

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 16-06-2025

### One Liners 14-06-2025

#### Polity & Governance

##### Yoga Connect

The Ministry of Ayush is hosting 'Yoga Connect', a hybrid global summit, on June 14, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, as a key lead-up to the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY).

- **Yoga Connect** - Aims to unite yoga gurus, policymakers, health experts, and global influencers.
- **Theme** - 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health', emphasizing holistic well-being.
- **Participants** - Coordinated by the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN).
- Over 1,000 in-person participants will join, alongside virtual attendees from leading international yoga institutions.
- Experts from countries like Bahrain, USA, UK, and South Korea are participating.
- **Thematic Sessions** - The summit will cover diverse sessions including Yoga for Non-Communicable Diseases, Yoga-Tech, Yoga and Women's Health, and Yoga Commerce and Industry.
- It will feature participation from notable luminaries such as Swami Baba Ramdevji and HR Nagendraji.
- **Significance** - 'Yoga Connect' marks ten years of India's global yoga movement since the UN declared June 21 as IDY in 2014.

• The event reinforces Yoga's recognition by UNESCO as India's gift to the world, promoting health, balance, and unity.

##### Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)

The AAIB is the primary agency investigating the recent Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad.

- **Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), India** - Is an attached office under the Government of India's Ministry of Civil Aviation, crucial for aviation safety.
- It was established on July 30, 2012, to fulfil India's obligations under Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.
- **Mandate and Objectives** - AAIB's sole objective is the prevention of accidents and incidents, not to apportion blame or liability.
- It is responsible for classifying 'Safety Occurrences' in Indian Airspace into Accidents, Serious Incidents, and Incidents.
- **Scope of Investigations** - AAIB investigates all Accidents and Serious Incidents involving aircraft with an All-Up Weight (AUW) over 2250 Kgs or Turbojet aircraft.
- It may also investigate other serious incidents or incidents if deemed expedient.
- **Investigation Process & Reporting** - After investigation completion and Director General's acceptance, reports are made public on the AAIB website.
- Accepted 'Final Investigation Reports' are forwarded to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and participating States.
- **Safety Recommendations & Studies** - AAIB conducts safety studies and issues recommendations from its investigation reports.
- These recommendations are forwarded to the DGCA, India, or other ICAO Contracting States' Civil Aviation Regulatory bodies for implementation and follow-up.
- **Coordination Role** - AAIB also facilitates the investigation and administrative work of Courts or Assessors appointed by the Central Government under relevant Aircraft Rules.

#### International Relations and Issues

##### Reko Diq Project

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) and World Bank (WB) recently approved a USD 700 million concessional loan to fund Pakistan's Reko Diq project.

- **Reko Diq project** - A major mining initiative in mineral-rich Balochistan province of Pakistan.
- This approval marks a significant victory for Pakistan's resource development sector.
- It is jointly owned by Barrick Gold and the federal and Balochistan governments.
- **Project Scope** - A recent feasibility study has upgraded the project's scope significantly.
- The mine life is revised to 37 years due to higher throughput, though it could extend to 80 years with unaccounted minerals.
- **Strategic Significance** - The project's advancement boosts Pakistan's economic standing and its efforts to secure vital investments.
- The World Bank also plans to invest USD 2 billion annually in Pakistan's infrastructure over the next decade.

#### Agriculture

### Agrivoltaics

Bihar farmers have initiated food and energy production through an agrivoltaics site in Gaya district, marking a significant step in sustainable agriculture.

