

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Source: The Hindu + Dinamani Newspaper

1 July 2026

1. Polity, Defence and National Security

Syllabus: Prelims Unit IV - Indian Polity | Mains GS II - Polity and Governance, Defence and National Security

General Dhiraj Seth is the new Army Chief

- **General Dhiraj Seth** assumed charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff on 1 July, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi, who retired after more than four decades of service.
- Commissioned into the Army in December 1986 and an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, he had been serving as Vice Chief of the Army Staff since 1 April 2026.
- His earlier commands include an armoured regiment in the desert sector, an armoured brigade in the Western Theatre, and a counter-insurgency force in Jammu and Kashmir.

Three new criminal laws: two years and a full digital roll-out ahead

- **The three new criminal laws** - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Sakshya Sanhita (BSS) and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) - completed two years, having replaced the Indian Penal Code (1860), the Indian Evidence Act (1872) and the CrPC (1898) on 1 July 2024.
- In two years, 74.66 lakh FIRs were filed under the BNS and 63,572 zero-FIRs registered; the national implementation score rose from 46.47% (January 2025) to 70.06% (June 2026).
- From 1 January 2027, all investigations and trials will be recorded digitally through the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), with data stored on the government-owned MeghRaj cloud; forensic labs rose from 129 (2023) to 154 (2025).

Amit Shah launches FCRA 2.0 Portal and e-OCI card

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** launched the FCRA 2.0 Portal and the electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) card, both hosted on the National Government Cloud (MeghRaj).
- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 registration is mandatory to receive foreign donations; about 14,500 organisations currently hold FCRA registration, and the e-OCI card benefits over 50 lakh OCI cardholders.

Congress privilege notice against Rajnath Singh on Operation Sindoor

- **The Congress moved a breach of privilege notice** against Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, alleging he misled Parliament by stating that no Indian soldier was killed in Operation Sindoor.
- The notice, signed by K.C. Venugopal under Rule 223, notes that the government later acknowledged six armed forces personnel had died in the operation, which followed the April Pahalgam terror attack.

INDIA bloc memorandum to CJI over Special Intensive Revision

- **Twenty-three Opposition parties** sent a joint memorandum to the Chief Justice of India, Surya Kant, alleging biased conduct by the Election Commission over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, Bihar and other States; the DMK and AAP were among the signatories.
- A two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court had on 27 May unanimously upheld the SIR in Bihar as constitutionally valid under Article 324 and Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

2. International Relations and Geo-Politics

Syllabus: Mains GS II - India and the World, Foreign Policy, Bilateral and Global Groupings

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi begins state visit to India

- **Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi** begins a three-day state visit to India on 1 July, with bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled for 2 July.
- Japan has committed to invest 10 trillion Japanese yen (about Rs.5.82 lakh crore) in India over ten years, an announcement made during Modi's Japan visit in August 2025.

Strait of Hormuz: Iran-Oman Joint Committee, Modi-Pezeshkian call

- **Iran and Oman set up a Joint Hormuz Committee** and held their first meeting in Muscat; ship transits through the Strait of Hormuz surged about 70% in the week of 22-28 June over the previous week.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke by phone with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, stressing freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz for India and the world.

UPI goes live in Greece, the tenth country to adopt it

- **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** was officially launched in Greece, making it the tenth country to adopt UPI, after Singapore, UAE, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

US Supreme Court rejects Trump's birthright citizenship bid

- **The US Supreme Court** in a 6-3 ruling rejected President Donald Trump's attempt to restrict birthright citizenship, holding it contrary to the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution.
- The order could have affected around 250,000 babies born each year; it is the second major Trump initiative struck down by the court this year.

UN inquiry on Israel's actions against Palestinian children

- **A UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry**, chaired by Justice S. Muralidhar (former Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court), reported that at least 20,179 children were killed and 44,143 injured in Gaza since the 7 October 2023 events.
- The report holds that the acts amount to the war crime of wilful killing and the crime against humanity of extermination; 97% of Gaza's schools have been destroyed.

3. History, Art, Culture and Heritage

Syllabus: Prelims Unit III and VI - History and Culture | Mains GS II - Indian Culture, Tamil Society and Personalities

Poet Puviyarasu, founder of the Vaanambadi movement, passes away

- **Poet Puviyarasu**, founder of the Vaanambadi poetry movement and a two-time Sahitya Akademi Award winner, died in Coimbatore on 30 June at the age of 94.
- Born S. Jeganathan in 1931 in the Tirupur region, he headed the Vaanambadi Kavimandram (1970-77), wrote more than 70 books, and translated Shakespeare, Khalil Gibran, Omar Khayyam and Tagore into Tamil.

Pope Leo XIV issues encyclical 'Magnifica Humanitas'

- **Pope Leo XIV** issued the encyclical Magnifica Humanitas (Magnificent Humanity) on the 135th anniversary of Rerum Novarum, addressing data monopolies, algorithmic bias, autonomous weapons and artificial intelligence in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- The word 'encyclical' comes from the Greek 'enkyklios' (circular); the lineage began with Leo XIII's Rerum Novarum (1891) on workers' rights and the just wage.

Thanjavur Palace, a 400-year-old Nayak-era monument

- **Thanjavur Palace** (From the Archives, 1 July 1976), built by the Nayak rulers in the 16th-17th century on a 50-acre site, houses the Art Gallery and the Saraswathi Mahal Library; its 90-foot Bell Tower was taken up for restoration.

Chakrapani Temple, Kumbakonam

- **The Chakrapani Temple in Kumbakonam** is the unique shrine dedicated to Chakrathazhwar (Lord Sudarshana); the earliest hymn praising the deity, 'Hethi Pungava Stavam' (32 verses), was composed by Nadadur Ammal.

4. Geography, Environment and Infrastructure

Syllabus: Prelims - Geography | Mains GS III - Monsoon, Biodiversity, Climate Change

IMD: July rainfall to be below normal amid El Nino

- **The India Meteorological Department (IMD)** forecast July rainfall to be below normal (less than 94% of the average); June rainfall of 99.5 mm was the fifth lowest since 1901 and the least since 2014, with El Nino developing in June.
- Kharif crop area is down about 22-23% over last year and key reservoirs hold only around 26% of storage, though the Indian Ocean Dipole is expected to remain neutral.

India adds 709 animal species and 353 plant taxa in 2025

- **India added 709 species to its faunal database** in 2025 (483 new to science, 226 first records in India), taking total faunal diversity to 1,05,953 species; it also added 353 plant taxa (221 new to science).
- Released by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav (ZSI and BSI), Kerala led the new faunal finds (98 species) and Arunachal Pradesh led the new plant taxa (49); a new Himalayan bat, *Myotis himalaicus*, was among the finds.

Climate 'tipping points' debated at Bonn talks

- **At the Bonn climate talks (8-18 June 2026)**, India urged caution in defining a climate 'tipping point', warning of definitional challenges, while the EU called it 'coordinated misinformation'.
- Potential tipping points include Amazon dieback, collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), coral mass-bleaching and changes to the Indian monsoon; the 1.5°C and 2°C limits were adopted at COP21 (2015) as political targets.

GPS-tagged white-backed vulture dies in the Nilgiris

- **A GPS-tagged white-backed vulture** died of electrocution near Gudalur in the Nilgiris; it had been released in December 2025 by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) at the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.

5. Indian Economy and Government Schemes

Syllabus: Prelims - Economy | Mains GS III - Indian Economy, Employment, Infrastructure

New rural jobs scheme replaces MGNREGA from 1 July

- **The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), 2025** rolled out nationwide on 1 July, replacing MGNREGA and raising the wage-employment guarantee from 100 to 125 days a year.
- An interim allocation of Rs.95,692.31 crore has been made for 2026-27, with a 60:40 Centre-State funding ratio; the total outlay with the State share is about Rs.1.51 lakh crore.

India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 gets Rs.1.25 lakh crore

- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0** was cleared with an outlay of Rs.1.25 lakh crore (up from Rs.76,000 crore for ISM 1.0), focusing on chip equipment, materials, indigenous designs and resilient supply chains.

Gulf remittances rose despite the West Asia crisis

- **Net remittances from West Asia to India rose to \$16 billion in April 2026**, up 70% year-on-year, according to the Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review, as migrants front-loaded precautionary transfers during the conflict.

India's external debt rises to \$762.8 billion

- **India's external debt** rose to \$762.8 billion (about Rs.72.08 lakh crore) at end-March 2026, from \$736.3 billion a year earlier, per RBI data; the external debt to GDP ratio rose from 19.8% to 20.8%.

MSC buys 49% stake in Vizhinjam Port

- **MSC Group's terminal arm will invest \$1.397 billion for a 49% stake** in the Adani-run Vizhinjam Port in Kerala, described as the largest foreign private investment in Indian port infrastructure; Vizhinjam is India's first deep-water transshipment port.

Small savings interest rates left unchanged for July-September

Scheme	Interest rate
Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana	8.2%
National Savings Certificate (NSC)	7.7%
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7.5%
Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.1%

- The government kept small savings interest rates unchanged for the July-September 2026 quarter.

