

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 14-02-2026

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Social Issues

PRIYA Trial - Pune Rural Intervention in Young Adolescents (2012-2025)

Follow-up to Pune Maternal Nutrition Study (PMNS, 1993).

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- PMNS Finding** - Low vitamin B12 and high folate in mothers linked to higher risk of "diabesity" (insulin resistance, obesity) in children.
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- Hypothesis** - Boosting B12 intake during adolescence may lower diabesity risk in the next generation.
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- Intervention** - Adolescents received B12 and multi-micronutrient supplements.
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- Key Result** - Supplementation improved neonatal ponderal index (weight-to-height ratio) and influenced gene expression in cord blood cells.
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- Mechanism:** Higher B12 levels correlated with increased activity of genes encoding methylases—enzymes that regulate gene expression.
 - B12 acts as a "regulator of regulators."
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- Concept** - Supports the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) theory, where intrauterine environment shapes long-term health via epigenetics.
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- Recommendation** - National health policy should include physiological doses of B12 along with iron and folic acid for adolescents and women of reproductive age.

Polity & Governance

Deputy Chief Minister

Sunetra Pawar, recently took oath as the new Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

• **Constitutional status** - Not a constitutional post; not mentioned in the Indian Constitution.

• **Appointment & Removal** -

- Appointed by the Governor on the Chief Minister's advice.

- Tenure depends entirely on the Chief Minister's discretion.

• **Rank & Powers** -

- Holds Cabinet Minister rank with equivalent pay and perks.

- Considered second in command in the State Council of Ministers.

- Influence depends on assigned portfolios; major financial decisions need CM's approval.

• **Purpose** -

- Used to ensure political stability, especially in coalition governments.

- Facilitates power-sharing and accommodates diverse political interests.

Prevalence (as of Jan 31, 2026):

- 16 states and 1 union territory have Deputy Chief Ministers.

- Andhra Pradesh has the most (5).

Economy

CHAKRA' Centre of Excellence (CoE)

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Launched by - SBI.

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Objective - To finance sunrise sectors like renewable energy, electric mobility, and green hydrogen, crucial for India's economic development.

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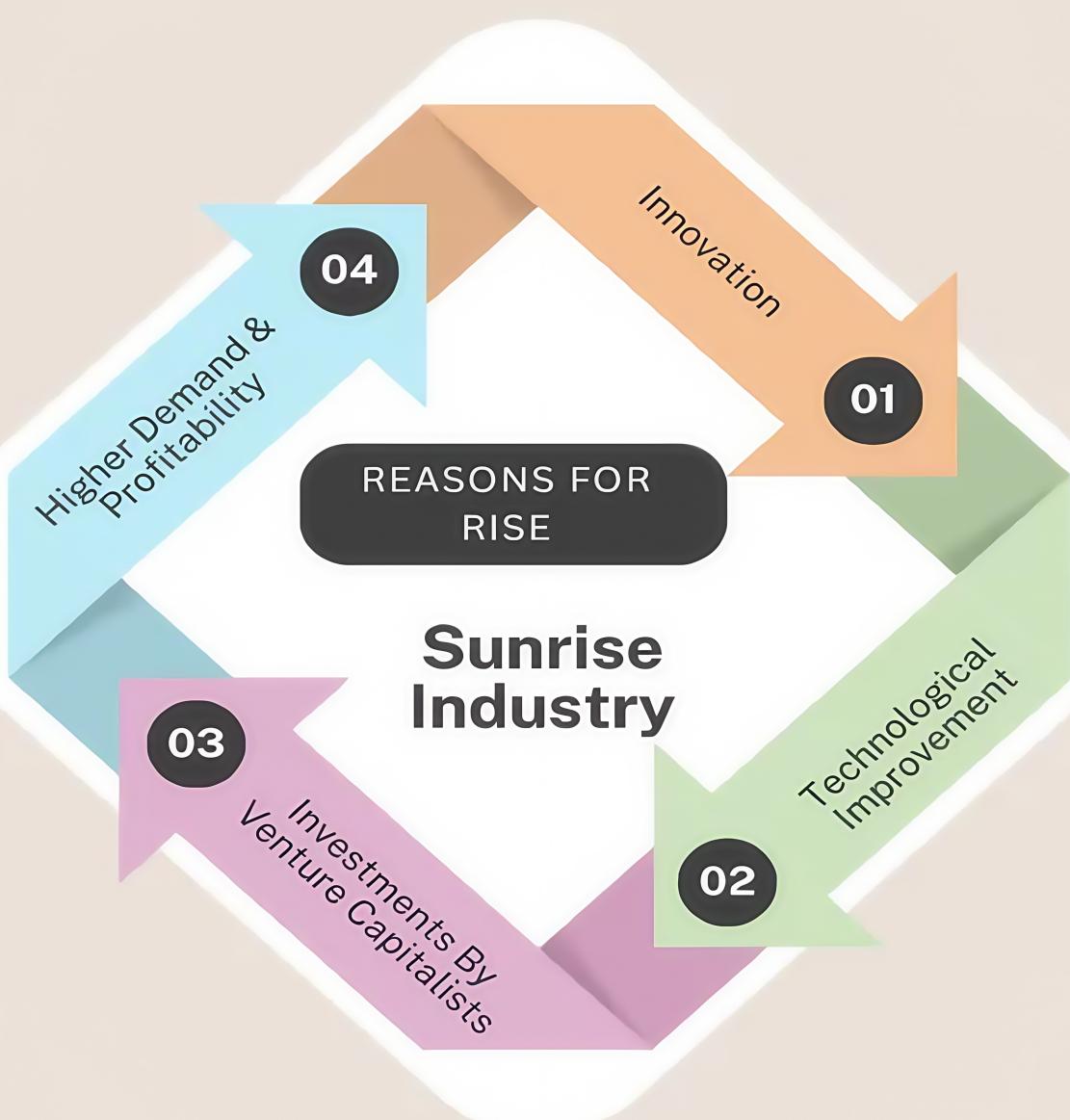
Coverage - Renewable energy, advanced cell chemistry & battery storage, electric mobility, green hydrogen, semiconductors, decarbonization, smart infrastructure, and data centres.

