UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 20-06-2026

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Polity & Governance

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)

The delegation from IPC recently participated in in the 16th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias (IMWP).

- It is a *national coordination centre* for monitoring and collecting adverse drug reaction (ADR) data across the country.
- **Headquartered in** – Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Nodal ministry** – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Vision** – To promote the *highest standards of drugs* for use in human and animals.
- **Role** –
  - To ensure the safety, efficacy, and quality of medicines to safeguard public health.
  - To update the *National Formulary of India (NFI)* i.e, guidance document for healthcare professionals.

Project Super 50

Recently, Tripura Governor invocates Ambedkar's vision at NCSC's "Project Super 50" launch ceremony.

- **Organized by –** National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
- **Theme** – "*Guide • Mentor • Empower*".
- **Objectives** –
  - To empower and support Scheduled Caste (SC) communities *to crack the UPSC Civil Services Examination*.
  - To adopt *Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's mantra "Educate, Organise, Agitate"* among the youth.

The SHe-Box Portal (Sexual Harassment electronic Box)

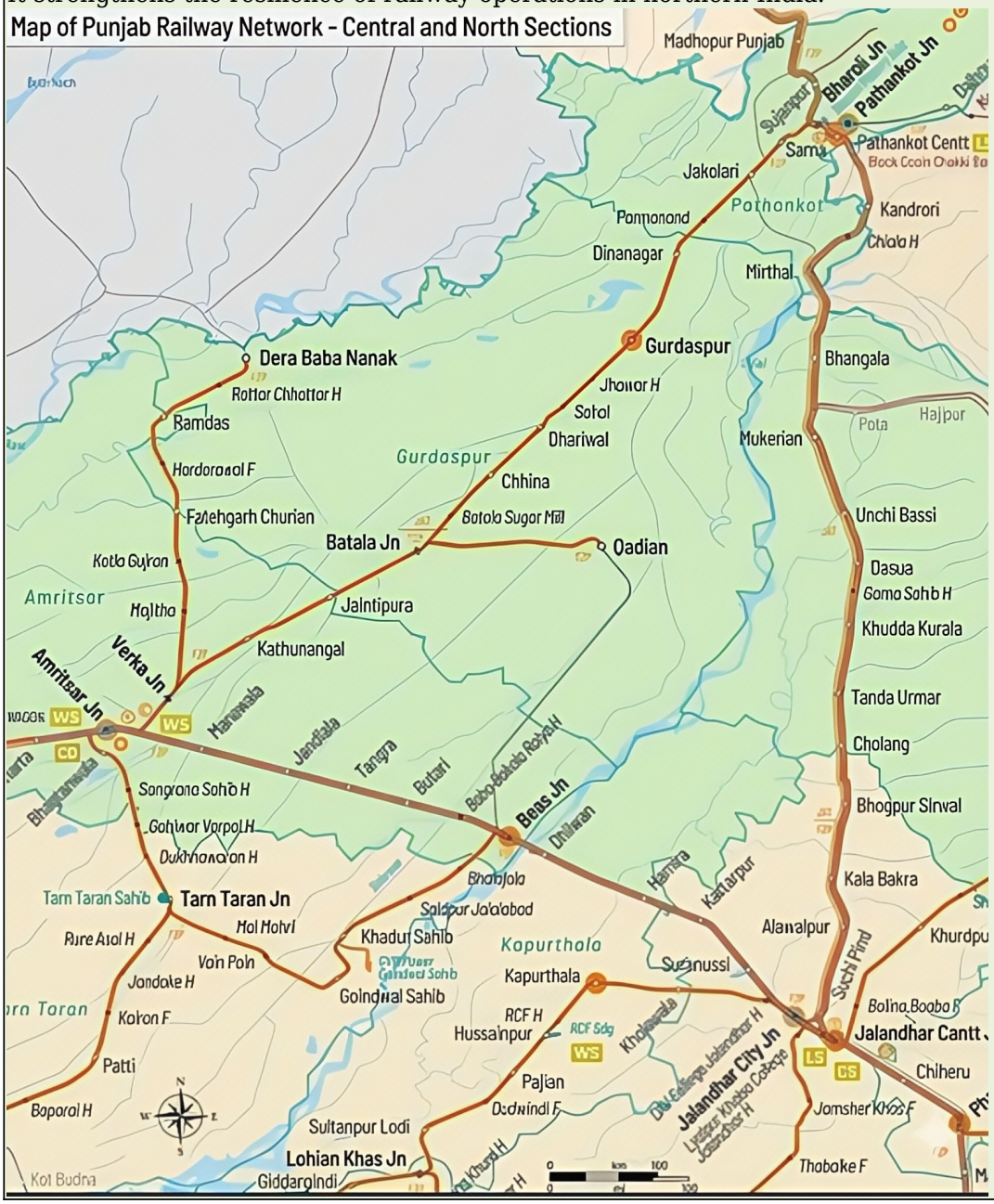
- **Launched by** – Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **Offers** – A secure, multilingual (*23 languages*) space for women across all sectors to register and track complaints.
- **Integrated with** – *Mission Shakti mobile app*.
- **To Register a Complaint –**
  - Click "Register Your Complaint" on the site.
  - Select the employment category.
  - Fill in the detailed complaint form and submit to receive a tracking.
- **Objective** – To ensure the effective implementation of the *PoSH Act (Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal Act, 2013).*

Economy

Qadian-Beas Railway Line Project

The historic Qadian-Beas railway line project revived after nearly 100 years recently.

