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Weekly Current Affairs

July 2026 - Week 3

13 - 19 July 2026 | Exam Revision Notes

50+ Topics · 14 Sections · ~35 Min Read

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Dear Aspirants,

Greetings from ReadingRoomz! Another week has passed with significant developments in international affairs, national governance, economy, science, and defence — all of which matter for your APPSC journey. This Weekly Current Affairs digest is structured for quick revision, connecting dynamic current events with static GK you already know.

Read each topic carefully, note the key facts, and revise before your next practice session. Consistency is your greatest weapon. **Every small step you take today brings you closer to your dream tomorrow.**

— Team ReadingRoomz | contact@readingroomz.com

Table of Contents

1. International	PM Modi – New Zealand, Syria Parliament, Qatar Former Emir, Bhutan Third Child Plus, India-UK CETA, France Assisted-Dying Bill
2. National	Kudankulam Data Leak, Maharashtra Ladki Bahin, Daman – First Air Connectivity (NAMO Airport)
3. Andhra Pradesh	AP Municipal Bond (₹1,010 cr), Berry Alloys Vizianagaram, AYUSH ₹414 cr, N. Shree Charani – First AP Woman Test Cricketer
4. Polity & Governance	District Development Councils (DDCs) in Jammu & Kashmir – Article 243ZD
5. Economy	World Bank \$890M (PM Surya Ghar), Retail Inflation 4.38% (18-Month High), Inaugural Index of Services Production (ISP)
6. Science & Technology	Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train (Jind-Sonipat), White Rabbit Technology IST, Helium as Strategic Resource, CBG (SATAT & GOBARdhan), India's Nuclear Landscape (PFBR, India-Australia Uranium), PaBV-4 Bird Virus
7. Environment	Indian Grey Hornbill Reintroduction – Gir, NITI BioEconomy Roadmap 2035
8. Schemes	Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS), Semicon 2.0, PARIVARTAN Scheme – NCR
9. Awards & Honours	Vairamuthu – 60th Jnanpith Award; Jatiya Telugu Saaraswatha Parishath Lifetime Awards
10. Ranks & Reports	India Ranks 9th in Internet Blackout Resilience; NITI Aayog IFI 2026 – AP 6th
11. Conferences	2nd Indian Wildlife Ecology Conference (IWEC 2026)
12. Person in News	S. Janaki Passes Away, Anjum Chopra – ICC Hall of Fame
13. Sports	Bumrah Completes Rare Bowling Treble (First Indian)
14. Miscellaneous	NIDAR 2.0, Anil Menon – First Space Mission, World Youth Skills Day, Elderline 14567

1. International Current Affairs

PM Modi's Visit to New Zealand – Strategic Partnership, 18 Outcomes, NZ\$7 Billion Trade Target

PM Modi visited New Zealand and held bilateral talks with PM **Christopher Luxon** in Auckland. India and New Zealand elevated ties to a **Strategic Partnership** and adopted a four-year **Roadmap to 2030**.

Area	Outcome
Trade Target	Double bilateral trade to NZ\$7 billion (~₹35,000 crore) by 2030
Investment	New Zealand commits \$20 billion in India over 15 years
Total Outcomes	18 concrete outcomes, including 10 agreements
Security	Maritime Security Dialogue and Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism established
Maritime	Hydrographic data sharing Mutual naval logistics support
Other Areas	Technology, education, agriculture, tourism, sports science, athlete development

Syria Opens First Transitional Parliament – People's Assembly, Damascus

Syria's transitional **People's Assembly** held its first session in **Damascus on 12 July 2026**. Assad's government collapsed after **Operation Deterrence of Aggression** (27 November 2024), led by **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)**; Assad fell on 8 December 2024 ending 50+ years of family rule.

President of Syria: Ahmed al-Sharaa | Legislature: People's Assembly | Transitional Parliament tenure: 30 months | Hafez al-Assad ruled 1971–2000; Bashar al-Assad until December 2024 | Ba'ath Party controlled Syrian politics for decades.

Former Qatar Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Passes Away

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani (the Father Amir) passed away on **12 July 2026** at the age of **74**. He served as Emir from **1995 to 2013**.

Key Contributions: Launched Al Jazeera in 1996 | Made Qatar a major LNG exporter | Key role in Qatar's 2022 FIFA World Cup bid. About Qatar: Capital – Doha | Currency – Qatari Riyal | Current Emir – Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Bhutan Launches 'Third Child Plus' Programme – Nu 10,000/Month

Bhutan launched the **Third Child Plus Programme** (effective **4 June 2026**) offering **Nu 10,000/month (~\$105)** for every third and subsequent child until age **three**. Addresses falling fertility rate — elderly (65+) projected to rise from 6% (2022) to **17.3% by 2050**.

