SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

20-11-2026

Enithares deccanensis

The New Indian Express

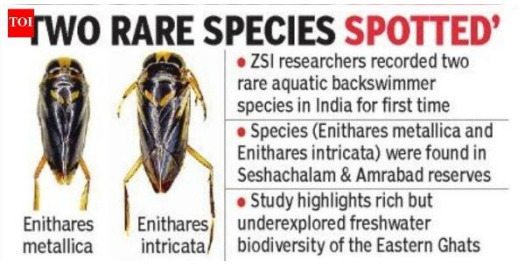
Aquatic insect species discovered in Eastern Ghats

The discovery highlights the biodiversity supported by small freshwater habitats such as shaded rock pools, forest streams and pools near...



Why in News?

- A new aquatic insect species, *Enithares deccanensis*, was discovered in the **Eastern Ghats**.



Discovery and Distribution

- **Locations:** Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve (Andhra Pradesh) and Amrabad Tiger Reserve (Telangana).
- **Family: Notonectidae**, commonly called backswimmers.
- **Habitat:** Freshwater ecosystems.

Identification and Characteristics

- **Appearance:** Elongated, oval-shaped body with dark dorsal colouring.
- **Distinctive Marking:** Dark V-shaped marking on wings called **hemelytra**.
- **Male Feature:** Characteristic sickle-shaped reproductive structure.
- **Colour Polymorphism:** Both light and dark colour forms occur.
- **Feeding:** Backswimmers are predatory insects that swim upside down beneath the water surface.

Vadnagar Archaeological Museum Wins Red Dot Award 2026

The Times of India

Gujarat's Vadnagar museum wins global design world's top Red Dot award

Vadnagar's 'Anant Anadi Vadnagar' archaeological museum wins Red Dot: Best of the Best Design Award 2026, showcasing 6000+ artefacts in 8...



Why in News?

- Gujarat's **Anant Anadi Vadnagar Archaeological Experiential Museum** won the **Red Dot: Best of the Best Award 2026** in Berlin, Germany.

Historical and Archaeological Significance

- **Recognition:** India's first and only museum to receive this award.
- **Opening:** February 2025.
- **Ancient Settlement:** Vadnagar has evidence of continuous habitation dating back to **750–800 BCE**.
- **Excavations:** ASI conducted excavations during **2016–2022**, identifying seven cultural periods: Mauryan, Indo-Greek, Shaka-Kshatrapa, Maitraka, Solanki, Sultanate and Mughal.
- **Religious Heritage:** Evidence of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, including a Buddhist monastery and a possible early stupa.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- **Establishment:** 1861 by **Sir Alexander Cunningham**.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Culture; headquarters at **New Delhi**.
- **Legal Framework: Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**.
- **Antiquities:** Also functions under the **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972**.

Ayush Quality Mark

www.pib.gov.in

Union Minister Shri Prataprao Jadhav Distributes 'Ayush Quality Mark' Certificates to Hospitals and Manufacturers

Union Minister Shri Prataprao Jadhav Distributes 'Ayush Quality Mark' Certificates to Hospitals and Manufacturers...



Why in News?

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of AYUSH, distributed **Ayush Quality Mark certificates** to hospitals and manufacturers.

Framework and Implementation

- **Launch: 19 December 2025**, during the 2nd **WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine**.
- **Objective:** Establishes a unified quality assurance framework for Ayush products and services.

Significance

- **Consumer Trust:** Provides a benchmark for quality, safety and authenticity.
- **Market Access:** Improves global competitiveness of Ayush products and services.
- **Standardisation:** Promotes adherence to established quality standards.

- **Implementation:** Entrusted to **AYUSHEXCIL (Ayush Export Promotion Council)** under the Ministry of Commerce, with support from the Ministry of AYUSH.

