

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 12-03-2026

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Social Issues

Key Pillars of PM e-Vidya

- **Aim** - To integrate online, on-air, and offline channels to ensure universal access to inclusive and equitable digital education.
- **6 Pillars**
 - Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM),
 - SWAYAM Prabha,
 - Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA),
 - Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and Podcasts,
 - Special e-Content for CWSN, and
 - Online Coaching for Competitive Exams.

Polity & Governance

Localization of SDGs (LSDGs)

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj mapped 17 SDGs into 9 themes for grassroots implementation.
- It developed *Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)* to assess Gram Panchayats' performance across these themes.
- **PAI Framework** - It provides theme-wise and overall scores via dashboards and scorecards.
- **Grades Gram Panchayats into 5 categories**
 - Achiever (A+)
 - Front Runner (A: 75-89)
 - Performer (B: 60-74)
 - Aspirant (C: 40-59)
 - Beginner (D: 0-39)

Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyaan

- **Launched in** - 2024 by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
- **Aim** - To promote malnutrition-free villages.
- Top 1,000 Gram Panchayats selected based on Poshan Tracker data and criteria like AWC functionality, infrastructure, and coverage.
- **Incentive distribution**
 - 25% to Anganwadi staff
 - 25% for community mobilization
 - 50% for nutrition-focused activities (e.g., Poshan Vatikas)
- **Significance** - It aligns with themes driving impact
 - **Theme 2** - Healthy Panchayat - focuses on health and nutrition.
 - **Theme 6** - Self-Sufficient Infrastructure - covers connectivity, institutions, and utilities.
- **Outcome-oriented assessment** - It tracks improvements in malnutrition indicators, maternal health, AWC infrastructure, and growth monitoring.

Economy

EXPORT OF TEXTILES (FY 2024-25)

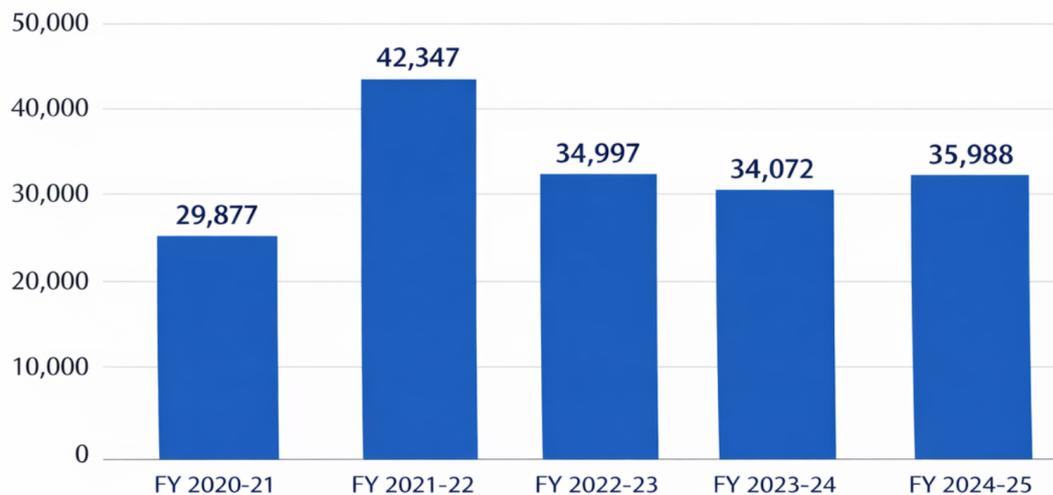
• **Readymade garments** - Remain the largest contributor, consistently above USD 14 billion.

• **Value in USD Million** - Readymade garments > Cotton textiles > Man-made textiles > Handicrafts > Carpets > Jute products > Silk products > Wool & Woolen textiles > Handloom Products.

Total Textile & Readymade garments (Value in USD Million)



Total Textile & Readymade Garments Exports (USD Million)



Agriculture

Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026

- **Issued by** - Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- **Objective** - To ensure that domestic fertilizer production remains unaffected, fertilizer plants have been categorized under '**Priority Sector-2**' for natural gas supply.
- **Under this mandate** -
 - **Gas allocation** - Fertilizer plants will receive at least 70% of their average natural gas consumption (based on the last six months).
 - **Safety measure** - Safeguard fertilizer production against global LNG supply disruptions, especially due to the Middle East conflict.
 - **Priority Status** - To ensure timely fertilizer availability for farmers.
 - **Significance** - It supports smooth continuation of agricultural activities despite the global gas crisis.

Science

Import of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)

FY2023-24 & FY2024-25

- **High Dependence on China** - Imports of several APIs from China accounted for 70% or more of India's total API imports (Annexure-I lists details).
- **100% dependence on China**
 - Rifa Or Rifa S Sodium (RIFAINT)
 - Methyl Dopa (L-Alpha Methyl-3, 4-Dihydroxyphenyla)
 - Cystanune HCL
 - Sulphadimidine
 - Sulphamide

Quasi-2D Tellurium Nanosheets

- These nanosheets combine magnetism and catalysis in a single material.
- **Developed by** - INST, Mohali (DST).
- **Advantages** - To enable energy-efficient hydrogen production by lowering voltage and speeding up reactions.
 - To reduce electricity, use for green hydrogen electrolyzers.
- **Methodology** - Uses liquid-phase exfoliation, lattice strain engineering, and spin-sensitive probes to manipulate surface spins.
- **Applications**
 - Used to boost hydrogen evolution reaction (HER).
 - To link spintronics, multiferroic nanoelectronics, and electrocatalysis.
 - Potential usage for low-power memory, smart sensors, and wearable energy tech.
- **Significance** - It offers a single-material solution for sustainable hydrogen production and flexible clean-energy devices.

Connectivity Expansion of Digital Village Project

- **Funded by** - Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), formerly USOF.
- **Broadband** - BharatNet provides broadband to 2,17,805 Gram Panchayats (GPs), including 10,886 in Tamil Nadu.
- **Amended BharatNet Program (ABP)** - It upgrades Phase-I & II networks and extends connectivity to non-GP villages on demand.
- **Mobile Infrastructure**
- 24,263 mobile towers commissioned in remote/rural areas.
- Submarine optical fibre cables laid
 - Chennai-Andaman & Nicobar (2312 km)
 - Kochi-Lakshadweep (1869 km)
 - 225 km OFC network in Lakshadweep enables FTTH, 4G/5G, and high-speed data services.

Security

Trials of Air Droppable Container (ADC-150)

- It is indigenously designed and developed apparatus.
- **Conducted by** - DRDO and Indian Navy.
- **Took place from** - P8I aircraft off Goa between 21 Feb - 01 Mar 2026 under extreme release conditions.
- **Purpose**
 - To deliver 150 kg payload.
- It enhances naval operational logistics by enabling quick supply of critical stores, equipment, or medical aid to ships deployed far from the coast.