

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 26-02-2026

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#### Social Issues

##### Tribal Women's Inheritance Rights

The Supreme Court reaffirmed that the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, does not apply to Scheduled Tribes.

- **Highlight** - Need for a distinct legislative framework to promote gender parity in tribal inheritance while maintaining tribal identity.
- **Issue** - Tribal women's inheritance rights are denied by customary laws and are excluded from the protections of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956.
- **Preceding inconsistency** - Courts occasionally granted inheritance rights to 'Hinduised' tribal women, resulting in legal uncertainty.
- **Supreme Court Verdict in Nawang v. Bahadur (October 2025)**
  - The Hindu Succession Act, 1956, cannot be applied to Scheduled Tribes under any circumstances.
  - The Supreme Court overturned the High Court order that permitted 'Hinduised' tribal daughters to inherit under the Hindu Succession Act.
  - Only Parliament possesses the authority to extend the Hindu Succession Act to tribal communities.
  - The Supreme Court affirmed the constitutional validity of Section 2(2) of the Hindu Succession Act, which excludes Scheduled Tribes.

#### Economy

##### Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS)

- **Target** - Establishment of 32,752 PACS during 2024-25 and 2025-26.
- **Achievement** - 8,710 PACS have been formed, representing 27% of the overall target.
- **Top States** - Odisha (1,543), Rajasthan (1,387), Uttar Pradesh (1,099), Madhya Pradesh (621), Uttarakhand (621), Gujarat (525), Assam & Chhattisgarh (469 each).
- **Diversified Functions as per Model Bye-laws**
  - **Agriculture** - Provision of short-term credit, agricultural inputs, and distribution of fertilisers and pesticides through PMKSK.
  - **Seeds** - Production and distribution facilitated by Bharat Beej (BBSSL).
  - **Farm support** - Operation of Custom Hiring Centres for agricultural machinery.
  - **Allied sectors** - Engagement in dairy and fisheries activities.
- **Digital & Public Services**
  - Over 51,000 PACS function as Common Service Centres (CSCs), providing access to more than 300 electronic services, including banking and insurance.
  - Authorised to run PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs), manage piped water supply schemes, and operate fuel outlets & LPG distributorships.

### **Bharat Taxi - Cooperative Ride-Hailing Platform**

- **Model** - Cooperative-led, inspired by the Amul model.
- **Profit Sharing**
  - 80% of profits to drivers (based on kilometres driven).
  - 20% retained as cooperative capital.
- **Driver Benefits**
  - Guaranteed minimum base rate per kilometre.
  - Option to become co-owners (₹500 share).
  - Driver representatives on the Board of Directors.
- **Features**
  - **'Saarathi Didi' option** - Women passengers can prioritise female drivers.
  - **Diversification** - Drivers empowered with ownership and profit-sharing.
  - **Timeline** - Profits redirected to drivers after ~3 years.

### **National Arogya Fair 2026**

- **Held at** - Shegaon, Buldhana district, Maharashtra.
- **Organized by** - Ministry of Ayush & All India Ayurvedic Congress.
- **Objectives**
  - Promote Ayush systems of medicine among the public.
  - Provide free health services (check-ups, consultations, medicines).
  - Create livelihood opportunities for farmers via medicinal plant cultivation and agroforestry.
  - Showcase Ayush research, practices, and products.

### **National SC-ST Hub-Mega Awareness Programme**

- **Held at** - Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Organized by** - Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- **Objectives**
  - To disseminate information on the National SC-ST Hub Scheme and other MSME initiatives.
  - To promote entrepreneurship and strengthen the MSME ecosystem in Arunachal Pradesh.

## **Environment**

### **Ethanol Blending**

*The government has mandated the sale of petrol with up to 20% ethanol and a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95.*

- **Mandated across** - All States and Union Territories.
- **Effective from** - April 1, 2026.
- **Notification by** - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **Directive** - Oil companies must sell petrol blended with up to 20% ethanol and having minimum RON 95, as per BIS specifications.
- **Vehicle impact** -
  - Most vehicles made from 2023-25 onward are *E20-compatible*.
  - Older vehicles may face *3-7% mileage drop* and wear on rubber/plastic parts.
  - Ethanol has high octane (~108 RON), *improving knock resistance*.
  - The insistence on minimum RON 95 is to *prevent engine damage*.
- **Benefits** -
  - Reduces oil imports and emissions.
  - Supports farmers by boosting demand for sugarcane, maize, and surplus grains.
  - Saves foreign exchange (₹1.40 lakh crore since 2014-15).

## Ethanol

- Ethanol (ethyl alcohol, grain alcohol) is a clear, colourless liquid produced naturally by plant fermentation or via ethylene hydration.
- **Properties** - Easily dissolves in water and organic compounds, making it highly versatile.
- **Uses** -
  - **Beverages** - Ingredient in beer, wine, brandy.
  - **Personal Care** - Acts as an astringent and preservative.
  - **Industrial** - Solvent in paints, varnishes; blended with gasoline to improve vehicle performance.
  - **Food Industry** - Distributes food colouring, enhances flavour in extracts.

## Birdwatching Workshop in Wayanad

- **Title** - Basics of Birdwatching
- **Venue** - Thennal Jungle Camp, Kattikulam, Wayanad from February 28 to March 1, 2026.
- **Audience** - Open to beginners and experienced birders
- **Activities**
  - Guided bird walks in natural habitats.
  - Classroom sessions on bird identification and conservation.
  - Interactive discussions on local bird species and ecosystems.
  - Emphasis on bird behaviour, habitat awareness, and responsible nature observation.

## Health

### Acute Renal Failure (ARF) / Acute Kidney Injury (AKI)

- It is characterized by a rapid decline in kidney function, typically occurring within 48 hours.
- **Impact** - The condition results in the kidneys failing to filter waste, regulate fluid levels, and maintain electrolyte balance.
- Reversibility is possible if the damage is not severe; otherwise, the condition may progress to permanent loss of kidney function.
- **Causes**
  - Trauma or accidents injuring the kidneys.
  - Severe blood loss reduces kidney perfusion.
  - Drugs or toxins/poisons damaging kidney tissue.
  - Underlying medical conditions (e.g., infections, obstruction).

## Nation-wide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme

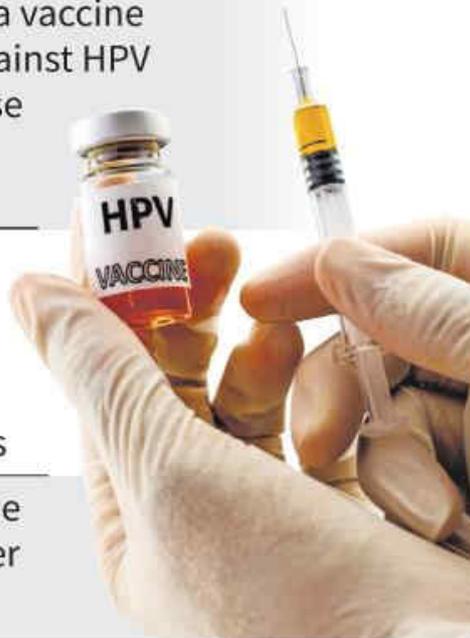
# Safety shot

The Centre's nation-wide HPV vaccination programme targeting girls aged 14 will begin soon

- A single-shot of Gardasil, a vaccine that provides protection against HPV types 16 and 18, which cause cervical cancer, and types 6 and 11 will be used

- The vaccination will be voluntary and free of cost. It will be administered exclusively at designated government health facilities

- Cervical cancer remains the second most common cancer among women in India



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