UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 20-09-2025

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History, Art and Culture

Lothal

PM Modi to review progress of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal.

• It is the world's oldest known artificial dock.
• It is the *southernmost city* of the Indus Valley Civilization.
• **Lothal –** Loth and thal, which in Gujarati means *'the mound of the dead.'*
• **Inhabited –** During 3700 BCE and was a thriving trading port.
• **Connected to –** An old course of the Sabarmati River.
• **Discovered in –** 1954 by SR Rao.
• **Nominated for –** UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014.

National Maritime Heritage Complex

• **Developed by –** Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterway.
• **Objectives –**
  - To become a leading global tourist designation.
  - To preserve and showcase 4,500 years old maritime heritage of India.
  - To establish a maritime training and research centre.

Geography

Gulf of Finland

• It is the *easternmost extension of the Baltic Sea*.
• It is one of the *largest bodies of brackish water* in the world.
• **Located in –** Northern Europe.
• **Area coverage –** 30,000 sq.km.
• **Extends for** – 400 km from east to west but only 19 to 130 km from north to south.
• **Bordered by –** Finland in north, Russia in east, and Estonia in south.
• **Low salinity –** 6 parts per thousand, the gulf freezes over for 3 to 5 months in winter.
• **River course –** Neva & Narva rivers and the Saimaa Canal.
• **Climate –** Humid continental climate with hot summers & relatively harsh winters.

Social Issues

Durbar mahila samanwaya committee (DMSC)

Kolkata's Sonagachi highlights sex workers' 30-year struggle for recognition and rights, led by DMSC.

• It is a collective of sex workers (male, female and transgender) based in West Bengal, India which represents the voices.
• **Started in –** 1992 for HIV-AIDS prevention, evolved into a rights organization.
• **Principles –** 3R i.e., Respect, Reliance and Recognition of sex workers.
• **Key Demands –** Recognition as workers, labour rights, decriminalization of sex work.
• **Challenges –** Social stigma, violence, lack of basic services.
• **Achievements –** USHA Cooperative (financial), successful fight for own Durga Puja.

Polity

SLAPP

SC warned against 'SLAPP' suits and cautioned against pre-trial gag orders stifling free speech.

• **SLAPP –** Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation.
• It is a *lawsuit alleging defamation,* routinely used against public watchdogs with an active role in the protection of democracy and the rule of law.
• **Targets –** Journalists, independent media outlets, academics, civil society and human rights NGOs.

Environment

Delhi's Air is Poisoned with Mercury

National capital's air contains 6.9 nanograms of mercury per cubic metre on average, which is much higher than the global average.

• **Reported by** – Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune.
• **Global average**
  - Northern Hemisphere (1.7 nanograms per cubic metre)
  - Southern Hemisphere (1.3 nanograms per cubic metre).
• **Source –** Some 72 % to 92 % of pollution were due to human activities, primarily from fossil fuel combustion, industrial activities, and vehicular emissions.

Mercury

• It is a naturally occurring element that is found in air, water and soil.
• It is a toxic metal which is considered among the *top 10 chemicals or groups of chemicals* of major public health concerns by the *World Health Organization.*
• **Impact on –** The nervous, digestive and immune systems, and on lungs, kidneys, skin and eyes.
• **Disease –** Minamata Disease, caused by methylmercury poisoning.
• **Convention –** Minamata convention on mercury, adopted in 2013 and came into force in 2017.

Science

UPSC tests AI-Enabled Facial Authentication

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has successfully conducted a pilot programme to test AI-enabled facial authentication technology for swift and secure candidate verification during various examinations.

• **Collaborated with –** National e-Governance Division.
• **Aim –** To strengthen the integrity of the examination process and enhance the ease of entry for candidates at examination centres.

AI-Enabled Facial Authentication

• **Face recognition using AI –** It is a computer vision technology that is used to identify a person or object from an image or video.
• **Combination of techniques –** Such as deep learning, computer vision algorithms, and Image processing.
• **Aim –** To detect, recognize, and verify faces in digital images or videos.
• **Applications –** Such as unlocking a smartphone, unlocking doors, passport authentication, security systems, medical applications, and so on.

Melioidosis

• It is a *bacterial infection* in both animals and humans.
• **Caused by –** Burkholderia pseudomallei.
• **Spread through –** Contact with contaminated soil, air, or water.
• **Symptoms –** Fever, headache, trouble in breathing, stomach or chest pain, muscle pain, confusion and seizure.

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