UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 31-01-2026

One Liners 31-01-2026

History, Art and Culture

Smithsonian Returns Bronzes

• **Announced by –** Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art, United States.
• **3 sculptures —**
- **Nataraja –** Chola-period sculptures from 10th Century.
- **Somaskanda –** Chola-period sculptures dating to the 12th century, from the Vishwanatha Swamy Temple at Alathur village in Thiruvarur district.
- **Saint Sundarar with Paravai –** From the Vijayanagara period (16th Century) exemplify the rich artistry of South Indian bronze casting.

• **Significance –** It marks a milestone in the international recovery of India's stolen cultural heritage.
• It stands as a clear validation of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)-based recovery strategy pursued by the Tamil Nadu Idol Wing [-CID].

GI Tagged Product – Kaladi

Kaladi adapted for diverse recipes, retaining its authentic flavour, texture, and nutrition.
• **Kaladi –** It is GI-tagged traditional dairy product of Udhampur district, Jammu & Kashmir.
• **Advantage –**
- To fetch better returns for farmers and artisanal producers.
- To showcase the richness of Dogra cuisine on national and global platforms.

• **Significance –** It aligns with the Government's vision of linking science, technology, and traditional products to strengthen local economies.

Environment

Lucknow – UP's First Zero Fresh Waste Dump City

• It achieved *100% scientific processing of municipal solid waste* under the *Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.*
• **Shivari Solid Waste Management Plant –** It has a processing capacity of *700 metric tonnes per day.*
• **Door-to-door waste collection efficiency –** It has improved to 96.53%, and source segregation levels are above 70%.

3rd Edition of 'Sujal Gram Samvad'

• **Organised by –** Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti.
• **Objective** – To strengthen village-level drinking water governance.
• **Highlighted key areas –**
- **73rd Constitutional Amendment –** Responsibility of drinking water supply rests with Gram Panchayats.
- **Jal Arpan –** It ensures formal evaluation, commissioning, and handover of water supply schemes to Gram Panchayats along with necessary technical handholding.
- **Lok Jal Utsav –** To carry out a comprehensive review of schemes and ensure timely operation and maintenance.
- **Jal Seva Aankalan -** A transformative initiative, wherein villagers, along with Gram Panchayats, assess water quantity, quality, and service levels through Gram Sabhas.

• **Significance –** It reinforces participatory water governance and community-led implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Water Bankruptcy: Living Beyond Our Hydrological Means in the Post-Crisis Era

• **Report released by –** United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH).
• **Key points –**
- Climate change alters rainfall patterns due to rising temperatures.
- Glacial retreat causes erratic river flows creating "whiplashes" (floods then droughts)
- Pollution and overuse drive regions toward "water bankruptcy."
- Himalayan states face snow droughts in winter (Uttarakhand, Himachal, J&K).
- Unpredictable precipitation disrupts farming, hydropower, and river flow timing.

Security

22nd Subroto Mukerjee International Seminar

• **Organised by –** Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies (CAPSS).
• **Commemoration to –** *Air Mshl Subroto Mukerjee*, the 1st Indian Chief of the Air Staff and one of the visionary founders of the Indian Air Force.
• **Theme –** 'National Security Imperatives'.
• **Aim –** To provide a platform for dialogue and intellectual engagement on the evolving nature of the global and regional security threats and opportunities.

Science

AI in Education and Skilling Ecosystems

• **Collaboration between –** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Google Cloud and Chaudhary Charan Singh University (CCSU), Meerut.
• CCSU as *India's first AI-enabled state university pilot.*
• **Significance –** It is a strategic step towards operationalising the Prime Minister's vision of a technology-powered Viksit Bharat 2047.

Airborne Pathogens in Hilly Region

• **Studied by –** Bose Institute, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
• **Key highlights –**
- Dust storms travel hundreds of kilometres, crossing the Indo-Gangetic Plain before settling over *Himalayan hilltops.*
- Airborne pathogens in desert dust plumes move from Western India to the Eastern Himalayas, causing *respiratory and skin diseases.*
- The dust *reshapes Himalayan bacterial communities*, contributing to gastrointestinal infections.

• **Significance –** To strengthen national action plans for human health and development of health forecast systems aligned with the vision of *Viksit Bharat @ 2047.*

Electricity Distribution Industry Conference (EDICON) 2026

• **Held in –** New Delhi.
• **Organized by –** All India Discoms Association with Ministry of Power.
• **Objective –** To enable constructive dialogue among key stakeholders to identify action areas for improving DISCOM performance.

AI Smart Glasses for Police

Delhi Police deploying AI-powered smart glasses with integrated facial recognition for crowd monitoring during Republic Day 2026.

• **Technology**
- Glasses equipped with mini-CCTV cameras scan criminal databases.
- System matches faces and uses thermal aging to update old photos.
- AznaLens collaborates with Delhi Police on extended reality solutions.
- Real-time suspect alerts appear on officers' screens.

• **Benefits**
- Enables quick identification of criminals in crowded places.
- Provides instant updates on wanted individuals.
- Cuts down the need for manual checks.

• **Concerns**
- Raises risks of privacy violations and mass surveillance.
- Potential for errors and false matches.
- No established legal framework for facial recognition.
- Vulnerable to data breaches and misuse.

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering