UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 10-04-2025

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Social Issues

Poshan Pakhwada 2025

Recently, the 7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada was started.

• It is *annual event* focuses on *improving nutrition* across India, especially for women and children.

• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Women and Child Development.

• **2025 Theme** – Shuddh Jal aur Swachhta Se SwasthBachpan (Clean Water and Sanitation for Healthy Childhood).

• **Aim** – To combat malnutrition through behaviour changes at *individual, family, and community levels.*

• **4 key areas**

- Emphasis on the *first 1000 days of human life*.
- Popularization of the Beneficiary Module in the Poshan Tracker App.
- Effective management of malnutrition through the CMAM module.
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles to *address childhood obesity*.

Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) *is a training module that focuses on community-based approaches to managing acute malnutrition.*

Polity & Governance

India Skills Accelerator

Recently, the India Skills Accelerator initiative was launched.

• **Launched by** – Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and World Economic Forum (WEF).

• **Aim** – To catalyze change across 3 critical levels

- By improving awareness and shifting mindsets around *future skills needs*.
- Increasing collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders.
- Committing to upgrade institutional structures and policy frameworks to support a more *adaptive and responsive skilling ecosystem*.

• **Governance structure** – It Includes key stakeholders from *public and private sectors*.

• It enables cross-sectoral efforts in unlocking innovative ideas and driving systemic progress on complex challenges that demand a multi-stakeholder approach.

AadharFaceRD App

Recently, a new Aadhaar App was launched in testing phase at Aadhaar Samvaad event in Delhi by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

• It is a *facial recognition tool* for verifying Aadhaar-holders' identity for use-cases like verification during a Know-Your-Customer (KYC).
• **Developed by** - Unique Identification Authority of India.
• **Working -** Facial recognition is triggered *only through a KYC request* by scanning a QR code.
• Then, the user is prompted to show their face to their smartphone camera and blink, after which their details are verified.
• **Role** – It *secures the Aadhaar data* while sharing with hotels and other "requesting" entities without the need to share a hard copy.
• It is used as an *ID proof*, instead of simply scan a QR code.

Economy

Amalgamation of Regional Rural banks (RRBs)

Recently, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) has notified the amalgamation of 26 RRBs.

• It is the *4th phase of amalgamation*; 1st phase *started in 2024*.
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Finance.
• **Principle of amalgamation** – *One State One RRB.*
• **Purpose** – This amalgamation of 26 RRBs in 10 States and 1 UT have been carried out with for *improvement in scale efficiency and cost rationalization*.
• At present, *43 RRBs* are functioning in 26 States and 2 UTs.

Multiples GIFT Fund

Recently, the Competition Commission of India has approved the proposed acquisition of shareholding by Multiples Plenty Private Equity GIFT Fund.

• It is a *newly incorporated trust*, formed under the *Indian Trusts Act, 1882*.
• It is registered with International Financial Services Centres Authority as a Restricted Scheme.
• **Managed by** – Multiples Asset Management IFSC LLP.
***IFSC LLP**, a limited liability partnership incorporated under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and operating within an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).*

Security

iCAST-25 (Integrated Cyber Advanced Security Techniques)

Recently, a two-day workshop iCAST-25 was organized at Shimla.

• It is a *Cyber Security Workshop* for state police leaders of the Himachal Pradesh Government.
• **Organized by** – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
• **Aim** – To promote digital literacy, empower individuals, and bridge the digital divide across Himachal Pradesh.
• **Role** – It aligns with the Government of India's mission to create a cyber-resilient public sector, ensuring a *robust digital infrastructure and resilient e-governance services* across states.

Integrated Financial Advisors (IFA) System

Recently, the Defence Secretary highlighted the role of integrated financial advisors in driving transparency.

• **Introduced in** – 1975, in various Ministries of Government of India
  - Department of Defence – *1983*.

• **Objectives** – To provide *independent financial inputs* to the Competent Financial Authorities (CFAs) to enable *transparency, accountability and responsiveness* in defence financial system.

• To enhance *capital acquisition* outcomes, multifaceted challenges confronting in the Military Engineer Services.

Science

Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Research Centre

Recently, the Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Research Centre was launched.

• It is the *1st -ever* High-Altitude Climate Research Station in India.

• **Objectives** – To understand the *cloud formation, weather patterns, and aerosol interactions*.

• **Joint initiative of** – Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, J&K Forest Department, Central University of Jammu and Swiss National Science Foundation.

• **Location** – Nathatop in *Jammu and Kashmir (J&K),* at an altitude of 2,250 meters above sea level.

• This location was chosen for its clean air and minimal pollution.

ICE-CRUNCH – Indo-Swiss Joint Research Project

As of part of recent launch of the Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Research Centre, the ICE-CRUNCH project was flagged off.

• **ICE-CRUNCH** – Ice nucleating particles and cloud condensation nuclei properties in the North-Western Himalayas.

• It is a joint research initiative between *Indian scientist and ETH Zurich in Switzerland*.

• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Earth Sciences.

• **Aim** – To explore the *properties of ice nucleating particles* and *cloud condensation nuclei* in the region.

• To understand the *role of aerosols in cloud microphysics* and their broader implications on climate systems and precipitation in the Himalayan region.

Cloud condensation nuclei *are critical components in cloud formation and precipitation processes.*

• **Role** – It will provide the 1st set of measurements for Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Research Centre.

Miscellaneous

World Homeopathy Day 2025 (April 10th)

On the occasion of World Homeopathy Day 2025, Homeopathic convention is set to be hosted at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

• **2025 Theme** – *Education, Practice, and Research*.

• These are the 3 foundational pillars for the growth of Homoeopathy.

• **Aim** – To strengthen *global access to homeopathic research advancements*, its practical applications, and its growing impact in both healthcare and industry.

• **Homeopathic convention** – It is a 2-day grand convention, organized by the *Ministry of Ayush*.

• It is to be hosted by Central Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH), National Commission for Homeopathy (NCH), and National Institute of Homeopathy (NIH).



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