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.



Agriculture

India–New Zealand Horticulture Cooperation

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

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

Security

Cadet Training Ship – Yard 18003 (Krishna)

- Launch of Yard 18003 (Krishna), the first of three Cadet Training Ships (CTS).
- **Design & Build –** Fully indigenous, developed by M/s L&T.
- **Objective –** To provide training to officer cadets (including women) and cadets from friendly foreign nations at sea.
- **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

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

- **Organised by –** Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- **Held as a part of –** India AI Impact Summit 2026, New Delhi.
- **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-MoS_2),* 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).

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