

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 22-04-2025

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History, Art and Culture

Karnataka Village-Level Antiquities Survey

Recently, Karnataka has become the 1st Indian state to complete a comprehensive village-level antiquities survey.

- **First-of-its-Kind Documentation** – The state's Department of Archaeology is surveying 119 taluks for detailed antiquities documentation.
- **Geo-tagging for Heritage Tracking** – The survey includes geo-tagging inscriptions, sculptures, and monuments for precise location-based records.
- **Expanding Protected Monuments List** – A proposal to add 110 monuments to the protected list is underway, with a future goal of protecting 1,000 more.
- **Addressing Conservation Challenges** – Karnataka faces resource and coordination hurdles in protecting its over 25,000 monuments.
- **CSR Initiatives for Monument Upkeep** – The 'Adopt a Monument' initiative seeks corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding for heritage conservation.

Geography

Davis Strait Proto-Microcontinent

Davis Strait proto-microcontinent, a hidden landmass has been found beneath the icy waters of the Davis Strait recently.

- It is a newly identified submerged microcontinent located in the Davis Strait, lies between Canada's Baffin Island and Greenland.
- **Thickness** – Ranging from 19 to 24 km.
- **Bordered by** – 2 narrow bands of thinner continental crust measuring 15 to 17 km.
- These bands serve as a separation from the mainland of Greenland and Baffin Island.
- **Geological formation** – Its formation linked to the tectonic evolution of the strait.
- Millions of years ago, the tectonic plates beneath the 2 islands shifted, leading to a reconfiguration of the Earth's crust.
- This process resulted in the development of a substantial continental crust beneath the ocean, which is now recognized as a newly discovered primitive microcontinent.

South Eastern Coalfield Limited (SECL)

Recently, SECL is set to be the 1st coal PSU in India to adopt innovative paste fill technology for underground mining.

- **Agreement for Singhali Mine** - SECL has signed a ₹7040 crore agreement with TMC Mineral Resources Private Limited to implement this technology in the Singhali underground coal mine in Korba.
- **Paste Fill Technology Explained** - This eco-friendly method involves filling mined-out voids with a paste made from fly ash, crushed overburden, cement, water, and binding chemicals, eliminating the need for surface land acquisition.
- **Environmental and Safety Benefits** - Paste filling prevents land subsidence, ensures mine stability, and promotes waste recycling by utilizing industrial byproducts. This is crucial for the densely populated area above the Singhali mine.
- **Revitalizing the Singhali Mine** - Approved in 1989, the Singhali mine with 8.45 million tonnes of reserves can now proceed with large-scale production (8.4 million tonnes over 25 years) without surface disruption.
- **A Landmark for Sustainable Mining** - This initiative marks a significant step towards green mining in India, enhancing coal production while minimizing environmental impact and potentially paving the way for similar applications in other constrained underground mines.

Social Issues

Harare Declaration

Recently, Climate and Health Africa Conference (CHAC) 2024 in Zimbabwe concluded with the adoption of the Harare Declaration.

- It is a collective African commitment to tackle the health impacts of climate change.
- **Aim** - To recognize climate change as a health emergency and strengthen Africa's role in climate and health responses.
- **Fostering Collaboration** - It promotes collaboration among governments, researchers, civil society, and communities.
- **Features** - Upgrading infrastructure, training health workers, and improving healthcare delivery.
- It emphasizes investing in research, surveillance, and the inclusion of local and traditional knowledge.

International Relations and Issues

US Airstrikes Near Hodeidah Port

Recently, UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, has voiced serious concern regarding US airstrikes in the vicinity of the Houthi-controlled Ras Isa fuel port near Hodeidah.

- **Ras Isa** - It is a Key Oil Export Hub, primarily known for its facilities dedicated to oil exports.
- **Located in** - Yemen's Red Sea coast.
- **Role** - It plays a significant role in Yemen's maritime trade and crucial for the country's energy export sector.
- **Hodeidah** - A key port city situated on Yemen's western coast.
- **Features** - It serves as a critical hub for importing essential goods and humanitarian aid into Yemen.
- Its strategic importance lies in controlling access to the Red Sea, making it a major focus in the ongoing conflict.

Environment

Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (GSWS)

GSWS in Madhya Pradesh will be the 2nd relocation site for African cheetahs after Kuno National Park (KNP).

- **Cheetah Relocation** - 2 male cheetahs, Prabhas and Pavak, will be moved from KNP to GSWS as part of India's cheetah reintroduction project.
- **GSWS** - Declared in 1974 and expanded to 362 sq km, the Chambal River bisects it. It's also recognized as an IBA.
- **Located in** - Northwestern Madhya Pradesh along the Rajasthan border, falls within the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests.
- **Features** - Northern tropical dry deciduous, dry mixed deciduous, and dry deciduous scrub forests with species like Khair and Tendu.
- **Fauna** - Chinkara, Leopard, Mugger Crocodile, and diverse birdlife.
- **Chambal River's Role** - It flows through GSWS, supporting aquatic biodiversity and shaping the sanctuary's landscape.

Security

Exercise Desert Flag-10

Recently, Indian Air Force (IAF) has deployed a contingent to Al Dhafra Air Base in the UAE for Exercise Desert Flag-10.

- It is a prestigious multinational air combat exercise, hosted by UAE Air Force.
- **Aim** - To facilitate the exchange of operational knowledge and best practices among participating air forces.
- **Participation** - It includes contingents from eleven other nations, fostering a rich training environment.
- **IAF Aircraft Deployment** - It includes combat-proven MiG-29 fighter jets and Jaguar strike aircraft, showcasing diverse capabilities.
- **Enhancing Global Military Cooperation** - India's participation underscores its commitment to strengthening military ties and operational readiness through international collaboration.
- **Exercise Desert Flag-10** - It emphasizes complex and diverse fighter engagements simulating realistic combat scenarios.

Science

Enzymes & Co-enzymes

- **Enzymes** - They are proteins that catalyse reactions in a cell, making metabolism efficient.
- For efficient functioning, many enzymes require some molecules as cofactors.
- These helper molecules are called coenzymes.
- **Coenzymes** - They are naturally occurring organic molecules that bind to and support the activity of enzymes.

Miscellaneous

World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID)

Recently, WCID observed annually on April 21st, designated by the UN, highlights the vital role of creativity and innovation in human development.

- **UN Recognition** - On April 27, 2017, the UN officially recognized April 21st as WCID, linking it to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- **Importance for SDGs** - It underscores how creative and innovative approaches are crucial for achieving the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Founded by** - Marci Segal in 2001.
- **Aim** - To encourage positive community impact through creative thinking.
- **Features** - The day encompasses creative problem-solving, driving economic, social, and sustainable development transformations.
- **Driving Global Progress** - It emphasizes human creativity as a key asset for developing sustainable solutions to complex global challenges.

World Liver Day, 2025

Recently, World Liver Day observed annually on April 19th, emphasizes the importance of liver health and disease prevention.

- **Theme** - Food is Medicine.
- It underscores the powerful impact of nutrition on liver health and healing.
- The day serves as a global reminder that informed food choices are powerful tools in preventing liver diseases.
- **Liver's Role** - As the largest internal organ, the liver performs over 500 crucial functions essential for life.
- **Functions** - These include detoxification, aiding digestion, regulating blood sugar, and producing vital proteins.
- A balanced diet and conscious lifestyle choices are key to enhancing liver function and resilience.