6. Tamil Nadu - Development Administration and Governance

Syllabus: Prelims Unit V and IX - Development Administration in TN, e-Governance | Mains - TN Economy and Society

Tamil Nadu rolls out the new rural jobs scheme

- **Tamil Nadu notified the new rural employment scheme** in the gazette and began implementing it from 1 July, with a total outlay of about Rs.12,642 crore (Centre Rs.7,585 crore, State Rs.5,057 crore).
- A Rural Employment Guarantee Council headed by Minister N. Anand and a separate Steering Committee will oversee the scheme in the State.

CM Vijay to meet post-poll allies; AIADMK sees exits

- **Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay (TVK)** is to hold a consultative meeting with post-poll allies at Kovalam, near Chennai, an outreach seen as mobilising support ahead of by-elections to seven vacant Assembly seats.
- Meanwhile, the AIADMK's strength in the Assembly fell from 47 to 41 as six MLAs submitted resignations, four of whom joined the TVK.

DMK forms committee for organisational revamp

- **DMK president M.K. Stalin** formed a committee to recommend organisational reforms, including redrawing district boundaries and a permanent election management team, with recommendations due by the first week of August.

New DGP for Fire and Rescue Services

- **G. Venkataraman** was appointed Director General of Police (DGP), Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services, succeeding Seema Agarwal, who retired.

TIDCO signs pact with ISRO for space testing at Kulasekarapattinam

- **At TN Def X 2026 (CII)**, TIDCO announced an MoU with ISRO to set up space technology facilities at Kulasekarapattinam, Thoothukudi, as Tamil Nadu develops its Defence Industrial Corridor across Chennai, Tiruchi and Coimbatore.

Teacher transfer counselling begins via EMIS

- **Teacher transfer counselling** began on 1 July through the EMIS platform, with 67,390 teachers having applied and the final priority list released on 30 June.

Wind and solar generators must share real-time data

- **Under the Tamil Nadu Electricity Grid Framework Rules, 2026**, all wind and solar power generators must share real-time generation data with the State Load Dispatch Centre; the State has more than 12,000 such generators.

School in Tenkasi renamed to honour Bharati's wife

- **The Kadayam Sathiram Bharati Girls Higher Secondary School** in Tenkasi district was renamed to include 'Sellammal', honouring the poet Subramania Bharati's wife.

7. Science, Technology and Space

Syllabus: Prelims - Science and Technology | Mains GS III - Space Technology, Digital Technology

ISRO succeeds in 175-tonne semi-cryogenic engine test

- **ISRO successfully hot-tested a 175-tonne thrust semi-cryogenic engine** at the Mahendragiri Propulsion Complex, clearing the 88% thrust level after earlier tests at 47% and 60%; the next target is 100% (200 tonnes).
- The eco-friendly engine, using liquid oxygen and purified kerosene, will power the re-engined core stage of the LVM3 rocket with the 2,000 kN SE2000 engine.

NASA launches robotic mission to rescue the Swift telescope

- **NASA launched a \$30-million robotic mission** to rescue the ageing Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory (launched 2004 to study gamma-ray bursts), which is falling toward Earth from its roughly 600-km low Earth orbit.
- A rescue robot built by the startup Katalyst, launched aboard the Pegasus rocket, will latch on to Swift and tow it to a stable orbit over at least a month.

WhatsApp to introduce usernames

- **WhatsApp** is introducing a 'username' feature, expected to be usable by the year-end, that will let users message without sharing phone numbers; the platform has over 300 crore users globally.

8. Sports and Personalities in News

Syllabus: Prelims Unit III - Sports, Games and Eminent Personalities

Sports Round-up at a Glance

Sport / Field	Key Result
Football (FIFA World Cup)	Germany and the Netherlands were both knocked out in

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Sport / Field	Key Result
	the first knockout round: Germany lost 4-3 on penalties to Paraguay and the Netherlands lost 3-2 on penalties to Morocco. It is the first time two top-10 teams exited the opening knockout round.
Cricket (Women's T20 World Cup)	Australia beat West Indies in the first semifinal at the Oval to reach their eighth final in ten editions; Beth Mooney was unbeaten on 61.
Cricket (India)	India begin a five-match T20I series against England at Chester-le-Street under new captain Shreyas Iyer ; the Indian women's team has qualified for the 2028 LA Olympics.
Athletics (National inter-State)	Tamil Nadu won the overall championship at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar (20 medals, including 9 gold); Praveen Chithravel took triple jump gold with 16.92 m and M. Sreeshankar leapt 8.38 m in the long jump.
Badminton	Chennai's Rithvik Sanjeevi won the Valence Alpes International title and is now ranked 77th in the world (BWF).

Ben Stokes retires from international cricket

- **England all-rounder Ben Stokes** announced his retirement from international cricket, remembered for his match-winning 2019 Headingley Ashes innings.