

Highlights of 17 July 2026 Current Affairs

- Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S. Somanath has joined Agnikul Cosmos as an Observer on its Board of Directors.
- The Government of India, under the Ministry of Finance, has raised the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED), also known as the windfall tax, on exports of petroleum products—particularly diesel and ATF—while at the same time reducing the levy on petrol.
- The Government of India, under the Ministry of Finance, has invited global bidders for 10 GWh to set up Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery manufacturing units under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which aims to encourage the domestic battery manufacturing ecosystem and minimize import dependence on batteries.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the National Investment Policy for Urea 2026 (NIPU-2026) to promote investment in gas-based urea manufacturing, reduce import dependency, enhance transparency in project economics, and boost India's fertilizer production self-sufficiency.
- The third India–European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC) meeting was held in Brussels, where the Indian delegation was led by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. The meeting examined ways to boost cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI), electric vehicles, semiconductors, renewable energy technologies, digital technologies, and building a resilient supply chain.
- Indian scientists have developed a portable, self-powered, and wearable ammonia gas sensor capable of detecting extremely low concentrations of ammonia—as low as 319 parts per billion (ppb). The sensor was developed by researchers at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The Government of India, under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), has approved the Programme for Accelerated aRenewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions (PARIVARTAN) with a total allocation of ₹9,585 crore. The scheme aims to replace ageing and highly polluting commercial vehicles operating in the National Capital Region (NCR) with cleaner Bharat Stage (BS) VI-compliant or electric vehicles.
- India's food processing sector is projected to become a \$600-billion industry by 2030, according to a report by FICCI and Deloitte. The sector has shifted from a volume-driven agricultural economy to a value-added, consumer-focused ecosystem powered by technology, innovation, exports, and changing consumer preferences.
- Zanzibar's President Hussein Ali Mwinyi is on a four-day visit to India from July 17 to July 20 to strengthen India–Tanzania relations, with cooperation across education, trade, capacity building, and development partnerships.
- Every year, 17 July is celebrated as the World Day for International Justice, which aims to ensure that justice is served and to highlight the vital necessity of human rights and the rule of law. This day marks the adoption of the Rome Statute, which was signed on 17 July 1998, and led to the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

- The Indian Navy will commission INS Malvan, the second Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), on 22 July 2026. It has been built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, under India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat programme, with over 80% indigenous content.

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Category/Institution	Details
ISRO	Chairman – V. Narayan Inception – 15 August 1969 Former Name – Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR)
India (Union)	Finance Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman First Foreign Minister – Jawaharlal Nehru Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs – Manohar Lal Khattar
Punjab	Finance Minister – Harpart Singh Cheema
Karnataka	Chief Minister – D.K. Shivakumar Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot Capital – Bengaluru
Delhi (UT)	Chief Minister – Rekha Gupta Lieutenant Governor – Taranjit Singh Sandhu
European Union	Parliament – Brussels, Belgium Total Members – 27 Member States President – Roberta Metsola

Category/Institution	Details
Zanzibar (Tanzania)	Group of islands off the coast of Tanzania Part of the country of Tanzania
International Criminal Court (ICC)	Established – 1 July 2002 Headquarters – The Hague, Netherlands