UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 25.04-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Áspero: Ancient Peruvian Science Hub

Áspero is an ancient archaeological site in Peru. It belonged to the Caral-Supe civilization, one of the oldest in the Americas.

• **Location** - It sits on the Supe River, very close to the Pacific Ocean. It was a major center for fishing and trade.

• **Monumental Buildings** - The site features large mounds and circular plazas. These structures show that the ancient society was highly organized and skilled in architecture.

• **Recent Discovery -** Archaeologists recently found a sky observation structure. This proves early people used science to track stars and predict weather.

• **Social Status -** Findings like the "Lady of the Four Tupus" reveal a complex social ladder. High-status burials show the community valued its leaders.

• **Key Role** - Áspero supplied seafood to the city of Caral. It served as a vital link between the coast, mountains, and jungle regions.

Geography

Subarnarekha River.

The Indian Army recently neutralized a 227 kg World War II bomb found in the Subarnarekha River.

• **What is it? -** The Subarnarekha is a rain-fed river in eastern India. Its name means "Streak of Gold" because gold particles are found in its sands.

• **Where it Flows -** It starts near Ranchi, Jharkhand, and travels 395 km through West Bengal and Odisha before reaching the Bay of Bengal.

• **Main Tributaries -** Its largest tributary is the Kharkai. Other smaller rivers like the Kanchi and Roro also feed into it.

• **Famous Landmarks -** The river creates the spectacular 98-meter-high Hundru Falls, a major geological site carved out by erosion.

• The river flows through copper and uranium-rich areas. It provides vital water for the industrial city of Jamshedpur.

Cerium–Magnesium Changesite

Chinese scientists found a new mineral named Cerium–Magnesium Changesite. It is the 11th mineral ever identified from the Moon, found inside a small lunar meteorite.

• **Appearance and Structure -** The mineral is colorless, clear, and very fragile. Its tiny crystals formed under extreme pressure and heat conditions that do not exist on Earth.

• **Unique Properties -** It contains rare-earth elements and glows under certain light. This "fluorescence" makes it a natural model for studying how rare materials behave in space.

• **Better LED Tech -** Researchers believe this mineral could improve LED lights. Its composition might help create brighter, more energy-efficient screens and bulbs for electronics.

• **Exam Facts -** Cerium is a vital element for electronics. While Earth has thousands of minerals, the Moon has very few officially recognized ones.

• **Future Space Missions -** Studying this mineral helps scientists understand the Moon's history. This knowledge is essential for future lunar mining and building long-term human bases.

International Relations and Issues

Druzhba pipeline's

Russia has resumed oil flows through the Druzhba pipeline's Ukrainian section, prompting Hungary to approve a 90 billion euro EU loan for Kyiv.

• **What is Druzhba? -** Meaning "Friendship," it is one of the world's longest oil networks, built in 1964. It connects Russian oil fields to Central and Eastern Europe.

• **Two Main Routes -** The pipeline splits in Belarus: the northern branch serves Poland and Germany, while the southern branch feeds Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic via Ukraine.

• **Economic Importance -** It provides a direct land route for Russian crude, bypassing sea travel. Landlocked refineries in Central Europe still rely heavily on this supply.

• **Strategic Risks -** Because the southern leg crosses Ukraine, it is vulnerable to war damage. Transit countries can use these flows as political leverage during international negotiations.

• **Current Significance -** While the EU aims to reduce its Russian energy use, countries like Hungary remain dependent on Druzhba. This makes the pipeline a critical tool in European diplomacy.

Environment

Dolphin Friends

The Prayagraj forest department launched "Dolphin Friends" to protect endangered Gangetic dolphins through local teamwork.

• **What is it? -** This volunteer network monitors dolphin movements and breeding habits to ensure their survival in the river.

• **Initiative aims** - To safeguard dolphins during the monsoon and teach local communities about protecting the river ecosystem.

