UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 30- April 2026

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Geography

Light pollution

Light pollution now jeopardizes the Atacama Desert's pristine skies, essential for global space research.

• **Dark Sky Risks -** Industrial expansion and urban sprawl from nearby towns create sky glow, obstructing deep-space observation.
• **Mining Impact -** Lithium extraction introduces artificial light, dust, and vibrations, disturbing sensitive astronomical zones.
• **Geographic Profile -** Stretching 1,600 km along Chile's coast, this is the world's driest non-polar desert.
• **Aridity Factors -** The Andes' rain-shadow and the cold Humboldt Current maintain its hyper-arid climate.
• **Astronomical Goal -** The desert aims to host the **Extremely Large Telescope** (2030) to advance cosmic discovery.

Polity & Governance

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

(DPI) refers to shared, interoperable systems that allow for the large-scale delivery of essential public and private services.

• **3 Pillars -** The system is built on three main foundations: Digital Identity (Aadhaar), Real-time Payments (UPI), and Data Exchange (DigiLocker).
• **Open Architecture -** By using **open-source code** and universal APIs, the system prevents vendor monopolies and allows any developer to build compatible applications.
• **Societal Good -** DPI functions as a non-exclusive and non-discriminatory platform, ensuring that digital innovation is accessible to all members of society.
• **India's Ecosystem -** India's vast network includes Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, ONDC (commerce), DIKSHA (education), FASTag (logistics), and Bhashini (language translation).
• **Economic Impact -** DPI currently contributes nearly 1% to India's GDP. This economic contribution is projected to rise significantly to **4% by 2030**.

Anti-Drug Mission

The **Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)** aims to build a drug-free India through widespread awareness and coordinated demand reduction efforts.

• **Launched in** - 2020 by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, it operates under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR).
• **Massive Outreach -** The mission has reached over **26 crore people** across all districts, supported by 28,000 volunteers known as **Nasha Mukti Mitras**.
• **Digital Tool -** The **NMBA 2.0 App**, launched in 2026, acts as a centralized platform for real-time monitoring and reporting of anti-drug activities.
• **Citizen Features -** The app provides an **e-Pledge**, educational materials, a national helpline, and a locator to find the nearest de-addiction centers.
• **Institutional Transparency -** It allows institutions to track grants and report facility activities, ensuring better accountability and improved services for those seeking rehabilitation.

International Relations and Issues

10th India–Kenya Joint Trade Committee session

Held in Nairobi with the primary **goal** of deepening bilateral economic cooperation.

• **Currency Integration -** To simplify transactions, both nations will fast-track local currency settlements using **Special Rupee Vostro Accounts**.

• **Customs Efficiency -** A new MoU was signed to streamline cargo clearance and eliminate technical trade barriers, accelerating cross-border logistics.

• **Energy Collaboration -** Kenya joined the **International Solar Alliance**, sparking joint renewable energy and grid connectivity projects.

Economy

Record Low Bad Loans

India's **Gross NPA** ratio for banks dropped to a multi-decade low of **2.1%** in late 2025, showing strong financial health.

• **Minimal Loss Exposure -** After setting aside funds for risks, the **Net NPA** ratio has declined to roughly **0.5%**, indicating very low actual losses.

• **Improved Lending Quality -** The **slippage ratio** fell to **1.4%**. This suggests that new loans are of higher quality and fewer are turning into defaults.

• **Agricultural Credit Stress -** Farming loans remain a challenge, showing higher relative stress with an **NPA ratio of 5.7%** compared to other sectors.

• **Resilient Retail Sector -** The retail loan segment is the most stable, maintaining a low **NPA ratio of 1%**, proving highly resilient for banks.

• **Positive Future Outlook -** The RBI projects the Gross NPA ratio will improve further, reaching a record low of **1.9% by March 2027**.

Environment

17th Petersberg Climate Dialogue

Met in Berlin to build political consensus and set priorities before the COP31 summit.

