UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 13-02-2026

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Geography

Vidarbha - India's Mineral Hub & Steel Ambitions

• **Vidarbha Concentration –** 75% of Maharashtra's mineral resources are located in the Vidarbha region.
• **High-Grade Iron Ore –** Gadchiroli hosts *65-grade iron ore,* among the world's finest quality.
• **Other Iron Ore Deposits –** Jamshedpur area contains *55-grade iron ore.*
• **Coal Resources –** Significant coal deposits support energy needs, with *Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL)* headquartered in the region

Social Issues

India's Mental Health Burden

• **High Prevalence –** Accounts for nearly *one-third of global suicides*, alongside widespread depression and addiction.
• **Youth Impact –** Suicide is the leading cause of death among *15–29-year-olds.*
• **Economic Cost –** WHO estimates a $1.03 trillion loss between 2012–2030 due to mental health issues.
• **Treatment Gap –** *70–92% of cases remain untreated* because of stigma and shortage of professionals.
• **Workforce Shortage –** Only *0.75 psychiatrists per lakh people*, far below WHO's recommended 3 per lakh.
• **Emerging Challenge –** Rising digital addiction highlighted in the Economic Survey.

Polity & Governance

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) SUMVAAD

• India's Flagship Conclave for the National Incubation Ecosystem.
• **Organised by –** Atal Innovation Mission, under *NITI Aayog.*
• **Objectives –** To align policy intent, institutional capacity, and ecosystem partnerships towards building a high-quality, outcomes-driven incubation ecosystem for India.
• **Highlights –**
  - It marked the celebration of over 100 AIM-supported incubators,
  - Launch of the Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge 2026,
  - Announcement of the National Incubator Assessment Framework Indicators, and
  - National Incubation Awards - recognising excellence and impact across India's incubation ecosystem.
• **Significance –** It deepens the entire innovation ecosystem in furtherance of the PM's vision of Viksit Bharat.

Economy

Promotion of Jute Industry

• Jute is a *biodegradable and sustainable product.*
• **Schemes –** Market Development & Promotion Scheme and the Jute Diversification Scheme, implemented by National Jute Development Program (NJDP).
• **Legal basis –**
  - *Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987*,
    ■ It ensures a minimum percentage of food grains and sugar is packaged in jute material.
  - **MSP –** Incentivize jute farmers by the Minimum Support Price for jute.
• **Key challenges –**
  - Obsolete machinery and technology,
  - Competition with synthetic fibres,
  - Average quality & fluctuation in price of raw jute.

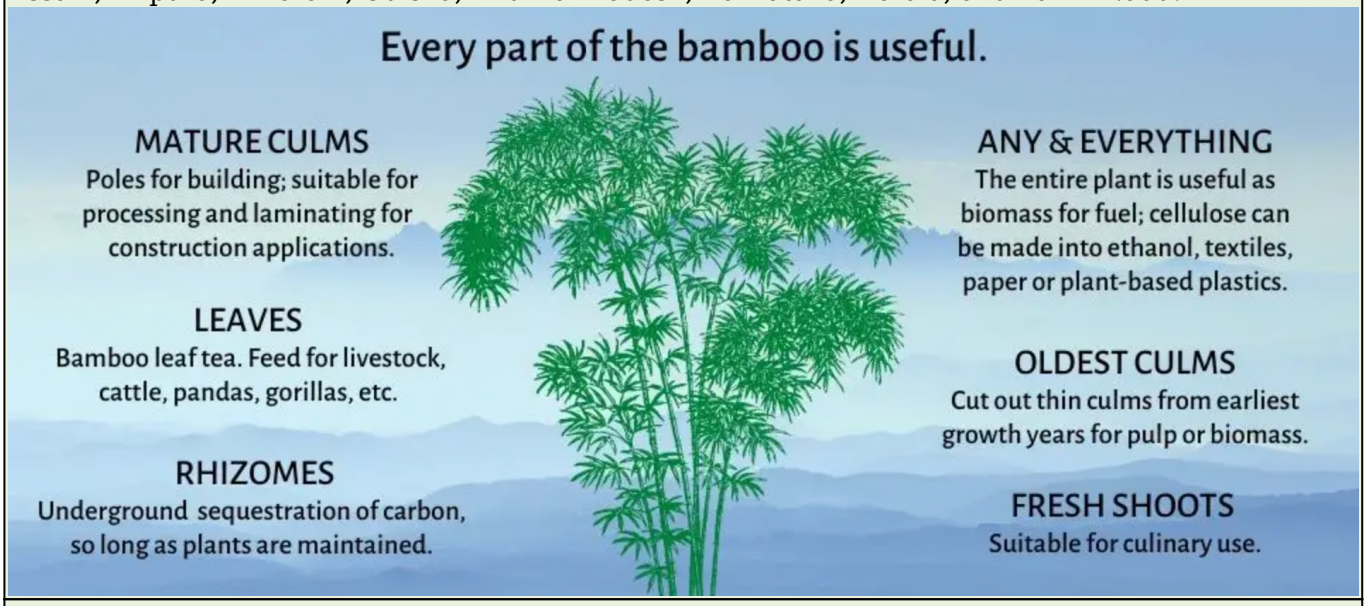
PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks

• **Location –** Tamil Nadu (Virudhnagar), Telangana (Warangal), Gujarat (Navasari), Karnataka (Kalaburagi), Madhya Pradesh (Dhar), Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow) and Maharashtra (Amravati).
• **Objective –** To generate employment of 3 lakhs (1 lakh direct and 2 lakh in-direct employment) with an estimated investment of Rs 10,000/-cr per park.

Agriculture

Rediscovering the Virtues of Bamboo

• Bamboo is a fast-growing, versatile plant promoted under the National Bamboo Mission for ecological, economic, and nutritional benefits.
• **Traditional uses –** Food, construction, and household items;
• **Modern applications –** Sustainable plastic alternatives and ethanol production to clothing, furniture, and other products.
• **Climate & geography –** It thrives in tropical, humid regions and is widely grown in states like Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.



National Bamboo Mission 2025

• Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)
• **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
• **Objectives –** To expand bamboo cultivation, strengthen industry linkages, and reduce import dependence.
• **Cultivation focus –** Promotes bamboo plantations on non-forest lands such as *farms, homesteads, community lands, and canal borders.*
• **Exports –** Bamboo products like textiles, jewellery, and mirrors are exported to countries including the *US, Denmark, and Nigeria*.
• **Global Rank –** India is among the top 3 bamboo exporters worldwide, alongside China and Vietnam, generating millions in revenue.

Environment

Birth of New 5 cubs

• *Namibian cheetah Aasha* gave birth to five cubs at *Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.*
• **Populace –** It raises India's cheetah population to 35 (24 Indian-born cubs + 11 translocated adults).
• **Significance –** It mark a major success for Project Cheetah, showing successful adaptation and breeding.

Peregrine Falcon (Falco Peregrinus)



Peregrine falcons are **the world's fastest animal** — they can dive-bomb prey at **320 kms an hour.** On coasts, deserts and peaks worldwide, they became endangered in the 1970s — pesticides, particularly **DDT**, were **poisoning their diet and eggs.** Peregrines crashed by 90%. **The US banned DDT** while scientists started **captive breeding** — chicks hatched in labs were protected until they could fly. Today, the falcon enjoys its Latin name **'peregrin' — 'traveller' — happily roaming the world**

