

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 Mukht 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.