

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 22-12-2025

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History, Art and Culture

Dudran - A Traditional Kashmiri Village

- **Location** - Hilly village in Uri area, near Line of Control, Baramulla district, northern Kashmir.
- **Landscape** - Surrounded by steep slopes, dense forests, flowing streams.
- **Sustenance** - Primarily agriculture (pulses, corn, seasonal vegetables on terraced fields) and livestock (dairy farming).
- **Food preservation** -
 - Relies on traditional, natural methods - drying, smoking, and storing in "doud khot" (stone-and-wood structures acting as natural refrigerators).
 - Winter snow and cold also preserve food.
- **Resilience** - Despite isolation and uncertainty, villagers preserve traditions and sustain their dairy-based lifestyle.

Social Issues

10th Swachh Survekshan

- It is the world's largest urban cleanliness survey.
- **Launched by** - Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Theme 2025-26** - Swacchata Ki Nayi Pehel- Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath.
- **New award category** - To recognize Swachh Shehar Jodis, based on the average score of jodis, with recognition across each population category.
- **Aim** - To build Garbage Free Cities, it is catalysing change.

What's New



Round the year
Citizen Feedback



Citizen Feedback
Increased from
32% to 35%



Expansion of
Ganga Towns to
River Towns



Separate Matrix for
Coastal Cities

International Relations and Issues

Bilateral Meeting

- **Between** - India and Netherlands
- **Aim** - To boost global cooperation in maritime heritage, museum design and cultural exchange.

- **Key outcomes -**

- MoU between the *National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal and the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam* is a landmark step in taking India's rich 4,500-year maritime legacy to the global stage.

- This partnership will bring world-class expertise in conservation, curation and museum design, while strengthening cultural ties.

- **Significance** - It also aligns with Prime Minister's vision of combining heritage with innovation to promote inclusive education, tourism and people-to-people connections."

Environment

Hornbill Population Survey

Tamil Nadu's forest officials plan to launch an extensive field exercise to understand the status of hornbill populations across forest landscapes.

- **Survey beginning in** - Late December, until the end of March or early April 2026.
- **1st phase will cover** - Anamalai, Srivilliputhur-Megamalai and Kalakkad-Mundathurai tiger reserves, along with the Karamadai and Mettupalayam ranges under the Coimbatore forest division.
- **Method of survey** - Line transect method.
- **Documentation of 4 species** — The Great Hornbill, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Indian Grey Hornbill and Malabar Pied Hornbill.
- **Aim** - To protect habitat, particularly the conservation of large, mature trees with natural hollows that hornbills depend on for nesting.

28th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- **Held at** - Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, West Bengal.
- **Focus on key challenges -**
 - Measures to address human-tiger conflict, including
 - A three-pronged strategy.
 - The launch of the project 'Management of Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves'.
 - Issues related to staff shortages, financial constraints, habitat degradation, and invasive species management.
- **Decision ratified -**
 - Approval of Tiger Conservation Plans;
 - Extension and expansion of Project Cheetah;
 - Tiger translocation; prey augmentation;
 - Landscape management planning;
 - Carnivore health management training programmes.

22nd Steering Committee Meeting of Project Elephant

- **Held at** - Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, West Bengal.
- **Key highlights** -
 - Reviewed updates on
 - The All-India Synchronized Elephant Estimation, a critical exercise for evidence-based planning and decision-making.
 - The status of human-elephant conflict across the country
 - Discussed on progress under the *Model Elephant Conservation Plan* for the Nilgiri Elephant Reserve and ongoing work on *DNA profiling of captive elephants*, with emphasis on strengthening scientific management and welfare standards.
 - Evaluation of elephant population estimation methods, progress on integrated conservation and management strategies for the *Ripu-Chirang Elephant Reserve, and future action plans*.
- **Significance** - It reaffirmed India's commitment to science-based conservation, inter-state coordination, technological innovation, and community-centric approaches to ensure a sustainable future for elephants and the people living in elephant landscapes.

Science

Light-Based Computing Chip (LightGen)

- The optical AI chips called 'LightGen', a chip that *uses light instead of electricity* to generate images.
- It combines a *photonic encoder, an optical latent space, and a photonic generator*, *achieving 100x faster and more energy-efficient performance* than electronic chips.
- **Developed by** - Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Tsinghua University.

LightGen's Combinations

- **Photonic Computing** - Using photons (light particles) instead of electrons for computation, offering potential for higher speed and lower energy consumption.
- **Photonic Encoder/Generator** - Components that process and generate information using light.
- **Optical Latent Space** - A compact representation of an image's features carried as a pattern of light in optic cables, allowing direct manipulation without electrical conversion.

Superkilonova

- It is a rare, exceptionally bright cosmic explosion, potentially resulting from a kilonova (merger of two neutron stars) with an additional energy source, such as fallback matter or a preceding supernova.
- **Kilonova** - Emission from radioactive decay of heavy elements (gold, platinum) ejected when two neutron stars merge.
- **Superkilonova** - A kilonova with an additional energy source, making it brighter and bluer, possibly for longer.

Miscellaneous

World Meditation Day

- **Observed annually on** - 21th December.
- **Adopted in** - 2024, by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- **Objectives** -
 - To raise awareness about meditation and its benefits.
 - To recall the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

