UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 12-02-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Kerala International Folk Festival

• **Theme of Performance –** *Ghanaian folk artists* presented *Akwaaba,* a traditional welcome song.
• **Significance –** Encourages cultural exchange and highlights *Ghana's rich artistic heritage.*
  - **Adinkra Symbols –** Visual motifs representing values, proverbs, and concepts.
  - **Kente Cloth –** Brightly woven silk and cotton textile symbolizing identity, wealth, and prestige.
  - **Other Crafts –** Pottery, wood carving, sculpture, and jewelry blending utility with artistry.
• **Music & Dance –**
  - **Drums –** Core to ceremonies, providing rhythm.
  - **Adowa Dance –** Graceful and expressive.
  - **Kpanlogo Dance –** Energetic group performance.
  - **Modern Fusion –** Azonto and Hiplife mix tradition with contemporary styles.
  - **Highlife Music** – Colonial-era genre combining American jazz with Akan melodies.

Wajid Ali Shah: A Cultural and Literary Legacy

• **Translated by –** Talat Fatima (daughter of original author Kaukub Quder SajjadAli Meerza).
• **Key Revelation –**
  - He was not exiled to Calcutta (Kolkata).
  - He went voluntarily to take a ship to London to petition the British Parliamentand Queen.
  - His departure was restricted, leading to his prolonged stay.
• **Historical Context –**
  - Last emperor of Awadh,
  - Dethroned by the British,
  - Lived his final three decades in Calcutta, and died in 1887 at age 65.
• **Cultural Legacy –**
  - Poet, writer, and composer.
  - Famous for literary love letters to his begums.
  - Secular outlook, with verses on Radha and Krishna.
  - Wrote in Urdu, Persian, Arabic, and Braj Bhasha.

Geography

Chabahar Port

• **Situated in –** Sistan-Baluchestan province, Iran, along the Gulf of Oman.
• **Feature –** Notable as Iran's only oceanic and deep-water port, offering direct access to the Indian Ocean.
• **India's Involvement**
• **Terminal Operations -** India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) has managed the Shahid Beheshti Terminal since 2018.
• **Investment -** India committed $120 million for development, completing payment before the expiry of the US sanctions waiver.
• **Agreement -** A 10-year MoU was signed in May 2024 to ensure continued cooperation.



Chabahar Port – Strategic Importance for India

• **Connectivity –** Enables trade routes to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan
• **Regional influence –** Serves as a counterbalance to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Pakistan's Gwadar Port
• **Economic corridor –** Pl ays a role in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)
• **Humanitarian aid –** Utilized for delivering aid shipments, such as wheat to Afghanistan

Social Issues

Ban on Social Media

Australia has introduced a ban preventing children under 16 from using social media.
• **India's Position –** No law yet banning under-16s from social media.
• **Reason for ban –**
- Shields youth from anxiety and body image issues.
- Limits predator risks.
- Protects children's data privacy.

• **Case Against Ban –**
- Easy to bypass with VPNs and dark web tools.
- ID checks risk mass surveillance.
- Marginalized groups lose vital online support.
- Verification tech fails 30–40% of the time.
- Poor children lose access to online education.

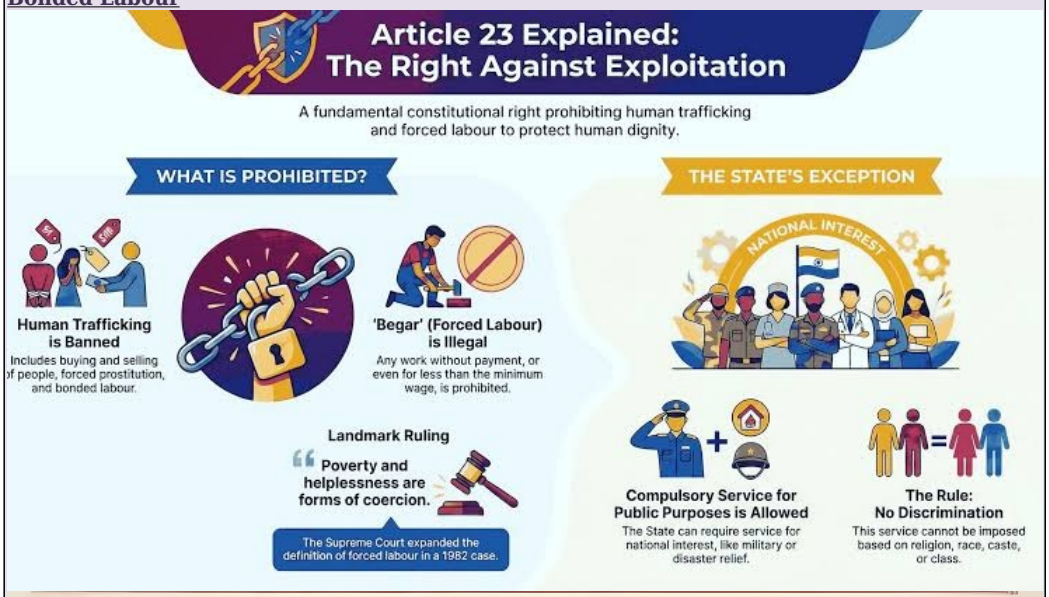
• **Better Approach –**
- Enforce "Safety by Design" with privacy defaults.
- Audit algorithms targeting minors.
- Teach digital literacy in schools.
- Strengthen parental controls.
- Create a co-regulation body with experts and government.

Thanya Nathan C - Kerala's 1st Visually Challenged Woman Judge

• **Achievement –** Topped the merit list for candidates with benchmark disabilities.
• **Precedent –** Follows the *2025 Supreme Court* ruling allowing visually impaired candidates in judicial service.
• **Significance –** Represents a milestone for *inclusivity in India's judiciary*.
- **Inclusive Justice –** Promotes equal opportunities and representation for persons with disabilities.

