UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 09-07-2026

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Polity & Governance

Female Enrolment in Higher Education

India's higher education sector recorded significant growth in 2023-24 and women accounting for nearly half of all students.

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report

• *Female enrolment* is 2.24 crore (nearly 50% of total 4.5 crore) in 2023-24.
• *Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)*, in the 18-23 age group, is 31.2 %.
  - GER measures *enrolment in higher education as a percentage of the population.*
• **Higher Female GER** – Female GER standing at 31.2 % compared to 28.9 % for males.
• Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) has risen to 1.02 crore in 2023-24 (from 91.5 lakh in 2014-15).

International Relations and Issues

NATO Summit 2026

• **Venue** – Ankara, Turkey.
• **Objective** – To discuss defence spending, Ukraine assistance, regional security and strategic partnerships with key allies.
• **Participation** – 32-member countries of NATO.
• **NATO leaders' announcements for 2026** –
  - Allies pledge €70bn in military equipment.
  - Assistance and training for Ukraine.
  - Affirm their sovereign commitments to sustaining at least equivalent levels in 2027.

BRICS Women's Working Group Meeting

• India commenced the *BRICS Women's Working Group (WWG)* Meeting in *Kochi, Kerala,* under its BRICS Chairship 2026.
• **Under India's BRICS Chairship Theme** – *"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".*
• **Four priority areas** –
  - Building a more resilient BRICS through *women's governance and leadership*
  - *Advancing financial and digital inclusion* as catalysts for change.
  - Promoting *women's entrepreneurship* and skill development.
  - *Strengthening women's role in climate action*, food security and nutrition.

Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund

The International Monetary Fund has named Silvana Tenreyro, as its new chief economist and Director of the Research Department.

• Maria Silvana Tenreyro is a British-Argentine economist and professor of economics at the London School of Economics.

• *Gita gopinath* from India previously served as chief economist of IMF.

Economy

Country's First 6-Lane Runway Underpass

Varanasi airport to get country's first 6-lane runway underpass.

• The country's first 6-lane underpass beneath an active runway is coming up *at the new terminal of Varanasi airport*.

• **Jointly executed by** –

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Indian oil imports

• Russia's share in Indian oil imports crossed 40% in May 2026, highest in nearly two years.

• *Russia charged India a premium for its oil*, while U.S. and UAE sold India oil at lower-than-average prices.

• India is trying to diversify its sources of oil, including importing oil from Iran and Venezuela.

• *India's total oil imports stood at 218.2 lakh tonnes in May 2026* (12% higher than April 2026).

• Because the price of oil that India imported stood at $106 per barrel in May 2026 as compared to $64 a barrel in May 2025.

• *Value of oil imports from Russia grew 83%* in May 2026 over its level in May last year, the actual *volume of oil imported from Russia fell by 2%*.

Agriculture

Jalbhara

The 220-year-old Bengali sweet Jalbhara got GI tag.

• **Place** – Chandannagar, ***West Bengal***.
• Name literally translates to "filled with liquid" (from the Bengali *words "jol" for liquid and "bhora" for filled*).
• It is famed for its soft, outer shell of fresh chhena that hides a burst of liquid filling.
• Originally, the *sweet was made with rosewater or nolen gur (date palm jaggery) syrup* as the core.

Balagarh's Traditional Boats

Balagarh boats recently received GI tag.

• **Location** – Balagarh, *West Bengal's Hooghly district*.
• It is believed to be over 600 years old entrenched in Bengal's cultural and commercial heritage.
• The craft finds mentioned in –
  - *Writings of Mughal chronicler Abul Fazl (1551–1602)*
  - *Devotional literature of the Mangal-Kavya* (between the 13th and 18th centuries).
• In the 17th century, even *Portuguese bandits purportedly used Balagarh-made boats*.
• Boat-makers are expected to benefit from central schemes such as PM Vishwakarma.

Environment

Satkosia Tiger Reserve Restoration

Odisha's Satkosia Tiger Reserve has been a tough lesson for the National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) big cat conservation programme.

• **Programme aim** – To establish a founder population and initiate natural breeding within the reserve.
• It was *done across 12 tiger reserves in less than two decades*.
• The first such exercise was the reintroduction of two female and a male tiger from Rajasthan's Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.
• The last exercise was in 2024, when 2 female tigers were reintroduced from Maharashtra.
• The two-female-one-male experiment has been more successful in Madhya Pradesh's Panna Tiger Reserve.
• Satkosia had one tiger when a male and a female were introduced from Kanha and Bandhavgarh, both from Madhya Pradesh.
• This protected area in the Eastern Ghats recorded none in 2026.

Security

Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket

• Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on successfully conducted a flight test of the Pinaka long range guided rocket.
• The rocket *executed all planned in-flight manoeuvres* and hit the designated target *with high precision*.
• **Designed by** – Armament Research and Development Establishment.
• The test flight demonstrates the system's ability to fire different variants of the Pinaka rocket family with varying ranges from the same launcher.

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