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Weekly Current Affairs

July 2026 - Week 4

20 - 26 July 2026 | Exam Revision Notes

50+ Topics · 13 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 sports — 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

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1. International Current Affairs

India Formally Joins WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies - 123rd Member

India deposited its Instrument of Acceptance of the **WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies** on **20 July 2026**. Commerce Secretary **Rajesh Agrawal** handed the instrument to the WTO Director-General. India became the **123rd WTO member** to deposit its acceptance.

About the Agreement: Adopted at WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (Geneva, June 2022) | The first multilateral WTO agreement primarily aimed at environmental sustainability | Entered into force on 15 September 2025 after the required two-thirds of WTO members submitted acceptances.

President Murmu Visits North Macedonia and Romania

President **Droupadi Murmu** addressed the **India-North Macedonia Business Forum** in **Skopje** on 21 July 2026 — the **first visit by an Indian President to North Macedonia**. She unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Museum of the City of Skopje with President **Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova**. She subsequently addressed the **India-Romania Business Forum** in **Bucharest** on 24 July 2026 with President **Nicușor Dan**.

Country	Key Facts
North Macedonia	Official name: Republic of North Macedonia Capital: Skopje Currency: Macedonian denar SE Europe, Balkan Peninsula Independent from Yugoslavia: 1991
Romania	Capital: Bucharest Currency: Romanian leu Member of EU and NATO Bilateral trade target: doubled over three years

Andy Burnham Becomes UK Prime Minister - 7th in a Decade

Andy Burnham became the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on **20 July 2026**, succeeding **Keir Starmer**. King Charles III formally invited him to form a government. Burnham became the UK's **seventh Prime Minister in a decade**.

Africa Overtakes Asia as Global Centre of Hunger - State of Food Security Report 2026

For the **first time**, Africa has become the continent with the most undernourished people, per the **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026** report. The "centre of gravity of hunger" has shifted from Asia to Africa.

Key Stat	Data
Undernourished in Africa (2025)	~309 million (nearly 1 in 5 Africans)
Undernourished in Asia (2025)	~292 million
Global Hunger (2025)	645 million people (7.8% of world population) — declined for 3rd consecutive year
Causes in Africa	Conflicts, climate shocks, poverty, inequality, weak food-distribution systems

2. National Current Affairs

World's Largest Curd Manufacturing Plant - Amul Bengal Dairy Project, Howrah

The proposed world's largest curd-manufacturing facility will be established under the **Amul Bengal Dairy Project** at **Sankrail Food Park, Howrah district, West Bengal**. Expected capacity: **~10 lakh kg of curd and fermented dairy products per day** (mishti doi, yoghurt, lassi, buttermilk). Supports the "**Sahkar Se Samridhhi**" vision and **White Revolution 2.0**.

Museum of Word - First Phase Inaugurated in Kolkata

The first phase of the **Museum of Word** was inaugurated in **Kolkata on 19 July 2026** to preserve and present India's multilingual heritage, knowledge traditions, and collective cultural memory through visual, auditory, tactile, and immersive experiences.

Mission Golden Spice - GI-Tagged Lakadong Turmeric, Meghalaya (₹175.45 Crore)

The **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** launched **Mission Golden Spice - Integrated Lakadong Turmeric Value Chain Enhancement Project** in Meghalaya. Aims to develop the State's **GI-tagged Lakadong turmeric** into a globally competitive premium spice brand. Budget: **₹175.45 crore** | Duration: **5 years (2025-2030)**, in two phases.

3. Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

AP Signs MoU with UAE Food Cluster - ₹100 Crore Food Processing Unit in Chittoor

The AP government signed an MoU with the **UAE Food Cluster** to develop an integrated food-processing ecosystem, signed between **APEDB** and the UAE Food Cluster at the State Secretariat, Amaravati. First investment: Dubai-based **Floor Masters International** announced **₹100 crore** for a food-processing unit at **Gangadhara Nellore, Chittoor district**.

