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One Liners 24-4-2026

History, Art and Culture

Adi Shankaracharya

Adi Shankaracharya (788–820 CE) was a legendary philosopher-saint from Kerala. In just 32 years, he traveled across India to revive Vedic teachings and reform Hinduism.

• **Early Life -** A child prodigy, he mastered the Vedas by age twelve. He walked 2,000 kilometers to find his Guru, Govindapada, on the banks of the Narmada River.

• **Core Philosophy -** He championed Advaita Vedanta (Non-Dualism), teaching that the individual soul and the Universal Consciousness (Brahman) are one. He described the physical world as *Maya* (illusion).

• **Unifying Worship -** To end sectarian conflicts, he established the **Shanmata system**, organizing the worship of six primary deities into a single, harmonious framework.

• **Literary Legacy -** Shankaracharya wrote profound commentaries on the Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads, along with famous devotional hymns like the *Nirvana Shatakam*.

• **Four Maths -** He founded four major monasteries (Maths) in Badrinath, Sringeri, Puri, and Dwaraka. This "spiritual grid" unified India's cultural and geographical boundaries.

Polity & Governance

Samriddh Gram: Digital Rural Growth

Samriddh Gram is an Indian project using high-speed internet to bring essential services to villages through community hubs called Samriddhi Kendras.

• **Health and Learning** - These centers offer doctor consultations via video and use smart classrooms with VR tech to teach students new skills.

• **Smart Farming -** Farmers get help from drones and soil sensors to improve crops, making agriculture more modern and efficient.

• **Village Services** - The hubs provide easy access to government schemes, online shopping, and security cameras to keep neighborhoods safe.

• **WSIS Prize 2026** - This initiative is nominated for a global WSIS award, which honors projects using technology to improve lives.

• **Global Recognition -** The award, organized by the ITU, celebrates digital tools that help reach United Nations goals for a better world.

International Relations and Issues

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)

UN ESCAP is a major UN group representing 53 countries. It helps nearly two-thirds of the world's people work together on economic and social issues.

• **History** - Founded in 1947 and based in Bangkok, it originally helped countries rebuild after World War II. Today, it focuses on modern challenges like climate change.

• **Aims to** - Reduce poverty, promote equality, and help nations achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

• **Key Actions** - It conducts research on food and energy costs while building massive trade routes, like the Trans-Asian Railway, to connect nations.

• **Current Focus -** ESCAP is currently helping countries move toward clean energy to protect them from rising fuel prices caused by global conflicts.

UN Resolution 47: The Kashmir Dispute

Adopted in 1948, Resolution 47 was a UN plan to stop the fighting in Jammu and Kashmir. It suggested a three-step peace process, though these were recommendations, not laws.

• **The Background** - After tribal invaders entered J&K in 1947, India sought UN help. India wanted the UN to stop Pakistan from supporting the invaders.

The 3 Steps UN proposed:

1. Pakistan withdraws its fighters.
2. India reduces its troops.
3. A public vote (**plebiscite**) decides the region's future.

• **Political Tension** India felt betrayed when the UN treated the conflict as a general dispute between two equal nations rather than addressing the invasion directly.

• **Legacy -** The vote never happened because forces did not withdraw. Today, India prefers the **Simla Agreement**, which favors solving the issue privately without the UN

Economy

Moody's Lowers India's Growth Outlook

Moody's has cut India's FY27 growth estimate to 6%, down from 6.8%. This change follows slower factory output and weaker spending by consumers.

• **Energy Risks** - Rising oil and gas prices caused by West Asia conflicts are a major concern. High energy costs make manufacturing and transport more expensive.

• **Inflationary Pressure** - Expensive imports and potential fertilizer shortages could drive up food and fuel prices. This puts extra pressure on the government's budget and subsidies.

• **Sector Impact -** Aviation and chemical industries face lower profits as costs rise. However, government-backed infrastructure projects remain a steady source of economic activity.

• **Remittance Concerns** - Tensions in the Gulf may reduce money sent home by Indian workers. Since this region provides one-third of India's remittances, the rupee could face pressure.

• **Economic Resilience** - Despite these risks, India remains stable. Strong foreign exchange reserves and high service exports help the country handle global financial shocks effectively.

New DRDO Tech for Land and Sea

The Big Reveal India has introduced two new home-grown tools: the **Prajna** imaging system for land security and the **Air Droppable Container – 150 (ADC)** containers for naval supplies.

• **AI Security -** Prajna uses artificial intelligence to scan satellite images. It helps the government monitor sensitive areas and fight terrorism with real-time data.

• **Emergency Supplies** - The ADC-150 is a container that can be dropped from planes. It carries 150 kg of food or medicine to ships far out at sea.

• **Successful Trials** - The Indian Navy recently tested the ADC-150 near Goa. It worked perfectly even under tough flight conditions, proving it is ready for use.

• **Team Effort** - Several DRDO labs across India worked together to build these systems, creating everything from the container's body to its parachute.

• **Self-Reliance -** These inventions support the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" goal. By making our own tech, India becomes stronger and less dependent on other countries.

Environment

Earth Day 2026

Celebrated every April 22 since 1970, Earth Day is a global event involving 190 countries.

• **Promotes** - nature protection, climate action, and green living.

• **The Goal** The 2026 theme, **"Our Power, Our Planet,"** encourages everyone to take responsibility for our environment. It aims to stop pollution and deforestation through teamwork.

• **Main Events** This year features science quizzes and a special lecture on Antarctica. Communities worldwide also host tree plantings and exhibitions to inspire sustainable change.

Security

New Mine-Clearing Tools for India

The Defence Ministry signed a Rs.975 crore deal to help Indian tanks cross minefields safely. This focuses on providing new tools for T-72 and T-90 tanks.

• **TRAWL –** Assembly is a device attached to the front of a tank. Developed by DRDO, it clears safe paths by neutralizing anti-tank mines, including those with magnetic sensors.

• **Local Makers -** The equipment is designed by DRDO and built by Indian companies like BEML. This keeps production within the country.

• **Tank Facts** - The T-72 and T-90 are India's primary battle tanks. Equipping them with TRAWLs allows the Army to move quickly during both offensive and defensive missions.

• **Jobs and Industry** - The project creates new jobs and helps small businesses. Many parts will be made by smaller Indian factories, boosting the economy.

Science

Smart Washbasins

A smart washbasin is a touchless sink that uses sensors to control water flow. These devices are common in busy places like airports and malls.

• **The Invisible Light** - They use **Infrared (IR) waves**. These are light waves invisible to humans that bounce off objects to trigger a reaction.

• **How it Works** - An LED sends out a beam of light. When your hand moves under the tap, it reflects that light back to a sensor.

• **Starting the Flow** - Once the sensor catches the reflected light, it sends an electrical signal to open a water valve automatically.

• **Features** - These sinks are touch-free to stop the spread of germs. They also turn off instantly when you move your hand away.

• **Why it Matters** - Smart basins save water by preventing taps from being left on. They also keep public bathrooms cleaner and safer for everyone.

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
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