UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 16-04-2026

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Geography

Tehri Lake: Uttarakhand's Hub for Seaplane Connectivity

Tehri Lake recently hosted successful trial landings of a 19-seater seaplane, ushering in a new era of **regional connectivity** and reducing travel time between Dehradun and the Himalayas.

• **Geographical Profile -** Located in the Tehri Garhwal district at 1,700 meters altitude, this **42-square-kilometer** emerald-green reservoir is one of Asia's largest man-made lakes, formed by the impoundment of the Bhagirathi River.

• **Hydrological Sources -** The reservoir is primarily fed by the confluence of the **Bhagirathi and Bhilangna** rivers, collecting glacial meltwater and monsoon runoff to maintain deep-water stability year-round.

• **Power and Irrigation -** The lake serves the Tehri Dam, generating **2,400 MW** of electricity while providing critical irrigation for 270,000 hectares and drinking water to Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

• **Tourism and Economy -** As a centerpiece for eco-tourism, the lake supports jet skiing and paragliding, transforming a hydroelectric project into a premier destination for **adventure sports** and sustainable development.

Polity & Governance

Department of Telecommunications -SEBI Security Pact

Recently DoT & SEBI have signed an MoU to combat securities market fraud and investment scams through integrated intelligence.

• **Data-Sharing -** DoT will provide Financial Fraud Risk Indicators (FRI) and the Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) to help SEBI-regulated entities identify suspicious or inactive accounts.

• **Digital Intelligence Platform -** Information exchange will be facilitated via DoT's **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)**, connecting over 1,400 stakeholders for real-time, actionable data sharing.

• **Reciprocal Enforcement -** SEBI will report telecom resources linked to money mule activities, allowing DoT to take swift action against fraudulent mobile connections.

• **Proactive Prevention -** The collaboration shifts from reactive enforcement to proactive prevention, using the **Sanchar Saathi** ecosystem to flag threats before financial losses occur.

• **Strengthening Trust -** This convergence aims to protect investors and bolster the integrity of India's rapidly expanding digital and financial landscape.

Cinematograph Act 1952

The Act governs film certification and exhibition in India, empowering the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** to ensure content adheres to public order, decency, and morality.

• **Anti-Piracy Measures -** Triggered by the *Jana Nayagan* leak, the **2023 Amendments** criminalize unauthorized recording and exhibition. Crucially, even the *attempt* to record a film in a theater is now a punishable offense.

• **Enhanced Age Classification -** Moving beyond the basic "UA" rating, the Act now provides granular parental guidance through three new sub-categories: **UA 7+, UA 13+, and UA 16+**, aligning with global standards.

• **Stringent Penalties -** Infringers face 3 months to 3 years of imprisonment and fines starting at Rs3 lakh, which can escalate to **5% of the film's gross production cost**.

• **Key Operational Changes -** Film certificates now hold **perpetual validity**, replacing the old 10-year limit. Additionally, the Central Government's power to overrule CBFC decisions has been removed to ensure board independence.

• **Industry Protection -** By linking fines to production budgets, the Act creates a massive financial deterrent, safeguarding the film industry's revenue while respecting **Copyright Act** exemptions for private study and critique.

Launch of MyLIC and Super Sales Saathi

• Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has introduced two mobile applications—**MyLIC** and **Super Sales Saathi**—to modernize customer engagement and empower its vast field force through integrated digital platforms.

• **Customer Empowerment -** A unified dashboard for policyholders to manage all insurance needs. It supports **e-KYC**, real-time benefit tracking, and seamless online policy purchases, reducing the need for physical branch visits.

• **Super Sales Saathi: -** Designed specifically for intermediaries, this app offers AI-based customer nudges, digital sales kits, and real-time performance tracking to enhance outreach and service efficiency.

• **Paperless Operations -** The apps facilitate instant premium payments, policy loans, and the revival of lapsed policies, transitioning LIC toward a completely **paperless and real-time** service model.

• **Aims to** - Improve the "Ease of Doing Business" in the insurance sector while boosting **insurance penetration** across India's diverse demographic landscape.

• **Impact on Fintech -** Aligned with the **Digital India** mission, these tools foster financial inclusion by streamlining complex insurance processes into user-friendly mobile interfaces for millions of users.

Economy

Global GDP Shift

The IMF's 2025 estimates place India as the **sixth-largest** global economy, a one-spot slip from 2024.

• **Indias Current GDP -** Stands at $3.92 trillion.
• **Leading Economies - US** ($30.8T) and **China** ($19.6T) lead the rankings, followed by Germany and Japan. The **UK** ($4T) has moved ahead of India.
• **Ranking dip** - Is caused due to **depreciation of the Rupee** against the US Dollar.
• Currency fluctuations often mask domestic economic strength in dollar-denominated global comparisons.
• **Future Projections** - India is expected to reclaim the 4th position by **2027** ($4.58T).
• **Aims to** - Become the **third-largest** economy by **2031** ($6.79T), surpassing Japan.
• **Consistent Growth -** India maintains its status as the world's **fastest-growing major economy**, showing resilient real GDP growth despite international exchange rate pressures.
• **Policy Focus -** The report emphasizes the need for **currency stability** and macroeconomic resilience to support India's long-term global positioning and ambitious economic milestones.

Agriculture

India's Roadmap to Cocoa Self-Sufficiency by 2040

India aims to achieve 100% self-reliance in cocoa production by 2040, transitioning from a major importer ($866 million annually) to a global export hub under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

• **Phase I: Foundation (2026–2028) -** Launch of the **National Mission on Cocoa** to establish a Centre of Excellence and 250 hectares of polyclonal seed gardens for quality planting material.
• **Phase II: Capacity Building (2028–2030) -** Focus on training one lakh farmers, distributing 25 million seedlings, and implementing **digital traceability systems** for value chain transparency.
• **Phase III: Expansion (2030–2035) -** Scaling cultivation to **one lakh hectares** and enhancing processing infrastructure to meet 50% of domestic demand locally.
• **Phase IV: Global Leadership (2035–2040) -** Achieving full self-sufficiency and high-tech processing capabilities to cater to a projected domestic demand of 4.67 lakh tonnes.
• **Strategic Impact -** The roadmap ensures resilient ecosystems, improved farmer incomes, and a shift from meeting 20% to 100% of internal demand.

Security

IOS SAGAR Arrival

Recently, Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR docked at Phuket, Thailand, on April 2026, following a six-day transit from Malé.

• **MAHASAGAR Mission -** The deployment promotes "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions," featuring a multinational crew from 16 friendly foreign countries.

• **Naval Diplomacy -** The ship will engage in professional interactions with the Royal Thai Navy to enhance bilateral defense cooperation and maritime understanding.

• **Cultural Exchange -** The visit coincides with the Songkran festival, fostering camaraderie through social and cultural events among the participating international navies.

• **Strategic Vision -** Flagged off from Mumbai, this mission embodies "One Ocean, One Mission," strengthening India's leadership role as the current Chair of IONS.

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Facts

Songkran Festival

It is the traditional **Thai New Year,** celebrated annually from April 13 to 15. While it is deeply rooted in ancient Buddhist traditions, it is globally famous today for being the world's largest water fight.

One Ocean, One Mission

Embodies India's maritime vision: fostering regional unity and security. It promotes collective action among multinational navies to ensure a stable, prosperous, and interconnected Indian Ocean ecosystem.

Science

• **Bio-Upcycling: Converting Plastic Waste into Levodopa**

Researchers at the University of Edinburgh have successfully engineered **genetically modified *E. coli*** to transform PET plastic waste into **Levodopa**, the primary drug for Parkinson's disease.

• **Conversion Process -** The bacteria break down polyethylene terephthalate (PET), utilizing the carbon within the plastic's molecular structure as a chemical feedstock to synthesize the medication.

• **Medical Significance -** Levodopa is vital for managing tremors and stiffness in over 10 million Parkinson's patients globally. This method offers a scalable solution for rising global demand.

• **Environmental Edge -** Unlike traditional fossil-fuel-based manufacturing, this biotechnological approach reduces carbon emissions and promotes a **circular economy** by repurposing discarded bottles.

• **Proven Versatility -** This study builds on previous success where PET was converted into **paracetamol**, proving that plastic can serve as a sustainable resource for various essential drugs.

• **Future Hurdles -** Transitioning from lab to market requires significant investment, streamlined plastic collection systems, and rigorous regulatory approvals to ensure large-scale pharmaceutical safety.

Supermassive Black Hole Activation

Scientists observed a supermassive black hole "wake up" after **100 million years** of dormancy. This reactivation triggered a massive energy burst, resembling a space-based volcanic eruption.

• **Feeding Mechanism -** A black hole "wakes" when nearby matter—gas, dust, or stars—enters its gravitational pull. This transition from inactivity to feeding releases intense radiation and high-energy emissions.

• **Volcanic Comparison -** Much like a volcano, the black hole ejected powerful jets of particles and radiation. These outbursts can surpass the combined energy output of every star in their host galaxy.

• **Galactic Evolution -** These eruptions redistribute gas and energy, directly influencing **star formation**. This interaction is critical for understanding how galaxies evolve over millions of years.

• **Location:** Supermassive black holes reside in most galactic centers.

• **AGN:** Active Galactic Nuclei emit vast energy during feeding phases.

• **Scientific Impact -** The discovery highlights the **cyclical nature** of black holes. It provides vital data to refine astronomical models regarding the unpredictable behavior of the universe.

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March Unemployment Rise

The Recent unemployment rate for individuals aged 15+ rose to **5.1%** in March 2026, a 0.2% increase from February driven primarily by urban joblessness.

• **Rural vs. Urban Divide -** Urban areas faced a significant **6.8%** unemployment rate, notably higher than the **4.3%** recorded in rural regions.

• **Gender Disparity in Cities -** A sharp contrast exists for women; while rural female unemployment was **4.1%**, it spiked to **9%** in urban centers.

• **Declining Participation -** The female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) dipped to **34.4%**, with rural participation (**38.9%**) vastly outperforming urban engagement (**25.2%**).

• **Labor Trends -** General LFPR fell to **55.4%** from February's 55.9%, reflecting a broader contraction in the active workforce across both sectors.

• **Worker Population Ratio -** The WPR settled at **52.6%**. Rural ratios dropped to **55.5%**, while urban figures saw a slight decline to **46.8%**.

Facts

In India, the unemployment rate is calculated and released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, which operates under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.

Specifically, the data is collected through the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).**

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