Cadetclub

Monthly

Current Affairs

July 2026

NDA, CDS and AFCAT preparation ecosystem

Everything you need to prepare well.

For more resources, visit

www.cadetclub.in

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

July in 12 anchors

Tap any card to open its story. Use the section buttons to browse the edition.

NAVAL POWER

INS Mahendragiri

Sixth Project 17A frigate commissioned.

AIR DEFENCE

Kusha

Maiden test of the long-range SAM.

JOINTNESS

IASV Triveni

All-women tri-service circumnavigation.

SPACE

Vikram-1

Skyroot's Mission Aagaman reaches orbit.

EARTH OBSERVATION

NISAR data

S-band radar products released via Bhoonidhi.

WORLD

Indo-Pacific ties

Japan, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand.

TECHNOLOGY

Semicon 2.0

Rs. 1,27,500 crore ecosystem programme.

ECONOMY

Nine core industries

Iron ore added in the new base-year series.

ENERGY

Floating solar

5,000 MW with at least 10,000 MWh storage.

HERITAGE

Sarnath

India's forty-fifth World Heritage property.

WORLD SPORT

Spain champions

FIFA World Cup final: 1-0 against Argentina.

CINEMA

72nd Film Awards

2024 films recognised in July 2026.

Defence | Science & technology | World affairs | National & economy
Environment | Sport & awards | Important dates

Defence & security

INS Mahendragiri commissioned

11 July
Source: PIB

The Navy inducted the sixth Project 17A stealth frigate into its Eastern Fleet at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

• Designed by the Warship Design Bureau, it was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.

• The frigate has over 75% indigenous content and supports air defence, anti-surface and anti-submarine operations.

Remember: Project 17A = Nilgiri-class stealth frigates; commissioning marks entry into naval service.



INS Mahendragiri. Indian Navy / PIB.

INS Malvan joins the fleet

22 July
Source: PIB

INS Malvan, the second Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, was commissioned at Karwar.

• Cochin Shipyard Limited built the vessel, which has over 80% indigenous content.

• It is the second CSL-built craft of its class and the sixth of the wider 16-craft ASW-SWC programme to be commissioned.

Remember: Named after Malvan in Maharashtra, the craft strengthens coastal and shallow-water security.



INS Malvan commissioning. Indian Navy / PIB.

Kusha: maiden missile flight test

23 July
Source: PIB

DRDO conducted the first flight test of the Kusha long-range surface-to-air missile from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off Odisha.

• The test used an electronic target simulating a high-speed, high-altitude aerial threat.

• The system is intended to counter several types of aerial threats, with indigenous missiles, radars and command-and-control elements.

Remember: Kusha is an air-defence missile system; do not confuse it with a surface-to-surface ballistic missile.

Indigenous expendable turbojet engine

Delivered 22 July | reported 23 July
Source: PIB

India realised an indigenous expendable turbojet engine in the 350 kg-thrust class.

• DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment designed it; Hyderabad-based Azad Engineering manufactured and assembled it.

• The engine was delivered to GTRE after the industry-development partnership.

Remember: The 350 kg figure describes a thrust class, not engine mass. Expendable engines serve different requirements from reusable fighter engines.

DAC approvals worth Rs. 52,000 crore

3 July
Source: PIB

The Defence Acquisition Council granted Acceptance of Necessity for capital-acquisition proposals valued at about Rs. 52,000 crore.

• Army proposals include AKASH TARANG anti-UAV electronic warfare, MPATGM, MRSAM, V-SHORADS and tank active-protection systems.

• Naval proposals include shipborne unmanned aircraft and electric-propulsion testing; the IAF proposal includes fixed-wing HAPS.

Remember: AoN is in-principle approval, not a signed purchase contract or equipment delivery.

Open visual explainer

Operation Southern Readiness 26-2

20-23 July
Source: PIB

The multinational maritime-security training engagement concluded at Southern Naval Command, Kochi.

• The Indian Navy worked with Combined Maritime Forces under Indian Navy-led Combined Task Force 154.

• It involved 276 personnel from 27 countries, with training in maritime law, information sharing, boarding and counter-narcotics.

Remember: CTF 154 focuses on maritime-security training and capacity building.

Pitch Black begins in Australia

20 July-7 August | July opening phase
Source: PIB

The IAF joined the Royal Australian Air Force's biennial multinational air-combat exercise at Base Darwin.

• India deployed Rafales, supported by C-17 Globemaster III transport and IL-78 air-to-air refuelling aircraft.

• The exercise emphasises large-force missions, interoperability and night operations.

Remember: The exercise continued into August; July coverage records its commencement and announced schedule.

Samudra Pradakshina completed

Flag-in 22 July | felicitation 30 July
Source: PIB

Nine women officers from the Army, Navy and Air Force completed the first all-women tri-service circumnavigation aboard IASV Triveni.

• The 314-day voyage covered nearly 25,500 nautical miles across four oceans.

• The expedition rounded Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope and crossed the Equator twice.

