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Current Affairs Today, July 20, 2026

20 July 2026 ·

REPORTS & SCHEMES

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Current Affairs Today, July 20, 2026

20 July 2026 · 4 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

A roundup of the key current affairs for July 20, 2026, covering the items not taken up as separate deep-dive articles.

WORLD CHESS DAY AND THE APOLLO 11 ANNIVERSARY

July 20 marks World Chess Day and the anniversary of the first Moon landing.

Key Points

- **World Chess Day** is observed on **July 20**, marking the founding of the **International Chess Federation (FIDE)** in **Paris in 1924**; it was proclaimed by the United Nations in **2019**.
- **July 20** is also the anniversary of the **Apollo 11 Moon landing (1969)**, when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans on the Moon, a fitting pairing with India's own lunar journey through the **Chandrayaan** programme.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

World Chess Day: July 20; FIDE founded in Paris, 1924 (UN-proclaimed 2019).

Apollo 11: first crewed Moon landing, July 20, 1969.

India link: the Chandrayaan lunar programme.

72ND NATIONAL FILM AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The 72nd National Film Awards were announced.

Key Points

- The **72nd National Film Awards** (for films of **2024**) were announced in New Delhi, with “**Article 370**” named **Best Feature Film**; the **Best Actor** award was shared by **Kartik Aaryan** (Chandu Champion) and **Mammootty** (Bramayugam), with **Yami Gautam** as **Best Actress** and **Rajkumar Periasamy** as **Best Director** (Amaran).

- The National Film Awards are presented by the **Directorate of Film Festivals** (now under the National Film Development Corporation); the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** remains the highest honour in Indian cinema, given separately.

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Best Feature Film: Article 370 (72nd National Film Awards, for 2024 films).

Best Actor: Kartik Aaryan and Mammooty (shared).

Highest film honour: Dadasaheb Phalke Award (separate).

SPAIN WIN THE FIRST 48-TEAM FIFA WORLD CUP

Spain won the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Key Points

- **Spain** beat **Argentina 1-0** (after extra time) to win the **2026 FIFA World Cup**, the **first edition with 48 teams**, co-hosted by the **United States, Canada and Mexico**.
- In badminton, **P V Sindhu** won the **Japan Open 2026**, adding to India's sporting headlines over the weekend.

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FIFA World Cup 2026: Spain beat Argentina; first 48-team edition.

Hosts: United States, Canada and Mexico.

Badminton: P V Sindhu won the Japan Open 2026.

BILL TO RAISE THE SUPREME COURT'S JUDGE STRENGTH

A bill to increase the number of Supreme Court judges is part of the Monsoon Session agenda.

Key Points

- The **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026** proposes raising the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from **33 to 37** (excluding the Chief Justice of India), to help tackle the large **pendency** of cases.
- The judge strength of the Supreme Court is fixed by an Act of Parliament under **Article 124**; the current strength was last raised in 2019.

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Bill: Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026.

Change: judges raised from 33 to 37 (excluding the CJI).

Basis: Parliament fixes SC judge strength under Article 124.

MOUNT OLYMPUS UP FOR WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

Greece's Mount Olympus is a nomination at the Busan World Heritage session.

Key Points

- **Mount Olympus**, Greece's highest peak (about **2,918 metres**) and the mythological home of the twelve Olympian gods, is up for **mixed cultural and natural** World Heritage status at the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee in Busan.
- Mixed sites are those with both outstanding cultural and natural value; nominations are evaluated by **ICOMOS** (culture) and **IUCN** (nature) before the Committee decides.

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Site: Mount Olympus, Greece (about 2,918 m).

Category: mixed cultural and natural World Heritage nomination.

Evaluators: ICOMOS (culture) and IUCN (nature).

UPSC RELEVANCE

These items span GS Paper 1 (art, culture, world geography) and GS Paper 2 (polity, the judiciary). Revise them as quick prelims pointers alongside the day's deep-dive articles.

FACTS CORNER

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World Chess Day: July 20 (FIDE, 1924); Apollo 11 Moon landing anniversary (1969).

72nd National Film Awards: Best Feature Film “Article 370”; Dadasaheb Phalke is the highest film honour.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Spain beat Argentina; first 48-team edition; hosts USA, Canada, Mexico.

SC judges bill: strength raised from 33 to 37 (excluding CJI) under Article 124.

Mount Olympus: Greece; mixed cultural-natural World Heritage nomination at Busan.

Sources: Press Information Bureau, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, FIDE

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