

Daily Current Affairs – 20 July 2026

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Compiled from credible newspapers, news agencies and Government sources for competitive exam preparation.

National News

- The Monsoon Session of Parliament began on 20 July 2026 and will run till 13 August 2026; key bills include the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 and the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025.
- India secured joint first position at the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with all four Indian students winning gold medals.
- Dr Jitendra Singh launched Phase-III of the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP), a Rs 1,500 crore collaborative initiative between India's Department of Biotechnology and the UK's Wellcome Trust.
- The Uttar Pradesh government reshuffled 20 IAS officers; Dr Sarika Mohan (UP cadre, 2006) was appointed Inspector General (Registration).
- The IMD issued heavy-to-very-heavy rainfall warnings for Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir, with extremely heavy rainfall over Meghalaya and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim.

International News

- Spain defeated Argentina 1-0 in extra time to win the FIFA World Cup 2026 at MetLife Stadium, New Jersey, in what is believed to be Lionel Messi's last World Cup.
- Iran's IRGC carried out a second wave of strikes on the Sheikh Isa Air Base in Bahrain and Prince Hassan Air Base in Jordan; the US resumed its naval blockade and announced a 20% fee on ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz.
- Russia launched 41 missiles and 125 attack drones across Ukraine overnight, according to the Ukrainian air force.
- A wildfire north of Madrid, Spain, has burned around 13,000 hectares and forced about 700 residents to evacuate.
- The impeachment trial of Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte began in the Senate.

News Related to Indian Banking and Finance

- The RBI approved former Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar as HDFC Bank's part-time Chairman for a three-year term.
- The RBI unveiled its FY2026-27 agenda, including a review of the RBI Act and the launch of next-generation core banking system e-Kuber 3.0.
- India recorded a current account surplus of \$4.7 billion in April 2026, reversing a \$4.8 billion deficit a year earlier.
- Bank credit expanded 17.65% year-on-year as of 31 May 2026, its fastest pace in nearly two years, while deposits grew 12.21%.

- The RBI's draft Guidance on Regulatory Principles for Model Risk Management, 2026 -- requiring board-approved AI frameworks and a 'kill switch' -- is open for public comment until 24 July 2026.

News Related to International Banking and Finance

- The IMF's July 2026 World Economic Outlook Update projected global growth at 3.0% for 2026 and 3.4% for 2027, with inflation at 4.7%.
- The IMF flagged that the global disinflation trend has stalled, with the MENA region facing a cumulative growth downgrade of nearly three percentage points for 2026.
- The IMF Executive Board concluded its 2026 Article IV consultation with the United Kingdom on 16 July 2026.
- The IMF Executive Board concluded its 2026 Article IV consultation with the Euro Area on 16 July 2026.
- IMF staff concluded a visit to Bangladesh on 16 July 2026 as part of ongoing engagement.

International Sports Events

- Spain won the FIFA World Cup 2026, defeating Argentina 1-0 after extra time (Ferran Torres) at MetLife Stadium, New Jersey -- Spain's second World Cup title.
- Lionel Messi is believed to have played his last World Cup for Argentina, closing the tournament with 8 goals and 4 assists.
- The Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games (23 July to 2 August 2026) will see Team England field a 63-strong athletics squad and Team Scotland a 39-strong squad.
- The Open Championship (golf) concluded on 19 July 2026 at Royal Birkdale, Southport, United Kingdom.
- The Rolex Belgian Grand Prix (Formula 1) was held from 17 to 19 July 2026 at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit.

Major National or International Appointments

- IRCTC's Rahul Himalian (Director, Tourism & Marketing) was given additional charge as Chairman & Managing Director effective 20 July 2026, for three months, following Sanjay Kumar Jain's exit.
- Rajiv Kumar, former Chief Election Commissioner, was approved by the RBI as HDFC Bank's part-time Chairman for three years.
- Dr Sarika Mohan (IAS, UP cadre 2006) was appointed Inspector General (Registration), Uttar Pradesh, as part of a 20-officer IAS reshuffle.
- Pankaj Malhan took charge as Managing Director & CEO of RHI Magnesita India effective 1 July 2026, succeeding Parmod Sagar.
- Manjusha Singh was appointed Deputy CEO of DIC India effective 4 July 2026.

Resignation or Dismissal

- UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer resigned as Labour Party leader, opening the path for a leadership contest and the UK's seventh PM in a decade.
- Reform UK leader Nigel Farage resigned as an MP amid a funding scandal involving an undeclared GBP 5 million donation, triggering a by-election.

- Sanjay Kumar Jain resigned as IRCTC Chairman & Managing Director, prompting Rahul Himalian's appointment on additional charge.
- Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock stepped down as the state's chief financial officer at the end of July 2026.
- SPARC AI Inc. director Justin Hanka resigned as a Non-Executive Director effective 16 July 2026.

Major Inventions and Discoveries

- Scientists at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, discovered a simple way to create optical skyrmions using a 200-year-old optical effect.
- Researchers developed a new thermodynamic framework applicable to real, evolving black holes rather than only idealised stable ones.
- Physicists at Heinrich Heine University Duesseldorf, working with the German Aerospace Center (DLR), found evidence that quantum mechanics may not require imaginary numbers.
- A clinical study found semaglutide (the active ingredient in Ozempic/Wegovy) slowed biological aging markers in adults with HIV -- the first clinical evidence the drug may influence human aging.
- Scientists discovered a dedicated network of fine hairs and specialised nerve cells that forms a mechanical-itch sensing system in skin.

Sources: Press Information Bureau (PIB), Reserve Bank of India, IMF, World Bank, India Meteorological Department, FIFA, Reuters, AP, NPR, CNN, ESPN, Al Jazeera and other credible news agencies.

Test Yourself – 5 Practice Questions

Q1. Who scored the extra-time winning goal for Spain in the FIFA World Cup 2026 final against Argentina?

- A. Pedri
- B. Ferran Torres (Correct Answer)
- C. Lamine Yamal
- D. Alvaro Morata

Q2. As per the IMF's July 2026 World Economic Outlook Update, global inflation for 2026 is projected at:

- A. 3.9%
- B. 4.7% (Correct Answer)
- C. 5.2%
- D. 3.0%

Q3. Who has been given additional charge as Chairman & Managing Director of IRCTC effective 20 July 2026?

- A. Sanjay Kumar Jain
- B. Rahul Himalian (Correct Answer)
- C. Rajiv Kumar
- D. Pankaj Malhan

Q4. Who resigned as UK Prime Minister and Labour Party leader in 2026, opening a path for the country's seventh PM in a decade?

- A. Boris Johnson

- B. Rishi Sunak
- C. Keir Starmer (Correct Answer)
- D. Nigel Farage

Q5. The Reserve Bank of India approved which former Chief Election Commissioner as HDFC Bank's part-time Chairman?

- A. Sunil Arora
- B. Rajiv Kumar (Correct Answer)
- C. O.P. Rawat
- D. Achal Kumar Joti