Remember: IASV means Indian Army Sailing Vessel; tri-service jointness involves all three armed services.



Tri-service women officers at the felicitation. Defence Ministry / PIB.

India-Japan Defence Policy Dialogue

13 July
Source: PIB

The eighth Defence Policy Dialogue took place in Tokyo.

• Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Japanese Vice Minister Kano Koji led the delegations.

• Topics included maritime cooperation, exercises, equipment, technology, cyber security and space.

Remember: This official-level dialogue is distinct from a Foreign and Defence Ministers' 2+2 meeting.

India-Rwanda defence committee

6-7 July
Source: PIB

The second Joint Defence Cooperation Committee met in New Delhi.

• The partners agreed to expand military training, exercises, medical cooperation and defence-industrial engagement.

• An implementation plan with timelines followed the bilateral defence MoU signed in July 2018.

Remember: Rwanda is a landlocked East African country; its capital is Kigali.

India-Malaysia military cooperation

1 July
Source: PIB

The twelfth Sub Committee Meeting on Military Cooperation reviewed bilateral engagements in New Delhi.

• Discussions included training, maritime security, defence industry, cyber security and humanitarian assistance.

• The countries also reviewed cooperation in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus framework.

Remember: ADMM-Plus brings ASEAN together with eight dialogue partners, including India.

INS Trikand counters a piracy attempt

1-2 July
Source: PIB

The frigate responded to an attempted attack on merchant vessel MV Golden Arsenal in the Gulf of Aden.

• All 21 crew members were reported safe; the Navy boarded and checked the vessel on 2 July.

• An Indian P-8I maritime-patrol aircraft supported surveillance and reconnaissance.

Remember: The Gulf of Aden connects to the Red Sea through the Bab el-Mandeb strait, a key shipping chokepoint.

Sudarshini at SAIL 250

Departed Boston 25 July | report 26 July
Source: PIB

INS Sudarshini represented India at SAIL 250 celebrations and International Naval Review 250 events in the United States.

• Port engagements included Norfolk, Baltimore, New York and Boston.

• The sail-training ship then headed towards Ponta Delgada in Portugal's Azores as part of Lokayan 26.

Remember: Training ships also support naval diplomacy through port calls and professional exchanges.

New Vice Chief of the Army Staff

1 July
Source: PIB

Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain assumed the appointment of Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

• An NDA alumnus, he was commissioned into the Mahar Regiment in June 1988.

• His experience includes operational commands and United Nations assignments.

Remember: VCOAS is the Army's Vice Chief; distinguish this post from the Chief of Defence Staff.

Next DGAFMS announced

31 July | future assumption of charge
Source: PIB

The government appointed Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja as the next Director General Armed Forces Medical Services.

• At the announcement, he was serving as Director General Medical Services (Air).

• He was to take over after Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin's retirement on 31 August.

Remember: This is a July appointment announcement, not a July handover. AFMS serves the three armed services.

India-Australia defence declaration

9 July
Source: PIB

The partners adopted a Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation during the third annual summit.

• It seeks closer strategic dialogue, more complex exercises, interoperability and information sharing.

• The declaration supports a rules-based Indo-Pacific, freedom of navigation and respect for UNCLOS.

Remember: UNCLOS is the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; a defence partnership is not automatically a mutual-defence treaty.

Defence outcomes with Indonesia

7 July
Source: PIB

The visit's outcome list included cooperation on the BrahMos missile system and an air-to-air missile cooperation agreement.

• The sides extended cooperation on maritime safety and security.

• Indonesia's deployment of a liaison officer at IFC-IOR was announced.

Remember: An announced cooperation arrangement should not be described as a completed weapons delivery.

Science & technology

Vikram-1 reaches orbit

18 July
Source: PIB

Skyroot Aerospace's Mission Aagaman launched Vikram-1 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

• The government described it as India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle and the first private Indian orbital launch from Indian soil.

• The mission carried experimental and customer payloads, supported by ISRO and IN-SPACe infrastructure.

Remember: An orbital mission reaches sustained Earth orbit; a suborbital flight does not.

Open visual explainer

NISAR S-band data released

24 July
Source: ISRO

ISRO released processed S-band Synthetic Aperture Radar products through its Bhoonidhi Earth-observation data hub.

• The NASA-ISRO mission combines L-band and S-band radar and supports a 12-day repeat cycle.

• Data processing and dissemination use the NRSC ground segment at Shadnagar.

Remember: Radar can observe day or night through cloud; NISAR was launched in July 2025, not July 2026.

Open visual explainer

Gaganyaan main-parachute test

7 July | reported 8 July
Source: ISRO

ISRO conducted IMAT-05 at the ADRDE drop zone in Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh.

• An IAF IL-76 dropped a simulated assembly and dummy mass from about 2.5 km to test a main parachute under expected maximum loads.

• The complete crew-module deceleration system uses ten parachutes of four types.

Remember: The full sequence uses two apex-cover, two drogue, three pilot and three main parachutes.

Bharatiya Antariksh Station roadmap

30 July | parliamentary update
Source: PIB

The government reviewed progress towards India's planned five-module space station.

• The first module, BAS-01, was targeted for 2028, while the complete station was targeted for 2035.

• Design and development covered docking interfaces and other critical human-spaceflight technologies.

Remember: A design milestone and a target year do not mean the space station is already in orbit.

First microgravity research workshop

15 July | reported 19 July
Source: ISRO

ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre convened the first national workshop on microgravity research at Bengaluru.

• More than 270 delegates discussed research in space biotechnology, physical sciences, materials and human biology.

• The programme reviewed Axiom-4 experiments and opportunities under iMEx-2026.

Remember: Microgravity in orbit mainly results from continuous free fall; it does not mean Earth's gravity has disappeared.

White Rabbit time network

16 July | reported 18 July
Source: PIB

A demonstration network for secure Indian Standard Time dissemination was commissioned at RRSL Bengaluru.

• The Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-NPL and ISRO developed the Precision Time Protocol-based system.

• Accurate synchronisation supports finance, telecommunications, power systems and other critical infrastructure.

Remember: CSIR-NPL maintains India's national time reference; IST is UTC plus 5 hours 30 minutes.

India approves its first dengue vaccine

21 July
Source: PIB

CDSCO granted marketing authorisation for Takeda's Qdenga, a live-attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine.

• The announcement identifies recombinant-DNA technology and coverage of dengue's four serotypes.

• Vaccination is intended to complement surveillance, vector control and other public-health measures.

Remember: Tetravalent means four components or targets. Dengue is transmitted primarily by infected Aedes mosquitoes.

National Quantum Mission update

30 July
Source: PIB

A parliamentary reply reported participation by 86 institutions across the mission's research, development and training components.

• Four thematic hubs cover computing, communication, sensing and metrology, and materials and devices.

• The government also reported a Letter of Intent with Japan on quantum-technology cooperation.

Remember: The mission supports several quantum fields; it is not limited to building a quantum computer.

GSI's first woman Director General

31 July
Source: PIB

Varsha Ashok Aglawe assumed charge as the fifty-fourth Director General of the Geological Survey of India.

• She became the first woman to head the organisation, succeeding Asit Saha.

• Her scientific background includes palaeontology and palynology.

Remember: GSI is under the Ministry of Mines; palynology studies pollen and spores, including fossil forms.

Private space-sector investment

23 July | parliamentary update
Source: PIB

The government reported that investment in India's private space sector had crossed USD 618 million.

• IN-SPACe helps authorise and support non-government entities in the space sector.

• Access to national facilities and public-private collaboration support commercial participation.

Remember: IN-SPACe is the facilitation and authorisation body; NSIL is the commercial arm of the Department of Space.

International affairs

Sixteenth India-Japan summit

1-3 July visit | summit statement 2 July
Source: PIB

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi visited India for the annual summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

• The partners prioritised defence and security, economic and technology cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges.

• The framework remains the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

Remember: An annual leaders' summit and an official-level defence dialogue are different mechanisms.

India-Japan AI cooperation

2 July
Source: PIB

A joint statement committed the partners to a safe, secure, trustworthy and human-centric AI ecosystem.

• Cooperation addresses innovation, responsible deployment and resilient AI supply chains.

• The statement also emphasises wider engagement with the Indo-Pacific and Global South.

Remember: AI governance concerns how systems are developed and used; a statement is not a new AI regulation.

India-Indonesia state visit

6-8 July
Source: PIB / PIB

Prime Minister Modi held talks with President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta and addressed the Indonesian Parliament.

• Outcomes covered minerals, agriculture, telecom, disaster management and peaceful uses of outer space.

• India announced assistance for restoration and conservation at the Prambanan Temple Complex in Yogyakarta.

Remember: Prambanan is in Indonesia; it is a Hindu temple complex and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Bintang Adipurna honour

7 July
Source: PIB

Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto conferred the Bintang Adipurna medal of honour on Prime Minister Modi.

• The official announcement describes it as Indonesia's highest civilian honour.

• It recognised contributions to strengthening relations between the two countries.

Remember: Bintang Adipurna is Indonesia's highest civilian honour; distinguish civilian honours from military decorations.

Third India-Australia annual summit

9 July | Melbourne
Source: PIB

Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Anthony Albanese reviewed their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in Melbourne.

• Outcomes addressed defence, energy resilience, critical technologies and people-to-people ties.

• The summit took place during the Indian Prime Minister's 8-10 July visit.

Remember: Melbourne hosted this summit; Canberra is Australia's national capital.

PACTS: cyber and supply chains

9 July
Source: PIB

India and Australia launched the Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains.

• PACTS succeeds and replaces their 2020 cyber and cyber-enabled critical-technology framework.

• It seeks more resilient supply chains and cooperation among governments, universities, researchers and industry.

Remember: Remember the full form: cyber security, critical technologies and supply chains.

New Zealand strategic partnership

10-11 July
Source: PIB / PIB

India and New Zealand elevated bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership and endorsed a Roadmap to 2030.

• Prime Ministers Modi and Christopher Luxon met during the visit to Auckland.

• Outcomes included maritime cooperation, hydrography, mutual logistics support, counter-terrorism and disaster management.

Remember: Auckland was the visit venue; Wellington is New Zealand's capital.

BRICS health ministers meet

23 July | Chandigarh
Source: PIB

The sixteenth Health Ministers' Meeting adopted a declaration on cooperation, health equity and resilient health systems.

• The meeting took place under India's BRICS chairship.

• NIMHANS was identified to coordinate a BRICS network of centres of excellence on mental wellness.

Remember: NIMHANS is based in Bengaluru; ministerial health cooperation is distinct from the leaders' summit.

BRICS disaster-risk declaration

24 July | New Delhi
Source: PIB

NDMA hosted the third BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction.

• Members adopted a joint statement and supported implementation of the DRR Work Plan for 2025-28.

• The agenda linked early preparedness, innovation and cooperation to more resilient societies.

Remember: Disaster risk reduction acts before and across disasters, rather than focusing only on post-disaster relief.

Codex standards for three spices

6-10 July meeting | report 16 July
Source: PIB

The forty-ninth Codex Alimentarius Commission in Geneva adopted standards for large cardamom, coriander and vanilla.

• These standards were finalised through the India-hosted Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs.

• Codex was established jointly by FAO and WHO to support food safety and fair food trade.

Remember: Match the three spices and Geneva; Codex is not an Indian domestic regulator.

First India-Costa Rica JETCO

6-7 July | virtual meeting
Source: PIB

The first Joint Economic and Trade Committee reviewed bilateral trade and investment cooperation.

• Merchandise trade was reported at approximately USD 391 million in 2025-26.

• The sides discussed standards, pharmaceutical regulation, certification and digital technologies.

Remember: Costa Rica is in Central America; its capital is San Jose. JETCO is a committee, not an FTA.

India-Maldives FTA negotiations

Round ended 7 July | report 14 July
Source: PIB

The first round of negotiations ran virtually from 29 June to 7 July, with discussions across eight technical sessions.

• The partners also reviewed plans for a Bilateral Investment Treaty and closer economic cooperation.

• Tourism, digital payments, startups and MSMEs featured in the broader engagement.

Remember: Negotiations are not a signed or operational free trade agreement; Male is the Maldivian capital.

IMF July global outlook

8 July
Source: IMF

The World Economic Outlook update projected global growth of 3.0% in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027.

• The outlook weighed war-related energy disruption against investment and technology momentum, including AI.

• Risks included renewed commodity-price volatility and tighter financial conditions.

Remember: These were July forecasts, not final measured growth rates or the later October projections.

World Population Day: youth aspirations

11 July
Source: UNFPA

UNFPA highlighted young people's life, partnership and reproductive aspirations on World Population Day.

• The theme was Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people - today and for the future.

• The observance links demographic change with rights, opportunity and sustainable development.

Remember: A population estimate is not a census count; always identify the source, reference date and methodology.

National affairs & economy

Semicon 2.0 approved

15 July
Source: PIB

The Cabinet approved Rs. 1,27,500 crore for the next phase of India's semiconductor ecosystem programme.

• Its six pillars cover design, machines and materials, fabrication plants, ATMP/OSAT, research and development, and talent.

• The aim is to strengthen the full supply chain rather than only the final assembly of electronic products.

Remember: A fab manufactures chips; ATMP and OSAT cover assembly, testing and packaging activities.

Open visual explainer

Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme

15 July | Cabinet approval
Source: PIB

The Cabinet approved MPMS with an outlay of Rs. 62,500 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31.

• Incentives support manufacturing, domestic sourcing and Indian design and research capabilities.

• The scheme aims to deepen value addition and strengthen Indian brands and patents.

Remember: This is the July approval; the subsequent August notification is a separate administrative stage.

BHAVYA Rasayan chemical parks

24 July
Source: PIB

The Cabinet approved Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan to establish three chemical parks.

• Total outlay: Rs. 3,030 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31.

• Central support can reach Rs. 1,000 crore per park, subject to at least Rs. 500 crore from the state government.

Remember: Shared utilities and effluent-treatment infrastructure are intended to lower costs and improve environmental compliance.

New investment policy for urea

15 July
Source: PIB

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved NIPU-2026 for new gas-based urea manufacturing units.

• The policy separates fixed and variable costs for greater transparency.

• Its Return on Equity band has a 12% floor and a 16% ceiling, with measures addressing foreign-exchange risk.

Remember: Urea is a nitrogenous fertiliser; natural gas is a key feedstock in gas-based production.

PM-KISAN continued to 2030-31

31 July
Source: PIB

The Cabinet approved continuation of the income-support scheme for 2026-27 to 2030-31 with Rs. 3.15 lakh crore.

• Eligible landholding farmer families receive Rs. 6,000 a year through Direct Benefit Transfer.

• The annual amount is paid in three equal instalments.

Remember: PM-KISAN provides income support; it is different from a crop-insurance scheme.

