\$7,000**.
- **Nhava Sheva** has become a major hub for larger container ships.
- **Kochi, Thoothukudi, Vizhinjam, Kandla, Mumbai, Dadri, Dubai, Khor Fakkan, Sohar and Jebel Ali** came into news in the context of container logistics.
- An MoU was signed to establish **Bharat Container Shipping Line**, India's first national container carrier.
- Institutions linked to this initiative include **Shipping Corporation of India, Container Corporation of India, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Tuticorin** and **Chennai** port authorities.

July 11, 2026 Economy Species & Environment Infrastructure

Uncertainty Over Parandur Greenfield Airport Project

NEWS ITEM

A Ground Zero report highlighted uncertainty over the proposed **Parandur greenfield airport project** in Tamil Nadu. The project, planned as a second airport for Chennai, has reportedly been put on hold without an official announcement, leaving protesting residents of **Ekanapuram** relieved but residents of other affected villages uncertain about their land and future.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The **Parandur airport project** is a proposed greenfield airport project in Tamil Nadu.
- It was planned as a **second airport for Chennai**.
- The project was announced in **2022**.
- **Ekanapuram** is one of the key villages opposing the project.
- The report states that the project has been put on hold, but without an official announcement.
- Residents of Ekanapuram feared displacement, loss of agricultural land and impact on wetlands and water bodies.
- Land acquisition reportedly began in surrounding villages in **July 2025**.
- Ekanapuram was avoided during acquisition due to strong local resistance.
- Residents of other villages where land has been acquired remain uncertain about return of land, compensation and future livelihood.
- Aviation and industry experts argue that Chennai needs additional airport capacity for long-term growth.
- Environmental and social concerns include wetlands, drainage, water bodies, agricultural land, compensation and rehabilitation.

July 9, 2026 Economy Indexes & Reports Infrastructure

India Becomes Fourth Largest LNG Regasification Market

NEWS ITEM

According to the **International Gas Union's World LNG Report**, India's LNG regasification capacity reached **52.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa)** across **eight terminals** in 2025, making it the **fourth largest regasification market** globally after surpassing Spain.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's LNG regasification capacity reached **52.5 mtpa** across **eight terminals** in 2025.
- India surpassed **Spain** to become the **fourth largest regasification capacity market** globally.
- The data is from the **IGU World LNG Report**.
- **Dahej LNG Terminal** has **17.5 mtpa** capacity and is India's largest LNG terminal.
- Dahej ranks as the **sixth largest LNG regasification facility globally**.
- India commissioned two LNG regasification projects in 2025.
- New onshore terminal: **Chhara LNG**, with **5 mtpa** capacity.
- Expansion project: **Dabhol LNG**, whose capacity increased from **2.9 mtpa to 5 mtpa**.
- Four LNG projects are under construction in India and are expected to add **11.3 mtpa** capacity by **2028**.
- India's LNG regasification utilisation fell to about **47% in 2025**, down from **58% in 2024**.
- Asia led global LNG regasification capacity additions in 2025.
- China and India contributed **15.1 mtpa** and **7.1 mtpa**, respectively, to global additions.

July 8, 2026 Economy Government Initiative Infrastructure

Varanasi Airport to Get India's First Six-Lane Runway Underpass

NEWS ITEM

India's first **six-lane underpass beneath an active runway** is being built at the new terminal of **Varanasi Airport**. Union Civil Aviation Minister **Ram Mohan Naidu** said that foundation and raft work of the **450-metre underpass** is underway.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's first **six-lane underpass beneath an active runway** is coming up at **Varanasi Airport**.
- The underpass will be about **450 metres** long.
- Foundation and raft work of the underpass is currently underway.
- It will enable road traffic to move below while aircraft operate above.
- The project is linked with the new terminal infrastructure at Varanasi Airport.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister **Ram Mohan Naidu** shared the update.

July 8, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

NAL Completes Design Phase of Saras MK-II Aircraft

NEWS ITEM

Civil Aviation Minister **Ram Mohan Naidu** congratulated **National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)** for completing the design phase of the **19-seater Saras MK-II** aircraft. He said the aircraft advances the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision and can support the **UDAN** goal of connecting remote and high-altitude airfields with Made-in-India aircraft.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **NAL** has completed the design phase of the **19-seater Saras MK-II**.
- Saras MK-II is being developed as an indigenously designed **light transport aircraft**.
- The development supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision.
- The aircraft is linked with the **UDAN** vision of improving regional air connectivity.
- It is expected to help connect remote and high-altitude airfields with Made-in-India aircraft.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister **Ram Mohan Naidu** congratulated NAL for the achievement.

July 7, 2026

Economy

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Kamarajar Port Becomes India's Second Major Port with 18-Metre Draft

NEWS ITEM

Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) has become India's **second Major Port**, after **Visakhapatnam Port**, to offer an operational draft of **18 metres**. This follows the completion of **Capital Dredging Phase VI** with an investment of about **₹440 crore**, enabling the port to handle fully laden **Capesize vessels** of up to **1,70,000 DWT**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Kamarajar Port** has become India's **second Major Port** with **18-metre draft capability**.
- The first Major Port with 18-metre draft capability is **Visakhapatnam Port**.
- Kamarajar Port is located near **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- It is India's first **corporatised Major Port**.
- **Capital Dredging Phase VI** was completed with an investment of about **₹440 crore**.
- The port can now handle fully laden **Capesize vessels** of up to **1,70,000 DWT**.
- The project deepened the outer approach channel from **20 m to 23 m**.
- The inner entrance channel was deepened from **19 m to 22 m**.
- The enhanced draft is expected to reduce logistics costs through economies of scale.
- The achievement supports **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.

July 5, 2026

Science and Technology

International Organisations

Science & Technology

Infrastructure

CERN's LHC Upgrade and Future Collider Debate

NEWS ITEM

CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC) has entered a four-year shutdown for a major upgrade costing about **\$1.5 billion**, which will convert it into the **High-Luminosity LHC**. The upgrade aims to increase collision data and improve chances of detecting rare physics signals, while CERN also debates whether to build the much larger **Future Circular Collider**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **CERN** is the European Organization for Nuclear Research.
- **Large Hadron Collider** is CERN's flagship particle collider.
- The LHC discovered the **Higgs boson** in **2012**.
- The LHC has entered a four-year shutdown for an upgrade costing about **\$1.5 billion**.
- The upgraded machine will be called the **High-Luminosity LHC**.
- The upgrade aims to increase the number of collisions, not primarily the collision energy.
- The LHC is expected to run until around **2041**.
- The proposed **Future Circular Collider** involves a **91-km** tunnel.
- A build-or-abandon decision on the FCC is expected around **2028**.
- The current cost estimate for the FCC is about **\$19 billion**.
- A possible later FCC proton machine could reach around **100 TeV**.
- The Standard Model cannot fully explain dark matter, dark energy and matter-antimatter imbalance.

July 4, 2026

Economy

Places in News

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

PM Launches ₹1.06 Lakh Crore Projects in Rajasthan

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated, inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth around **₹1.06 lakh crore** at **Balotra, Rajasthan**. The projects cover energy, petrochemicals, aviation, metro connectivity, roads, railways, renewable energy, power transmission and water supply.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The event was held at **Balotra, Rajasthan** on **04 July 2026**.
- Projects worth around **₹1.06 lakh crore** were dedicated, inaugurated or had foundation stones laid.
- **Rajasthan Refinery** is located at **Pachpadra in Balotra district**.
- The projects cover sectors such as petrochemicals, urban transport, aviation, railways, roads, renewable energy and power transmission.
- A new terminal building at **Jodhpur Airport** was inaugurated.
- A modified phase of the **UDAN** regional air connectivity scheme was launched.
- The foundation stone was laid for **Jaipur Metro Phase 2**.
- Rajasthan and Haryana agreed to work on water supply to **Shekhawati** through an underground pipeline from **Hathnikund Barrage**.
- Beneficiary districts mentioned for the Shekhawati water plan include **Sikar, Churu and Jhunjhunu**.
- Renewable energy initiatives mentioned include solar parks, rooftop solar under **PM Surya Ghar** and solar pumps under **PM-KUSUM**.
- **Khejri** was highlighted as an ecologically important tree in desert regions.

