

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 14-04-2025

### One Liners 14-02-2025

#### History, Art and Culture

##### Khultabad Name Change to Ratnapur

Recently, Maharashtra government announced the renaming of the historic town Khultabad to its original name, Ratnapur.

- **History of Ratnapur/Khultabad** - Originally known as Ratnapur, the town's name was changed to Khultabad during the Mughal era.
- **Location** - Situated approximately 25 km from Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (formerly Aurangabad)
- **Tomb of Aurangzeb** - The town houses the tomb of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, along with the graves of his son Azam Shah and Asaf Jah I, the founder of the Hyderabad Nizam dynasty.

#### Geography

##### Thar Desert Greening

The Thar Desert in India saw a striking 38 per cent rise in greening annually over the last two decades, a new study showed.

- **Thar Desert** - It is an arid region in the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent that covers an area of 200,000 km<sup>2</sup> in India and Pakistan.
- **Thar desert States** - Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana.
- It is the world's 18th-largest desert, and the world's 9th-largest hot subtropical desert.
- **Unique phenomena** - Thar was the only desert in the world with the highest concurrent increase in population, precipitation and vegetation during the last few decades.
- This remarkable transformation stands in contrast to vegetation trends observed in other deserts globally.
- Thar is among only four major deserts (Thar, Arabian, Negev and Eastern Gobi) worldwide that have experienced significant precipitation increases during this period.
- **Reason for greening:**
  - Enhanced South West Monsoon rainfall
  - Groundwater pumping for irrigation.

#### International Relations and Issues

### **Country Partnership Framework (CPF)**

Recently, Mauritius has signed a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- **CPF** - It is a strategic document designed to facilitate medium- and long-term cooperation with ISA member countries to achieve their solar energy goals.
  - **Aim** - To promote the deployment of solar-based applications, capacity-building on technical, regulatory, and financing needs to the country.
  - To establish the Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C), scaling of solar rooftop, projects, agrivoltaics, water pumping systems and solar Green Hydrogen.
- Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C)** is a program initiated by ISA, to build a skilled solar workforce through specialized training, tools, and learning modules.
- **Mauritius** - It has become the **1<sup>st</sup> African nation and 4<sup>th</sup> globally** to enter into this partnership with ISA.
  - **Duration** - 3 years and renewed based on mutual consent.

### **Economy**

#### **GI Tags for Meghalaya's Textiles**

Recently, the Geographical Indication (GI) tags to Ryndia silk and Khasi handloom, two significant traditional textile products from Meghalaya.

- **Ryndia Silk** - It is a hand-spun eri silk which is naturally dyed, and organically produced and ethically sourced.
- **Ryndia** - It is the Khasi name for eri, named after the ryndia (castor) plant that nourishes the eri silkworms.
- **Peace Silk, or Ahimsa Silk** - Its yarn is extracted without cruelly boiling the silkworms and killing them, unlike other silks.
- **Region** - It is particularly associated with the Umden-Diwon region, designated as Meghalaya's first Eri Silk Village in 2021.
- **Khasi Handloom** - It is the traditional textile art of the Khasi community.
- **Uniqueness** - This handloom is known for its distinctive weaves and the use of natural dyes.

### **Environment**

### **Vembur Sheep**

*Vembur sheep in Tamil Nadu faces threat from industrial plan.*

- **Vembur Sheep** - It is one of 5 the indigenous hair sheep breeds in Tamil Nadu and locally called as Pottu aadu.
- **Characteristics** - It has medium-sized drooping ears, short thin tails, and tall lean bodies.
- It doesn't require shearing and well-suited to the Tamil Nadu climate.
- **Unique coating pattern** - White fur adorned with irregular reddish brown patches, and in rare cases black fawn patches.
- It does not rely on commercial cattle fodder, but entirely on natural grazing grounds.
- Recognising its uniqueness, the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources officially registered the breed in 2007.



- **Climate resilient** - The breed's natural resilience and adaptability to dry climate makes it ideal for the rain-fed agricultural regions.
- **Conservation status** - IUCN - Not listed.

### India in Mission Innovation Annual Gathering (MIAG), 2025

Recently, India highlighted their initiatives at Mission Innovation Annual Gathering, 2025 which was held at Seoul, South Korea.

- **Mission Innovation** - It is a global clean energy initiative to catalyse action and investment in research, development and demonstration in clean energy.
- **Launched in** - It was announced at COP21 in 2015 by the then President Obama of the United States.
- **Members** - 23 countries including India and the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union).
- **Missions**

ZERO-EMISSION SHIPPING

GREEN SHIPPING CORRIDOR HU

CLEAN HYDROGEN

GREEN POWERED FUTURE

CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL

SMART CDR COMPETITION

URBAN TRANSITIONS

NET-ZERO INDUSTRIES

INTEGRATED BIOREFINERIES

- **Mission Innovation 2.0** - It was launched on 2021, is catalysing a decade of action and investment.
- **India's leadership** - The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India - co-leads the Mission Integrated Biorefinery jointly with the Netherlands as part of Mission Innovation (MI) 2.0.
- **Bio E3 Policy** - Biotechnology for Environment, Energy, and Economy Policy.

### Security

#### Gaurav - Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB)

Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the trials of Gaurav from a Su-30 MKI aircraft.

- **LRGB 'Gaurav'** - It is a 1,000 kg class glide bomb.



- **Indigenous production** - It is indigenously designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat, Armament Research and Development Establishment, and Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.
- **Range** - The trials successfully demonstrated range close to 100 kms with pin-point accuracy.

### **YARD 3039- Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel**

*Recently, The Keel Laying ceremony for Yard 3039, the third Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) was held in Kolkata.*

- **Yard 3039** – It is a Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel.
- **Developed by** - Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL), Goa and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- **Features of Yard 3039**
  - It has a tonnage capacity of around 3000T.
  - Designed for coastal defence and surveillance, search and rescue, offshore asset protection, and anti-piracy missions.

### **Science**

#### **Black Rats: Primary Hantavirus Carriers in Madagascar**

*Recent research published in Ecology and Evolution has identified black rats as the primary carriers of hantavirus in rural Madagascar, highlighting a significant health risk to local populations.*

• **Hantavirus infection** - Hantavirus is a serious viral infection transmitted to humans through contact with the excreta (urine, droppings, saliva) of infected rodents.

• **Associated Syndromes**

- Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), a potentially fatal respiratory disease
- Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS), which primarily affects kidney function.

• **Black rat (*Rattus rattus*)** – It is an invasive species, introduced to Madagascar centuries ago, between the 10th and 14th centuries.

• **Increased Human Contact** - Deforestation and agricultural expansion in Madagascar have led to increased interaction between human communities and hantavirus-carrying black rats, elevating the potential for disease transmission.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **National Safe Motherhood Day, 2025**

*National Safe Motherhood Day is observed annually on April 11th in India, coinciding with Kasturba Gandhi's birth anniversary, to emphasize the critical need for maternal healthcare.*

- **Theme** - “Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures,” focusing on ensuring accessible and quality maternal healthcare from the beginning of pregnancy for safe outcomes.
- **Maternal death** – It is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy.
- **Maternal mortality rate in India** – It is declined from 130 per 100,000 live births in 2014-16 to 97 per 100,000 live births in 2018-20.
- While some states, like Kerala, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, have witnessed a significant reduction in maternal deaths, others continue to struggle with large numbers.
- **White Ribbon Alliance** – It is an international non-profit organization that advocates for maternal health.
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** – It is one of the schemes launched by the central government to provide free and zero-expense delivery and treatment for pregnant women and sick newborns.