

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 10-03-2026

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#### Geography

##### Dzukou Valley

• It is Known as the "*Valley of Flowers*".

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**Located at** - Nagaland-Manipur border.

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**Altitude** - 2,438 metres, behind the *Japfu mountain range*.

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**Adjacent to** - Pulie Badze Wildlife Sanctuary (Nagaland).

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##### **Biodiversity**

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**Rare and vulnerable birds** - Blyth's Tragopan (Nagaland's state bird), Rufous-necked Hornbill, Dark-rumped Swift.

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**Endangered species** - Western Hoolock Gibbons.

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**Vegetation** - Bamboo, grasses, and endemic Dzukou Lily (*Lilium chitrangada*).

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**Home to** - Angami people.

#### Social Issues

**National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data on denial of access to public spaces for SC/ST communities**

**Highlights (NCRB 2023)**

- Total cases nationwide - 180.
- Uttar Pradesh - 173 cases (dominant share).
- U.P.'s share has been consistently high
  - 300 out of 305 cases in 2022.
  - 68% in 2018.
  - 80% in 2019.

**NCRB Classification**

- Crime category introduced in 2017 under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.
- New columns added to classify crimes such as *“Prevent or deny or obstruct usage of public place/passage.”*
- In 2017, U.P. reported zero cases in this category but 57 cases under “SC persons forced to leave residence or facing social boycott.”

**Crime chart**

Reported cases of denial of access to public spaces to persons from SC communities



Year	Total cases (India)	Cases in U.P.	U.P. share (%)
2017	12	0	0%
2018	16	11	68%
2019	26	21	80%
2022	305	300	98.3%
2023	180	173	96.1%

**Polity & Governance**

**Safeguards for SCs and STs**

**Constitutional Provisions**

- **Article 15** - Prohibition of discrimination.
- **Article 17** - Abolition of untouchability.
- **Article 46** - Promotion of educational and economic interests.
- **Articles 330, 332, 335** - Political representation and services.
- **Articles 338, 338A** - National Commissions for SCs and STs.

## **PM-DAKSH Scheme**

• **PM-DAKSH** - Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi Yojana.

• It is a Central Sector Scheme.

• **Launched during** - 2020-21.

• **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

• **Objective** - To provide high quality skills through good quality institutions so that the training can result in finding jobs or self-employment ventures for the target group.

### **Types of Trainings**

- Up-skilling/Reskilling

- Short Term Training

- Entrepreneurship Development Programme

• **Target Group** - SCs, OBCs, EWSs, DNTs Safai Karamcharis including waste pickers etc.

• **Age Criterion** - 18-45 years.

### **Income Criteria**

- **SCs, Safai Karamcharis Including waste picker and DNT** - No Income limit.

• **OBCs and EWSs** - Annual income family below Rs.3 lakh.

• **Cost of the training to trainees** - Free of cost.

## **Environment**

## Orcas - Mother Nature & Boss Ladies

- It also called killer whales.

- Largest members of the dolphin family.

- Earth's largest predator.

- **Found in** - Every ocean.

- **Matrilineal society** - They live in close-knit groups led by mothers, with leadership passed down to daughters.

- **Knowledge transfer** - Female orcas teach their young about food sources and social behaviours.

- **Survival strategy** - This cultural transmission helps them adapt to the Anthropocene.

- **Threats** - Orcas face marine pollution, overfishing, and disrupted echolocation due to noisy shipping zones.



## Deinococcus radiodurans

- A bacterium famous for surviving extreme radiation and dryness.

- **New Finding** - It can withstand intense pressures (14,000-24,000 Earth atmospheres), similar to being blasted off a planet's surface.

- **Survival Mechanism** - Genetic analysis shows survivors rely on:

- DNA repair systems.

- Iron transport for recovery.

- **Implications**

- It supports the panspermia hypothesis.

- It expands the scope of the search for extraterrestrial life.

### **Key Concepts behind Deinococcus Radiodurans**

- **Extremophiles -**

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Extremophiles are organisms that thrive in extreme environments (e.g., hydrothermal vents, high pressure, high temperature).

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**Applications** - Potential use in genetically based medicines, industrial chemicals, and processes.

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**Perspective** - "Extreme" is relative—conditions hostile to humans (like no oxygen) can be normal for some organisms.

- **Panspermia Hypothesis** - Life distributed across the universe via meteoroids, asteroids, planetoids.

### **Security**

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Edition of Exercise LAMITIYE - 2026**

- **Joint Military Exercise between** - Indian Armed Forces and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF).

- 'LAMITIYE' meaning 'Friendship' in the Creole language is a biennial training event.

- **Conducted in** - Seychelles since 2001.

- **Participants** - All three services of the Indian Armed Forces.

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Personnel from the ASSAM Regiment and Indian Navy and IAF including INS Trikand and a C-130 aircraft.

- **Aim** - To enhance synergy in the domains of *Sub-conventional Operations in Semi-Urban environment* and cooperation and interoperability between both the sides during Peace Keeping Operations.

