UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 03-04-2025

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History, Art and Culture

Raghuji Bhosale I of Nagpur's

Recently, Maharashtra government acquired Maratha warrior Raghuji Bhosale I of Nagpur's iconic sword from London for Rs 47.15 lakh. This historic purchase repatriates a symbol of Maratha valor and heritage. The sword, adorned with Mulheri hilt and gold inlay.

• **Background**- With Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj's support in 1728, Raghuji Bhonsale I of Nagpur ascended to prominence in the early 18th century.

Nagpur Bhonsles

• They were one of the Maratha Sardhars and a significant part of the Maratha Empire.
• They asserted descent from the Sisodia Rajputs of Udaipur.
• They played a crucial role in the expansion of Maratha territories.
• They had connections to the Hinganikar clan, with origins in the Pune district.
• Raghuji Bhosale, I founded their dynasty.

Maharashtra Diwas: State Formation Day

Maharashtra Diwas, celebrated annually on May 1st, commemorates the formation of Maharashtra state in 1960.

• **Linguistic Division of Bombay State** - The state's creation followed the linguistic division of the former Bombay State, honoring Marathi speakers' aspirations.

Historical Context

• **Bombay State** - Before 1960, Maharashtra was part of the larger, linguistically diverse Bombay State, including Gujarat and parts of Madhya Pradesh.
• **States Reorganisation and the 1960 Act** -The 1953 States Reorganisation Commission advocated for linguistic state divisions, leading to the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960, and the birth of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
• **Significance of the Day** - Maharashtra Diwas celebrates Marathi language, identity, and culture, acknowledging the struggle for statehood and reinforcing linguistic harmony.
• **Maharashtra's Achievements** - The day also highlights Maharashtra's growth as a cultural, industrial, and financial powerhouse over the past decades.

Geography

Uturuncu volcano

Bolivia's dormant Uturuncu volcano shows unrest due to subsurface magma and gas movement, as revealed by Oxford and Cornell University studies analyzing over 1,700 earthquakes. High-resolution imaging suggests a low risk of immediate eruption.

• **Stratovolcano Features -** Uturuncu is a stratovolcano characterized by dacitic lava domes and flows.
• **Impressive Elevation -** Rising to approximately 6,008 meters, it stands as the tallest peak in southern Bolivia.
• **Long Dormancy, Current Activity -** Last erupting 250,000 years ago, Uturuncu remains seismically active within a 70 km uplifted area.
• **Underneath: Vast Magma Reservoir -**It sits atop the massive and deep Altiplano-Puna Magma Body (APMB).
• **The "Zombie" Volcano -** Known as a "zombie" volcano for its persistent non-eruptive activity.

International Relations and Issues

Fall of Saigon 50th Anniversary

Vietnam solemnly and grandly celebrated the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon on April 30, 2025.

• **"Day of Southern Liberation" -** Known as the "Day of Southern Liberation for National Reunification," it signifies the end of the Vietnam War.
• **Commemorative Events -** The anniversary featured significant military parades, an air show, and diplomatic engagements with China and the U.S.
• **Historical Conflict -** The Vietnam War (1955-1975) pitted communist North Vietnam (backed by USSR and China) against U.S.-supported South Vietnam.
• **Fall of Saigon and Casualties -** The fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, led to Vietnam's reunification, but the war caused immense loss: ~3 million Vietnamese and ~60,000 American deaths.
• **Significance of Celebrations -** The events aimed to commemorate reunification, honor war heroes, and showcase Vietnam's growing military and diplomatic strength.

Environment

World Tuna Day (WTD)

WTD sponsored by the UN, is observed annually on May 2.

• **Aims-** To promote awareness about the importance of sustainable science-based fishing practices and marine conservation.
• Ensure long-term availability of tuna stocks.
• Support efforts aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 14 – Life Below Water.
• **Importance** - Tuna is vital for global food security, drives economic development, and is a key part of marine biodiversity.
• **WTD Addresses** - The dangers of overfishing and promotes responsible fishing methods.
• **About Tuna -** Are a **genus of saltwater fish** (Thunnus) belonging to the mackerel family (Scombridae).
• They are **ocean-dwelling, ray-finned bony fish** known for their streamlined bodies and powerful swimming abilities.

