UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 31-12-2025

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Geography

Tsunami-Ready Villages in the Indian Ocean Region

India is projected to have over 100 tsunami-ready villages in the Indian Ocean region.

• **Key facts -**
- India will be the *1st country to achieve this distinction.*
- Currently, 24 coastal villages across six districts have received this designation.
- Odisha is in the process of adding 72 more villages, while Kerala will add nine villages by March 2026.

• **Certification Criteria (UNESCO-IOC)**
- High levels of tsunami awareness and preparedness.
- Regularly updated evacuation maps.
- Continuous 24-hour tsunami warning systems.
- Active participation in mock tsunami drills.

• **Implementation**
- Community-based initiative.
- The program involves partnerships with states and union territories, including Gujarat, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Coordinated by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
- INCOIS operates the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC).

• **Significance**
- Disaster risk reduction in vulnerable regions.
- It also strengthens community resilience.
- UNESCO-IOC partnership on tsunami safety.

Social Issues

Child Marriage

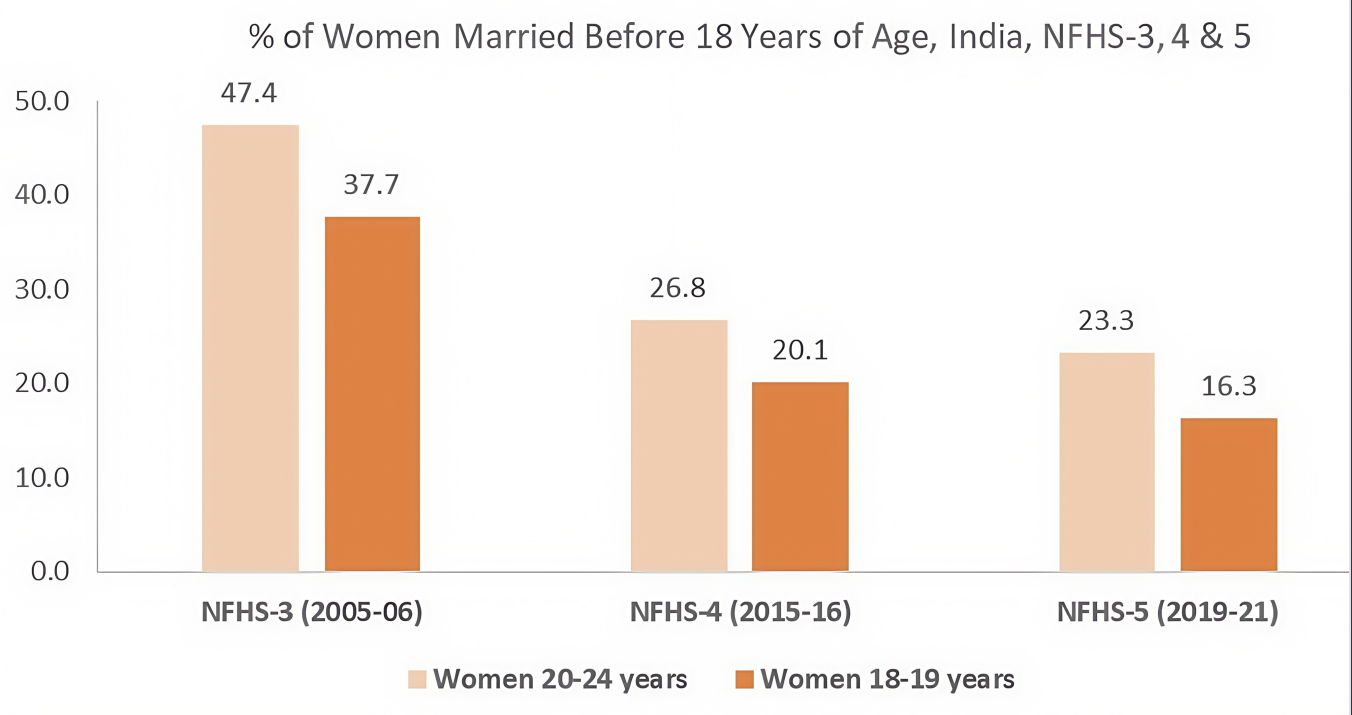
• **NFHS data –** The prevalence of child marriage declined from 47.4% in 2005-06 to 23.3% in 2019-21.

• **Regional Disparities in Progress –**

- States such as West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan continue to report high rates of child marriage.

• **Socioeconomic Correlates –**

- There is a direct association between child marriage and socioeconomic factors.
- 40 % of girls from the lowest income quintile and 48% of girls with no formal education were married before the age of 18.



Polity & Governance

Achievements of Ministry of Development of North-East Region

• **Key Achievements in 2025**

- Enhancement of the *logistics sector* in the North Eastern Region (NER).
- Establishment of the *North East Science and Technology Cluster* (NEST).
- Promotion of *cluster-based growth in agarwood and bamboo production.*
- Registration of *150 new Geographical Indications (GI) products* in the North Eastern Region.
- Organization of the *Rising Northeast Investors Summit.*
- Implementation of the *Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme.*
- Launch of the *Bamboo Value Chain Development Program*.

International Relations and Issues

Kimberley Process

• It is a *tripartite initiative* involving governments, the international diamond industry and civil society.
• *Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)* which was set up by a *UN resolution* came into effect from *1st January 2003.*
• **Participants –** Currently, it has 60 participants representing 80 countries with the European Union and its Member States counting as a single participant.
• **Coverage –** More than 99% of global rough diamond trade.
• It is the most comprehensive international mechanism in this sector.
• **Objective –** To prevent the trade in "conflict diamonds"—rough diamonds used by rebel groups or their allies to finance conflicts that undermine legitimate governments, as defined in United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Chairpersonship of the Kimberley Process (KP)

Kimberley Process (KP) Plenary has selected India to be its chairperson from January 1, 2026.
• **3rd time –** India will chair the Kimberly Process.
• **Nodal agency for KP in India –** Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).
• **Significance –** It reflects global trust in the government's commitment to fostering integrity and transparency in international trade.

Economy

Analysis of India's economic performance in 2025

"Rocky" year for the Indian economy.
• **Positive Developments**
- Budget 2025 introduced changes to income tax rates and slabs, aiming to reduce the tax burden and increase disposable income.
- The GST Council abolished the 12% and 28% tax slabs, reallocating items to the 5% and 18% categories.
- Four new labour codes were implemented to enhance social security for workers.

• **Trade Agreements**
- The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETAA) was signed in July 2025.
- The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) became effective in October 2025, with EFTA committing to invest $100 billion.
- The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed in December 2025.
- Negotiations for the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) concluded in December 2025, with New Zealand agreeing to invest $20 billion.
- The trade agreement with the European Union is in its final stages of negotiation.

• **Challenges**
- **US Tariffs –** Donald Trump imposed 25%, then additional 25% tariffs (total50%) on India, especially for Russian oil imports.
- **Impact –** Hurt labour-intensive sectors, stalled trade talks.
- **Growth –** RBI projects 7.3% for 2025-26, implying a slowdown in H2.

• **Future outlook for 2026 –**
- It remains mixed, with ongoing tariff challenges.
- However, key macroeconomic indicators such as GDP, IIP, and CPI are scheduled for updates with new base years.

Security

INSV KAUNDINYA

INSV Kaundinya embarks on her maiden voyage.

• It is an indigenously built traditional stitched sailing vessel.
• **Voyage from –** Porbandar, Gujarat to Muscat.
• **Significance –**
  - It retraces ancient maritime routes that once connected the western coast of India with Oman.
  - It facilitates trade, cultural exchange and sustained civilisational interactions across the Indian Ocean.

Science

Traditional Method for Antivenom Production

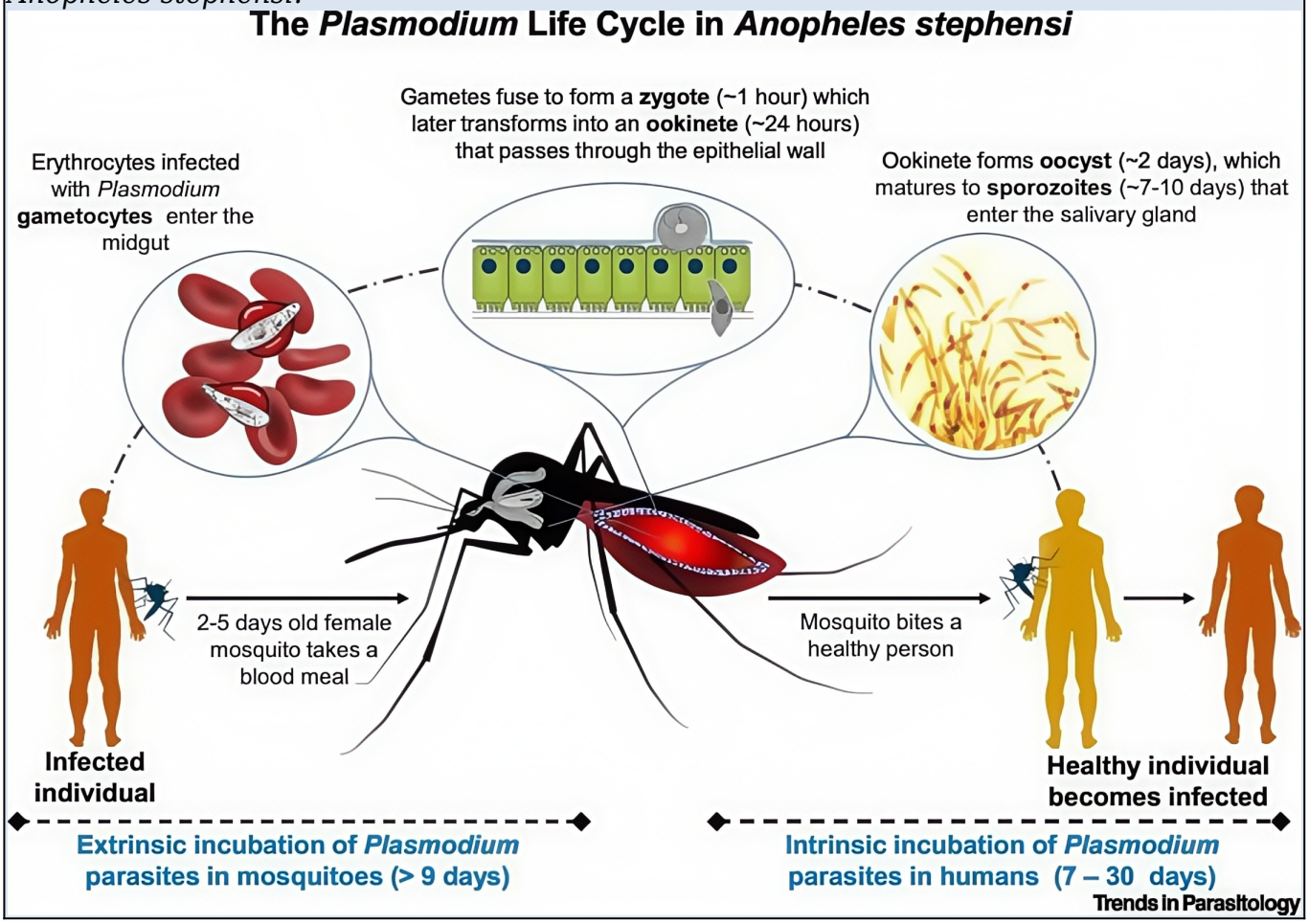
• **Traditional Method –** Horse-Derived Antivenom.
• **Production –** Venom is injected into horses, after which antibodies are extracted and processed to produce antivenom.
• **Limitations** –
  - This method demonstrates *limited efficacy* against more than 60 venomous species.
  - Efficacy is further reduced by geographical variation in venom composition.
  - The use of horse antibodies can result in adverse side effects.

Advancements in Antivenom Production

• **Recent Approach – Danish Laboratory Innovations**
  - Researchers utilized *alpacas and llamas*, members of the camelid family, for their unique nanobodies.
  - Nanobodies are characterized by their *small size, stability, and high efficacy.*
  - These nanobodies are *genetically engineered into bacteriophages* and subsequently mass-produced in bacterial systems.
  - This approach demonstrates broad-spectrum efficacy, as evidenced by effectiveness against *17 of 18 African snake venoms* in murine models.
• **Indian Research Initiatives -**
  - The National Research Centre on *Camels in Bikaner demonstrated that camel-derived antivenom* is effective against Sochurek's saw-scaled viper.

Life Cycle of Invasive Mosquito Species

India's plan to eliminate malaria by 2030 is at risk because of the invasive mosquito species Anopheles stephensi.



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