• **Community Role -** Fishermen and boatmen act as primary guardians, while researchers provide scientific data to track "hotspots" like Phaphamau and Meja.

• **Special Monitoring -**Patrols increase during the rainy season to protect mothers and calves during their most sensitive reproductive period.

• **Why It Matters -** Growing dolphin numbers prove that water quality is improving. This "people + policy" approach effectively strengthens national efforts like Project Dolphin.

New Fanged Frog Discovery in India

Scientists found a new species called *Limnonectes motijheel*. It is a "fanged frog," named for the small, tooth-like points in the males' lower jaws used for fighting or eating.

• **Location** - It was discovered in the Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh. The frog is named after Motijheel Lake, an area famous for its many amphibians.

• **Unique Nesting** - Unlike most frogs, this species builds nests out of mud under fallen leaves. This rare behavior had never been seen before in this group of frogs in India.

• **Appearance** - The frog is dark brown with a line between its eyes and a "V" shape on its back. It is medium-sized, growing only about 2.3 to 3.5 centimeters long.

• **Scientific Importance** - This discovery brings the number of known fanged frog species in India to six. It helps researchers better understand how these unique animals survive in South Asia.

Security

INS Nireekshak: Naval Mission in Sri Lanka

INS Nireekshak arrived in Colombo for DIVEX 2026. This is the fourth diving exercise between the Indian and Sri Lankan Navies.

• **The Vessel** - Built in 1985, this ship is a specialist in deep-sea diving and submarine rescue. It helps the Navy perform sensitive underwater tasks.

• **Advanced Tools** - The ship features recompression chambers and rescue vehicles. These systems keep the vessel steady during dangerous search-and-rescue missions.

• **Joint Training -** During the week-long exercise, both nations' diving teams will practice underwater drills to improve coordination and share expert skills.

• **Medical Gift** - India is donating two BHISM cubes to Sri Lanka. These are portable medical units that can treat 200 emergency patients.

• **Regional Support** - This mission strengthens maritime bonds and highlights India’s commitment to providing humanitarian aid and healthcare to its neighbors.

Science

Haemophilia

Haemophilia is a rare genetic disorder where blood fails to clot correctly. This leads to longer bleeding after an injury because the body lacks certain "clotting factors."

• **The Cause -** It is caused by low levels of proteins called Factor VIII or IX. While usually passed down through families, one-third of cases happen suddenly due to gene mutations.

• **Groups @ Risk -** This condition mostly affects males. Females are typically "carriers," meaning they carry the gene but often do not show severe symptoms themselves.

• **Common Symptoms** - Signs include frequent nosebleeds, easy bruising, and long-lasting bleeding. In severe cases, people may bleed internally or into their joints without any clear injury.

• **Standard Treatment**-The main treatment is replacement therapy. Patients receive injections of the missing clotting factors to stop bleeding or to prevent it before surgery or dental work.

• **New Global Goals -**The World Health Organization recently passed a resolution to improve care. The goal is to make sure all patients, regardless of where they live, get fair treatment.

Curiosity Rover

NASA’s Curiosity rover landed in 2012 to explore Gale Crater. This car-sized robot was lowered to the surface using a unique "sky crane" rocket system.

• **New Discovery -** In April 2026, scientists announced that Curiosity found the most diverse mix of organic molecules ever seen on Mars. This includes seven never-before-seen compounds.

• **Building Blocks of Life -** Among the finds are nitrogen-based molecules that act as predecessors to DNA. While not proof of life, they show Mars had the right ingredients for it.

• **Preserved in Clay -** The samples were drilled from 3.5-billion-year-old rocks. These ancient clays acted like a "time capsule," protecting the delicate molecules from harsh space radiation.

• **Rover Features -** Curiosity is three meters long and weighs 900 kg. It uses nuclear power to run its advanced onboard laboratory, which bakes rock powder to identify chemicals.

• **Future Goals -** The mission aims to study Martian climate and geology. This work is essential to prepare for the first humans to eventually visit and explore the Red Planet.

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