Security

National Security Advisory Board (NSAB).

Following the recently Pahalgam terror attack and escalating tensions with Pakistan, India has revamped its National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)

• **New Appointment** – PM Modi has appointed Alok Joshi, the former head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), as the new NSAB Chairman.

• **About NSAB -** NSAB offers independent, non-partisan perspectives and policy options to the National Security Council (NSC), which is headed by the PM.

• **Focuses** - On long-term analysis of national security issues and provides strategic guidance on evolving threats and national interests.

• **Functions -** Provides policy perspectives and recommendations to the NSC.

• Offers strategic guidance on evolving threats and national interests.

• Focuses on research, foresight, and independent analysis to support government decision-making.

• Aids in formulating comprehensive security doctrines.

• Recommends defense, cyber, diplomatic, and internal security measures.

• Helps prepare key strategic documents such as the Nuclear Doctrine and National Security Reviews.

Science

Phthalates

2025, recent New York University studies have increasingly highlighted the risks associated with phthalates, common chemicals in household plastics.

• **Global Impact on Cardiovascular Health -** Study linked phthalate exposure to over 356,000 cardiovascular-related deaths globally in 2018, with the Middle East, South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific being most affected.

• **About Phthalates -** Phthalates are chemicals used to increase the flexibility of plastics, earning them the moniker "everywhere chemicals" due to their presence in food containers, medical devices, and personal care items.

• **Mounting Health Concerns -** Beyond cardiovascular issues, concerns are growing about phthalates' potential links to obesity and ADHD.

• **Phthalates as Endocrine Disruptors -** Phthalates are identified as endocrine disruptors, capable of interfering with the body's hormonal systems, potentially causing reproductive problems and pregnancy complications.

• **Cardiovascular Risks and Inflammation -** Research suggests that daily phthalate exposure is associated with inflammation in heart arteries, thereby elevating the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)

ISRO is preparing for the June 2025 launch of the NISAR satellite.

• **Earth Observation Mission** - NISAR will employ advanced radar to monitor crucial Earth changes like deforestation and natural disasters.

• **First-of-its-Kind Collaboration -** This mission represents the inaugural joint effort between India and the US for radar-based Earth monitoring from space.

• **Global Mapping Frequency -**NISAR will map the entire Earth's surface every 12 days, providing frequent and precise data.

• **Diverse Monitoring Objectives -** It will track ecosystem changes, ice dynamics, vegetation, sea-level rise, groundwater, and natural hazards.

• **Hazard Tracking Capabilities -** NISAR will monitor earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, and landslides.

ISRO's Microgravity Push

ISRO is actively involved in microgravity research, with the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

• **Axiom-4 Mission Details -** Launching in May 2025, the mission will feature Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla conducting seven microgravity experiments.

• **Understanding Microgravity -** Microgravity describes an environment with extremely low gravitational forces, often perceived as weightlessness in space. The "micro" signifies accelerations of one-millionth of Earth's gravity.

• **Unique Research Environment -** This near-zero gravity setting allows scientists to investigate phenomena impossible to study under Earth's normal gravitational pull.

• **Importance for Diverse Fields -** Microgravity research is vital for human health studies, physical and life sciences, and materials science.

Miscellaneous

Kartarpur Corridor

Following the recent Pahalgam terrorist attack, the Kartarpur Sahib pilgrimage has seen a significant decline in participation, with pilgrim numbers falling by almost 50%.

• **Kartarpur Located in** - Narowal district of Pakistan.

About Kartarpur Corridor

• **A Religious Link -** Connects Darbar Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India, fostering religious and cultural exchange.

• **Inauguration -** On November 9, 2019, for Guru Nanak Dev's 550th birth anniversary, it facilitates pilgrimage despite Indo-Pak tensions.

• **Historical Significance -** Guru Nanak Dev, born in Nankana Sahib (Pakistan) in 1469, the first Sikh Guru, is revered at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, his final resting place.

• **Visa-Free Access -** The corridor permits visa-free entry for up to 5,000 Indian pilgrims daily, operating year-round.

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