



Weekly **Current Affairs**

26th to 31st July 2026

NATIONAL NEWS



Kerala Launches Digital Square Education Initiative



- Inaugurated at Malappuram, Kerala and Implemented by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE).
- Covers Lower Primary (LP) and Upper Primary (UP) classes in government schools.
- Uses Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS)-based educational tools.

Punjab Becomes First State to Introduce AI as Mainstream Subject



- Implemented under the Sarbat.AI project which is Punjab Government's flagship Artificial Intelligence (AI) education initiative under Covers Classes I to XII.
- Curriculum aligned with UNESCO's Ethical AI Framework.
- Technology partners include Google, Intel, Canva, Neev AI and FA-AI. Education Minister: Harjot Singh Bains.

Sarnath Gets UNESCO World Heritage Tag

- Sarnath is located near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

- Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon here.
- The first sermon is known as Dharmachakra Pravartana (Turning of the Wheel of Dharma).

Indian Passport Ranking Falls to 81



- India's rank fell from 75th to 81st in the Henley Passport Index 2026. Singapore retained the No. 1 position.
- Indian passport holders have visa-free/visa-on-arrival access to 56 destinations.
- The ranking is based on IATA (International Air Transport Association) data.

Telangana Launches Family Register Initiative



- Available through the MeeSeva platform. MeeSeva is Telangana's Government-to-Citizen (G2C) service delivery platform. Implemented by the Revenue Department.
- Family Register Identification Number (FRIN) is the same as the Ration Card/Food Security Card Number.
- Any major (18+ years) family member can apply.

Uttarakhand to Radio-Collar Elephants for Kumbh 2027



- The initiative aims to ensure the safety of millions of pilgrims expected during the Haridwar Ardh Kumbh 2027.
- The programme is being carried out with technical support from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- Total Kumbh Mela venues in India are four—Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain. Kumbh Mela was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2017.

Himachal Pradesh Launches Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana



- The scheme is meant for eligible reservoir fishermen families in the state and It aims to provide financial assistance during the annual fishing ban (closed fishing season).
- Every eligible fisherman family will receive ₹3,500 per year as financial assistance.
- The objective is to provide livelihood security during the period when fishing is prohibited.

Tourism Ministry Signs MoU with Air India



- Ministry of Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Air India Limited in New Delhi.
- The MoU aims to promote India as a preferred global tourism destination under the Incredible India brand. The MoU is non-commercial, non-binding, and non-exclusive.
- Air India became the first global airline to partner with the Ministry of Tourism for promoting India internationally. Air India is India's flagship full-service airline and owned by the Tata Group, HQ: Gurugram, Haryana.

India Becomes World's Second-Largest Supplier of Seafarers



- India became the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers according to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026. BIMCO stands for Baltic and International Maritime Council.
- Philippines ranks first, while India ranks second globally. India improved from 5th rank (2015) to 2nd rank (2026). India's maritime workforce share increased from 5.2% (2015) to 12.16%.
- India contributes 311,936 seafarers, accounting for 12.16% of the global seafaring workforce.

Gujarat Launches e-Zero FIR System



- It enables victims of cyber financial fraud to register complaints without visiting a police station.
- Complaints made through the 1930 National Cybercrime Helpline are automatically converted into e-Zero FIRs. e-Zero FIR (Electronic Zero FIR) means a First Information Report (FIR) that can be registered digitally without considering the jurisdiction (location) of the police station.
- The initiative was developed in collaboration with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.



- Chhattisgarh became the first Indian state to adopt a women-led distributed renewable energy policy.
- The scheme was launched by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.

India Climbs from 82nd to 57th in Global Reform Rankings

- India improved 25 places, rising from 82nd to 57th in the latest Global Reform/Competitiveness Rankings.
- Its released by the Competere Foundation.
- The Competere Foundation released the latest Market Distortions Performance Index (MDPI). Singapore secured 1st rank in the Global Reform Rankings.

Rajasthan Issues First Rare Earth Exploration Licence



- The licence area is located in Navatala–Devigarh (Pachpadra).
- The exploration block lies in Balotra district and Shergarh tehsil of Jodhpur district, Rajasthan.
- The licence was granted to the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDI).

Chhattisgarh Launches DWEEPTI Yojana

- DWEEPTI stands for Decentralised Women Empowerment on Energy and Policy for Transformative Inclusion.

President Droupadi Murmu Launches Raahi & e-Audio Initiatives



- President Droupadi Murmu launched RAAHI and e-Audio initiatives at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- RAAHI stands for Rashtrapati Bhavan Access and Heritage Interconnector. RAAHI is a fare-free electric bus service.
- RAAHI aims to improve the visitor experience at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The e-Audio initiative enhances accessibility through digital audio content.

MoSPI to Replace WPI with PPI for GDP Deflation



- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) plans to replace the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with the Producer Price Index (PPI) for GDP deflation.
- GDP Deflator measures the overall change in prices of goods and services produced in an economy.

- PPI provides a better measure of producer-level inflation than WPI.