AP White Paper on Irrigation - 36 Priority Projects by December 2028, ₹35,555 Crore

AP announced a master plan to complete **36 priority irrigation projects by December 2028** (₹35,555 crore). Water Resources Minister **Nimmala Ramanaidu** released the **White Paper on Irrigation** and introduced an **Irrigation Action Calendar**.

Project	Note
Polavaram	National irrigation project under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014
Veligonda	Primarily benefits drought- and fluoride-affected areas of Prakasam district
Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi	Major irrigation project serving Rayalaseema
North Andhra (11 schemes)	Given a two-year priority completion target

Mee Bhoomi-Blockchain Land Records Project - Hyperledger Fabric, 7 Districts

CM N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the **Mee Bhoomi-Blockchain** pilot project on **23 July 2026** for secure and transparent management of land records.

Detail	Fact
Technology	Hyperledger Fabric
Pilot Coverage	Seven mandals in seven districts
Pilot Mandals	Aspari, Penumuru, Repalle, Gannavaram, Kadiyam, Gummalakshmipuram, Kothavalasa

Jonnagiri Gold Mine Renamed as Swarnagiri Gold Mine, Kurnool

The AP government officially renamed the **Jonnagiri Gold Mine** in Kurnool district as the **Swarnagiri Gold Mine**. Covers approximately **597.82 hectares** across Jonnagiri, Pagidirai, and Yerragudi villages in **Tuggali mandal**. Operated by **GeoMysore Services India Private Limited** on a **30-year mining lease**. Mineralisation: **gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc**.

4. Polity & Governance

Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025 - AP's Concerns and Proposed Amendments

The Union Education Ministry agreed to amend key provisions of the **VBSA Bill, 2025** following concerns from AP about excessive centralisation. Introduced in Lok Sabha on **15 December 2025**; referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

What VBSA Bill Proposes: A single apex higher-education regulator — Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan — with Regulatory, Accreditation, and Standards Councils | Would replace UGC, AICTE, and NCTE. AP's Objection: Clause 11(4) could allow the Regulatory Council to authorise colleges affiliated with State universities to award degrees without State concurrence. Proposed Remedy: An institution substantially funded by a State government should receive a No-Objection Certificate from that State before being authorised to grant degrees.

Languages in the Eighth Schedule - 22 Languages; No Fixed Criteria; Gor Boli in News

The Union Government stated there are **no fixed criteria** for including a language in the **Eighth Schedule** (associated with Articles 344 and 351). Currently **22 languages** listed (originally 14). Demands received for **Gor Boli** (also known as Banjari, Lambadi, or Lamani).

Constitutional Amendment	Languages Added
Original (1950)	14 languages
21st Constitutional Amendment	Sindhi
71st Constitutional Amendment	Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali
92nd Constitutional Amendment	Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali
Current Total	22 languages

Ministry of Home Affairs considers inclusion requests | Pahwa Committee (1996) and Sitakant Mohapatra Committee (2003) examined demands | English is not included in the Eighth Schedule.

Vandemataram (Prevention of Insults) Bill 2026 - Introduced in Rajya Sabha, 24 July 2026

The **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026** was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on **24 July 2026** to extend legal protection to the National Song, **Vande Mataram**.

Aspect	Detail
Current Protection (1971 Act)	National Flag, Constitution, and National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana)
Proposed Extension	Same protection for National Song — Vande Mataram
Punishment	Up to 3 years imprisonment, fine, or both (first offence)
Repeat Offence	Minimum 1 year imprisonment for second or subsequent conviction
Vande Mataram - Background	Composed in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay; appeared in his novel Anandamath; accorded honour by Constituent Assembly on 24 January 1950

Internet Shutdowns in India - Telecommunications Act, 2023

Internet shutdowns are governed by **Section 20 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023** and the **Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024** — replacing the earlier Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 framework.

Key Provisions: Permitted only during public emergency or in the interest of public safety | Must specify geographical area, type of service, and duration in writing | Maximum duration: 15 days (reviewed by designated Review Committee) | Competent authority: Union Home Secretary (Central) or State Home Secretary (State) | A protest alone is NOT an automatic legal ground. Legal Challenge: Under Article 226 (High Court) or Article 32 (Supreme Court) — courts examine whether competent authority issued the order, genuine public emergency existed, and whether less restrictive alternatives could have been used. India recorded 65 internet shutdowns in 2025 (Access Now); Myanmar recorded more. Right to Protest: Article 19(1)(b) | Restrictions: Article 19(3) | Section 163 BNSS, 2023.

