UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 08-04-2026

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Polity & Governance

Presidential Order 1950

Issued under **Article 341**, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order identifies communities historically subjected to untouchability.

• It provides a definitive framework for granting constitutional benefits and affirmative action.

• **Strict Religious Boundaries -** Originally limited to Hinduism, the Order was amended in **1956** for Sikhs and **1990** for Buddhists. Status remains strictly tied to professing these three specific religions.

• **Immediate Loss of Status -** The Supreme Court reaffirmed that conversion to Christianity or Islam results in the **absolute loss** of SC status. Benefits and legal protections cease immediately upon religious change.

• **Limited Statutory Protection -** Converts cannot seek relief under the **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act**. The court ruled that religions like Christianity do not theologically recognize the caste institution.

• **Rigid Re-conversion Rules -** To regain status, individuals must prove their original caste identity, a bona fide re-conversion, and formal **social acceptance** and assimilation by their original community.

• **Geographic and Legal Ties -** SC status is non-transferable across borders, applying only to specific states. Legal standing depends on the "Profess Clause," requiring the public practice of a recognized religion.

International Relations and Issues

Diplomatic Leadership

Bahrain recently spearheaded **UN Resolution 2817**, addressing maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz. This unprecedented move underscores the kingdom's growing influence in international law and regional stability.

• **Geographic Profile -** Located in the Persian Gulf, Bahrain is an archipelago of **84 islands**.

• Its capital, **Manama**, serves as the political and economic heart of this strategically positioned Middle Eastern nation.

• **Distinctive Terrain -** The landscape features arid limestone plains and salt marshes. **Jabal ad Dukhan**, the highest peak at 134 meters, sits above the nation's primary oil and gas reserves.

• **Strategic Connectivity -** The **25-km King Fahd Causeway** links Bahrain to Saudi Arabia.

• Historically, unique freshwater springs supported the ancient Dilmun civilization within this otherwise parched desert environment.

• **Security Nexus -** Bahrain hosts the **U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet**, acting as a critical nerve center for maritime operations. Its stability ensures the protection of global oil transit routes.

• **Financial Hub-** Recognized as the "Zurich of the Middle East," Bahrain is a premier global center for **Islamic Finance**, balancing its military importance with robust economic leadership.

Economy

Government e Marketplace (GeM)

The GeM has achieved a cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of Rs18.4 lakh crore.

• **Achievement** - Notably, over Rs5 lakh crore was generated in FY 2025–26 alone, showcasing rapid digital adoption.

• **Launched in** - 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry,

• **Strategic Framework** – It serves as India's unified portal for public procurement across Central and State ministries, departments, and PSUs.

• **Advanced Digital Features -** The platform utilizes AI-powered tools, voice-enabled navigation, and a multilingual Learning Management System (LMS) to streamline cashless, end-to-end procurement and ensure accessibility for remote sellers.

• **Objectives –** To enhances transparency and price discovery through diverse modes like e-bidding and reverse auctions.

• It promotes standardization and mandates procurement to leverage economies of scale.

• **National Impact -** By integrating technology with governance, GeM has lowered costs and expanded market access for SMEs, solidifying its role as a cornerstone of India's inclusive economic growth.

Environment

Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises ASISSE Launch

The National Statistical Office (NSO) has introduced the first ASISSE. This landmark initiative aims to create a comprehensive database for India's vital services sector.

• **Conducted under** - The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, ASISSE provides critical insights into the performance and structure of organized service entities, filling a major gap in the national data ecosystem.

• **Expansive Coverage -** The survey targets over 1.21 lakh enterprises, including companies and LLPs.

• It utilizes the GSTN database as a sampling frame to ensure reliable, wide-reaching data collection.

• **Legal Compliance -** ASISSE operates under the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, and the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023.

• These frameworks guarantee systematic reporting while strictly maintaining data confidentiality and institutional accountability.

• **The Role of NSO -** The NSO coordinates data processing and dissemination. It plays a pivotal role in strengthening the evidence-based policymaking necessary for national economic planning.

• **Economic Significance -** By capturing high-quality data on incorporated services, ASISSE supports better governance and highlights the sector's immense contribution to India's overall growth and employment generation.

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Biodiversity Discovery

Researchers from the ZSI recently identified two new free-living marine nematode species off the Tamil Nadu coast: *Corononema dhriti* and *Epacanthion indica*.

• **Naming -** *Corononema dhriti* honors ZSI Director Dr. Dhriti Banerjee and marks only the fourth known species of its genus globally. *Epacanthion indica* is named after India, reflecting its unique local discovery.

• **Specialized Adaptations -** While *C. dhriti* inhabits benthic environments, *E. indica* acts as a microscopic predator. It features complex mandibles and tooth-like structures, allowing it to occupy a higher niche in the food web.

• **Biological Characteristics -** Belonging to the phylum Nematoda, these worms are bilaterally symmetrical and elongated.

