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Current Affairs Today, July 31, 2026

31 July 2026 ·

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Current Affairs Today, July 31, 2026

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

A consolidated roundup of the news that matters for UPSC and State PCS preparation on July 31, 2026. The international file dominates the day, with a five-month-old US-Iran war choking the [Strait of Hormuz](#) and a Gaza disarmament roadmap emerging in parallel. On the home front, Parliament tightened birth-death registration rules, India and Bhutan deepened development cooperation, and the Navy added a new indigenous shallow-water warship. Items that carry a dedicated deep-dive article in today's edition are summarised here in brief; the remaining items are covered in full.

US-IRAN WAR CHOKES THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ

A fresh wave of US strikes on Iranian targets on July 29, 2026 sharply escalated the five-month-old US-Iran war (begun 28 February 2026), collapsing commercial shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, the chokepoint still carrying roughly 30-40 per cent of India's crude imports.

Key Data

- US strikes hit **Bandar Abbas and Kish** on **29 July 2026**; Jordan and Kuwait intercepted Iranian missiles during the exchange.
- Hormuz shipping traffic collapsed further through late July, from a pre-war baseline of about **120/day** to at times single digits.
- PM Modi called for **de-escalation and freedom of navigation** in a July call with President Trump; India relies on the Strait for a significant share of its crude and LNG imports.

A full deep-dive on the Strait of Hormuz and India's energy-security exposure follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2/GS3, [energy security](#) and India's strategic autonomy in West Asia. See the full article for detail.

GAZA DISARMAMENT ROADMAP: HAMAS AGREES IN PRINCIPLE

President Trump announced on July 30, 2026 that Hamas has agreed to a roadmap for disarmament tied to phased Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, with a new transitional body to hold sole weapons authority pending a detailed plan due within 14 days.

Key Data

- Mediating structure: the “**Board of Peace**”; transitional body: **National Committee for the Administration of Gaza**.
- Disarmament framework follows the classic **DDR** (Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration) model.
- India supports a **two-state solution** and maintains ties with both Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

A full deep-dive on the roadmap and the DDR framework follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2, international relations and India's West Asia policy. See the full article for detail.

PARLIAMENT TIGHTENS DELAYED BIRTH-DEATH REGISTRATION

The Lok Sabha passed the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026 on July 31, 2026, introducing a two-tier judicial-approval structure for delayed registrations to close a route used for fraudulent age and citizenship documentation.

Key Data

- Amends **Section 13** of the **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**.
- **1-2 year** delays: an order from a District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate or an authorised Executive Magistrate; **beyond 2 years**: Judicial Magistrate (First Class), plus verification and fee.
- Passed by **voice vote** amid Opposition protests over the government's handling of the July 20 student-march police response.

A full deep-dive on the amendment and civil registration data integrity follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2, governance and [statutory](#) bodies. See the full article for detail.

WORLD RANGER DAY MARKS ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

World Ranger Day was observed on July 31, 2026, marking the 20th anniversary of the observance established by the International Ranger Federation, honouring frontline forest and wildlife staff worldwide.

Key Data

- Established **2007**; observed **31 July** annually; 2026 theme: **“Rangers: Guardians of a Changing Planet,”** sub-theme “20 Years of World Ranger Day: A Legacy of Protection, Courage, and Service.”
- India’s frontline enforcement runs through **State Forest Departments, Project Tiger** and **Project Cheetah**, under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

A full deep-dive on the observance and India’s ranger-welfare policy gaps follows later in today’s edition.

UPSC Angle

GS1/GS3, conservation and the human dimension of enforcement. See the full article for detail.

INDIA-BHUTAN SIGN RS 4,000-CRORE LINE OF CREDIT

India and Bhutan exchanged a Rs 4,000-crore concessional line of credit at the 5th India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks in Thimphu on July 31, 2026, linked to Bhutan’s 13th Five-Year Plan energy projects.

Key Data

- Line of credit: **Rs 4,000 crore (Nu 40 billion)**, via **Exim Bank of India**; total reaffirmed support for the 13th Plan: **Rs 10,000 crore**.
- 12 new projects** approved, worth **Rs 332 crore**.
- Talks led by Foreign Secretary **Vikram Misri** and **Dasho Pema Lektup Dorji**.

A full deep-dive on the agreement and India’s Bhutan development-diplomacy model follows later in today’s edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2, neighbourhood-first policy. See the full article for detail.

WMO FORECASTS A STRONG EL NINO

The WMO's Global Seasonal Climate Update for July-September 2026 forecasts a strong El Nino developing rapidly, with a near-universal signal for above-normal temperatures worldwide and implications for India's late-monsoon and rabi outlook.

Key Data

- Forecast anomaly: approximately **2.0°C** above baseline; elevated risk of **heatwaves, droughts and heavy rainfall**.
- El Nino's effect on the Indian monsoon is moderated by the **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**.

A full deep-dive on the forecast and its India-specific implications follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS1/GS3, climatology and agriculture. See the full article for detail.

