UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 22-02-2025

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History, Art and Culture

Katas Raj Temple

• **Located in** – Chakwal in Potohar Plateau, *Pakistan*.
• Dates back to Hindu shahis King from 615 to 915 AD.
• **Composition** – It comprises of 7 temples (old and new ones) called the ***Satgraha***.
• Also known for its Buddhist site.
• 300 Indian Hindus travelled to Pakistan to be a part of the celebration.

Polity & Governance

98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan (All India Marathi Literature Convention)

• It is an *annual conference* for literary discussions by Marathi writers.
• **1st edition** in 1878 & is a long-standing tradition from the late 19th century for Marathi authors and poets to showcase their work.
• The last Sammelan in Delhi took place in 1954, making this event particularly noteworthy.
• **Objectives** – It celebrate Marathi literature's timeless relevance, and explore its role in contemporary discourse, including
  - Themes of language preservation
  - Translation
  - Impact of digitalization on literary works.

Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata Expressway Project

• **Started on** – *2024*.
• **Umbrella scheme –** Bharat Mala Yojana.
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
• It is an approved 710 km long, *6 lane, greenfield access*-controlled expressway.
• **Objective** – To boost trade and freight movement, particularly benefiting industries reliant on the *Kolkata and Haldia* ports.
• **Sates covered** – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
• It is known as Varanasi–Kolkata Expressway (NH-319B).

Bharat Mala Yojana

• **Launched in** – *2015.*
• It is an umbrella program for the *highways sector* in India.
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
• **Objective** – Optimize efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.
  - Bridge critical infrastructure gaps Enhance
  - Coastal and Port Connectivity is Mandatory to connect areas around shorelines and important ports
  - It special emphasis on providing connectivity to far-flung border and rural areas.

Economy

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Terms

• **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** – It is defined as the *percentage of persons in labour force* (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
• **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** – It is defined as the *percentage of employed persons* in the population.
• **Unemployment Rate (UR)** – It is defined as the *percentage of persons unemployed* among the persons in the labour force.
• **Current Weekly Status (CWS)** – It determined on the basis of a reference period of *last 7 days preceding the date of survey*.

Minor Minerals to Major Minerals

Ministry of Mines moved 4 minerals from minor to major status.
• **Major minerals** – Barytes, Felspar, Mica, and Quartz.
• **Quartz** - Common mineral in Earth's crust.
  - Found in all forms of rock.
  - Used in clocks and watches.
• **Feldspar** - Aluminosilicate minerals containing calcium, sodium, or potassium.
  - Comprises more than half of Earth's crust.
  - Used in glassmaking, ceramics, construction, and manufacturing.
• **Mica** - Group of minerals that are light, soft, and flexible.
  - Used in cosmetics, medicine, and electronics.
• **Barytes** – Naturally occurring mineral made of barium sulfate (BaSO4).
  - Used in paint, rubber, and concrete.
• **Quartz, Felspar & Mica** - Found in pegmatite rocks
  - Important source of many critical minerals.

Baryte

• **Baryte** – It is a mineral consisting of *barium sulfate* and generally white or colorless.
• **Occurrence** – Vein fillings in limestone and dolostone.
• **Iron ore** – Pocket type of deposit which *can't be mined in isolation.*
• **Iron ore of** – Antimony, Cobalt, Copper, Lead, Manganese and Silver.
• **Usage** – Oil and gas drilling, electronics, TV screens, rubber, glass, ceramics, paint, radiation shielding and medical applications.

Science

Euclid Space Mission

• **Launched in** – *2023*.
• **Developed by** – European Space Agency and Euclid Consortium (includes NASA).
• **Part of** – ESA's Cosmic Vision programme.
• **Purpose** – To explore the composition and *evolution of the dark universe*.
• **Euclid Space Telescope** – It creates a 3D-map of the universe by observing billions of galaxies out to *10 billion light-years*.

Research Lab for AI in Eye Care

• **Established by** – Zeiss India (Optics and optoelectronics technology company) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
• **Established in –** IISc, Bengaluru.
• **Aim** – To drive *advancements in eyecare solutions* and enable researchers at IISc.
• **Objective** – To explore the technology's potential in facilitating early diagnosis, treatment personalization, and accessibility in *ophthalmology*.

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Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

• **PMI** – It is an economic indicator, which is derived after monthly surveys of different companies.

• **Released by** – Institute for Supply Management (ISM), a non-profit supply management organization on *monthly basis*.

• **Purpose –** To provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.

• **Leading indicator in** – *United States (US)* for determining overall economic activity.

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