Coverage and Certification

- **Coverage:** Ayush products, hospitals, clinics, day-care centres, wellness centres, product-testing laboratories and **Medical Value Travel Facilitators (MVTFs)**.
- **Ayush Standard Mark:** For domestic markets.
- **Ayush Premium Mark:** For international markets.

Awá Tribe

B. Brut

Rare Encounter With Isolated Awá Tribe In Brazil's Amazon Raises Concerns Over Forest Threats

Members of the Awá tribe, an Indigenous community living in voluntary isolation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest, approached outsiders at a...



Why in News?

- Around **20 members of the Awá tribe**, an isolated Indigenous community, approached a government team seeking food amid increasing threats to their forest habitat.

Geographical and Cultural Identity

- **Alternative Name:** Awá-Guajá.
- **Location:** Eastern Amazon rainforest, primarily **Maranhão state, Brazil**.
- **Language:** Awá (Guajá), belonging to the **Tupi-Guarani language family**.
- **Lifestyle:** Traditionally nomadic hunter-gatherers dependent on forests for food, medicine and cultural identity.
- **Identity:** Among the world's last uncontacted Indigenous communities.

Historical Background and Threats

- **Historical Encroachment:** European settlers began entering their territories during the 19th century.
- **Settlement:** Brazil provided settlement areas during the mid-1980s.
- **Threats:** Illegal logging, farming, forest fires, deforestation and climate change.
- **Population:** Approximately **300 people**, according to the supplied source.

Significance

- **Indigenous Rights:** Protection of ancestral forests is essential for their cultural autonomy and survival.
- **Conservation:** Safeguarding their territories also contributes to Amazon rainforest protection.

Multi-Agency Centre (MAC)

The Hindu

Emerging radicalisation hotspots now under purview of Multi-Agency Centre: Amit Shah



MAC now papers emerging radicalisation hotspots, cybercrime, narcotics, and organised crime; India strengthens ATS cyber units and...

Why in News?

- The Union Home Minister highlighted MAC's expanded role in monitoring **cybersecurity, narcotics, organised crime and radicalisation hotspots**.

Institutional Framework

- **Nature:** Centralised intelligence-sharing mechanism under the **Intelligence Bureau (IB)**.
- **Establishment: December 2001**, following the Kargil conflict.
- **Objective:** Collates, stores, analyses and disseminates terrorism-related intelligence among civilian, military and police agencies.
- **Legal Status:** It has no independent statutory charter and functions under executive sanction.
- **Expansion:** Strengthened after the **26/11 Mumbai attacks**.
- **Regional Network: Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centres (SMACs)** extend coordination to state and district levels.

Upgraded Network and Technology

- **Inauguration: 16 May 2025**.
- **Investment:** Approximately **₹500 crore**.
- **Connectivity:** Connects police districts across India through a secure network, including remote and island territories.
- **Technology:** Incorporates **AI, Machine Learning and GIS services**.
- **Capabilities:** Enables trend analysis, hotspot mapping and predictive operations.

Composition and Working

- **Participation:** Around **28 organisations**, including IB, R&AW, DIA, CBI, NIA, DRI, NCB, military intelligence directorates and state police.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Operation:** Functions as a **24×7 intelligence fusion centre**.
- **Information Sharing:** Agency liaison officers upload intelligence to a shared database, which MAC analyses and redistributes to relevant agencies.

Bandipur Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

- Photographs circulating on social media raised concerns about a possible illegal safari in the **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** of Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

Deccan Herald

Social media photos raise suspicion of illegal safari inside eco-sensitive zone of Bandipur Tiger Reserve

Forest officials probe: Viral images allege tourists entered restricted zones in Karnataka using a department jeep, sparking outrage among...



Geographical Location

- **Location:** Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts, Karnataka.
- **Tri-junction:** Located near Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- **Ecological Significance:** Lies at the confluence of the **Western and Eastern Ghats**.
- **Biosphere Reserve:** Part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**.
- **Adjacent Protected Areas:**
  - **Nagarahole Tiger Reserve:** Northwest.
  - **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve:** South, Tamil Nadu.
  - **Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary:** Southwest, Kerala.

Rivers and Physical Features

- **Kabini River:** North of the reserve.
- **Moyar River:** South of the reserve.
- **Nugu River:** Flows through the reserve.
- **Highest Point: Himavad Gopalaswamy Betta Hill**.
- **Climate:** Tropical, with distinct wet and dry seasons.

Ecology and Biodiversity

- **Vegetation:** Dry deciduous forests, moist deciduous forests and shrublands.
- **Flora:** Teak, rosewood, sandalwood and bamboo.
- **Fauna:** Bengal tiger, gaur, sloth bear, dhole, golden jackal and four-horned antelope.
- **Elephants:** Supports one of the largest populations of wild Asian elephants in South Asia.

Brown Shrike

Why in News?

- A Brown Shrike travelled approximately

The New Indian Express

Rare Brown Shrike bird spotted in Vijayanagara after 6,000 km flight from Siberia

Only slightly larger than a sparrow, the Brown Shrike undertakes an extraordinary journey across thousands of kilometres to escape the harsh...



6,000 km from Siberia and was spotted at Ulavatti village in **Vijayanagara district, Karnataka**.

Taxonomy and Distribution

- **Scientific Name:** *Lanius cristatus*.
- **Breeding Range:** Northern Asia, including Mongolia and Siberia.
- **Wintering Range:** South Asia, Myanmar and the Malay Peninsula.
- **Indian Distribution:** Common winter migrant in southern and eastern India.
- **Habitat:** Open and semi-open landscapes with low vegetation and hunting perches.

Physical Features

- **Size:** Approximately 18–20 cm.
- **Appearance:** Brown upperparts, creamy underparts and a rounded tail.
- **Identification:** Distinctive black **bandit-like facial mask**.
- **Predatory Adaptation:** Strong hooked bill with a tooth-like notch helps capture and kill prey.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)**.

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2025

ThePrint

Graça Machel receives Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, recalls India-Africa bond at Delhi event

Mozambican freedom fighter and humanitarian Graça Machel received the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development at New...



Why in News?

- Mozambican politician and women's rights advocate **Graça Machel** received the **2025 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development**.

Institutional Framework

- **Establishment:** Instituted in **1986** in memory of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- **Awarding Body: Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust**.
- **Frequency:** Annual award.
- **Eligibility:** Individuals and organisations of any nationality, race or religion.
- **Award: ₹25 lakh and a citation**.

Objectives and Selection Criteria

- **International Peace:** Promotes peace, disarmament and harmony among nations.
- **Equality:** Recognises efforts towards racial equality and international goodwill.

- **Economic Cooperation:** Encourages a new international economic order.
- **Development:** Recognises contributions to developing countries.
- **Science and Humanity:** Encourages the use of scientific discoveries and modern knowledge for human welfare.
- **Human Freedom:** Recognises efforts to expand freedom and enrich the human spirit.

Recent Recipient

- **2025 Awardee: Graça Machel**, a Mozambican politician and women's rights advocate.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Deendayal Port

Inshorts

Kandla Port hits 130 MMT cargo, wins Smart Port award | Tap to know more | Inshorts

Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla handled 130.03 MMT cargo in FY 2026–27, a 35.72 YoY rise from 95.81 MMT. The port also won the 'Smart Port...



Why in News?

- **Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla**, received the 'Major Port of the Year' award at the 13th Samudra Manthan Awards.

Location and Historical Background

- **Former Name:** Kandla Port.
- **Location:** Kutch district, Gujarat.
- **Type:** All-weather natural tidal port situated in **Kandla Creek**, at the inner end of the **Gulf of Kutch**.
- **Historical Development:** Developed during the 1950s to serve western India after Karachi Port became part of Pakistan following Partition.
- **Major Port Status:** Declared on **8 April 1955**.
- **Administration:** Deendayal Port Authority under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**.

