

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 20-02-2026

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History, Art and Culture

All India Official Language Conference

- **Held at** - International Indoor Exhibition Centre, Hapania, Agartala.
- **Organised by** - Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Objectives** -

To promote effective implementation of Hindi as the Official Language.

To facilitate exchange of best practices among government bodies.

Economy

Circular Economy

- **Guided by the principles 6Rs** - *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refurbish, Recover, and Repair*, ensuring that materials remain in productive use for extended periods.
- By 2050, India's circular economy is expected to reach a market value of \$2 trillion and create 10 million jobs.



Source: Ministry of Environment and Forest Climate Change

Agriculture

India-New Zealand Horticulture Cooperation

First Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting under March 2025 Memorandum of Cooperation.

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Focus Areas -

Kiwifruit - Priority crop for India; plans for Centres of Excellence, better orchards, quality rootstock, and post-harvest improvements.

Training & Imports - Addressed kiwi rootstock import and NZ training for Indian stakeholders.

Apples & Pears - Discussed production challenges; proposed research, training, and supply chain collaboration.

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Outcomes - Set timelines and roadmap; agreed on reviews and follow-up meetings.

Security

Cadet Training Ship - Yard 18003 (Krishna)

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Launch of Yard 18003 (Krishna), the first of three Cadet Training Ships (CTS).

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Design & Build - Fully indigenous, developed by M/s L&T.

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Objective - To provide training to officer cadets (including women) and cadets from friendly foreign nations at sea.

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Significance

- It strengthens India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities.

- It aligns with *Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives*.

MILAN 2026 Naval Exercise

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh met Navy Chiefs and delegations from nine ASEAN states.

- **Held in** - Visakhapatnam.

- **Theme** - Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration.

- **Highlights** -

- *Recognition of ASEAN navies' strong participation.*

- *IONS Conclave of Chiefs and International Fleet Review 2026* key for trust-building.

- **Sea Phase drills** - Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), air defence, search-and-rescue.

- Showcase of India's indigenous defence ecosystem (INS Vikrant, Visakhapatnam-class destroyers).

- Expanded cooperation via *ASEAN-India Defence Think-Tank* and youth naval initiatives.

- **Significance** -

- Reinforced *India's Act East Policy and MAHASAGAR vision* (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

- ASEAN highlighted as a central pillar of India's Indo-Pacific strategy.

Gaganyaan Drogue Parachute Test

Successful qualification-level load test of the Drogue Parachute for India's human spaceflight programme.

- **Held at** - Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility, TBRL, Chandigarh.

- **Conducted by** - Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, ISRO, Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL).

- **key highlights**

- Test simulated loads higher than maximum flight loads, proving design safety margin.

- Demonstrated India's expertise in *high-strength ribbon parachutes*.

- Showcased TBRL's advanced test facilities and technical contributions.

- **Significance**

- Strengthens India's human spaceflight capability under Gaganyaan.

- Advances the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in space technology.

Science

AI Impact Casebooks - Health & Education

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- Launched at** - India AI Impact Summit 2026.
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- Prepared by** - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, IndiaAI Mission.
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- Partners** - World Health Organisation, Central Square Foundation
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- Objectives** -

- To document real-world AI deployments that have scaled beyond pilots.

- To cover applications in clinics, classrooms, and skilling ecosystems.

"AI for Our Oceans of Tomorrow: Data, Models and Governance"

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- Organised by** - Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
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- Held as a part of** - India AI Impact Summit 2026, New Delhi.
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Focus on strengthening -

- Ocean governance.

- Disaster resilience.

- Marine livelihoods.

- Blue Economy growth.

Significance -

- It demonstrates AI's role in linking data, models, and governance for sustainable ocean management.

- It establishes India as a global leader in AI-driven marine policy and innovation.

Zinc-Ion Battery (Grid Storage)

- **Discovery** - Sulfur vacancy-induced 1T-phase Molybdenum Disulfide (1T-MoS₂), a material that promises to make zinc batteries more viable for large-scale grid storage.
- **Developed by** - Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, an autonomous institution of Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- **Significance** - It enhances performance and stability of aqueous zinc-ion batteries (AZIBs), making them safer, cost-effective, and eco-friendly for grid-scale renewable energy storage.

Key results -

- Stable operation in 0.2-1.3 V window.

- 97.9% capacity retention after 500 cycles at high current density.

- 99.7% Coulombic efficiency, showing highly reversible zinc-ion reactions.

Methamphetamine

Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) seize 43.820 kg high-quality MD/Methamphetamine and other chemicals.

- **Street names** - Meth, Crystal, Ice, Glass, Speed, Tina, Crank
- **Form** - Powder (pill or snorted), liquid (injected), or crystal ("crystal meth," smoked in a pipe).
- **Effects** - Initial rush of euphoria, followed by agitation, over-excitement, anger, or fear.
- **Addiction Risk** - Highly addictive stimulant; dependence develops quickly.

Health Problems

- Dangerously high body temperature (risk of passing out).

- Severe itching.

- "Meth mouth" - broken teeth, dry mouth.

- Cognitive and emotional issues (thinking and mood problems).