

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 24-01-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Ponduru Khadi receives GI Tag

Ponduru Khadi of Andhra Pradesh has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, with the registration.

- Ponduru Khadi is a traditional hand-woven cotton fabric produced in Ponduru village of Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh, locally known as Patnulu.
- It is known for its exceptionally high yarn count of around 100-120, reflecting its superior fineness and quality.
- The fabric is made using Hill cotton, Punasa cotton, and Red cotton grown in the same region.
- The entire process of cleaning, spinning, and weaving is carried out manually, preserving centuries-old artisanal skills.
- **Distinctive features** - Use of the jawbone of the Valuga fish for cleaning cotton, a practice not found anywhere else in the world.

Polity & Governance

Electronic Personnel Licence (EPL) services for Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL)

- It is a secure digital licence incorporating ICAO-aligned security features.
- **Launched By** - Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- **Accessed through** - eGCA mobile application.
- **Objective** - To ensure authenticity, prevent tampering, and enable real-time verification.

6th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers' (ADGMIN) Meeting

- **ADGMIN** - It is an annual forum of Telecom and Digital Ministers.
- **Participants** - 11 ASEAN member states such as Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam along with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners.
- **Acknowledgement** - The adoption of the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation at the 21st ASEAN-India Summit.
- **Objective** - To strengthen regional digital cooperation, with a focus on digital inclusion and integration.

Economy

National Conference on Strategic Trade Controls (NCSTC) 2026

- **Organized by** - Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- **Collaboration with** - Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), and other Government partners and industry stakeholders.
- **Objective** - To facilitate legitimate high-technology trade and address proliferation risks among stakeholders.

Agriculture

Rice - A Water-Intensive Crop

• Reasons -

- The rice plant needs CO₂ inside the leaf for photosynthesis.
- CO₂ enters primarily through *open stomata*, but the same open pores also allow water vapour to leave.
- Rice is a *C3 plant, and C3 photosynthesis* is less water-efficient in hot or dry conditions than C4 (e.g. maize).
 - In C3 plants, the main *CO₂-fixing enzyme sometimes reacts with oxygen instead of CO₂*.
 - To keep photosynthesis going, C3 leaves often need to keep stomata open enough to sustain internal CO₂ levels, which *increases transpiration*.
- Rice survives in oxygen-poor flooded soils by *develops air-filled channels* that transport oxygen from shoots to roots.

Science

Virtual Reality (VR) Theatre

- A Virtual Reality Theatre is a specialized room equipped with an immersive display system.
 - The experiences are typically computer-generated in real time.
- **Inaugurated by** - National Science Centre, in New Delhi.
- **Aim** - To engage viewers visually and sometimes audibly in virtual experiences.

Madhya Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026

- **Organised by** - IndiaAI Mission, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Part of** - 8 Regional AI Impact Conferences being organised across the country as precursors to the *India AI Impact Summit 2026*.
- **Focused on** - “Technology-Led Governance for All”, “AI for Economic Growth & Social Good”, and “Resilience, Innovation & Efficiency”.
- **Significance** - It aligns state-level initiatives with the *IndiaAI Mission's national ambitions*.

Unauthorized Sale of Walkie-Talkies

Over 16,970 non-compliant walkie-talkie listings were identified across platforms, and notices were issued to 13 e-commerce entities.

- **Issued by** - Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
- **Wrongly advertised as** - “license-free” or “100% legal,” even though their use requires government approval.
- **Sale, import and use of walkie-talkies in India are regulated under -**
 - The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
 - The Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933
 - The Use of Low Power and Very Low Power Short Range Radio Frequency Devices (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2018.
- **Exception** - only walkie-talkies operating strictly within the *446.0-446.2 MHz* frequency band are exempted from licensing.
- **Misleading advertisement, unfair trade practice and deficiency in service under -**
 - Consumer Protection Act, 2019, and violates the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020.

Miscellaneous

National Startup Day

Prime Minister participated in a programme marking a decade of the Startup India initiative.

- **Observed on** - 16th January
- **Commemoration to** - The 10th anniversary of the launch of *StartUp India*.
- **Aim** - To recognize the innovative spirit and entrepreneurial drive of youth shaping India's startup success.

Startup India

- It is a transformative national programme aimed at nurturing innovation, promoting entrepreneurship and enabling investment-driven growth.
- **Launched on** - 16th January 2016, by *Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)*.
- **Objective** - To make India a nation of job creators rather than job seekers.

