UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 30-06-2025

One Liners 30-06-2025

History, Art and Culture

Jagannath Rath Yatra 2025

The recently started Jagannath Rath Yatra, also known as the Chariot Festival, is a significant Hindu festival celebrated in Odisha.

• It marks the joyful journey of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra from Puri's Jagannath Temple to Gundicha Temple.

• **Nine-Day Celebration** - Featuring various rituals, including the Rath Yatra's start (Day 1), arrival at Gundicha Temple (Day 2), Hera Panchami (Day 4), and the Return Yatra (Day 7).

• **Significance -** The Rath Yatra symbolizes immense devotion, allowing even those unable to enter the temple to worship the deities. It commemorates Lord Krishna's journey to his maternal home, fostering joy and unity.

• **Key Rituals -**Important rituals include Rath Snana (bathing the deities), Rath Pratistha (blessing the chariots), the Main Rath Yatra (chariot pulling), Bahuda Yatra (return journey), and Niladri Bijaya (festival's end).

Bonalu Festival 2025

The Bonalu festival has gloriously begun at Hyderabad's Golconda Fort, initiating a month of Telangana's folk traditions.

• **Devotees flocked** - To the Sri Jagadamba Mahankali temple, performing rituals and offering the first Bonam amidst vibrant cultural displays.

• **Bonalu -** Is a traditional Hindu festival in Telangana, where devotees offer Bonam (rice, jaggery, curd, neem) to Goddess Mahankali for protection, symbolizing gratitude for overcoming past hardships.

• **2025 Celebration Highlights -** The inauguration at Golconda Fort featured the first Bonam procession from Langar Houz, alongside fire-breathing artists and Potharajus, with thousands of women participating.

• **Government's Role -** Minister Konda Surekha offered Pattu Vastralu, and Rs.20 crore was allocated to 2,783 Mahankali temples for celebrations. Dignitaries including the Assembly Speaker were present.

• **Upcoming Phases** - Future phases include Secunderabad Bonalu on July 13–14 at Ujjaini Mahankali Temple, and Lal Darwaza & Old City Bonalu on July 20–21, with extensive security arrangements.

International Relations and Issues

NATO Summit 2025

The Recent 2025 NATO summit, led by President Donald Trump, brought a significant shift in defence policy.

• **New 5% Defence Target** - NATO allies committed to 5% GDP for defence: 3.5% for core spending and 1.5% for infrastructure/innovation. Members must submit annual plans, with progress reviewed after the 2029 US presidential election.

• **Challenges for Members** - Many nations struggle with the new target, historically spending around 2%. In 2024, only Poland, Estonia, and Latvia exceeded 3%. Spain, at 1.24%, faced potential US trade sanctions.

• **Article 5 -** States “an attack on one is an attack on all," remains central to NATO's collective security, encouraging membership, especially amid current geopolitical tensions like the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

• **Shift from Ukraine Focus -** Under Trump, the summit's focus shifted from Ukraine. His administration ruled out Ukraine's NATO membership and halted military aid, contrasting sharply with past commitments and raising concerns about alliance unity.

• **Nuanced Russia Relations** - The 2025 declaration acknowledged a "long-term threat posed by Russia" but avoided explicit condemnation, reflecting Trump's cordial relationship with President Putin and a thaw in US-Russia relations.

Environment

Salkhan Fossils Park

Salkhan Fossils Park in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh, is now on UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites.

• **Highlighting -** Its 1.4-billion-year-old fossils, boosting eco-tourism and scientific research in the region.

• **Inclusion on** - The UNESCO Tentative List is the first step towards a full World Heritage Site designation.

• **Location & Significance –** Loc+ated in Salkhan village, Sonbhadra, it's one of the oldest global fossil sites, containing ancient stromatolites and algae.

• **Path to UNESCO Status -** Being on the tentative list begins the nomination. A detailed dossier will be submitted to UNESCO, followed by an on-site evaluation typically lasting a year.

