

Highlights of 19 July 2026 Current Affairs

- Panama's Foreign Minister Javier Eduardo Martínez-Acha Vásquez is on a five-day visit to India and will meet Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- France is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Grand Mosque, which was built for Muslim soldiers from French colonies who fought in World War I.
- The Ministry of Coal launched a ₹37,500 crore scheme for coal/lignite gasification to promote cleaner use of domestic coal, attract investments worth ₹2.5–3 lakh crore, utilise about 75 million tonnes annually, create nearly 50,000 jobs, and reduce India's import dependence on energy and chemical products.
- NHAI has introduced two new digital features on the RajmargYatra App — online 'Local Passes' for unlimited monthly travel within 20 km of a toll plaza, and 'MargMitra' Help Centre for instant assistance, grievance redressal, and services like FASTag, pass status, and road safety reporting — aimed at making highway travel seamless, transparent, and citizen-friendly.
- SMILE-Beggary Scheme (FY 2026-31): Implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to achieve a "*Bhiksha Vritti Mukh Bharat*" (Begging-Free India), the scheme aims to rehabilitate 35,000 persons (over 10,200 achieved) across 295 target cities by 2030-31, with a special focus on metropolitan, religious, tourist, and historical places monitored via the SMILE-Beggary National Portal.
- M72/AS01E TB Vaccine Pact: The Serum Institute of India has partnered with the Gates Medical Research Institute to manufacture the M72/AS01E vaccine, which could become the first new vaccine for adult pulmonary tuberculosis in over a century. If Phase III trials succeed, the agreement ensures mass production and affordable supply for low- and middle-income countries with high TB burdens.
- ICAR Viksit Krishi Vision 2047: A strategic roadmap aimed at making Indian agriculture climate-smart and tech-driven by targeting 100 million farmers, developing 100 "Climate Smart Villages," and implementing strict regulations against counterfeit seeds.
- NITI Aayog BioEconomy Roadmap 2035: Proposes a ₹50,000 crore BioEconomy Growth Fund, a biomanufacturing PLI scheme, and six national biotechnology missions to make India a top-three global biotech power by 2035. Building on the BioE3 policy, it aims to expand the bioeconomy to \$691 billion by 2035 and \$2.6 trillion by 2047 while creating over 30 million high-value jobs.
- Sir Garfield Sobers (1936–2026): Widely regarded as the greatest all-rounder in cricket history, the West Indies legend passed away at the age of 89. He represented the Caribbean nation in 93 Tests between 1954 and 1974, leaving an unmatched legacy as a masterful batsman, multifaceted bowler (fast-medium and spin), and elite fielder.
- New Prime Minister of Ukraine: Serhii Koryukov, the former CEO of state energy giant Naftogaz and a highly regarded crisis manager, has been appointed as Ukraine's new Prime Minister. Approved by the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) following a major wartime government reshuffle, his key priorities include securing energy infrastructure and expanding the nation's defense industrial base.
- UP Rooftop Solar Milestone: Under the *PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana*, Uttar Pradesh has overtaken Maharashtra to become India's second-largest state in residential rooftop solar installations. Managed by UPNEDA, the state has deployed 6,74,393

systems accounting for 2.28 GW of capacity, trailing only national leader Gujarat (7,49,839 installations).

- PM Modi PGIMER Chandigarh Healthcare Boost: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 300-bed Advanced Mother and Child Centre (AMCC) and the state-of-the-art Advanced Neurosciences Centre (ANC) at PGIMER Chandigarh, constructed at a combined cost of around ₹1,200 crore. He also laid the foundation stone for a 150-bed Critical Care Block under the *Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)* to strengthen tertiary care, emergency preparedness, and specialized research in Northern India.

• Static GK – 19 July 2026

Entity / Country / Ministry	Correct Information
Panama – Capital	Panama City
Panama – Currency	Balboa
Panama – President	José Raúl Mulino
France – Capital	Paris
France – Currency	Euro
France – President	Emmanuel Macron
Union Minister of Coal	G. Kishan Reddy
Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways	Nitin Gadkari
Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment	Dr. Virendra Kumar