

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 19-12-2025

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#### Polity & Governance

##### Drug-Laced Vape Devices

##### • **E-cigarettes** -

- It also known as vapes, are battery-operated devices that heat a liquid and produce an aerosol.

- An aerosol is a mix of small particles released in the air.

- E-cigarettes typically contain nicotine, the addictive substance in cigarettes and other tobacco products.

- Some e-cigarettes can also be used to deliver cannabis and other drugs.

• **Banned under** - Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019.

• **Under this Act** - The production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement of electronic cigarettes is prohibited.

• **Enforcement** - It lies with the States/Union Territories through law enforcement agencies.

• Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has not investigated any case involving seizure of e-cigarette and vape devices with narcotic substances.

#### International Relations and Issues

##### Trade Pact with Oman

*The Commerce Ministry said that sensitive products have been kept in the exclusion category by India without offering any concessions.*

• **Aim** - To protect the interest of domestic farmers and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

##### • **Exclusion category** -

- Agricultural products, including dairy, tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco products.

- Gold and silver bullion, jewellery.

- Labour-intensive products such as footwear, sports goods and scrap of many base metals.

##### Tariff-Rate Quota (TRQ)-Based Tariff Liberalisation

##### • **Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) Scheme** -

- It is a trade facilitation mechanism that allows eligible importers to bring in specified quantities of certain goods at lower customs duty rates.

- Once the quota limit is exhausted, imports of the same goods are subject to higher (normal) duty rates.

##### • **Export to Oman** -

- Oman has allowed Indian firms to import marble blocks, which is a banned export item in the Gulf nation.

- As per the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the annual quota for duty free dates will be 2,000 tonnes.

#### Agriculture

### Increase in Sugar Production

Sugar production from October 1, 2025 to December 15 saw 28 % increase compared with the same period in 2024.

- According to the Indian Sugar and Bioenergy Manufacturers Association -
  - **Sugar production** - Touched 78.25 vs 61.28 lakh tonnes last year.
  - **Operational sugarcane mills** - Increased to 478 from 477 last year.
  - **States** - Sugar production is up in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
- **Fall of sugar price** - Dropped in all the major sugar producing States.

### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- **Implemented by** - Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- **Aim** - To focus on creation of fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure facilities.
- **Support to fisheries infrastructure** -
  - Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres,
  - Ice Plants & Cold Storages,
  - Fish Markets both Wholesale and Retail Markets,
  - Integrated Aquaparks,
  - Feed Mills, Hatcheries, Brood Banks & Live Fish Vending Centres,
  - Climate Resilient Coastal Fishing Villages (CRCFV) & Artificial Reefs etc.

### Environment

#### Easing of Underground Coal Mining Clearances

- **Suggested by** - Parliamentary panel.
- **Concern** - A complex clearance process, similar to large open-cast mines, leads to delays in projects that have low environmental impact.
- **Target** - To produce 100 million tonnes (MT) of coal from underground coal mines by 2030.
- **Advantages** -
  - Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel's report - To minimises surface disturbance, thereby preserving land, forests, and infrastructure while reducing land reclamation costs and indirect greenhouse gas emissions.
  - This method also allows access to high-quality, deep-seated reserves and ensures year-round operations regardless of weather conditions.
- **Suggestion** - Panel recommended exploring the feasibility of putting in place a standard terms of reference (ToRs) and standard operating procedures (SOPs) on a single-window clearance system for open-cast mining, on the lines of similar provisions for underground mines.
- **Aim** - To address the traditional challenges of high capital investment and longer gestation periods.
- **Significance** - To reaffirm the government's resolve to modernise the coal ecosystem while aligning with the broader vision of sustainable development.

#### "Bioresource Conservation & Prospection (CSIR-BioCap)"

- It is a CSIR Mission Mode project.
- **Aim** - To envisages the development of Vitamin-E enriched annatto oil for use in food and cosmetic applications, among others.
- CSIR-CFTRI has developed and successfully demonstrated following post-harvest technologies related to annatto.
  - Annatto Dye Preparation.
  - Annatto Seed Separator.

## **Annatto**

• Annatto is an orange-red condiment and food coloring derived from the seeds of the achiote tree (*Bixa orellana*).

### • **Climate** -

- It is a moderately drought tolerant and requires less water.
- Planting is done during the monsoon season (June to September).

### • **Plantation in** -

- Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, Thiruvananthapuram, Malabar and Coromandal coasts.
- In certain districts of west Bengal, Maharashtra, Assam, Karnataka, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh.

### • **Usage** -

- It is often used to impart a yellow or orange color to foods, but sometimes also for its flavor and aroma.
- It is also used in cosmetics, as a fabric dye, body paint, sunscreen, insect repellent, and medicine.
- It is also a rich source of anti-oxidants.
- Used as a spice in many types of food throughout the world.
- Ground annatto seeds, often mixed with other seeds or spices, are used in the form of paste or powder for culinary use.

## **Security**

### **Defence Ministerial Meeting**

• **Held between** - India and Netherlands.

• **Aim** - To reaffirm the strong and steadily expanding defence partnership between the two nations.

### • **Key highlights** -

- Letter of Intent, provides an institutional framework for advancing defence collaboration.
- To develop a defence industrial roadmap focusing on technology collaboration, co-production, and co-development of defence platforms and equipment for mutual benefit.

## **Science**

### **Telecom Technology development Fund (TTDF) Scheme**

• **Launched on** - 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

### • **Objectives** -

- To bridge digital divide by developing and manufacturing the state-of-the-art indigenous technologies for rural and remote areas.
- To encourage collaboration between domestic companies/start-ups, academic & research institutions, and MSMEs.

• **Approved project** - For establishment of 6G test bed at SAMEER (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research)- Kolkata, an autonomous R&D body under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

- **3 other consortium members** - IIT-Madras, IIT- Guwahati and IIT-Patna.



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