Infrastructure and Economic Significance

- **Hinterland:** Serves Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and NCR.
- **Infrastructure:** Has **18 berths**, including 12 dry cargo berths and six oil jetties.

- **Cargo:** Handles petroleum, chemicals, iron ore, salt and containers.
- **2016 Milestone:** First Indian major port to handle **100 MMT** of cargo in a single year.
- **2025–26 Achievement:** Handled over **150 MMT** of cargo.
- **Competition:** Faces competition from **Mundra Port**, India's largest private port, located around 60 km southwest.

Environment

Himalayan Marmot

www.pib.gov.in

Himalayan marmot droppings could reveal clues about climate change

A new study has probed pollen grains, fungal spores and elemental signatures in the faeces of the Himalayan marmot (Marmota himalayana) to...



Why in News?

- Scientists found that Himalayan marmot droppings can preserve information about past **climate change, vegetation and environmental conditions** in the Himalayas.

Habitat and Distribution

- **Nature:** Herbivorous mammal inhabiting alpine grasslands of the **Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau**.
- **Distribution:** South Asia and China.
- **Appearance:** Dark chocolate-brown coat with yellow patches on the face and chest, stout limbs and short tail.

Ecological Characteristics

- **Social Behaviour:** Lives in colonies and shares deep burrows during hibernation.
- **Activity:** Diurnal, mainly active during mornings and late afternoons.
- **Hibernation:** Approximately **6–8 months**.
- **Diet:** Includes *Artemisia*, Asteroideae, Caryophyllaceae, Poaceae, Cyperaceae and Chenopodiaceae.

Conservation and Significance

- **IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)**.
- **Climate Research:** Its faeces act as a biological archive for reconstructing past vegetation patterns and environmental changes.

Sports

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest T20 Captain

BBC

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi: India teenager becomes youngest captain in men's T20 cricket

Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has become the youngest captain in top-level men's Twenty20 cricket after taking charge of his state...



Why in News?

- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi**, aged **15 years and 232 days**, became the youngest captain in men's T20 cricket history while leading Bihar against Saurashtra in the **2026–27 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy**.

Key Achievements

- **Record:** Surpassed Croatia's **Zach Vukusic**, who captained at 17 years and 311 days.
- **Venue:** Holkar Stadium.
- **International Cricket:** Made his **T20 International debut for India** five months before this achievement.
- **Under-19 World Cup:** Member of India's **2026 title-winning team** in Zimbabwe.
- **ACC Rising Stars:** Selected for India A's Emerging Tournament in Doha, beginning **19 November 2026**.

Previous Performance

- **2025 Achievement:** Scored **144 runs off 42 balls** for India A against the UAE in the ACC Rising Stars Tournament.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh Urban Development Vision 2047

Indian Masterminds

UP Urban Development Plan 2047: Three Cities Target Global Top 100, Lucknow to Become Model Metropolitan City

UP targets 60% urbanisation by 2047, with six economic centres, three global cities and Lucknow's transformation into a model metropolis.



Why in News?

- Uttar Pradesh prepared an urban development roadmap targeting **60% urbanisation by 2047**, six regional economic centres and Lucknow as a model metropolitan city.

Key Targets

- **Urbanisation:** Increase from approximately **24.5% to 60% by 2047**.
- **Economic Goal:** Support the state's **$6 trillion economy** target.
- **Global Cities:** Develop three cities to meet the world's top 100 city standards.
- **Regional Centres:** Establish six regional economic centres.

Planning and Connectivity

- **Lucknow SCR:** Integrate Lucknow with surrounding districts through multi-modal connectivity and planned townships.
- **GIS Planning:** Introduce GIS-based master plans and land banks through Town Planning Schemes.
- **Rail Corridors:** Proposed **Delhi–Lucknow–Prayagraj–Varanasi** and **Lucknow–Ayodhya** high-speed rail corridors.
- **Urban Governance:** Establish at least one Urban Development Authority in each of the **75 districts**.
