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Weekly Current Affairs

July 2026 - Week 5

27 July - 2 August 2026 | Exam Revision Notes

55+ Topics · 11 Sections · ~35 Min Read

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Dear Aspirants,

Greetings from ReadingRoomz! Another week packed with significant developments across international affairs, national governance, Andhra Pradesh, science, environment, and sports — all of which matter for your APPSC journey. This digest connects dynamic events with the 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 today brings you closer to your dream tomorrow.**

— Team ReadingRoomz | sreekanth@readingroomz.com

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1. International Current Affairs

France Approves Social Media Ban for Children Under 15 - First in EU

France's Parliament approved a Bill prohibiting children below **15 years** from accessing social media platforms, adopted by both the National Assembly and the Senate on **21 July 2026**. France becomes the **first EU country** to approve a nationwide blanket social media restriction for this age group.

Mount Olympus and D-Day Beaches Added to UNESCO World Heritage List - 48th WHC Session, Busan

UNESCO added **Mount Olympus** (Greece) and the **D-Day Landing Beaches of Normandy** (France) to the World Heritage List during the **48th Session of the World Heritage Committee** held in **Busan, Republic of Korea** (19-29 July 2026).

Site	Key Facts
D-Day Landing Beaches, Normandy	Covers ~80 km of coastline Six components: Omaha, Utah, Sword, Gold, Juno beaches, and Pointe du Hoc Associated with Allied landings of 6 June 1944 (Operation Overlord) Beginning of the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi occupation
Mount Olympus, Greece	Greece's highest mountain In ancient Greek mythology: home of the Twelve Olympian Gods, led by Zeus Located in northern Greece

Favara-UPI Cross-Border Payment Corridor - Maldives and India

The **Favara-UPI Cross-Border Payment Corridor** between the Maldives and India became operational on **30 July 2026**. It integrates **Favara** (the Maldives' instant payment system) with India's **UPI**, enabling real-time digital remittances from the Maldives to UPI-enabled bank accounts in India. Transactions initiated in **Maldivian Rufiyaa or US dollars**; recipients receive **Indian rupees**. Customer limit: up to **₹24,000 per month** per bank.

Pickaxe Mountain (Kuh-e Kolang Gaz La) - Iran

Pickaxe Mountain (locally: **Kuh-e Kolang Gaz La**) is a volcanic mountain in central Iran, about **220 km south of Tehran**, near the city of **Natanz**. It forms part of the **Karkas Range**, extending between the cities of Kashan and Ardestan.

2. National Current Affairs

Sarnath Added to UNESCO World Heritage List - India's 45th Property

The **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath** (near Varanasi, UP) was inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List on 25 July 2026** during the **48th Session of the World Heritage Committee** in Busan, increasing India's count from 44 to **45**.

Detail	Fact
Location	Near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
Significance	Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon — Dharmachakra Pravartana ("Turning of the Wheel of Dharma") — here in the 6th century BCE
UNESCO Criteria	Inscribed under criteria (iii) and (vi)
Key Monuments	Chaukhandi Stupa Dhamekh Stupa Dharmarajika Stupa Mulagandhakuti Vihara Ashokan Pillar
Four Buddhist Pilgrimage Sites	Sarnath (first sermon) Lumbini (birth) Bodh Gaya (enlightenment) Kushinagar (Mahaparinirvana)
Historical Note	Flourished as major Buddhist centre before declining in 12th century CE; rediscovered in the 18th century

Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project, Bihar - Under PMKSY-AIBP

The **Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project** in Bihar has been included under **PMKSY-AIBP**. Scheduled for completion by **March 2029**. Proposes to divert surplus monsoon water of the **Kosi River** to the **Mahananda basin** by remodelling the Eastern Kosi Main Canal up to **41.30 km** and extending it to the **Mechi River**.

India's First Integrated Telecom Manufacturing Zone - Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

DoT and the Government of **Madhya Pradesh** signed an MoU on **30 July 2026** to establish India's **first integrated Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)** in **Gwalior**. Area: **350-acre** plug-and-play industrial cluster for telecom manufacturing, R&D, testing, and certification.

