

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 12-05-2025

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#### History, Art and Culture

##### Revival of Ancient Ayurvedic Texts

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has recently successfully revived two significant Ayurvedic manuscripts: *Dravyaratnākara Nighaṇṭu* and *Dravyanamākara Nighaṇṭu*.

- **Ayurvedic Manuscripts** - Are ancient texts preserving medicinal knowledge, including plant names, therapeutic uses, and formulations. Nighaṇṭus are traditional lexicons detailing the properties of medicinal substances.
- **Dravyaratnākara Nighaṇṭu** - Authored by Mudgala Paṇḍita in 1480 AD, this 18-chapter text provides in-depth information on drug synonyms, actions, and compositions, referencing earlier Nighaṇṭus and introducing new therapeutic substances.
- **Dravyanamākara Nighaṇṭu** - Attributed to Bhisma Vaidya, this post-Dhanvantari text serves as a specialized appendix, comprising 182 verses focused on homonyms in drug names, crucial for Ayurvedic pharmacology.
- **Significance for Ayurvedic Science** - The revival of these texts enriches the understanding of Ayurvedic pharmacology, offering clarity on drug identification and usage, particularly benefiting fields like Rasashastra and Bhaishajya Kalpana.

##### Russia Honours Biju Patnaik

Russia has paid tribute to Biju Patnaik by installing a memorial plaque at its embassy in New Delhi, recognizing his significant role during the Battle of Stalingrad (1942-43).

- **Biju Patnaik** - Born in Cuttack in 1916, Biju Patnaik was a distinguished freedom fighter, skilled aviator, and influential politician. He joined the Royal Indian Air Force in 1936 as a transport and rescue pilot.
- **Aid to Russia in WWII** - During the crucial Battle of Stalingrad, Patnaik flew perilous supply missions, braving German air defenses to deliver essential arms and supplies to the besieged Soviet Red Army.
- **Role in India's Independence** - Patnaik also actively supported India's Quit India Movement by undertaking secret flights for nationalist leaders and played a key role in aiding Indonesia's struggle for independence.
- **The Pivotal Battle of Stalingrad** - The Battle of Stalingrad (July 1942 - February 1943) was a major and bloody WWII confrontation between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union for control of Stalingrad, a strategic city on the Volga.
- **Turning Point of WWII** - The Soviet victory in Stalingrad marked a crucial turning point in World War II, halting the German advance and leading to their eventual retreat from the Eastern Front.

#### Polity & Governance

### **CBI Director's Tenure Extended**

*Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has granted a one-year extension to CBI Director Praveen Sood, a Karnataka cadre IPS officer, beyond his scheduled retirement date.*

- **About Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** - It is India's top agency for investigating high-profile corruption, economic offenses, and serious crimes. It derives its authority from the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.
- **Historical Origins and Formation** - Roots trace back to the Special Police Establishment (SPE) formed in 1941.
- **Officially established as** - CBI on April 1, 1963, following recommendations from the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.
- **Headed by a Director** - An IPS officer of DGP rank.
- **Appointment** - Director is appointed by 3 member selection committee, including the PM, Leader of Opposition, and the Chief Justice of India or their nominee, with a tenure extendable up to five years.
- **Investigative Functions** - Primary functions include investigating anti-corruption cases, economic offenses like fraud and money laundering, and special crimes referred by states or courts. It also serves as India's Interpol nodal agency.
- **Role in Law Enforcement** - Beyond investigations, the CBI maintains criminal records, compiles crime statistics, and facilitates coordination among state police forces, playing a crucial role in India's law enforcement framework.

### **Kerala's Demand for Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rule Changes**

*Amid rising stray dog attacks and rabies cases, Kerala is advocating for modifications to the existing (ABC) Rules.*

- **Understanding the ABC Rules** - Enacted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, focus on sterilisation and immunization for stray dog population control, prohibiting culling.
- **Local Bodies' Responsibilities** - The rules mandate local bodies to establish sterilisation centres and ensure humane capture, neutering, vaccination, and release of stray dogs.
- **The ABC Process Explained** - Trained personnel humanely capture stray dogs, which then undergo sterilisation, vaccination against rabies, and are subsequently released back into their original localities following Supreme Court directives.
- **Importance of ABC Measures** - ABC programs are significant for preventing stray dog overpopulation while respecting animal rights and simultaneously protecting public health by reducing rabies occurrences.
- **Promoting Ethical Animal Management** - These rules promote a scientific and ethical approach to managing stray animals, offering an alternative to inhumane culling practices.

### **Cashless Treatment for Accident Victims**

May 5, 2025, India launched a scheme ensuring cashless medical treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh for road accident victims, aiming for timely care.

- **Scheme Applicability and Benefits** - Any person injured in a road accident on Indian roads is eligible for cashless treatment at designated hospitals for up to seven days post-accident.
- **Implementation by National Health Authority (NHA)** - NHA oversees the scheme, collaborating with police, hospitals, and state agencies. Non-designated hospitals offer stabilization before transfer.
- **Monitoring and Government Oversight** - A steering committee led by the Road Secretary monitors the scheme's effectiveness, building on a prior pilot program.
- **Availing Cashless Treatment** - Victims should seek immediate care at designated hospitals (list available via State Road Safety Council or NHA portal) and inform the police.
- **Financial Coverage and Duration** - Treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh is cashless for seven days. Hospitals handle claims with the NHA. Keeping records and the police report is advised.

