

UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · [UJIYARI.COM](https://ujiyari.com)**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Current Affairs Today, July 30, 2026

30 July 2026 ·

POLITY**ENVIRONMENT****ECONOMY****GS2****GS3**

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Current Affairs Today, July 30, 2026

30 July 2026 · 10 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

A consolidated roundup of the news that matters for UPSC and State PCS preparation on July 30, 2026. Parliament, the judiciary and defence [indigenisation](#) all carried substantial stories today, alongside a UN observance with a sharp cybercrime-and-trafficking angle. Items that carry a dedicated deep-dive article in today's edition are summarised here in brief; the remaining items are covered in full.

PARLIAMENT PASSES STATUTORY PROTECTION FOR VANDE MATARAM

The Lok Sabha passed the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 on July 30, 2026, a day after the Rajya Sabha's passage on July 29, extending to Vande Mataram the same statutory protection long given to the National Anthem.

Key Data

- Amends the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**; makes obstructing or insulting the singing of Vande Mataram a criminal offence.
- Penalty: imprisonment **up to 3 years**, or fine, or both; a **repeat conviction carries a minimum of 1 year** imprisonment.
- **Rajya Sabha passed** the Bill on **July 29, 2026**; the **Lok Sabha passed** it on **July 30, 2026** amid Opposition protest.

A full deep-dive on the Bill's passage, Vande Mataram's constitutional status and the underlying free-expression debate follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2, Fundamental Duties, Parliament and the legislative process. See the full article for detail.

SUPREME COURT CURBS "EX-POST-FACTO" ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES

A Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi, quashed a 2021 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Office Memorandum that had allowed indefinite retrospective environmental clearances for projects begun without prior approval.

Key Data

- Held that a mere **Office Memorandum** cannot override the mandatory **prior-clearance regime** under the **EIA Notification, 2006**.
- Government retains power to issue narrowly tailored, time-bound “amnesty” notifications in exceptional circumstances, but **cannot run a perpetual regularisation scheme** through administrative circulars.
- Invokes the **polluter pays** and **precautionary** principles.

A full deep-dive on the judgment and India’s environmental clearance framework follows later in today’s edition.

UPSC Angle

GS3, **environmental impact assessment**; GS2, delegated legislation and judicial review. See the full article for detail.

DELIMITATION DEBATE INTENSIFIES OVER 850-SEAT LOK SABHA PLAN

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor publicly questioned the government’s reported plan to revive an 850-seat Lok Sabha expansion in the Monsoon Session, months after the original Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 was defeated in the Lok Sabha and the companion Delimitation Bill withdrawn.

Key Data

- Delimitation has been **frozen since the 42nd Amendment (1976)**, extended by the **84th (2001)** and **87th (2003)** Amendments, tied to the first Census after 2026.
- Concerns centre on southern and other lower-fertility States fearing reduced political weight despite stronger performance on population stabilisation.
- Interacts with the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023** (Women’s Reservation Act), whose implementation is itself **contingent** on post-Census delimitation.

A full deep-dive on the delimitation freeze, Article 82 and the federalism stakes follows later in today’s edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2, representation of the people and **federalism**. See the full article for detail.

RBI SECURES APPROVAL FOR LARGE-SCALE POLYMER BANKNOTE FIELD TRIAL

The government approved the Reserve Bank of India's proposal for field trials of polymer banknotes in the Rs 10 and Rs 20 denominations, informed to Parliament on July 27, 2026 and widely reported through July 30.

Key Data

- Trial volume: **1 billion notes each** of the Rs 10 and Rs 20 denominations.
- Legal basis: **Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934**, under which the Central Government directs note design and material on the RBI's recommendation.
- Paper currency **continues alongside**; regular circulation of polymer notes follows only after successful trial completion.

A full deep-dive on polymer currency, India's earlier mid-2010s trials and the RBI-Government relationship on note issuance follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS3, currency management and monetary economics. See the full article for detail.

INS NIPUN, INDIA'S SECOND INDIGENOUS DIVING SUPPORT VESSEL, DELIVERED

Hindustan Shipyard Limited delivered INS Nipun, the second Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel, to the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam on July 30, 2026.

Key Data

- Second vessel in the class after the lead ship, **INS Nistar**.
- Specifications: about **118 metres** length, over **8,560 tonnes** displacement; indigenous content roughly **75-80 per cent**.
- Fitted with **deep-sea saturation diving systems, Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)** and dynamic positioning for underwater rescue and salvage.

A full deep-dive on India's submarine rescue capability and indigenous naval shipbuilding follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS3, defence indigenisation and naval modernisation. See the full article for detail.

WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: THE SCAM-CENTRE ANGLE

The UN's World Day against Trafficking in Persons was observed on July 30, 2026, with the 2026 theme "Trapped Behind the Scam," spotlighting victims trafficked into forced online scam-centre operations.

Key Data

- Observed **July 30** since **2013** (UN General Assembly designation); shares the date with the **International Day of Friendship**, observed since **2011**.
- IOM data:** between 2022 and 2025, the International Organization for Migration assisted over **3,500 victims** of trafficking for forced criminality across Southeast Asia, from **39 countries**, with India among the top source countries.
- Victims are lured through fake job offers, then held in scam compounds and coerced into running online financial fraud.

A full deep-dive on trafficking-for-forced-criminality and India's anti-trafficking and cybercrime response follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS1/GS2, social issues and human trafficking; GS3, cybercrime. See the full article for detail.

KERALA CABINET CLEARS FIVE GOVERNANCE REFORMS TO CUT PROJECT DELAYS

The Kerala Cabinet approved a five-point administrative reform package on July 29, 2026 aimed at cutting bureaucratic delays and revenue leakages.

Key Data

- SAMPATH** (Special Asset Management Platform for Administration, Tracking and Harmonisation): a centralised digital registry of all government-owned assets, land, buildings, heritage structures, roads, dams, bridges, vehicles and machinery.
- PlanSpace 2.0:** a GIS-enabled digital registry tracking capital and infrastructure projects across departments.
- Framed by Chief Minister **V.D. Satheesan** as improving decision-making speed and business-friendliness.

Background

Digital asset registries directly address the information **asymmetry** that CAG audit reports have repeatedly flagged as a driver of project cost and time overruns in State administration.

UPSC Angle

GS2, e-governance and administrative reform.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

KERALA GOVERNANCE REFORMS:

Approved by the Kerala Cabinet, 29 July 2026; CM V.D. Satheesan.

Key platforms: SAMPATH (asset registry) and PlanSpace 2.0 (project tracking).

MAHARASHTRA BECOMES FIRST STATE TO QUALIFY FOR SECOND RKVY INSTALMENT

Maharashtra became the first State to qualify for the second instalment under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) after utilising over 75 per cent of its first-instalment funds, reported July 27, 2026.

Key Data

- First instalment released: **Rs 335 crore**; State utilised about **Rs 260 crore**, crossing the **75 per cent** benchmark required to unlock the next tranche.
- Second instalment of **Rs 335 crore** is now being processed; Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** chaired the review.

Background

RKVY's utilisation-linked disbursement design is meant to enforce State-level accountability in a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, releasing further tranches only once a State demonstrates effective spending of the prior one.

UPSC Angle

GS3, agriculture schemes and cooperative fiscal federalism.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

RKVY, MAHARASHTRA:

First instalment Rs 335 crore; over 75 per cent utilised, unlocking a second Rs 335 crore tranche.

Union Agriculture Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

NEW POLYPORE FUNGUS SPECIES DISCOVERED IN KOLHAPUR

Botanical Survey of India-linked researchers identified a new polypore (bracket fungus) species, *Microporellus kolhapurensis*, in Bhudargad taluka, Kolhapur district, Maharashtra, with findings published in the journal *Nelumbo*.

Key Data

- Identified by **Dr Anjali Patil** (Head, Botany Department, Rajaram College) and research scholar **Yogesh Patil**.
- Found on rotting wood in the **Bediv area**, part of the **Western Ghats** biodiversity hotspot.
- Only the **second** species of this genus recorded from Maharashtra, after *Microporellus obovatus*.

UPSC Angle

GS3, biodiversity documentation and taxonomy in the Western Ghats.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

MICROPORELLUS KOLHAPURENSIS:

Located: Bhudargad taluka, Kolhapur district, Maharashtra.

Published in *Nelumbo*, the research journal of the Botanical Survey of India.

SARVESH KUSHARE WINS INDIA'S FIRST-EVER CWG MEDAL IN MEN'S HIGH JUMP

Sarvesh Kushare won silver in the men's high jump at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, India's first-ever medal in the event at the CWG, on his Games debut.

