UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 09-04-2025

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History, Art and Culture

Harit Yoga Initiative

Recently, the Minister of State for Ayush launched Harit Yoga.

• **Part of** – 10 Signature Events of International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025.
• **Objective** – To encourage individuals to *plant trees as a symbolic act* of nurturing both *personal and planetary health*.
• More than 5000 medicinal plants were distributed amongst the Yoga enthusiasts.
• It *integrates yoga with environmental consciousness*.

International Day of Yoga 2025 *will be celebrated on 21st June 2025, with a theme of 'Yoga for One Earth One Health'.*

Social Issues

Antar Drishti

Recently, Antar Drishti was inaugurated in New Delhi.

• It is a *unique sensory dark room* specially designed to experience sensory space.
• **Launched by** – National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) and National Association for the Blind (NAB).
• **Aims** – To raise awareness and sensitize society towards the challenges faced by persons with visual impairments.
• To foster empathy, understanding, and inclusion by *bridging the gap between perception and lived reality.*
• **Feature** – In this dark room, individuals experience complete darkness and engage in activities that help simulate the everyday experiences of persons who are blind or have low vision.

Enable Inclusion App

The National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) will implement the Enable Inclusion App.

• It is a *digital platform* for early identification, intervention, and *tracking of children with developmental disabilities*.
• **Developed by** – Amar Seva Sangam.
• **Role** – It is expected to revolutionize early intervention, tele-counseling, tracking and rehabilitation planning.
• It is setting a *benchmark for inclusive practices* across India and beyond.
• It has been successfully used across various communities to *support intellectual and developmental needs*.

Economy

Quick Commerce (Q-Commerce)

Recently, Competition Commission of India has sought additional information on a complaint against quick commerce companies.

• **Q-Commerce –** It refers to *ultra-fast delivery services*, typically *within 10-30 minutes*.
• It is facilitated by an elaborate network of *dark stores* and/or distribution centres.
• It focusses on small, high-demand FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) products like groceries, snacks, and daily essentials.
• **For example –** Zepto, Swiggy Instamart, Blinkit among others.

Dark stores *refer to warehouses used by the platforms solely to fulfil online orders, with no in-person shopping.*

Ready Reckoner (RR) Rates

The Maharashtra government recently increased the ready reckoner (RR) rates across the state.

• It is the *minimum value* at which a property must be registered during a transaction.
• **Determined by** – State government.
• **Features** – It serves as a reference for calculating *stamp duty and registration charges*.
• It ensures *uniformity and transparency* in property transactions, and acts as a safeguard against underreporting.
• It is also known as the *Circle Rate or Guidance Value* in some states.

Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED)

Recently, the Union government raises SAED on petrol and diesel by ₹2 per litre each after a gap of 34 months.

• **Excise duty** – It is a *tax on the manufacture or production* of goods within the country.
• **Special Additional Excise Duty** – It is an *additional tax* imposed on top of the basic excise duty.
• It is levied to *shore up government revenue*.
• Thus, the net effective excise duty will increase to Rs.13 per litre for petrol and Rs.10 per litre for diesel.

Environment

New Species of Trapdoor Spiders

A team of scientists from the University of Western Australia recently discovered 2 new species of trapdoor spiders.

• **Discovered in** – Kimberley region, marking the 1st recorded discovery of this spider group in northern Australia.
• **2 new species** – *Kwonkan fluctellus* and *Kwonkan nemoralis*.
• **Unique features** – Highly *specialized burrow construction*, which creates elaborate burrow entrances.
• **Burrows constructed by Kwonkan nemoralis** – It had a little *collapsible silken collar* around the entrance, which had grains of sand embedded in it.
• When it was disturbed, the collar around the burrow's entrance collapses & seals the entrance, which blends with the surrounding landscape, making it *virtually invisible to predators*.

Security

Mi-17 V5 helicopters

Recently, the Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for acquisition & installation of Electronic Warfare (EW) suites and aircraft modification kits on Mi-17 V5 helicopters.

• It is a *Russian made aircraft* purchased for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
• **Role** – It is designed to *carry personnel, cargo and equipment* inside the cargo cabin or on an external sling.
• **Features** – Night vision technology, on-board weather radar, a new PKV-8 autopilot system, and a KNEI-8 avionics suite which helps reduce pilot workload.
• **Top speed** – *250 kilometers* per hour.

Science

Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures' Campaign

Recently, 'Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures' campaign was launched as a part of World Health Day (April 7, 2025).

• It is a year-long campaign on *maternal and newborn health*.
• **Launched by** – World Health Organization (WHO).
• **Objective** – To urge the governments and the larger medical community to ramp up efforts to *end preventable maternal and newborn deaths.*
• To prioritise *women's longer-term health* and well-being.

Y2K Bug Crisis

Recently, the Minister of Commerce & Industry recalled how Indian IT sector leveraged the Y2K bug crisis of late 1990s, to mark IT sectors emergence on the global stage.

• **Y2K bug** – It was a *computer flaw, or bug* emerged due to the erstwhile practice followed in computer to store the dates in two-digit format.
  - For instance, to refer 1970, the number "19" was left out and only the number '70' was used.
• Engineers shortened the date because data storage in computers was costly and took up a lot of space.
• **Issue** – As the year 2000 approached, computer programmers realized that computers might not interpret 00 as 2000, but as 1900.
• Y2K stands for *Year 2000, where letter 'k'* is commonly used to represent the *number 1,000*.
• It is also known as the *Millennium Bug*.

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