

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 22-09-2025

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#### History, Art and Culture

##### 'Dongar' cultivation

'Dongar' cultivation is in danger due to eucalyptus monoculture by outsiders.

- An age-old *dongar* practice is a traditional mixed cropping system practised on hill slopes.
- **Practised by** - Kondh tribals in Odisha's Rayagada.
- **Crops** - Millets, pulses and oilseeds are grown together.

##### Eucalyptus

- It is a fast-growing evergreen tree commonly known as gum trees or stringybark trees.
- **Native** - Australia, Tasmania, and nearby islands.
- **Related to** - Myrtle family (Myrtaceae).
- **Uses** - Act as anti-inflammatory and antioxidants due to its flavonoids and tannins properties.
- To relieve congestion and ease breathing in colds.
- Act as a pain reliever for sore and overextended muscles.

#### Security

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Dweep Diksha Dialogue

- **Hosted by** - Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).
- **Theme** - 'Evolution of ANC as a Strategic Hub and Beyond.'
- **Objectives** - To established as a premier strategic forum, brought together eminent personalities from the Armed Forces, diplomacy, academia, media, and strategic affairs
- To explore the ANC's unique role in shaping India's maritime and security posture in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- To emphasize the growing importance of multi-domain warfare, grey-zone strategies, and maritime security.

##### Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)

- **ANC** - It is India's 1<sup>st</sup> and only joint services operational command, integrating the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.
- **Established in** - 2001
- **Headquartered at** - Sri Vijaya Puram, formally called as Port Blair.
- **Aim** - To safeguard national interests in the strategically vital Indian Ocean Region.

#### Science

##### Black Box Problem

- Artificial intelligence can do things that humans can't, but in many cases, we have no idea how AI systems make their decisions.
- It refers to the difficulty in understanding and interpreting the internal workings of AI models, especially those that use deep learning.
- For example, in disease diagnosis, AI's decision-making process is complicated for doctors to understand, which can make them hesitant to trust it.

## **Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)**

- It formerly known as *Ebola haemorrhagic fever*.
- It is a severe, often fatal illness affecting humans and other primates.
- **1<sup>st</sup> discovered in** - 1976.
- **1<sup>st</sup> EVD outbreaks occurred in** - Remote villages in Central Africa, near tropical rainforests.
- **Transmitted to people from Wild animals** - Such as fruit bats, porcupines and non-human primates.
- **Spreads among humans through** - Direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people, and with surfaces and materials (e.g. bedding, clothing) contaminated with these fluids.

## **Project Vijayak**

*Project Vijayak celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> Raising Day at Kargil, expanding infrastructure projects worth over Rs 1,200 crore as it enters its 16th year.*

- **Started in** - 2010, by *Border Roads Organisation (BRO)*.
- **Aim** - To connect Ladakh's remote valleys and forward areas with the national mainstream while fulfilling the operational requirements of the Armed Forces.
- **Achievement** - The project has built and maintained *more than 1,400 km of roads and 80 major bridges across Ladakh*.
- It includes the record-setting reopening of the *strategic Zojila Pass within just 31 days* of its winter closure in April 2025, an unprecedented feat in high-altitude connectivity.

## **Index**

### **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3**

*India is not on track for most SDG 3 targets despite improved overall SDG ranking.*

- **SDG Index 2025** - 99<sup>th</sup> rank out of 167, reflecting *steady progress since 2021*.
- **SDG Index 2024** - 109<sup>th</sup> rank.
- **SDG 3 Goal** - "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages."
- **Not on track**
  - **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** - Number of mothers dying after childbirth per 100,000 live births — stands at 97 deaths, higher than the 2030 target of 70.
  - **Under-5 mortality** - Remains at 32 deaths per 1,000 live births against the target of 25.
  - **Life expectancy** - As of now is only 70 years, falling short of the target of 73.63 years.
  - **Out-of-pocket** - Health-care expenditure continues to burden families at 13% of total consumption, nearly double the targeted 7.83%.
- **Reasons for gaps**
  - Lack of access to quality health care partially due to poor infrastructure and economic factors.
  - Non-economic factors such as poor nutrition, hygiene and sanitation and other lifestyle choices.
  - Cultural practices and stigma around physical and mental health.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **International Day of Sign Languages**

- It is a part of the *International Week of the Deaf*, that took place during on 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- **Annually celebrated on** - 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- **Started in** - 2018.
- **Established in** - 2017, through UN General Assembly Resolution.
- **Commemorate to** - Formation of World Federation of the Deaf, 1951.
- **Theme 2025** - "No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights".

### **5-Day Live Programme on Indian Sign Language (ISL)**

- **Organized by** - Ministry of Education with Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), NCERT.
- **Aim** - To spread awareness about the importance of Indian Sign Language as a medium for communication and learning, especially for children with hearing impairments.
- **Significance** - It emphasized the role of ISL in promoting inclusive and equitable education, as highlighted in the *National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-4: Quality Education)*.