SPV Structure: 51% equity — MP Government | 49% — DoT Central Government funding: ₹493 crore (100% for Phase I infrastructure) MP allocated ~170 acres of land free of cost.

Odisha Floods - Over 7 Lakh Affected Across 20 Districts

More than **7 lakh people** across **20 districts of Odisha** were affected by floods in late July 2026. Odisha received **644.1 mm of cumulative rainfall** (July 1–30) against the normal of 327.4 mm — a surplus of **96.7%**. Flooding reported in the **Mahanadi, Brahmani**, and other river systems.

3. Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

AP Launches AI-Powered City Flood Alert Platform – First Deployed in Vijayawada

The AP government launched **City Flood Alert**, developed by **RTGS** in collaboration with **APSDMA** and **IIT Gandhinagar**. Uses AI, predictive analytics, satellite-based terrain mapping, and hydrological modelling.

Feature	Detail
Rainfall Forecast	Up to 48 hours in advance
Flash Flood Warning	Up to 6 hours in advance
First Deployment	Vijayawada — low-lying areas affected by the Budameru rivulet

Andhra Pradesh Ranks 2nd in Mangrove Restoration – MISHTI Scheme

AP secured **second place in India** in mangrove plantation and restoration under **MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes)**. Plantations across **2,047.70 hectares** (2025–26) with an investment of **₹18.04 crore**. Target for 2026–27: **1,618 more hectares**.

Fish Bone Technique: A network of branching channels resembling a fish skeleton is created to improve tidal water movement into degraded areas. Better tidal circulation maintains salinity, improves natural seed dispersal, and increases mangrove survival rates. **Blue Carbon:** Mangroves are important reservoirs of blue carbon (carbon stored in coastal and marine ecosystems).

AstraZeneca to Establish Integrated Genomic Solutions Centre in Amaravati

AP signed an MoU with **AstraZeneca India** on **28 July 2026** to establish an **Integrated Genomic Solutions Centre** in Amaravati — India's first integrated precision oncology ecosystem within the public healthcare system. Proposed under the **Amaravati Quantum Valley** programme.

Samagra Shiksha Partners with Khan Academy India for KGBV Teacher Training

AP's **Samagra Shiksha** signed an MoU with **Khan Academy India** (with **UNICEF** support) to improve education quality in **352 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs)**. Specialised training for Intermediate-level teachers in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, and Zoology.

AP High Court Launches JOHA – India's First Cashless Health Assurance for Judicial Officers

Chief Justice **Lisa Gill** launched the **Judicial Officers Health Assurance (JOHA)** application on **28 July 2026**. Provides cashless medical services to serving and retired judicial officers and their dependent family members. Described as **India's first dedicated cashless health-assurance initiative** for judicial officers at the State level.

Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport - Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram

The **Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport** at **Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district** is designed as a major aviation gateway for North AP, located about **45 km from Visakhapatnam**. The passenger terminal **resembles a fish when viewed from above**, reflecting the region's maritime economy. Engineered to withstand cyclonic winds up to **275 kmph** and heavy rainfall up to **27 cm**.

4. Polity & Governance

Public Examinations Amendment Bill, 2026 – Fast-Track Courts, ₹5 Crore Fine

Introduced in Lok Sabha on **27 July 2026**. Amends the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

Provision	Detail
Max Fine - Individual (Unfair Means)	₹50 lakh
Max Fine - Offending Service Provider	₹5 crore
Organised Crime Punishment	Minimum 7 years' imprisonment + ₹10 crore fine
Investigation Deadline	Two months
Trial Deadline	Three months from chargesheet Special Fast Track Court (Sessions Court) in every State/UT
Appeal	Before a two-judge Bench of the respective High Court

MSME Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 – Introduced in Rajya Sabha

Introduced in Rajya Sabha on **28 July 2026**. Amends the MSME Development Act, 2006. Key proposals: MSMEs to be classified on both **investment in plant/machinery** and **annual turnover**; classification thresholds to be prescribed by the Central Government through **notification** (not fixed in the Act); filing an enterprise memorandum becomes **voluntary** for all MSMEs and may be done through digital platforms.

Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026 – JMFC for Delays Beyond 2 Years

Introduced in Lok Sabha on **29 July 2026** and passed on **31 July 2026**. Amends the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969.

Delay	Authority Required
After 1 year but within 2 years	Order from District Magistrate, SDM, or authorised Executive Magistrate
More than 2 years	Order from Judicial Magistrate of the First Class (JMFC) having jurisdiction over the area

Objective: Make delayed-registration provisions more stringent and encourage timely reporting of births and deaths. The Bill shifts authority from executive to judicial magistrate for delays exceeding two years.

5. Science & Technology

Zoopharmacognosy - Animals Self-Medicating with Plants

Zoopharmacognosy refers to the ability of animals to use plants, soil, and other natural substances to treat or prevent illness. The term combines *zoo* (animals), *pharmaco* (medicine), and *gnosy* (knowledge).

Examples: Orangutans in Indonesia mix saliva with *Dracaena* leaves and apply to their bodies to relieve muscle and joint pain | Chimpanzees swallow medicinal leaves to remove parasites | Elephants, monkeys, dogs, cats consume specific plants/grass/soil for digestive problems, infections, and parasites. Geophagy: The practice of consuming soil or clay for medicinal purposes.

BitChat - Bluetooth Low Energy Mesh Network; I4C Directs Removal from GitHub

The **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under MHA directed GitHub on **23 July 2026** to remove/disable three repositories associated with **BitChat**. BitChat is a decentralised P2P messaging app linked to X co-founder **Jack Dorsey**. It uses a **Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) mesh network** — works without internet, mobile network, central server, phone number, or user account. Each device relays messages to nearby devices, extending communication beyond direct Bluetooth range.

Government Concern: Anonymous and decentralised architecture could be misused to evade lawful surveillance, coordinate unlawful activities, and bypass internet restrictions during public-order emergencies.

Blue Straggler Star - Discovered by Indian Astronomers

Indian astronomers and international collaborators discovered a **Blue Straggler Star (BSS)** actively forming through the transfer of matter from a companion star. Blue stragglers are unusual stars in clusters that appear **hotter, brighter, and more massive** — and therefore apparently younger — than other stars formed at the same time.

Satellite Technology for Glacier and Disaster Monitoring in Ladakh

The Government of India uses satellite remote sensing and geospatial technologies to monitor glaciers, glacial lakes, snow cover, wetlands, waterbodies, and landslides in Ladakh.

Programme	Purpose
CAP	Cryosphere Science and Applications Programme
LAMA	Ladakh Specific Modelling and Space Applications — space-based weather forecasts, heavy-rainfall alerts, hydrological simulations for snowmelt and river discharge
SILAAS	Satellite Integrated Landslide Assessment and Alert System — maps landslides; supports village-wise landslide alerts (since 2023)
High-Risk GLOF Lakes	Katkar and Suru GLOF = Glacial Lake Outburst Flood

6. Environment

Ken-Betwa Link Project - Tribal Protests; India's First Inter-River Linking Project

Tribal residents of **Chhatarpur and Panna districts, Madhya Pradesh** protested in July 2026 over alleged irregularities in compensation and rehabilitation under the **Ken-Betwa Link Project**.

Detail	Fact
Significance	India's first river-interlinking project under implementation per the National Perspective Plan
Project Cost	₹44,605 crore
Engineering	Transfers water from Ken basin to water-deficit Betwa basin via Daudhan Dam and a 221-km link canal (including 2-km tunnel)
Benefits	Irrigation: 10.62 lakh ha Drinking water: ~62 lakh people Hydropower: 103 MW Solar: 27 MW Region: drought-prone Bundelkhand
Affected Families	~7,193 families across 22 villages (14 in Chhatarpur, 8 in Panna) per Union government estimate
Environmental Concern	~6,017 ha of forest in and around Panna Tiger Reserve may be affected 12,404 of 17,101 identified trees already felled (as of July 2025)

7. Schemes

DISHA 2.0 - Legal Aid Scheme; ₹255 Crore (April 2026-March 2031)

DISHA 2.0 (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) approved as a Central Sector Scheme for **April 2026 - March 2031** with an outlay of **₹255 crore**. Targets **3 crore beneficiaries**. Fully funded by the Central Government.

Component	Key Feature
Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached	Free pre-litigation legal advice via Tele-Law mobile app, toll-free 14454, and Common Service Centres Nyaya Sahayaks in Aspirational Blocks
Nyaya Bandhu	Voluntary pro bono legal assistance by advocates Pro bono panels in 23 High Courts Pro Bono Clubs in law colleges
Legal Literacy & Awareness	Awareness campaigns and community legal education
VIDHI-Sanjeevani (New)	Centralised dashboard for real-time monitoring Integrated with Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot (voice-first, multilingual, multimodal legal assistant)

PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme - Collateral-Free Education Loans

Central Sector Scheme launched on **6 November 2024**. Provides collateral-free and guarantor-free education loans to meritorious students admitted to designated Quality Higher Education Institutions. Eligible students with annual family income up to **₹8 lakh** receive a **3% interest subvention** on education loans up to **₹10 lakh**. Up to **1 lakh new students** per year. Total outlay: **₹3,600 crore** (2024-25 to 2030-31).

Samudra Manthan - National Offshore Exploration Scheme; ₹84,084 Crore

The Union Cabinet approved **Samudra Manthan** (National Offshore Exploration Scheme) on **31 July 2026**. A Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas with an outlay of **₹84,084 crore** up to FY 2030-31. Aims to extract India's offshore oil and gas from **deepwater, ultra-deepwater, and frontier offshore basins** to increase domestic energy production and reduce import dependence.

PM-KISAN - Continued 2026-31; ₹3.15 Lakh Crore Outlay

The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of **PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi)** from **2026-27 to 2030-31** with an outlay of **₹3.15 lakh crore**. Launched in **February 2019**. Provides **₹6,000 per year** to eligible landholding farmer families in three equal instalments of ₹2,000 each, directly credited via Aadhaar-linked DBT.

PM Surya Sarovar Yojana - 5,000 MW Floating Solar; ₹5,070 Crore

The Union Cabinet approved **PM-SSY** on **31 July 2026** (outlay: **₹5,070 crore**). Aims to develop **5,000 MW of floating solar** with co-located energy storage (minimum 2-hour storage) on reservoirs and inland waterbodies. Central Financial Assistance: **₹1 crore per MW** after commissioning. India's floating solar potential: **~102.18 GWp** (NISE estimate).

Khelo India Scheme - ₹36,441 Crore; Nearly 8× Previous Allocation

The Union Cabinet approved the expanded **Khelo India Scheme** and enhanced **ANSF** for **2026-27 to 2030-31** with a combined outlay of **₹36,441 crore** — nearly **eight times** the allocation of the previous Khelo India Scheme.

PM-AJAY - Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana

The Union Government proposed continuing **PM-AJAY** from **2026-27 to 2030-31** with an enhanced outlay. A **100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme** since 2021-22, created by merging three earlier schemes. Three components: **Adarsh Gram** | **Grants-in-Aid** for district/State-level projects | **Construction of hostels**.

8. Defence

ASW SWC 'Machilipatnam' (BY 529) - 7th of 8 Craft, Named After AP Port City

Machilipatnam (BY 529), the **seventh of eight ASW Shallow Water Craft** built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited**, was launched on **29 July 2026**. Named after **Machilipatnam**, the historic port city in **Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh**, recognising its maritime heritage and historical role in India's eastern coast trade.

Diving Support Vessel 'Nipun' - Delivered by Hindustan Shipyard to Indian Navy

The **DSV Nipun** (second DSV built by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam**) was delivered to the Indian Navy on **30 July 2026**. Name from Sanskrit: *adept, capable, and well-versed*. Can undertake deep-sea diving, underwater rescue, and maritime search-and-rescue operations. Sister ship: **INS Nistar** (commissioned July 2025).

9. Awards & Honours

IIITDM Kurnool Tops All Four Categories of 5G Labs Excellence Awards

IIITDM Kurnool secured first position in all four categories of the **5G Labs Excellence Awards** (January-June 2026): **5G Lab Excellence Award, 5G Lab Utilisation Excellence Award, 5G Lab Engagement Excellence Award, and 5G Lab Innovation Excellence Award**. Awards presented by Union Minister **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** during the **Bharat 6G Alliance** review. IIITDM Kurnool's lab was among the **100 5G Use Case Labs** inaugurated at India Mobile Congress 2023.