Samudra Manthan exploration scheme

31 July
Source: PIB

The Cabinet approved the National Offshore Exploration Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 84,084 crore, up to 2030-31.

• The Central Sector scheme is under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

• It supports seismic surveys, deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploratory drilling, and related offshore infrastructure.

Remember: This scheme concerns offshore hydrocarbons, distinct from deep-sea mineral research.

Retail inflation: June 2026

13 July | data release
Source: PIB

Provisional all-India CPI inflation was 4.38% year on year in June under the 2024=100 series.

• Rural inflation was 4.74%; urban inflation was 3.92%.

• Consumer Food Price Index inflation was 5.32%.

Remember: The publication month is July, but the prices relate to June.

Open visual explainer

Wholesale inflation: June 2026

14 July | data release
Source: PIB

Provisional WPI inflation was 9.87% year on year in June, using the 2022-23 base year.

• Fuel and power inflation was 27.41%; manufactured products inflation was 7.48%.

• WPI food-index inflation stood at 6.14%.

Remember: Wholesale and consumer indices track different baskets and stages of pricing.

Open visual explainer

PLFS: June labour indicators

15 July | data release
Source: PIB

The unemployment rate for people aged 15 and above was 5.5%, using Current Weekly Status.

• Labour Force Participation Rate was 54.4%; Worker Population Ratio was 51.4%.

• Female LFPR was 32.7%, as reported in the monthly bulletin.

Remember: Unemployment is a share of the labour force; WPR is a share of the population.

Industrial production grows 7.3%

28 July | June 2026 data
Source: PIB

The quick estimate of IIP recorded year-on-year growth of 7.3%, using the 2022-23=100 series.

• Manufacturing grew 7.8%; electricity and gas supply grew 10.6%.

• Mining and quarrying grew 1.0%; water supply, sewerage and waste management grew 6.1%.

Remember: Quick estimates may be revised. The updated classification includes four broad sectors.

Core Industries Index: nine sectors

20 July | new base-year series
Source: PIB

DPIIT's Office of Economic Adviser released a revised Index of Core Industries with base year 2022-23.

• Iron ore was added, increasing the number of core industries from eight to nine.

• Steel now uses gross production; only raw coal is retained to avoid double counting processed coal.

Remember: Revise the new nine-industry list rather than automatically reproducing the older eight-industry answer.

Open visual explainer

Telecom Manufacturing Zone proposed

29 July | MoU announcement
Source: PIB

DoT and Madhya Pradesh announced a planned MoU for India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone, Phase I, at Gwalior.

• The signing was scheduled for 30 July in New Delhi.

• The zone aims to support telecom equipment, indigenous design, MSMEs and next-generation products.

Remember: This release announces a proposed industrial zone; it does not establish that all facilities are operational.

First private PinS helicopter approach

1 July
Source: PIB

DGCA approved a Point-in-Space instrument-approach procedure for Undavalli Heliport in Andhra Pradesh.

• AAI developed the satellite-navigation-based procedure in line with regulatory and ICAO standards.

• It supports precise approaches where conventional instrument-landing infrastructure is unavailable.

Remember: PinS is a navigation procedure for helicopters, not a new aircraft or landing strip.

Improved rice-quality specifications

2 July
Source: PIB

The government approved tighter broken-grain limits for rice supplied under PMGKAY and other welfare schemes.

• The new limits are up to 10% broken grains in raw rice and 5% in parboiled rice.

• The change is phased, with rollout across procuring states by Kharif Marketing Season 2027-28.

Remember: Quality specifications change; the announcement does not reduce beneficiaries' existing entitlements.

Public examinations amendment passed

30 July
Source: PIB

Rajya Sabha passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, following Lok Sabha passage.

• The debate emphasised protection against unfair means across the examination process, beyond paper leaks alone.

• The underlying 2024 framework covers major public-examination bodies, including UPSC, SSC and NTA.

Remember: Parliamentary passage, presidential assent and commencement are separate legal stages.

National song: legal-protection bill

30 July | official explainer
Source: PIB

The amendment bill extends the Section 3 framework of the 1971 National Honour Act to Vande Mataram.

• It addresses intentionally preventing the singing of the national song or disturbing an assembly engaged in its singing.

• The existing framework already provides protection for the national anthem, Jana Gana Mana.

Remember: Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee; Jana Gana Mana by Rabindranath Tagore.

Exports: annual figures reported

28 July | FY 2025-26 data
Source: PIB

India reported total merchandise and services exports of USD 863.1 billion for financial year 2025-26.

• Merchandise exports were USD 441.8 billion; services exports were USD 421.3 billion.

• The release reviewed market access and trade with free-trade-agreement partners.

Remember: These are annual values for the previous financial year, not exports earned during July alone.

Environment & climate

Global Tiger Day: conservation update

29 July
Source: PIB

The NTCA's New Delhi event reviewed conservation and launched an integrated eco-tourism webpage.

• The government cited 58 tiger reserves and the 2022 all-India tiger estimate of 3,682.

