UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 07-02-2026

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Polity & Governance

India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC)

- **Established under –** India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019.
- **Objective –** To create an independent and autonomous regime for institutional arbitration.

Karnataka Constitutes Gig Workers' Welfare Board

- **Constituted under –** Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers Welfare Development Act, 2025.
- **Composition:**
  - Labour Minister (ex-officio president).
  - Senior officials from Labour, IT, Commercial Taxes Departments (ex-officio members).
  - Board's CEO (Member Secretary).
  - Four representatives each from gig worker unions and aggregator platforms (e.g., Zomato, Uber, Amazon, Porter).
- **Registration -** Both gig workers and aggregator platforms must register with the Board.
- **Welfare Fund**
  - Built from fees collected from aggregator platforms.
  - Contributions made by gig workers.
  - Supported through grants from State and Union governments.
- **Welfare Fee**
  - State imposes 1%–1.5% levy (capped) on aggregator platforms.
  - Rate varies by sector and business model.
- **Objective**
  - Maintain a stable welfare fund.
  - Avoid immediate financial strain on platforms.
  - Strengthen social security for gig workers.

First Information Reports at Doorstep

Telangana Police allow FIR registration at complainant's residence in sensitive cases.

- **Eligible Cases**
  - Offences against women and children.
  - Atrocities under SC/ST Prevention Act.
  - POCSO Act violations.
  - Telangana Prohibition of Ragging Act.
- **Process**
  1. Complaint given orally or via phone to jurisdictional police.
  2. Police visit victim’s residence, workplace, or hospital.
  3. Statement recorded under IPC Sections 161 & 16
  4. Physical evidence secured at the site.
  5. FIR registered on location.
- **Significance**
  - **Victim-focused –** Ensures safety, dignity, and reduces trauma.
  - **Accessibility –** Lowers barriers to reporting.
  - **Evidence preservation –** Immediate documentation at crime scene.

NHRC on Re-verification of Govt. Staff with Disabilities

NHRC stated that re-verification of disability certificates for government employees should only occur in cases of specific suspicion, not mass re-verification.

- **NHRC Recommendation** – Issued after Centre’s advisory and revised SOP (Oct 2025) on disability verification.
- **Scope of SOP –** Applies only to new applicants, not existing beneficiaries.
- **Concerns –** Repeated re-verification creates anxiety, fear, and insecurity among persons with disabilities.
- **Suggestion –** Adopt UDID-based digital verification as the default method.
- **Key note –**
  - **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 –** Guarantees rights and entitlements for persons with disabilities.
  - **UDID (Unique Disability ID) Card –** Serves as a single document enabling access to benefits for persons with disabilities.

International Relations and Issues

India - EU Agreement

13 MAJOR OUTCOMES:



- Adoption of Towards 2030: A Joint India-European Union Comprehensive Strategic Agenda
- Joint Announcement on the conclusion of the negotiations of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement
- Security and Defence Partnership
- Launch of negotiations for an India-EU Security of Information Agreement
- MoU on Comprehensive Framework on Co-operation on Mobility
- MoU between RBI and European Securities and Market Authority (ESMA)
- Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals
- Announcement on setting up of European Union pilot Legal Gateway Office in India aimed to enhance skill mobility
- Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response agreement
- Constitution of a Green Hydrogen Task Force
- Renewal of India-EU Agreement on Scientific & Technological Cooperation for the period 2025- 2030
- Launch of exploratory talks for India entering into an association agreement with Horizon Europe Programme
- Connectivity agreement to jointly implement projects under the India-EU Trilateral Co-operation

Economy

Tourism Performance

- By August 2025, India drew 5.6 million foreign tourists, far fewer than Singapore's 11.6 million visitors or Thailand's $60 billion in tourism revenue.
- **Challenges ("Three I" Problems)**
  - **Image –** Safety concerns, scams, sanitation issues.
  - **Infrastructure –** Poor last-mile connectivity, lack of public toilets, limited Wi-Fi.
  - **India –** Overcrowding, weak service culture, tout harassment.
- **Suggestions**
  - Rebrand with targeted narratives ("Incredible Indias").
  - Upgrade infrastructure via public–private partnerships ("Clean Tourism").
  - Enhance safety and training (tourist police, skill development).
  - Simplify visa process (e-visas, global "Visa on Arrival").
  - Promote sustainable and authentic tourism.
- **Economic Impact**
  - Tourism generates more jobs than manufacturing, especially for unskilled and semi-skilled workers
  - Criticism of GST reforms – Denial of input tax credit hurting hospitality industry.

Environment

Conservation of Indo-Pacific Leopard Sharks

Thailand's first efforts to "rewild" the endangered species.

- **Location –** Maiton Island, Phuket, Thailand.
- **Objective –** To revive the leopard shark population in the wild.
- **Collaboration –** Thai government, aquariums, and NGOs.
- **Action –** Release of 7 leopard shark pups.

Evolution of Kangaroos to Hop

A study challenges the belief that giant, extinct kangaroos were too heavy to hop, identifying skeletal adaptations that made hopping possible for these larger ancestors.

- **Key adaptions -**
  - **Metatarsals –** Shorter and thicker fourth metatarsals, built for weight-bearing and resistant to bending forces.
  - **Calcaneus –** Wider heel bones, offering greater tendon attachment area, indicating strong, thick tendons capable of handling high tension.

Science

Legitimate Application of Ammonium Nitrate

Nagaur police seized about 10,000 kilograms of ammonium nitrate from a farmhouse from a quiet area in the district.

- **Mining & Quarrying**
  - Application: ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate-Fuel Oil) blasting
  - Purpose: Rock breaking for mineral extraction
  - Operations: Quarry activities
  - Market Share: ~70–80% of global ammonium nitrate consumption in mining.
- **Agriculture (Fertilizer)**
  - Nitrogen-rich fertilizer (33–35% nitrogen content)
  - Applied to crops: wheat, rice, sugarcane, vegetables
  - Methods: direct soil application or foliar spray
  - Usage in India: significant across agricultural regions
- **Industrial Applications**
  - Explosives manufacturing (regulated, licensed)
  - Construction blasting (tunnels, dams)
  - De-icing agent (anti-freeze properties)
  - Cold pack production
  - Pharmaceutical manufacturing

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DoPT Report

- **Key Facts**
  - Over 66% of Group C safai karmacharis are from SC, ST, and OBC communities.
  - Overall representation among 32.52 lakh employees: SC 16.84%, ST 8.7%, OBC 26.32%.
  - DoPT reservation norms: SC 15%, ST 7.5%, OBC 27%, EWS 10%.
  - Report *does not* include data on EWS employees.
  - First comprehensive dataset since 2018–19.
- **Comparison with 2018–19**
  - SC representation declined (17.49% → 16.84%).
  - ST representation rose slightly (8.47% → 8.94%).
  - OBC representation increased significantly (21.57% → 26.32%).

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