

Highlights of 03 July 2026 Current Affairs

- Satkosia Tiger Reserve has now received in-principle approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to resume the tiger reintroduction programme. The reserve, located in Odisha, recorded no resident tigers in the June 2026 assessment, following the unsuccessful translocation attempt in 2018.
- The Ministry of Tourism and Google India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the digital visibility of India's tourism destinations. The partnership will leverage digital technologies, artificial intelligence, data-driven insights, and capacity building to attract more domestic and international travelers.
- The K9 Vajra-T self-propelled howitzer programme, a defence partnership between India and South Korea, is an example of defence industrial cooperation under the Indian government's flagship *Make in India* initiative. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) manufactures the system under a technology transfer agreement with South Korea's Hanwha Aerospace. The K9 Vajra-T is a 155 mm, 52-calibre, self-propelled tracked artillery gun developed specifically for the Indian Army.
- Indian Army soldiers Havildar Lakshay and Havildar Ujjwal Kumar Singh won gold at the World Rowing Cup held in Lucerne, Switzerland, in the Lightweight Men's Double Sculls (LM2x) event. They became the first Indians to win this prestigious competition, showcasing India's growing strength in the world of rowing.
- The Government of India has asked Meta, the parent company of WhatsApp, to pause the rollout of the username feature and to submit a detailed explanation within three days. The new update would allow users to connect without mandatorily sharing their mobile phone numbers, instead using unique usernames to start conversations, similar to features offered by other messaging platforms.
- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri has received a one-year extension in his tenure.
- The Punjab School Education Board has become the first education board in the country to launch an e-commerce platform for the sale and delivery of textbooks. Through the new *Pustak Portal*, students, parents, and schools can purchase books at a discounted rate of 15 percent.
- Vijayendra Singh, former Minister of State for Health and five-time MLA from Naggar, Himachal Pradesh, has died at the age of 80.
- The Amarnath Yatra to the holy cave shrine at an altitude of 3,880 meters commenced today.
- The Eurasian lynx, one of the four extant species within the medium-sized wild cat genus *Lynx*, has been photographed for the first time on the Tso Lhamo Plateau in Mangan district of Sikkim, India.
- After the appointment of General Dhiraj Seth as Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain has become the new Vice Chief of the Indian Army. Alongside him, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit has taken charge as the Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force.
- The United States Postal Service will release a stamp to commemorate the festival of Diwali.
- Ram Gopal Kothari has become the first Indian to complete the 42.195 km marathon at the Volcano Marathon on Easter Island (Rapa Nui), Chile. He has also become the first Indian to complete a full marathon at the geographic North Pole.

- Punjab has experienced a sharp rise in GST collections, recording an increase of about 24 percent during the first quarter of the 2026–2027 financial year, according to data released by Punjab’s Finance, Excise, and Taxation Minister Harpal Cheema.
- In another milestone, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has completed two major infrastructure projects on National Highway-44 in Jammu and Kashmir to enhance connectivity and ensure uninterrupted travel to the Kashmir Valley. Among these is the 810-meter-long viaduct on the northbound carriageway near Ramsoo in Ramban district.
- Akashvani has launched the *Swar Prerna Veethika*, a specially curated photo gallery established to honour the country’s celebrated musicians who played a significant role in enriching India’s musical heritage, marking 90 years of public service broadcasting.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), HSBC India, and JP Morgan have partnered to enable real-time foreign exchange (FX) conversion and settlement for cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions.
- Lieutenant General Rajesh Pushkar has assumed charge as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Southern Command.
- In a new development in the Air Force, Air Marshal Jasvir Singh Mann has assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Southern Air Command.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has integrated its Ombudsman Scheme, a unified grievance redressal mechanism for customers of regulated financial institutions.
- In a new development, the Ministry of Steel has granted Miniratna Category-I status to MECON Limited, highlighting the company’s strong financial performance, including continuous profitability over the last three financial years.