

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

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#### Polity & Governance

##### India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC)

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**Established under** - India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019.

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**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 & 162
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.

# 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

## 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 adaptations -**

- **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.*

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### **Mining & Quarrying**

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Application: ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate-Fuel Oil) blasting

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Purpose: Rock breaking for mineral extraction

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Operations: Quarry activities

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Market Share: ~70-80% of global ammonium nitrate consumption in mining.

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### **Agriculture (Fertilizer)**

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Nitrogen-rich fertilizer (33-35% nitrogen content)

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Applied to crops: wheat, rice, sugarcane, vegetables

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Methods: direct soil application or foliar spray

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Usage in India: significant across agricultural regions

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### **Industrial Applications**

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Explosives manufacturing (regulated, licensed)

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Construction blasting (tunnels, dams)

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De-icing agent (anti-freeze properties)

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Cold pack production

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Pharmaceutical manufacturing

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## **DoPT Report**

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### **Key Facts**

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Over 66% of Group C safai karmacharis are from SC, ST, and OBC communities.

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Overall representation among 32.52 lakh employees: SC 16.84%, ST 8.7%, OBC 26.32%.

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DoPT reservation norms: SC 15%, ST 7.5%, OBC 27%, EWS 10%.

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Report *does not* include data on EWS employees.

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First comprehensive dataset since 2018-19.

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### **Comparison with 2018-19**

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SC representation declined (17.49% → 16.84%).

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ST representation rose slightly (8.47% → 8.94%).

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OBC representation increased significantly (21.57% → 26.32%).