- **Agrivoltaics** - Combines agriculture and solar power generation, preventing competition for land between food and energy production.
- It involves growing shade-tolerant crops beneath solar panels.
- This allows farmers to simultaneously produce food and generate electricity from the same land area.
- **Bihar's First Agrivoltaics Site** - The Tata Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI) and Preservation and Proliferation of Rural Resources and Nature (PRAN) established this site in Nawada village, Gaya of Bihar.
- Built with assistance from Jain Irrigation Systems, it is Bihar's pioneering agrivoltaics installation.
- **Benefits and Operation** - The 20-kilowatt solar array powers a grain mill and micro-irrigation systems, ensuring reliable and affordable irrigation for farmers.
- This enables dry season cultivation and reduces water usage through drip and sprinkler systems.
- Farmers co-financed and collectively own the installation, generating additional income from grain mill services.
- **Environmental and Economic Impact** - The project helps lower greenhouse gas emissions from farming while increasing overall productivity.
- It is expected to expand production to include high-value crops, significantly increasing farmer incomes.
- This initiative is part of TCI's Zero-Hunger, Zero-Carbon Food Systems project, aiming to reduce agricultural emissions and improve livelihoods.

### Environment

#### Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve

Villages near the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve are strongly opposing a proposal to open a new ecotourism zone, citing a concerning rise in tiger attacks and increased human-wildlife conflict.

- **AJim Corbett National Park** - Also known as Corbett Tiger Reserve, is India's oldest and one of its most prestigious national parks, located in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand.
- **Recent Conflict Incidents** - Kyari village recently experienced its first tiger fatality in 50 years.
- Between March 2024-2025, the Ramnagar forest division recorded 12 tiger attacks.
- Locals fear increasing ecotourism negatively impacts animal behavior, escalating conflict.
- **Ecotourism Zones and Revenue** - Jim Corbett and its buffer zones host 15 ecotourism zones, generating Rs 2,000-3,000 crore annually.
- This industry supports hundreds of local resorts, drivers, and guides, providing significant livelihoods.
- **Proposed New Zone and Opposition** - Terai West proposed a new ecotourism zone in Chandani, drawing strong local opposition due to lack of consultation.
- Residents protested, even filing a High Court petition which temporarily halted the proposal.
- **Causes of Conflict** - High tiger density in Ramnagar (estimated 80 tigers; 20 per 100 sq km) is a major factor.
- NTCA reports development and resorts cause "loss of connectivity" for animal movement, leading to negative interactions.
- Increased wildlife populations and human expansion into forests also contribute.
- **Community Concerns and Livelihoods** - Villagers face crop damage from wild animals and restricted forest access for fodder/firewood.
- Many rely more on forest resources than seasonal tourism income, expressing fear of forced displacement.

### Security

## Kusha

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently announced significant progress on Project Kusha, with trials for its variants expected soon.

- **Project Kusha** - An indigenous air defence system, with phased induction into the armed forces expected by 2030.
- This initiative aims to fortify India's air defence capabilities with long-range, home-grown solutions.

### Kusha Variants & Capabilities:

- **Kusha M1** - Equipped with short-range missile systems for intercepting incoming aircraft and missiles (up to ~150 km).

- **Kusha M2** - Features more than medium-range surface-to-air missiles (MRSAM) (250 km range approximately).

- **Kusha M3** - Designed for a hit reach exceeding 400 kilometers (some reports suggest 350-400 km).

- All three variants will use the same kill vehicle but different boosters for varying ranges.

- **Operational Design** - Kusha is engineered to provide multi-layered space protection.

- One system can launch multiple interceptor missiles to cover a stretch between 100 to 200 kilometers against diverse aerial threats, including stealth jets, drones, and even ballistic missiles.

- **Development Timeline** - The first development trials for Kusha M1 are anticipated in September 2025, with potential induction by 2028.

- Kusha M2 trials will follow in 2026, and Kusha M3 trials are projected for 2027.

- DRDO aims to complete the induction of the entire Kusha system by 2030, enhancing *Aatmanirbharta in air defence*.

## Project Vishnu

India is preparing to test the Extended Trajectory-Long Duration Hypersonic Cruise Missile (ET-LDHCM), developed under DRDO's covert "Project Vishnu".

### Key Capabilities of ET-LDHCM:

- **Speed** - Achieves a maximum speed of Mach 8 (about 11,000 km/h), making it extremely difficult for current radar and air defence systems to intercept.

