UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 24-03-2025

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Social Issues

Purple Fest

• **Organised by** – Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
• **Objectives** – To raise *awareness about different disabilities* and their impact on people's lives.
• To promote understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of persons with disabilities within society.
• **2025 Fest** – Various activities like sports, workshops on digital inclusion & entrepreneurship, Abilympics, creative extravaganza and cultural fest were organised during the day for the visitors.

International Relations and Issues

Central Asian Youth Delegation to India

• **Hosted by** – Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
• **Umbrella programme** - International Youth Exchange Programme (IYEP).
• **Aim** – To *promote youth collaboration, cultural exchange* and strengthen diplomatic ties between India and the Central Asian nations (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan).
• **2025 edition** – *3rd edition* from 22nd to 28th March 2025.
• The *100-member delegation* will engage in diverse activities, exploring India's historical, educational, and cultural landmarks while interacting with local youth leaders and key stakeholders.

Economy

Coal Production in India

• **Production** – It had *surpassed 1 billion tonnes (BT)* on March 20, in the fiscal year 2024-25.
• **Factors for higher production** – Tireless efforts of coal PSUs, private players, and dedicated workforce of around 5 lakh mine workers across more than 350 coal mines.
• Opening of coal sector to private players through commercial auctioning of blocks.
• **India's Energy reliance on coal**
  - For approximately 55% of its energy mix.
  - About 74% electricity is generated by coal-based power plants.

Additional Working Days in MGNREGA

• **MGNREGA** - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005.
• **Mandate** - Providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
• **Additional 50 days of wage employment** – To *every Scheduled Tribe Household in a forest area*, provided that they have no other private property except for the land rights under Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
• **Another 50 days of wage employment** – In *drought/natural calamity-affected* notified rural areas.
• **Section 3(4)** – Allows *State Governments to make* provision for providing additional days of employment beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds.
- This provision has been in practice since 2009.

Agriculture

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

• It is a *central sector scheme* of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
• **Launched in** – 2020-21.
• **Aims** – To bridge gaps in post-harvest management by supporting farm gate storage, logistics, and processing infrastructure.
• **Facilitates** – An aggregate loan worth Rs1 lakh crore from lending institutions with a 9% interest cap, operational until 2032-33.
• Loans up to Rs2 crore receive a 3% annual interest subvention for 7 years.
• Credit guarantee coverage under CGTMSE is available for loans up to Rs2 crore, with the government bearing the fee.
Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) is a joint initiative by MSME Ministry and SIDBI to provide institutional credit to micro and small enterprises.

Environment

Indian Railways Innovative Measures to Protect Elephants and Wildlife on Tracks

• **AI-enabled Intrusion Detection System (IDS)** - For detecting presence of elephants on Railway tracks using Distributed Acoustic Sensors (DAS).
• **Immediate action post accidents** – Zonal Railways to investigate the matter in close coordination with Forest department.
• **Infrastructure development** – Construction of underpasses and ramps for the movement of elephants at identified locations.
• Provision of fencing along the track and LED lights.
• **Deployment of elephant trackers** – For timely action by alerting station master and loco pilots, are taken.
• **Awareness** – Provision of signage boards at all identified elephant corridors to pre-warn the loco pilots.
• **Decline in elephant deaths** – Because of above measures, elephant deaths have reduced *from 26 nos. in 2013 to only 12 nos. in 2024* i.e. reduction of more than 50%.

Security

Medevac Operation

Recently, Indian navy and coast guard carried out daring medevac operation out at sea.
• *Indian Navy* successfully carried out a critical *Medical Evacuation* (MEDEVAC) operation.
• **Operation** – From *MV Heilan Star*, a Panama-flagged bulk carrier, located about 230 nautical miles West of Goa.
• **Helped by** - INS *Vikrant* and *Deepak went to render aid.*
• **Significance** - It underscores the Indian Navy's and the Indian Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to life-saving efforts and swift response to humanitarian assistance, despite challenging circumstances, even beyond national maritime boundaries.

Science

WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre

• It is a knowledge hub for evidence-based Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) on a global scale.
• **Established in** – *2022* with foundational support from India.
• **GTMC** – It is a *WHO Headquarters department*, in the Division of Universal Health Coverage and Life Course.
• **Located in** – Jamnagar, Gujarat, India.
• **Focuses on** – Advancing research, facilitating knowledge exchange, conserving biodiversity, and fostering partnerships to catalyze ancient wisdom and modern science for the health and well-being of people and planet.

National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)

• **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
• It is a Central Sector Scheme.
• **Aim** – To promote scientific beekeeping for holistic growth of beekeeping sector to enhance agriculture production.
• **Sub-schemes** – Mini Mission I, II and III.
• **Mini Mission-I** – Projects for production and productivity improvement of various crops through pollination assisted by adoption of scientific bee keeping are given.
• **Mini Mission-II** – Post harvest management of bee keeping is supported.
• **Mini Mission-III** – Research and technology generation is provided.

Miscellaneous

Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2024

• *22 books were selected* for the award.
• **Selection basis** - Based on recommendations made by the Selection Committees of 3 members each in the concerned languages.
• **Criteria** – It relates to tr*anslations 1st published during the 5 years prior to the year* immediately preceding the year of Prize for Translation (i.e. between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022).
• **Prize** – An amount of Rs.50,000/- and a copper plaque.

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