

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 05-03-2026

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Social Issues

Delhi Pink Saheli Smart Card 2026

- **Launch by** - Delhi Government.
- **Objective** - To make free and unlimited bus travel for women and transgender residents of Delhi, ensuring safety, convenience, and financial relief.
- **Features** -
 - Digital smart card with photo, QR code, and secure details.
 - Unlimited free rides on DTC and Cluster buses.
 - Can be topped up for Delhi Metro use.
 - Promotes independence, safety, and eco-friendly transport.
- **Eligibility** -
 - Delhi residents (women or transgender individuals).
 - Age 5 years and above.
- **Benefits** -
 - Saves Rs.1,200-Rs.2,400 monthly travel costs.
 - Encourages equality and inclusion of transgender community.
 - Supports green initiatives by reducing traffic and pollution.

Economy

New National Accounts Data

The government updated India's GDP and GVA base year.

- **New base year for GDP & GVA** - 2022-2023
- **Methodological Improvements** -
 - **Double-deflator approach** - To account for inflation in intermediate goods and final products separately.
 - **Balanced allocation** - Allocate multi-sector company output proportionately to improve sectoral accuracy.
- **New Data Sources** -
 - These advancements are supported by *Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE)*, the *Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)*, and *GST data*.
 - Improved estimation for *agriculture and informal sectors*.

Environment

Nilgiri Tahr Conservation Centre

- It acts as dedicated *hub for research, monitoring, and documentation* of Nilgiri tahr populations across Tamil Nadu.
- **Located at** - Coimbatore (between Semmozhi Poonga and Periyar Arivulagam).
- **Objectives** - To supports Project Nilgiri Tahr (launched in 2023) for conservation of the State animal.
 - To promotes evidence-based conservation planning and ecological stewardship.
- **Coordinates with** - 14 Nilgiri tahr-holding forest divisions across Tamil Nadu.
- **Significance** - Tamil Nadu recorded 1,303 Nilgiri Tahrs in its second synchronised survey.

Idukki Hydroelectric Project at 50 years

- **Location** - Across the *Periyar river, between Kuravan and Kurathi hills*, Idukki district.
- **Components** -
 - Idukki Arch Dam (169 m, among Asia's tallest).
 - Cheruthoni Gravity Dam.
 - Kulamavu Dam.
- **Reservoir** - Spans ~60 sq. km.
- **Construction** - Began 1963, with *Canadian assistance (Colombo Plan)*.
- **Commissioned in** - 1976, by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- **Power Generation**
 - **Underground powerhouse** - *Moolamattom*, one of India's largest *underground hydropower stations*.
- **Significance** - Kerala's largest hydropower installation; cornerstone of the state's energy system.

CREA report on Bokaro Steel Plant

- **Health & Environmental Findings**
 - Child health impacts annually linked to emissions:
 - 273 low birthweight births.
 - 284 preterm births.
 - 25 new child asthma cases.
- **Mortality** - 148 deaths from PM2.5 exposure.
- **Regulatory Gap**
 - Steel plants are classified among *17 highly polluting industries by the Central Pollution Control Board*.
 - No national standards for sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions from steel plants.
 - Expansion plans raise concerns about public health risks and weak regulatory oversight.

Bokaro Steel Plant

- **Located in** - Bokaro Steel City, Jharkhand, India
- **Operated by** - Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).
- **Production** - 5.25 million tonnes of steel annually.
- **Employment** - 50,000+ people.
- **Expansion** - Plans to expand to 7.55 million tonnes per annum.
- **Significance** - It is part of India's national target, 300 million tonnes steel output by 2030.

Global Pesticide Toxicity (TAT)

- **Top contributors to TAT** - China, Brazil, U.S., and India together ~70%.
- **Study scope** - 2013-2019, 600+ pesticides across 65 countries.
- **Trend** - Applied toxicity increased, especially for 20 widely used agricultural pesticides.
- **Most affected species** - Terrestrial arthropods, soil organisms, fish.
- **UN Target** - To reduce pesticide risk by 50% by 2030.
 - Only *Chile* is on track.

India's Situation

- **Rise in toxicity** - India among worst performers; high use on fruits, vegetables, rice, maize, soybean.
- **Legal framework**
- **Current law** - Insecticides Act, 1968 — outdated, limited to agricultural use.
 - India still uses 66 pesticides banned elsewhere (e.g., paraquat banned in Europe).
- **New Bill** - Pesticides Management Bill, 2025.
 - **Aim** - To reduce risks, promote biological/traditional knowledge-based pesticides.

India's Childhood Obesity

- **Global Rank** - 2nd (after China) for children with high BMI.
- **Children Affected (2025)** -
 - **5-9 years** - 14.92 million overweight/obese.
 - **10-19 years** - 26.4 million overweight/obese.
- **Growth Rate** - ~5% annual increase in overweight/obese children
- **Global Context** - 1 in 5 (20.7%) children aged 5-19 is overweight/obese worldwide — a 14.6% rise since 2010.

World Obesity Federation's Recommendations

- **School & Community Interventions**
 - **Healthier school food environments** - Ensure nutritious meals, reduce processed/sugary options.
 - **Marketing restrictions** - Limit advertising of unhealthy foods and beverages to children.
- **Fiscal & Regulatory Measures**
 - **Sugar-sweetened beverage taxes** - Discourage consumption, generate revenue for health programs.
- **Health System Strengthening**
 - **Early screening in primary health care** - Detect overweight/obesity risks in children early, integrate into routine check-ups.