

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

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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 Thiruvavur 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.