About Bhutan: Currency – Ngultrum | Landlocked Himalayan country between India and China | Capital – Thimphu | PM – Tshering Tobgay.

India-UK CETA Comes into Force - 15 July 2026

The **India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and the **Double Contributions Convention (DCC)** came into force on **15 July 2026** (signed 24 July 2025). Described as India's **most comprehensive trade deal** implemented so far.

Key Features: Substantially reduces tariffs and non-tariff barriers | Covers digital trade, government procurement, SMEs, innovation, labour, environment, and gender cooperation. DCC Benefit: Eligible employees temporarily posted between India and UK pay social-security contributions only in their home country for up to 60 months — prevents double contributions. Indian Sectors Benefiting: Textiles, footwear, marine products, engineering goods, processed food, financial services, fintech, insurance, and professional services.

French Parliament Approves Assisted-Dying Bill

France's **National Assembly** passed a landmark Bill creating a legal right to **assisted dying** for eligible adults with serious and incurable illnesses, by a vote of **291 to 241** on **15 July 2026**. The eligible person normally administers the substance themselves; when physically unable, a doctor or nurse may administer it.

2. National Current Affairs

Kudankulam Nuclear Plant - Ransomware Group Claims Data Leak

Ransomware group **World Leaks** reportedly published nearly **19,000 files (~14.3 GB)** linked to **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP)** on the dark web, allegedly from a private contractor's server breach. Exposed material reportedly included engineering documents on ventilation, cooling, and control support, plus supplier and contract details from 2016 to mid-2025.

About KKNPP: Located in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu | Two operational VVER-1000 Pressurised Water Reactors (1,000 MWe each) | Four additional reactors under construction with Russian collaboration.

Maharashtra's Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana

Launched **28 June 2024** to promote women's economic independence, health, and nutrition. Eligible women aged **21-65** receive **₹1,500/month** through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**. Implemented by the State Women and Child Development Department.

Daman Gets First Direct Air Connectivity - NAMO Airport

NAMO Airport, Daman (inaugurated by PM Modi on 5 June 2026) flagged off the inaugural **Daman-Delhi-Daman** flight on **16 July 2026** — Daman's **first-ever direct air connection**. Flagged off by Union Civil Aviation Minister **Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu** and Administrator **Praful Patel**.

3. Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

AP Approves ₹1,010-Crore Pooled Municipal Bond Framework

The AP government accorded in-principle approval to a **₹1,010-crore Pooled Municipal Bond Issuance Framework** allowing smaller **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** to jointly raise capital market funds for civic infrastructure (drinking water, sewerage, roads, storm-water drains, solid-waste management, street lighting). Reduces dependence on government grants while improving ULB creditworthiness and governance.

Berry Alloys - ₹1,200-Crore Steel Complex at Bobbili Growth Centre, Vizianagaram

AP approved allotment of **93.43 acres** at **Bobbili Growth Centre, Vizianagaram** to **Berry Alloys Limited** for an integrated manganese and steel materials complex. Investment: **₹1,200 crore** | Direct jobs: **813** | Units: manganese sinter, DRI, carbon-paste manufacturing, and a **115 MW captive power plant**.

AP Announces ₹414-Crore AYUSH Sector Expansion

Component	Investment & Details
AYUSH Medical Colleges (4)	₹280 crore (₹70 cr each) Ayurveda at Dharmavaram & Pithapuram Unani at Proddatur Naturopathy near completion in Visakhapatnam
Integrated AYUSH Hospitals (6)	₹90 crore At Tirupati, Giddalur, Nandigama, Tenali, Tekkali, Rampachodavaram
AYUSH Dispensary Modernisation	₹44 crore ~1,500 dispensaries being modernised

N. Shree Charani - Andhra Pradesh's First Woman Test Cricketer

Left-arm spinner N. Shree Charani became the **first woman cricketer from Andhra Pradesh** to represent India in a Test match. She made her Test debut against England at **Lord's Cricket Ground, London** on **10 July 2026**.

4. Polity & Governance

District Development Councils (DDCs) in Jammu & Kashmir – Article 243ZD

DDCs were introduced in J&K; in **2020** as the district-level Panchayati Raj tier. Elections were held for **280 seats across 20 districts** (14 directly elected per district). First five-year term concluded in **February 2026**.