• They thrive as parasites or free-living organisms in habitats ranging from tropical oceans to Antarctic deserts.

• **Ecological Vitality -** Marine nematodes are essential for nutrient cycling and sediment stability.

• By decomposing organic matter, they recycle nutrients and support the overall productivity of coastal ecosystems.

• **Environmental Indicators -** Beyond their biological roles, these nematodes serve as bio-indicators.

• They help scientists monitor environmental health and assess the long-term impacts of climate change on marine biodiversity.

Blackbuck Reintroduction

Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh has successfully reintroduced blackbucks into the Rampur grassland.

• **Initiative aims** - To restore ecological balance and revive native populations within their natural habitat.

• **Geographic Profile -** Located in the Mahasamund district, the 245-square-kilometer sanctuary is named after the Bar and Nawapara villages.

• It is bounded by the Balamdehi and Jonk rivers, tributaries of the Mahanadi.

• **Flora and Vegetation -** The region features tropical dry deciduous forests dominated by teak, sal, and bamboo.

• Other significant species, including mahua and tendu, provide a rich food source for the local wildlife.

• **Diverse Fauna -** The sanctuary hosts leopards, tigers, Indian bison, and over 150 bird species. The presence of herbivores like cheetal and sambhar supports a complex and healthy predator-prey relationship.

• **Ecological Management -** Conservation efforts focus on habitat restoration and species management. These actions enhance the resilience of Central India's biodiversity, ensuring the long-term sustainability of various forest and grassland ecosystems.

• **Conservation Significance -** As a vital protected area, Barnawapara's recent milestones underscore India's commitment to biodiversity.

• The reintroduction project specifically strengthens the grassland's functional health and promotes inclusive environmental growth.

Security

Indigenous Oceanic Innovation

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) successfully tested a homegrown Floating LiDAR Buoy off Tamil Nadu. This platform maps offshore wind potential and supports India's growing Blue Economy.

• **Optical Remote Sensing -** The system uses infrared laser pulses to detect aerosols and water droplets. By measuring the Doppler Shift of reflected light, it accurately calculates wind speed and direction at various altitudes.

• **Advanced Vertical Profiling -** Unlike standard sensors, this buoy provides high-resolution wind profiles up to 300 meters above sea level.

• It continuously monitors turbulence, atmospheric pressure, and critical ocean-atmosphere interactions.

• **Real-Time Data Transmission -** Equipped with satellite and cellular telemetry, the system transmits live meteorological data to shore.

• This connectivity is vital for climate modeling and identifying optimal sites for offshore wind farms.

• **Disaster and Climate Readiness -** The buoy enhances cyclone tracking and landfall predictions. By providing precise atmospheric data, it improves the intensity forecasting of severe maritime storms and seasonal monsoons.

• **Strategic Self-Reliance -** This indigenous development reduces dependence on expensive imported technologies. It marks a significant step toward self-sufficiency in marine surveys and achieving India's ambitious renewable energy targets.

Science

BioNEST Inauguration

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences inaugurated the BIRAC-BioNEST Incubation Centre at the **Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI).**

• This facility bridges the gap between laboratory research and commercial food-tech applications.

• **Infrastructure and Support-** The center provides modern incubation suites and shared infrastructure.

• It assists startups with scale-up validation and regulatory processes, transforming scientific concepts into market-ready solutions for food bioprocessing and biotechnology.

• **Innovation Milestones -** By March 2026, the facility has supported 26 startups.

• These ventures have collectively filed 12 patents and produced numerous research publications, demonstrating a strong commitment to high-impact, practical innovation.

• **Cutting-Edge Domains -** Incubated startups focus on advanced fields like precision fermentation, CRISPR-based technologies, nutraceuticals, and probiotics.

• This aligns India's food industry with global science-driven trends and modern consumer demands.

• **Industry Collaboration -** Marking CFTRI's 75th year, the event featured four new MoUs and two product launches. The institute has successfully transferred over 450 technologies, strengthening the bond between research and commercial industry.

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Global Optimism Outlier

In a stark contrast to global pessimism, the March 2026 Ipsos "What Worries the World" survey reveals that **65% of Indians** believe their country is on the right track, far surpassing the **39% global average**.

• **Economic Confidence -** Bolstered by a **7.4% growth projection** for FY 2025–26, 74% of Indians view the economy favourably.

• However, a dip in personal finance indices suggests individuals still face significant household-level financial strain.

• **Primary Public Concerns -** Despite the positive outlook, inflation (47%) and unemployment (40%) remain the top anxieties.

• Concerns regarding education, corruption, and healthcare also highlight persistent structural challenges within the socio-economic landscape.

• **Resilience Factors -** India's stability is attributed to strategic energy diversification and a neutral geopolitical stance, which have effectively mitigated external shocks caused by global supply chain disruptions and West Asian tensions.

• **Future Outlook -** While India remains a top-three optimistic nation, sustaining this sentiment will require effective policy responses to manage rising food costs and improve domestic job creation amid ongoing global instability.

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