# 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.




### 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 –** 21$^{th}$ 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.



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