

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 29-03-2025

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#### History, Art and Culture

##### India's Cultural Outreach: Global Engagement Scheme

Recently, Ministry of Culture implements "Global Engagement Scheme" to promote India's rich cultural heritage internationally and enhance India's global image.

- **Scheme Objective** - Aims to elevate India's global cultural profile and strengthen international ties.
- **Festival of India** - Showcasing diverse Indian art forms globally, including folk, classical, and contemporary performances, through "Festival of India" events.
- **Indo-Foreign Cultural Societies** - Providing grants to foster cultural exchange and friendship between India and foreign nations.
- **ICCR's Role** - The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) promotes Indian culture through centers worldwide, teaching arts, organizing events, and leveraging digital platforms.
- **Digital Promotion** - Utilizing digital and social media to enhance cultural outreach and promote Indian heritage.
- **Digital Platforms & Initiatives** - ICCR's AIMS, A2A (Admission 2 Alumni), and Gyan Setu portals streamline global operations, student admissions, and scholarship distribution.
- **Universalization of Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems (UTIKS)** - Platform offers online courses on Indian knowledge systems.

##### Swadesh Darshan (SD) Scheme

After an in-depth evaluation, the Ministry of Tourism has revamped this initiative, now called Swadesh Darshan 2.0, aiming to foster sustainable and responsible tourism destinations.

- **Launched in** - 2015.
- It is 100% centrally funded scheme.
- Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State governments, Union Territory Administrations or Central Agencies for development of tourism infrastructure in the country.
- **Original Scheme (SD 1.0)** - Thematic circuits were developed, encompassing multiple destinations per circuit, to boost tourism.
- **Scheme Revamp (SD 2.0)** - Aiming for sustainable and responsible tourism, SD 2.0 focuses on delineated areas and includes niche tourism elements.
- **Impact Assessment (SD 1.0)** - A 2019 study by the National Productivity Council highlighted the scheme's positive impact on local livelihood and employment during construction phases.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (SD 2.0)** - SD 2.0 guidelines mandate regular evaluation and monitoring based on various parameters to ensure project success.

## **Sri Sri Harichand Thakur: Social Reformer**

*PM pays tribute to Sri Sri Harichand Thakur Ji on his Jayanti*

- **Birth and Background:** Born in 1812 in Orakandi, Bangladesh, Harichand Thakur belonged to a peasant farmer family of the Thakur (SC) community.
- **Matua Sect Foundation:** He established the Matua sect, a Vaishnavite Hinduism offshoot, based on truth, love, and sanity.
- **Rejection of Traditional Teachings** - Thakur differed from earlier Hindu saints, emphasizing family life and work as integral to spiritual fulfillment.
- **Social Upliftment** - His teachings resonated with the Namasudra community, challenging caste oppression and attracting other marginalized groups.
- **Divine Status** - Followers consider him an avatar of Vishnu or Krishna, addressing him as Sri Sri Harichand Thakur.
- **Legacy** - He dedicated his life to improving the lives of oppressed and deprived people in pre-independence Bengal, passing away in 1878.

## **Social Issues**

### **PM VIKAS: Uplifting Minority Communities**

- **Scheme** - Is a Central Sector Scheme, consolidates five former initiatives to empower six notified minority communities. (Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jain and Zorastrians (Parsis))
- **Skilling and Training** - Provides both traditional and non-traditional skill development opportunities.
- **Women Empowerment** - Focuses on leadership and entrepreneurship programs for women.
- **Educational Support** - Facilitates education through the National Institute of Open Schooling.
- **Infrastructure Development** - Integrates with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram for infrastructure improvements.
- **Credit Linkages** - Connects beneficiaries with loan programs from the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC).
- **Implementation and Outreach** - The Ministry is currently processing proposals and collaborating with government entities. Awareness is spread through events like Hunar Haat, Lok Samvardhan Parv, and digital media.

## **Polity & Governance**

### **India Measures to improve dak services in rural areas**

*Recently, Revenue generated by post offices is tracked at various levels at regular intervals. The Department has implemented several initiatives to enhance postal services in rural regions.*

- **Real-Time Delivery** - Mobile app updates provide delivery status during door-to-door service.
- **Digitalized Branch Post Offices** - Equipped with digital tools for various transactions (postal, financial, and insurance).
- **Enhanced Savings Access** - Internet banking, mobile banking, eKYC, and e-Passbook improve convenience.
- **Streamlined Parcel Delivery** - Has been established to streamline parcel distribution through mechanized delivery.

