

Highlights of 18 July 2026 Current Affairs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first hydrogen-powered train from Jind and Sonapat in Haryana, along with development projects worth ₹14,700 crore in Jind.
- An IIT Bombay team has discovered a faster, cheaper, and more sustainable method to develop drugs by transforming abundantly available straight-chain carbon compounds into complex ring-shaped molecules, which can serve as building blocks for medicines and other valuable chemicals.
- HCLTech announced the acquisition of Guardian India's operations in a deal worth about ₹101 crore. Guardian India, an American-based company, employs around 2,000 people.
- India has achieved another milestone by covering 100 crore citizens under social protection coverage, which has increased from 25 crore in 2015 to 100 crore in 2026.
- Japan's Parliament has revised the 19th-century Imperial House Law, insisting that only men from the paternal lineage can become Emperor.
- Anurag Kumar has become the new Chief of Delhi Police, replacing Satish Golcha.
- The Indian Air Force will participate in the upcoming exercise titled *Pitch Black 2026* in Australia, which is a biennial multinational air combat exercise.
- Indian President Droupadi Murmu will undertake a week-long visit to three countries—Moldova, Romania, and North Macedonia.
- Indian space-tech startup Skyroot Aerospace has launched the indigenously developed rocket *Vikram-1* under the mission *Aagaman*, which literally means "Arrival," from the space centre in Sriharikota.
- Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) by the Government of India.
- The Indian Navy will organize *Operation Southern Readiness 26-2*, a joint naval exercise, from 20 July to 23 July 2026 in Kochi, together with the Combined Maritime Forces.
- The Uttar Pradesh Government has launched the *Kaushal Setu* and *Kaushal Sarathi* portals to improve the operations of the Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission.
- Astronomers have discovered a new exoplanet, *Beta Pictoris d*, orbiting the young star Beta Pictoris about 63 light-years away. It is estimated to be around 2–4 times the mass of Jupiter and was detected using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and confirmed with the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (ESO).
- The Government of India has introduced a bill to make insults to *Vande Mataram* punishable in the same manner as insults to the national anthem and other national symbols, under the provisions of the *Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act*.
- According to the S&P Global report of April 2026, which compiled the world's top 10 largest banks, 7 out of 10 are from China, with the top position held by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC).

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Entity	Details
Haryana CM	Naib Singh Saini
Haryana Governor	Ashim Kumar Ghosh
Haryana Capital	Chandigarh
USA President	Donald Trump
USA Capital	Washington, D.C.
USA Currency	Dollar (USD)
Japan Capital	Tokyo
Japan PM	Sanae Takaichi
Japan Currency	Yen
Japan Emperor	Naruhito
Delhi CM	Rekha Gupta
Delhi Lt. Governor	Taranjit Singh Sandhu

Entity	Details
Australia Capital	Canberra
Australia PM	Anthony Albanese
First President of India	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
Current President of India	Droupadi Murmu (15 th President)
Moldova Capital	Chişinău
Moldova President	Maia Sandu
Moldova Currency	Leu
Romania Capital	Bucharest
Romania Currency	Romanian Leu
Romania President	Nicușor Dan
North Macedonia Capital	Skopje
North Macedonia Currency	Denar

Entity	Details
North Macedonia President	Gordana Silijanovska Davkova
Skyroot Aerospace CEO	Pawan Kumar Chandana
Union Minister of Earth Sciences	Dr. Jitendra Singh
Indian Navy Chief	Admiral Krishna Swaminathan (27 th & current)
National Anthem	Jana Gana Mana
National Anthem Writer	Rabindranath Tagore
National Song	Vande Mataram
National Song Writer	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee