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 1st 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 Taxanomy** – 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 Mukt Bharat (AMB) Strategy

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has recently updated about the status of Anemia Mukt 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.

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