

UPSC Daily Current Affairs | One Liners 27-08-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Jews Fund Shiva Temple Hall

13th CE Tamil stone inscription found at Thanthondreeswarar temple, Anandur near Pochampally, Krishnagiri.

- **Four Jewish merchant guilds** - Soothakar, Mandala Merchants, Tennilankai Valanjiyar, Egu Nutruvar - financed hall construction.
- **Significance** - Shows Jewish presence in Tamil Nadu, collaboration with local guilds, temples as spiritual and economic centres.
- **Context** - Jews settled in Kochi 1,000 years ago; migration linked to Crusades; integrated into south Indian trade networks.
- **Trade Route** - Inscription connects Thagadur to naval thavalam (Bhoothalapattu, Andhra), part of Adhiyaman Peruvazhi Chola trade route.
- **Earlier Finds** - Merchant inscriptions and Kulothungan Chola stones also found at temple.



A Shiva Temple With a Jewish Connection?

A 700-year-old inscription in Tamil Nadu reveals how Jewish merchants helped build its temple hall in the 13th century.

Polity and Governance

Mission Samriddh Gaon Scheme

Recently, Union Rural Development Minister unveils Mission Samriddh Gaon at Krishi Bhawan.

- **Aim** - Develop poverty-free, employment-rich villages with assured basic amenities.
- **Model** - Comprehensive and integrated rural development framework.
- **Vision** - "Prosperous villages, strong foundation of a developed India."
- **Significance** - Lays strong foundation for developed India through prosperous rural communities.



International Relations and Issues

State Sponsors of Terrorism List 2026

US removes Syria from state sponsors of terrorism list after 45-day congressional review.

- **Reason** - Recognition of positive actions, commitments by President Ahmed al-Sharaa to distance Syria from terrorism.
- **Impact** - Lifts last major obstacle to investment; reconnects Syria to global financial and economic system.
- **History** - Syria designated since 1979 under Hafez al-Assad; continued under Bashar al-Assad until ouster in Dec 2024.
- **Remaining** - Cuba, Iran, North Korea still on terrorism sponsor list.
- **Significance** - Aims to stabilise Syria, attract billions in investment, rebuild after 14 years of war.

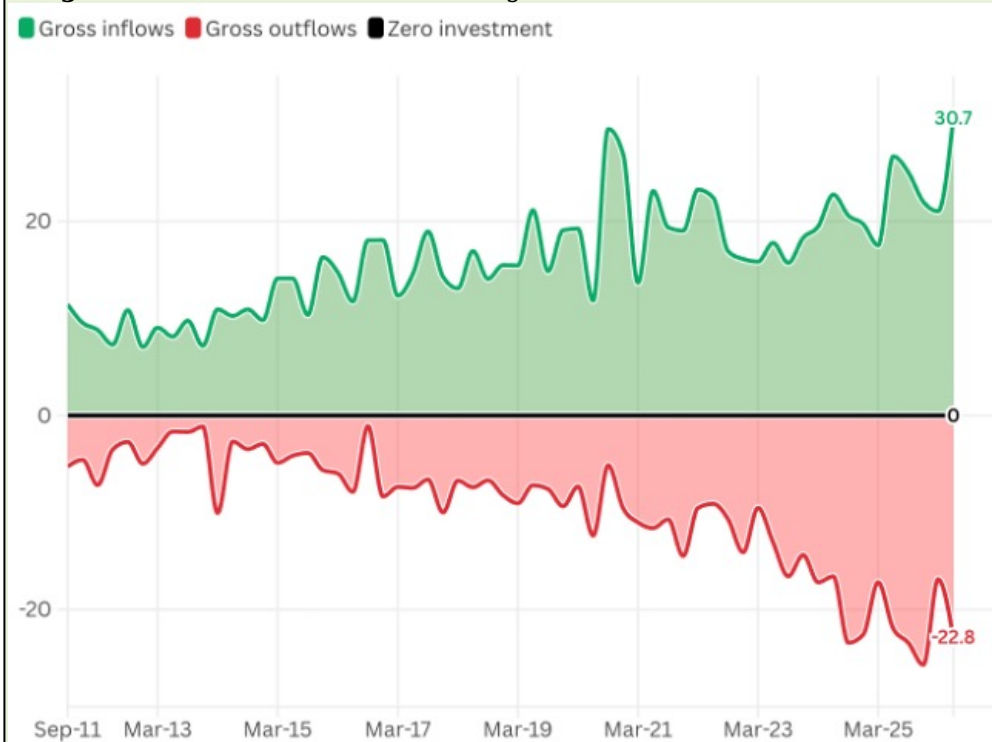


Economy

15-Year High of Gross FDI

India's gross FDI hits USD 30.7 billion, highest in 15 years.

- **Net Flows** - Net FDI positive again; USD 1.3 billion in June, USD 7.8 billion in April-June 2026.
- **Inflows** - June inflows USD 9.3 billion, 53% higher than May; Singapore, Netherlands, US, Canada = 74% share.
- **Sectors** - Manufacturing leads, followed by electricity, computer and communication services.
- **Outflows** - USD 22.8 billion in quarter; repatriation/disinvestment USD 5.8 billion in June; outward FDI by Indian firms fell to USD 2.1 billion.
- **Significance** - RBI notes continued global investor interest in India.



