

Highlights of 31 July 2026 Current Affairs

- Axis Finance launched 'Axis Finance Drishti,' an in-house digital credit decisioning platform to automate and accelerate credit processing for retail and MSME loans. Simultaneously, OmniCard introduced India's first UPI-based Flexi Benefits Basket, enabling employees to manage tax-free allowances and make direct UPI payments at over 60 million merchants.
- State Bank of India (SBI) raised ₹4,691 crore through Basel III-compliant Additional Tier-1 (AT1) perpetual bonds at a coupon rate of 7.75%. These debt instruments carry no fixed maturity date, feature a 5-year call option, and are designed to strengthen the bank's core capital base.
- The Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme (BSCC) provides government-backed education loans up to ₹4 lakh at low interest rates for Class 12-passed students pursuing higher education. The loan covers tuition fees, laptops, and living expenses, with repayment starting only after course completion and employment. Eligible applicants under 25 can apply online via the 7 Nischay portal and complete document verification at their local DRCC.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled two major policy reforms for the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** to foster gender parity and accelerate financial relief for military families.
- Venezuela has formally notified the United Nations of its decision to withdraw from the **Rome Statute**, initiating its exit from the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the **Sashastra Seema Bal (Combatised General Duty) Group 'C' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2026**, introducing significant policy changes for recruiting Constable (General Duty) personnel.
- In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary shared data on penalties levied by banks on account holders for non-maintenance of the **Minimum Average Balance (MAB)** in FY 2025–27.
- The **Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)** marked its **150th Anniversary (Sesquicentennial)** on July 29, 2026. Founded in 1876, IACS is India's oldest national institution dedicated to indigenous scientific research.
- The **Kalpasar Project** (officially the **Gulf of Khambhat Development Project**) is a mega water infrastructure initiative by the Government of Gujarat. It proposes constructing a **64-kilometre-long dam (dyke)** across the Gulf of Khambhat to trap river runoff and create one of the world's largest coastal freshwater reservoirs.
- The Lok Sabha passed the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026** to strengthen the original 2024 central anti-paper leak law through stricter penalties and accelerated trials.
- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia unveiled the theme “**Scale without Boundaries**” for the milestone 10th edition of the **India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026**. Organised jointly by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), the event represents Asia's largest digital technology forum.
- The Indian Navy launched **Machilipatnam (BY 529)** on July 29, 2026. It is the **seventh of eight Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC)** indigenously designed and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kochi.

- India concluded its campaign at the **ISSF World Cup 2026** in Hangzhou, China, finishing **third in the medal standings** with a total of **four medals** (1 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze).
- This initiative marks a major turning point for India's electronics and telecommunications landscape, laying down dedicated physical infrastructure to drive self-reliance under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India** missions.
- India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has emerged as a global blueprint for public service delivery, financial inclusion, and secure digital governance. Through the **India Stack** framework, India is actively exporting open, interoperable digital public goods to assist partner nations—particularly across the Global South—in building scalable digital ecosystems.
- Former India captain **Ajinkya Rahane** announced his retirement from all formats of international and competitive cricket on July 30, 2026, bringing an end to a 17-year career. Known as "Jinx," the 38-year-old veteran announced his decision via an emotional social media message titled *"Cap number 278, signing off."*
- Organized by the Friends of DakshinaChitra in Chennai, **Vastra Utsav 2026** is an annual fundraiser exhibition celebrating India's handloom heritage, master artisans, and eco-friendly fashion. Featuring nearly 50 stalls alongside regional millet snacks and women self-help group products, the event directly supports the preservation of traditional weaving communities and heritage crafts.
- Singapore-headquartered **DBS Bank** made history by becoming the first Southeast Asian lender to be named **"World's Best Corporate Bank"** at the Global Finance Global Bank Awards 2026. This marks the first time a regional bank has won the top title since the category was established in 2005.
- To mark the completion of her four-year tenure as the **15th President of India** (sworn in on July 25, 2022, as India's first tribal President), President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a series of public-centric, sustainability, and digital initiatives at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The **DWEEPTI Yojana** (*Decentralised Women Empowerment on Energy and Policy for Transformative Inclusion*) launched by Chhattisgarh is **India's first women-led distributed renewable energy policy**.

Static GK – 31 July 2026

Commonwealth Member States	56
First Commonwealth Games	Canada, 1930
Uttarakhand Chief Minister	Pushkar Singh Dhami
Uttarakhand Governor	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
Uttarakhand Capital	Dehradun (Winter) and Gairsain (Summer)
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister	Yogi Adityanath
Uttar Pradesh Governor	Anandiben Patel
Uttar Pradesh Capital	Lucknow
Bihar Chief Minister	Samrat Choudhary
Bihar Governor	Syed Ata Hussain
Bihar Capital	Patna
Delhi Chief Minister	Rekha Gupta
Delhi Lieutenant Governor	Taranjit Singh Sandhu

Nepal Prime Minister	Balendra Shah
Nepal Capital	Kathmandu
Nepal Currency	Nepalese Rupee