UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 27-07-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Buddhist Site - Sarnath

The Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath was officially inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

• **Located in** – Uttar Pradesh.

• It marks “Sarnath” *India's 45th World Heritage Site*.

• **Historical significance** –

- Sarnath is the sacred ground where Gautama Buddha *delivered his first sermon* (the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta) to his first five disciples.

- This monumental event marks the inception of the Buddhist Sangha and the setting in motion of the "Wheel of Dharma".

- Alongside Bodh Gaya, Lumbini, and Kushinagar, Sarnath completes the four principal holy pilgrimage sites identified by Buddha himself.

Keeladi archaeological site – Bricks Structures

The excavations at the Keeladi archaeological site has uncovered continuous brick structures across all nine excavated quadrants, indicating a highly organized, ancient urban settlement.

• Unbroken brick walls stretch across all nine quadrants, continuing further toward the west and north beyond the current trenches.
• This is the first time all quadrants have simultaneously revealed structural activity.
• The site features a sophisticated, closed drainage system alongside a separate terracotta pipeline network.
• **Location** – Tamil Nadu.

Polity & Governance

Punjab – 1st state in India to introduce AI in schools

Punjab has become the first state in India to introduce Artificial Intelligence as a mainstream school subject for Classes 1 through 12.

• It was launched under the Sarbat.AI project.
• **Phased rollout**
  - **Phase I** – Covers Classes VIII to XII by blending AI directly into the existing Computer Science curriculum.
  - **Phase II** – Extends age-appropriate AI lessons down to Classes I to VII.
• **Global Standard** – Built using frameworks from countries like Singapore, Finland, the US, and the UAE, alongside UNESCO's Ethical AI guidelines.

International Relations and Issues

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

India hosted the landmark international conference commemorating the 60th anniversary of the UNCITRAL recently.

• The UNCITRAL is the main legal body of the United Nations that creates and updates rules for global business and trade.
• **Established in** – 1966 by the UN General Assembly.
• **Goal** – It works to make cross-border buying, selling, and dispute resolution fair and easy for all countries.
• **Members** – 70 member states chosen by the UN General Assembly *for 6-year terms*.
• **Headquartered in** – Vienna, Austria.

16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting

• **Hosted by** – India
• **Held in** – *Chandigarh*.
• **Theme** – "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".
• It marked a historic milestone for Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM).
• **Highlights** –
- Member nations unanimously agreed upon and finalized the *Terms of Reference* to handle cross-border collaborations.
- Unanimous adoption of Declaration, which explicitly includes a commitment to strengthening traditional medicine systems across member states.

Economy

India's 1st Domestic Natural Gas Futures

• **Launched by** – National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)
• It shifts hedging and price risk discovery inward, moving away from a long-standing reliance on international benchmarks like the US Henry Hub, Europe's TTF, or Japan's JKM.
• **Trading symbol** – NATGASIND.
• **Settlement Type -** Cash-settled (no physical delivery).
• **Regulatory approval** – *Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).*
• The cash-settled contract is aimed at enabling transparent, India-centric price discovery for the domestic natural gas market.

Futures are legal agreements to buy or sell an asset at a set price on a specific date in the future. The two main purposes of futures are hedging and speculation.

Environment

Historic Low in Forest Fires – Brazil's Amazon

• Forest fires in the Brazilian Amazon dropped to a historic low in 2025, falling to 3.1 million hectares burned, an 80% decline from 2024 and the lowest level since records began in 1985.
• It decreased sharply from a record-breaking 15.8 million hectares (39 million acres) affected during the severe drought year of 2024.
• **Causes of the Decline**
- Lower rates of intentional forest clearance reduced the amount of combustible fuel available for fires to spread.
- A delayed rainy season and a transition away from intense El Niño drought conditions helped limit the window and intensity for agricultural burning

Security

Kargil Vijay Diwas

Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on July 26 to honor the Indian soldiers who fought in the 1999 Kargil War.

Kargil war –

• In May 1999, Pakistani intruders crossed the Line of Control (LoC) and occupied strategic Indian positions in the Kargil sector.

• The LoC is the de facto military boundary separating Indian- and Pakistani-controlled areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

• India launched *Operation Vijay*, supported by the Indian Air Force's Operation Safed Sagar, to evict the intruders.

• India recaptured all occupied posts without crossing the LoC, and Operation Vijay was declared successful on 14 July 1999.

Miscellaneous

Anahat Singh

Anahat Singh has scripted history by becoming the first-ever Indian to win the World Junior Squash Championship title.

• She defeated Egypt's second-seeded Ruqayya Salem in a dominant straight-games victory in the girls' singles final.

• She became the first non-Egyptian player to win the crown since American player Amanda Sobhy did so in 2010.

• **Location** – Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada.

Jhandu Kumar

Recently the PM congratulated para powerlifter Jhandu Kumar after the Bihar-born athlete won India's first medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026.

• **Medal** – bronze

• **Category** – Men's heavyweight para powerlifting event

• **Venue** – Glasgow, Scotland.

2026 Commonwealth Games

• It is an ongoing multi-sport event being held from 23 July to 2 August 2026 in Glasgow for members of the Commonwealth of Nations.

• The Scottish city stepped in to host the event after the original host, the state of Victoria in Australia, withdrew due to rising cost concerns.

• To maintain a sustainable budget, this edition operates as a streamlined event featuring a compact roster of 10 sports and 6 integrated Para sports across 4 main venues.

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