5. Economy

India's Cotton Sector - "White Gold"; 1st in Area, 2nd in Production

Cotton ("White Gold"): India is the **only country cultivating all four recognised cotton species** | Ranks **1st globally in cotton cultivation area** and **2nd in production and consumption**. Supports ~60 lakh farmers and 4-5 crore people in processing, textiles, and trade.

Detail	Fact
Production (2025-26)	290.91 lakh bales (provisional) 1 bale = 170 kg
Domestic Consumption	328 lakh bales
Mission for Cotton Productivity	Launched 2025-26 Allocation: ₹5,659.22 crore Target by 2031: 498 lakh bales
Key Initiatives	MSP agency: Cotton Corporation of India Digital platform: Kapas Kisan app Branding: Kasturi Cotton Bharat 5F Vision: Farm, Fibre, Factory, Fashion, Foreign

India's Wholesale Inflation Rises to 9.87% in June 2026 - Types of Inflation

India's **WPI inflation** rose to **9.87% in June 2026** (from 9.68% in May; 3.98% in March). The **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** measures price changes at the wholesale/producer level across three major groups.

WPI Category	Inflation (June 2026)
Primary Articles	7.00%
Fuel and Power	27.41%
Manufactured Products	7.48%
WPI Food Index	6.14% (up from 4.49% in May)

Types of Inflation (Exam Focus): Cost-push: Producers pass higher input costs (oil, transport) through higher prices. Imported inflation: When imported commodity prices rise, or the rupee depreciates. Supply-side: Supply falls due to poor monsoon, drought, crop damage, or disruptions. Demand-pull: Overall demand grows faster than the economy's productive capacity.

6. Science & Technology

Vikram-1 - India's First Privately Developed Orbital Rocket; Mission Aagaman

Skyroot Aerospace launched **Vikram-1** — India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle — under **Mission Aagaman** (launch window: 12 July–4 August 2026). Deploys multiple payloads at **~450 km altitude in LEO**.

Detail	Fact
Structure	All-carbon-composite Solid-fuel boosters 3D-printed liquid engine
Payload Capacity	Up to 350 kg into Low Earth Orbit
Customer Payloads	Skyroot's SCOPE DCUBED technology-demo Grahaa Space's SOLARAS S3 Cosmoserve Space's Embrace (robotic debris-capture arm)
Symbolic Payloads	"Cosmic Bloom" (floral artwork) Gold micro-rocket honouring C.V. Raman, Vikram Sarabhai, and A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

India Approves First Dengue Vaccine - QDenga (TAK-003) by Takeda

The **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)** granted market authorisation to **QDenga** (also known as **TAK-003**) — making it the **first dengue vaccine approved in India**. Developed by **Takeda**; authorised for ages **4-60 years**. A **live-attenuated tetravalent vaccine** containing weakened forms of all four dengue serotypes: DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4.

Magnetic Levitation (Maglev) - EMS and EDS Systems Explained

Maglev uses powerful magnetic fields to lift and propel trains with no wheel-to-track contact, enabling speeds above **400 km/hr**.

System	How It Works
EMS (Electromagnetic Suspension)	Electromagnets under the train are attracted upward to the metal guideway, lifting the train ~10 mm. Sensors adjust magnetic force continuously.
EDS (Electrodynamic Suspension)	Superconducting magnets on the train move past guideway coils, inducing currents (electromagnetic induction). Per Lenz's Law, induced field repels train magnets — levitation by repulsion.

India Releases Spectrum Roadmap for 6G Services (2025-2035)

The **Department of Telecommunications** released a **Spectrum Roadmap for 6G Services** covering **2025-2035**. Three phases: Short-term (2025-26) | Medium-term (2027-30) | Long-term (2031-35).