- **Range** - Has a range of approximately 1,500 kilometers.

- **Payload** - Can deliver conventional or nuclear warheads weighing 1,000-2,000 kg to target enemy sites.

- **Propulsion** - Utilizes a scramjet engine, already successfully ground-tested for 1,000 seconds, for sustained hypersonic speeds.

- **Operational Features** - Designed for low-altitude travel and mid-flight maneuvering, unlike predictable ballistic missiles.

- Constructed with heat-resistant materials (up to 2,000°C) and oxidation-resistant coatings for extreme conditions.

- Offers adaptability with multi-platform launch capabilities: from land, air, or sea.

- **Strategic Significance** - Once operational, it will enable India to conduct deep, precise strikes within enemy territory rapidly.

- India joins an elite group of countries (including the US, China, and Russia) that have perfected hypersonic missile technology.

- Designed at the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex in Hyderabad with commercial Indian defence companies, boosting Aatmanirbharta.

- **Broader Benefits of Hypersonic Technologies** - Beyond military applications, these technologies can strengthen India's capacities in disaster relief and aerospace development.

- The program is expected to create thousands of jobs and provide new opportunities for Indian MSMEs in the defence ecosystem.

## EXERCISE NOMADIC ELEPHANT

The 17th edition of the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT recently concluded at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

- **Participants** - The Indian Army contingent comprised 45 personnel, primarily from a battalion of the ARUNACHAL SCOUTS.

- They actively participated in the two-week-long joint exercise alongside the Mongolian Armed Forces.

- **Training Objective** - The primary focus was to enhance interoperability between the two armies.

- They trained as a combined task force for semi-conventional scenarios in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a United Nations mandate.

- **Strategic Importance** - The conduct of EXERCISE NOMADIC ELEPHANT marks a significant milestone in India's expanding defence diplomacy.

- It underscores the strategic importance of India's partnership with Mongolia in the defence sector.

## Multinational Exercise Khaan Quest

The Indian Army contingent arrived in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on June 11, 2025, to participate in the multinational military exercise Khaan Quest.

- **Khaan Quest** - Began in 2003 as a bilateral initiative between the United States and the Mongolian Armed Forces.

- It evolved into a multinational peacekeeping endeavour from 2006 onwards.

- The current edition marks its 22<sup>nd</sup> iteration.

- **Aim & Scope** - The exercise aims to prepare participating armed forces for peacekeeping operations in a multinational setting.

- Its core focus is increasing interoperability and military readiness in peace support operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

- **Tactical Drills** - The drills will include establishing static and mobile checkpoints, cordon and search operations, and patrolling.

- Other key activities involve evacuation of civilians from hostile areas, counter-improvised explosive device (IED) drills, combat first aid, and casualty evacuation.

## Science

### Novavax's COVID-Flu Combo Vaccine

Novavax has recently announced its experimental COVID-19-influenza combination vaccine and standalone flu vaccine in older adults.

- **Vaccine Technology** - The Novavax vaccines *are protein-based vaccines*, a traditional technology.
- They *use purified viral proteins*, offering an alternative to newer mRNA vaccines. This is relevant for Science & Technology.
- **Trial Findings** - Trial data showed a *strong immune response*, comparable to existing approved vaccines.
- This indicates the vaccine's potential efficacy.
- Both vaccine candidates were well-tolerated with no new safety concerns.
- This is crucial for widespread acceptance and regulatory approval processes.
- **Regulatory Pathway** - Current data will show the design of future late-stage studies.
- This highlights the multi-phase process of vaccine development and approval, a key aspect of Government Policies.
- **Public Health Impact** - A combined COVID-flu vaccine could simplify vaccination campaigns and improve compliance.
- This would enhance protection against two major respiratory diseases, easing healthcare burdens.
- **Commercial Strategy** - Novavax is focusing on partnerships for further development and commercialization.
- This demonstrates the role of collaborations in pharmaceutical innovation and access to medicines.



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