UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 20-03-2025

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Economy

Manganese Ore (India) Limited (MOIL)

During financial year 2023-24, MOIL Ltd. has produced 1.76 million tonne of manganese ore which is 52% of total domestic production of 3.37 million tonne of manganese ore in India.

• It is a *Schedule "A" Miniratna Category-I* Company.
• **Set up in** – 1896 as Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company Limited (CPMO), a British Company incorporated in the UK.
• **Indian incorporation in** – 1962, as Manganese Ore (India) Limited which was renmed as MOIL Limited during the financial year 2010-11.
• **Administrative control by** – Ministry of Steel.
• **Shareholding pattern** – Government of India (53.35%), Government of Maharashtra (5.96%) and Government of Madhya Pradesh (5.38%) and Public (35.31%).

National Cooperative Database (NCD)

• **Launched in** – *2024*.
• **Developed by** – Ministry of Cooperation, with the support of States / UTs.
• **Data collection to & updating by** – Nodal officers appointed by all the States/ UTs for this purpose.
• **Data coverage** – Location, membership, economic activities, and linkages of cooperatives.
• **Open access at** – URL: https://cooperatives.gov.in.
• **Usage** – A single-point access information on over 8.25 lakh cooperatives across the country.
• **Significance** – It aids in identifying gaps in the geographical spread of cooperatives, including both covered and uncovered gram panchayats.

Grameen Credit Score

• **Announced in** – The Union Budget 2025-26.
• It is a framework to be developed by public-sector banks.
• **Need** – The current credit scoring mechanism used by Credit Information Companies (CICs), by design, generic to all individual borrowers with no specific consideration for the rural sector.
• **Objectives** – To enable mechanisms for credit assessment of SHG borrowers, and the rural population.
• To improve access to formal credit for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and for the rural population, including farmers and marginalised communities.

Seaweed Production in India

Recent data – It was 72,385 tonnes (wet weight) in 2023, as reported by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI).

• **Cultivated species** – Kappaphycus alvarezii and Gracilaria edulis.
• **Application** – They are widely used for carrageenan, agar production and utilized in food, biofertilizers, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, animal feed, and biofuels.
• **Government initiatives** – Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to improve production and establishment of a *Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu*.
• Mandapam Regional Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has been designated as a *Centre of Excellence for seaweed development*.
• The Lakshadweep Islands has been designated as a S*eaweed Cluster*.

Agriculture

National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM)

• It is an institute of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
• **Location** – Hyderabad
• **Autonomous organization** – Under Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
• **Role** – It promotes *sustainable and organic farming practices.*
• It organizes capacity building programs for officers and farmers of different states like training & demonstration of bioinputs under *Soil and Root Health Management scheme*.
• **Activities** – Initiatives for improvement of Plant Protection Technology, Plant quarantine and Biosecurity.
- Management of Maize Fall Army Worm.
- Survey and field evaluation of Sterile Insect Technique for the management of Oriental fruit fly.

Science

Starship Spacecraft

Recently, 8th testing of Starship spacecraft was launched from its launch pad in US.

• It is *SpaceX's next generation* spacecraft.
• **Future mission** – It will leave f*or Mars at the end of 2026* with Tesla humanoid robot Optimus onboard.
• Its modified version is to be used *for NASA's Artemis program as a lunar lander*, which aims to return astronauts to the Moon this decade.

Kyasanur Forest Disease

Woman dies of Kyasanur Forest Disease in Chikkamagaluru.

• It is a *viral infection.*
• It is also known as *monkey fever*, as monkeys also get infected.
• **Causal agent** – Single stranded RNA virus named, Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV).
• **Transmission** – It spreads through *infected ticks*.
• **Human infection** – Humans, who visit forest areas to graze cattle or to collect firewood, are vulnerable to the infection.
• **Treatment** – No specific treatment available but it can be prevented using vaccine and tick bite avoidance.

S N Bose Building for Nuclear Research

• It is named in honour of the eminent Indian physicist Dr. Satyendra Nath Bose.
• **Located at** – *Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership* (GCNEP) at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi.
• **Aim** – To serve as an advanced *hub for research and training* in nuclear science and technology.
• **Facilities** – It houses state-of-the-art laboratories catering to GCNEP's specialised schools, enhancing its capabilities in nuclear security, reactor technology, radiation safety, nuclear material characterisation, and radioisotope applications.

Index

Farmers Distress Index

Systemic assessment of Farmers' Distress Index (FDI) is not available for the whole country.

• **Farmers' Distress Index** – The index will anticipate farmers distress and prevent its spread from a few farmers to the village or block.
• **Developed by** - Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA).
• **Coverage** – It covers multiple causes of distress ranging from climate variability to price volatility and the low risk-bearing ability of farmers etc.
• **Aim** – To develop an *early warning system for farm distress* and provide policy support about the severity of farmer distress based on 7 key parameters.
• **Importance** – It targets to recommend a *location-specific distress management* package.

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