

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 14-03-2025

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#### Geography

##### India's Gully Erosion Crisis

- **Widespread Impact** - Plagues 77 Indian districts, primarily in the east and south.
- **Findings** - align with the UN agenda to combat land degradation by 2030
- **Defining Gully Erosion:** Soil is removed by surface water runoff, forming deep gullies, severely impacting land productivity and contributing to overall land degradation.
- **Significant Consequences** - Reduces agricultural output, induces water stress and droughts, and forces village migrations, creating badlands hindering farming and causing ecological imbalances.
- **Geographic Concentration** - Eastern India, notably Jharkhand & Chhattisgarh, experiences the highest gully erosion rates, while western India has more badlands.

#### Polity & Governance

##### The Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Act, 2024 Passed.

- **Legislative Intent** - Seeks to eradicate non-scientific healing methods, protecting citizens from exploitation and promoting public health.
- **Defining "Evil Practices"** - The Act broadly defines "evil practices" as exploitative healing methods, encompassing diverse traditional and religious healing forms, including certain aspects of Ayurveda.
- **Potential for Overreach** - The wide definition of "evil practices" raises concerns, as it could potentially criminalize established cultural and traditional healing practices.
- **Impact on Traditional Healing** - The law's broad scope may negatively impact practices integral to various communities, potentially undermining cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

##### Maharashtra's Media Monitoring Centre

*Recently, Maharashtra establishes a Media Monitoring Centre under Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to analyze media reports across print, electronic, and social platforms.*

- **Aims** - To monitor media coverage of government policies, categorize reports as positive, neutral, or negative, and track public sentiment to improve citizen communication.
- **Key Functions** - Daily PDF clippings, media trend monitoring, and sentiment tracking are core functions. Data analysis will generate detailed public opinion reports.
- **Data Analysis and Reporting** - The centre will conduct in-depth data analysis to produce comprehensive reports on public sentiment and reactions to government initiatives.

#### International Relations and Issues

### Global Maternal Mortality Crisis: 2020 Statistics

- **Report reveals a devastating reality** - 287,000 women died from preventable pregnancy-related causes, equating to roughly 800 deaths daily, underscoring a critical global health emergency.
- **Primary Drivers of Maternal Death**- Haemorrhage & hypertensive disorders emerge as the leading causes, demanding targeted interventions.
- **Haemorrhage** - Accounting for 27% of maternal deaths, it often occurs during or following childbirth.
- **Hypertensive Disorders** - Contributing 16%, these conditions, including pre-eclampsia.
- **Regional Disparities** - Sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia exhibit the highest maternal mortality rates.

### PM Modi Receives Mauritius' Highest Honour

*PM Modi received the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean from Mauritius, marking his 21st accolade.*

- **Nature of Award** - Highest civilian honour in Mauritius.
- **Purpose** - PM Modi's contributions to strengthening bilateral relations.
- **Significance** - The Awards is Mauritius' most distinguished recognition.
- Since Mauritius became a Republic, only 5 foreign dignitaries have been awarded the prestigious honor, with Nelson Mandela being one of them.

### Alawites

*New Syrian regime rise in December 2024 led to violence targets Alawite community, historically aligned with Basar-al- Assad.*

- **Alawites**: A Religious Minority in Syria.
- **Constitutes** - 12% of the population.
- **Sect** - Shia Islam.
- **Originated** - In 9th and 10th centuries, influenced by Mohammad ibn Nusayr's teachings.
- **Beliefs** - use of wine and reincarnation belief.

## **Environment**

### World Air Quality Report 2024

- **Released by** - Swiss organisation IQAir.
- **Key Findings**
- **Global Pollution** - Only 17% of cities in 7 countries meet WHO air quality guidelines.
- **Cleanest 7 Countries** - Are Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Estonia, Grenada, Iceland & New Zealand they met WHO annual average PM2.5 guideline of 5 µg/m3.
- **91.3% of countries exceed WHO's PM2.5 limit such as:-**
- Chad, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo , and India.
- Central & South Asia has the most polluted cities.
- **In India** - Byrnihat, (Assam-Meghalaya border) is the most polluted metropolitan area.
- Delhi remains the most polluted capital city.

### **Tropic's Engineered Banana: Fighting Food Waste**

*Recently, the UK-based biotech company Tropic introduced a genetically-engineered banana that resists browning.*

- **Innovation Against Spoilage** - Tropic's genetically-engineered banana resists browning, addressing the 50% annual banana waste and its environmental impact.
- **Ripening and Browning Process** - Ethylene, a natural hormone, triggers (Produce Polyphenol Oxidase) PPO production, leading to browning when PPO reacts with oxygen. Bruising accelerates this process.
- **Genetic Modification for Preservation** - Tropic silences the PPO-producing gene, preserving the fruit's appearance without halting ripening, similar to Arctic apples.
- **Environmental Impact of Banana Waste** - The UK discards 1.4 million edible bananas daily, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Non-browning bananas could increase consumption of older fruit, reducing waste.

### **Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan Receives Ramsar Award for 'Wetland Wise Use'**

- **Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan** - co-founder of Care Earth Trust,
- **Features of Award** - It recognizing exceptional contributions to sustainable wetland management, was announced on International Women's Day.
- The Ramsar Awards celebrate individuals and organizations dedicated to wetlands' sustainable management.
- Categories include 'wise use of wetlands', 'innovation', and 'influencing policy'.

## **Security**

### **China's Yunnan Radar**

*China's deployment of a Large Phased Array Radar (LPAR) in Yunnan, near Myanmar, significantly boosts China's surveillance capabilities.*

- **Range** - Exceeding 5,000km.
- **Features** - Its advanced technology allows for rapid scanning and precise tracking of multiple targets, including ballistic missile launches.
- **Objective**- Monitoring the Indian Ocean & Indian Territory, including crucial missile testing sites like Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island.
- **Challenges for India** - Monitoring of India's missile tests, posing a significant threat to national security & missile development program.



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