• **COP31 Roadmap -** As the year's first major ministerial meeting, it established the foundational agenda for the upcoming COP31 in Turkiye.

• **Focus -** Talks shifted from making new promises to effectively implementing the Paris Agreement and strengthening geopolitical resilience against climate change.

• **Energy Security -** Recent global conflicts highlighted the dangers of fossil fuel dependency, underscoring an urgent need for a clean energy shift.

• **Funding Shortfall** - The lack of new financial commitments for the Global South remains a major obstacle, widening the global climate effort gap.

• **Future Outlook -** Leaders aimed to stabilize climate negotiations despite rising international tensions, ensuring that climate action remains a top global priority.

Security

Exercise Pragati

The Indian Army will host the first 'Pragati' exercise at Umroi, Meghalaya, to boost regional security.

• **Global Participation -** Armies from **11 friendly foreign countries** across Asia, Africa, and the Indo-Pacific will participate in this multilateral event.

• **Primary goal** - Is to improve military cooperation, trust, and the ability of different nations to work together.

• **Training Focus -** Troops will practice counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing, and civil-military coordination to handle modern security threats.

• **Regional Stability -** This initiative strengthens India's ties with its neighbors, ensuring peace and transformation throughout the Indian Ocean Region.

Defense Summit

India's Minister of Defence recently addressed the **SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting** in Bishkek, emphasizing regional security cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

• **Geographic Setting -** Kyrgyzstan is a landlocked, mountainous nation in Central Asia. Due to its stunning alpine landscape, it is often called the "Switzerland of Central Asia."
• **Strategic Borders -** The country shares its borders with four nations: Kazakhstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west, Tajikistan to the south, and China to the east.
• **Capital and Peaks -** The capital city is Bishkek. The nation's highest point is Victory Peak, which reaches an impressive elevation of 7,439 meters above sea level.
• **Water Bodies -** Key rivers include the Syr Darya, Naryn, and Chu. It also houses Lake Issyk-Kul, the world's second-largest saline lake.
• **Climate Profile -** The continental climate varies by altitude. Generally, the country experiences freezing, cold winters followed by warm, sunny summers.
• **Natural Wealth -** The land is rich in resources, including coal, gold, and uranium, alongside significant deposits of oil, natural gas, and rare earth metals.

Science

PRSC-EO3

China launched Pakistan's indigenous satellite, **PRSC-EO3**, from the Taiyuan Centre to monitor environmental and land changes from space.

• **Astronaut Training -** Two Pakistani astronauts have started training in Beijing for an upcoming mission to China's **Tiangong Space Station**.
• **Lunar Exploration -** In 2024, China's Chang'e-6 mission successfully carried **ICUBE-Q**, Pakistan's first lunar CubeSat, to the far side of the Moon.
• **Navigation System -** Pakistan became the first international partner to adopt China's **BeiDou (BDS)**, providing a reliable alternative to the global GPS.
• **Digital Connectivity -** The **PakSat-MM1** satellite was launched to expand broadband and 5G services to Pakistan's remote areas under its digital initiative.
• **Future Manufacturing -** The **Pakistan Space Centre** project aims to enable the country to build its own satellites domestically by the year 2040.

Miscellaneous

Ganga Expressway

PM Modi inaugurated the **594 km** Ganga Expressway, Uttar Pradesh's longest greenfield highway, connecting Meerut to Prayagraj.

• **Key Features -** The six-lane expressway passes through **12 districts**, reducing travel time by six hours. It includes a **3.5-km IAF emergency airstrip** in Shahjahanpur.
• **Economic Impact -** To boost manufacturing, the state is developing **12 industrial clusters** and logistics parks along the route.
• **Regional Connectivity -** The expressway links **Meerut** in western Uttar Pradesh to **Prayagraj** in the east, spanning across **12 districts** to bridge the state's geography.
• **Economic Development -** To drive growth, the government is establishing **12 industrial clusters** and logistics parks along the highway, supporting manufacturing and the e-commerce sector.