UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 18-06-2025

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Polity & Governance

Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan

Recently, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan.

• **About** – It's a welfare campaign aimed at tribal empowerment and grassroots participation.

• **Part of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh & PM-JANMAN -** This campaign is a flagship effort under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh and linked to PM-JANMAN.

• Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh is a commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the extraordinary heritage of tribal heroes.

• **Largest tribal benefit campaign –** The Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan is India's biggest benefit saturation drive in tribal regions.

• It spans 549 tribal districts and 207 PVTG districts, from June 15 to 30, 2025.

• **Over one lakh villages covered –** It ensures that tribal households receive services directly at their doorsteps.

• **Last-mile delivery model –** Through benefit camps, eligible individuals receive services like Aadhaar, Ayushman Bharat, PM-Kisan, pensions, and skill training.

• The goal is full coverage of key schemes under a "last-mile delivery" model.

• **Community-Led and Multi-Ministerial** – It involves synchronized action across ministries and local governance.

Mukhya Mantrir Jiban Anuprerana

Recently, Assam CM launched the Mukhya Mantrir Jiban Anuprerana Scheme to provide one-time aid to research scholars.

• **About -** Assam launched the *Jiban Anuprerana Scheme* to support full-time research scholars.

• **Financial Aid for Research Scholars –** It offers ₹25,000 to regular scholars and ₹40,000 to Divyang (disabled) scholars.

• **Target Beneficiaries** – The scheme is open to permanent residents of Assam enrolled in public institutions.

• **Focus on Divyang Inclusion –** Special higher financial assistance is reserved for Physically disabled scholars.

NAKSHA

Recently the second batch of NAKSHA Phase 2 training begins on June 16, focusing on capacity building in urban land surveys.

• **NAKSHA** – National geospatial Knowledge-based land Survey of urban HAbitations

• **Objectives** – To create and update land records in urban areas to ensure accurate and reliable documentation of land ownership.

• To ensure accurate, digital land records and improve urban planning and governance.

• **Nodal ministry** – Department of Land Resources (DoLR) under the Ministry of Rural Development.

• **Training focus on modern survey tools** – Officers will be trained in GNSS, ETS-based surveys, Web-GIS, land parcel mapping, and related legal frameworks to modernize urban land records using geospatial technology.

• **Four National Centres of Excellence** – Training will be conducted at YASHADA (Pune), ATI (Mysuru), MGSIPA (Chandigarh), and NER CoE (Guwahati).

• The programme builds capacity in **urban land governance** and **technical surveying skills**.

Economy

WPI inflation

Recently Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation dropped to 0.39% in May 2025, driven by deflation in food, fuel, and some manufactured goods.

• **Wholesale price index** – It comprises as far as possible all transactions at first point of bulk sale in the domestic market.

• Provisional monthly WPI for All Commodities is released on 14th of every month

• **Inflation Falls to 0.39% in May –** India's WPI-based inflation eased to 0.39% in May 2025 from 0.85% in April.

This marks a continued cooling of wholesale prices over recent months.

• **Food articles show deflation –** Food articles saw a deflation of 1.56% in May, steeper than April's 0.86%.

• Vegetable prices dropped sharply, with a deflation of 21.62% compared to 18.26% in April.

• **Fuel and power see price decline –** Fuel and power registered deflation of 2.27% in May, reversing April's 2.18% inflation.

• **Manufactured products –** It is 2.04% inflation in May, slightly down from April's 2.62%.

• **Significance –** This led to a 0.50% cut in the benchmark interest rate to 5.50% earlier this month RBI.

Environment

AviList

Recently AviList went live which offers the first unified taxonomy of global bird species.

• **First Unified Global Checklist –** AviList is the first-ever unified global bird species checklist that consolidates years of taxonomic work into one freely accessible global standard.

• **Comprehensive Scope –** It includes 11,131 species, 19,879 subspecies, 2,376 genera, 252 families, and 46 orders.

• This makes it the most detailed and complete avian taxonomic list ever compiled.

• **Created by** – Working Group on Avian Checklists, with bodies like BirdLife and Cornell Lab.

• **Boost to Conservation Efforts –** AviList aids scientists and conservationists in aligning species data and priorities globally.

• **Free and Open Access –** It eliminates confusion caused by multiple differing checklists used earlier.

Indian Rat Snake

Recently, The Kerala Wildlife Board is considering a proposal to declare the Indian Rat Snake as the State Reptile.

• This move recognizes the species' ecological role and conservation need, especially amid declining populations.

• **Indian Rat Snake –** The Indian Rat Snake (Ptyas mucosa).

• It is commonly called Manja Chera or Karinchera.

