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)

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 ensures 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)
- Cysteanune 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 electrolysers.
• **Methodology –** Uses liquid-phase exfoliation, lattice strain engineering, and spin-sensitive probes to manipulate surface spins.
• **Applications**
  - Used to boosts 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.

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering