UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 23-11-2026

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History, Art and Culture

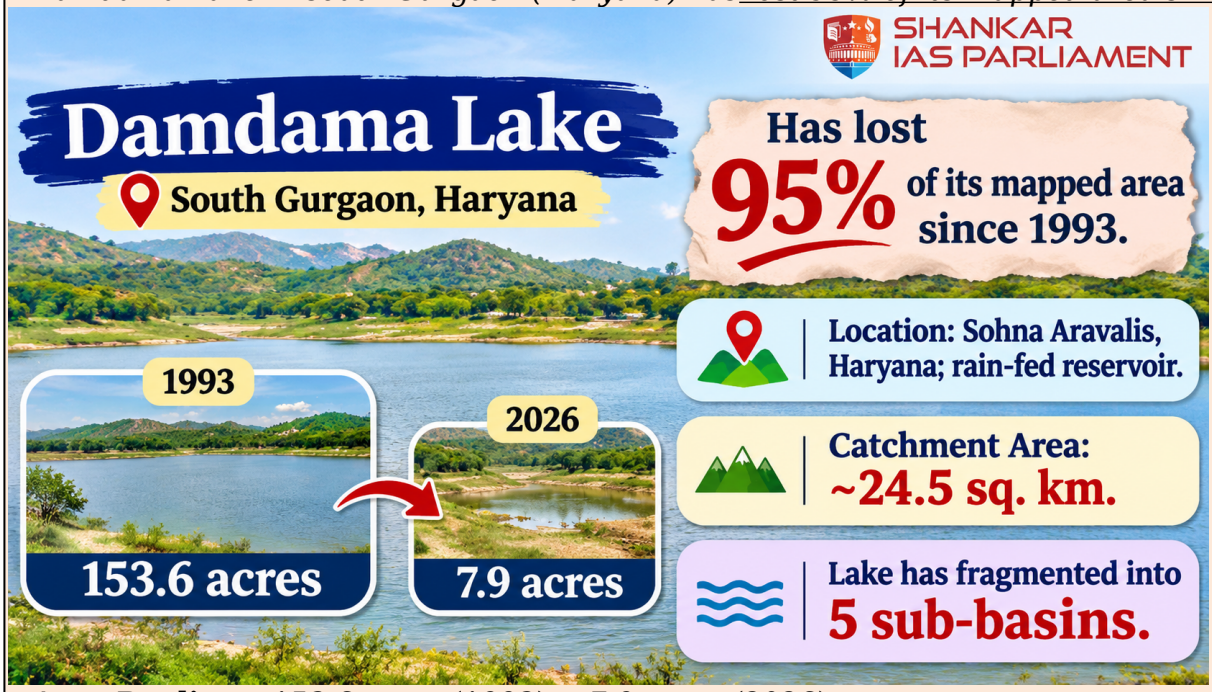
Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival 2026

• **Held on –** 20-21 November 2026 at Madan Kurkalang Sports Complex, Bhoirymbong, Meghalaya.
• **Headliners –** Nelly, Khalid, Swae Lee, Boys Like Girls, Galantis and Elliot James Reay; Indian artist **Darshan Raval**.
• **Origin of Name –** Named after *Himalayan cherry trees that bloom during autumn*, painting Shillong and surrounding Khasi Hills pink.
• **Significance** – It promotes Meghalaya's tourism, music culture, local businesses and the regional creative economy.
- **Cultural Promotion –** Features Northeast Indian cuisine, local artists, merchandise, cultural showcases and interactive activities.
- **Indian International Music Week –** Industry networking and engagement with music-sector delegates.
- **Grassroots Music Programme** – It connects local musicians with industry professionals through workshops, discussions and artist showcases.
- **Tourism & Regional Cooperation –** It supports Meghalaya's concert economy and assists other Northeastern States in organising music festivals.

Geography

Damdama Lake (Haryana) – Shrinking Reservoir

• *Damdama Lake in south Gurgaon (Haryana) has lost 95% of its mapped area since 1993.*

