

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 02-04-2026

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Geography

Heat Wave

India Meteorological Department (IMD) warns east, central, and northwest India to prepare for more heatwave days, while north India can expect relief with cooler conditions ahead.

A heatwave is declared when temperatures rise significantly above normal, typically exceeding 40°C in plains or deviating 4–6°C above normal.

IMD classifies heatwaves based on temperature thresholds and duration.

They pose risks to health, agriculture, water availability, and livelihoods.



ANATOMY OF A HEATWAVE

What causes a heatwave?

Heatwaves are generally the result of trapped air. They occur when a system of high atmospheric pressure moves into an area and lasts two or more days



Heat waves form when high pressure aloft (3,000–7,600 metres) strengthens and remains over a region for several days up to several weeks



High-pressure systems force air downward



This force prevents air near the ground from rising



The sinking air acts like a cap. It traps warm ground air in place

Telangana Gig Workers Bill, 2026

- **Objectives** - To legally recognize gig workers in platform-based economies.

- To extend social security and welfare protections to this workforce.

- **Institutional Framework**

- It establishes a *Social Security and Welfare Board* for implementation.

- It ensures inclusivity with representation of *women and persons with disabilities*.

- **Welfare & Social Security Measures**

- Aggregators (ride-hailing, delivery platforms, etc.) must *contribute up to 2% of transaction value to a welfare fund*.

- Fund supports *insurance, pensions, maternity benefits, and other protections*.

- **Worker Protection & Rights**

- Introduces grievance redressal mechanisms.

- Safeguards against arbitrary termination or payment stoppages.

- Mandates transparency in work allocation and payment systems.

International Relations and Issues

India-Russia Relations

India and Russia have built a strong partnership over many years, working together in defence, energy, space, and nuclear fields.

- *Russia remains a key supplier of defence equipment and a major partner in energy security, including oil and nuclear projects.*

- **Multilateral Linkages**

- Cooperation in *BRICS, SCO, G20, and UN* reflects shared vision of a multipolar world.

- Platforms enable coordination on governance, economic cooperation, and security.

- Consultations underscore importance of dialogue in managing geopolitical tensions.

Economy

Nifty 50 Decline

Nifty 50 recorded its worst monthly fall in 6 years, down 11.4% in March.

Factors Affecting Markets

- **Global drivers** - Oil prices, geopolitical conflicts, inflation, interest rates.

- **Domestic drivers** - Corporate earnings, fiscal/monetary policy, investor confidence.

- FII flows remain crucial in shaping market direction.

Market Trends

- Widespread selling pressure: more decliners than gainers.

- Sectoral indices weakened, especially banking and PSU stocks.

- Reflects heightened risk aversion among investors.

Fuel Price Ceiling & Fiscal Implications

Rising global crude oil prices due to geopolitical tensions are straining India's fuel pricing mechanism and fiscal management.

Fuel Pricing in India

• Retail petrol/diesel prices depend on global crude prices, refining costs, taxes, and dealer commissions.

• Taxes include excise duty (Centre) and VAT (States), forming a large share of consumer prices.

• Though deregulated, prices are often influenced by government interventions during volatility.

Excise Duty & Fiscal Policy

- Excise duty is a central tax on petroleum products.

- Cutting excise duty lowers fuel prices but reduces government revenue.

- Fiscal policy must balance revenue collection, expenditure, and economic stability.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)

• **Key players** - IOCL, BPCL, HPCL.

• **Responsible for** - Refining, distribution, and pricing of petroleum products.

• Often absorb short-term losses when consumer prices are not fully adjusted.

• Their financial health is closely tied to global oil trends and government policy decisions.

Six Sigma in Electronics Manufacturing

Electronics & IT Minister noted limited adoption of Six Sigma standards in India's electronics industry.

- A data-driven quality methodology aimed at reducing defects and improving efficiency.

- Targets 3.4 defects per million opportunities, ensuring near-perfect production.

- Widely applied in manufacturing and services to boost productivity, consistency, and customer satisfaction.

- **Objective** - To focus is on improving manufacturing quality and global competitiveness.

Environment

Kuno Cheetah Reintroduction

India's cheetah reintroduction programme at Kuno National Park.

• World's 1st intercontinental translocation of a large carnivore species.

Cheetah Reintroduction

• Cheetahs were declared *extinct in India in 1952*.

• Programme reintroduces them from African populations to restore ecological balance.

• **Aim** - To revive grassland ecosystems and enhance biodiversity.

Kuno National Park

• **Located in** - Madhya Pradesh, chosen for suitable habitat and prey base.

• Originally prepared for Asiatic lion relocation, with villages relocated and infrastructure developed.

THE HOMES FOR CHEETAH IN INDIA



Security

Infiltration & National Security

PM emphasized that infiltration in Assam is not just an electoral matter but a national security and demographic balance concern.

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Infiltration

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It refers to unauthorized entry across international borders, often driven by economic, political, or environmental factors.

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Particularly relevant in border states like Assam, due to proximity to Bangladesh and porous borders.

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Implications include security risks, resource distribution challenges, and demographic shifts.

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Legal & Institutional Framework

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Governed by laws such as the Foreigners Act, 1946.

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Mechanisms like the National Register of Citizens (NRC) used to identify illegal migrants.

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Border Security Force (BSF) manages border surveillance and control.

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Policies attempt to balance humanitarian concerns with national security imperatives.

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Census 2027 and Changing Rural Landscape

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India's 1st digital census, releasing data by 2027.

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Findings - It indicates a decline in the number of villages compared to Census 2011.

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Reduction stems from administrative reclassification, urbanization, and merging of settlements into towns.

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Changing Rural Landscape

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Decline in villages reflects urbanization and transformation into census towns/urban agglomerations.

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Driven by economic development, migration, and infrastructure expansion.

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Signals structural changes in India's socio-economic fabric.

