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).

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

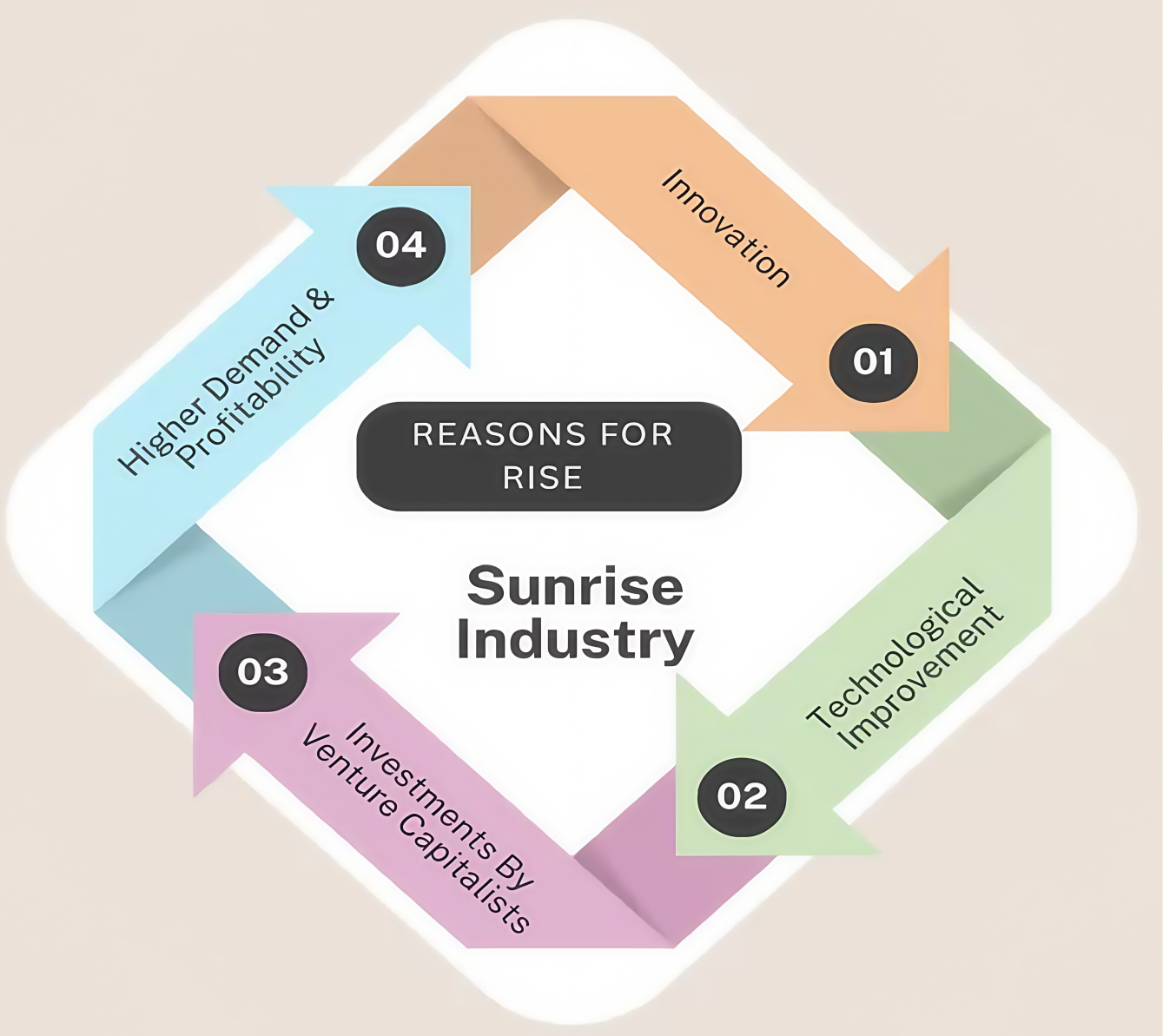
Economy

CHAKRA' Centre of Excellence (CoE)

- **Launched by –** SBI.
- **Objective –** To finance sunrise sectors like renewable energy, electric mobility, and green hydrogen, crucial for India's economic development.
- **Coverage –**Renewable energy, advanced cell chemistry & battery storage, electric mobility, green hydrogen, semiconductors, decarbonization, smart infrastructure, and data centres.
- **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.

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

Government Policies and Interventions

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

- 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.
- **Nodal ministry –** Ministry of Development of North-East Region.
- **Aim –** To strengthen digital market access and improve market preparedness of farmers in Sikkim.

Places in News

Mine Collapse in Congo

- **Event –** A landslide caused a mine collapse at the *Rubaya mines in eastern Congo.*
- **Casualties –** At least 200 people lost their lives in the disaster.
- **Cause –** The collapse was triggered by *heavy rainfall.*
- **Control –** The mines are under the control of *M23 rebel forces.*
- **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.
- **Location –** It is primarily found in *Central Africa.*
- **Refinement –** When processed, coltan becomes metallic tantalum, a *heat-resistant powder* capable of storing high electrical charge.
- **Extraction –** Coltan is processed to extract *tantalum, niobium, tin, and wolfram.*
- **Use –** These properties make tantalum essential for capacitors, which regulate current flow in miniature circuit boards.
- **Applications –** Tantalum capacitors are widely used in *cell phones, laptops, pagers, and many other electronic devices.*

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