

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 16-06-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Agatthiyar

Recently, the Vice President of India released the book "Agatthiyar - The Unifier".

- Agatthiyar (Agastya) is a revered Vedic sage.

- **Contributions** - Founding father of the Siddha system of medicine.

- **Literary work** - Agathiyam (Tamil grammar book).

- **Associated places** - Held River Kaveri in his kamandalam (water pot) to provide water to the dry lands of the south.

- In the sacred Pothigai Hills, Agastya composed Agathiyam, the earliest known Tamil grammatical treatise.

- **Legacy** - "India's languages are sister tongues, enriched by mutual respect and centuries of cultural exchange."

Ayurveda Knowledge Heritage workshop

CCRAS-Central Sanskrit University Initiative Strengthens Preservation of India's Ayurveda Knowledge Heritage recently.

- **Organised by** -

- Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush.

- Central Sanskrit University (CSU), Ministry of Education.

- **Collaboration with** - Sri Vadiraja Research Foundation.

- **Focuses on** - Transliteration of Tigalari and Old Kannada Manuscripts

- Publication of rare unpublished ayurveda texts.

- **Aim** - To build expertise among scholars in reading, deciphering and transcribing Ayurveda manuscripts.

Dancing Girl of Mohenjo-daro

There is a recent controversy about the digital "covering up" of the bare torso of the 4,500-year-old bronze "Dancing Girl" figurine Period - Indus Valley Civilisation.

- **Discovered in** - Mohenjo-daro (present-day Sindh, Pakistan), in the year of 1926.

- **Excavated by** - British archaeologist Ernest Mackay

- **Made-up of** - Bronze.

- **Features** - Naturalism, lively posture, and ancient metallurgy.

Polity & Governance

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

ASI and National Museum of Denmark Signed MoU for Underwater Archaeological Investigation of Historic Danish Ship Oresund.

- It is a premier organization for archaeological research and heritage protection.

- **Founded in** - 1861 by Sir Alexander Cunningham.

- **Functions under** - Ministry of Culture.

Legal Framework

- Operates under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

- Regulates the Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972.

- **Administrative Structure** - Entire country divided into 37 Circles for monument/site management.

- **Objectives** - To conducts archaeological surveys, excavations, and research projects.

- To maintains and conserves monuments and sites of national importance.

- To operates museums and publishes research findings.

SHE-Marts (Self-Help Entrepreneur Marts)

Under DAY-NRLM 700 SHE-MARTs, 1,000 District Fulfilment Centres to be set up to ensure 6 crore lakpati didis.

- **SHE-Marts** - These are Community-owned retail outlets supported by the government.

- Designed to empower rural women entrepreneurs.

- **Objectives** -

- To enable Self-Help Groups (SHGs) *to sell goods directly to consumers.*

- To increase profit margins and reduce dependence on middlemen.

- To support the *“Lakpati Didi” mission* - ensuring sustainable income for 6 crore women.

- **Structure & function**

- Established within *cluster-level federations* to showcase and sell local products.

- Linked with *Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)* for nationwide digital selling.

International Relations and Issues

Slovakia

Prime Minister conferred with the national honour of the Slovak Republic recently.

- **Award** - "Order of the White Double Cross, 1st Class".

It is the highest national honour of the Slovakia.

Slovakia



- Slovakia is a landlocked parliamentary democratic republic in Central Europe.

It became an independent nation on January 1, 1993.

- **Capital** - Bratislava (only national capital in the world that directly borders two other sovereign countries: Austria and Hungary).

- **Geography** - Dominated by the Western Carpathian Mountains.

- **Boarders** -Poland (north), Ukraine (east), Hungary (south), Austria (southwest), Czech Republic (northwest).

Exercise Pitch Black

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) officially launched the 2026 edition of Exercise Pitch Black.

- **Held in** - Northern Australia.

- **Operated from** - RAAF Bases Darwin and Tindal in the Northern Territory, as well as RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland.

- **Participating nations** - India, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Fiji, Finland, France, Indonesia, and other 11 nations.

- **Objective** - To enhance interoperability, shared preparedness, and regional security among allied and partner air forces.

Agriculture

Queen Pineapple

Recently Union Minister highlights GI-tagged Queen Pineapple as a flagship product with global premium potential.

- It is a *spiny, golden-yellow variety*.

- **Scientific name** - Ananas comosus (L.) Merr.

- **Known for** - Deep orange-yellow flesh, *intense sweetness (13-17.2 degrees Brix)*, and rich aroma.

- **Nutritional value** - Packed with vitamins (A, B, C) and minerals (calcium, magnesium, iron).

- **Note** - It is *state fruit of Tripura*.

Environment

Project Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

Recently, Project GIB Adds Three Chicks, Taking Captive Stock to 94 Birds.

- **Objective** - to save Great Indian Bustard (GIB) i.e, state bird of Rajasthan.

- **Conservation methods** -

- **Captive breeding** - "*Jumpstart approach*", By replacing an infertile egg in the wild with a captive-bred, led to increase in population.

- Habitat preservation,

- Power-line mitigation.

- **Conservation status** -

- **IUCN Red List** - Critically Endangered

- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** - Schedule I

- **CITES** - Appendix I

Security

INS Sharda (P55)

Recently, *INS Sharda* departed Colombo, Sri Lanka after a successful port call that further strengthened maritime cooperation.

- It is a *Sukanya-class offshore patrol vessel* of the Indian Navy.

- **Commissioned in** - 1991.

- **Designed for** - Maritime surveillance, fleet support, and anti-piracy operations.

- **Significance** - It actively participates in

- Regional security deployments and

- Humanitarian assistance missions.



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