

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 30-01-2026

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#### Geography

##### **Coking Coal as a Critical and Strategic Mineral**

- **Notified under** - Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act).
- **Exercise of powers under** - Section 11C of the MMDR Act, 1957, has amended the 1<sup>st</sup> Schedule of the Act.
- Accordingly, in Part A, the term “Coal” now reads as “Coal, including Coking Coal”, and “Coking Coal” has been included in Part D, which lists Critical and Strategic Minerals.
- **Expected outcome** - To facilitate faster approvals, improve ease of doing business, and accelerate exploration and mining activities, including of deep-seated deposits.

##### **Coking Coal**

- India has an estimated 37.37 billion tonnes of coking coal resources.
- **Largely located in** - Jharkhand, with additional reserves in Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh.
- **Imports** - Despite this domestic availability, imports of coking coal have increased from 51.20 million tonnes in 2020-21 to 57.58 million tonnes in 2024-25.
- **Steel sector** - Currently, around 95 % of the coking coal requirement is met through imports, leading to significant foreign exchange outgo.

#### Economy

##### **Training Programme on “Legal Management & Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016”**

- **Inaugurated by** - Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security (PDUNASS).
- **Objective** - To strengthen the legal and institutional capacity of EPFO officers in dealing with insolvency-related matters and legal issues arising under the IBC framework.

##### **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security (PDUNASS)**

- **PDUNASS** - It is the apex training institute of the Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) under the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- **Established in** - 1990.
- **Objective** - To undertake training, research and consultancy in the field of social security.

## **Amendments in IEPFA (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016**

Public Comments invited on Proposed Amendments in IEPFA (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016.

- **Amendment focusses on -**

- Easing procedural requirements, reducing timelines, and improving efficiency in the processing of claims relating to unclaimed dividends, shares, matured deposits, debentures, and other eligible amounts transferred to the *Investor Education and Protection Fund under the Companies Act, 2013*.

- **Key feature** - Introduction of a *streamlined mechanism for low-value claims*, based on verification by the concerned companies.

- **Low-value claims -**

- Physical shares with a market value of up to Rs.5 lakh
- Dematerialised shares with a market value of up to Rs.15 lakh
- Dividend claims up to Rs.10,000

- **Objective** - To reduce disposal timeline of 30 days based on company's verification report to enable faster, hassle-free refunds to investors.

## **Environment**

### **Stage IV restrictions**

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) revokes Stage IV restrictions across Delhi-NCR as AQI improves.

- **Restrictions under Stage IV -**

- Ban BS-IV truck entry into Delhi, except for essential goods/services; allow LNG, CNG, Electric, and BS-VI diesel trucks.
- Prohibit Delhi-registered BS-IV and older diesel heavy goods vehicles, except for essential goods/services.
- Suspend construction and demolition activities, including linear public projects like highways, flyovers, power lines, and pipelines.
- Mandate hybrid (online + physical) classes for students from Class VI-IX and XI in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Buddha Nagar; NCR states may extend this to other areas, with students/guardians choosing online mode where feasible.
- Consider emergency measures such as closing colleges, shutting non-essential businesses, and implementing odd-even vehicle restrictions.

## **Science**

### **World Leprosy Day**

- **Annually observed on** - Last Sunday of January.
- **In 2026, observed on** - 25<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Objective** - To celebrate people who have experienced leprosy, raise awareness of the disease, and call for an end to leprosy-related stigma and discrimination.
- **Theme** - "Leprosy is curable, the real challenge is stigma".

## **Miscellaneous**

### **SAMPANN pension portal integrates with UMANG Portal**

- It facilitates pensioners in retrieving their Pension Payment Order (PPO) number and Life Certificate (LC) validity status via the UMANG web portal or mobile application.
- **Integrated with** - DigiLocker, underscores the department's commitment to providing prompt and transparent services to all pensioners.
- **Objective** - To enhance ease of access for pensioners, promote transparency, and ensure the seamless delivery of pension-related information via a unified digital platform.

### **System for Accounting and Management of Pension (SAMPANN)**

- It has digitized the entire pension lifecycle, from initiation and processing of cases to issuance of e-Pension Payment Orders, disbursement, accounting, reconciliation, financial reporting, audit facilitation, and grievance redressal.
- **Developed, owned, & operated by** - Office of the Controller General of Communication Accounts for pension administration and allied financial management functions.
- **Launched by** - 2018.
- **Objective** - To mark a shift from system-centric administration to pensioner-centric governance, freeing retirees and their families from visiting offices to claim their rightful benefits.

### **Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) platform**

- It is a single unified platform (mobile app + web portal).
- **Dedicated to** - Access government services offered by Central, State, and Local bodies—anytime, anywhere.
- **Available on** - Android, iOS, and the web.
- **Part of** - Digital India initiative.

