

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 13-05-2025

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History, Art and Culture

Rash Behari Bose

To evade British authorities, revolutionary Rash Behari Bose escaped India on **May 12, 1915**, boarding the Japanese steamer "**Sanuki Maru**" under the assumed name **P. N. Tagore**. This clandestine departure was crucial for his continued activities abroad.

- **Early Revolutionary Life** - Born in Bengal, Rash Behari Bose was an early revolutionary, skilled in explosives and influenced by anti-British sentiments and figures like Vivekananda.
- **Key Conspiracies** - He masterminded the 1912 Delhi-Lahore bomb attack on Viceroy Hardinge and was a key organizer of the unsuccessful 1915 Ghadar Mutiny.
- **Escape to Japan (1915)** - To evade arrest after the Ghadar failure, Bose escaped India in May 1915, using the alias P. N. Tagore to board the "Sanuki Maru."
- **Activism in Japan** - In Japan, he founded the Indian Independence League (1924, reorganized 1942) to seek support for Indian independence.
- **Formation of INA** - Bose crucially formed the first Indian National Army in 1942 with Indian POWs and later passed its leadership to Subhas Chandra Bose in 1943.

Aurangzeb's Invitation

On 12th May 1666, post Treat of Purandhar (1665), Chhatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj accepted Aurangzeb's invitation to Agra, hoping for diplomatic engagement.

- **Humiliation at Court** - Shivaji Maharaj was deeply insulted in Aurangzeb's court, forced to stand behind nobles he had previously defeated in battle.
- **Protest** - Feeling profoundly offended by this treatment, Shivaji Maharaj protested vehemently and stormed out of the imperial court.
- **Arrest and Imprisonment** - As a consequence of his defiant outburst, Aurangzeb ordered the immediate arrest of Shivaji Maharaj and his young son Sambhaji.
- **The Great Escape** - Shivaji Maharaj, refusing to remain captive, meticulously planned and brilliantly executed a daring escape from Agra in August 1666.
- **Significance of the Event** - Shivaji Maharaj's bold escape, concealed in sweet baskets, underscores his courage, strategic brilliance, and defiance against Mughal authority.

Polity & Governance

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)

Recently, Justice Surya Kant is appointed Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), effective May 14, 2025, by the President of India.

- **Appointment Significance** - This appointment strengthens legal aid provision for India's underprivileged, aligning with Article 39-A of the Constitution.
- **Key Details** - Justice Kant succeeds Justice BR Gavai, appointed under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- **NALSA's Role** - Established in 1995, NALSA provides free legal services to marginalized populations, focusing on Lok Adalats and legal awareness, as mandated by the Constitution.
- **Impact of Appointment** - Justice Kant's leadership is expected to enhance access to justice, drive institutional reforms, and expand legal outreach programs nationwide.

International Relations and Issues

International Nurses Day 2025

Observed globally on May 12th, IND 2025 emphasizes "Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies," highlighting the crucial link between nurse welfare and economic resilience.

- **Why This Focus?** - Amidst post-pandemic strain and nurse shortages, the theme calls for urgent investment in nurses' well-being, rights, and support systems worldwide.
- **Core Objectives** - The day aims to promote nurses' health, advocate for improved funding and working environments, and underscore their economic significance.
- **Honoring a Pioneer** - International Nurses Day commemorates Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, born on this date.
- **Historical Development** - The concept emerged in 1953, and the ICN officially established IND in 1965, setting May 12th as the annual celebration in 1974.
- **Global Acknowledgment** - IND provides a vital platform to recognize the dedication, compassion, and essential contributions of nurses to global healthcare.

Bhutan's Crypto Tourism Leap

Recently, Bhutan has launched the world's first national-level cryptocurrency tourism payment system in collaboration with Binance Pay and DK Bank.

