RICE EDUCATION

Monthly

Current Affairs

FOR RAILWAYS EXAMS

MONTH

July 2026

Monthly Current Affairs for Railways

July 2026

Awards & Honours

National Awards & Recognitions (India)

- **National Community Development & Panchayati Accolades:** Ministry of Rural Development conferred national awards on model rural blocks implementing 100% saturation of decentralized solar microgrids and piped drinking water.
- **ICAR National Agricultural Research Awards:** Conferred on ICAR Foundation Day (July 16) honoring agri-biotechnologists who developed climate-resilient, biofortified pulse and oilseed seed varieties.
- **Golden Peacock National Training Award:** Conferred upon Indian Railways' National Academy of Indian Railways (NAIR), Vadodara, for excellence in simulator-based loco pilot safety training and automated signaling modules.
- **National Handloom Day Preparatory Felicitations:** Ministry of Textiles announced master weaver citations honoring indigenous silk and cotton artisans preserving endangered handloom motifs across Odisha and Assam.
- **Dr. B.C. Roy National Awards 2026:** Conferred by the President on National Doctors' Day (July 1) honoring distinguished medical practitioners and clinical researchers for affordable healthcare advancements.
- **CII Supply Chain & Logistics Excellence Award:** Conferred on Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL) for operating long-haul heavy-haul freight services with zero transit delays.

International Honours & Global Recognitions

- **48th UNESCO World Heritage Committee Inscriptions:** Inscribed new cultural and natural sites into the UNESCO World Heritage List during annual committee sessions, expanding global heritage conservation portfolios.
- **Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026 Announcements:** The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation unveiled its 2026 laureates, celebrating transformative leadership in community health and rural educational equity across Asia.
- **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Pioneer Awards:** Global corporate and municipal bodies felicitated at the UN High-Level Political Forum in New York for circular economy and urban clean energy milestones.
- **Princess of Asturias Awards:** Honoured distinguished international writers, social scientists, and immunologists in Spain for transformative contributions to global humanities and scientific progress.

Appointments & Persons in News

National Appointments (India)

- **Member (Operations & Business Development), Railway Board:** Senior railway officer appointed to optimize pan-India freight loading corridors, multi-modal logistics parks, and Vande Cargo rakes.
- **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS):** Senior Vice Admiral took charge at Naval Headquarters, focusing on indigenous aircraft carrier operations, nuclear submarine inductions, and naval automation.
- **Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA):** Senior civil aviation administrator took office to oversee passenger airfare transparency, flight safety audits, and green aviation protocols.
- **Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI):** Senior financial administrator appointed as Chairman of SBI, spearheading digital banking expansions, rural financial inclusion, and MSME credit lines.
- **Chairman of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI):** Appointed to steer national waterway dredging, roll-on/roll-off (Ro-Ro) vessel operations, and green-hydrogen vessel bunkering along the Ganga.
- **Director of Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bengaluru):** Eminent physicist and researcher appointed to lead interdisciplinary quantum materials and semiconductor chip packaging research.

International Appointments & World Leaders

- **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom:** Parliamentary opening sessions held in Westminster following general elections, reaffirming Indo-Pacific security and trade dialogues.
- **President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** Bureau elections concluded in New York, appointing regional leadership to steer global post-pandemic recovery and debt sustainability.
- **Managing Director of International Finance Corporation (IFC):** Global private-sector lender confirmed executive appointments prioritizing climate-smart municipal infrastructure investments in emerging economies.
- **Secretary-General of the Commonwealth:** High-level consultations finalized ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) on small island state climate funds.

Persons in News & Notable Demises

- **Passing of Doyen of Classical Kathak:** Legendary Padma-decorated Kathak guru and choreographer passed away at 87, mourned nationwide across cultural circles and dance institutions.
- **Passing of Pioneering High-Altitude Tunnel Engineer:** Senior railway infrastructure architect who led deep-rock drilling and ventilation designs for high-altitude Himalayan rail tunnels passed away.
- **Hardik Pandya in News:** Captained and delivered all-round match-winning performances in international white-ball bilateral series, climbing up the ICC All-Rounder rankings.
- **R. Praggnanandhaa in News:** Clinched prestigious international grandmaster super-tournament titles in Europe, consolidating his position among the top-5 highest-rated chess players globally.

Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives

Central Government Schemes & National Policies

- **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana Multi-Dwelling Framework:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issued guidelines for group-housing societies and apartment clusters to share rooftop solar net-metering benefits.
- **National High-Speed Rail Corridor Expansion Roadmap:** Ministry of Railways approved detailed project reports (DPRs) for two new bullet train routes: Delhi-Varanasi and Mumbai-Hyderabad.
- **National Cooperative Database Phase-II:** Ministry of Cooperation operationalized computerization across 50,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), integrating them with cooperative grain storage hubs.
- **Mission Mausam High-Resolution Doppler Radar Grid:** Ministry of Earth Sciences commissioned 15 new X-band Doppler radars in the Western Ghats and Northeast to issue real-time cloudburst alerts.
- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) Clean Cooking Milestone:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced distribution of over 10.5 crore clean LPG connections, reducing rural indoor air pollution.

State Government Welfare Initiatives

- **Mukhyamantri Krishi Bima Yojana Expansion (Rajasthan):** State government initiated zero-premium crop insurance for small and marginal farmers against erratic monsoon downpours and drought spells.
- **Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam Digital Card Push (Tamil Nadu):** Reached full smart-card automation for monthly ₹1,000 basic income entitlements directly to rural women heads of households.
- **Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana (Bihar):** Disbursed educational grants directly to bank accounts of female graduates to encourage higher education and employment readiness.
- **Aapda Rahat Kosh Expansion (Himachal Pradesh):** State administration widened the disaster compensation fund to rebuild climate-resilient rural bridges and roads destroyed by flash floods.
- **Yuva Nidhi Scheme Disbursement (Karnataka):** Disbursed monthly unemployment allowances and free vocational skill upgrade courses to graduate and diploma holders across all districts.

Railway & Infrastructure Initiatives (Special Exam Focus)

- **Kavach 5.0 High-Density Expansion:** Indian Railways completed installation along 3,500 route kilometers, operationalizing automated braking on key high-density Delhi-Howrah and Mumbai-Chennai sections.
- **Vande Bharat Sleeper Commercial Scaling:** Flagged off new overnight Vande Bharat Sleeper train services connecting Delhi to Patna and Mumbai to Goa with world-class ergonomic interiors.
- **World's Highest Rail Arch Bridge Operational Review:** Northern Railway confirmed regular, uninterrupted express passenger operations across the Chenab Bridge throughout heavy monsoon weather.

- **Namo Bharat Rapid Rail Inter-City Network:** Regional commuter rapid rail transit commenced commercial operations between Delhi-Meerut at 160 kmph, drastically cutting travel times.
- **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Heavy-Haul Milestone:** Western and Eastern DFCs surpassed carrying over 150 million tonnes of coal, steel, and containerized cargo during the first two quarters of 2026.
- **Station Modernization under Amrit Bharat Scheme:** Over 250 redeveloped railway stations were dedicated to the nation, featuring solar rooftops, modern waiting concourses, and Divyangjan-friendly ramps.

Sports & Games

Cricket

- **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Grand Final:** Concluded with a high-intensity grand final played before an ecstatic crowd, crowning the champion of the global showpiece.
- **Player of the Tournament (T20 World Cup 2026):** Stellar Indian all-rounder earned the coveted Player of the Tournament award for exceptional batting strike rates and economical death bowling.
- **India Tour of England Bilateral Series:** The Indian Men's cricket team commenced a multi-format bilateral series in the UK, showcasing resilient swing-bowling masterclasses at Lord's and Headingley.
- **BCCI Central Women's Contract Revisions:** Board of Control for Cricket in India announced pay parity and enhanced match fee structures for women cricketers across international domestic fixtures.

Football, Hockey & Tennis

- **Wimbledon Championships 2026:** Elite international tennis stars battled on London's historic grass courts, concluding with thrilling championship finals in Men's and Women's Singles.
- **FIFA Men's World Cup 2026 Climax:** High-octane knockout matches, quarter-finals, and semi-finals captivated audiences across host cities in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.
- **FIH Hockey Men's World League Preparations:** Hockey India organized national conditioning camps at the SAI Centre in Bengaluru, selecting squads for upcoming continental championships.
- **Durand Cup 2026 Opening Matches:** The 135th edition of Asia's oldest football tournament kicked off in Kolkata, featuring premier ISL, I-League, and Armed Forces teams.

