

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 09-05-2025

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#### History, Art and Culture

##### **Commemorate the 300th birth anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar,**

Recently, Maharashtra announced it will produce a multilingual biopic on Ahilyabai Holkar's life for her 300th birth anniversary, showcasing her governance and welfare contributions on Doordarshan and OTT.

- **Aims to** - Raise awareness about India's female historical figures, and popularize her contributions to governance, welfare, architecture, and culture.

##### **About Ahilyabai Holkar**

- **Born on** - May 31, 1725, in Chondi, Maharashtra, she was reverently known as 'Punyashlok Ahilyabai'.

- **Reign and Rule** - She ruled the Malwa region after the demise of her husband and father-in-law, known for her progressive and just governance.

- **Public Welfare Focus** - Ahilyabai championed public welfare, undertaking extensive works and funding the restoration of numerous Hindu temples across India.

- **Military Leadership** - She was a capable commander, leading armies alongside Tukoji Rao Holkar to protect her kingdom from invasions.

## **World Red Cross Day (WRCD)**

*Annually on May 8th, honoring the global humanitarian network and its dedicated volunteers and staff.*

- **Honoring Henry Dunant** - The date commemorates the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant (1828), the visionary founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

- **RCD**- Is a global humanitarian organization dedicated to protecting human life and health, ensuring respect for all human beings, and preventing and alleviating human suffering. It is the most extensive humanitarian network worldwide.

- **Core Mission:** To alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and uphold human dignity, especially during armed conflicts, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

- **The 2025 theme is** - "Keeping Humanity Alive," emphasizing selfless service.

- **The Tripartite Movement** - The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement comprises the ICRC (armed conflict focus), the IFRC (disaster relief coordination), and National Societies (local humanitarian action).

- **Global Significance** - World Red Cross Day raises awareness about the Movement's core principles and encourages public support and engagement in humanitarian activities worldwide.

## **Geography**

### **Poonch**

Pakistan's retaliation after India's Operation Sindoor struck Poonch civilians, killing 12 and destroying property including a Gurudwara. "**All Eyes on Poonch**" reflects rising LoC tensions and calls for peace.

- **Location** - In the western part of Jammu and Kashmir, it shares border with the Line of Control (LoC), the de facto border between Indian- and Pakistani-administered Kashmir, on its north, west, and south.

- **Topography** - largely mountainous and undulating, formed by the southern slopes of the Pir Panjal range, which separates the Kashmir Valley from the Jammu region.

- **Rivers** - The Poonch River and its tributaries flow through the district.

- **History** - Dating back to ancient times. It was known as Dravabhisar around 326 BC during Alexander the Great's invasion.

- In the 7th century AD, the Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang passed through Poonch and noted its fame for graphics, fine tea, and good horses.

## **Ancient Wildfire Evidence in Godavari Basin**

*Scientists recently discovered palaeofire (ancient wildfire) evidence from the Permian Period (250 million years ago) in India's Godavari Basin.*

- **Palaeofires** - Preserved in geological records, are vital for understanding past vegetation, climate shifts, and coal formation across geological periods.
- **Advanced Analytical Techniques** - The research employed Palynofacies analysis, Raman Spectroscopy, Rock-Eval Pyrolysis, and FTIR Spectroscopy to examine microscopic organic matter and fossil charcoal.
- **Distinguishing Charcoal Origins** - A key finding was the successful differentiation between in situ (on-site) and ex situ (transported) charcoal, resolving a geological debate about charcoal origins in coal formations.
- **Stratigraphic Patterns and Fire Residues** - Rock layering analysis showed concentrated, well-preserved fire residues during sea-level drops (regressive phases) and dispersed, oxidised charcoal during sea-level rises (transgressive phases).
- **Permian Fire-Prone Earth** - High Permian atmospheric oxygen likely intensified wildfire frequency, influencing carbon cycling and offering insights for modern climate change strategies.

## **National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) Flags Damage in KLIP Barrages**

*NDSA has reported "irreparable damage" to three barrages within Telangana's Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP).*

- **Kaleshwaram Project** - The KLIP is a significant multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in Telangana.
- **Irrigation and Drinking Water Goals** - Designed to irrigate about 4.5 million acres across 20 Telangana districts (excluding Hyderabad and Secunderabad), it also aims to supply drinking water.
- **World's Largest Lift Irrigation** - Currently the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project, its upstream reach extends to the Pranhita-Godavari confluence.
- **Project Scope and Scale** - Comprising seven links and 28 packages over 500 km, its canal network spans over 1,800 km.
- **Water Allocation** - The project targets 240 TMC of water for irrigation, Hyderabad's municipal supply, industrial use, and drinking water for nearby villages.

## **Polity & Governance**

### **Haryana's Artist Support Scheme Launched**

Recently, Haryana government has introduced the “Pandit Lakhmi Chand Kalakar Samajik Samman Yojana” to provide financial assistance to senior artists and art scholars.

- **Monthly Honorarium Offered** - Eligible artists will receive a monthly honorarium of 10,000 under this initiative.
- **Target Beneficiaries** - The scheme aims to support senior artists with at least 20 years of dedication to fields like singing, acting, dance, drama, and visual arts.
- **Eligibility Requirements** - Applicants must be Haryana residents aged 60 or older with 20+ years in their art form. Income verification via Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) is required, with varying honorariums based on income.
- **Evaluation and Selection Process** - A special committee will assess applications based on artistic merit and financial need, ensuring deserving artists are selected as beneficiaries.
- **Expected Scheme Impact** - The yojana is anticipated to improve the financial well-being of senior artists, acknowledge their contributions, preserve cultural heritage, and foster artistic expression in Haryana.

### **Environment**

#### **Trespassing Threatens Bhimgad Sanctuary**

Recently uncontrolled public trespassing into the ecologically vital Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) in Khanapur taluk raises serious conservation concerns.

- **About Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary** - Established in Karnataka's Belgaum district in 2011 within the Western Ghats, the sanctuary is named after Shivaji's 17th-century Bhimgad Fort.
- **Ecological Connectivity and Hydrology** - BWS borders several other protected areas and serves as the headwaters for key rivers like Tillari, Malaprabha, and Mhadei.
- **Unique Bat Habitat** - The sanctuary harbors the Barapede caves, the only known breeding site for the endangered Wroughton's Free-tailed Bat.
- **Diverse Flora and Fauna** - Featuring tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests, BWS is home to endangered species like the sloth bear and black panther, alongside diverse birdlife.
- **King Cobra Breeding Grounds** - Bhimgad's isolated rock formations provide crucial breeding habitats for the King Cobra, the world's longest venomous snake.

## **Yangtze Porpoise Decline Evidenced by Poetry**

Recent research utilizing classical Chinese poetry reveals a significant decline in the distribution of the critically endangered Yangtze finless porpoise.

- **Historical Poetic** - Over 700 poems spanning 1,400 years, from the Tang to Qing Dynasties, mention the porpoise, indicating its historically widespread presence.
- **Mapping Distribution via Poems** - Researchers analyzed poems with location-specific information, finding that half contained crucial data for mapping the porpoise's historical range.
- **Staggering Range Contraction** - The study documented a 65% contraction in the porpoise's range since the Tang Dynasty, with a drastic 91% loss in tributaries and lakes.
- **Human Activities: Primary Driver** - Dam construction since the 1950s is identified as the main factor obstructing migration and severely reducing the porpoise's habitat.
- **Poetry as Ecological Data** - This research highlights the valuable ecological insights that historical art forms like poetry can provide regarding wildlife distribution and the impact of human activities.

## **Security**

### **Operation Abhyas**

*Following a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directive, recently Bengaluru held a significant civil defence mock drill, 'Operation Abhyas'.*

- **Aim of 'Operation Abhyas'** - The primary objective was to enhance public awareness and improve emergency preparedness across various scenarios.
- **Mock Drill Activities** - The exercise included siren alerts, rescue operations from simulated debris, high-rise evacuations, firefighting demonstrations, and first-aid procedures.
- **Context: Heightened National Alert** - This drill occurred amidst a nationwide alert prompted by the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam and increasing tensions between India and Pakistan.

## **Science**

## **World Thalassaemia Day 2025**

*May 8th, marks World Thalassaemia Day.*

- **Focusing** - Uniting Communities, Prioritizing Patients."
- **Observance Significance** - Thalassaemia is a group of inherited blood disorders characterized by the body making an abnormal form or inadequate amount of hemoglobin.
- **Hemoglobin** - Is the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. This can lead to anaemia and other complications
- **Key Objectives** - The day aims to promote awareness, encourage genetic screening, improve access to quality treatment, strengthen healthcare systems, build community support, and advocate for policy reforms.
- **Observance Origins** - Founded in 1994 by the Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF).
- **Global Impact** - Thalassaemia affects hemoglobin synthesis, with over 300,000 children born annually with significant forms of the disorder worldwide.
- **India faces** - a substantial burden with approximately 10,000 new cases and over 100,000 registered thalassaemia major patients each year.



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