

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 22-02-2025

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History, Art and Culture

Katas Raj Temple

- **Located in** - Chakwal in Potohar Plateau, *Pakistan*.
- Dates back to Hindu shahis King from 615 to 915 AD.
- **Composition** - It comprises of 7 temples (old and new ones) called the ***Satgraha***.
- Also known for its Buddhist site.
- 300 Indian Hindus travelled to Pakistan to be a part of the celebration.

Polity & Governance

98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan (All India Marathi Literature Convention)

- It is an *annual conference* for literary discussions by Marathi writers.
- **1st edition** in 1878 & is a long-standing tradition from the late 19th century for Marathi authors and poets to showcase their work.
- The last Sammelan in Delhi took place in 1954, making this event particularly noteworthy.
- **Objectives** - It celebrate Marathi literature's timeless relevance, and explore its role in contemporary discourse, including
 - Themes of language preservation
 - Translation
 - Impact of digitalization on literary works.

Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata Expressway Project

- **Started on** - *2024*.
- **Umbrella scheme** - Bharat Mala Yojana.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- It is an approved 710 km long, *6 lane, greenfield access*-controlled expressway.
- **Objective** - To boost trade and freight movement, particularly benefiting industries reliant on the *Kolkata and Haldia* ports.
- **Sates covered** - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
- It is known as Varanasi-Kolkata Expressway (NH-319B).

Bharat Mala Yojana

- **Launched in** - *2015*.
- It is an umbrella program for the *highways sector* in India.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- **Objective** - Optimize efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.
 - Bridge critical infrastructure gaps Enhance
 - Coastal and Port Connectivity is Mandatory to connect areas around shorelines and important ports
 - It special emphasis on providing connectivity to far-flung border and rural areas.

Economy

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Terms

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** - It is defined as the *percentage of persons in labour force* (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** - It is defined as the *percentage of employed persons* in the population.
- **Unemployment Rate (UR)** - It is defined as the *percentage of persons unemployed* among the persons in the labour force.
- **Current Weekly Status (CWS)** - It determined on the basis of a reference period of *last 7 days preceding the date of survey*.

Minor Minerals to Major Minerals

Ministry of Mines moved 4 minerals from minor to major status.

- **Major minerals** - Barytes, Felspar, Mica, and Quartz.
- **Quartz** - Common mineral in Earth's crust.
 - Found in all forms of rock.
 - Used in clocks and watches.
- **Feldspar** - Aluminosilicate minerals containing calcium, sodium, or potassium.
 - Comprises more than half of Earth's crust.
 - Used in glassmaking, ceramics, construction, and manufacturing.
- **Mica** - Group of minerals that are light, soft, and flexible.
 - Used in cosmetics, medicine, and electronics.
- **Barytes** - Naturally occurring mineral made of barium sulfate (BaSO₄).
 - Used in paint, rubber, and concrete.
- **Quartz, Felspar & Mica** - Found in pegmatite rocks
 - Important source of many critical minerals.

Baryte

- **Baryte** - It is a mineral consisting of *barium sulfate* and generally white or colorless.
- **Occurrence** - Vein fillings in limestone and dolostone.
- **Iron ore** - Pocket type of deposit which *can't be mined in isolation*.
- **Iron ore of** - Antimony, Cobalt, Copper, Lead, Manganese and Silver.
- **Usage** - Oil and gas drilling, electronics, TV screens, rubber, glass, ceramics, paint, radiation shielding and medical applications.

Science

Euclid Space Mission

- **Launched in** - 2023.
- **Developed by** - European Space Agency and Euclid Consortium (includes NASA).
- **Part of** - ESA's Cosmic Vision programme.
- **Purpose** - To explore the composition and *evolution of the dark universe*.
- **Euclid Space Telescope** - It creates a 3D-map of the universe by observing billions of galaxies out to *10 billion light-years*.

Research Lab for AI in Eye Care

- **Established by** - Zeiss India (Optics and optoelectronics technology company) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
- **Established in** - IISc, Bengaluru.
- **Aim** - To drive *advancements in eyecare solutions* and enable researchers at IISc.
- **Objective** - To explore the technology's potential in facilitating early diagnosis, treatment personalization, and accessibility in *ophthalmology*.

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Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

- **PMI** - It is an economic indicator, which is derived after monthly surveys of different companies.
- **Released by** - Institute for Supply Management (ISM), a non-profit supply management organization on *monthly basis*.
- **Purpose** - To provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.
- **Leading indicator in** - *United States (US)* for determining overall economic activity.

