

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 29- April 2026

### One Liners 29-04- 2026

#### History, Art and Culture

##### Asia's First UNESCO Chair

Symbiosis University in Pune has launched Asia's first UNESCO Chair focused on gender inclusion and skill development for women.

- **Historic Milestone** - This is the first initiative in Asia to link UNESCO's global goals with practical job training for underprivileged girls.
- **Future-Ready Training** - The program has already trained 10,000 girls in high-tech fields like robotics, semiconductors, automation, and defense technology.
- **Proven Success** - Every student trained under this model received a job offer, proving the effectiveness of linking education directly to industry needs.
- **The project aims** - To close the gender gap in technical sectors where women are often underrepresented.
- **Global Partnership** - As a UNESCO partner, the university serves as an international hub for research and innovation in inclusive education.
- **Vision for Growth** - The initiative supports "women-led development," preparing a skilled workforce for fast-growing "sunrise industries" that drive the modern economy.

##### The Spirit of Thrissur Pooram

Despite recent safety concerns, thousands gathered at the Vadakkunnathan Temple to celebrate Thrissur Pooram, Kerala's most iconic temple festival.

- **Mother of All Poorams** - Created in 1796 by Maharaja Sakthan Thampuran, this grand event is over 200 years old and unites ten different temples.
- **Grand Processions** - The festival features more than 50 elephants decorated with gold ornaments, carrying idols through the city to the beat of traditional drums.
- **Kudamattam Display** - A visual highlight is the "Kudamattam," where rival temple teams compete to quickly exchange beautiful, colorful silk umbrellas atop the elephants.
- **Mesmerizing Music** - The air is filled with "Ilanjithara Melam," a powerful performance by hundreds of musicians playing traditional percussion and wind instruments.
- **Sacred Rituals** - Deities perform the "Panchapradakshinam," circling the ancient Shiva temple in a holy ritual that draws massive crowds of devotees.
- **2026 Celebration** - This year, festivities were scaled back following a tragic fireworks unit explosion. While rituals continued, the famous midnight fireworks show was cancelled out of respect.

#### Geography

## The Bering Strait Dam

Scientists are exploring a massive dam project in the Bering Strait to help stabilize the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), a crucial global current.

- **The Goal** - By blocking water flow between the Arctic and Pacific, the dam aims to regulate ocean heat and fight climate change.
- **Where It Is** - The Bering Strait connects Asia and North America, linking the Arctic Ocean to the Pacific's Bering Sea.
- **Project Structure** - The proposed 80 km dam would connect Russia to Alaska using the Big and Little Diomed Islands as anchors.
- **Historic Land Bridge** - Thousands of years ago, this area was a land bridge called Beringia, allowing humans and animals to migrate between continents.
- **Major Risks** - Building here would be difficult due to the remote location and lack of roads. It could also devastate marine migrations.
- **Environmental Impact** - Altering water salinity and currents might harm ecosystems, making this geoengineering project highly controversial despite its potential climate benefits.

## **Polity & Governance**

### Sikkim's 50th Statehood Anniversary

India's PM recently joined the closing ceremony in Gangtok to celebrate 50 years of Sikkim as an Indian state.

- **Celebration** - Starting in May 2025, these events honor Sikkim's 1975 integration into India, marking its journey from a kingdom to a sustainable development leader.
- **Founded in** - 1642 under the Namgyal dynasty, Sikkim later became a British protectorate in 1861 to serve as a buffer zone.
- **Indian Protectorate** - After 1947, a 1950 treaty gave India control over Sikkim's defense and foreign affairs while the state kept internal soul autonomy.
- **The Path to Democracy** - Public protests in the 1970s led to a 1975 referendum. Nearly 97.5% of voters chose to join India and end the monarchy.
- **Becoming a State** - On May 16, 1975, the 36th Amendment officially made Sikkim India's 22nd state.
- **Why It Matters** - The milestone celebrates Sikkim's successful shift to democracy and its vital role in India's cultural and green initiatives.

## **Economy**

### RBI Launches Mission SAKSHAM

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started a massive training program to modernize and strengthen Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).

- **What is SAKSHAM** - The name means "capable." This mission aims to make community banks more professional, efficient, and ready for future financial challenges.
- **The Scale** - This nationwide project will train nearly 140,000 people using both in-person classes and digital learning modules.
- **Who is Participating** - Training targets everyone from board members and senior managers to IT staff and compliance officers within the cooperative sector.
- **Key Goals** - The RBI wants to improve bank governance, risk management, and digital standards while keeping their local, member-owned focus.
- **Local Accessibility** - To ensure everyone learns effectively, training materials will be provided in various regional languages across different Indian states.
- **A Stronger Future** - By partnering with national federations, the RBI is building a more resilient banking system that supports long-term financial stability.

## **Environment**

## Cyborg Botany

Cyborg botany is a new field that blends living plants with electronic parts, turning nature into a biological circuit board.

- **The Hybrid System** - By merging biology with engineering, scientists create "cybernetic organisms" that use natural plant processes to power artificial functions.
- **Living Wires** - Researchers use conductive polymers like PEDOT to act as wires inside plant tissue. These carry electrical signals from cells to external devices.
- **Advanced Sensors** - Tiny electronic transistors are embedded into cell walls. These act as biosensors, detecting internal chemical changes in real-time.
- **Fighting Plant Stress** - The system monitors "abiotic stress" like droughts and "biotic stress" like pests, which are often invisible to the naked eye.
- **Early Warnings** - These sensors can alert farmers to diseases or water shortages weeks before physical symptoms appear, allowing for much faster intervention.
- **Agricultural Impact** - This technology helps farmers save resources by applying water or nutrients only when needed, boosting food security and crop health.

## **The Hidden History of Issyk-Kul**

Underwater archaeologists recently discovered a 700-year-old lost city beneath the waves of Lake Issyk-Kul, revealing an ancient civilization hidden for centuries.

- **Where It Is** - Located in Kyrgyzstan's Tian Shan mountains, this massive lake sits at a high altitude of 1,600 meters, making it the world's second-largest mountain lake.
- **A Unique Basin** - Formed 25 million years ago, Issyk-Kul is an endorheic lake. This means no rivers flow out of it, trapping its blue, salty water within.
- **The "Hot Lake"** - The name means "hot lake" because it never freezes. Its extreme depth, salt content, and underground warm springs keep the water liquid even in freezing winters.
- **Deep and Massive** - It is the seventh deepest lake on Earth, reaching 668 meters. It is also the second-largest saline lake globally, trailing only the Caspian Sea.
- **Diverse Nature** - The surrounding area is unique, featuring everything from warm subtropical plants to icy tundra landscapes in a very small geographical space.
- **Global Protection** - Recognized as a site of international importance, it has been on the Ramsar list since 1976 to protect its vital wetlands and wildlife.

## • **Nilgiri Tahr Survey**

- Tamil Nadu has started its third synchronized survey to count and protect the Nilgiri Tahr, a rare mountain goat.
- **Where They Live** - Found only in the Western Ghats of India, these animals live in high-altitude grasslands and stunted "shola" forests.
- **Unique Features** - Known locally as 'Varayaadu', they are stocky goats with curved horns. Adult males are larger and darker than females.
- **Locations** - They live across a 400 km stretch in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Eravikulam National Park holds the largest population.
- **Conservation Status** - The species is listed as "Endangered." It receives the highest legal protection under India's Wildlife Protection Act.
- **Major Threats** - The Tahr faces dangers from habitat loss, competition with livestock, and the expansion of commercial plantations.
- **Survival Importance** - As the only mountain ungulate in Southern India, protecting them is vital for maintaining the region's unique mountain ecosystem.

## Security

### Exercise 'Pragati' Begins

The Indian Army is launching a new multilateral military exercise called 'Pragati' in Umroi, Meghalaya.

- **The Meaning** - 'Pragati' stands for Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean.
- **Who is Involved** - The Indian Army is hosting military delegations from 11 friendly nations to train together.
- **Primary Goals** - The exercise aims to improve teamwork, build mutual trust, and strengthen defense ties between regional forces.
- **Special Location** - Drills are held at a specialized training hub designed for joint tactical planning and maneuvers.
- **Regional Focus** - This inaugural event highlights India's "neighborhood-first" policy, focusing on security within the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Global Impact** - By leading this 12-nation group, India promotes collective security and stability in a vital maritime corridor.

### **Science**

#### Dopamine

Researchers found that dopamine issues in the brain's memory center directly cause trouble with forming new memories.

- **The Body's Messenger** - Dopamine is a chemical messenger that sends signals between nerve cells and throughout your body to control behavior and movement.
- **The Reward System** - Often called the "pleasure chemical," it is released when you expect a reward, helping you stay focused and work toward goals.
- **Brain Functions** - Beyond pleasure, it regulates learning, mood, sleep, and attention. It even helps humans plan for the future.
- **Vital Health Roles** - Balanced levels are critical. Abnormal dopamine is linked to conditions like Parkinson's disease, ADHD, and restless legs syndrome.
- **Dopamine as a Hormone** - Outside the brain, it acts as a hormone to manage heart rate, kidney function, and insulin levels.
- **Universal Presence** - This essential chemical isn't just for humans; it is found in almost all animals, from insects to mammals.