

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

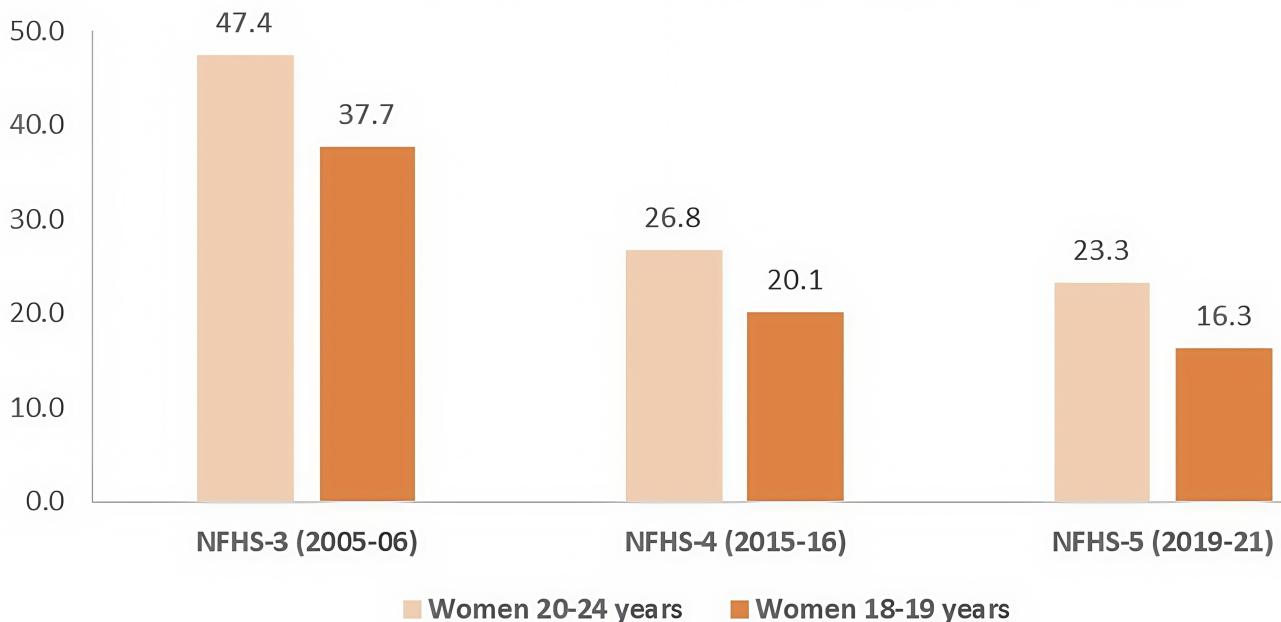
- **Regional Disparities in Progress** -

- 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.

% of Women Married Before 18 Years of Age, India, NFHS-3, 4 & 5



## 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 Kimberley 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 (total 50%) 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*.

### The Plasmodium Life Cycle in *Anopheles stephensi*

