

Daily Current Affairs

18 July 2025

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Daily Current Affairs Quiz 18 July 2026

Q1. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the inaugural Asian U23 Athletics Championships 2026?

1. India finished fourth in the overall medal standings with 16 medals.
2. The championships were held in Ordos, China from 9–12 July 2026.
3. India won three gold medals, including the Mixed 4×400 m Relay and the Women's 4×400 m Relay.
4. China topped the medal table with 23 gold medals.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans.(d)

Sol. Answer

- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Solution

Explanation

- Statement 1 is correct because India finished 4th with 16 medals (3 Gold, 4 Silver, 9 Bronze).
- Statement 2 is correct as the inaugural championship was held at the Ordos Sports Development Center Stadium from 9–12 July 2026.
- Statement 3 is correct because India won three gold medals in:
 - Mixed 4×400 m Relay
 - Men's Javelin Throw
 - Women's 4×400 m Relay
- Statement 4 is correct since China topped the medal tally with 23 gold medals.

Information Booster

- Host City: Ordos
- Venue: Ordos Sports Development Center Stadium
- Organiser: Asian Athletics

India's Medal Tally

- Gold – 3
- Silver – 4
- Bronze – 9
- Total – 16

India's Gold Medal Winners

- Mixed 4×400 m Relay
- Astik Pradhan
- Sandramol Sabu
- Setu Mishra
- Shravani Sangle
- Men's Javelin Throw
- Anand Singh – 80.57 m (Personal Best)

- Women's 4×400 m Relay
- Shravani Sangle
- Sandramol Sabu
- Pravallika Narimalla
- Nofisa Khatun

Additional Knowledge

Top 4 Countries in Medal Standings

1. China – 23 Gold, 17 Silver, 12 Bronze (52 Total)
2. Japan – 7 Gold, 8 Silver, 7 Bronze
3. Uzbekistan – 5 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze
4. India – 3 Gold, 4 Silver, 9 Bronze

- The 2026 edition was the first-ever Asian U23 Athletics Championships, providing a platform for athletes transitioning from junior to senior international competition.

Q2. In July 2026, Ukraine and nine other countries announced the formation of the 'Anti-ballistic Missile Coalition' on the sidelines of which summit?

- (a) NATO Summit
- (b) Munich Security Conference
- (c) Coalition of the Willing (CoW) Summit
- (d) G7 Summit

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- In July 2026, Ukraine and nine European countries announced the formation of the "Anti-ballistic Missile Coalition".
- The announcement was made on the sidelines of the Coalition of the Willing (CoW) Summit held in Paris, France.
- The coalition aims to strengthen Europe's collective defence against ballistic missile threats.

Information Booster:

- The coalition includes Ukraine, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.
- Its primary objective is to develop a shared ballistic missile defence capability for Europe.
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced plans to jointly develop a low-cost, mass-produced anti-ballistic missile system within 12 months.
- The Coalition of the Willing (CoW) Summit brought together more than 30 countries and at least 25 Heads of State.

Additional Knowledge:

- Ballistic missiles travel on a high-arching trajectory, leaving the atmosphere before re-entering to strike their targets.
- Anti-ballistic missile (ABM) systems are designed to detect, track, and intercept ballistic missiles before they reach their intended targets.
- Paris, the capital of France, hosted the Coalition of the Willing Summit where the coalition was announced.

Q3. In July 2026, the Geographical Indications (GI) Registry granted GI tags to Unjha Cumin and Fennel, which belong to which state?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Maharashtra

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- In July 2026, the Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) granted GI tags to Unjha Cumin and Fennel from the Unjha region of Gujarat.
- With this recognition, the number of GI-tagged agricultural products from Gujarat increased to six.
- The GI registration was facilitated by the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), Unjha, along with other state and national institutions.

Information Booster:

- The Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) functions under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Other GI-tagged agricultural products from Gujarat include Gir Kesar Mango, Bhalia Wheat, Kachchhi Kharek, and Amalsadi Chikoo.
- Unjha (Mehsana district) is India's largest fennel-producing region and one of Asia's largest fennel trading hubs.
- Unjha Cumin is known for its high cuminaldehyde content, while Unjha Fennel is valued for its high anethole content, sweet aroma, and distinctive green colour.

Additional Knowledge:

- A Geographical Indication (GI) identifies products whose quality, reputation, or characteristics are linked to a specific geographical region.
- In July 2026, NABARD facilitated the GI registration of 28 new products, increasing its total GI-supported products to 176.
- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 governs GI registration in India.

Q4. In July 2026, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the "Seafarer-First" initiative primarily to safeguard Indian seafarers operating in which region?