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Investment Potential - Projected capital investment of over ₹100 lakh crore by 2030.

Sunrise Industries

- These are new sectors with strong growth and investment potential.
- **Funding** - They often attract start-ups and venture capital.
- **Lifecycle** - Some eventually mature and shift into sunset industries.
- **Impact** - Their rapid rise can challenge or replace existing sunset sectors.
- **Contribution** - They drive economic growth and generate new jobs.



Kerala for All' conclave

- **Organized by** - Kerala Tourism and The Hindu.
- **Core Principle** - Inclusive tourism enhances quality of life and is a shared responsibility.
- **Barriers identified** - Physical, social, informational, and attitudinal challenges.
- **Key Initiatives** -

- Drafting India's first design policy for accessibility

- Promoting barrier-free infrastructure (ramps, lifts, accessible toilets)

- Training personnel in inclusive practices

- Applying universal design principles

- **Significance** - It emphasizes inclusive and accessible tourism, drafting a design policy, and highlighting its successful *Responsible Tourism Mission*.

Responsible Tourism Mission

- **Launched in** - 2007, evolved from community engagement to village tourism (e.g., Kumarakom).
- **Impact** - Involves 1.9 lakh families and over 26,000 tourism units, with 18,000+ women-led enterprises.
- **Proposal** - Grant tourism industry status to enable lower power tariffs and access to low-interest loans.
- **Accessibility challenges** - Lack of empathy, poor information flow, limited training for architects, and weak enforcement of standards.
- **Key insight** - Attitudinal barriers are more critical than infrastructural ones.

Environment

Tigers in Pench National Park

Pench National Park in central India is a tiger conservation success story, with rising tiger numbers.

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- Location** - It lies across Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh in central India.
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- Tiger Population** - Numbers are increasing, with the wider Pench landscape supporting over 100 tigers.
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- Success Factors** - Strong prey base (chital, sambar, gaur, wild boar) and well-protected habitats.
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- Biodiversity** - Home to leopards, dholes, sloth bears, and more than 300 bird species.
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- Area** - Covers 758 sq. km, including 257 sq. km in Maharashtra.
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- Tourism** - Wildlife tourism is growing at about 15% annually, boosted by celebrity visits.
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- Safari Route** - The Sillari Gate is emerging as a popular entry point due to frequent wildlife sightings.
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- Cultural Significance** - The landscape inspired Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book.