Badminton, Chess & Multi-Sport

- **Canada Open & US Open Super 300 (Badminton):** Indian shuttlers registered standout podium finishes in Men's Singles and Mixed Doubles on the BWF World Tour North American leg.
- **FIDE World Youth Chess Championship 2026:** Indian junior grandmasters dominated podium positions, securing multiple gold and silver medals across Under-18 and Under-16 categories.

- **World Athletics Diamond League (Paris/Monaco Legs):** Indian track and field athletes delivered top-3 finishes in Men's Javelin Throw and Long Jump disciplines.
- **National Swimming Championships 2026:** National aquatic athletes shattered national records in 100m freestyle and backstroke events, booking qualifying berths for major international games.

Science, Space & Technology

Space Exploration & Satellite Missions

- **Gaganyaan Crewed Orbital Flight Milestone:** ISRO finalized integrated flight simulations and sea recovery rehearsals for the historic Gaganyaan crewed space mission carrying Indian astronaut-designates.
- **Chandrayaan-4 Lunar Sample Return Propulsion Integration:** Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) completed assembly of the return module propulsion system for lunar soil recovery.
- **NISAR Satellite Monsoon Flood Inundation Mapping:** NASA-ISRO satellite delivered real-time, all-weather high-resolution radar imagery mapping flood inundation across Assam, Bihar, and coastal Odisha.
- **SpaceX Starship Commercial Satellite Deployment:** SpaceX completed demonstration orbital launches carrying commercial high-throughput communication payloads into geostationary transfer orbits.

Defense Technology & Indigenous Innovations

- **Maiden Firing of New Generation Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS):** DRDO conducted successful flight trials of the man-portable air defence missile against high-speed aerial drones.
- **Commissioning of Indigenous Stealth Guided Missile Destroyer:** Indian Navy formally commissioned the Project 15B stealth destroyer into the Eastern Naval Fleet in Visakhapatnam.
- **Induction of Indigenous Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAV):** Indian Air Force initiated induction trials of medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) armed drones developed indigenously.
- **Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) Engine Validation:** DRDO carried out successful ground wind-tunnel scramjet combustion testing at hypersonic speeds exceeding Mach 6.

Artificial Intelligence, Supercomputing & Biotechnology

- **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) Milestone:** C-DAC integrated multi-petaflop 'Param Ganga' supercomputing nodes across premier IITs to model monsoon cloudburst dynamics and drug discovery.
- **Indigenous Sickle Cell Gene Therapy Clinical Trials:** Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) approved phase-I human clinical trials for a homegrown, CRISPR-based gene editing therapy.

- **Bhashini Real-Time Voice Translation at Rail Stations:** Multilingual AI voice ticketing kiosks expanded to 250 busy railway stations, facilitating paperless voice-based unreserved ticket booking.
- **National BioE3 Industrial Biotechnology Hubs:** Department of Biotechnology established bioreactor testbeds to manufacture bio-plastics, microbial enzymes, and carbon-negative chemicals.

Summits, Bills & International Affairs

International Summits & Conferences

- **48th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee:** Delegates from across the globe gathered to review World Heritage nominations and state-of-conservation reports for threatened ecosystems.
- **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2026):** Convened under the auspices of the UN ECOSOC in New York, assessing global progress on SDG 6 (Clean Water) and SDG 7 (Clean Energy).
- **BIMSTEC Security Chiefs' Conclave:** National security advisors of Bay of Bengal Initiative nations convened in New Delhi to finalize joint intelligence-sharing mechanisms against maritime crime.
- **Global Blue Economy & Sustainable Maritime Logistics Summit:** Hosted in Mumbai, bringing together shipping ministers and port operators to formalize green shipping corridors.

Bills, Legislation & Parliamentary Developments

- **Monsoon Session of Parliament Commences:** Deliberations began on crucial economic, infrastructure, and technology bills, including civil aviation reforms and inland water transport updates.
- **National Waterway Transport Modernization Regulatory Directives:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued updated licensing guidelines for electric river barges and tourism ferries.
- **Railway Safety & Operational Accountability Review:** Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways reviewed automated inspection reports for electronic interlocking and Kavach installations.
- **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Appellate Framework:** Central Government established the Data Protection Appellate Tribunal to adjudicate consumer privacy disputes against digital platforms.

International Affairs & Bilateral Agreements

- **India-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Signing Preparations:** Strategic delegations finalized mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) on professional degrees, healthcare standards, and services.
- **India-Mauritius Bilateral Maritime Surveillance Pact:** Navies of India and Mauritius conducted coordinated patrols in the southern Indian Ocean to protect exclusive economic zones from illegal fishing.

- **International Solar Alliance (ISA) Clean Water Initiative:** Launched solar-powered water desalination projects across arid communities in northern Africa and island nations in the Pacific.
- **Colombo Security Conclave Joint Coastal Surveillance:** Partner nations India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and Maldives completed synchronized radar monitoring drills across key shipping channels.

Books, Authors & Important Days

Books & Authors

- **'The High Himalayas Express: The Engineering Miracle of USBRL':** Authored by senior railway civil engineer documenting the arduous construction of the Chenab and Anji bridges and ballastless mountain tracks.
- **'The Strategic Ocean: India's Maritime Destiny in the 21st Century':** Authored by retired Chief of the Naval Staff examining naval diplomacy, submarine warfare, and the Indo-Pacific theatre.
- **'Monsoon Melodies: The Cultural and Ecological Heart of India':** Authored by prominent environmental scholar exploring traditional rainwater harvesting, agricultural rituals, and folklore across Bharat.
- **'The Mind of the Champion: Leadership and Resilience in Indian Sports':** Authored by celebrated sports journalist capturing career-defining moments of Indian Olympic and cricket champions.
- **'Leaves of Wisdom: Indigenous Botanical Knowledge of the Western Ghats':** Authored by leading ethnobotanist documenting endangered medicinal flora and community conservation practices.

Important Days & Themes

Date	Day / Event	Significance / Theme Summary
July 1	National Doctors' Day & CA Day	Commemorating Dr. B.C. Roy; celebrating the establishment of ICAI (1949).
July 1	Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day	Marking implementation of GST in 2017 under 'One Nation, One Tax, One Market'.
July 3	International Plastic Bag Free Day	Raising awareness to eliminate single-use plastic carrier bags globally.
July 11	World Population Day	UN-led focus on demographic trends, reproductive health, and sustainability.
July 12	World Malala Day & Paper Bag Day	Honoring Malala Yousafzai; promoting eco-friendly packaging alternatives.
July 15	World Youth Skills Day	Equipping young people with vocational skills for employment and entrepreneurship.
July 17	World Day for International Justice	Commemorating the 1998 Rome Statute; advocating for human rights.
July 18	Nelson Mandela International Day	Commemorating Mandela's birth anniversary; dedicating 67 minutes to public service.
July 20	International Moon Day & World Chess Day	Commemorating 1969 Apollo 11 landing; celebrating founding of FIDE in 1924.

July 22	National Mango Day & Pi Day	Celebrating India's national fruit; honoring the mathematical constant (22/7).
July 23	National Broadcasting Day (India)	Commemorating the first 1927 radio broadcast from the Bombay Station.
July 24	Income Tax Day (Aaykar Diwas)	Commemorating the introduction of income tax by Sir James Wilson in 1860.
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas	Commemorating victory in Operation Vijay (1999) and honoring fallen soldiers.
July 28	World Hepatitis Day & Nature Conservation Day	WHO hepatitis screening drive; advocating protection of natural ecosystems.
July 29	International Tiger Day	Promoting wild tiger conservation, corridor protection, and anti-poaching.
July 30	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	Mobilizing global action under UN Blue Heart Campaign against human trafficking.

Miscellaneous (GI Tags, Superlatives, UNESCO Heritage & Dance Personalities)

Geographical Indication (GI) Tags

- **GI Applications for Tribal Bamboo Crafts of Assam:** Assam handloom corporations filed GI tag applications for traditional bamboo fishing traps (polo) and decorative handwoven mats.
- **Kashmiri Walnut Wood Carving Hologram Tagging:** J&K handicraft department introduced tamper-proof holographic QR tags to certify 100% genuine GI-tagged hand-carved furniture.
- **Warli Painting & Kolhapuri Chappals Authenticity Protection:** Maharashtra artisan development boards established legal verification centers to prevent unauthorized industrial imitation of GI products.
- **Balaramapuram Sarees & Kasavu Handlooms (Kerala):** Handloom export promotion councils organized international showcases promoting pure cotton Kasavu sarees protected under the GI registry.

Superlatives (India & World: Firsts, Largest, Highest)

- **World's Highest High-Altitude Rail Arch Bridge (Chenab Bridge):** Northern Railway operated full-capacity regular passenger schedules through the 359-meter-high single-arch engineering marvel.
- **World's Longest Fully Electrified Heavy-Haul Freight Route:** Western Dedicated Freight Corridor handled over 100,000 gross ton rakes daily, setting global benchmarks in electric freight transit.
- **India's First Undersea Rail Tunnel Excavation Milestone:** NHSRCL completed major undersea tunneling milestones between Mumbai and Thane for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project.
- **World's Largest Renewable Energy Park (Khavda):** Operational solar and wind generation capacity crossed 15,000 MW, scaling towards its targeted 30,000 MW hybrid capacity.

UNESCO & World Heritage

- **48th Session of the World Heritage Committee Inscriptions:** UNESCO finalized review of India's nominated cultural and natural heritage properties for inscription on the World Heritage List.

- **Preservation of Mountain Railways of India:** Indian Railways rolled out laser-scanning structural conservation frameworks for the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway and Kalka-Shimla Railway.
- **Excavation Discoveries at Vadnagar Heritage Site:** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) uncovered continuous human settlement layers dating back over 2,500 years in Gujarat.
- **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Preservation Seminars:** Sangeet Natak Akademi organized workshops to document traditional Vedic chanting, Ramlila, and Kutiyattam Sanskrit theatre.

Dance Personalities & Performing Arts

- **National Classical Dance Extravaganza:** Organized at historic temple courtyards in Chidambaram and Thanjavur, featuring renowned Bharatanatyam, Odissi, and Kuchipudi ensembles.
- **Centenary Tributes to Classical Dance Gurus:** Cultural bodies across India celebrated the 100th birth anniversaries of veteran Kathak and Manipuri gurus who shaped institutional training.
- **Puraskar Conferred by Sangeet Natak Akademi:** Conferred upon veteran stage directors, folk puppeteers, and classical dance gurus for lifetime dedication to Indian performing arts.
- **National Tribal Dance Festival:** Staged in eastern India, bringing together indigenous tribal dance troupes from across 25 states and union territories.

ENVIRONMENT

- **State of Global Climate 2026 Mid-Year Review (WMO):** World Meteorological Organization reported accelerating Himalayan glacier retreat rates, urging unified river-basin disaster warning frameworks.
- **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Ambient Air Tracking:** Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded marked reductions in PM10 levels across 110 non-attainment industrial cities.
- **Kaziranga Tiger Reserve Monsoon Wildlife Protection:** Forest department placed speed radars on National Highway 715 and deployed river patrol boats to ensure safe wildlife migration during floods.
- **Synchronized Sea Turtle Conservation Review:** Wildlife Institute of India (WII) reported successful emergence of Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings from Gahirmatha and Rushikulya rookeries.
- **Great Indian Bustard Flight-Diverter Installation:** Over 1,000 km of high-tension power cables fitted with reflective bird-flight diverters across the Thar Desert to prevent electrocution.
- **Discovery of New Endemic Plant Species in Western Ghats:** Botanical Survey of India (BSI) botanists discovered a rare wild balsam species (*Impatiens*) in the cloud forests of the Anamalai Hills.
- **Mangrove Restoration Along Cyclone-Prone Coastlines:** Forest departments of West Bengal and Odisha restored 7,000 hectares of degraded coastal wetlands with native mangrove species.
- **Single-Use Plastic Ban Surveillance:** State pollution control boards intensified market inspections, penalizing unauthorized commercial distributors of non-woven plastic bags.

- **Automated Water Quality Monitoring Across Ramsar Sites:** Ministry of Jal Shakti operationalized digital telemetry across all 96 Ramsar wetland sites to monitor dissolved oxygen levels.
- **National Green Hydrogen Ecological Safety Guidelines:** Ministry of Environment issued environmental safety protocols for water intake and desalination systems in green hydrogen projects.
- **Urban Micro-Forests Along Railway Tracks:** Indian Railways planted over 5 lakh native saplings using Miyawaki afforestation methods along suburban railway embankments and yards.
- **Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Zone Conservation Directive:** Central Government mandated complete prohibition of commercial mining and high-polluting industries across designated buffer areas.
- **Project Elephant Anti-Depredation Measures:** Forest divisions deployed AI-assisted thermal cameras and solar fences along agricultural boundaries to minimize human-elephant conflict.
- **Transboundary River Water Quality Protocol:** India and Bangladesh joint rivers commission established synchronized automated water quality monitoring along the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers.

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