July 4, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

CG Semi OSAT Facility Inaugurated in Sanand

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility** at **Sanand, Gujarat**. The facility marks a major step in India's semiconductor journey by starting commercial chip packaging and testing and strengthening India's position in the global semiconductor value chain.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **CG Semi OSAT facility** at **Sanand, Gujarat** on **04 July 2026**.
- **OSAT** stands for **Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test**.
- The facility begins commercial chip packaging and testing operations.
- The Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone of the project in **2024**.
- Chip testing at the facility started by **August 2025**, as mentioned in the official release.
- The facility is linked with industrial partners from **India, Japan and Thailand**.
- The current stated production capacity is **20 crore units per year**.
- The future target mentioned is **500 crore units per year**.
- **Sanand** is emerging as a semiconductor cluster with companies such as **Micron, Kaynes** and **CG Semi**.
- India's semiconductor strategy aims to cover **design, fabrication, assembly, testing and packaging**.
- The Prime Minister described the semiconductor push as the next stage of India's electronics manufacturing growth: products, then components, and now semiconductors.
- The facility is expected to support sectors such as **AI, robotics and next-generation technologies**.

July 4, 2026

Environment and Ecology

Indexes & Reports

Government Schemes

Infrastructure

Building Water Security in a Drying India

NEWS ITEM

An editorial highlighted India's worsening **water stress**, with cities such as Bengaluru, Delhi and Mussoorie facing severe water shortages. It argued that India cannot depend only on monsoon rainfall and must invest in climate-proof water systems, wastewater reuse, efficient irrigation, better urban finance and reliable river-basin-level water data.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The editorial was written by **Nitin Bassi**, Fellow at the **Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)**.
- India has about **4% of global water resources** and supports nearly **18% of the world's population**.
- **Water stress** threshold: annual water availability below **1,700 cubic metres per person**.
- **Water scarcity** threshold: annual water availability below **1,000 cubic metres per person**.
- **11 of 15 major river basins** in India are experiencing water stress.
- Basins mentioned below the scarcity threshold include **Krishna, Cauvery, Mahi and Tapi**.
- Delhi's water supply was stated to have fallen to around **70%** of total demand of **1,250 million gallons per day**.
- A **UNU-INWEH** report warned of global water bankruptcy.
- Nearly **three-fourths of the global population** lives in water-insecure countries.
- The editorial suggests climate risk assessment, water reuse, efficient irrigation and basin-level water data as key reforms.
- CEEW analysis estimated that treated wastewater sale could create an economic opportunity of **₹3 lakh crore** and **1,00,000 additional jobs by 2047**.
- **Urban Challenge Fund** has central assistance of **₹1 lakh crore** and supports Cities as Growth Hubs, Creative Redevelopment of Cities, and Water and Sanitation.
- Under UCF, the Centre can finance up to **25%** of the cost of bankable projects, with significant funding expected from market sources such as bonds, bank loans and PPPs.

July 3, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Vikram-1 Set for India's First Private Orbital Launch

NEWS ITEM

Skyroot Aerospace announced the launch window for **Vikram-1**, India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket, under **Mission Aagaman**. The test flight is targeted no earlier than **July 12, 2026**, with the window extending till **August 4, 2026**, from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **Vikram-1** is India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket.
- It has been developed by **Skyroot Aerospace**, a Hyderabad-based private space company.
- Vikram-1's first test flight is named **Mission Aagaman**.
- The launch window is from **July 12 to August 4, 2026**.
- The launch is planned from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.
- Vikram-1 follows the successful suborbital flight of **Vikram-S** on **November 18, 2022**.
- The test flight will gather data on propulsion, stage separation, guidance, navigation, control and overall vehicle performance.
- All stages of Vikram-1 have been integrated and stacked at the launch pad.

July 3, 2026

Polity and Governance

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Nagaland Gets First UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra

NEWS ITEM

Nagaland's first **UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra** was inaugurated at **Purana Bazaar, Dimapur** by Advisor for Tribal Affairs and Election **H. Tovihoto Ayemi**. The centre will provide Aadhaar enrolment and update services, with capacity to process up to **250 requests daily**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Nagaland's first **UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra** was opened at **Purana Bazaar, Dimapur**.
- It was inaugurated by **H. Tovihoto Ayemi**, Advisor for Tribal Affairs and Election.
- The centre can process up to **250 enrolment and update requests daily**.
- Biometric update service will remain free of cost until **September 30**.
- The centre will remain open on all days except public holidays.