• The portal links authentic reserve websites for responsible tourism and booking information.

Remember: The cited population is an estimate from the 2022 assessment, not a new July 2026 census.

Biodiversity access and benefit sharing

22 July
Source: PIB

The National Biodiversity Authority released Rs. 6.67 crore for conservation and livelihood support in eleven cotton-growing states.

• Funds came through the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism linked to research use of biological resources.

• State Biodiversity Boards help direct benefits towards conservation and sustainable use.

Remember: ABS links access to biological resources with fair sharing of the resulting benefits.

Hydrogen road-transport pilots

29 July | implementation update
Source: PIB

Twelve pilot projects under the National Green Hydrogen Mission were awarded for 70 hydrogen-powered vehicles on 21 routes.

• The plans cover 27 buses, 43 trucks and 16 hydrogen-refuelling stations.

• Financial assistance was approximately Rs. 410.77 crore; the pilots include fuel-cell and hydrogen internal-combustion vehicles.

Remember: A hydrogen fuel cell makes electricity electrochemically; a hydrogen ICE burns hydrogen in an engine.

Open visual explainer

Hydrogen train: readiness update

16 July | pre-launch report
Source: PIB

Indian Railways outlined its first hydrogen fuel-cell trainset, configured for about 2,600 passengers in ten coaches.

• The stated route was Jind-Sonipat in Haryana, about 89 km, with operational speed of 75 km/h and design speed of 110 km/h.

• Fuel cells generate electricity onboard using hydrogen and atmospheric oxygen.

Remember: The source described a train set to be flagged off. Low emissions at use do not alone prove that its hydrogen was made with renewable energy.

Open visual explainer



Hydrogen fuel-cell trainset. Railways / PIB.

PM Surya Sarovar Yojana

31 July | Cabinet approval
Source: PIB

The scheme supports floating solar photovoltaic projects with co-located energy storage.

• Outlay: Rs. 5,070 crore; planned capacity: 5,000 MW and at least 10,000 MWh of storage.

• Projects are to be sanctioned during 2026-27 to 2030-31, with support disbursements continuing to 2032-33.

Remember: MW measures power; MWh measures energy. Two hours at 5,000 MW corresponds to 10,000 MWh.

Open visual explainer

AAROH: scientific mine closure

22 July
Source: PIB

The Coal Ministry released its first comprehensive report on mine closure and repurposing in New Delhi.

• AAROH means Annual Report on Mine Closure; the Coal Controller Organisation developed it.

• The event also included cooperation with Germany's GIZ on scientific closure practices.

Remember: Mine closure involves safety, ecological restoration and future land use, rather than simply stopping extraction.

CapaCITIES: urban climate resilience

14 July
Source: PIB

A New Delhi event reviewed a decade of the Capacity Building Project on Low Carbon and Climate Resilient City Development in India.

• The Swiss-supported initiative began in 2016 and works with Indian urban institutions and local governments.

• Three knowledge products were launched to support wider use of climate-resilience approaches.

Remember: Mitigation reduces emissions; adaptation reduces vulnerability to climate impacts.

Sport, culture & awards

Spain wins the FIFA World Cup

19 July
Source: FIFA

Spain defeated Argentina 1-0 after extra time in the final at New York New Jersey Stadium.

• Ferran Torres scored the winning goal in the 106th minute, securing Spain's second men's world title.

• Canada, Mexico and the United States co-hosted the first 48-team, 104-match edition.

Remember: The final was played in East Rutherford, New Jersey; the stadium's tournament name includes New York.

Wimbledon singles champions

11-12 July
Source: LTA / USTA

Jannik Sinner of Italy won the men's singles title, while Linda Noskova of Czechia won the women's singles title.

• Sinner defeated Germany's Alexander Zverev in the final on 12 July.

• Noskova defeated compatriot Karolina Muchova on 11 July to win her first major singles title.

Remember: Wimbledon is the grass-court Grand Slam held in London; pair each champion with the correct country.

Anahat Singh's junior squash title

26 July | official congratulations
Source: PIB

Anahat Singh became the first Indian to win a World Junior Squash Championship title.

• The Prime Minister congratulated her on the gold-medal achievement.

• The milestone concerns the junior world championship, not a senior world title.

Remember: Anahat Singh = squash; retain the junior category when describing the achievement.

P. V. Sindhu wins Japan Open

19 July
Source: PIB / Olympic Council of Asia

P. V. Sindhu won the Japan Open 2026 women's singles title.

• She defeated Japan's Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-17 in the final.

• The result gave Sindhu her first BWF World Tour Super 750 title.

Remember: Sindhu competes in badminton; distinguish the Japan Open from tennis tournaments with similar names.

National Film Awards announced

18 July | awards year 2024
Source: PIB

The seventy-second National Film Awards recognised achievements in feature films, non-feature films and writing on cinema.

• Article 370 won Best Feature Film; Kartik Aaryan and Mammootty shared Best Actor for Chandu Champion and Bramayugam.

