

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 23-07-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Kharchi Puja

- **Kharchi Puja** is a major festival of **Tripura**.
- It is observed after the Ama Pechi (Ambu Bachi) period, believed to represent the menstruation of Mother Earth.
- The *festival marks the ritual purification of Mother Earth*, during which ploughing, digging, and certain auspicious activities are avoided.
- The 7-day festival includes the worship of 14 Tripuri dynasty deities by the hereditary Chantai royal priest.
- Though rooted in tribal traditions, both tribal and non-tribal communities participate in the celebrations.

Social Issues

Hunger in India

- India has *reduced its undernourished population by 42% over the last two decades*, outpacing global trends in its battle against hunger.
- According to the United Nations State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026 (SOFI) report, the share of undernourished Indians plummeted from 21.1% in 2004-06 to 9.8% in 2023-25.
- **India faces a dual challenge -**
 - Massive absolute number of people still facing hunger
 - Skyrocketing costs for nutritious food.

Core challenges -

- Over 142 million people remain undernourished.
- More than a third of the population—520.1 million people (35.5%)—cannot regularly afford a nutritionally adequate diet.
- The cost of a healthy diet in India increased by more than a 3 times over six years.
- Within South Asia, the cost of a healthy diet in India was the lowest among all countries except Pakistan.
- This *SOFI report is published jointly by 5 specialized United Nations agencies -*
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
 - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
 - World Food Programme (WFP).
 - World Health Organization (WHO).

Polity & Governance

Tamil Nadu tops in Female-LFPR (Labour Force Participation Rate)

- *Tamil Nadu accounts for 40% of all women directly employed in Indian factories, establishing an unmatched lead in replicating China's industrial model.*
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) reported that Coimbatore (41.3%) and Madurai (37%) rank among the top 3 Indian cities in female-LFPR.
 - Both cities significantly *exceed the urban India average of 27.7%.*
- Maharashtra and Karnataka saw declines in the share of women they employ in the manufacture of computers, electronics and optical products.
- Tamil Nadu's strategy mirrors China's large-scale manufacturing success through several key elements
 - Massive Industrial Hubs
 - Safe worker housing, hostels
 - The state's share of women in computer, electronic, and optical manufacturing jumped from 20% to 43% within a decade.

The Labour Force Participation Rate refers to the percentage of people either already employed or looking for work.

• Structural challenges for f-LFPR –

- Heavy reliance on short-term contracts making hiring and firing easier.
- Wage inequalities and persistent gender pay gaps.
- High concentration in shop-floor roles with limited upward mobility to managerial positions.

Anurag Jain - NITI Aayog CEO

- The Union Government appointed senior IAS officer Anurag Jain as the CEO of NITI Aayog.
- The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), according to an official order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- [NITI Aayog](#) serves as the Government of India's premier public policy think tank, driving national development priorities.

International Relations and Issues

BRICS Health Ministers meeting

- **Venue** – Chandigarh
- **Chaired by** – Union Health and Family Welfare Minister.
- **Objective** – To deepen cooperation on health security, digital health, pandemic preparedness and equitable access to quality healthcare.
- **Theme** – “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.
- **Focus on** –
 - Commitment to preventive healthcare.
 - Establishing a BRICS Training Hub Network and Centres of Excellence, with NIMHANS (Bengaluru) serving as a key institutional contributor.

BRICS Network University Meet

- Union Ministry of Education recently held virtually the International Governing Board (IGB) meeting of the BRICS Network University (BRICS NU).
- **Focused on** -
 - Integrating Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems into higher education.
 - To bring together member nations to discuss academic collaboration.
- **Theme** - "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- **Highlights** -
 - Discussions focused on the ethical documentation and AI-driven sharing of indigenous knowledge.
 - The alliance reviewed the 2025-2028 Action Plan and approved a new official BRICS NU website.
 - The meeting concluded with the *formal adoption of the IGB Declaration*.

Economy

Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) project

- India's first utility-scale flow battery project.
- It is being developed by Delectrik Systems and Bondada Engineering for NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd.
- This non-lithium system will be 100% designed and manufactured in India.
- **Location** - Khavda Solar Park, Gujarat.
- **Capacity** - *100 MWh*
- **Deployment year** - 2027.
- Unlike traditional lithium-ion batteries, *flow batteries store energy in liquid electrolytes contained in external tanks*.
 - This technology is ideal for long-duration energy storage (LDES) and stabilizing the power grid.

India's Installed Wind Power Capacity in 2026

- India's installed wind power capacity reached *57,443 MW as of June 30, 2026*.
- Wind energy production also rose to 106.7 billion units in FY 2025-26.
- *India ranks 4th globally in installed wind power capacity (after China, the US, and Germany)*.
- The government has established targets of 100 GW of wind energy by 2030 and 156 GW by 2036.

India's Renewable Energy Capacity

- India's installed renewable energy capacity has surged nearly fourfold from 76.38 GW in 2014 to 288.58 GW as of June 30, 2026.
- Total *non-fossil fuel capacity*, including nuclear, stands at 297.36 GW.
 - **Renewable energy** - 288.58 GW (comprising solar, wind, biomass, and hydro power).
 - **Nuclear power** - 8.78 GW.
- Breakdown of renewable energy -
 - Solar power - Leads the mix at 162.15 GW.
 - Wind power - Reached 57.44 GW.
 - Hydropower - Stands at 57.24 GW.

Environment

India's First AI-Powered Bird Sanctuary

Mumbai is set to host an artificial intelligence-assisted bird park.

- India's first AI-powered bird sanctuary is being developed at the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (TCFS) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- It spans a 20-hectare eco-nature park and will use AI-enabled cameras and sensors across a 1.5 km radius for –
 - Real-time automated tracking.
 - Species identification.
 - Migration monitoring.
- TCFS is a recognized Ramsar Site and a crucial stop on the Central Asian Flyway.
 - It supports nearly 250 native and migratory bird species, including thousands of pink flamingos.
- Tourism infrastructure (including multi-story observation towers, and nature trails) is strictly limited to 0.35 hectares of the 20-hectare park to ensure minimal ecological disturbance.