Government Policies and Interventions

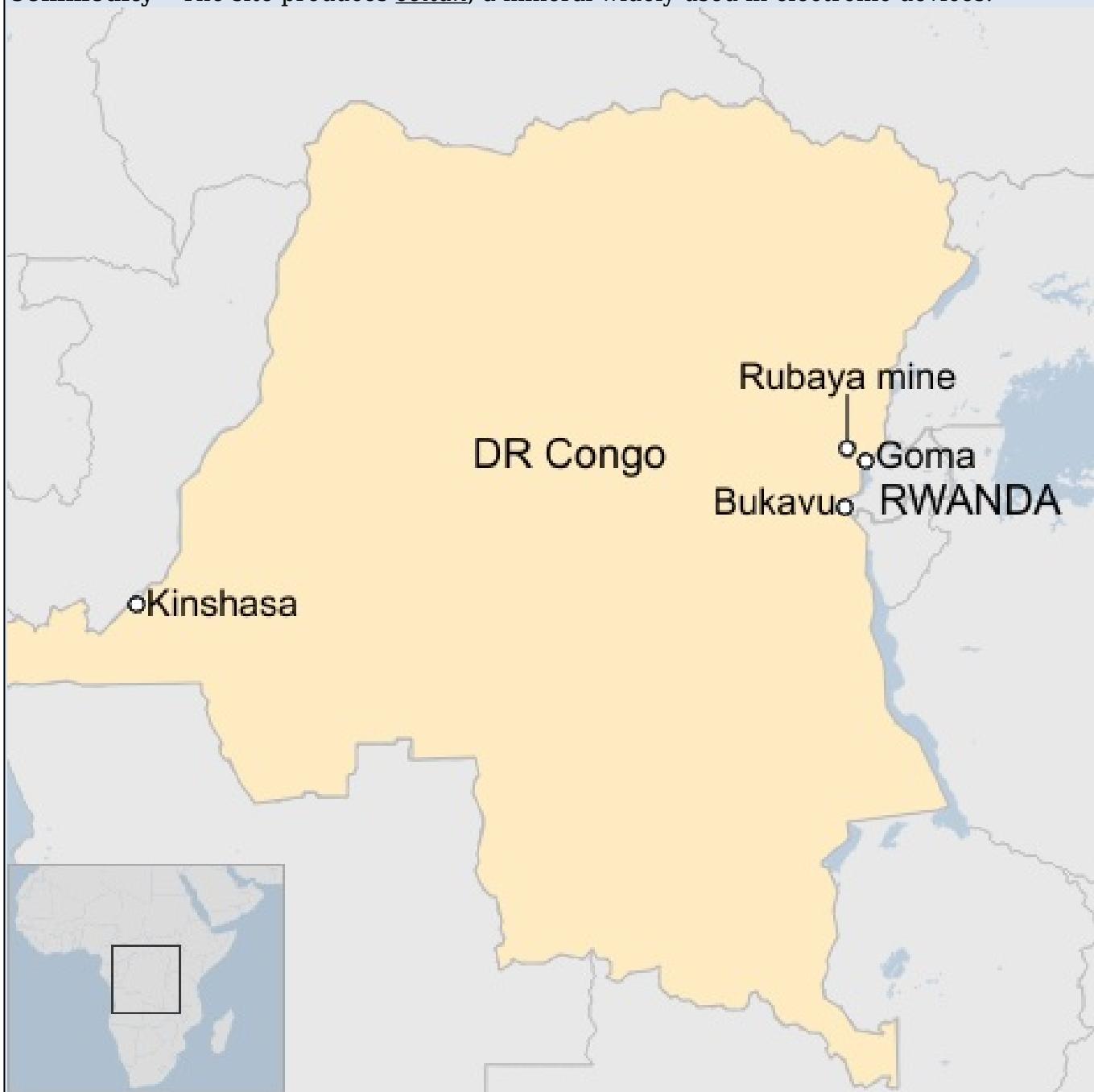
North Eastern Region Agri-Commodity e-Connect (NERACE) App

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- It is fully operational and facilitates market linkages between farmers/Farmer Producer Organisations/ Self Help Groups/Cooperatives of the North Eastern Region (NER) and buyers across the country.
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- Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Development of North-East Region.
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- Aim** - To strengthen digital market access and improve market preparedness of farmers in Sikkim.

Places in News

Mine Collapse in Congo

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- **Event** - A landslide caused a mine collapse at the Rubaya mines in eastern Congo.
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- **Casualties** - At least 200 people lost their lives in the disaster.
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- **Cause** - The collapse was triggered by heavy rainfall.
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- **Control** - The mines are under the control of M23 rebel forces.
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- **Commodity** - The site produces coltan, a mineral widely used in electronic devices.



Columbite-tantalite

- It is commonly called coltan, is a dull metallic mineral found in large amounts in eastern Congo.
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- Location** - It is primarily found in *Central Africa*.
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- Refinement** - When processed, coltan becomes metallic tantalum, a *heat-resistant powder* capable of storing high electrical charge.
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- Extraction** - Coltan is processed to extract *tantalum, niobium, tin, and wolfram*.
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- Use** - These properties make tantalum essential for capacitors, which regulate current flow in miniature circuit boards.
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- Applications** - Tantalum capacitors are widely used in *cell phones, laptops, pagers, and many other electronic devices*.