- **Seamless Digital Payments** - Tourists can now use over 100 cryptocurrencies, including BNB and BTC, via the Binance app to pay for various services using QR codes.
- **This initiative aims** - To benefit local artisans and vendors by enabling them to accept crypto payments with just a smartphone, fostering financial inclusion.
- **DK Bank's Crucial Role** - Bhutan's first digital bank, DK Bank, licensed by the Royal Monetary Authority, facilitates instant settlements in local currency, supporting inclusive fintech solutions.
- **Enhanced Tourist Experience** - Travellers can enjoy a cashless, card-free experience with reduced transaction fees and simplified logistics, promoting deeper engagement with local culture.
- **Setting a Global Precedent** - Bhutan's innovative approach could inspire other nations to adopt cryptocurrency for tourism, paving the way for efficient and inclusive travel.

Environment

New Crocodile Species Discovered

Scientists have identified two new crocodile species near Mexico's Yucatán coast, on Cozumel Island and Banco Chinchorro atoll.

- **Discovery Background** - Researchers studying isolated crocodile populations initially thought to be American crocodiles found they were genetically distinct.
- **Research Methodology** - The team used DNA sequencing and anatomical analysis of samples collected from captured and released crocodiles.
- **Key Genetic Findings** - Genetic analysis revealed significant differentiation, establishing the island populations as unique evolutionary lineages, increasing New World crocodile species to six.
- **Population and Threats** - Each new species has fewer than 1,000 breeding individuals, making them highly vulnerable to habitat loss from development and climate change.
- **Future Research** - Further studies will focus on their ecological roles and conservation needs, with continued population monitoring being crucial.

Declining Wolf Population

Indian grey wolves, vital grassland predators, face rapid decline primarily due to increasing threats from feral dogs.

- **Indian Grey Wolves** - This wolf subspecies inhabits scrublands and grasslands, is mainly nocturnal, hunts in small packs, and is adapted to warmer climates.
- **Legal Protection** - Listed as locally endangered in India (IUCN), Appendix I (CITES), and Schedule I of India's Wildlife Act, it has the highest protection status.
- **Feral Dog Threat** - Feral dogs pose a significant threat through disease transmission, hybridization, and competition, impacting wolf populations.
- **Maharashtra Forest Rules** - While allowing removal of trespassing dogs threatening wildlife, forest officials often hesitate due to animal rights concerns, opting for challenging vaccination programs.
- **Kadbanwadi Grassland** - This 2,000-hectare grassland in Maharashtra supports diverse wildlife, including wolves, and highlights the complex human-animal-dog interactions in open ecosystems.

Security

BrahMos Facility Inaugurated

15. May 11, 2025, Defence Minister virtually inaugurated a ₹300 crore BrahMos missile production unit in Lucknow's Defence Industrial Corridor.

- **Strategic Importance** - Enhances India's defence self-reliance under "Atmanirbhar Bharat," especially amid regional security concerns and military tensions.
- **Facility aims** - To annually produce 80-100 BrahMos missiles and 100-150 next-generation variants, significantly boosting indigenous missile production.
- **Key Features** - Built on 80 hectares of land provided by Uttar Pradesh, the unit was completed in 3.5 years and will employ around 500 directly.
- **About BrahMos Missile** - A supersonic cruise missile developed by the India-Russia joint venture BrahMos Aerospace, it has a range of 290-400 km and Mach 2.8 speed.
- **Broader Impact** - The project fosters technological growth in Uttar Pradesh, contributes to economic development, and positions Lucknow as a defence manufacturing hub.

Science

National Technology Day

Observed annually on May 11th, this day commemorates significant milestones in India's technological progress.

- **Key 1998 Milestones** - The day marks the Pokhran-II nuclear tests (Operation Shakti), the first flight of "Hansa-3," and the Trishul missile's successful test firing.
- **Official Declaration** - Then Later PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared May 11th as National Technology Day in 1998, with annual celebrations commencing in 1999.
- **Organizing Body** - The Technology Development Board (TDB), under DST, organizes the event to promote the commercialization of indigenous technologies.
- **Significance of "YANTRA"** - Derived from ancient Indian traditions, "YANTRA" symbolizes systems thinking, synergistic innovation, and scalable technological solutions.
- **"Yugantar"** - Meaning epochal transformation, reflects India's evolving role from technology adopter to global technology leader.

