UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 11-03-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Global Engagement Scheme

Grant in Aid is provided to International Organizations for promoting Durga Puja Globally.

- **Launched in –** 2025
- **Nodal ministry –** Ministry of Culture.
- **Aim –** To elevate India's cultural footprint globally through purposeful partnerships, curated festivals, and strategic contributions.

Durga Puja in Kolkata

- It is 10-day celebration of Goddess Durga.
- **Traditional practices –** Worship of clay idols in elaborately decorated pandals.
  - Folk music, crafts, culinary arts, and performances add vibrancy.
- **Reach –** Though rooted in West Bengal, it is celebrated across India and globally by the Bengali diaspora.
- **UNESCO Recognition –** It was inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list during the Intergovernmental Committee's 16th virtual session.
- **Significance –** Highlights the festival's cultural richness and global importance.

UNESCO's Representative List

- **As per 2003 Convention –** It promotes protection of oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, festive events, and traditional knowledge passed across generations.
- **Objective –** To enhance visibility, safeguard traditions, and raise awareness of intangible heritage.
- **Current status –** It includes 492 elements showcasing diverse cultural practices worldwide.

Government Policies

Madurai Airport – International Status

- **Approved by** – Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister of India.
- **Location –** Madurai Airport, one of Tamil Nadu's oldest, situated in the historic Temple City.
- **Strategic role –** To serves as a key gateway to Southern Tamil Nadu.
- **Objectives**
  - To enhances regional and international connectivity.
  - To boost tourism and pilgrimage traffic.
  - To promote trade and economic development.
- **Significance –** It aligns with Madurai's cultural prominence and potential to attract global visitors and businesses.

Greenfield Connectivity to Jewar International Airport

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by PM approved the revised capital cost of Rs.3,630.77 crore for this project.

- **Project**
  - 31.42 km corridor connecting Jewar International Airport with *Delhi-Faridabad-Ballabhgarh-Sohna Spur of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.*
  - About 11 km will be elevated, forming a critical segment between DND–Ballabhgarh Bypass and Jewar Airport.
- **Connectivity benefits**
  - Direct, high-speed access from South Delhi, Faridabad, and Gurugram to Jewar Airport.
  - Intersects *Eastern Peripheral Expressway, Yamuna Expressway, and Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)* for multimodal transport.

Economy

RBI & G-Secs

RBI conducted Open Market Operations (OMO), purchasing Rs.50,000 crore worth of Government Securities (G-Secs).

- **Aim –** To inject liquidity into the banking system, offsetting tightness from advance tax outflows.
- **Impact –** It ensures banks have sufficient funds to lend, stabilizing financial markets.
- **Global context**
- **Indian Rupee declined to –** A record low of 92.36 against the US Dollar.
- **Prompted by –** Concerns over geopolitical tensions in West Asia and escalating crude oil prices, which rose to Rs.110 per barrel.
- **Impact –** As a result, high energy costs now threaten India's trade deficit, GDP growth, and inflation, given that India is a major oil importer.
- **Measure –** To counter this pressure, Intervention by the Reserve Bank of India has contributed to a slight stabilisation of the rupee.

Government Securities (G-Secs)

- Debt instruments issued by the government for the purpose of raising capital.
- Considered risk-free as they are backed by a sovereign guarantee.
- Utilised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an instrument of monetary policy.

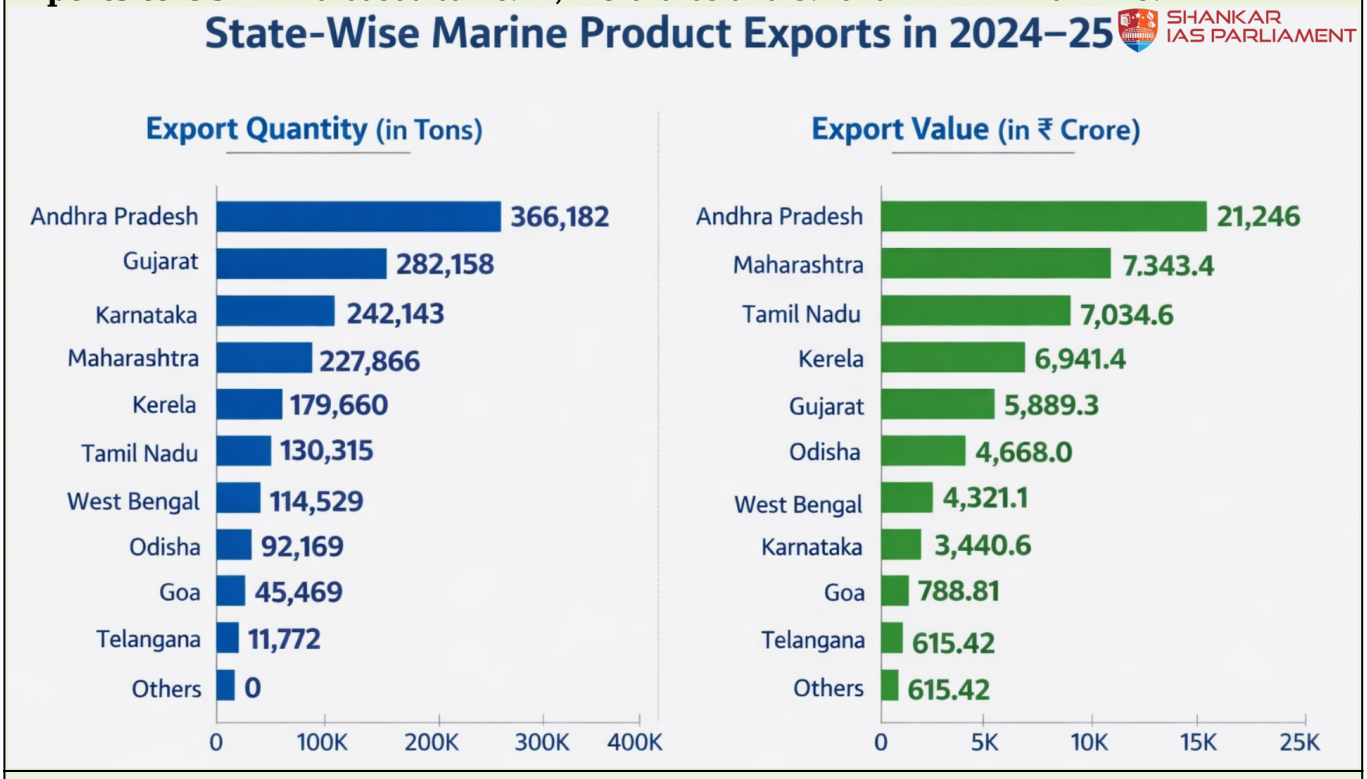
Open Market Operations (OMO)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducts the purchase and sale of government securities in the open market.
- Purchases of government securities increase liquidity, while sales reduce liquidity in the financial system.
- Currently, the RBI is purchasing government securities to alleviate liquidity stress.

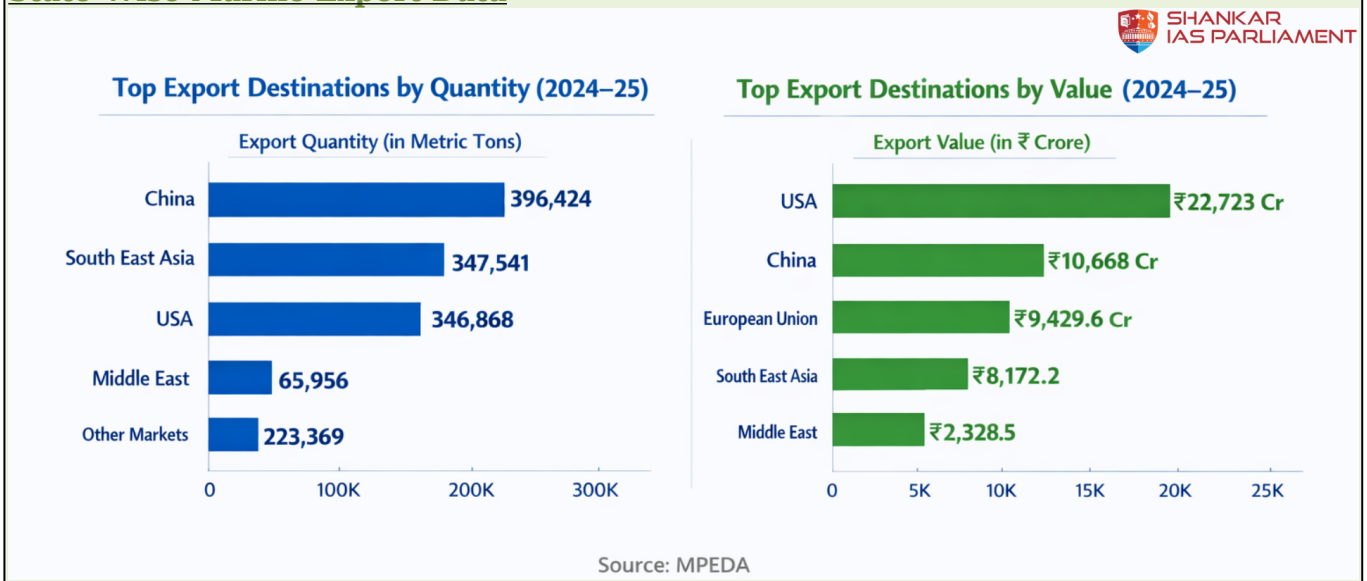
Agriculture

India’s seafood exports

- **Growth –**
  - **Value –** Rose by 42.7% (Rs.43,721 crores in 2020–21 → Rs.62,408 crores in 2024–25).
  - **Quantity –** Rose by 47.8% in (11.49 → 16.98 lakh MT).
- **Exports to USA –** Increased to Rs.22,723 crores and 3.46 lakh MT in 2024–25.



State-Wise Marine Export Data



Source: MPEDA

Environment

Lionesses

- **Title vs. reality –** Though lions are called “king of the jungle,” lionesses actually lead.
- **Female bonds –** Prides in sub-Saharan Africa and India are formed by related lionesses.
- **Hunters & Providers –** Lionesses hunt, give birth, and rear cubs together.
- **Division of labour –** Male lions focus on defence, while lionesses secure food.
- **Male dispersal –** At around four years, young males leave their pride.
- **Success factor –** New groups thrive only when strong lionesses join.



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