• Snake conservationists stress that only 25% of snakes are venomous, urging awareness and protection.

• **Farmers' Ally and Pest Controller** – It preys on hatchlings of venomous snakes, making it ecologically important.

• It also controls rodent populations in farmlands.

• **Conservation status**

- WPA - Schedule I
- IUCN - Least Concern

• **Population Decline –** It is facing declines due to overexploitation.

The snake is hunted for meat, skins, traditional medicine, and snake wine, particularly in Southeast Asia.

• **Habitat** – Rat snakes inhabit villages, farmlands, scrublands, plantations, and forests across India.

• It lays up to 18 eggs per clutch, feeding on rodents, frogs, lizards, and birds.

Security

Operation True Promise

Operation true promise was resumed as a part of recent conflict between Israel and Iran.

• **Operation true promise** – It is Iran's air attack on Israel in April 2025 to retaliate Israel's attack.

• **Operation True Promise 3** - It is Iran's latest retaliatory military campaign targeting Israeli cities and infrastructure in response to Israel's operation rising lion.

• **Drone Barrage –** Iran launched salvos of ballistic missiles and drones towards Israeli territory.

• **Targeting Israeli Cities and Military Centers –** These retaliatory attacks caused significant damage in Israeli cities such as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

• The IRGC claimed responsibility, stating they targeted "military centres and airbases that served as the source of the criminal aggression against our country.

Science

Synthetic Aperture Radar

Recently NASA announced that the NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) satellite had reached ISRO's launch site in Sriharikota which is equipped with Synthetic Aperture Radar.

• **NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) Mission –** NISAR will scan most of Earth's land and ice surfaces twice every 12 days after launch.
• It aims to deliver extensive environmental and geological data to scientists worldwide.
• **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) –** SAR is a technology that uses microwave pulses instead of visible light to create high-resolution images.
• It works regardless of lighting or weather conditions like darkness, clouds, or smoke.
• A SAR system uses a small antenna on a moving platform like a satellite to record echoes from the ground.
• By combining these signals with precise timing and phase data, it mimics a very large antenna.
• **All-Weather, Day-Night Capability –** Microwaves can penetrate clouds, rain, and smoke, enabling SAR to operate 24/7.
It can detect surface features and changes invisible to optical cameras.
• **Applications and Uses –** SAR helps in tracking soil moisture, ice movement, land deformation, and vegetation cover.
It can detect environmental changes, disaster impacts, and urban development.

Jumping spider species

Recently new jumping spider species and rare genera have been recorded for the first time in India.

• The discovery expands India's known Spartaeinae spider diversity to 15 species across 10 genera.
• **Discovered in Karnataka –** A new jumping spider species, *Spartaeus karigiri*, was found in Devarayanadurga, Karnataka.
• It was named after the local hill, Karigiri (Elephant Hill), where it was first observed.
• **First Indian Record of Rare Genera –** This is possibly the first time the genera *Spartaeus* and *Sonoita* have been reported from India.
• Previously, they were known only from Southeast Asia and Africa.
• **Distinct Behaviour and Habitat –** The spiders show intelligent hunting and mimicry tactics, typical of the Spartaeinae subfamily.
• **Characteristics** – Males were found in rocky crevices; females were seen guarding egg clutches.
• **Taxonomic Clarification Achieved –** Researchers confirmed *Marpissa gangasagarensis* (2005) is the same as *Phaeacius fimbriatus* (1900).
• This resolved a two-decade-old naming confusion using museum specimens.

Miscellaneous

ICAR-NIHSAD

Recently, ICAR-NIHSAD Bhopal was awarded Category A Rinderpest Holding Facility status by World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and Food and agriculture organization (FAO).

• **ICAR-NIHSAD** – It is Indian Council of Agricultural Research - National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases.
• It is a premier research institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) focusing on exotic and emerging animal diseases and zoonotic diseases.
• **Rinderpest Holding Facility (RHF) –** It is now one of only six global labs authorized to securely store rinderpest virus material.
• India's ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal has been designated as a Category A Rinderpest Holding Facility by WOAH and FAO.
• It is authorized to retain live Rinderpest virus or infectious material for:
  - Research
  - Diagnostic development
  - Emergency vaccine production
• **Rinderpest** – It also called cattle plague, was a highly contagious viral disease affecting cattle and other cloven-hoofed animals.
• It is caused by the Rinderpest virus, a member of the Morbillivirus genus (same family as measles).
• To prevent resurgence, virus containment is restricted to highly secure labs with rigorous biosafety standards.
• It was eradicated globally in 2011, led by the FAO and WOAH, with support from nations worldwide.

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