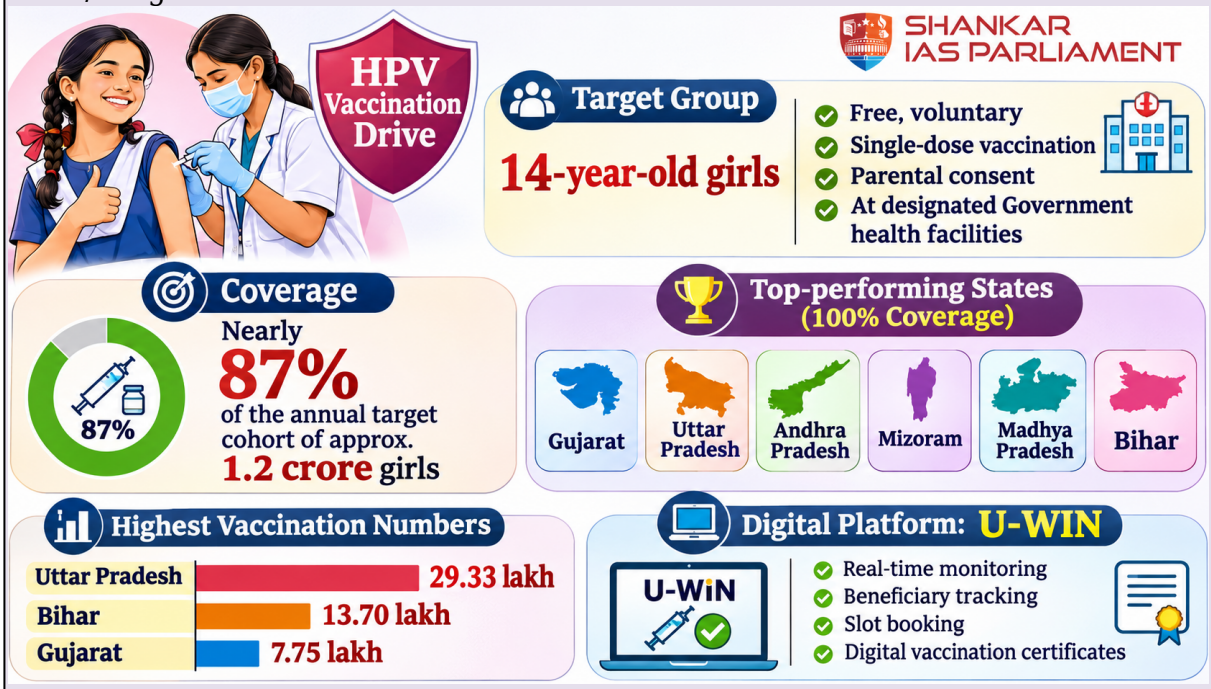


• **Area Decline –** 153.6 acres (1993) → 7.9 acres (2026).
• **Location –** Sohna Aravalis, Haryana; rain-fed reservoir.
• **Catchment Area –** ~24.5 sq. km; lake has fragmented into **5 sub-basins**.
• **Causes of Shrinkage**
  - Groundwater depletion and borewell extraction.
  - Destruction/blockage of natural drainage channels.
  - Construction, mining, encroachment and land fragmentation.
  - Road and culvert blocking rainwater flow.
• **Protection –** Parts of catchment protected under *Sections 4 and 5 of Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA).*
• **Restoration Proposal (2022) –** GuruJal, Haryana State CSR Trust and EY Foundation proposed:
  - 500-acre biodiversity park (10-year plan).
  - 6-km green corridor and 1.5 lakh native trees.
  - Catchment treatment, desilting and groundwater recharge.
• **Status –** Restoration proposal awaits Government approval, as around 60% of lake land falls under the Forest Department.

Health

National HPV Vaccination Campaign

• India administered **over 1 crore HPV vaccine doses** in less than nine months after launching the National HPV Vaccination Campaign in February 2026.
• **Launched by –** Prime Minister of India.
• **Implementation –** Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in coordination with State/UT governments and frontline workers.



• **Target Group –** 14-year-old girls; free, voluntary, single-dose vaccination with parental consent at designated Government health facilities.
• **Coverage –** Nearly **87%** of the annual target cohort of approximately **1.2 crore girls**.
• **Top-performing States –** Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar achieved 100% coverage of their identified target populations.
• **Highest Vaccination Numbers –** Uttar Pradesh (29.33 lakh), Bihar (13.70 lakh) and Gujarat (7.75 lakh).
• **Digital Platform – U-WIN** enables real-time monitoring, beneficiary tracking, slot booking and digital vaccination certificates.
• **Purpose –** To prevent HPV infections that can cause cervical cancer.
• **Safety –** Vaccination under trained Medical Officers at designated Government health facilities, with 24×7 healthcare arrangements for managing adverse events following immunisation (AEFI).

Economy

Anthropic IPO – World's 1st Publicly Listed Frontier AI Company



• Anthropic reportedly raised *$81 billion through its IPO*, becoming the first publicly listed frontier AI company.
• **Stock Exchange –** Nasdaq (USA).
• **IPO Price -** $83/share; shares opened at $111.50 and closed at $97.17 on debut.
• **Valuation –** Reached nearly **$2 trillion (fully diluted valuation)**; outstanding-share valuation reportedly peaked at $1.5 trillion.
• **Company –** Anthropic – US-based AI company founded in 2021, led by CEO **Dario Amodei**.
• **Focus on –** AI research, development of AI models and AI safety.
• **IPO Proceeds –** Could reach $93.5 billion from IPO, subject to additional share purchase options; private placement also reported.
• **Major Investors (private placement) –** AMD, Broadcom, Google, Micron, Microsoft, Nvidia and TSMC.
• **Significance –** IPO provides a market benchmark for frontier AI companies and highlights investor interest as well as concerns over AI profitability, infrastructure costs and valuation bubbles.

Agriculture

World Fisheries Day 2026

• **Observed annually on –** 21st November.
• **Objective –** To promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security, livelihoods and ecological balance.
• **Originated in –** 1997, Representatives from 18 countries met in New Delhi and established the World Fisheries Forum.
• **Theme 2026 –** "Empowering People for Change: Advancing Decent Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture, Particularly for Youth and Women."
• **India's Position –** 2nd-largest fish-producing country globally, contributing nearly 8% of global fish production.
• **Fish Production –** Increased from 96 lakh tonnes to 195 lakh tonnes over the past decade.
• **Significance –** It supports livelihoods, nutritional security, exports and economic growth.

Strengthening India's Community Seed Banks (CSBs) – DIVERSIFARM-India

• DIVERSIFARM-India mapped 652 Community Seed Banks (CSBs) through a digital atlas; India is estimated to have at least 1,000 CSBs.
• **National Seminar** – Held on 17–18 November 2026 at National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), New Delhi.
• **DIVERSIFARM-India –** Three-year collaborative project led by *Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI), Norway and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), India.*
• **Objective –** To strengthen community-based seed systems to improve food and nutritional security and livelihoods of small farmers.
• **Major Outputs**
  - GIS-based digital atlas mapping 652 CSBs.
  - Policy brief identifying six CSB typologies based on management structures.
  - 10-point roadmap for Odisha to strengthen CSBs.
  - Capacity-building manual for establishing and managing CSBs.
• **Community Seed Banks –** Community-managed institutions that conserve, multiply, store and distribute traditional/local seeds, supporting in-situ conservation and farmers' resilience.
• **Legal Framework**
  - Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001.
  - Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
• **Institutional Linkage –** It promote collaboration between community gene banks and national gene banks such as ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR).

Environment

Brown Shrike (Lanius cristatus)



• *Brown Shrike travelled nearly **6,000 km from Siberia** and was spotted at Ulavatti village, Hagaribommanahalli taluk, Vijayanagara district, Karnataka.*
• **Scientific Name –** *Lanius cristatus*.
• **IUCN Status –** Least Concern (LC).
• **Habitat –** Scrub forests, grasslands, agricultural fields and open landscapes; near **Malavi reservoir (Chikkahagari River)**.
• **Distribution –** Breeds from Mongolia to Siberia (Northern Asia); winters in South Asia, Myanmar and Malay Peninsula.
• **Migration –** Winter migrant to India; generally arrives during August–September and departs around April.
• **Identification –** Black eye-mask, white brow, brown upperparts and hooked/notched bill.
• **Feeding –** Impales prey on thorns; hence, shrikes are popularly called **butcher birds**.

Science

Indigenous Atomic Clock Prototype Developed by Pune Startup

• Pune-based deep-tech startup **QuPrayog Private Limited** developed a laboratory-scale indigenous atomic clock prototype.
• **Technology –** Rubidium-87 atomic clock using **Coherent Population Trapping (CPT)** technology.
• **Development –** Achieved **Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4** after seven months of development; miniature integrated product targeted by end of 2027.
• **Performance –** Demonstrated nearly **50 times better timekeeping stability** than a conventional free-running crystal oscillator over 1,000 seconds (company-reported).
• **Applications:**
  - Satellite navigation and telecommunications.
  - Space missions and strategic systems.
  - Precision timing and quantum instrumentation.
• **Significance –** It reduces dependence on imported high-performance atomic clocks amid export restrictions on dual-use technologies.

National Quantum Mission (NQM)

• **Launched in –** 2023.
• **Outlay –** Rs.6,003.65 crore over eight years (2023–24 to 2030–31).
• It promotes indigenous quantum technologies, including quantum sensing, metrology and precision measurement.

Miscellaneous

World Heritage Week – India

• *Recently, ASI-protected monuments across India offered **free entry on 19 November 2026** to mark the opening of World Heritage Week.*
• **Annually observed –** From 19 to 25 November.
• **Implementing Agency –** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under the Ministry of Culture.
• **ASI –** It protects over **3,800 monuments and sites** across India, of which 143 are ticketed.
• **Examples –** Taj Mahal, Red Fort and Qutub Minar.
• **Objective –** To promote awareness, appreciation and conservation of India's cultural heritage.

Women's Entrepreneurship Day

• **Observed annually on –** 19th November
• **Aim –** To celebrate, support, and empower women founders and business leaders worldwide.

India

• Women Entrepreneurship Day celebrated with a roadmap towards **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
• **Organisers –** Ministry of MSME, Government of India, in association with India SME Forum and Women Entrepreneurs Forum.
• **Focus –** Empower women-led enterprises through 4 pillars – **Enable, Accelerate, Digitise and Globalise**.
  - **Enable –** Udyam registration, access to finance, government schemes, entrepreneurship skills and capacity building.
  - **Accelerate** – Market access, branding, procurement, quality certification, e-commerce and sustainable business growth.
  - **Digitise –** Digital literacy, AI, digital commerce, technology adoption and D2C models.
  - **Globalise –** Export opportunities, gender-inclusive FTAs, cross-border e-commerce, trade finance and global value chains.



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