

Highlights of 13 July 2026 Current Affairs

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, under Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, has renamed the Central Vista Redevelopment Area as the Kartavya Bhawan Complex (or Kartavya Bhawan Area). The Central Vista Project covers the 3-km Rajpath stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate in New Delhi, and is being developed in a modern style.
- Soumya Swaminathan, former Chief Scientist at the World Health Organization and daughter of Bharat Ratna M. S. Swaminathan, has been formally inducted into the prestigious Royal Society of London, the world's oldest scientific academy.
- Qatar's former Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, a moderniser and founder of Al Jazeera, has died at the age of 74.
- United States Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, one of President Donald Trump's closest allies and an influential leader, has died at the age of 71.
- According to WedMeGood's Destination Wedding Report 2026, Sri Lanka has emerged as the fastest-growing destination for Indian couples, accounting for about 25 percent of the market, despite challenges posed by the ongoing West Asia crisis.
- Jannik Sinner, the Italian tennis superstar, has retained his Wimbledon title in England after defeating German player Alexander Zverev. He has become only the 10th man in the professional era to successfully defend the Wimbledon crown.
- Linda Nosková won Wimbledon after a historic all-Czech final against fellow countrywoman Karolína Muchová.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the *Pillale Sampada* initiative, which literally means "Children are Wealth." This marks a significant change in the state's demographic policy, announced during the World Population Day programme in Vijayawada.
- S. Janaki, regarded as one of India's greatest playback singers and popularly known as the "Nightingale of South India," has passed away at the age of 88.
- In another milestone, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has completed the prototype of the first lift-off and landing test at the Noshiro Rocket Testing Center in Akita Prefecture. This demonstrated reusable launch vehicles that can lower the cost of space missions and improve launch efficiency.
- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched a new six-month amnesty scheme for exempted provident fund trusts. This scheme gives employers a one-time opportunity to regularize pending compliance issues, submit overdue documents, and correct procedural lapses without facing punitive action.
- Ahmedabad, Gujarat, inscribed its name in the Guinness Book of World Records for planting saplings within a single hour. The event was organized by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) using the Japanese Miyawaki afforestation method.
- The Uttar Pradesh Government has launched the *UP Khet Suraksha Yojana 2026*, aimed at addressing crop destruction caused by stray cattle, nilgai, and wild boars. The scheme provides financial aid for installing solar electric fencing around agricultural land.
- The Government of West Bengal has announced the renaming of August 16 from *Khela Hobe Diwas* to *Ayushman Diwas* to raise awareness about healthcare through the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

- Indian fast bowler Kranti Gond has inscribed her name on the Lord's Honours Board with a historic five-wicket haul, becoming the first female cricketer to achieve this distinction.
- In another milestone, Indian cricketer Yatika Bhatia became the first female ever to score a Test century at Lord's.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has selected Lakhanpur, the first city in Jammu and Kashmir, which is also the gateway to the state and shares its border with Punjab's Pathankot city, for a street food hub under the PM SVANidhi initiative. The project aims to modernize street-vending spaces, promote regional cuisine, and strengthen tourism.
- The world's largest iceberg, A23a, which was discovered in Antarctica in 1986, has officially melted away. It once covered thousands of square kilometers.
- Indian shooter Neeru Dhanda achieved a milestone by winning the trap gold at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup 2026 in Lonato, Italy.
- Indian-origin astronaut Anil Menon is set to embark on his first mission to the International Space Station (ISS), launching aboard the Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft on July 14, 2026. He will spend eight months in orbit.

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Entity	Details
Father of Green Revolution (India)	M.S. Swaminathan
Honors	M.S. Swaminathan – Bharat Ratna, 2024
Qatar	Capital – Doha; Currency – Riyal; King – Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani
Sri Lanka	Capitals – Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte (Administrative), Colombo (Commercial); Currency – Sri Lankan Rupee; President – Anura Kumara Dissanayake

Entity	Details
Italy	Capital – Rome; Currency – Euro; Prime Minister – Giorgia Meloni
Wimbledon	Founded – 9 July 1877; Played on – Grass Courts; City – London, England
Czech Republic	Capital – Prague; Currency – Koruna; President – Petr Pavel
Japan	Capital – Tokyo; Currency – Yen; Prime Minister – Sanae Takaichi (first female PM)
Gujarat	Capital – Gandhinagar; Chief Minister – Bhupendra Patel; Governor – Acharya Devvrat
Uttar Pradesh	Capital – Lucknow; Chief Minister – Yogi Adityanath; Governor – Anandiben Patel
West Bengal	Capital – Kolkata; Chief Minister – Suvendu Adhikari; Governor – R.N. Ravi