

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Source: The Hindu + Dinamani Newspaper

2 July 2026**1. Polity, Defence and National Security**

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

Army Chief unveils 'VIJAY' transformation road map

- **General Dhiraj Seth**, who took over as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff, unveiled a road map named "VIJAY" to transform the Indian Army into a technology-enabled, future-ready force.
- The letters stand for Vigilance, Innovation and Transformation, Jointness and Integration, Atmanirbharta (self-reliance), and Yodha First (every soldier as the greatest strength).

New leaders assume top military roles

- Major appointments were announced across the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army, strengthening the higher military leadership.

Post	Officer
Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS)	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit (a key figure in Operation Sindoor)
Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC)	Air Marshal Tejinder Singh (fighter pilot, 4,500+ flying hours)
Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS)	Lieutenant-General Sandeep Jain (Mahar Regiment, 1988)
GOC-in-C, Southern Command	Lieutenant-General Rajesh Pushkar

JPC likely to retain clause on removal of Ministers

- **The Joint Parliamentary Committee** examining the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025 is likely to retain the clause proposing removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and Ministers if they are arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days for serious offences.
- The draft report is expected by July 10 and the panel meets on July 17 to finalise it ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Panel on demographic changes to write to States

- **The High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes**, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar, will send questionnaires to Chief Secretaries of all States seeking details of population changes since the 2011 Census.
- It will also ask the Election Commission for names excluded from voter rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR); the panel was announced as the "High-powered Demography Mission".

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri gets extension

- **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri** received a one-year extension, allowing him to serve till July 14, 2027. He is only the second Foreign Secretary to get an extension.
- He oversaw India's diplomacy during Operation Sindoor and key engagements with the United States and the European Union.

2. International Relations and Geo-Politics

Syllabus: Mains GS II - India and the World, Bilateral and International Groupings

U.S. and Iran hold technical talks in Doha

- **The United States and Iran held technical talks in Doha** to agree on the flow of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and secure a lasting ceasefire, with Qatar and Pakistan as mediators.
- The talks are based on a 14-point interim accord signed last month; Iran's priorities include managing the Strait and the release of \$6 billion in frozen assets.

Israel to stay 'indefinitely' in security zones

- **Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz** said Israeli forces would remain "indefinitely" in the self-proclaimed security zones in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza, with no timeline for withdrawal.
- Israel and Lebanon had signed a U.S.-sponsored framework agreement to pave the way for peace and to disarm Hezbollah.

Ireland hopeful of EU-India FTA by year end

- **Ireland's Ambassador Kevin Kelly**, marking the start of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, said finalising the India-EU Free Trade Agreement would be a priority.
- The EU-India FTA was concluded in January 2026 and is expected to be formalised later this year; the EU sees India as one of its most important strategic partners.

3. History, Art, Culture and Heritage

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

Kerala moves towards becoming 'Keralam'

- **The Kerala Assembly unanimously endorsed the President's reference** on the proposal to officially rename the State from Kerala to "Keralam".
- The House considered the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 and endorsed the queries the President raised on the Bill's 10 clauses; the Speaker called it a "historic moment".

Parthasarathy Temple car festival in Chennai

- The Sri Parthasarathy Swamy Temple in Thiruvallikeni (Triplicane), Chennai held its seventh-day car festival (Ther), drawing large crowds and highlighting the city's living temple heritage.

4. Geography, Environment and Infrastructure

Syllabus: Prelims - Geography | Mains GS III - Environment, Infrastructure and Disaster Management

Monsoon fury: Orange alert in Himachal Pradesh

- **An orange alert was issued for Himachal Pradesh** for two days as heavy monsoon rain lashed the hill State; at least four people were killed in rain-related incidents around Mandi and the Beas river.
- India's power consumption grew 11.62% to 166.46 billion units in June, driven by heat wave conditions and the late onset of monsoon.

Chennai Metro Rail Phase II tunnelling to begin in August

- **Tunnelling on the 2.2-km Thirumayilai to Boat Club stretch** (Corridor 4) of the Chennai Metro Rail Phase II project is set to begin in the first week of August.
- Two tunnel boring machines are being assembled at Thirumayilai; the tunnels will run in a stacked pattern up to Bharathidasan Road and the work may take about a year and a half.

U.S. stands World Bank's climate finance targets

- The World Bank Group will retire its 45% and 35% climate co-benefits targets under the Climate Change Action Plan, following disapproval from the U.S. administration.
- The move may affect World Bank climate projects in India such as electrified freight rail, forest restoration, solar parks, green hydrogen and flood forecasting in Bihar's Kosi basin.

5. Indian Economy and Government Schemes

Syllabus: Prelims - Economy | Mains GS III - Indian Economy, Taxation and Government Schemes

GST revenue up 13.9% in June; tax completes nine years

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue grew 13.9% to Rs.1.95 lakh crore in June 2026, the highest year-on-year growth in 13 months, though most of it came from imports.
- Revenue from imports grew nearly 35%, while revenue from domestic transactions grew 6.5%. GST marked nine years of implementation on July 1.

