

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 18-11-2025

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History, Art and Culture

Berenike in Egypt

Tamil Nadu archaeologists join excavations at Berenike in Egypt.

- **Aim** - To identify further evidence of ancient Mediterranean trade connections between the Tamils and the Romans."

- **Earlier excavations** -

- **At Berenike in 1995** - Archaeologists unearthed a potsherd bearing the Tamil-Brahmi text korrapuman.

- **At Quseir al-Qadim** - Archaeologists yielded potsherds bearing the Tamil-Brahmi texts kanan and catan.

- **Iravatham Mahadevan's book** - Early Tamil Epigraphy: From the Earliest Times to the Sixth Century A.D., which documented Brahmi pottery inscriptions found outside India, including those in ancient Roman settlements along the Red Sea coast in Egypt.

Geography

Senkaku Islands

China Coast Guard ships sail through Japan administered Senkaku Islands.

- **China's Stance** - "Lawful patrol operation" to uphold rights and interests, calls islands Diaoyu.

- **Japan's Stance** - Administered islands; calls as Senkaku.



Coronal Mass Ejection

Recently, astronomers spotted a coronal mass ejection on another star for the first time.

- **Discovery** - 1st detection of a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) on another star called Red dwarf star StKM 1-1262, 133 light-years away.

- **Intensity** - At least 10,000 times more violent than solar CMEs.

- **Detected by** - LOFAR (European network of telescopes) data.

- **Coronal mass ejections (CMEs)** - These are huge bubbles of coronal plasma threaded by intense magnetic field lines that are ejected from the Sun over the course of several hours.

- **Appearance** - Huge, twisted rope, which scientists call "flux rope."

- **Occur along with** - Solar flares (explosions on the Sun's surface), but they can also occur spontaneously.

- **Frequency** - It varies with the 11-year solar cycle.

Polity & Governance

16th Finance Commission

Sixteenth Finance Commission submits its Report to the President of India.

- **Constituted by** - President of India, in pursuance of clause (1) of Article 280 of the Constitution.
- **Headed by** - Dr. Arvind Panagariya.
- **Report covers** - A period of 5 years commencing on the 1st day of April, 2026.
- **Recommendations on** - The distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the Union and the States as well as the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds, grants-in-aid to States, review arrangements on financing Disaster Management initiatives, etc.

International Relations and Issues

Visa Waiver Facility

Iran suspends visa waiver for Indians after 'misuse by criminal elements'.

- **Aim** - To avoid several incidents of Indian nationals being lured to Iran on false promises of employment or with assurances of onward transit to third countries.
- **Visa waiver** - It permits nationals of certain countries to visit another nation for brief stays related to tourism or business without the need for a standard visa.

Security

AJEYA WARRIOR-25

- It is 8th edition of Joint Military Exercise between the India & United Kingdom.
- **Commenced at** - Foreign Training Node, Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.
- **Held biennially** - Since 2011.
- **Conducted under** - United Nations mandate.
- **Focuses on** - Counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban environment.
- **Troops** - Indian Army is being represented by Sikh Regiment.
- **Exercise includes** - Joint mission planning at Brigade level, integrated tactical drills, simulation-based scenarios and company-level field training exercises replicating real-life counter-terror contingencies.
- **Aim** - To share best practices, enhance tactical proficiency and develop coordinated responses for managing complex operations in challenging environments.

Mahe

- It is the 1st ship of the indigenously designed and built Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC).
- **Named after** - The historic coastal town of Mahe on the Malabar Coast.
- **Built by** - Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi.
- **Crest features** - An 'Urumi', the flexible sword of Kalaripayattu, symbolising agility, precision, and lethal grace.
- **Motto** - "Silent Hunters," embodies stealth, vigilance and unwavering resolve - qualities that define anti-submarine warfare ethos.
- **Significance** - It marks another step in the Indian Navy's commitment to indigenisation, innovation, and Aatmanirbharta (with over 80 percent indigenous content).

Science

Genetic switch - HOXA10 and TWIST2

A study revealed a fundamental biological switch that controls embryo implantation.

- **2 genes** - HOXA10 and TWIST2, work to open or close a small "gate" on the wall of the womb at the right time.
- **Gene HOXA10** - It keeps the wall closed and guarded.
 - But when an embryo comes in contact with the lining, HOXA10 temporarily switches off at that location.
 - This short 'switch-off' allows another gene, TWIST2, to act.
- **Activation of TWIST2** - It opens the gate by making the uterine cells soft and flexible, allowing them to move slightly and let the embryo in.
- **Present in** - The study was conducted in *mice, hamsters, monkeys and human cells*.
- **Significance** - By controlling the balance between HOXA10 and TWIST2 could guide new strategies to improve IVF (in vitro fertilisation) success rates in future.

Wearable Air Purifiers

- These are compact, portable devices designed to deliver cleaner air directly to the wearer's breathing zone.
- **Available in 2 main forms** -
 - Mask-type purifiers
 - Compact devices worn around the neck.
 - Small, battery-operated units that release charged ions.
 - These ions attach themselves to fine particulate matter (PM2.5 and smaller), increasing the particles' mass and causing them to settle out of the air.
 - To create a "personal clean air zone"—a bubble of purified air around the mouth and nose.

Miscellaneous

Ramoji Excellence Awards

- **Instituted in** - The memory of Sri Ramoji Rao garu.
- **Aim** - To honour individuals who embody the values of service, discipline, and nation-building and whose contributions strengthen the nation's moral and intellectual foundations.
- **7 distinguished categories** - 2025 awardees
 - **Rural Development** - Smt. Amla Ashok Ruia ("Water Mother")
 - **Youth Icon** - Shri Srikant Bolla;
 - **Science and Technology** - Prof. Madhavi Latha Gali;
 - **Service to Mankind** - Shri Akash Tandon;
 - **Art and Culture** - Prof. Sathupati Prasanna Sree;
 - **Journalism** - Shri Jaideep Hardikar;
 - **Woman Achievers** - Smt. Pallabi Ghosh.



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