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Current Affairs Today, July 19, 2026

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

A roundup of the key current affairs for July 19, 2026, covering the items not taken up as separate deep-dive articles.

WORLD CHESS DAY AND NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY

The weekend brackets two international observances, Nelson Mandela Day and World Chess Day.

Key Points

- **Nelson Mandela International Day** is observed on **July 18** (Mandela's birthday), while **World Chess Day** is observed on **July 20**, marking the founding of the **International Chess Federation (FIDE)** in **Paris in 1924**.
- India has become a global chess power, and chess, believed to have roots in the ancient Indian game of **chaturanga**, is enjoying a surge of interest among Indian youth.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

Nelson Mandela International Day: July 18.

World Chess Day: July 20; FIDE founded in Paris, 1924.

Origin: chess traces to the ancient Indian game chaturanga.

NITA AMBANI HONoured BY FORTUNE INDIA

Nita Ambani received a Fortune India Most Powerful Women recognition.

Key Points

- **Nita Ambani**, founder and chairperson of the **Reliance Foundation**, was ranked **No. 1** in **Fortune India's Most Powerful Women 2026** list, released in July 2026, for her work across philanthropy, education, sports and the arts.
- The recognition reflects the growing visibility of women leaders in Indian business, social development and cultural institutions.

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Person: Nita Ambani, Reliance Foundation.

Honour: Fortune India Most Powerful Women (2026).

Fields: philanthropy, education, sports, arts.

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES

A new Chairman was appointed to the National Commission for Minorities.

Key Points

- **Harjeet Singh Grewal** was reported to have been appointed **Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** in mid-July 2026.
- The **NCM** is a **statutory body** set up under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**, under the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**, to safeguard the interests of notified minority communities and advise on their welfare.

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Body: National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

Basis: National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 (statutory).

Ministry: Ministry of Minority Affairs.

JUNE RETAIL INFLATION AND THE RBI STANCE

Recent data and the RBI's bulletin kept the focus on retail inflation.

Key Points

- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** retail inflation stood at about **4.38 per cent** in **June 2026**, the highest in several months, keeping it near the **Reserve Bank of India's 4 per cent** target midpoint.
- The RBI has held the **repo rate** at **5.25 per cent** with a neutral stance, balancing growth support against price stability; its inflation-targeting band is **4 per cent plus or minus 2 per cent**.

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CPI June 2026: about 4.38 per cent.

Repo rate: 5.25 per cent (neutral stance).

RBI target: 4 per cent, band of plus or minus 2 per cent.

MALABAR PIED HORBILL SIGHTED IN KANNUR

Malabar pied hornbills were sighted in Kannur, Kerala.

Key Points

- A group of **Malabar pied hornbills** was spotted near the **Muyyambhar river in Kannur district, Kerala**, reported as a first for the area, pointing to the ecological health of the riverine habitat.
- The **Malabar pied hornbill** is associated with the Western Ghats and eastern forests; hornbills are important **seed dispersers** and indicators of forest health.

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Species: Malabar pied hornbill.

Location: Muyyambhar river, Kannur, Kerala.

Role: seed disperser and forest-health indicator.

UPSC RELEVANCE

These items span GS Paper 2 (statutory bodies, governance) and GS Paper 3 (economy, environment). Revise them as quick prelims pointers alongside the day's deep-dive articles.

FACTS CORNER

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Observances: Nelson Mandela International Day (July 18); World Chess Day (July 20, FIDE founded 1924).

Nita Ambani: Fortune India Most Powerful Women, Reliance Foundation.

National Commission for Minorities: statutory body under the 1992 Act; new Chairman appointed.

CPI June 2026: about 4.38 per cent; RBI repo rate 5.25 per cent.

Malabar pied hornbill: sighted at Muyyam river, Kannur, Kerala.

Sources: Press Information Bureau, Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Minority Affairs

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