### **Science**

## **THAAD**

It is an advanced U.S. missile defence platform designed to *counter ballistic missile threats*.

### **Capabilities**

Intercepts missiles in the *terminal (final) stage of flight*.

Destroys threats *inside and outside Earth's atmosphere*.

Defends against short, medium, and limited intermediate-range ballistic missiles.

Effective at ranges of 150–200 km, at high altitude.

### **"Hit-to-Kill" Technology**

Interceptors destroy targets by direct collision at high speed.

*Uses kinetic energy*, not explosives.

Improves precision and reduces debris risk.

### **Key Components**

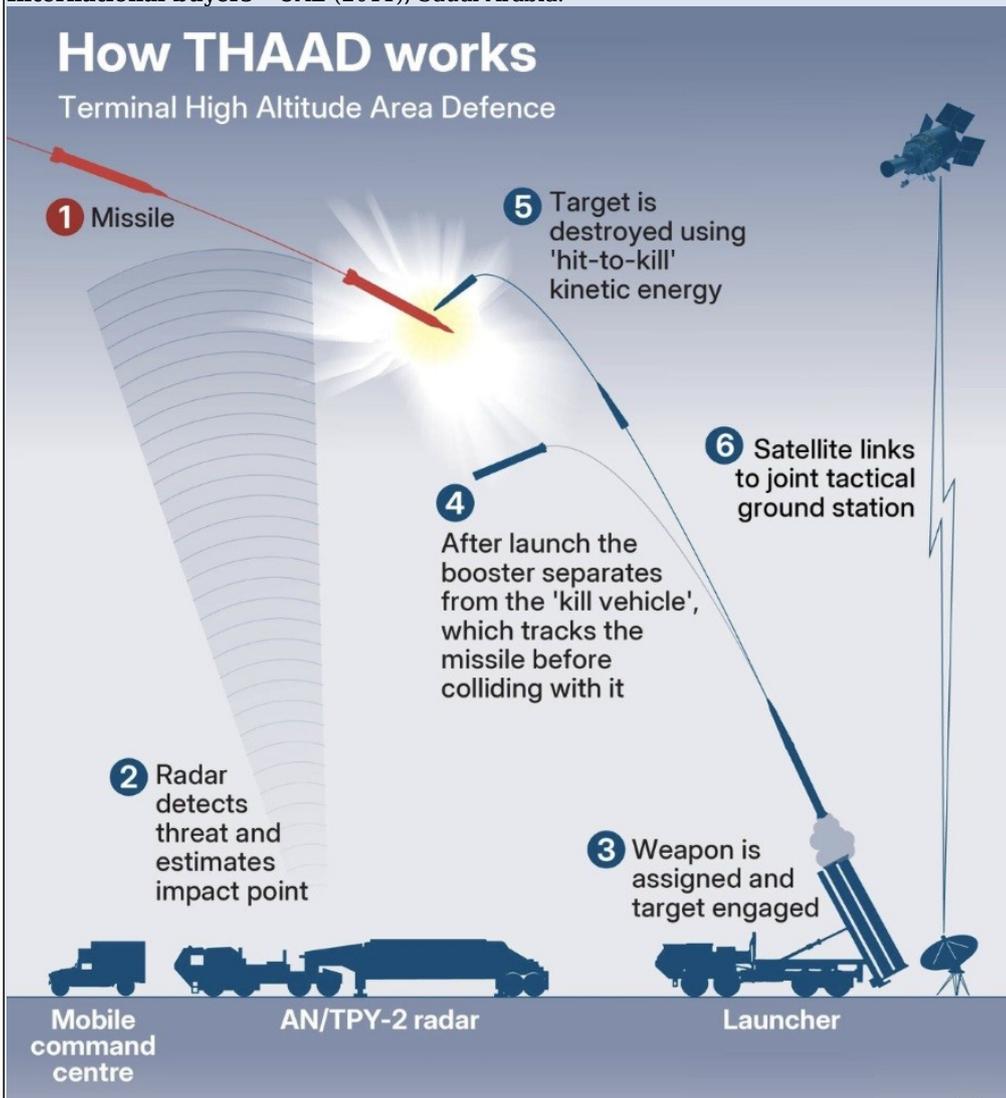
**Interceptors** - kinetic impact destroyers.

**Truck-mounted launchers** - mobile deployment.

**AN/TPY-2 radar** - long-range detection and tracking.

**Fire control & communications unit** - tactical coordination.

**International buyers** - UAE (2011), Saudi Arabia.



### **WHO Malaria-Free Certification**

Recently, the International Malaria Conference 2026 concluded in New Delhi after three days of scientific deliberations and global engagement on malaria elimination.

- **Malaria-Free Certification** - Granted when local transmission is interrupted *for 3 consecutive years* with a functional surveillance system.

- **Global Status** - 47 countries/territories certified malaria-free (mid-2025).

Examples - Sri Lanka (2016), China (2021), Algeria (2019), Paraguay (2018).

- **Note** - World Malaria Day observed globally every year on 25th April.



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