

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 02-04-2025

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#### History, Art and Culture

##### Odisha Foundation Day or Utkal Divas

*The people of Odisha on Utkala Dibasa, celebrating the state's formation.*

- **Celebrated on** – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, marking the 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Odisha's statehood, achieved in 1936.
- **From Bengal Presidency to Statehood** – Prior to 1936, Odisha was part of the Bengal Presidency, alongside Bihar and Jharkhand.
- The movement for a separate state gained momentum in the early 1920s.
- **Prominent leaders in the Statehood Movement** – Madhusudan Das, Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, and Fakir Mohan Senapati.

#### Geography

##### Chicken's Neck Corridor

*Bangladesh has invited China to invest in a river conservation project near the Chicken's Neck Corridor, raising strategic concerns for India.*

- **Chicken's Neck or Siliguri Corridor** – It is a narrow land strip in West Bengal, crucial for connecting India's mainland to its northeastern states.
- **Link to northeastern states** – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Sikkim, vital for their integration with the rest of the country.
- **Bordered by** – Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.
- **Strategic importance** – It is essential for military movement and supply, and any disruption could isolate India's northeast, posing a severe security threat.
- **China's role** – Its proximity to the India-China border, especially the Chumbi Valley, where China has military infrastructure.

#### Social Issues

##### Bodh Gaya Temple Act Protest

*Buddhist monks, under the All-India Buddhist Forum (AIBF), have been protesting since February 2024, demanding the repeal of the Bodh Gaya Temple Act (BTA), 1949.*

- **BTA, 1949** – It established an 8-member management committee to oversee the Bodh Gaya Temple's administration.
- **Management committee composition** – The Act mandated equal representation for Hindus and Buddhists.
- **District Magistrate (DM)** – Ex-officio chairperson, historically from the Hindu community, created a perceived Hindu majority in the committee.
- **Hindu control** – In 1590, a Hindu monk established the Bodh Gaya Mutt, resulting in Hindu control over the temple's administration.

#### Polity & Governance

### **NITI NCAER States Economic Forum Portal**

*NITI NCAER States Economic Forum portal was launched recently.*

- **About** - It is a comprehensive repository of data on social, economic and fiscal parameters, research reports, papers and expert commentary on State Finances for a period of about 30 years (1990-2023).
- **Launched on** - April 1, 2025.
- **Launched by** - NITI Aayog and the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- **4 main components** - State Reports, Data Repository, State Fiscal and Economic Dashboard, and Research/Commentary.

### **Silk Samagra-2 Scheme**

*The government is implementing the Silk Samagra-2 scheme (2021-26).*

- **Objective** - To boost India's sericulture industry.
- **Financial assistance** - It provides financial aid to states for various interventions including, Nursery development, silkworm rearing, chawki rearing centers, and post-cocoon activities like reeling and weaving.
- **Beneficiary coverage** - Both pre and post-cocoon activities.
- **Regional support to** - Specifically, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana for beneficiary-oriented projects in the last 3 years.

### **Sahkar Taxi**

*The Indian government will launch Sahkar Taxi.*

- **About** - It is a cooperative-based taxi service, to compete with existing ride-hailing platforms like Ola and Uber.
- **Aim** - To provide a viable, driver-centric alternative, fostering economic empowerment and addressing market gaps.
- **Vehicle types** - 2-wheeler, auto-rickshaw, and 4-wheeler taxis.
- **Direct driver benefits** - It will channel all profits directly to drivers.
- **Cooperative insurance for drivers** - It will include a cooperative insurance company, providing drivers with essential insurance coverage.

## **International Relations and Issues**

### **Exercise Tiger Triumph IV**

*Exercise Tiger Triumph IV will occur on the Eastern Seaboard from April 2025.*

- It is the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of bilateral India-US humanitarian and disaster relief exercise, will took place in Visakhapatnam.
- **Aim** - To enhance interoperability and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for joint HADR operations, establishing a Combined Coordination Center (CCC).

## **Environment**

### **Siberian Tiger/Amur Tigers**

*A recent study in Oryx highlights the increasing incidents of tigers killed in road, posing a significant threat to Amur Tiger survival.*

- **Scientific name** - *Panthera tigris altaica*.
- They're the largest tiger subspecies, adapted to cold climates with thick fur and a light coat.
- **Habitat and Distribution** - They primarily inhabit eastern Russia's birch forests, with limited presence in China and potentially North Korea.
- **Population** - Estimates place their population at 265-486 in Russia (2022).
- **Threats** - Poaching and human-wildlife conflict.
- **Conservation status in IUCN** - Endangered.

## **Security**

### **Operation Brahma**

India recently launched the Operation Brahma, to provide humanitarian aid to Myanmar.

- **Objective** - To provide humanitarian aid after a devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar.
- **Earthquake impact & response** - It is caused widespread destruction and over 1,600 fatalities in Myanmar and neighboring Thailand, prompting India's swift response.
- **Naval support & aid delivery** - INS Satpura and INS Savitri were dispatched, carrying 40 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Yangon, ensuring the timely delivery of essential supplies.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**

IFRC has recently launched a \$100 million appeal to aid victims of the recent devastating Myanmar earthquake.

- The IFRC unites 192 Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, mobilizing millions of volunteers for humanitarian aid.
- **Founded in** - 1919 and based in Geneva.
- **Aim** - To assist vulnerable populations by coordinating international emergency response to disasters, including natural, man-made, and health crises, and strengthening community resilience.
- **Funding and Partnerships** - The IFRC relies on voluntary contributions from various sources and collaborates with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which focuses on humanitarian law and conflict aid.