Official international name for 6G: IMT-2030 | Expected availability: ~2030 | Short-term mid-band spectrum identified: 400 MHz | Long-term 66-71 GHz spectrum identified: 5,000 MHz.

7. Environment

Manasbal Lake - One of India's Deepest Freshwater Lakes Shows Ecological Recovery

Manasbal Lake in **Ganderbal district, J&K**; is showing signs of ecological recovery as migratory birds return. Approximately **43 feet deep**, 3.5 km long, 1.5 km wide. Over **46 bird species** from 23 families recorded, including mallard, white-headed duck, Eurasian hoopoe, golden eagle, and lesser pied kingfisher.

White-Bellied Heron Threatened by Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project - Arunachal Pradesh

The proposed **1,200-MW Kalai-II HEP** on the **Lohit River, Arunachal Pradesh** threatens the **White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*)** — one of the world's rarest birds. The Forest Advisory Committee granted in-principle forest clearance involving diversion of **869 hectares** of forest and felling of over **33,000 trees**.

Species: White-bellied Heron | Scientific name: *Ardea insignis* | IUCN: Critically Endangered | India's estimated population: only 6-9 individuals, mainly along the Noa-Dehing, Lahm, and Lohit rivers.

Kutki (*Picrorhiza kurroa*) - Himalayan Medicinal Herb Conservation, Mandi

Farmers in **Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh** adopted sustainable cultivation methods to conserve **Kutki (*Picrorhiza kurroa*)**, a Himalayan medicinal herb threatened by destructive wild harvesting. Grows at elevations of **2,700-4,500 metres**.

8. Defence

Exercise Pitch Black 2026 - IAF Deploys Rafale and C-17 at RAAF Darwin, Australia

The **IAF** is participating in **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**, hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force** at **RAAF Base Darwin** (20 July - 7 August 2026). IAF deployed **Rafale fighter aircraft and C-17 transport aircraft**. Aims to improve operational coordination, interoperability, and complex air operations with friendly air forces.

INS Malvan Commissioned - 2nd Mahe-class ASW Shallow Water Craft

The Indian Navy commissioned **INS Malvan** — the **second indigenously designed and built Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** — at Karwar on **22 July 2026**. Second of **eight Mahe-class ASW-SWCs** being constructed by **Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi**.

9. Schemes

Shallow Aquifer Management (SAM) Programme - Under AMRUT 2.0

The **SAM Programme** is an urban groundwater-management initiative under **AMRUT 2.0** (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs), implemented in partnership with the **National Institute of Urban Affairs**. Seeks to restore upper groundwater layers and improve urban water security. **SAM 1.0**: 10 pilot cities | **SAM 2.0**: expanded to 75 additional cities.

GREAT Scheme - Technical Textiles Innovation; Up to ₹50 Lakh Per Startup

The Ministry of Textiles implements **GREAT (Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles)** under the **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**. Launched in **2023**; each approved startup can receive up to **₹50 lakh**. Covers smart textiles, graphene-based materials, energy-harvesting fabrics, medical textiles, shape-memory wearables, and advanced composites.

BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme - 3 Dedicated Chemical Parks; ₹3,030 Crore

The Union Cabinet approved the **BHAVYA Rasayan** scheme for establishing three dedicated chemical parks (FY 2026–27 to 2030–31). Total outlay: **₹3,030 crore** (₹3,000 crore infrastructure + ₹30 crore administration). Max Central grant per park: **₹1,000 crore** | Min State contribution: **₹500 crore** | Selection: **Challenge Route**.

One District One Product (ODOP) - 1,244 Products Across 773 Districts

The **ODOP initiative** (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry) has identified **1,244 products across 773 districts**. Products are selected by State/UT governments. International ODOP retail stores: **two in Singapore and one in Kuwait**. No separate district-wise financial allocation is made under ODOP.

10. Awards & Honours

72nd National Film Awards 2024 - Article 370 Best Film; Committee Kurrollu Best Telugu Film

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced the **72nd National Film Awards** on **18 July 2024** for films of the year **2024**.

Category	Winner
Best Feature Film	Article 370 (dir. Aditya Suhas Jambhale)
Best Actress (Leading Role)	Yami Gautam – Article 370
Best Actor (Leading Role)	Mammootty (Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion) — jointly
Best Direction	Rajkumar Periasamy – Amaran
Best Debut Director	Randeep Hooda
Best Popular Film	Kalki 2898 AD
Best Children's Film	35—Chinna Katha Kaadu
Best Telugu Film	Committee Kurrollu
Best Non-Feature Film	Bhangaar
Best Documentary	Ram-Nami
Best Male Playback Singer	Abhay Jodhpurkar
Best Female Playback Singer	Vaikom Vijayalakshmi

11. Person in News

Harjit Singh Grewal - New Chairman of National Commission for Minorities

Harjit Singh Grewal assumed charge as Chairman of the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** on **21 July 2026**. NCM is a **statutory body** under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992** — comprising a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and five members (nominated by the Union Government; term: three years).

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak - Birth Anniversary (23 July 1856)

Born on **23 July 1856** in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. Title: "**Lokmanya**" (accepted by the people). One of the earliest leaders to demand complete self-rule.

Key Contributions: "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it" | Newspapers: Kesari (Marathi) and The Maratha (English) | Transformed Ganeshotsav and Shivaji Jayanti into political mass mobilisation platforms | Nationalist group: Lal-Bal-Pal (Lala Lajpat Rai, Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal) | Founded Indian Home Rule League (1916) | Written works: Gita Rahasya (written during imprisonment in Mandalay, Burma).

Chandra Shekhar Azad - Birth Anniversary (23 July 1906)

Born on **23 July 1906** at Bhavra, **Alirajpur district, Madhya Pradesh**. Prominent member of the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**. Worked with Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, and Ram Prasad Bismil. Participated in the **Kakori train action**. Died on **27 February 1931** fighting British police at **Alfred Park, Allahabad** (now **Chandra Shekhar Azad Park, Prayagraj**).

On being arrested, reportedly identified himself as "Azad" (free), father: "Swatantrata", residence: "jail" — the name Azad became permanently associated with him. Organisation: Hindustan Republican Association → reorganised as HSRA.

12. Sports

FIFA World Cup 2026 – Spain Champions; Final at MetLife Stadium, New Jersey

Award / Result	Winner / Detail
Champions	Spain (defeated Argentina 1-0 after extra time)
Runner-up	Argentina
Final Venue	MetLife Stadium, New Jersey, United States
Winning Goal	Ferran Torres (106th minute)
Spain's Record	Second FIFA World Cup title (first in 2010)
Golden Ball	Rodri (Spain)
Golden Boot	Kylian Mbappé — 10 goals
Golden Glove	Unai Simón (Spain)
Best Young Player	Pau Cubarsi (Spain)
FIFA Fair Play Award	Netherlands
Host Nations	United States, Canada, and Mexico (jointly)

P.V. Sindhu – First Indian to Win Japan Open Badminton Title (BWF Super 750)

P.V. Sindhu (two-time Olympic medallist) became the **first Indian to win the Japan Open badminton title** (BWF Super 750 tournament) by defeating Japan's **Akane Yamaguchi** in the final. Her maiden Japan Open crown and first BWF Super 750 title.

Kimi Antonelli Wins 2026 Belgian Grand Prix – His 6th Victory of the Season

Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes, age 19) won the **2026 Belgian Grand Prix** at **Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps** on **19 July 2026**, ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Red Bull's Max Verstappen. His **6th victory of the season**.

V.S. Rathnvel Becomes India's 99th Chess Grandmaster

V.S. Rathnvel of Tamil Nadu became **India's 99th Chess Grandmaster** after crossing the required 2500 Elo mark at the **3rd Guwahati Smart City International Open FIDE Rating Chess Tournament 2026** (14–19 July 2026).

13. Miscellaneous

AAROH – India's First Annual Report on Mine Closure

The **Ministry of Coal** released **AAROH (Annual Report on Mine Closure)** — India's **first comprehensive report** documenting scientific mine-closure and repurposing practices — in New Delhi on **22 July 2026**, released by Union Minister of Coal and Mines **G. Kishan Reddy**.