VB-G RAM G Act replaces MGNREGA with Rs.300 floor wage

- The Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 came into effect, replacing the MGNREGA of 2005, and fixed a floor wage of Rs.300 per day.
- The 21 States and UTs paying below Rs.300 had their wages raised; Haryana (Rs.409), Goa (Rs.406) and Kerala (Rs.401) have the highest rates.

Commercial LPG price cut by Rs.183.5

- Oil marketing companies cut the price of commercial LPG cylinders by Rs.183.5, the first reduction in 2026, a week after supply restrictions were lifted. The price of domestic LPG remained unchanged.
- The price of aviation turbine fuel was cut by Rs.5 a litre; Nayara Energy reduced petrol by Rs.5 and diesel by Rs.3 per litre.

Manufacturing PMI slows to 54.2 in June

- The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI slowed to 54.2 in June, its second-lowest level in four years, driven by a broad-based slowdown in new orders and output. A reading above 50 denotes expansion.

Over 99% of births and deaths registered in 2024

- India's Civil Registration System (CRS) 2024 report showed birth registration reached 99.1% and death registration 99.4%. The national sex ratio at birth stood at 917 females per 1,000 males.
- Kerala (970), Arunachal Pradesh (1,050) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (984) were top performers, while Nagaland and Lakshadweep (865) recorded the weakest figures.

6. Tamil Nadu - Development, Administration and Governance

Syllabus: Prelims - Tamil Nadu | Mains GS II - State Administration and Welfare

TNEA 2026 rank list released; counselling from July 20

- The Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA) 2026 rank list was released and single-window counselling will begin on July 20; the list features over 2.36 lakh students.
- This year 50,494 students applied under the 7.5% horizontal reservation for government-school students, of whom 46,604 made the merit list.

Tasmac bars shut as licences expire

- **Bars attached to Tasmac liquor outlets across Tamil Nadu downed their shutters** after their licences expired on June 30, 2026, pending a government decision.
- Tasmac has around 2,320 bars attached to its 4,048 retail outlets; a source said the closure could cause a loss of Rs.400 crore a month, and fresh tenders may be floated.

Foreign Medical Graduates can intern at 36 hospitals

- **Foreign Medical Graduates (FMG) can now undergo the Compulsory Rotatory Medical Internship in 36 non-teaching hospitals** in Tamil Nadu, including 23 district headquarters hospitals.
- This creates a total of 1,504 internship positions every year, resolving a long-pending demand of hundreds of FMGs.

New patrol vehicles for Tamil Nadu Forest Department

- **Forest Minister R.V. Ranjithkumar flagged off 54 new patrol vehicles** for the Tamil Nadu Forest Department at a cost of Rs.3.91 crore, to strengthen night patrolling and wildlife protection.

7. Science, Technology and Space

Syllabus: Prelims - Science and Technology | Mains GS III - Developments in Science, Technology and Health

UN panel warns of 'catastrophic' risk from unchecked AI

- **The UN's Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence** warned that developments in AI are outpacing scientific understanding and government policy, with no guarantee it will not cause catastrophic harm.
- Panel co-chair Yoshua Bengio cited growing evidence of deceptive AI behaviour; UN chief Antonio Guterres said "the world cannot govern what it cannot understand".

India's first multi-visceral transplant at Osmania Hospital

- **Doctors at the Osmania General Hospital, Hyderabad performed India's first multi-visceral transplant**, transplanting five organs - stomach, duodenum, pancreas, small intestine and right colon - into one patient.
- The 36-hour marathon surgery was performed on a 30-year-old engineer using organs retrieved from a brain-dead woman.

Centre asks WhatsApp to hold username feature

- **The Centre sent a notice to WhatsApp** asking it to put its new username feature - which lets users interact without sharing phone numbers - on hold, citing risks of spam and impersonation.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology sought a detailed explanation within three days; the feature is yet to go live.

Anthropic to resume Fable and Mythos models in India

- **Anthropic announced it would resume access to its powerful AI models Fable and Mythos**, which had been pulled globally after a U.S. government export order restricting their use to "U.S. persons".

8. Sports and Personalities in News

Syllabus: Prelims - Sports and Persons in News | Mains GS - Awards and Achievements

Sports Round-up at a Glance

Sport / Field	Key Result
Football (FIFA World Cup)	England beat DR Congo 2-1 (Harry Kane brace) to reach the

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Sport / Field	Key Result
	round of 16; France beat Sweden 3-0 (Kylian Mbappe brace).
Football (World Cup goals)	Kylian Mbappe reached 18 career World Cup goals, one behind Lionel Messi's record of 19; Mexico beat Ecuador 2-0.
Cricket (1st T20I)	India posted 189 for seven against England, led by Shreyas Iyer (68) and Abhishek Sharma (59).
Tennis (Wimbledon)	Coco Gauff, Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka advanced; Serena Williams lost in the opening round of her comeback.
Basketball (NBA)	LeBron James will return for an unprecedented 24th NBA season, but not with the Los Angeles Lakers.

TNPL 10th edition from August 4 to 28

- **The 10th edition of the Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL)** will be played from August 4 to 28 in Natham (Dindigul) and Chennai, with the MAC Stadium hosting the final.