Body	Role
DDC (District Development Council)	Third tier above Halqa Panchayats and Block Development Councils Prepares and approves district development plans Supervises government-funded development works Created under J&K; Panchayati Raj Act, 1989
District Planning Committee (DPC)	Under Article 243ZD of the Constitution Consolidates plans of rural panchayats and urban municipalities into an integrated district development plan A coordinating planning institution, not a parallel executive

Critics raise concerns: limited financial autonomy, bureaucratic control, overlap with panchayats, and unequal representation (every district has same DDC seats despite major population differences).

5. Economy

World Bank Approves \$890 Million for PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

The World Bank Group approved **\$890 million** to accelerate India's national rooftop solar programme — **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana** — targeting **1 crore rural and urban household** rooftop solar installations.

Financing Package: \$820 million loan (IBRD) + \$60 million concessional loan (Clean Technology Fund) + \$10 million grant (IBRD's Livable Planet Fund).

India's Retail Inflation Rises to 18-Month High of 4.38% in June 2026

India's retail inflation rose to **4.38%** in June 2026 (from 3.93% in May) — the **highest in 18 months** and the first time since January 2025 that inflation exceeded the RBI's medium-term target of **4%**. Rural: 4.74% | Urban: 3.92% | Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI): **5.32%**. Caused by food and fuel prices, uneven monsoon, geopolitical tensions, and supply-chain pressures.

India Releases Inaugural Index of Services Production (ISP)

MoSPI released India's first **trial ISP** for April 2026 — the services-sector counterpart to the Index of Industrial Production. Covers **19 sub-sectors** representing **~60% of India's services sector**. Base year: **2024-25**. Released on the 29th of every month with ~60-day lag.

Sector	Year-on-Year Growth (Apr 2026)
Accommodation and Food Services	+37.2%
Retail Trade	+30.8%
Administrative & Support Services	+28.7%
Real Estate	+27.7%
Air Transport	−13.9%
Railway Transport	−0.4%

6. Science & Technology

India's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Passenger Train - Jind-Sonipat, Haryana

Indian Railways developed India's first **Hydrogen Fuel Cell Trainset**, operating on the **89-km Jind-Sonipat route**. Carries **~2,600 passengers** in 10 coaches. Uses a **Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cell** — by-products are only water vapour and heat; no combustion or direct carbon emissions.

Technical Detail	Specification
Power Output	2,400 kW total (2 Hydrogen Driving Power Cars × 1,200 kW each)
Speed	Operational: 75 kmph Design: 110 kmph
Hydrogen Storage	Facility at Jind Electrolysis of water Compressed to 500 bar Dispensed at 350 bar ~3,000 kg storage
Developed By	RDSO + Medha Servo Drives + Integral Coach Factory Supports National Green Hydrogen Mission

White Rabbit Technology - Indian Standard Time Distribution Network, Bengaluru

Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi** inaugurated a **White Rabbit Technology-based IST Distribution Demonstration Network** in **Bengaluru on 16 July 2026**, under the government's **"One Nation, One Time"** vision. Reduces India's dependence on GPS for time synchronisation. Accurate time is essential for financial markets, banking, telecom, defence, and power grids.

Helium - Emerging Strategic Resource for Advanced Technologies

Helium: second-lightest element | chemically inert noble gas | **lowest boiling point of any element (~-269°C)** | not commercially manufactured | formed through radioactive decay of uranium and thorium, trapped in natural-gas reservoirs.

Uses: Cooling superconducting MRI magnets | Semiconductor manufacturing | Optical-fibre production | Leak detection | Rocket fuel-tank pressurisation. Why Hard to Replace: Chemically inert, non-flammable, effective at ultra-low temperatures | Storage and transport costly (specialised cryogenic vessels).

Compressed Biogas (CBG) - SATAT and GOBARdhan Initiatives

CBG is produced through **anaerobic digestion** of organic matter; after purification it is compressed. CBG has properties similar to CNG and can be used in vehicles, industries, and domestic gas networks.

Initiative	Key Details
SATAT	Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation Launched: 1 Oct 2018 Target: 5,000 CBG plants Annual production: 15 million MT
GOBARdhan	Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Coordinated by Dept of Drinking Water and Sanitation ₹50 lakh/district for biogas plants

India's Nuclear Energy - PFBR Achieves First Criticality; India-Australia Uranium Agreement

India operates **24 nuclear reactors** across seven sites (**8.78 GW**). The indigenously developed **500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** at **Kalpakkam** achieved **first criticality on 6 April 2026** — beginning of India's **second stage** of its three-stage nuclear power programme.

India-Australia Uranium Agreement: Administrative Arrangement finalised at 3rd India-Australia Summit (Melbourne, 9 July 2026) | Enables long-term export of Australian uranium to India for peaceful purposes under IAEA safeguards. Australia has the world's largest uranium resources (>one-third of global total) | Supports India's target of 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047. NSG: Nuclear Suppliers Group — voluntary grouping of 48 nuclear-supplier countries preventing proliferation through export guidelines. Australia supports India's NSG membership.

PaBV-4 Bird Virus Identified in India for the First Time

Indian scientists identified **Parrot Bornavirus 4 (PaBV-4)** in captive psittacine birds (parrots, budgerigars, cockatiels, cockatoos, lovebirds, macaws, parakeets) for the **first time in India**. PaBV-4 is associated with **Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD)** — a largely fatal condition affecting birds' digestive and nervous systems.

7. Environment

Indian Grey Hornbills Successfully Re-establish in Gir Forests, Gujarat

The **Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyceros birostris*)** recorded **four consecutive years of successful breeding** in Gujarat's Gir landscape after reintroduction. The species had disappeared from the region between the 1950s–60s (last confirmed sighting: 1950). Gujarat Forest Department began reintroduction in **2021** — releasing **40 hornbills in two phases** (28 in 2021–22, 12 in 2023). Important **seed dispersers** that support natural forest regeneration.

NITI Aayog BioEconomy Roadmap - \$691 Billion by 2035; ₹50,000-Crore Growth Fund

NITI Aayog released the "**Roadmap for Building India as a Leading BioEconomy Powerhouse by 2035**" under the **NITI Frontier Tech Hub**, targeting India among the world's top three biotechnology powers.

Target	Data
Current Bioeconomy (2025)	\$195.3 billion
Target by 2035	\$691 billion
Target by 2047	\$2.6 trillion
BioEconomy Growth Fund	₹50,000 crore (2026–35) — bridges "valley of death" between lab research and commercial production
Jobs Target	30 million high-value jobs

Six National BioMissions: GeneIndia | AgriBio 2.0 | BioX Foundry | One Health Grid | Marine Biotechnology | BioPharmaNext. Builds on the BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment).

8. Schemes

Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) - ₹62,500 Crore, FY 2026-31

The Union Cabinet approved **MPMS** on **15 July 2026** (outlay: **₹62,500 crore**, FY 2026–27 to 2030–31). Succeeds the PLI Scheme for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing (ended 31 March 2026). India: world's **2nd-largest mobile phone manufacturer**; **99.2%** of phones used in India are made domestically.

MPMS Feature	Detail
Incentive on Sales	2.25% to 5% of eligible sales
Domestic Sourcing Bonus	Additional 1.5% for domestic sourcing of key components
R&D; Incentive	Additional 3% for design and R&D; by Indian brands
Expected Production	~₹39 lakh crore cumulative during scheme period
Direct Jobs	~60,000

Semicon 2.0 - ₹1,27,500 Crore; India's Complete Semiconductor Ecosystem

The Union Cabinet approved **Semicon 2.0** on **15 July 2026** (outlay: **₹1,27,500 crore**). Builds on Semicon India Programme (2021, ₹76,000 crore). Under Semicon 1.0: 12 manufacturing units and 24 design projects approved (cumulative investment: ₹1.64 lakh crore).

Six Pillars: Chip design | Semiconductor machines & materials | Fabrication plants | ATMP and OSAT facilities | R&D; in advanced technologies | Semiconductor talent development.

PARIVARTAN Scheme - ₹9,585 Crore; Replacing Polluting Vehicles in Delhi-NCR

PARIVARTAN (Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions) was approved on **3 June 2026** (outlay: ₹9,585 crore; Central: ₹5,041 crore). Implemented by **MoRTH**, funded through the **NCR Planning Board**.

Feature	Detail
Coverage	NCR areas of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, UP ~2.07 lakh vehicle owners (1.91 lakh trucks, 16,329 buses)
Target Vehicles	Replace BS-IV and older with BS-VI, CNG, or electric vehicles
Incentive Package	5% interest subvention Min 8% OEM discount Motor vehicle tax concessions Registration-fee waivers EV one-time support
Digital Platform	Linked with VAHAN, V-Scrap, DigiELV, PFMS, lenders, and fuel-voucher systems

9. Awards & Honours

Tamil Poet Vairamuthu Receives 60th Jnanpith Award (2025)

Tamil poet, lyricist, and writer **R. Vairamuthu** was conferred the **60th Jnanpith Award for 2025** on **13 July 2026** in New Delhi. He became the **third Tamil literary figure** to receive the Jnanpith Award.

About the Jnanpith Award: Presented by Bharatiya Jnanpith for outstanding contributions to Indian literature | Open to Indian writers in Eighth Schedule languages and in English | Award includes: ₹11 lakh cash prize + citation + bronze statue of Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati).

