

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 03-04-2025

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#### Geography

##### Zojila Pass

Border Road Organization (BRO) has recently opened Zojila Pass in record time after a mere closure for 32 days.

- **Located on** – Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway (NH-1) at a height of 11,650 feet, which connecting Kashmir Valley to Ladakh.
- It is one of the most critical and challenging **high-altitude passes in the world**.
- It remains closed for almost half of the year due to heavy snowfall.
- **Historical background** – It was the site of the Indo-Pakistan War of 1947-48.
- **Operation Bison** – The pass itself was captured by the Indian Army on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1948.

##### Japan's Nankai Trough Megaquake Warning

Japan has recently issued warnings regarding a potential "megaquake" in the Nankai Trough, Japan.

- **Megaquake magnitude** – It indicating a magnitude of 8 or greater.
- **Location** – The Nankai trough is located off Japan's southwest Pacific coast, extending approximately 900 km.
- It's a subduction zone where the Philippine Sea Plate is subducting beneath the Eurasian Plate.

A **subduction zone** is a geological area where 2 tectonic plates collide, with one plate sliding beneath the other.

#### Polity & Governance

India Strengthens Pharmaceutical Quality Control through various measures.

- **Drug and Cosmetics Act, 1940** – It empowers drugs inspectors to randomly sample drugs for quality checks.
- **CDSCO drug alerts** – The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) publishes lists of Substandard, spurious, misbranded, or adulterated drugs under Drug Alert.
- **SUGAM (System for Unmanned Gateways Approval of Manufacturers) Labs portal** – It automates the entire workflow for testing of Medical Products (Drugs, Vaccine, Cosmetics & Medical devices).

##### Sahakar Pragya Scheme

Cooperatives are benefitted all over the country under Sahakar Pragya Scheme.

- **Launched in** – 2020.
- **Launched by** – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Cooperation.
- **Objective** – To focuses on developing professionalism in primary cooperatives in agriculture and allied sectors.
- It designs and conducts need-based programmes for personnel of assisted cooperatives and its own officials.

## Stray Dogs

The Animal Birth Control (ABC) Programme are being implemented by the local bodies.

- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- **ABC Programme** - To regulate the population of stray dogs.
- It is the only rational and scientific solution to the overpopulation of the street dogs and controlling incidence of Rabies.
- **Article 246(3)** - It outlines the preservation, protection & improvement of livestock, as well as the prevention of animal diseases, veterinary training and practice, fall under the jurisdiction of State Governments.
- **Articles 243(W) & 246** - Local bodies are mandated to control the stray dog population.

## Agriculture

### AI & IoT (Internet of Things) in Indian Agriculture

- **Kisan e-Mitra** - A voice-based AI chatbot providing support for the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme in 11 regional languages, handling daily queries and assisting millions of farmers.
- **National Pest Surveillance System** - It utilizes AI and Machine Learning to detect pest infestations.
- **Crop mapping & monitoring** - AI-based analytics using field photographs and satellite data enables precise crop mapping and crop-weather matching.

## Environment

### India's Decarbonisation in Steel Sector

Recent measures of Indian Government to decarbonise the steel sector.

- **Green Steel Taxonomy** - The Ministry of Steel has established a Taxonomy for Green Steel, defining standards for low-emission steel production.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission** - It is a pilot projects using hydrogen in steel production.
- **National Solar Mission** - It promotes solar energy use and reducing carbon emissions.
- **Vehicle Scrapping Policy** - It is associated with rules that facilitate the dismantling and recycling of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) and recovering valuable materials.
- **End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) Rules, 2025**, mandates Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for vehicle producers.
- **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** - It provides a market-based mechanism for carbon emissions reduction.

## Science

### Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Strategy

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has recently updated about the status of Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Strategy.

- **Objective** - To combat anemia in children and women, including pregnant and lactating mothers.
  - **Methods to combat anemia** - Using a life-cycle approach and 6 interventions includes,
    - Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, deworming, intensified behavioral change communication, anemia testing & treatment, IFA-fortified food provision, and addressing non-nutritional causes.
  - **Financial support** - The government distributes fortified rice, enriched with iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12, through various welfare schemes nationwide.
- 6X6X6 strategy** aims to reduce anemia among 6 beneficiaries age groups through implementation of 6 interventions and 6 institutional mechanisms.

### **SAFE Agromet Project**

The ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) has recently appreciated ISRO and other space agencies for the successful implementation of the SAFE Agromet Project.

- **AFSIS** – It is a project led by Thailand, with support from ASEAN, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.
- It aims to develop satellite-derived Agromet data in comparison with in-situ data.
- **SAFE (Space Applications for Environment)** – It is a multilateral project, led by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- **Aim** – To provide high-quality space-based agrometeorological (agromet) information including extreme events such as flood or drought for end-users to evaluate rice crop growth.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **BSNL's Customer Service Month: "Connecting with Care"**

BSNL announces April 2025 as Customer Service Month.

- **Objective** – To focus on enhanced customer experience across India.
- It prioritizes improving mobile network quality, FTTH (Fiber to the Home)/ broadband reliability, leased circuits/MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching) reliability, billing transparency, and faster grievance redressal.
- **Customer engagement** – BSNL will actively collect feedback through its website, social media, customer forms, and direct outreach.