• **Scientific Confirmation -** A June 26, 2024, MoU between the UP Eco-Tourism Development Board and the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences confirmed the presence of early life forms.

• **Tourism Push -** UP government is boosting eco-tourism, including new Vistadome tourist trains to sites like Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

International Day of the Tropics: 2025 Observance

Observed annually on June 29th, the International Day of the Tropics marks its 9th observance in 2025.

• **Proclaimed** - By the UN, it recognizes the immense diversity and crucial global role of tropical regions.

• **Historical Roots -** The observance stems from the "State of the Tropics Report," released on June 29, 2014, a collaboration of twelve research institutions.

• **Geographical Definition -** The Tropics lie between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, characterized by year-round warmth and varied rainfall.

• **Biodiversity & Culture Hub -** Covering 40% of Earth's surface, the Tropics house 80% of global biodiversity and significant cultural richness, despite facing deforestation, habitat loss, and inequality.

• **Population Dynamics -** Countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania within the Tropics are experiencing rapid population growth and urbanization.

• **Purpose & Action -** The day raises awareness about tropical strengths and vulnerabilities, encouraging international cooperation and sustainable development to address challenges like rising temperatures and resource exploitation.

Security

Operation Bihali

Operation Bihali was a targeted counter-terror operation in Udhampur's Basantgarh area of Jammu & Kashmir.

• **Primary aim -** Was to intercept and neutralize four Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants, identified through a year-long surveillance effort.

• **Joint Operation Conducted** - By the Indian Army's Para Commandos & the J & K Police.

• **The Outcome -** One JeM terrorist was neutralized, and three others were cornered, effectively disrupting their activities.

• **Significance -** This operation significantly enhances local security, disrupts terror infiltration routes, and highlights India's proactive, intelligence-led counter-terror capabilities in the region.

Indian Coast Guard Inducts 'Adamya'

The 'Adamya' is the Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) first Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) from an eight-vessel series built recently by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

• **Purpose** - Designed for rapid deployment, it enhances the ICG's quick-reaction capability for search & rescue, coastal surveillance, and maritime law enforcement.

• **Key Features** - It boasts Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPPs) and indigenous gearboxes, alongside a 30mm naval gun and two 12.7mm remote-control guns.

• **Advanced Systems** - Equipped with an Integrated Bridge System (IBS) and Automated Power Management System (APMS), Adamya offers superior maneuverability and operational efficiency.

• **Significance** - This induction boosts coastal defense and reinforces the 'Make in India' initiative, acting as a crucial force multiplier for the ICG.

Science

Leptospirosis Outbreak

Ernakulam District has seen a recent surge in Leptospirosis cases, with five fatalities and over 65 suspected/confirmed cases in the last three weeks.

• **Outbreak coincides** - With the monsoon season, prompting health authorities to issue precautions against the zoonotic disease.

• **Leptospirosis -** Caused by Leptospira bacteria, this infection spreads through contact with contaminated water, soil, or animal urine. It's most common in tropical, high-rainfall regions, with symptoms varying from mild to severe.

• **Symptoms** - Leptospirosis typically has two phases: an initial flu-like leptospiremic phase (fever, headache) and an immune phase that can lead to severe complications like jaundice and internal bleeding (Weil's syndrome).

• **Transmission Routes -** Primarily transmitted via animal urine (rodents, cattle, dogs), humans get infected through skin abrasions or mucous membranes when exposed to contaminated water or soil. Outbreaks often follow heavy rainfall or floods.

• **Risk Factors -** Those in tropical climates, agricultural workers, and outdoor enthusiasts are at higher risk. Flood-prone areas are especially vulnerable due to widespread bacterial contamination.

• **Precautionary Measures -** Health authorities advise avoiding muddy water with open wounds, and agricultural workers should wear protective gear. Prompt medical attention is crucial for anyone with symptoms after potential exposure.