Jatiya Telugu Saaraswatha Parishath - Lifetime Achievement Awards

The **Jatiya Telugu Saaraswatha Parishath** announced lifetime achievement awards to: **Uddaraju Kasi Viswanadha Raju** (Ananda Group, Bhimavaram), **C.J. Venugopal** (retired civil services official), **Akella Vibheeshana Sharma** (spiritual scholar), and **Pithani Satyanarayana** (TDP leader).

10. Ranks & Reports

India Ranks 9th in Internet Blackout Resilience - TRG Datacenters

India ranked **9th globally** (vulnerability score: **23.4**) among countries least vulnerable to a major Internet blackout, according to **TRG Datacenters** (USA). **USA ranked 1st** (score: 0), followed by Indonesia and the UK. India has **22 submarine cables**, **40 Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)**, and **~70%** internet penetration. Submarine cables carry **~99%** of international internet traffic.

NITI Aayog Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026 - AP Ranks 6th Among Large States

NITI Aayog released **IFI 2026** covering all 28 States and 8 UTs across **8 pillars** and **84 indicators**.

Category	Top Performer(s)
Overall Top Performers (Score above 50)	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Odisha
Large States - Rank 1	Gujarat
Hilly & North-Eastern States	Uttarakhand
City States & UTs	Goa
Andhra Pradesh	6th among Large States Score: 48.7/100 Classified as Frontrunner (45-50)

8 Pillars: Infrastructure | Business climate | Resources | Government policy | Regulatory ease | Institutional environment | Financial health | Environmental resilience.

11. Conferences

2nd Indian Wildlife Ecology Conference (IWEK 2026) - Ashoka University, Haryana

The **2nd IWEK 2026** was held at **Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana** from **10-12 July 2026**, bringing together researchers from universities, government institutions, NGOs, and field stations to discuss the future of wildlife ecology in India.

12. Person in News

Legendary Playback Singer S. Janaki Passes Away - "Nightingale of South Indian Cinema"

Legendary playback singer **S. Janaki**, the **"Nightingale of South Indian Cinema"**, passed away in Mysuru at the age of **88** after age-related ailments and breathing difficulties.

Anjum Chopra Inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame

Former Indian women's cricket team captain **Anjum Chopra** was inducted into the **ICC Cricket Hall of Fame** on **11 July 2026**. Former England captain **Kevin Pietersen** was also inducted.

13. Sports

Jasprit Bumrah Becomes First Indian to Complete Rare Bowling Treble

Jasprit Bumrah became the **first Indian cricketer** to claim at least **200 Test wickets, 150 ODI wickets, and 100 T20I wickets**. He completed the rare bowling treble during the **first ODI against England at Edgbaston, Birmingham, on 14 July 2026**, joining an elite group that includes **Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh)** and **Tim Southee (New Zealand)**.

14. Miscellaneous

NIDAR 2.0 - National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research

MeitY and the **Drone Federation India (DFI)** launched **NIDAR 2.0** on **13 July 2026** under the **SwaYaan initiative**. Encourages students to develop autonomous drones, indigenous avionics, and drone components using Indian technology.

SwaYaan: Approved by MeitY in July 2022 | Outlay: ~₹89.87 crore over five years | Builds skilled workforce for India's drone sector. VEGA: Indigenous microprocessor developed by C-DAC, used in drone innovation under NIDAR.

Indian-Origin NASA Astronaut Anil Menon Begins First Space Mission - Soyuz MS-29

Anil Menon launched aboard **Soyuz MS-29** from **Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan** on **14 July 2026** with Roscosmos cosmonauts **Pyotr Dubrov** and **Anna Kikina**. Docked at the ISS **Prichal module** after a three-hour, two-orbit journey. The crew will spend approximately **eight months** aboard the ISS as part of **Expeditions 74 and 75**.

About Anil Menon: Selected as a NASA astronaut in 2021 | Graduated from training in 2024 | Emergency medicine physician, mechanical engineer, and Colonel in the US Space Force | This is his first spaceflight.

World Youth Skills Day - 15 July; Theme: "Skills for a Shared Future"

Observed globally on **15 July** to highlight the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship. Designated by the **UN General Assembly in 2014**. Theme for 2026: "**Skills for a Shared Future**."

Elderline 14567 - National Helpline for Senior Citizens

The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** promotes **Elderline 14567** — the toll-free **National Helpline for Senior Citizens** — under the **Ageing with Dignity** campaign and the nationwide "**Take a Pledge**" initiative.