

Current Affairs for 14th july,2026

1. According to AISHE 2023–24, which state recorded the highest Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Odisha
- [D] Tamil Nadu

Correct Answer: D [Tamil Nadu]

Notes:

According to the AISHE (All India Survey on Higher Education) 2023–24 report, Tamil Nadu retained the highest Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education among all states. Tamil Nadu recorded a GER of 52.3%, crossing the 50% mark for the first time, with an increase of 3.2 percentage points over the previous year. Around 35.8 lakh out of 68.4 lakh youth (18–23 years) in the state were enrolled in higher education.

2. Who has been re-appointed as Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

- [A] Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- [B] Ravi Agrawal
- [C] Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- [D] Sanjay Malhotra

Correct Answer: B [Ravi Agrawal]

Notes:

The Union Government has extended the tenure of Ravi

Agrawal as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) by six months, until December 2026. The extension was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He has been reappointed on a contract basis from 1 July 2026. Ravi Agrawal is a 1988-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer. The extension aims to ensure continuity in direct tax policy formulation and support ongoing special initiatives. The CBDT is the policy-making body of the Income Tax Department and is headed by a Chairman with up to six members.

3. Which fund, recently approved for additional government investment, is recognised as India's first Sovereign Wealth Fund?

- [A] National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)
- [B] India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)
- [C] PM Gati Shakti Fund
- [D] National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)

Correct Answer: A [National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)]

Notes:

The Union Cabinet approved an additional ₹ 30,000 crore investment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). NIIF is a Government of India-backed fund created to enhance infrastructure financing in the country. It is India's first sovereign wealth fund (SWF). NIIF was registered with SEBI as a Category II Alternative

Investment Fund (AIF) in 2015. It serves as a collaborative investment platform for Indian and international investors. NIIF invests in infrastructure, private equity, and other diversified sectors, including greenfield, brownfield, and stalled projects.

4.The National Study Report on low participation in Gram Sabhas was released by which organisation?

- [A] NITI Aayog
- [B] Ministry of Rural Development
- [C] Reserve Bank of India
- [D] Ministry of Agriculture

Correct Answer: A [NITI Aayog]

Notes:

The National Study Report on “Low Participation in Gram Sabha across States and Union Territories” was released by NITI Aayog. The report was prepared by National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. It examines the reasons for low participation in Gram Sabha meetings and suggests reforms to strengthen grassroots democracy. Vulnerable groups like women, youth, SC/ST, elderly, and migrants are underrepresented in participation. A trust and transparency deficit exists due to weak accountability, political interference, and poor grievance redressal. Key recommendations include a National Gram Sabha Awareness and Mobilisation Mission.

5.The Centralised IT-Enabled System (CITES) project is associated with which organisation?

- [A] Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)
- [B] Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- [C] Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- [D] Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

Correct Answer: A [Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)]

Notes:

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has recently completed a nationwide database consolidation under the CITES project. The Centralised IT-Enabled System (CITES) is a major digital modernization initiative of EPFO. It replaces a decentralised, fragmented legacy system with a centralised national database and automated processing system. The project is managed by EPFO under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. It has been developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). CITES aims to allow any EPFO office in India to process any member's request, removing dependency on regional offices.

6. The newly discovered *Impatiens* species (flowering plants), including *Impatiens berchmansiensis*, *I. ninanii*, and *I. filcyii*, were discovered in which region?

- [A] Western Ghats
- [B] Eastern Ghats
- [C] Himalayas
- [D] Chota Nagpur plateau

Correct Answer: A [Western Ghats]

Notes:

Researchers discovered five new species of *Impatiens*

(flowering plants) in the Western Ghats of Kerala. The new species are *Impatiens berchmansiensis*, *I. ninanii*, *I. filcyii*, *I. xanthopetala*, and *I. flavispicata*. These species belong to the genus *Impatiens* of the *Balsaminaceae* family. Most of the new species were discovered in Idukki and Ernakulam districts. The discovery highlights the rich biodiversity and endemic flora of the Western Ghats.

7.The PaleoIndia Portal was launched by which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Science and Technology
- [B] Ministry of Earth Sciences
- [C] Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- [D] Ministry of Culture

Correct Answer: C [Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change]

Notes:

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the PaleoIndia Portal. It is a digital platform developed jointly by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, using Geological Survey of India (GSI) geological maps. The portal documents fossil fauna from all 28 States and 8 Union Territories. It contains information on fossils of mammals, reptiles, birds, fishes, amphibians, molluscs, arthropods, foraminifera, echinoderms, and ichnofossils.

8.International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed every year on which day?

[A] July 2

[B] July 3

[C] July 4

[D] July 5

Correct Answer: B [July 3]

Notes:

International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed every year on 3 July. It raises awareness about the environmental hazards of single-use plastic bags. The day encourages people to use reusable alternatives such as cloth and jute bags. It aims to reduce the global use of 1–5 trillion plastic bags annually. Plastic bags can take 10 to 1,000 years to decompose, causing long-term environmental pollution.

9. The 2026 Pashujanya Yudh Abhyas was conducted in which state?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Gujarat

[C] Karnataka

[D] Rajasthan

Correct Answer: A [Madhya Pradesh]

Notes:

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) conducted Pashujanya Yudh Abhyas (PYA), the third national-level mock drill under the National One Health Mission. The 5-day exercise was held from 29 June–3 July 2026 at Khari village, Vidisha district, Madhya Pradesh. It aimed to test India's preparedness, coordination, and emergency response for zoonotic disease outbreaks using the One Health approach. The

drill simulated an Influenza A (H1N1) outbreak in animals with the potential to spill over to humans and wildlife.

10.INS Trikand, that was recently seen in news, belongs to which class of warships?

[A] Shivalik-class

[B] Kolkata-class

[C] Talwar-class

[D] Nilgiri-class

Correct Answer: C [Talwar-class]

Notes:

INS Trikand recently thwarted a piracy attempt in the Gulf of Aden by forcing pirates to flee from a bulk carrier. It is a frontline guided missile frigate of the Indian Navy. It is the third and final ship of the second batch of Talwar-class frigates. It was built at the Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia. It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2013. It is part of the Western Fleet under the Western Naval Command, headquartered in Mumbai.