

Highlights of 21 July 2026 Current Affairs

- **The Supreme Court of India** directed the Union Government to establish a national panel to address disparities in post-retirement amenities for former High Court judges.
- **India's First Indigenous Flow Battery Project:** NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL) approved the nation's first utility-scale **100 MWh Vanadium Redox Flow Battery Energy Storage System (VRFB BESS)** at the Khavda Solar Park in Gujarat, targeting deployment in 2027 with a 10-year operational contract.
- India hosted the **5th BRICS Working Group Meeting on Geospatial Technologies and its Applications** at IIT Tirupati, organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is developing a **Digital Aviation Incident Reporting Platform** to modernize India's aviation safety framework. Integrated into the existing eGCA portal, the system replaces manual filing by enabling real-time electronic submission and tracking of Mandatory Occurrence Reports (MORs) for airlines, airports, and technical personnel.
- Paninian India Private Ltd. unveiled the **Yantur 4.5 kN Turbofan Engine Programme**, an indigenous aerospace initiative developed under Atmanirbhar Bharat to power long-range combat drones, cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- **Central Know Your Customer (CKYC)** is a centralized repository system managed by the Central Registry of Securitisation Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India (CERSAI). It allows individuals to complete identity verification once and use it across banks, mutual funds, insurance firms.
- **Andy Burnham Takes Office as UK Prime Minister:** Following the formal resignation of Keir Starmer, senior Labour leader and former Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham was appointed Prime Minister of the United Kingdom by King Charles III at Buckingham Palace on July 20, 2026.
- India became the 123rd WTO member to formally accept the **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**, advancing global ocean conservation while safeguarding its domestic fishing community.
- Acclaimed American filmmaker James Gray will be conferred with the **Pardo alla Carriera** (Honorary Career Pardo Award) at the **79th Locarno Film Festival** in Switzerland.
- The Delhi Cabinet approved the implementation of the Central Government's **PARIVARTAN** scheme to replace aging, high-polluting commercial vehicles with cleaner BS-VI and electric vehicles across the National Capital Region.
- The **Gruha Jyothi Scheme** is a key welfare initiative by the Karnataka Government designed to lower household power bills and promote social security across urban and rural communities.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) is establishing a dedicated Centre of Excellence titled **ECOGEN (Innovative and Integrated Ecosystem for Green Hydrogen)** to spearhead research and technological breakthroughs in clean energy.
- **India's One-Two Finish in France:** Indian Grandmaster S. Rohith Krishna won the gold medal and Grandmaster Raja Rithvik claimed silver at the **1st Menuires International Chess Championship 2026** held in Les Menuires, France.

Static GK – 21 July 2026

Entity	Details
First Supreme Court in British India	Established in 1773 at Calcutta under the Regulating Act, 1773
First Chief Justice (British India)	Sir Elijah Impey
First Chief Justice of India	Harilal Jekisondas Kania
Current Chief Justice of India	Justice Surya Kant (53 rd CJI)
BRICS Full Form	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
BRICS Member Countries	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Indonesia
BRICS Headquarters	Shanghai, China
BRICS Established Year	2009
WTO Full Form	World Trade Organization
WTO Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland

Entity	Details
WTO Established Year	1995
WTO Director-General	Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
Switzerland Capital	Bern
Switzerland Currency	Franc
Delhi Chief Minister	Rekha Gupta
Delhi Lieutenant Governor	Taranjit Singh Sandhu
Karnataka Chief Minister	D. K. Shivakumar
Karnataka Governor	Thaawarchand Gehlot