Key Data

- Cleared **2.25 metres**; lost gold to Jamaica's **Romaine Beckford** on countback after three failed attempts at 2.28 m.
- Bettered India's previous best in the event, **Tejaswin Shankar's bronze at Birmingham 2022**.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

SARVESH KUSHARE:

CWG 2026 Glasgow, silver, men's high jump, 2.25 m; India's first-ever medal in the event.

AJINKYA RAHANE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

Former India Test captain Ajinkya Rahane announced retirement from international cricket across all formats on July 30, 2026.

Key Data

- Career: **85 Tests, 90 ODIs, 20 T20Is**; debuted in 2013.
- Best known for captaining an injury-hit India to a historic Test series win in Australia, **2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy**.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

AJINKYA RAHANE:

Retired 30 July 2026; 85 Tests, 90 ODIs, 20 T20Is.

Captained India's 2020-21 series win in Australia.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS2 dominates July 30, 2026. The Vande Mataram Bill's passage completes a legislative arc this edition series has tracked since its introduction, and rewards precise knowledge of the distinction between the National Anthem (named in Article 51A(a)) and the National Song (protected only by statute and Constituent Assembly convention). The delimitation debate is a live federalism question, testing whether students can connect the 42nd/84th/87th Amendments to the current 850-seat proposal. The Supreme Court's ex-post-facto clearance ruling is this edition's strongest GS2-GS3 crossover, testing both delegated-legislation limits and EIA process fundamentals.

GS3 covers currency, defence and biodiversity. The RBI polymer note trial and INS Nipun's delivery are both indigenisation stories, one in currency management, one in naval shipbuilding. The Kolhapur fungus discovery and Maharashtra's RKVY milestone round out the science and scheme-implementation angles respectively.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

BILLS AND JUDGMENTS:

Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Rajya Sabha passed 29 July 2026, Lok Sabha passed 30 July 2026; penalty up to 3 years, minimum 1 year for repeat conviction.

Supreme Court ex-post-facto clearance ruling: Bench of CJI Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi; struck down the 2021 MoEFCC Office Memorandum.

Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026: introduced 16 April 2026, defeated 17 April 2026 (298 of 352 votes, short of the two-thirds majority); companion Delimitation Bill withdrawn; revival reported for the Monsoon Session (20 July-13 August 2026); 850-seat Lok Sabha figure remains under debate.

DEFENCE AND ECONOMY:

INS Nipun: Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel, delivered by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, 30 July 2026; about 118 m, over 8,560 tonnes.

RBI polymer banknote trial: 1 billion notes each of Rs 10 and Rs 20, under Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934.

RKVY Maharashtra: Rs 335 crore first instalment, over 75 per cent utilised, second Rs 335 crore tranche unlocked.

SOCIAL ISSUES AND SCIENCE:

World Day against Trafficking in Persons: 30 July, since 2013; 2026 theme “Trapped Behind the Scam.”

Microporellus kolhapurensis: new polypore fungus species, Kolhapur district, Maharashtra, published in Nelumbo.

SPORTS:

Sarvesh Kushare: CWG 2026 silver, men’s high jump, 2.25 m, India’s first-ever medal in the event.

Ajinkya Rahane: retired from international cricket, 30 July 2026; 85 Tests, 90 ODIs, 20 T20Is.

Sources: PIB, The Hindu, PRS Legislative Research

Source: Current Affairs Today, July 30, 2026 — Ujiyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

RELATED EDITORIALS

HINDUSTAN TIMES

[From Case Law to Statute: Codifying a Legal Shield for Protestors](#)

30 Jul

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Neither Blanket Bar Nor Blanket Amnesty: The Supreme Court's "Public Interest" Test](#)

30 Jul

DOWN TO EARTH

[COP32 in Addis Ababa: Africa's Chance to Arrive With Solutions, Not Just Demands](#)

30 Jul

THE HINDU

[Why India Abstained on the World's First Gig-Work Treaty](#)

30 Jul

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[16th Finance Commission](#)

The constitutional body chaired by Arvind Panagariya that recommends...

KEY TERM

[42nd Amendment Freeze on Delimitation](#)

The constitutional freeze that locked Lok Sabha seat allocation to the...

KEY TERM

[Access and Benefit Sharing \(ABS\)](#)

The framework for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising...

KEY TERM

[ACNAS](#)

Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics, the expert body...



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/07/30/current-affairs-today/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](#)

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com