• Yami Gautam won Best Actress for Article 370; Rajkumar Periasamy won Best Direction for Amaran.

Remember: The eligible film year is 2024; the announcement was made in 2026. See the revision table for more winners.

Commonwealth Games: July highlights

23-31 July | Games continued into August
Source: PIB / PIB / PIB / PIB / PIB

India's July gold-medal winners included Mirabai Chanu in women's 48 kg weightlifting and Sharmila Dhankar in women's shot put F57.

• Dilip Gavit won men's 100 m T47; Asmita Dey won women's 48 kg judo and Harsh Singh won men's 60 kg judo.

• Glasgow hosted the Games from 23 July to 2 August; para events formed part of the integrated programme.

Remember: This is a July highlights list, not the final Games tally; the completed results belong in the August edition.

Sarnath joins the World Heritage List

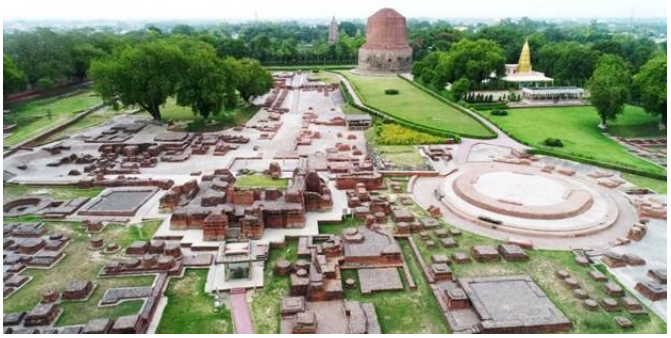
25 July
Source: PIB

The Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath became India's forty-fifth UNESCO World Heritage property.

• The World Heritage Committee's forty-eighth session was held in Busan, Republic of Korea.

• The serial property includes Chaukhandi Stupa and the archaeological remains of Sarnath in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Remember: Sarnath is associated with the Buddha's first sermon, the Dharmachakra Pravartana.



Archaeological remains at Sarnath. Culture Ministry / PIB.

Revamped Khelo India programme

31 July
Source: PIB

The Cabinet approved expanded Khelo India support and Assistance to National Sports Federations with a combined outlay of Rs. 36,441 crore.

• The approved period is 2026-27 to 2030-31.

• The programme supports the pathway from talent identification and grassroots participation to high-performance training.

Remember: The figure is the combined allocation for Khelo India and federation assistance, not a single athlete's grant.

Visual explainers

Connect the news with the underlying concept. Each panel links back to its story.

APPROVAL IS NOT DELIVERY

1	2	3
AoN	**Contract**	**Delivery**
In-principle approval	A signed purchase agreement	Equipment is received
DAC decision | 3 July	A later procurement stage	After production and trials

Return to DAC approvals worth Rs. 52,000 crore

HOW A ROCKET ESTABLISHES AN ORBIT

1	2	3
Launch	**Orbital speed**	**Continuous free fall**
Rocket accelerates upward	Sufficient sideways velocity	Payload keeps circling Earth
Vikram-1 | 18 July	Earth's gravity remains	A sustained orbit

Return to Vikram-1 reaches orbit

NISAR: TWO RADAR BANDS, COMPLEMENTARY OBSERVATIONS

L-BAND | NASA	S-BAND | ISRO
Longer radar wavelength; useful for vegetation and surface-change observations.	Shorter radar wavelength; the July data release is available through Bhoonidhi.

Active radar sensing can operate day or night and through cloud.

Return to NISAR S-band data released

SEMICON 2.0: SIX PARTS OF ONE ECOSYSTEM

Chip design	**Machines + materials**	**Fabrication plants**
ATMP / OSAT	**Research + development**	**Talent**

Return to Semicon 2.0 approved

NINE CORE INDUSTRIES | BASE YEAR 2022-23

Coal	Crude oil	Natural gas
Refinery products	Fertilisers	Steel
Cement	Electricity	Iron ore: NEW

Return to Core Industries Index: nine sectors

HYDROGEN FUEL CELL: ELECTRICITY WITHOUT COMBUSTION

1	2	3
Hydrogen	**Oxygen**	**Useful output**
Fuel supplied to the cell	Taken from the surrounding air	Electricity, water and heat
Hydrogen's source matters	Electrochemical reaction	Power for electric traction

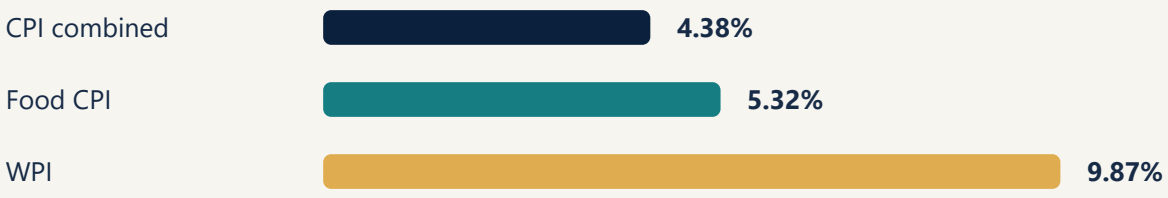
Return to Hydrogen road-transport pilots

FLOATING SOLAR PLUS ENERGY STORAGE

1	2	3
5,000 MW	**10,000 MWh**	**Two hours**
Planned solar generation capacity	Minimum co-located storage	Energy divided by rated power
Power	Energy	10,000 MWh / 5,000 MW

Return to PM Surya Sarovar Yojana

JUNE 2026 INFLATION | RELEASED IN JULY



Year-on-year rates; different baskets and base years, not like-for-like indices.

