

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 23-06-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Kalamkari Paintings

Recently, the Prime Minister of India gifted a Kalamkari Mahabharata painting to the French President.



• It is an *Indian art of hand-painting using natural dyes*.

• **Name origin** - Persian words “kalam (pen)” and “kari (craftsmanship)”, literally means "pen-work."

• **Practiced in** - Andhra Pradesh.

• **Features** -

- Highly intricate patterns.

- Rich earth tones.

- Depictions of epic folklore.

• **Two traditional styles**

• **Srikalahasti Style** -

- *Relies on freehand drawing*.

- Uses a bamboo pen (kalam) with a cloth wrapped around it to absorb the dye.

- **Focuses on** - Religious narratives, Hindu deities, scenes from Ramayana and Mahabharata, and Tree of Life motif.

• **Machilipatnam Style** -

- Relies on *hand-carved wooden blocks to stamp outlines* and primary patterns onto the cloth.

- **Origin** - Islamic art influences.

- **Features** - Dense, repeating floral patterns, vines, and *geometric designs*.

Rakhigarhi

AnSI recently received ancient skeletal remains from the site at Rakhigarhi for DNA analysis.

- It is the *largest known archaeological site* of the Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization.

- **Location** - Hisar district of ***Haryana***.

- 150 km northwest of Delhi on the banks of the dried-up *Saraswati River*.

- **Archaeological findings** -

- Burnt-brick houses, drainage systems, and paved streets.

- Jewellery-making units, copper and gold ornaments.

- Extensive burial ground.

Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)

- It is an Apex authority for *mapping India's vast cultural and biological diversity*.

- **Founded in** - 1945, Varanasi.

- **Headquarters** - Indian Museum Complex, Kolkata.

- **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Culture.

- **Objectives** -

- To study indigenous communities and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

- To maintain high-tech facilities for *DNA sequencing, paleoanthropology and biochemistry*.

- To document disappearing languages, creating ethnographic films, and archiving folk art.

Government Policies & Interventions

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

Recently the International Day of Yoga 2026 Celebrations held across the Ganga Basin by NMCG.

- **Established in** - 2011, under Societies Registration Act 1860.

- **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Jal Shakti.

- **Implementation arm of** - National Ganga Council.

- **Management structure** -

- Governing Council.

- Executive Committee.

- **Guiding principles** -

- Nirmal Dhara (unpolluted flow).

- Aviral Dhara (continuous flow).

- **Objectives** -

- To ensure abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of river Ganga.

- To maintain minimum ecological flows in the river Ganga and sustainable development.

National Ganga Council (NGC)

- **Establishment in** - 2009, under Environment Protection Act, 1986.

- **Background** - Initially National Ganga River Basin Authority dissolved and replaced by NGC in 2016.

- **Structure** -

- **Chairperson** - Prime Minister.

- **Members** - Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of the five Ganga basin states (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal).

- **Implementation** - NMCG under Ministry of Jal Shakti.

- **Responsible for** - Superintendence, pollution prevention, and rejuvenation of the Ganga River Basin.

Development of Vehicle Service Facilities

NHAI directs development of vehicle repair and puncture service facilities at wayside amenities along national highways

- **Objectives -**
- To improving the travel experience, reducing vehicle downtime.
- To enhancing road safety and ensuring prompt assistance.
- To avoid inconvenience, delays, and potential safety concerns.
- To develop a network of modern wayside amenities under the Public-Private Partnership.

Significance - Underlines NHAI's commitment to develop safe and user-centric National Highway corridors.

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It helps needs of commuters and logistics operators across the country.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

• **Established** - under the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

• **Headquarters** - New Delhi,

• **Nodal body for** - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

• **Objectives -**

- To handles over 50,000 km of National Highways across the country.

- To oversees major highway upgrades and greenfield expressway layouts.

- To manage highway monetization via Toll-Operate-Transfer (TOT).

Agriculture

NAFED's auction portal 'NAFEX.in'

Recently, Union Home Minister is set to launch NAFED's auction portal 'NAFEX.in'.

• A dedicated digital e-auction platform for trading of agricultural commodities.

• **Functions -**

- Seamless procurement and real-time bidding.

- Directly connecting institutional buyers, traders, and agricultural cooperative societies.

• **Integrated features -**

- Secure automated financial transactions.

- Offering live wallet management with instant payment settlements via NEFT and RTGS.

• **Relief measures** - NAFED timely waives portal transaction charges for registered bidders.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)

- **Apex organization** - For the *cooperative marketing of agricultural produce*.

- **Objectives** -

- To procure agri-goods directly from farmers *at MSP under the Price Support Scheme*.

- To *Manage the national buffer stock* of essential commodities.

- **Oversees** - Government-channelized export and import of critical agricultural commodities.

- **Digital infrastructure** -

- **NAFEX.in platform** - For *transparent e-auctions*.

- **DRISHTI portal** - For real-time, pan-India warehouse stock tracking.

Security

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

Recently union home minister lays foundation stone of new CISF Headquarters building in New Delhi.

- It is the *only Central Armed Police Force featuring its own specialized, industrial Fire Wing*.

- **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

- **Features** - It *bills commercial public and private establishments* for its security deployment, and reimburse later.

- **Objectives** -

- To provide security to airports, space centers, and the Delhi Metro.

- To safeguard the Parliament House Complex.

- To strengthen CISF's operational and training capabilities