

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 24-07-2026

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Polity & Governance

Abdul Hameed v. State of Rajasthan

- **Background** - The case arose from the 1996 Samleti (Dausa) bus bomb blast in Rajasthan that claimed 14 lives.
 - Dr. Abdul Hameed was denied effective legal representation during crucial stages of the trial.
- **Supreme Court's observation** - The effective legal representation is an essential part of the right to a fair trial under Article 21.
 - Denial of legal aid does not automatically result in acquittal; a fresh trial may be the appropriate remedy.
- **Judgment** - The Court set aside the conviction and death sentence and ordered a de novo (fresh) trial.
- **Significance** - The judgement reinforces that fair trial and effective legal aid are indispensable constitutional guarantees, even in terrorism cases.

International Relations and Issues

UN SOFI report 2026 - Hunger

- The 2026 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report details that Africa has surpassed Asia to record the highest population facing hunger.
- Africa recorded 309 million undernourished people (20% of its population) in 2025, edging past Asia's 292 million.
- Over half of Africa's population (56.6%) experienced moderate or severe food insecurity, compared to 20.3% in Asia.
- Healthy diets remained out of reach for 66.6% of the African population.
- Most severe hunger crises occur in South Sudan, Burundi, Somalia, the Central African Republic, and Chad.
- It was driven by conflict, climate shocks, debt and dependence on food imports.
- SOFI report jointly released by five specialized United Nations agencies:
 - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
 - World Food Programme (WFP)
 - World Health Organization (WHO)

Social Media Ban for Children Under 15 - France

Recently **France** has officially approved a nationwide ban on social media for children under the age of 15.

- It the first country in the European Union to implement such a comprehensive restriction.
- The law also prohibits the use of mobile phones in high schools.
- Australia has already approved a ban for users under 16, while Spain, Denmark, Greece and the UK are considering similar restrictions.

Economy

India's Renewable Energy Target 2030

- **2030 Target** - 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity.
- India has achieved its target of 50% installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuels.
- **Current status (as of mid-2026)** -
 - **Non-Fossil Capacity (Renewable+Nuclear)** - 297.36 GW.
 - **Renewable Energy Capacity** - 288.58 GW.
- The solar power accounted for the largest share at 162.15 GW.
- It is followed by wind power at 57.44 GW, large hydro power at 52.06 GW, bio power at 11.75 GW, and small hydro power at 5.18 GW.
- India is also well on track to achieve its target of 500 GW installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources by 2030.
- India ranks as the 3rd largest globally (After China, USA) in total renewable energy installed capacity.

India Emerges as Global Leader in Railway Electrification

- **India** has achieved 99.6% electrification of its broad gauge railway network, ranking 2nd globally (1st Switzerland).
- It is ahead of several major railway networks, including China (82 per cent), Spain (67 per cent), Japan (64 per cent), France (60 per cent) and the United Kingdom (39 per cent).
- This milestone highlights rapid infrastructure growth, massive diesel savings, and lower carbon emissions.
- **Impacts** -
 - Rail transport emits about 11.5 grams of carbon dioxide per tonne-kilometre, nearly 89 per cent lower than road transport, which emits around 101 grams.

Environment

Zoopharmacognosy

- **Zoopharmacognosy** - 'zoo' stands for animals, 'pharmaco' for medicines, and 'gnosy' for knowledge.
- It is the natural behavior where animals self-medicate by finding and using plants, soils, or insects to treat or prevent illness.
- **Wildlife examples** -
 - Apes swallow rough leaves whole to sweep out intestinal parasites or chew bitter stems to fight infections.
 - Pets often eat grass to help clear their stomachs or cause vomiting when they feel sick.
 - Many birds line their nests with strong-smelling leaves to keep harmful mites and bacteria away from their young.
 - Pregnant elephants in Kenya eat specific tree leaves from the borage family to help start labor.

Security

Kusha Missile

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of the 'Kusha Missile' from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

- **Type** - Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM)
- It is designed to neutralise a wide range of aerial threats includes fighter jets, drones (UAVs), cruise missiles, and large enemy aircraft.
- It features a three-tier interceptor missile architecture (M1, M2, and M3 variants).
- **Operational ranges** - Planned engagement ranges span 150 km, 250 km, and up to 350-400 km.
- **Speed** - Interceptors are designed to travel at hypersonic speeds of approximately Mach 5.5.
- **Significance** - Bridges the strategic air defence gap between India's Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) and the imported S-400 system.

Samudra Pradakshina

Defence minister said Samudra Pradakshina is testament to India's Nari Shakti recently.

- It is India's first-ever Tri-service all-women global circumnavigation sailing expedition.
- The mission stands as a monumental milestone for Nari Shakti (women power), military diplomacy, and the joint operational synergy of the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Crew** - 9 women officers drawn from the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force.
- **Distance** - Covered nearly 25,500 nautical miles across four major oceans.
- The expedition successfully fulfilled all internationally recognised criteria for a circumnavigation by crossing all meridians of longitude, crossing the Equator twice.
- It was crossing the International Date Line and rounding the 3 Great Capes - Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope.
- **Vessel** - IASV Triveni (Indian Army Sailing Vessel).

Miscellaneous

Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Venue** - Glasgow, Scotland.
- **Frequency** - Every 4 years (1st held in 1930).
- The events officially opened by King Charles III at the OVO Hydro arena.
- This 23rd edition of the Games features 74 nations competing in 10 core sports across four centralized venues.
- **10 Sports** - Athletics, Swimming, Boxing, Weightlifting, Judo, Artistic Gymnastics, Track Cycling, Bowls, 3x3 Basketball, and Netball.
 - **The following are excluded** - Badminton, cricket, hockey, squash, table tennis, and wrestling.
- The event features 47 medal events across 6 integrated para-sports, making it the largest para-sport program in Commonwealth Games history.
- India has sent a lean, 125-member squad competing across eight able-bodied and five para-sports.
- The Commonwealth of Nations is a group of 56 countries composed mostly of former British colonies.
- It was established by the London Declaration in 1949.

India's First CWG 2026 Medal

- **Lovlina Borgohain** assured India of their first medal at the Commonwealth Games after received an entry into the semi-finals (guaranteed her at least a bronze).
- She is a boxer of the women's 75kg event.
- This is the first Commonwealth Games medal for the 28-year-old.
- She has already won medals at the Olympic Games, World Championships, Asian Games and Asian Championships.



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