OmniCard Introduces India's First UPI-Based Flexi Benefits Wallet



- OmniCard Introduces India's First UPI-Based Flexi Benefits Wallet for Employee Tax Savings
- The wallet allows employees to spend flexible benefits through UPI.
- Users can make cashless digital payments directly via UPI.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India and China Resume Nathu La Border Trade



- India and China have decided to resume border trade through the Nathu La Pass from 1 August 2026, after a suspension since 2020.
- Nathu La Pass is located in East Sikkim. It connects Sikkim (India) with the Tibet Autonomous Region (China).
- The other two border trade routes are Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) and Shipki La Pass (Himachal Pradesh). Nathu La was part of the ancient Silk Route, connecting India with Tibet and Central Asia.

India Invites Bangladesh PM to Attend BRICS Summit 2026



- India has invited Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to attend the BRICS Summit 2026.
- The BRICS Summit 2026 will be held in New Delhi.
- Bangladesh is not a member of BRICS. BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Venezuela Formally Withdraws the International Criminal Court (ICC)



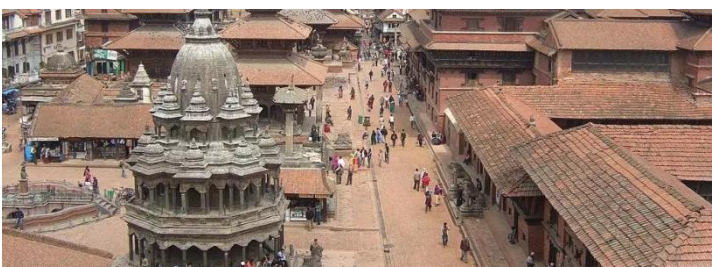
- Venezuela has formally notified the United Nations of its withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- The ICC is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.
- The ICC was established under the Rome Statute (1998) and became operational in 2002.

India's DPI Goes Global: 24 Countries Adopt India Stack, UPI and DigiLocker



- India has signed MoUs with 24 countries to share its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) solutions.
- The initiative is led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) includes Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, e-Sign, FASTag, CoWIN, e-Sanjeevani and ONDC.

India and Nepal Restore Lalitpur Heritage Sites



- India and Nepal jointly completed the restoration of heritage sites in Lalitpur (Patan), Nepal.
- The restoration was carried out under the India–Nepal Development Partnership.
- Lalitpur is one of the three historic cities of the Kathmandu Valley. The Kathmandu Valley is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

China's Gravity-1 – World's Most Powerful Solid-Fuel Rocket



- Gravity-1 (Yinli-1) is developed by Chinese commercial space company Orienspace.
- It is regarded as the world's most powerful solid-fuel launch vehicle.
- The rocket is capable of placing about 6.5 tonnes into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

India's 1st Commercial Freight Train Reaches Nepal Carrying Canola



- The train transported canola seeds for processing in Nepal.
- The service strengthens India–Nepal cross-border trade.
- Canola refers to special type of oil seed mustard varieties bred for human consumption.

Bangladesh President Resigns on Health Grounds



- President Mohammed Shahabuddin resigned and Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament), has assumed the role of Acting President.
- He was diagnosed with Autonomic Neuropathy, causing occasional loss of consciousness.
- Mohammed Shahabuddin became the 22nd President of Bangladesh in April 2023.

India and Romania Sign Three Agreements



- The agreements cover Science & Technology, Education, and Sports.
- The agreements aim to strengthen bilateral cooperation.
- Both countries agreed to promote research collaboration and innovation.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Pralhad Joshi Takes Charge as Education Minister



- He succeeded Dharmendra Pradhan and Pralhad Joshi is a 5-time Lok Sabha MP from Dharwad, Karnataka.
- Appointed by President Droupadi Murmu.
- Continues to hold the portfolios of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy.

PM Constitutes Exam Reform Task Force Led by Nandan Nilekani

- Nandan Nilekani (Co-founder & Chairman of Infosys) as well as the Founding Chairman of UIDAI (Aadhaar).



- Constituted by Ministry of Education
- Purpose is reform India's examination system following concerns over exam paper leaks and malpractice.

India Appoints Ngulkham Jathom Gangte as Ambassador to Mexico

- He is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1994 batch.
- Before this appointment, he was serving as Special Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- He has served in Indian diplomatic missions in Egypt, Morocco, Ireland, and Tanzania.

BANKING NEWS



Government Approves RBI Proposal for ₹10 & ₹20 Polymer Banknotes



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the authority responsible for issuing banknotes in India.
- The Central Government's approval is mandatory before introducing a new type of banknote. In India, the ₹1 note is issued by the Ministry of Finance.
- Polymer banknotes are made from a plastic-based substrate, Polymer notes are water-resistant and tear-resistant. Australia became the first country to introduce polymer banknotes in 1988.

Former SBI Chief GM to Liquidate Paytm Payments Bank Ltd.



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will wind up Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL). The winding-up process was approved by the Delhi High Court.
- Girikumar Nair has been appointed as the Official Liquidator. He is a former Chief General Manager of the State Bank of India (SBI).
- The bank's licence was cancelled due to serious regulatory violations. The liquidation is being carried out under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Companies Act, 2013.

SBI to Issue India's First Basel III-Compliant AT-1 Bonds



- State Bank of India (SBI) will become the first Indian bank in 2026 to issue Basel III-compliant Additional Tier-I Perpetual Bonds. Perpetual Bonds do not have a fixed maturity date.
- SBI plans to raise ₹5,000 cr. through the AT-1 bond. The bond issue is part of SBI's ₹60,000 crore capital-raising programme for FY 2026–27.

Axis Finance Launches 'Drishti' Digital Platform



- Axis Finance launched its in-house 'Drishti' BRE platform to improve credit decisions for retail and MSME lending.
- It has been launched in the first phase for Personal Loans, Business Loans, Loan Against Property (LAP), and Disha Home Loans.

Edelweiss Mutual Fund Launches REIT-Oriented Index Fund

- The fund tracks the Nifty REITs & InvITs Index. The fund is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- Mutual Fund invests in financial assets (shares, bonds, gold, etc.), whereas REIT invests in commercial real estate, and InvIT invests in infrastructure assets.

SPORTS



Anahat Singh Becomes First Indian to Win World Junior Squash Championship



- Anahat Singh won the World Junior Squash Championship and Won the Girls' Singles title. Venue: Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada.
- Previous Best Indian Performance: Joshna Chinappa – Runner-up (2005).
- First non-Egyptian women's champion since Amanda Sobhy (USA) in 2010.

Mirabai Chanu Wins Third Consecutive Commonwealth



- Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won gold in Women's 49 kg Weightlifting.
- It is her third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal. She is from Manipur.
- Won the Olympic Silver Medal at Tokyo 2020, World Champion in 2017, Padma Shri (2018).

16th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship Begins



- The championship is being held in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Coimbatore is known as the "Manchester of South India" because of its textile industry.
- It is organised by Hockey India. Hockey India is the governing body of hockey in India. Estb. 2009, HQ: New Delhi. President : Dr. Dilip Tirkey.
- The competition is for Junior Men (Under-21) players. The 15th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship (2025) was held in Jalandhar, Punjab.

Sharmila Dhankar Wins India's First Commonwealth Games Para Athletics Gold Medal



- Sharmila Dhankar won the Gold Medal in the Women's F57 Shot Put and Shilpa Shyla won the Bronze Medal in the same event.
- She also became the first Indian woman to win a Commonwealth Games para athletics medal.
- India won two medals in the same para athletics event for the first time in Commonwealth Games history.

Ajinkya Rahane Announces Retirement from International Cricket



- He retired from all international formats – Tests, One Day Internationals (ODIs), and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).
- He is popularly known by the nickname "Jinx". He has received the Arjuna Award.
- His hometown is Dombivli, Thane district, Maharashtra. (Indian cricketer).

Lovepreet Singh Wins Weightlifting Silver at CWG 2026



- Lovepreet Singh won a Silver Medal in Weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2026 at Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom (UK).
- Lovepreet Singh is an Indian weightlifter from Amritsar, Punjab.
- At the 2026 Commonwealth Games (Glasgow), he won the silver medal in the men's +110 kg event.

India Wins One Silver and Two Bronze at U17 World Wrestling Championships



- The U17 World Wrestling Championships 2026 are being held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Rachit Rachit won the silver medal in the 110 kg Greco-Roman category.
- Shivam won the bronze medal in the 45 kg Greco-Roman category. Aryan won the bronze medal in the 80 kg Greco-Roman category.

135th Edition of Durand Cup to Begin in Shillong



- The 135th Durand Cup will begin in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- The Durand Cup is Asia's oldest football tournament.
- It was first held in 1888. It is recognized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY



HCLTech to Set Up First AI Data Centre in Odisha



- HCLTech, Sarvam AI, and the Government of Odisha. HCLTech HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- To establish India's first AI-optimised data centre supporting AI model training, inference, storage, and networking.
- Supports India's Sovereign AI Mission with multilingual and sector-specific AI applications.

AstraZeneca India Sets Up Genomic Solutions Centre



- AstraZeneca India established an Integrated Genomic Solutions Centre in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. The centre is part of India's first Integrated Precision Oncology Programme.
- It focuses on lung cancer and breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.
- The project uses AI-powered X-rays and Next-Generation Genetic Testing (NGS). AstraZeneca is partnering with Strand Life Sciences and Qure.ai.

India's First Telecom Manufacturing Zone to Be Set Up

- India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) will be set up in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- The project is being implemented by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- The zone aims to promote indigenous telecom manufacturing.

DAANVEER Launches Gram Panchayat Digital Infrastructure



- It was launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The launch event was held in New Delhi.
- DAANVEER is a citizen participation platform to strengthen the digital infrastructure of Gram Panchayats.
- Developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj with NIC and DigiHaat.

Indian Navy Launches ASW Shallow Water Craft

- INS Machilipatnam (BY 529) is the Indian Navy's 7th ASW Shallow Water Craft
- The vessel was built by Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- The Indian Navy functions under the Ministry of Defence. Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.