- **Location** – Punjab.
- **Specifications**
  - **Route** – Connects *Qadian (Gurdaspur district) to Beas (Amritsar district).*
  - **Executed by** – Northern Railway.
- **Safety –**
  - Integration with *kavach* (India's indigenous automatic train collision avoidance system).
  - Modern digital signalling and telecommunication networks will be fitted.
- **Significance** –
  - It is a strategic alternative rail corridor to the *Amritsar–Pathankot section.*
  - It strengthens the resilience of railway operations in northern India.



Agriculture

Kashmiri saffron

Recently a sharp decline in saffron output from Iran has resulted in the demand for Kashmiri saffron.

- It is also known *as "Red Gold" or bahukam.*
- **Grown in** – Pampore region (Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district)
- **Soil profile – *Karewas*** (elevated alluvial lake-bed terraces rich in minerals and loamy organic material).
- **Altitude –** 1,500–2,000m.
- **Temperature** – not exceeding 35°C to 40°C.
- **GI Tag –** 2020
- **Colour** – Deep crimson-maroon-purple hue, making it the darkest natural saffron coloring globally.
- **Significance** – Represents a vital part of Jammu and Kashmir's agricultural heritage.

Environment

Fly ash

A recent ministerial meeting held planning on a green initiative to transport fly ash by railways.

- It is a *fine, powdery byproduct generated from burning pulverized coal* in thermal power plants.
- **Chemically reacts with** – *Water and calcium hydroxide* to form strong compounds.
- **Captured from** – Exhaust gases by electrostatic precipitators before reaching power plant chimneys.
- **Composition** – Silica, Alumina, and Iron oxide.
- **Applications –**
  - *Substitute for Portland cement* in concrete making.
  - Raw material for manufacturing sustainable fly ash bricks.
  - *Road construction, soil stabilization, and mine backfilling.*
- **Environmental importance** –
  - It promotes a circular economy and reduces the need for landfill disposal.
  - Unmanaged fly ash contains arsenic, lead, and cadmium and silica dust, that cause respiratory issues.

Health

Operation DRISHTI (Armed Forces Healthcare Initiative)

Jharkhand's largest-ever mega eye surgical camp concluded recently under Operation DRISHTI.

- **Launched in –** 2024
- **Jointly conducted by** – *Indian Army and Indian Air Force*.
- **Objective** – To eliminate avoidable blindness by providing free advanced eye surgeries *to underprivileged*.
- **Beneficiaries –**
  - Ex-servicemen,
  - Serving dependents,
  - War widows (Veer Naris), and
  - Underprivileged local civilians
- **Treatments provided** –
  - High-end procedures like Phacoemulsification for cataracts.
  - Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS).
  - Anti-VEGF injections.
- **Impact** –
  - Completed 9 national editions.
  - Screening over 75,000 patients.
  - Restoring sight to more than 3,000 individuals.

Sports

Asian Senior Fencing Championships 2026

- It is recognized as the "Asia Cup" of fencing.
- **Held at** – Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi.
- **Participation** – Over 400 athletes from 34 countries.
- **Three fencing categories** — Foil, epee, and sabre (both individual and team events).
- **Direct qualifier for** –
  - 2026 Asian Games in Japan.
  - Offered ranking points toward qualification for the LA 2028 Olympic cycle.
- **Significance** – *First time India hosted it.*

Miscellaneous

Malaria

- Malaria is ***mosquito-borne*** disease caused by parasites.
- **Caused by** – The ***Plasmodium parasite*** (mainly P. falciparum, P. vivax, P. ovale, P. malariae, and P. knowlesi).
- **Transmission** – Through bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes,
  - Blood transfusions or contaminated needles, etc. (No direct human-to-human transmission).
- **Symptoms** – Fever, fatigue, and headaches.
  - Severe cases can lead to jaundice, seizures, coma, or death.
- **Higher risk** – Infants, children under 5 years, pregnant women and girls, travellers and people with HIV or AIDS.
- **Note** – ***"GanLum"*** a antimalarial combination therapy designed to combat drug-resistant parasites (not licensed yet).

Guinness World Records (GWR) ICON for 2026

Jonathan (tortoise), has been officially named a Guinness World Records (GWR) ICON for 2026 recently.

- **About Jonathan (tortoise)** –
  - Seychelles giant tortoise.
  - **Lives on** – Island of St Helena, South Atlantic Ocean,
  - Believed to have been born around 1832 (194 years old).
- It holds two Guinness World Records titles:
  - *Oldest living terrestrial animal*.
  - *Oldest known chelonian* (a group that includes turtles and tortoises).
- **Research** – Jonathan's DNA and cellular makeup help to better understand his survival tactics for nearly two centuries.

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