### **International Relations and Issues**

#### **Balochistan Independence Declaration**

On May 9, 2025, Mir Yar Baloch announced Balochistan's independence from Pakistan.

- **International Support** - Baloch urged India to grant recognition and establish an embassy in New Delhi. It also appealed to the UN for peacekeeping forces and demanded the Pakistani Army's withdrawal.
- **Balochistan** - A Southwestern Province of Pakistan. Largest province by area, shares borders with Iran and Afghanistan and has a coastline along the Arabian Sea. Its capital is Quetta.
- **Geography and Demographics** - Characterized by arid, rugged terrain and a desert climate, Balochistan is sparsely populated despite its rich mineral resources.
- **Dominant ethnic group** - Is the Baloch people, with Pashtuns and Brahuis also present.
- **Strategic Significance and Resources** - The region holds substantial reserves of natural gas, coal, copper, and gold. Gwadar port is a crucial component of CPEC, granting China access to the Arabian Sea. India has expressed concerns over human rights in the region.
- **History of Insurgency** - Various Baloch nationalist groups have been engaged in insurgency, seeking greater autonomy or independence, and frequently targeting CPEC infrastructure and Pakistani security forces.

#### **India-Maldives HADR Exercise**

*INS Sharda's arrival at Maafilaafushi Atoll in the Maldives signifies India's participation in a joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise.*

- **Maldivian Archipelago** - Located in the north-central Indian Ocean, the Maldives comprises around 1,200 low-lying coral islands within 26 atolls, with Malé as its capital.
- **Language and Faith** - Dhivehi is the official language, and Islam is the state religion. Arabic, Hindi, and English are also spoken.
- **Diverse Ethnic Roots** - The Maldivian ethnic group has ancestry from Tamils, Sinhalese, Arabs, and traders from Africa and Southeast Asia.
- **Strategic Indian Ocean Location** - Positioned on key global shipping routes, the Maldives holds considerable strategic importance in the Indian Ocean.
- **Importance for India's Maritime Vision** - It is a crucial partner for India's SAGAR and MAHASAGAR doctrines, enhancing India's regional maritime security and outreach.

## • **UN Charter's Article 51: Right to Self-Defence**

*Article 51 of the UN Charter (1945) enshrines the inherent right of member states to individual or collective self-defence against armed attacks until Security Council intervention.*

• **Foundation of International Law** - The UN Charter, signed in 1945 and effective that year, is a legally binding international treaty outlining core principles of international relations, including state sovereignty and the prohibition of force.

• **Context and Purpose of Self-Defence** - Established to provide a legal basis for self-preservation, Article 51 acknowledges states' fundamental right to defend against aggression, crucial for national sovereignty and collective security.

• **Key Elements of Article 51** - The article permits self-defence if an armed attack occurs, mandating immediate reporting of such actions to the Security Council to prevent misuse of this right.

• **Application in Interstate Conflicts** - Primarily invoked in cases of direct state-on-state aggression, responses under Article 51 must be proportional and necessary to the threat.

• **Controversies in Counterterrorism** - The use of Article 51 in counterterrorism against non-state actors is debated, with critics questioning if such actions meet the threshold of an "armed attack."

• **India, Pakistan, and Article 51** - The India-Pakistan conflict, with India's Operation Sindoor and Pakistan's invocation of Article 51, highlights the complex interpretation and application of self-defence in contemporary security challenges.

## Security

### HAROP Drone in 'Operation Sindoor'

Reports suggest India utilized Israeli HAROP loitering munitions on May 8, 2025, during its retaliatory 'Operation Sindoor'.

• **HAROP: A Loitering Munition** - Developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), HAROP is an advanced loitering munition, functioning as both a missile and a UAV. It loiters, selects a target, and self-destructs with an explosive payload.

• **Against High-Value Targets** - Designed to neutralize critical assets like radars, command posts, tanks, and SAMs, HAROP can even engage moving targets.

• **Operational Features** - Unlike conventional missiles, HAROP can search, track, and engage targets dynamically using its electro-optical sensor for real-time visual identification.

• **Key Technical Specifications** - With an endurance of up to 9 hours, it allows for extensive area scanning and deep strikes. It can be launched from various platforms and operate in GPS-denied environments, offering both autonomous and manual attack modes.

## Science

### **Soviet Venus Probe Kosmos 482 Set for Re-entry**

over five decades in Earth orbit, the Soviet spacecraft Kosmos 482 is predicted to re-enter the atmosphere around May 10, 2025.

- **Failed Venus Mission** - Launched in March 1972 as part of the Venera program, its intended destination was Venus. However, an upper rocket stage malfunction prevented its escape from Earth's orbit.
- **Stuck in Low Earth Orbit** - Despite the failure, the lander module separated but remained trapped in low Earth orbit instead of proceeding to Venus.
- **Lander Module Details** - The spherical lander module measures about one metre in diameter and weighs roughly 500 kilograms.
- **Durable Construction** - Built with robust materials and a heat shield designed for Venus' harsh environment, some fragments may survive atmospheric re-entry.
- **Uncontrolled Re-entry and Risk Assessment** - The uncontrolled nature of its descent means the landing location is unpredictable, potentially anywhere between 51.7° north and south latitude. Experts, however, consider the risk of harm to be minimal.

