

Highlights of 04 July 2026 Current Affairs

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay has inaugurated an all-women police unit named the *Singappen Special Task Force*, dedicated to ensuring the safety of women and children in the state.
- India's largest butterfly, the Southern Birdwing (*Troides minos*), has been spotted for the first time in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana.
- India has approved the first-ever satellite-based landing procedure, called Private Point-in-Space (PinS), a satellite-based instrument approach designed specifically for helicopters at the Undavalli Heliport.
- The Government of Odisha has approved the Deep Sea Fishing Mission with an estimated investment of ₹2,295.45 crore over the next 10 years. The mission will be led by the Department of Fisheries and Animal Resources Development.
- Air Marshal Tejinder Singh has taken over as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC). He heads the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and functions under the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).
- Byrnihat, an industrial town on the Assam–Meghalaya border, has officially emerged as India's most polluted town in 2026, largely due to ethanol production and heavy industrial emissions. Recent studies show its PM2.5 levels far exceed hazardous limits, surpassing even Delhi and Ghaziabad.
- Borjuli in Assam's Sonitpur district has been notified as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) under the NRAA-funded Wild Rice Conservation Project titled "In-situ Conservation and Management of Wild Rice (*Oryza rufipogon*) in Sonitpur district of Assam."
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Ravi Shankar as its new Executive Director (ED).
- India and Japan have signed three landmark policy documents during the 16th India–Japan Annual Summit: a Joint Declaration on Economic Security, a Statement on Cooperation in Artificial Intelligence, and a Joint Statement on Energy Resilience.
- Microsoft and Singapore-based telecom infrastructure company Lightstorm will develop a new undersea cable system connecting India with Malaysia and Singapore, named *I-2SEA (India-to-Southeast Asia)*. This project aims to strengthen regional digital infrastructure and support the rapid expansion of Artificial Intelligence, hyperscale cloud services, and data centres across Asia.
- The Government of India has reported a 13% decline in coal imports this April compared to the same month last year, with total imports falling from 24.27 million tonnes (MT) in April 2025 to 21.13 MT in April 2026.
- Union Minister for Agriculture, Farmers Welfare, and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan has inaugurated the nationwide initiative "*Viksit Bharat-G-Ram-G Act*" from Mukkavaripalli village in Andhra Pradesh.
- The International Booker Prize will officially be renamed the *Bukhman International Booker Prize* following a 10-year funding agreement with Bukhman Philanthropies. The prize money will be doubled to £100,000, to be equally shared between the author and translator. The sponsorship comes from Daria Bukhman and Dmitri Bukhman, who have backgrounds in linguistics and language pedagogy, and will support the prize until 2036.

Originally launched in 2005 as the *Man Booker International Prize*, it was awarded biennially before becoming an annual award.

- The Gujarat Police have launched a new initiative called *Operation Surakshit Cyberspace* to ensure digital safety for women and children. The campaign will run from 1 July 2026 to 28 July 2026.
- Cristiano Ronaldo has broken another world record in the ongoing FIFA World Cup in the USA, Canada, and Mexico by scoring against Croatia. He became the oldest player to score in the World Cup knockouts and the second-oldest goalscorer in FIFA World Cup history, only behind Cameroon's striker Roger Milla.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has added the first molecular diagnostic test for the Bundibugyo Ebola virus to its Emergency Use Listing (EUL). This test detects the Bundibugyo virus, a species that causes Ebola disease in humans, and its emergency approval aims to improve the rapid detection of Bundibugyo virus disease.
- Indian para-athlete Hokato Hotozhe Sema became World No. 1 in the men's shot put F27 rankings in July 2026. A soldier turned Paralympian, Hokato Hotozhe Sema's inspiring journey spans from surviving a life-changing injury to standing among the world's best athletes.
- The Government of Gujarat is set to establish a project named *SAMARTH* (Silicon and Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research and Training Hub) at IIT Gandhinagar with a total investment of ₹190 crore.
- NITI Aayog has released its *Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global* to position Ayurveda as a globally recognized healthcare system. The roadmap has been developed in collaboration with PwC.