- (a) South China Sea
- (b) Mediterranean Sea
- (c) Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman
- (d) Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- In July 2026, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the "Seafarer-First" initiative to protect Indian seafarers operating in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman.

- The initiative was introduced in response to escalating maritime security concerns in West Asia.
- It followed attacks on the merchant vessels MT Al Bahiyah and MT Mombasa, which affected 30 Indian seafarers.

Information Booster:

- The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) will establish a real-time vessel-by-vessel operational dashboard to monitor Indian seafarers.
- The initiative will be implemented in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Indian Navy (IN), and DGS.
- Dedicated liaison officers will coordinate with Indian Missions in Iran, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The initiative provides medical evacuation, repatriation, compensation, welfare assistance, and a 24×7 grievance support system.

Additional Knowledge:

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) is the nodal ministry responsible for the development of India's maritime sector.
- The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most strategically important maritime chokepoints, linking the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) is India's maritime administration responsible for regulating shipping and ensuring the welfare of Indian seafarers.

Q5. Which former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor was appointed in July 2026 to lead the Balance Sheet Policy task force during the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy framework review?

- (a) Urjit Patel
- (b) Shaktikanta Das
- (c) Raghuram Rajan
- (d) Duvvuri Subbarao

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- In July 2026, the United States Federal Reserve (US Fed) appointed Raghuram Rajan, former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, to lead the Balance Sheet Policy task force.
- The task force will review the costs, benefits, and institutional implications of the Federal Reserve's balance sheet framework.
- The appointments were announced as part of the US Fed's comprehensive review of its monetary policy framework.

Information Booster:

- Two other Indian-origin experts appointed to lead task forces were Raj Chetty and Asha Sharma.
- Raj Chetty, Professor at Harvard University, heads the Data task force to improve the quality and timeliness of economic data.
- Asha Sharma, Executive Vice President and CEO of the Microsoft Xbox Division, leads the Productivity and Jobs task force to study the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies.
- The review was initiated under US Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh, who announced five task forces.

Additional Knowledge:

- The United States Federal Reserve (US Fed) was established in 1913 and serves as the central banking system of the United States.
- The US Fed typically conducts a comprehensive review of its monetary policy framework every five years.
- The remaining task forces focus on Communications and Inflation Frameworks to modernise the Federal Reserve's policy approach.

Q6. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding India's Trade Data for Q1 FY27 (April–June 2026-27) released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry?

1. India's total exports during Q1 FY27 were estimated at USD 232.73 billion.
2. Merchandise exports during Q1 FY27 stood at USD 129.32 billion.
3. The estimated value of service exports during Q1 FY27 was USD 103.41 billion.
4. India's total imports during Q1 FY27 were estimated at USD 270.15 billion.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans.(d)

Sol. Answer

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Solution Explanation

- Statement 1 is correct because India's total exports during Q1 FY27 were estimated at USD 232.73 billion.
- Statement 2 is correct as merchandise exports reached USD 129.32 billion, higher than USD 111.57 billion in Q1 FY26.
- Statement 3 is correct because service exports were estimated at USD 103.41 billion, compared to USD 97.41 billion in the corresponding period of FY26.
- Statement 4 is correct since total imports during Q1 FY27 were estimated at USD 270.15 billion.

Information Booster

Q1 FY27 (April–June 2026) Trade Highlights

Indicator	Q1 FY27
Total Exports	USD 232.73 billion
Total Imports	USD 270.15 billion
Merchandise Exports	USD 129.32 billion
Service Exports	USD 103.41 billion
Merchandise Imports	USD 216.18 billion
Service Imports	USD 53.97 billion

Year-on-Year Comparison

- Merchandise exports: USD 111.57 billion → USD 129.32 billion
- Service exports: USD 97.41 billion → USD 103.41 billion

- Merchandise imports: USD 180.31 billion → USD 216.18 billion
- Service imports: USD 49.51 billion → USD 53.97 billion

Additional Knowledge

- Merchandise trade refers to trade in physical goods, whereas services trade includes sectors such as IT services, financial services, tourism, transport, and business services.
- Trade statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry are important indicators of:
 - External sector performance
 - Export competitiveness
 - Import demand
 - Overall economic activity
- Q1 of a financial year covers the period April to June.

Q7. On the occasion of its 45th Foundation Day in July 2026, NABARD launched which programme to promote rural entrepreneurship?

- (a) Gram Shakti
- (b) Gramoday
- (c) Gramodyam
- (d) Gram Vikas

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- On 13 July 2026, NABARD launched "Gramodyam", an Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), on the occasion of its 45th Foundation Day.
- The programme aims to strengthen the rural enterprise ecosystem by promoting entrepreneurship in rural areas.
- It is being implemented in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) through the Institute for Industrial Development (IID).