Environment

Community-Led Restoration of Rangelands

India urges community-led restoration of rangelands at UNCCD CoP17, Ulaanbaatar.

- **Approach** - Pastoralists as custodians, not merely beneficiaries.
- **Role** - Rangelands sustain pastoralist communities, biodiversity, water and carbon cycles; India has 10 million ha pastures.
- **Tools** - Satellite-based Desertification and Land Degradation Atlases, recognition of grazing and community forest rights.
- **Tradition** - Sacred groves (Orans of Rajasthan) - 25,000 sites, 0.6 million ha - protect habitats like Great Indian Bustard.
- **Efforts** - Grassland restoration, cheetah reintroduction, Banni expansion; deep-rooted grasses aid carbon storage and water recharge.
- **Finance** - India seeks accessible funding, technology, South-South cooperation for Land Degradation Neutrality.



Science

Chinese Robot Tiangong Ultra

Tiangong Ultra runs 100m in 9.39s, faster than Usain Bolt's 9.58s world record.

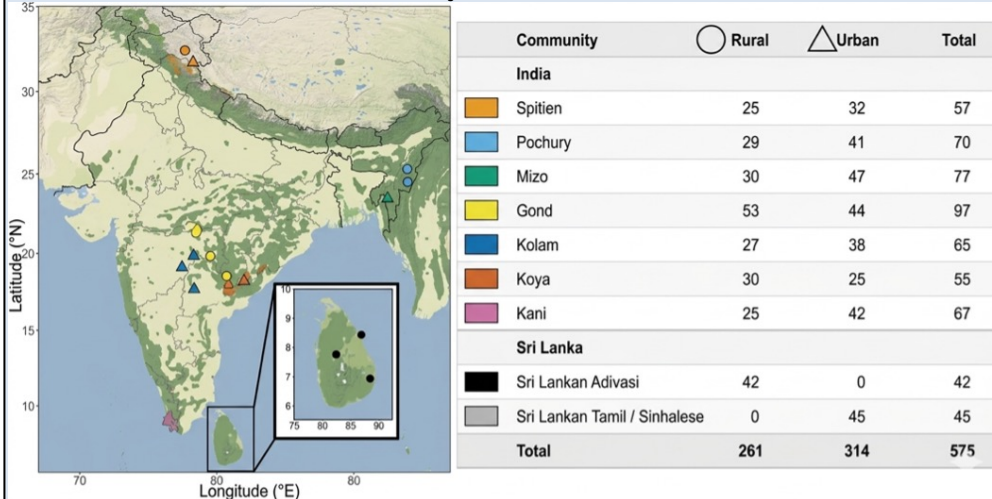
- **Developer** - Built by Beijing Humanoid Robot Innovation Center; wins preliminary heat at World Humanoid Robot Games.
- **Progress** - Tiangong Ultra improved from 21.50s last year; also won first humanoid half-marathon in 2025.
- **Industry** - China designates humanoid robots as strategic emerging industry.



Uniqueness of South Asian Gut Microbiome

A recent study reveals that South Asian gut microbiomes distinct from other regions shaped by local culture, diet, geography, lifestyle.

- **Tool** - South Asian MicroBiome ARray (SAMBAR) used for first time in India; high-throughput DNA sequencing and bioinformatics applied.
- **Results** - Each community shows unique microbiome trajectory; urbanization impacts vary; community-specific microbial signatures identified.
- **Significance** - Provides baseline gut microbiome data for India; critical for diagnostics, personalized nutrition and precision healthcare.
- **Implication** - Therapies must be tailored to regional populations; supports research on obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular and lifestyle disorders.



Ku-band Antenna on ISS

Astronauts Anil Menon (NASA) and Sophie Adenot (ESA) install replacement Ku-band antenna on ISS.

- **Purpose** - Restores full communications redundancy; supports high-speed data, HD video, telemetry and payload transmissions.
- **System** - Operates via steerable dish antennas (SGANTs) tracking NASA's TDRS satellites.
- **Location** - Mounted on exterior Z1 truss segment of orbital outpost.
- **Crew Roles** - Menon and Adenot complete 6.5-hour spacewalk; Jack Hathaway and Jessica Meir support inside, operating Canadarm2.
- **Significance** - Ensures reliable ISS-Mission Control connectivity after hardware degradation.



Miscellaneous

Suru Festival 2026

2nd Suru Summer Festival begins in Kargil.

- **Focus** - Promote sustainable, cultural and adventure tourism; create livelihood and employment for local communities.
- **Activities** - Cycle rally, paragliding, river rafting, rock climbing, trekking, mountaineering.
- **Vision** - Showcase Suru Valley's natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, adventure potential; expand to Drass and Zaskar.
- **Stakeholders** - Tourism and Culture Departments, LAHDC Kargil, entrepreneurs, influencers, media, artists.

