

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 02-03-2026

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Geography

2026-27 Critical Mineral Exploration Plans

- **Launched by** - Geological Survey of India (GSI) to launch 300 critical mineral projects, up from 236 this season.
- **Aim** - To exceed its 1,200-project target by FY 2030-31 under the *National Critical Minerals Mission*.
- **Achievement** - 858 projects completed between 2020-21 and 2025-26.
- **Projects** -
 - **Rare earth elements** - 125-150 projects in regions like *Assam, Gujarat (Ambadongar), and Rajasthan (Sivana)*.
 - **Copper Exploration** - Additional 50-60 copper-specific projects planned, separate from the critical mineral count.
 - **Lithium & Nickel** - Mining these requires a distinct strategy, especially for reserves in Jammu & Kashmir.
 - **Global Outlook** - GSI explores a copper site in Zambia for potential foreign operations.
- **Note** - "Rare earths are available not only in beach sand, but also inland and/or within rocks, like carbonatite or other alkali rocks."

Geological Survey of India

- **Established in** - 1851.
- **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Mines.
- **Objectives** -
 - Creation & updating of national geoscientific data.
 - Mineral resource assessment.
 - Airborne & marine surveys.
 - Studies in geo-technical, geo-environmental, hazards, glaciology, seismotectonic, and fundamental research.

Polity & Governance

National Governance Conference

- **Held in** - Jammu.
- **Organized by** - Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) with Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Theme** - Holistic Development of Districts: Transforming Governance for Viksit Bharat.
- **Highlights** -
- **J&K Best Practices** - Kulgam district innovations, RFID-enabled Yatra management (Vaishno Devi Shrine Board), e-Suvidha (Ramban district).
- **Objectives** -
 - To disseminate award-winning governance models.
 - To promote cross-learning and collaboration.
 - To accelerate citizen-centric governance and district-level holistic development.

International Relations and Issues

PM Modi's Talks on West Asia Crisis

• **Background** - U.S. and Israel's strikes killed Iran's Supreme Leader *Ayatollah Ali Khamenei* on Feb 28, 2026.

• Iran retaliated with missile attacks on Israel, killing nine people and leaving 11 missing in Beit Shemesh.

• **Conversation with**

- **Netanyahu (Israel)** - Indian PM urged ending hostilities and stressed civilian safety.

- **UAE President** - Indian PM condemned attacks and expressed India's solidarity.

• **India's stance** - Calls for cessation of violence and stresses protection of civilians amid escalating conflict in West Asia.

The strike and retaliation

The United States and Israel carried out a joint attack on Iran. Tehran responded with retaliatory strikes on U.S. assets and bases in neighbouring countries*



Tourism Leadership Summit 2026

- **Held in** - New Delhi.
- **Organized by** - US-India Partnership Forum & Sankala Foundation.
- **Key highlights** -
 - **Tourism as a bridge** - Connects cultures, drives economy, enables soft diplomacy.
 - **India-US corridor** - Reflects strong ties and diaspora vibrancy.
 - **Tourism Vision 2029** - One world-class destination per state with smart, sustainable infrastructure.
 - **Heritage focus** - Upgrade UNESCO sites with connectivity and digital storytelling.
 - **Sustainability** - Climate-conscious, community-led, heritage-preserving growth.
 - **Innovation** - Showcase India's achievements in space, energy, manufacturing.
 - **Technology** - Use AI and emerging tech to enrich experiences.
 - **Inclusivity** - Boost jobs via training, entrepreneurship, and women-led enterprises.

Environment

Wildlife Conservation Efforts at Kuno National Park

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister released 53 gharials and 25 three-striped roofed turtles into the Kuno River near Palpur Fort.

- **Objective** - To Strengthen conservation and boosting populations of endangered species under the *National Chambal Sanctuary programme*.
- **Cheetah Project** - A Day earlier, 9 cheetahs from Botswana raised Kuno's population to 48.
- **Significance** - It proves cheetah project's success, and positions Kuno National Park as a biodiversity hub.

Guinness Record Plantation Drive

- **Held in** - Varanasi, organized by Varanasi Municipal Corporation.
- **Record** - 2.51 lakh saplings were planted in one hour using the *Miyawaki method*, surpassing China's earlier record of 1.53 lakh.
- **Location** - Domari area near the Ganga riverfront, where a large urban forest named "Namo Van" is being developed.
- **Spread across** - 350 bighas, include ~3 lakh plants.
 - 2.5 lakh Miyawaki saplings
 - 10,000 timber trees
 - 40,000 fruit-bearing trees
- **Recognition** - Officially certified by Guinness World Records.

Science

Micron Semiconductor Technology's Assembly, Test & Packaging (ATMP) Facility

- **Located in** - Sanand, Gujarat.
- **Highlights** - It marks the start of commercial production and shipment of *India's first semiconductor memory modules*.
- **Features**
 - **Investment** - Rs.22,500 crore under the India Semiconductor Mission.
 - **Facility** - It includes 500,000 sq. ft. cleanroom space, among the world's largest.
 - **Broader Ecosystem** - Part of Semiconductor Mission 2.0, with 10 approved projects across India (Sanand, Noida, Assam).
- **Significance** -
 - Strengthens India's role in global semiconductors.
 - Marks shift from software to hardware leadership.
 - Showcases India-US partnership in chips & AI supply chains.

Biomimicry in Materials Science

Designing new materials by drawing inspiration from biological systems and natural processes.

- **Nature's Principles** - Lightweight, strong, flexible, self-repairing, and sustainable.

- **Examples** -

- **Lotus Effect** - Self-cleaning surfaces inspired by lotus leaves.

- **Spider Silk** - Ultra-strong, lightweight fibers for textiles and armor.

- **Self-Healing Materials** - Mimic biological healing to repair damage.

- **Biom mineralization** - Replicates how organisms form shells and complex mineral structures.

- **Objective** - To replicate natural forms, functions, and processes to create sustainable, innovative solutions.

Miscellaneous

Rare Diseases Day

- **Observed annually on** - Last day of February.

- **Objective** - To raise awareness about rare diseases and their impact on patients' lives.

- **Significance** - To promote equitable access to diagnosis, treatment, and care.

- To know more about it - click [here](#)

