

Highlights of 26 July 2026 Current Affairs

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved a major Joint Secretary-level bureaucratic reshuffle involving **20 senior officers** across various Union ministries and departments. A key highlight of the reshuffle is the appointment of **Satya Pal Kumar**, a 2005-batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer, as the new **Director of Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)** under the Department of Revenue for a tenure of five years.
- HCLTech's entry into AI infrastructure with its landmark investment in Odisha marks a major milestone in India's drive for technological independence. The total **₹15,000 crore outlay** combines two complementary developments in Bhubaneswar: an **AI-optimised Data Centre** (approx. ₹14,257 crore) and a **Global Technology / Delivery Centre** (approx. ₹730 crore).
- India's decision to invite Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman as a **special guest** to the **18th BRICS Summit** (scheduled for September 12–13, 2026, in New Delhi) is a strategic step in regional diplomacy and Global South leadership.
- The launch of the **Electric Boat Conversion Pilot Project** at Namo Ghat in Varanasi marks a key step toward sustainable water transport along the Ganga River. Executed jointly by the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) and GAIL (India) Limited, this initiative transitions conventional, diesel/fuel-powered wooden passenger boats into eco-friendly electric craft.
- The **Weaves of India Festival 2026** is being held from **24 July to 7 August 2026** at the Central Cottage Industries Emporium (CCIE) on Janpath, New Delhi. Organized by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) under the Ministry of Textiles, the fortnight-long event serves as a precursor to the **12th National Handloom Day** on August 7.
- **Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0** represents an integrated approach to early childhood development, health, and nutrition across India. Administered as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), it subsumes three key initiatives: Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyaan, and the Scheme for Adolescent Girls.
- The Union Cabinet cleared **The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill** to significantly strengthen penalties and establish faster judicial mechanisms against examination fraud and organized paper leaks. This amendment strengthens the framework established under the primary **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024**.
- Indian Railways has officially launched an **AI-Based Linen Stain Detection Pilot Project** across select departmental laundries. Confirmed in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the initiative aims to enhance the hygiene, cleanliness, and quality control of bedroll kits supplied to passengers traveling in air-conditioned (AC) coaches.
- **Ravneet Singh Bittu** officially stepped down from his position as the Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries. President Droupadi Murmu accepted his resignation with immediate effect under **Article 75(2)** of the Constitution of India, acting on the advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- The **Rajasthan State Water Plan 2047**, unveiled by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, establishes a long-term roadmap to ensure water security, expand irrigation, and promote sustainable groundwater management across the state.
- India and Israel concluded the **second round of negotiations** for their proposed **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. The four-day technical deliberations marked a step forward in cementing bilateral economic integration under the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** signed in November 2025.
- The launch of India's first domestic benchmark-based **Natural Gas Futures Contract** on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on **July 27, 2026**, represents a major step toward establishing an independent, transparent price discovery mechanism tailored to the Indian natural gas ecosystem.
- The launch of **Starship Flight 13**, represents another major step forward in SpaceX's development of the Starship V3 vehicle. Flying the **Booster 20** and **Ship 40** stack, the mission successfully achieved its primary test objectives, including payload deployment, in-space engine maneuvers, and high-energy atmospheric re-entry.
- The Union Cabinet's approval of the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) Scheme** marks a transformative push to establish world-class, centralized infrastructure for India's foundational chemical and petrochemical sector.

Static GK – 26 July 2026

Entity	Details
Odisha Chief Minister	Mohan Charan Majhi
Odisha Governor	Hari Babu Kambhampati (<i>Correction: not "Khambapat Hari Babu"</i>)
Odisha Capital	Bhubaneswar
Bangladesh Prime Minister	Sheikh Hasina (<i>Correction: not Tarique Rahman</i>)
Bangladesh Capital	Dhaka

Entity	Details
Bangladesh Currency	Taka
BRICS Full Form	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
BRICS Established Year	2009
BRICS Members	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Ethiopia, UAE
Rajasthan Chief Minister	Bhajan Lal Sharma
Rajasthan Governor	Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade (<i>Correction: spelling</i>)
Rajasthan Capital	Jaipur
Delhi Chief Minister	Rekha Gupta
Delhi Lieutenant Governor	Taranjit Singh Sandhu