Fields Medals 2026 - International Congress of Mathematicians, Philadelphia

The **International Mathematical Union (IMU)** announced the 2026 Fields Medal recipients at the **International Congress of Mathematicians** in **Philadelphia** on **23 July 2026**. The Fields Medal is awarded **every four years** for outstanding mathematical achievement.

Recipient	Institution
Hong Wang	New York University
Yu Deng	University of Chicago
John Pardon	Stony Brook University
Jacob Tsimerman	University of Toronto

10. Committees & Conferences

High-Powered Task Force on Examination Reforms - Headed by Nandan Nilekani

PM Narendra Modi announced on **26 July 2026** that a **High-Powered Task Force** would be formed under **Nandan Nilekani** (co-founder of Infosys; architect of India's Aadhaar-based digital identity infrastructure) to recommend reforms in India's public examination system.

Scope: Technology in examination administration | Reduction of vulnerable manual processes | Protection of examination data | Improvement of logistics and institutional systems. Earlier Committee: In 2024, Ministry of Education constituted a High-Level Committee headed by former ISRO Chairman K. Radhakrishnan to recommend reforms in NTA procedures and data-security protocols.

11. Sports

2026 Commonwealth Games - Glasgow, Scotland; India's Medal Highlights

Athlete	Event	Medal / Achievement
Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting – Women's 48 kg	Gold — India's first gold at Glasgow; 3rd consecutive CWG gold (Gold Coast 2018, Birmingham 2022, Glasgow 2026)
Chanambam Rishikanta Singh	Weightlifting – Men's 60 kg	Silver — 121+143 = 264 kg total
Raja Muthupandi	Weightlifting – Men's 65 kg	Silver — 126+160 = 286 kg total
Gyaneshwari Yadav	Weightlifting – Women's 53 kg	Silver — career-best 199 kg total Age 23 Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh
Valluri Ajaya Babu	Weightlifting – Men's 79 kg	Silver — 330 kg total Age 21 Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh
Sharmila Dhankar	Para-Athletics – Women's Shot Put F57	Gold — 9.81 m (season-best) First Indian para-athlete to win CWG gold Ended 20-year wait for CWG para-athletics medal
Shilpa K. Shyla	Para-Athletics – Women's Shot Put F57	Bronze — 7.26 m (personal best) India's double podium
Dilip Mahadu Gavit	Para-Athletics – Men's 100m T47	Gold — Games record 10.71s First Indian male para-athlete to win CWG gold
Sarvesh Kushare	Athletics – Men's High Jump	Silver — 2.25 m First Indian to win CWG silver in men's high jump
Murali Sreeshankar	Athletics – Men's Long Jump	Silver — 8.09 m Second consecutive CWG silver
Seema Kaliramna	Athletics – Women's Discus Throw	Bronze — First major international medal; 27 years old, PhD scholar, mother of a 4-year-old
Harsh Singh	Judo – Men's 60 kg	Gold — First-ever Indian male judoka to win CWG gold
Asmita Dey	Judo – Women's 48 kg	Gold — First Indian judoka (male or female) to win CWG gold

Anahat Singh - First Indian to Win World Junior Squash Championship

Anahat Singh became the **first Indian to win the World Junior Squash Championships title** on **25 July 2026** by winning the girls' singles championship at **Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada**.

Ajinkya Rahane Retires from All Formats of International Cricket

Former Indian cricket captain **Ajinkya Rahane** announced his retirement from international cricket and all formats on **30 July 2026**. He captained India in **six Tests**, recording **four victories and two draws — without a defeat**.

International Tiger Day - 29 July 2026; Theme: "Coexistence in action"

International Tiger Day (Global Tiger Day) was observed on **29 July 2026**. IUCN 2026 campaign theme: **"Coexistence in action: Scaling solutions for people and tigers."** The day raises awareness about tiger conservation, habitat protection, illegal wildlife trade, and human-tiger conflict.



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