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Geography

Global Oceans Outside Polar Regions

Global sea surface temperatures (SST) in July 2026 outside the polar regions were the highest on record for the month.

- **Data** – Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).
- **SST** – 20.96°C (60°N–60°S), highest on record outside polar regions.
- **Cause** – Rapidly intensifying **El Nino 2026** + Green House Gases warming.
- **Impact** – Marine heatwaves (Atlantic, Mediterranean), Europe's hottest June-July, droughts, wildfires, soil moisture decline.

International Relations and Issues

BRICS Culture Ministers' Meet

Recently, BRICS meeting held in Bhopal under India's Chair ship.

- **Participation** –14 countries comprising 10 BRICS member countries and 4 partner countries
- **Outcome** – Adoption of **Bhopal Declaration** to strengthen BRICS cultural cooperation.
- **Aim –** To strengthen the institutional framework for BRICS cultural cooperation
- To provide a shared roadmap covering a wide range of contemporary and traditional areas of culture and heritage.
- **Focus** – Cultural and creative industries, networking, provenance research, restitution of cultural property, AI-enabled tracing tools.
- **Key Points** – Transparency and fair remuneration for copyright use in AI; safeguarding traditional knowledge and cultural expressions; cooperation in museums, archives, UNESCO nominations.
- **Initiative** – India announced **Voluntary Artist Registry** for exchanges and professional networks.

Agriculture

First Export of Mustard Honey

First-ever export of mustard honey.

- **Event** – Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated export by **Dergang Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)**
- **Export –** Tripura to Dubai.
- **Mustard honey** – It is a raw, monofloral honey made by bees that forage on blooming mustard fields.

Security

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise

Indian Navy-US Navy EOD Exercise 2026 to be conducted

- **Venue** – Southern Naval Command, **Kochi**.
- **Edition** – 8th since 2005.
- **Focus** – Enhance **interoperability and professional cooperation** of diving/EOD teams.
- **Activities** – Subject Matter Expert exchanges, cross-training, equipment demos, scenario-based drills.
- **Significance** – Strengthens bilateral naval partnership in specialised salvage and ordnance disposal ops.

Science

Quantum Network Blueprint

Recently, A new study introduced a protocol for quantum networks, offering a predictable framework to design future quantum communication architectures efficiently.

• **Challenge –** Quantum networks need maximal entanglement, but real-world noise weakens links.
• **Innovation –** Bose Institute scientists propose General Concurrence Percolation (GCP).
• **Approach –** Uses geometric routing to strengthen weak links, avoids disconnecting stations.
• **Impact –** Lowers entanglement threshold, builds dense networks, supports secure quantum communication.
• **Validation –** Computer simulations confirm efficiency.

Sharks as Hurricane Data Collectors – 2026

Researchers are testing whether sharks can serve as mobile near-real-time ocean-data observers

• **Research by –** University of Delaware scientists.
• **Method –** Sharks tagged with CTD sensors (conductivity, temperature, depth).
• **Purpose –** heat content of the top layer of the ocean, which is known as the mixed layer predicts hurricane intensity.
• This is the part of the water column that really drives hurricane intensity — warmer mixed layer equals stronger hurricane — as it holds the heat that feeds hurricanes.
• **Species Used –** Shortfin mako, blue sharks, smooth hammerheads, juvenile great whites.

Miscellaneous

National Handloom Day – 2026

Recently, 12th National Handloom Day was observed celebrating Weavers, Renewing Traditions, Expanding Horizons.

• **Observed on** – 7 August; commemorates **Swadeshi Movement (1905)**.
• **Support** – National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), Raw Material Supply Scheme, e-Pehchan cards, awards, concessional credit, welfare schemes.
• **Innovation** – Digital platforms, GI tags, India Handloom Brand, design showcases (*Vishwa Sutra, Handloom Hackathon 2026*)
• **Exports** – Major markets – UAE, US, France, UK, Spain.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – 2026

Recently, International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was observed globally.

• **Observed on –** 9 August; commemorates the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (1982, Geneva).
• **Theme 2026 –** *"Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being"*.
• **Global Context –** 476 million Indigenous Peoples across 90 countries; guardians of 28% of Earth's surface and 11% forests.
• **Focus –** Recognition of Indigenous knowledge systems, midwifery, languages (Decade 2022–2032), rights protection.

Quit India Movement Day – 2026

Recently, Quit India Movement Day was observed.

• **Launched on –** 8 Aug 1942, Bombay Session at Gowalia Tank Maidan.
• **Leader –** Mahatma Gandhi; historic call: "Do or Die".
• **Objective –** To compel the British to leave India immediately and achieve complete independence.
• **Cause –** Failure of Cripps Mission (1942) and British rule dissatisfaction during WWII.
• **Response –** British arrested Gandhi and Congress leaders (9 Aug).
• **Participation –** Students, workers, farmers, women in protests, strikes, underground activities.
• **Significance –** Turning point in freedom struggle; accelerated path to Independence (1947).

World Lion Day – 2026

Recently, World Lion Day was observed.

• **Observed on** – 10 August.

• **Objective –** To raise global awareness about the declining population of wild lions and the urgent need for their conservation.

• **Status –** <25,000 lions left; occupy only 6% of historic range.

• **Threats –** Habitat loss, livestock conflict, retaliatory killings.

• **Initiatives –** Batabilili guardians (Zimbabwe), GPS alert system (Botswana), Mama Simba women's group (Kenya).

• **Significance –** Promotes coexistence, community engagement, biodiversity protection

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