July 3, 2026

Science and Technology

Places in News

Science & Technology

Infrastructure

I-2SEA Submarine Cable to Link India and Southeast Asia

NEWS ITEM

A consortium comprising **Lightstorm, Microsoft, Singtel** and **Tata Communications** has unveiled the **I-2SEA submarine cable system** to connect India, Malaysia and Singapore. The project is designed to support rising demand from AI, cloud, hyperscale and GPU infrastructure users across the India-Southeast Asia corridor.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **I-2SEA** is a proposed submarine cable system linking **India, Malaysia and Singapore**.
- The consortium includes **Lightstorm, Microsoft, Singtel** and **Tata Communications**.
- It will connect India's east coast with **Singapore** and **Kuala Lumpur**.
- Indian landing points include **Machilipatnam** and a new diverse landing location in **South Chennai**.
- **NEC Corporation** has been appointed as the system supplier.
- **ASEAN Cableship (ACPL)** is the marine installation partner.
- The cable system is targeted to be ready-for-service in **Q4 2029**.
- The estimated cable length from Singapore to Machilipatnam is around **3,600 km**.

July 3, 2026

Economy

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Maruti Suzuki's Fourth Plant Inaugurated at Kharkhoda

NEWS ITEM

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Japanese Prime Minister **Sanae Takaichi** inaugurated **Maruti Suzuki's fourth vehicle manufacturing facility** at **Kharkhoda, Haryana** during the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum. The plant is expected to strengthen India's automobile manufacturing capacity and India-Japan industrial cooperation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The plant is located at **Kharkhoda, Haryana**.
- It is **Maruti Suzuki's fourth vehicle manufacturing facility** in India.
- The inauguration took place during the **India-Japan Joint Economic Forum**.
- The plant's capacity will be expanded from **5 lakh units** to **10 lakh units** annually.
- The projected total investment at the facility is **₹35,000 crore**.
- Suzuki cars made in India are exported to more than **100 countries**.

July 2, 2026

Science and Technology

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

India's First PinS Procedure for Helicopter Operations

NEWS ITEM

India has approved its first **Private Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedure** for helicopter operations at **Undavalli Heliport**. Developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and approved by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**, it enables safer satellite-based approaches where conventional landing infrastructure is absent.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's first private **PinS Instrument Approach Procedure** has been approved for **Undavalli Heliport**.
- It was developed by **AAI** and approved by **DGCA**.
- PinS uses satellite-based navigation for helicopter instrument approaches.
- It is useful where conventional landing infrastructure or ground-based navigation aids are unavailable.

July 2, 2026

Environment and Ecology

Government Schemes

Science & Technology

Infrastructure

ACME Signs Green Ammonia and Methanol Offtake Deals with Japan

NEWS ITEM

Under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, **ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited** signed long-term offtake agreements with Japanese companies for green hydrogen derivatives. It will supply **405 kTPA green ammonia** to **IHI Corporation** and **100 kTPA green methanol** to **Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company** from its Paradip facility.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The agreements were signed at **Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- **ACME Group** signed long-term offtake agreements with **IHI Corporation** for green ammonia and **Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company** for green methanol.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission** was approved in January 2023 with an outlay of **₹19,744 crore**.
- **SIGHT Programme** provides financial support for production through bidding conducted by **SECI**.
- ACME Group has been awarded **370 kTPA** production capacity under the SIGHT Programme.
- ACME will supply **405 kTPA green ammonia** to IHI Corporation.
- ACME will supply **100 kTPA green methanol** to Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company under a **10-year agreement** from its **Paradip facility**.
- Japan's **METI** administers the CfD scheme supporting low-carbon ammonia.

July 2, 2026

International Relations

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

India-Japan Energy Resilience Partnership

NEWS ITEM

India and Japan agreed to deepen cooperation on **strategic crude oil stockpiling**, petroleum reserve mechanisms and maritime energy transport value chains. The agreement followed summit-level talks between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Japanese Prime Minister **Sanae Takaichi** in New Delhi.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India and Japan issued a **Joint Statement on Energy Resilience** on **02 July 2026**.
- The statement followed talks between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Japanese Prime Minister **Sanae Takaichi** in **New Delhi**.
- The partnership covers strategic crude oil stockpiling, petroleum reserve mechanisms and maritime energy transport value chains.
- Cooperation will include national stockpiling systems, industry stockpiles, coordination with producing countries, emergency response and market stabilisation.
- Indian stakeholders include **Indian National Oil Companies** and **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL)**.
- Japanese stakeholders include **JOGMEC** and **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**.

July 2, 2026

Economy

Science & Technology

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Building India's Coal Chemistry Capability

NEWS ITEM

An opinion article argued that India's energy security needs deeper **coal chemistry capability**, not only import diversification. It highlighted that while India managed the 2026 **Strait of Hormuz** disruption through refinery flexibility, long-term resilience requires domestic alternatives such as **Dimethyl Ether (DME)** produced through **coal gasification** to reduce LPG import dependence.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The article was written by **R.A. Mashelkar**, distinguished scientist and former Director General of **CSIR**.
- The core argument is that India must move from crisis management to structural reduction of energy import dependence.
- During the Hormuz disruption, India's non-Hormuz crude sourcing reportedly rose from **55% to 70%**.
- Domestic LPG production during the crisis reportedly increased from **35 TMT per day to 54 TMT per day** within five days.
- **DME** can be produced through coal gasification and can be blended with LPG.
- **BIS** has approved blending of up to **20% DME with LPG**.
- A 20% DME blend could displace around **6.3 million tonnes** of LPG imports annually and save nearly **₹34,000 crore** in foreign exchange.
- The **Surface Coal and Lignite Gasification Scheme** has an outlay of **₹37,500 crore** and targets **100 million tonnes** of coal gasification annually by **2030**.

June 27, 2026

Defence and Security

Infrastructure

Indian Coast Guard Commissions Fast Patrol Vessel 'ICGS Akshay'

NEWS ITEM

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned its new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), **ICGS Akshay**, in Goa. Indigenously built by Goa Shipyard Limited, the vessel will bolster India's coastal security, maritime law enforcement, and search and rescue capabilities, reflecting the ethos of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **ICGS Akshay** is a Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) belonging to the Indian Coast Guard.
- The vessel was designed and constructed by **Goa Shipyard Limited**.
- Its induction aims to ensure safe, secure, and clean seas within India's vast maritime domain.

June 27, 2026

Defence and Security | International Relations

Places in News

Infrastructure

INS Ikshak Reaches Seychelles During Operational Deployment

NEWS ITEM

The indigenously built Survey Vessel Large (SVL), **INS Ikshak**, arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles, as part of its operational deployment in the Southwest Indian Ocean region. The visit coincides with the 50th National Day celebrations of Seychelles, highlighting the deep maritime partnership and long-standing friendship between India and Seychelles in line with **Vision MAHASAGAR**.

PRELIMS FACTS

- **INS Ikshak** is the second ship of the Survey Vessels Large (SVL) project of the Indian Navy.
- It was indigenously designed and built by **GRSE** and **L&T**.
- **Port Victoria** is the capital and strategic port city of **Seychelles**, located in the western Indian Ocean.
- The ship's deployment is anchored in the Indian Navy's **Vision MAHASAGAR** initiative.

June 26, 2026

Economy

Government Initiative

Infrastructure

Civil Aviation Minister Launches India's First 'Easy Connect' Flight from Varanasi

NEWS ITEM

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu launched India's first '**Easy Connect**' flight from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi under the **Hub-and-Spoke model**. This initiative aims to transform India into a global aviation hub by 2030 and provide seamless international connectivity to passengers from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's first '**Easy Connect**' flight under the Hub-and-Spoke model was launched from **Varanasi** (Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport).
- The strategy targets making India a preferred aviation hub for Indian passengers by 2030 and globally by 2047.
- Under this framework, both domestic and international legs of the journey are treated strictly as international operations for security purposes.
- Distinct physical boarding cards are issued for domestic (D) and international (I) passengers to prevent mix-ups.