Return to Retail inflation: June 2026

Rapid revision

Pair each platform or engagement with its role and location.

Name	Type / partner	July milestone / place
INS Mahendragiri	Project 17A stealth frigate	Commissioned | Visakhapatnam
INS Malvan	Mahe-class ASW-SWC	Commissioned | Karwar
Kusha	Long-range surface-to-air missile	Maiden test | APJ Abdul Kalam Island
Pitch Black	Multinational air exercise	Commenced | Darwin, Australia
Southern Readiness 26-2	Maritime-security training	20-23 July | Kochi
IASV Triveni	Army sailing vessel	Tri-service circumnavigation completed
Vikram-1	Skyroot orbital launch vehicle	Mission Aagaman | Sriharikota

Schemes: the numbers to revise

Scheme / decision	Outlay	Key point
Semicon 2.0	Rs. 1,27,500 crore	Six pillars across the semiconductor ecosystem
MPMS	Rs. 62,500 crore	Manufacturing, sourcing, Indian design and brands
BHAVYA Rasayan	Rs. 3,030 crore	Three chemical parks
PM-KISAN continuation	Rs. 3.15 lakh crore	2026-27 to 2030-31; Rs. 6,000/year per eligible family
Samudra Manthan	Rs. 84,084 crore	Offshore oil and gas exploration
PM Surya Sarovar	Rs. 5,070 crore	5,000 MW + at least 10,000 MWh storage
Khelo India + ANSF	Rs. 36,441 crore	Combined outlay; 2026-27 to 2030-31

June data published in July

Indicator	Value	Definition / base
CPI inflation	4.38%	Year-on-year; 2024=100
Food CPI inflation	5.32%	Year-on-year; consumer food basket
WPI inflation	9.87%	Year-on-year; base 2022-23
IIP growth	7.3%	Year-on-year; 2022-23=100
Unemployment rate	5.5%	Age 15+; Current Weekly Status
LFPR / WPR	54.4% / 51.4%	Labour force / workers as shares of population

Sources are linked within the relevant news stories. Outlays are approved allocations, not amounts already spent.

72nd National Film Awards

Selected major awards | Film year: 2024 | Announced: 18 July 2026

Category	Winner / film
Best Feature Film	Article 370
Best Actor (shared)	Kartik Aaryan | Chandu Champion; Mammootty | Bramayugam
Best Actress	Yami Gautam | Article 370
Best Direction	Rajkumar Periasamy | Amaran
Best Debut Film of a Director	Randeep Hooda | Swatantrya Veer Savarkar
Best Non-Feature Film	Bhangaar
Best Documentary	Ram-Nami
Best Cinematography (feature)	Shehnad Jalal | Bramayugam
Best Editing (feature)	R. Kalaivannan | Amaran
Best Music (songs)	Shashwat Sachdev | Article 370
Best Background Music	G. V. Prakash Kumar | Amaran

Source: PIB | Return to the awards story

Sports winners

Event	Winner	Date
FIFA World Cup	Spain | runner-up Argentina	19 July final
Wimbledon men's singles	Jannik Sinner | Italy	12 July final
Wimbledon women's singles	Linda Noskova | Czechia	11 July final
World Junior Squash	Anahat Singh | India	July title
Japan Open women's singles	P. V. Sindhu | India	19 July

Sources: FIFA / LTA / PIB / PIB

July calendar

Recurring observances and their exam connections. Select an observance to open its official source.

Date	Observance	Exam connection
1 July	National Doctors' Day (India)	Birth and death anniversary of Dr. B. C. Roy
11 July	World Population Day	Youth aspirations and demographic change
15 July	World Youth Skills Day	Education, skills and employment
18 July	Nelson Mandela International Day	Public service, equality and dignity
20 July	International Moon Day	Lunar exploration and peaceful space use
22 July	National Flag adoption anniversary	Constituent Assembly adopted the flag in 1947
26 July	Kargil Vijay Diwas	Operation Vijay and the 1999 Kargil conflict
28 July	World Hepatitis Day	Awareness and viral-hepatitis prevention
29 July	Global Tiger Day	NTCA, habitats and conservation
30 July	International Day of Friendship	Solidarity and mutual understanding
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons	Human rights and prevention of exploitation

READ THE TIME PERIOD

The July releases include June inflation, employment and production data. Pitch Black and the Commonwealth Games continued into August. Targets and approved budgets describe plans, not completed projects or expenditure.