

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.

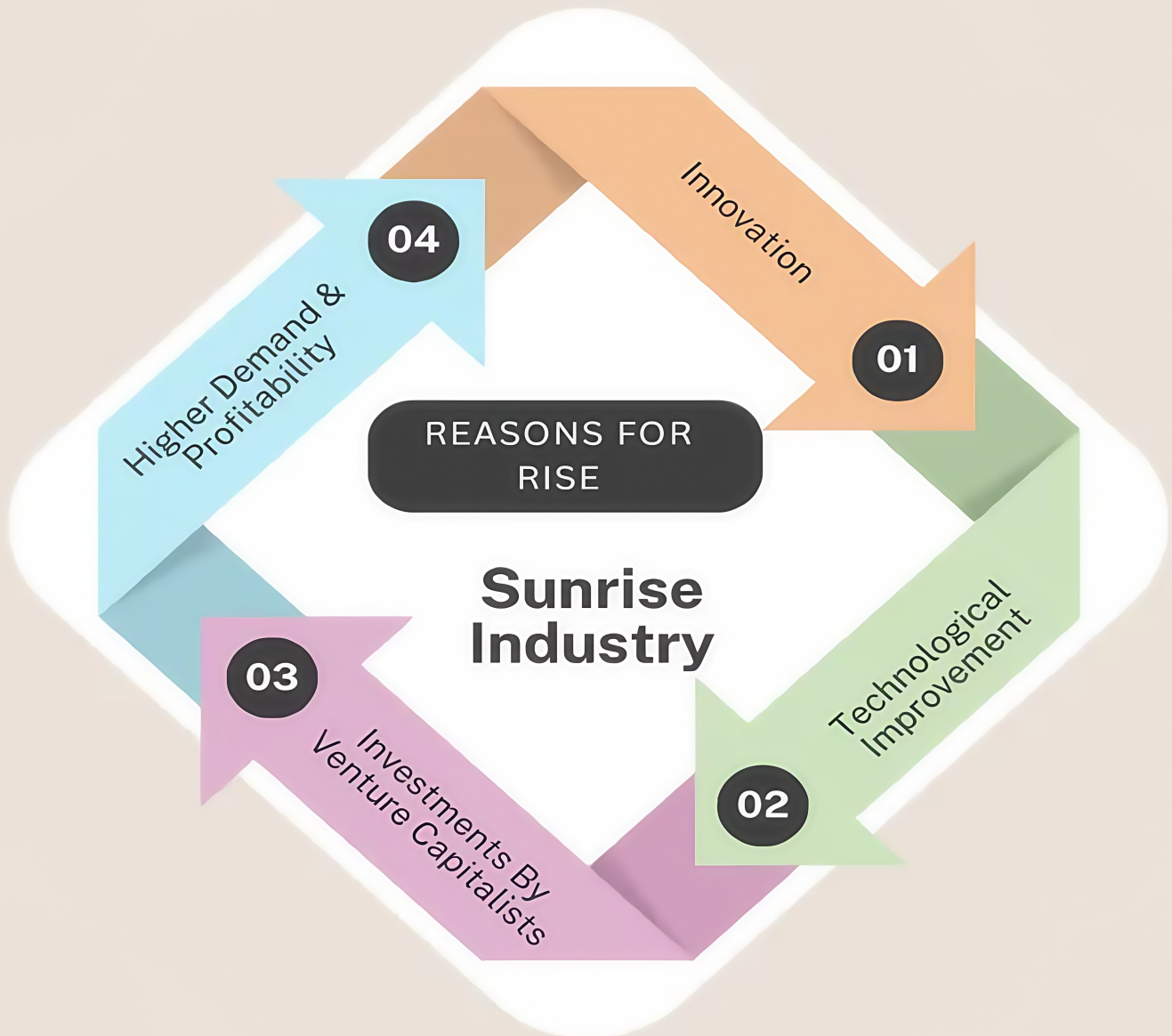
- **Objective** - To finance sunrise sectors like renewable energy, electric mobility, and green hydrogen, crucial for India's economic development.

- **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

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- **Organized by** - Kerala Tourism and The Hindu.
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- **Core Principle** - Inclusive tourism enhances quality of life and is a shared responsibility.
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- **Barriers identified** - Physical, social, informational, and attitudinal challenges.
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- **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
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- **Significance** - It emphasizes inclusive and accessible tourism, drafting a design policy, and highlighting its successful *Responsible Tourism Mission*.

Responsible Tourism Mission

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

- **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

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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.