UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 29-07-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Sant Guru Ravidas

Recently central government has proposed to celebrate the 650th birth anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas as the Samarasya Sankalp Abhiyan.

• The campaign runs from July 29, 2026, to February 20, 2027 (Magha Purnima) for 7 months.

• Ravidas or Raidas was an Indian mystic poet-saint of the Bhakti movement during the 15th to 16th century CE.

• Ravidas's devotional verses were *included in the Sikh scriptures known as Guru Granth Sahib.*

• The Panch Vani text of the Dadu Panthi tradition within Hinduism also includes numerous poems of Ravidas.

Geography

Kosi–Mechi Link Project

The Kosi–Mechi Link Project Targeted for Completion by March 2029 recently.

• The Centre has included the project under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana–Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP).

• *India remains engaged in dialogue with Nepal* on the construction of dams on Kosi River for mutual benefits.

• Joint Project Office (JPO-SKSKI), constituted in 2003, is preparing the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the Sapta Kosi Multipurpose Project.

International Relations and Issues

UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger

UNESCO World Heritage Committee in its 48th session in Busan, Republic of Korea, added 6 sites to the List of World Heritage in Danger.

• It is an international conservation mechanism established under the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

• Its core purpose is to alert the global community to severe threats facing recognized sites such as armed conflict, natural disasters, rapid urbanization, poaching, or climate change.

• It aims to mobilise immediate technical assistance, financial aid, and corrective action to protect them.

• **The newly added site to the list** –
- Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape (South Sudan).
- Mount Amel Castles (Lebanon).
- Sebastia (State of Palestine).
- Ancient City of Taurica Chersonese and its Chora (Ukraine).
- Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname).
- Tyre (Lebanon).

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

• UNESCO officially added 25 new World Heritage Sites to its global list.
• Now the total number of recognized global landmarks to 1,273.
• All inscriptions adopted by consensus, reflecting the cooperative spirit that underpins the 1972 World Heritage Convention.
• This session also marks the first-ever inscriptions on the UNESCO World Heritage List for three African countries showcasing commitment to a more balanced and representative List.
• India secured one official new inscription – *The Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath.*

World's Second-Largest Supplier of Seafarers

• *India became the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers* (sailors) in 2026, behind the Philippines.
• India contributes 311,936 seafarers (12.16% of the global workforce).
• India's global share increased from 5.2% in 2015 (5th rank) to 12.16% in 2026 (2nd rank), surpassing China, Russia, and Indonesia.
• Under Mission 20%, India aims to raise its share of the global seafaring workforce from 12.16% to 20%, making 1 in every 5 seafarers worldwide an Indian.

Wildfire Crisis in Europe

• The latest wildfire emergency extends beyond France and Spain.
• Italy evacuated hundreds of people from its Adriatic coast as separate fires swept through Puglia.
• The Scotland and other Mediterranean countries have also reported significant flare-ups.
• **Crisis in France** – The Gironde department surrounding Bordeaux has emerged as Europe's absolute wildfire hotspot
• The primary Gironde blaze has scorched an area four times the size of Paris.
• **Crisis in Spain** – Spain faces an unprecedented situation, with the government declaring a national emergency due to wildfires that Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez described as a direct result of the "climate emergency"

Economy

India's First Direct Commercial Container Freight Train to Nepal

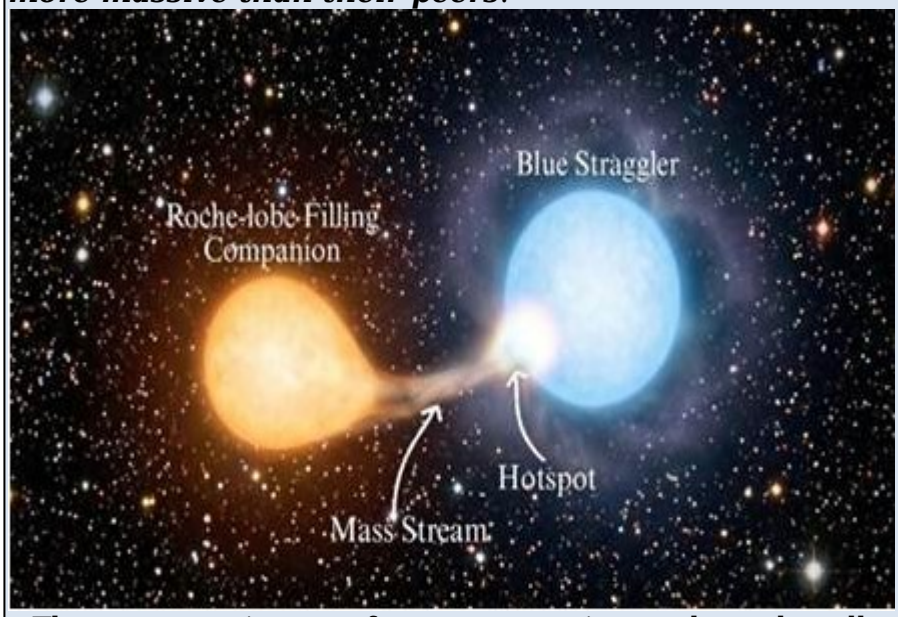
• India's first direct commercial container freight train reached the Biratnagar Customs Yard in Nepal recently.
• **Route** – From Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port (Kolkata Port, India) to Biratnagar Customs Yard (Nepal) via the Jogbani-Biratnagar broad-gauge link.
• **Cargo & Capacity** – 40 wagons carrying bulk canola grain.
• This milestone service eliminates border transshipment, reducing transit times and logistics costs under the revised India-Nepal Rail Transit Protocol.
• **Importance** –
  - Containers stay on the same train throughout the entire journey, which prevents cargo damage.
  - It cuts down delivery times.
  - Improves supply chain reliability for importers, exporters, and industrial partners.

Science

Blue Straggler Stars (BSS)

Recently the astronomers discover an actively forming luminous blue straggler star.

• **BSS** are a *peculiar class of stars found in star clusters* that appear ***hotter, brighter, and more massive than their peers***.



• These stars gain mass from a companion or through stellar mergers, effectively rejuvenating themselves.

• It has detected the strong X-ray emission from the BSS.

• The BSS has a *mass of about 1.67 times that of the Sun* and is accreting matter from a companion with a mass of about 0.32 solar mass.

• **Significance** – It provides implications for understanding the evolution of star clusters and interacting stars throughout the universe.

Andromeda Galaxy

The Andromeda's star formation rate has been steadily dropping, especially over the last 40 million years.

• Andromeda *is 2-2.5-times wider than the Milky Way*.

• The two galaxies have a coin-toss's chance of colliding within the next 10 billion years.

• The observations also found a 'dead zone' near M32 (a small satellite galaxy of the Andromeda). The place stars had almost completely stopped forming.

• **Significance** – Understanding Andromeda can point the way to better understanding the lives of massive galaxies.

World's Largest Fusion Magnet

China completed testing the world's largest superconducting fusion magnet.

• It is designed to contain ultra-hot plasma for its "artificial Sun" nuclear fusion project.

• **Weight –** 582 metric tonnes

• **Dimensions** – 21 meters long by 12 meters wide

• **Magnetic Field Strength** – Approximately 6.5 tesla

• **Operating Temperature** – Minus 269°C

• **Electrical Current** – Exceeding 100,000 amperes

• **Stored Energy** – Triple the capacity of equivalent ITER magnets

• **Design Lifespan –** 60 years.

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