Information Booster:

- Gramodyam follows a digital-first hybrid model featuring entrepreneurship training, psychometric assessments, mentoring, and enterprise establishment support.
- The programme provides end-to-end credit support, including preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and linkage with Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and other financial institutions.
- It also facilitates access to government schemes, incentives, and digital loan application support.
- The pilot phase aims to create around 4,000 rural entrepreneurs over a period of three years.

Additional Knowledge:

- NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) was established on 12 July 1982 as India's apex development financial institution for agriculture and rural development.
- NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation) functions under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to promote skill development and entrepreneurship across India.
- The Institute for Industrial Development (IID) is the implementation partner for the Gramodyam programme.

Q8. NIDAR 2.0, launched by MeitY and the Drone Federation India (DFI) in July 2026, is being conducted under which initiative?

- (a) Digital India
- (b) SwaYaan
- (c) Startup India
- (d) Make in India

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- In July 2026, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in partnership with the Drone Federation India (DFI), launched NIDAR 2.0 (2026–27) under the SwaYaan initiative.
- The challenge aims to develop next-generation drones powered by indigenous technologies, including Indian-made VEGA processors.
- It focuses on autonomous systems, indigenous avionics, and core drone components.

Information Booster:

- NIDAR 2.0 consists of two tracks:
- Track 1 – Drone Innovation
- Track 2 – Component Innovation
- The challenge offers a prize pool of over ₹65 lakh.
- Winning teams will receive corporate internships, incubation support, and cloud computing credits to help commercialise their innovations.
- The problem statements, poster, and rulebook for NIDAR 2.0 were launched by S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, at Electronics Niketan, New Delhi.

Additional Knowledge:

- MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) is the nodal ministry for promoting electronics manufacturing, digital technologies, and innovation in India.
- VEGA is an indigenously developed processor architecture under India's microprocessor development programme, supporting self-reliance in electronics and embedded systems.
- Drone Federation India (DFI) is an industry body working to promote the growth of India's drone ecosystem and indigenous drone technologies.

Q9. According to the WDMMA Global Air Power Rankings 2026, the Indian Air Force (IAF) was ranked ____ among national air forces globally.

- (a) 2nd
- (b) 3rd
- (c) 4th
- (d) 6th

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- According to the World Defense Military Analysis (WDMMA) Global Air Power Rankings 2026, the Indian Air Force (IAF) was ranked as the 3rd-most powerful national air force in the world.
- It ranked behind the United States and Russia, while remaining ahead of China's People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) for the fifth consecutive year (since 2022).
- When all military aviation branches (Air Force, Army, and Navy) are considered together, the IAF ranked 6th overall with a True Value Rating (TVR) of 69.4.

Information Booster:

- The United States Air Force (USAF) topped the rankings with a TVR of 242.9 and an inventory of 5,004 aircraft.
- The WDMMA 2026 assessment evaluated 129 air services across 103 countries, covering more than 48,000 military aircraft.
- The Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) ranked 7th overall with a TVR of 63.8.
- Among India's neighbours, Pakistan Air Force ranked 18th (TVR 46.3), while Bangladesh Air Force ranked 83rd (TVR 14.1).

Additional Knowledge:

- True Value Rating (TVR) is WDMMA's proprietary metric that evaluates overall combat capability, fleet composition, modernization, logistics, and operational effectiveness.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) was established on 8 October 1932, and its motto is "Nabha Sparsham Deeptam", derived from the Bhagavad Gita.

Q10. At the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 held in Bucaramanga, Colombia, how many gold medals did the Indian team win?

- (a) 3
- (b) 4
- (c) 5
- (d) 6

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- At the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026, held in Bucaramanga, Colombia, all five members of the Indian team won gold medals.
- This was India's best-ever performance at the International Physics Olympiad.
- India finished joint first in the overall medal tally along with Russia, China, Kazakhstan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

Information Booster:

- The Indian gold medal winners were Kanishk Jain (Pune), Riddhesh Anant Bendale (Indore), Rishit Garg (New Delhi), Shresth Suraiya (Mumbai), and Svarit Joshi (Ahmedabad).
- IPhO 2026 was held from 4 to 12 July 2026 in Bucaramanga, Colombia.
- This marked India's 27th participation in the International Physics Olympiad.

- The Indian team was selected and trained by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), a National Centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Additional Knowledge:

- The International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) was established in 1967.
- It is an annual international competition that tests the theoretical and experimental physics skills of pre-university students from participating countries.

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