

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 20-07-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Stone Age tools to Sangam-era workshops - TamilNadu Excavations

Recently excavations in Tenkasi district, Tamilnadu have uncovered evidence of continuous occupation, craft production and trade spanning thousands of years.

- **Excavations led by** - Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA).
- The dig has *opened 18 trenches along the Vaippar riverbed*, establishing the site as a *major ancient industrial and trading hub* comparable to Keeladi.
- The excavation maps human evolution from *Stone Age hunter-gatherers directly into Sangam-era* urban civilization.
- **Findings at the site so far** -
 - Microlithic stone tools, shell bangles, terracotta spindle whorls used in weaving,
 - Terracotta discs, terracotta and coral beads, a gold bead, rectangular gaming pieces, iron artefacts and copper coins.
 - Sangam-era square brick structures, intact pottery, black-painted lidded vessels and perforated bowls.
- These findings highlight *continuous occupation of area from Microlithic Age, Iron Age, and to Sangam Era/Early Historic.*

Geography

Ladakh Records more Monsoon Rain than Normal

- Ladakh, India's cold desert, has recorded 65% more rainfall than normal this monsoon, the highest rainfall excess of any state or Union Territory in India.
- Since 2022, it has received above-normal monsoon rain for 5 consecutive years.
- This contrasts with traditionally wetter states such as Meghalaya and Kerala, which have recorded rainfall deficits this season.
- Repeated excess rain has raised concerns over cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides and the long-term impact on Ladakh's fragile communities and ecosystems.
- **Data** - 15 cloudburst events in Ladakh between 2005 and 2023, citing climate change as one of the factors linked to such events.
- **Scientific reasons** - Not yet identified.

Polity & Governance

Enforcement National Anti-Doping (NAD) Act, 2022

Recently, the government of India has notified the commencement of the National Anti-Doping (NAD) Act, 2022 and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Act, 2025.

- **Notified by** - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- **Aim** - To strengthen India's legal and institutional framework for clean sport.
- **Objectives** -
 - To prevent doping in sport, safeguard the rights of athletes.
 - To uphold the integrity of sporting competition in accordance with international anti-doping standards.
- It fulfils obligations under the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport.
- The Acts provide statutory backing for anti-doping measures across all sports.
- National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Act, 2025 refines the governance structure by -
 - Strengthening the institutional independence of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
 - Streamlining dispute resolution and appellate mechanisms.

India's first immersive language museum

Recently India's first immersive language museum inaugurated by Union Home Minister.

- **Called as** – Museum of Word (also known as ShabdaloK).
- **Developed by** – National Library under the aegis Ministry of Culture.
- **Features** –
 - The first phase features 9 distinct galleries exploring the origin of words, mother tongues, the evolution of languages, oral traditions etc.
 - The space showcases nearly 380 Indian languages and celebrates the journey of the 22 constitutionally recognized languages.
 - It is built using holograms, motion-sensor technology, hand-gesture sensors, acoustic hallways, and artificial intelligence to bring ancient scripts and oral traditions to life.

Economy

First Geothermal Well at Puga Valley

India has officially commissioned its first and deepest geothermal wells recently.

- **Location** – Puga Valley, Ladakh.
- **Depth** – 14,000 feet, both wells reach a depth of 1,000 meters into the Earth's crust.
- The wells will serve as backbone for the upcoming 1 MW pilot geothermal power project.
- The project is executed by the ONGC Energy Centre.
- Geothermal energy provides sustainable, round-the-clock power that help India achieve their carbon-neutral and net-zero goals.
- **Location significance** –
 - The Indian plate collides with the Eurasian plate, creating deep structural fractures along the Indus Suture Zone.
 - This magmatic activity brings internal mantle heat very close to the shallow crust, providing continuous heat source.
 - Geothermal wells tap into this underground steam and hot water, then be used to drive turbines and generate clean electricity.
- Geothermal power potential areas –
 - Himalayan belt (Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh).
 - West Coast, Cambay Graben (Gujarat).
 - Son-Narmada-Tapi (SON).

India's first river kinetic energy demo plant in Arunachal Pradesh

A Norway firm proposed to set up India's first river kinetic energy demo plant in Arunachal Pradesh recently.

- **Location** - Arunachal Pradesh, due to its vast and rapid river systems.
- **Capacity** - 500-kilowatt (kW) demonstration project.
- **Technology** - It generates clean electricity directly from flowing river currents without requiring major civil infrastructure (such as large dams).
- The initiative operates under the bilateral India-Norway Green Partnership.
- It is backed by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Innovation Norway.
- **Implemented by** - Arunachal Pradesh's Centre for Earth Sciences & Himalayan Studies (CES&HS) partnership with Tidal Sail AS (Norway).

Agriculture

World's Largest Curd Manufacturing Plant

Recently, Union Home minister recently laid the foundation stone virtually for the world's largest curd production plant.

- It is part of the Rs 700-crore Amul Bengal Dairy Project.
- **Developed by** - Amul (Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation)
- **Location** - Sankrail Food Park, Howrah, West Bengal.
- **Capacity** - The plant is designed to
 - Process up to 30 lakh (3 million) litres of milk daily.
 - Produce around 10 lakh (1 million) kg of fermented dairy products (including dahi, mishti doi, lassi, and yogurt) per day.
- The facility will benefit over 1.2 lakh small dairy farmers and generate thousands of direct and indirect livelihood opportunities across Eastern India.

Environment

Iceberg A23a

Iceberg A23a has officially disintegrated and completely disappeared.



- Iceberg A23a is world's largest and oldest tracked iceberg.
- It originally carried an estimated weight of nearly one trillion tonnes.
- After drifting across the Antarctic and South Atlantic waters for nearly 40 years, it was fractured and vanished from satellite tracking.
- **Causes** -
 - The massive block succumbed to the warmer waves and surface air of the South Atlantic Ocean.
 - Massive pools of blue meltwater collected in its deep structural cracks, creating immense pressure that forced the ice to snap apart from within in its final stages.
- **Impact** - It released stored mineral rock dust into the ocean, acting as a critical source of nutrients for local marine organisms.

Miscellaneous

FIFA World Cup 2026

- The FIFA World Cup is the world's most prestigious *football (soccer) tournament* to crown a *men's national world champion*.
- It was created by **FIFA** (Federation Internationale de Football Association) in 1930 with the inaugural tournament hosted and won by Uruguay.
- **Frequency** - *Held every 4 years (except 1942 and 1946 due to World War II).*
- **FIFA 2026 champion** - *Spain*, who won the 48-team 2026 edition in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.
- **Most titles** - *Brazil*, holding a record five world championships (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002)
- **FIFA 2026 performers** -
- **Title winner** - *Spain*
- **Golden Ball** (Best Player) - Rodri (Spain)
- **Golden Boot** (Best Goalscorer) - Kylian Mbappe (France) - 10 goals
- **Golden Glove** (Best Goalkeeper) - Unai Simon (Spain)
- **Best Young Player** - Pau Cubarsi (Spain)
- **FIFA Fair Play Award** - Netherlands.

FIFA World Cup's all-time top scorer - Kylian Mbappe (France)

- *France's Kylian Mbappe* made history by becoming the all-time leading goal scorer in FIFA World Cup history with an astonishing *22 goals across 3 tournaments (2018, 2022, and 2026).*
- **Goals breakdown**
 - 2018 (Russia) - 4 goals
 - 2022 (Qatar) - 8 goals
 - 2026 (USA/Mexico/Canada) - 10 goals
- **Major world cup records**
 - He surpassed Lionel Messi's all-time record with his 22 career goals.
 - He became the *first player in history to win the World Cup Golden Boot in two consecutive tournaments* (2022 and 2026).