INS MACHILIPATNAM: INDIA'S SEVENTH MAHE-CLASS WARSHIP LAUNCHED

Cochin Shipyard launched Machilipatnam, the seventh of eight Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, on July 29, 2026, advancing India's indigenous coastal ASW capability.

Key Data

- **78 metres**; over **80 per cent indigenous content**; built at **Cochin Shipyard Limited**.
- Fills the shallow-water ASW/mine-warfare gap between deep-water fleet assets and coastal patrol craft.

A full deep-dive on the vessel and India's ASW indigenisation follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS3, defence indigenisation. See the full article for detail.

INDIA'S FIRST DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY MEDICINE INAUGURATED

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated India's first dedicated Department of Military Medicine at Command Hospital, Central Command, Lucknow, on July 29, 2026, under the Directorate General of Medical Services (Army).

Key Data

- India's first academic-operational department focused specifically on **combat trauma, combat psychiatry, CBRNe medical response, disaster medicine and HADR**.
- Fills an institutional gap between ad hoc combat-casualty response and dedicated military-medicine training and doctrine development.

UPSC Angle

GS3, defence preparedness; GS2, health-governance institutions.

DAANVEER: CROWDSOURCING DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GRAM PANCHAYATS

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the DAANVEER initiative on July 29, 2026, letting citizens and organisations donate standardised computer bundles to Gram Panchayats through the “Meri Panchayat” app, developed with NIC and DigiHaat.

Key Data

- Targets roughly **2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats**; includes donation tracking and digital certificates for donors.
- Launched by Secretary **Vivek Bharadwaj**.

UPSC Angle

GS2, Panchayati Raj and e-governance for last-mile scheme delivery.

TRIBAL AFFAIRS-CSIR PARTNERSHIP FOR RARE MEDICINAL PLANTS

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs signed a three-year MoU with CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute on July 30, 2026, for conservation of Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) medicinal plants alongside ethnobotanical assessment of tribal bioresources.

Key Data

- Conservation via **tissue culture and seed banks**; benefit-sharing with tribal communities under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, requiring **Gram Sabha Prior Informed Consent**.
- Signed by **Manish Thakur** (Ministry of Tribal Affairs) and **Ajit Kumar Shasany** (CSIR).

UPSC Angle

GS1/GS3, biodiversity conservation and tribal-rights **convergence**.

INDIA IS NOW THE WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST SEAFARER-SUPPLYING NATION

The BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026, released around July 28, 2026, shows India has overtaken China to become the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers, behind only the Philippines.

Key Data

- India supplies **311,936 seafarers** (**12.16 per cent** of the global workforce): **140,718 officers** and **171,218 ratings**.
- Up from a **5.2 per cent** share (5th rank) in 2015; government now pursuing “**Mission 20%.**”

UPSC Angle

GS3, maritime economy and skilling.

ADB APPROVES \$850-MILLION LOAN FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR

The Asian Development Bank approved an \$850-million loan on July 28, 2026 to support Subprogram 2 of its Rooftop Solar Development Program, backing the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana target of 10 million households and 30 GW of residential solar by FY2027.

Key Data

- Expected to cut roughly **28.8 million tonnes** of CO₂-equivalent emissions.
- Supports decentralised, household-level clean-energy adoption rather than utility-scale projects alone.

UPSC Angle

GS3, renewable energy and multilateral development finance.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT-PCI INDIA MOU FOR WOMEN-LED ENTERPRISES

The Ministry of Rural Development's DAY-NRLM programme signed a three-year (2026-29) non-financial MoU with PCI India on July 30, 2026, to help SHG and women-led enterprises access Government e-Marketplace tenders and meet quality standards.

Key Data

- Supports the **6-crore Lakhpati Didi** target; FY27 rollout across **Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh**.

UPSC Angle

GS2/GS3, women's economic empowerment and inclusive public procurement.

IRDAI CLEARS PATANJALI-DS GROUP ACQUISITION OF MAGMA GENERAL INSURANCE

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India approved Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group's roughly Rs 4,500-crore acquisition of Magma General Insurance on July 28, 2026.

Key Data

- **Patanjali Ayurved: 73.56 per cent** stake; **DS Group: 24.5 per cent** stake; approval valid **3 months** from clearance.

UPSC Angle

GS3, insurance-sector regulation and financial-sector M&A.

STATE ROUNDUP: DELHI'S LAKSHMI YOJANA AND CHHATTISGARH'S DWEEPTI YOJANA

Delhi's Cabinet finalised the renamed Lakshmi Yojana cash-transfer scheme for women, while Chhattisgarh's DWEEPTI Yojana, a women-led distributed renewable-energy initiative, moved into its pilot phase in late July 2026.

Key Data

- **Delhi:** Rs 2,500/month for BPL/EWS women; Rs 5,110 crore FY27 budget; roughly 17 lakh beneficiaries; portal opens 1 August.
- **Chhattisgarh:** DWEEPTI trains SHG women as "Solar Didis," targeting 5,000 women-led solar enterprises and 50,000 green jobs by 2031; piloted in **Kabirdham** district.

UPSC Angle

GS2/GS3, welfare-scheme design and the just energy transition.

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