• **Legal Framework –** Supported by the *Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016,* which ensures equal employment opportunities.

Bonded Labour



Bonded Labourers Identified and Released

As per information received from the States/UTs

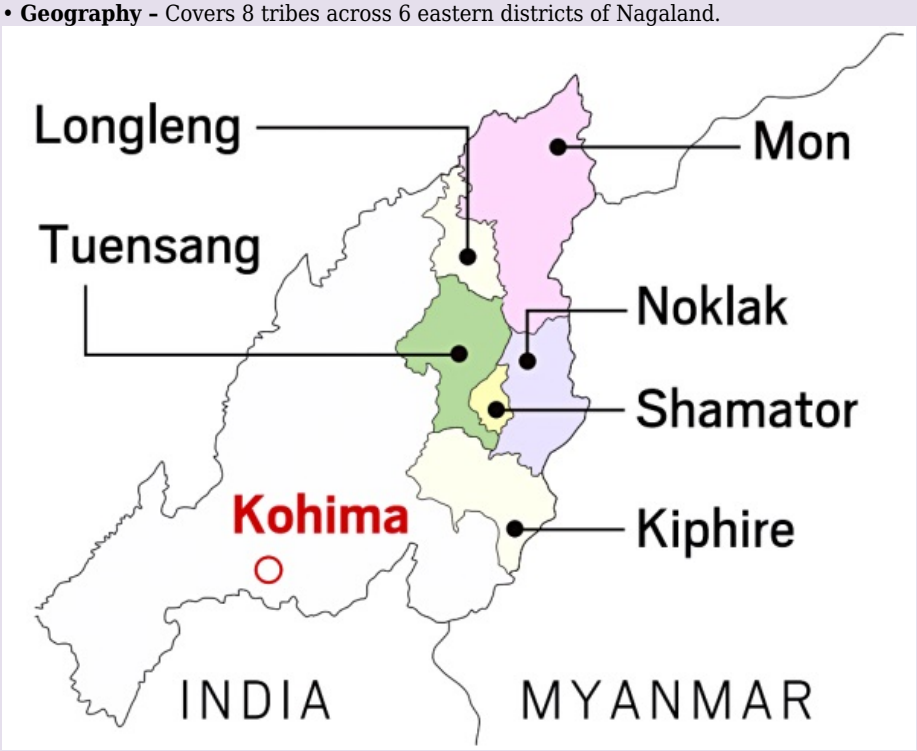


State / UT	No. of Bonded Labourers
Andhra Pradesh	38,141
Arunachal Pradesh	3,526
Assam	12
Bihar	17,886
Chhattisgarh	3,548
Gujarat	64
Haryana	594
Jharkhand	314
Karnataka	66,281
Kerala	823
Madhya Pradesh	13,319
Maharashtra	1,404
Odisha	51,441
Puducherry	09
Punjab	252
Rajasthan	7,872
Tamil Nadu	65,573
Uttar Pradesh	42,279
Uttarakhand	5
West Bengal	344
TOTAL:	**3,13,687**

Polity & Governance

Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) Agreement

• **Agreement Signatories –** Indian Centre, Nagaland Government, and Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO).
• **Function as –** A new administrative setup but remain within Nagaland.
• **Objective –** Establishment of FNTA to address eastern Nagaland's demands.
• **ENPO's Demand –** Initially sought a separate state since 2010 due to neglect; later accepted autonomy under FNTA.
• **ENPO's Stance –**
  - FNTA seen as the first step toward statehood.
  - Considered the beginning of an administrative journey.
  - Stresses unity among eight tribes for governance.
  - Accepted FNTA as it aligned with aspirations.
• **Geography –** Covers 8 tribes across 6 eastern districts of Nagaland.



UNION SECRETARIES' SCORECARD (Feb 2025)

- **File Disposal –** 20 marks, highest weight, focused on speed.
- **Output/Activities –** 15 marks for measurable work done.
- **Scheme Expenditure –** 15 marks tied to spending efficiency.
- **Project Completion (PMG) –** 10 marks for timely delivery.
- **Public Grievances/Litigation/Others** – 5-6 marks each for responsiveness.
- **Negative Marks –** Up to -12 for excessive foreign travel or delayed MSME payments.
- **Rationale –** Reflects PM Modi's push to cut bureaucratic delays.
- **Risk –** May prioritize speed over quality and raise fairness concerns across ministries.

Parameters used in assessment

PARAMETER	MAX MARKS
File disposal	20
Public grievance redressal	5
Cabinet/CCEA notes	5
Litigation	5
Output/Activities annexure A of the monthly DO	15
Expenditure on schemes and capital expenditure	15
Timely completion of PMG projects	10
Financial Advisor/IFD	6
Disposal of bills by PAO/CCA	4
Output/Activities in Annexure C of the monthly D.O.	10
Discretionary marks by Cabinet Secretary	5
Total	**100**
NEGATIVE MARKS	-12

International Relations and Issues

Japan's 1st Woman Leader

- **Leader –** *Sanae Takaichi,* Japan's first female Prime Minister.
- **Election outcome –** Ruling coalition (LDP + Japan Innovation Party) projected to secure a supermajority of over 350 seats; LDP alone may win 328.
- **Reason for snap election –** Called to leverage her high approval ratings.
- **Policy stance –** Strongly nationalistic, prioritizing defence and security.
- **Economic proposal –** Suggested suspending the 8% sales tax on food, raising funding concerns in financial markets.
- **Support base –** Enjoys significant backing from younger voters.

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