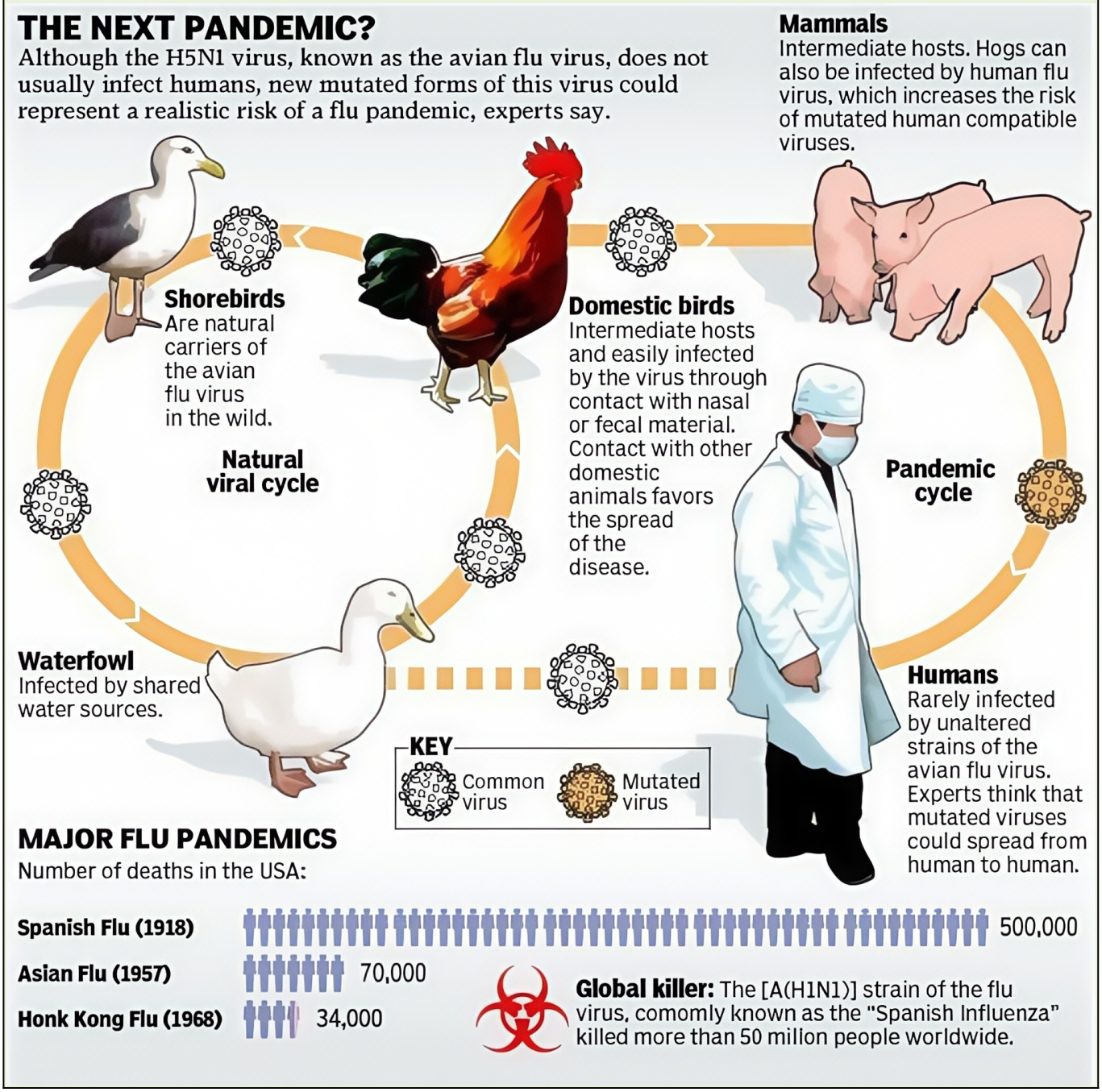
Environment

Avian Flu

A bird flu (H5N1 virus) outbreak in Tamil Nadu has raised concerns in Andhra Pradesh, particularly due to the movement of migratory birds.

• **Reason –** Over 10 lakh migratory birds visit Pulicat Lake and other wetlands in Andhra Pradesh annually.

• Species like crows, egrets, pelicans, and herons move across states, potentially spreading the virus.



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