

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 16-08-2025

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Economy

SAMARTH Scheme

- **SAMARTH** - Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector.
- It is a flagship skill development scheme approved in *continuation to the Integrated Skill Development Scheme* for 12th FYP.
- **Implemented by** - Ministry of Textiles.
- **Objectives** - To provide *demand driven, placement-oriented skilling programmes* to supplement the efforts in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors.
- To cover the entire value chain of textiles, *excluding Spinning and Weaving in organized sector*.

Agriculture

FASAL project

- **FASAL** - Forecasting Agricultural output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based observations.
- **Implemented by** - Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre.
- **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- **Coverage** - Rice, wheat, tur, rapeseed & mustard, rabi, jowar, cotton, jute, sugarcane, soybean, lentil & gram.
- **Partner agencies** - India Meteorological Department, Institute of Economic growth, Space Application Centre, National Remote Sensing Centre.
- **Significance** - Drought Monitoring and providing technological support to *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)*.

Namo Drone Didi

- It is a *Central Sector Scheme* for providing *drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHG)*.
- **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Objectives** - To improve efficiency, enhanced crop yield & reduce cost of operation.
- To empower SHGs as drone service providers for increasing their income and providing livelihood support to them.

Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR)

- **Initiated under** - Startup India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- **Aim** - To build the world's largest digital registry for stakeholders within the startup ecosystem.
- **Features** - Peer-to-peer interaction, partnerships, and collaborative engagements.
- **Significance** - It will bridge the gap between startups, investors, mentors, and other stakeholders, allowing for seamless interaction across sectors.

Environment

Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

- **Statutory body in** - 1972, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- **Objectives** - To provide support to the seafood industry.
- To produce and promote quality seafood and market it across the world.
- **Significance** - Market promotion, capture fisheries, culture fisheries, processing infrastructure & value addition, quality control, research and development.

World Lion Day

- **Annual event on** - 10th August.
- **Launched in** - 2013 by Derek & Beverly Joubert under *Big Cat Rescue*.
- **Aim** - To bring global attention to the declining number of lions and the urgent need for their conservation.

World Elephant Day 2025

- **Celebrated annually on** - 12th August.
- **Initiated in** - 2012, by Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation with Canadian filmmaker Patricia Sims.
- **Aim** - To strengthen measures to ensure their long-term survival.
- **In India** - Accounts for 60% of the global wild elephant population, with 33 Elephant Reserves and 150 identified Elephant Corridors as per the 2023 Report.

Science

Animal Stem Cell Biobank & Laboratory

- **Established at** - National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad.
- **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Science & Technology.
- **Objectives** - To focus on *regenerative medicine and cellular therapies* for livestock.
- To *store and preserve high-quality stem cells* from various animal species.
- **Significance** - It will advance research in disease modelling, tissue engineering, and reproductive biotechnology.

National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB)

- It is an autonomous institute of the *Department of Biotechnology*.
- **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **Registered under** - Andhra Pradesh Government Act, 2001.
- **Objectives** - To harness existing and emerging biotechnologies to build a strong and competitive animal-based industry.
- To focus on key areas like animal genetics, biotechnology, disease research, the creation of vaccines, and nutrition to improve farm animal health.
- To support businesses developing farm animal products by offering a helpful and innovative environment.

Miscellaneous

23rd National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG)

- **Started in** - 2003 by *Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances* annually.
- **Aim** - To recognize significant achievements, foster the sharing of effective practices, and promote innovations in digital governance.