### Zero Hour: Indian Parliamentary Innovation

- **Unique Origin** - Zero Hour is an Indian Parliament creation, not found in formal rulebooks.
- **Timing** - It follows Question Hour, preceding the day's agenda.
- **Informal Mechanism** - Not in the Rules of Procedure, it allows raising issues without notice.
- **Duration** - Begins post-Question Hour, ending when the House's daily business starts.
- **Purpose** - Provides MPs an avenue for immediate, unplanned issue presentation.
- **Historical Context** - This practice, an Indian innovation, has been operational since 1962.

### Economy

#### Treasury Bills

*The Government of India, in consultation with Reserve Bank of India, hereby, notifies the calendar for the issuance of Treasury Bills for the quarter ending June 2025.*

- **Definition** - Treasury Bills (T-bills) are short-term government debt instruments, allowing investors to park surplus funds.
- **Issuance** - Auctioned by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at a discount to face value.
- **Market Context** - T-bills operate within India's money market, alongside commercial bills.
- **Issuer Distinction** - T-bills are issued by the Central Government, while commercial bills are issued by financial institutions.
- **Risk Advantage** - T-bills have zero risk weightage, due to their sovereign backing.
- **Liquidity** - High liquidity is ensured by short-term maturities, such as 91 and 364 days.
- **Who can buy** - Individuals, trusts, institutions and banks can purchase T-Bills. But they are usually held by financial institutions.

#### White Revolution 2.0: Cooperative Dairy Expansion

*The Ministry of Cooperation has launched cooperative-led "White Revolution 2.0" aimed at expanding cooperative coverage, employment generation and women's empowerment.*

- **Objective**- Aims to increase dairy cooperative milk procurement by 50% within five years.
- **SOP and Targets**- Launched on September 19, 2024, the initiative targets 1007 lakh kg of daily procurement by 2028-29.
- **Strategies** - Achieving this through expanding dairy cooperative coverage and deepening their reach.
- **Implementation** - Plans include establishing 75,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCSs) in uncovered areas and strengthening 46,422 existing ones.
- **Women Empowerment** - Recognizing women's crucial role in dairy farming, the initiative seeks to empower them by bringing more into the organized cooperative sector.
- **Punjab Initiative** - Punjab aims to create 2,378 new DCSs and strengthen 2,440, with 87 already registered, contributing to the national goal. NDDB (**National Dairy Development Board is a statutory body**) will coordinate the activities.

### **Wholesale Price Index (WPI): Tracking Wholesale Inflation**

*The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is 2.38% (provisional) for the month of February, 2025 (over February, 2024).*

- **Definition:** WPI measures price changes of goods before retail, indicating wholesale-level inflation.
- **Scope-** Excludes services, focusing solely on commodity prices.
- **Issuing Authority-** Released by the Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Base Year** - The current base year for WPI calculation is 2011-2012.
- **Index Categories** - The WPI basket comprises three main categories: Manufactured Products (64.2%), Primary Articles (22.6%), and Fuel & Power (13.2%).
- **Purpose** - Provides a macroeconomic overview of price fluctuations at the wholesale stage of the economy.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Digital Bharat Nidhi & NABARD: Rural Digital Empowerment**

*Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) under Department of Telecommunications (DoT), signed a MoU with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for Digital Rural Empowerment for rural areas of the across the country.*

- **Partnership Objective** - To enhance rural development via digital services and high-speed broadband under BharatNet.
- **Reference Data Sharing** - Geo-coordinates and contact details of rural institutions will be shared, enabling targeted broadband connectivity.
- **Digital Content & Services** - Both entities will exchange digital content and integrate their digital services for wider dissemination.
- **Capacity Building** - Joint awareness programs will empower rural entrepreneurs and institutions.
- **Digital Economy Promotion** - Leveraging BharatNet, they will foster a digital economy through high-speed broadband access.
- **Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Infrastructure Inclusion** - NABARD will integrate ICT infrastructure into its schemes, ensuring broadband support for rural institutions.