SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

31-10-2026

Punah Bharan Mobile Application

www.pib.gov.in

Union Jal Shakti Minister Launches Punah Bharan Mobile Application

The Union Minister of Jal Shakti has launched the Punah Bharan Mobile Application, developed by BISAG-N, in collaboration with the National...



Why in News: The Union Minister of Jal Shakti launched the Punah Bharan Mobile Application for scientific groundwater recharge planning.

Objectives and Features

- Developed by **BISAG-N** in collaboration with the **National Water Mission (NWM)**.
- Uses geospatial technology to identify potential artificial groundwater recharge zones within a **3 km radius**.
- Provides village-level Artificial Recharge Structure (ARS) zonation maps, GIS tools and thematic layers.
- Uses datasets on rainfall, groundwater levels, groundwater yield, slope and drainage to identify suitable recharge locations.

About BISAG-N

- The **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N)** is an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- It is registered under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860** and is located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Its major domains are satellite communication, geo-informatics and geospatial technology.
- It undertakes research, technology development, capacity building, cooperation and technology transfer in geospatial applications.

National Social Security Boards for Unorganised, Gig and Platform Workers

The Hindu

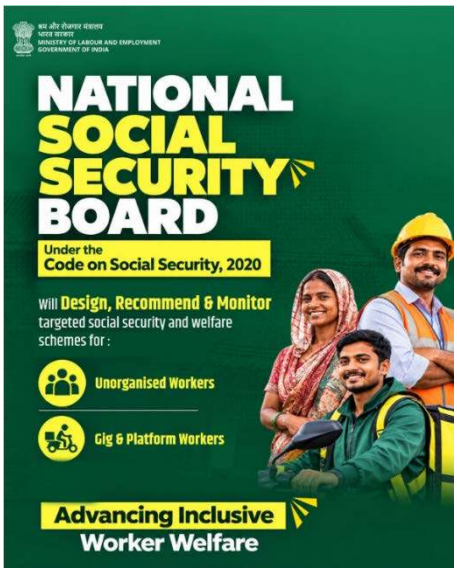
Suboptimal outcomes: On social security boards for unorganised, gig, platform workers

One year after implementation of Code on Social Security, Union Labour Ministry has constituted National Social Security Boards for...



Why in News: **The Ministry of Labour and Employment** notified the constitution of **National Social Security Boards** for unorganised workers and gig and platform workers.

Statutory Basis and Composition



- Established under the **Code on Social Security**.
- The Boards are chaired by the **Union Minister for Labour and Employment**.
- They include representatives from Central and State Governments, aggregators, employers, civil society organisations, workers' unions and gig/platform worker associations.
- They must meet at least **three times a year**.

Mandate and Functions

- Recommend suitable welfare schemes for unorganised, gig and platform workers.
- Advise the Central Government on matters relating to the administration of the Code.
- Monitor Central Government social welfare schemes for these workers.
- Review State-level record-keeping functions and expenditure from relevant funds and accounts.
- Help address the social security gap affecting workers in the unorganised and platform-based economy.

Adi Tribe

Frontline Magazine

Siang Dam Project: Why Arunachal's Tribes Are Protesting

Arunachal Pradesh's proposed Siang dam faces fierce tribal opposition over displacement, ecological risks, cultural loss and India-China...



Why in News: The proposed **11,200 MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project** in Arunachal Pradesh has raised concerns about the possible impact on Adi settlements, farmland and cultural heritage.

Location and Social Organisation

- The Adi are a major indigenous tribal community of **Arunachal Pradesh**; the name Adi means **"hill man".**
- They primarily inhabit areas of the Lower Dibang Valley, particularly **Roing and Dambuk**.

Festivals and Cultural Practices

- Major festivals include **Solung, Etor and Aaran**.
- Traditional dances include **Ponung, Delong, Yakjong and Tapu**; Tapu is a war dance.
- The traditional singer or performer leading dances is known as **Miri**.

- Their traditional village council is called **Kebang**, reflecting their organised community decision-making system.
- The family is generally nuclear, with the father traditionally regarded as its head.
- Adi houses are built using wood and bamboo, often with raised floors called **Chang**.

Language, Livelihood and Religion

- They speak the **Adi language**, which has distant linguistic relations with Chinese and Tibetan.
- Agriculture is the main livelihood, including wet rice and shifting cultivation; fishing and hunting supplement food sources.
- Cane and bamboo crafts are important, while Adi women are skilled weavers.
- Traditionally, many followed the animist **Donyi-Polo religion**, associated with the worship of the Sun, Moon and ancestral deities; Christianity has also gained followers.

Tandur Red Gram

The Hindu

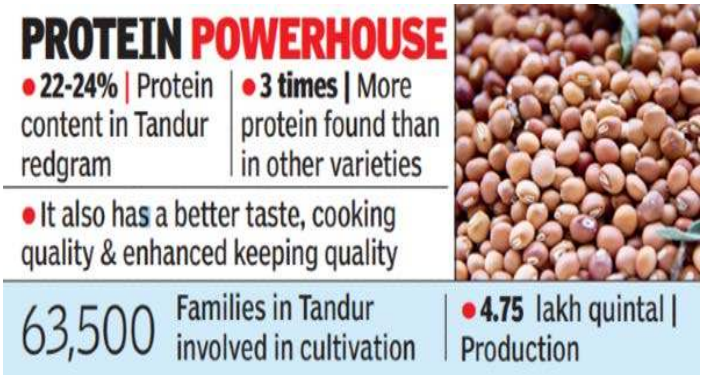
First consignment of Telangana's Tandur red gram flagged off to Australia



The first consignment of GI-tagged Tandur red gram from Telangana was flagged off from Hyderabad, Telangana, to Australia on Wednesday...

Why in News: The first consignment of **GI-tagged Tandur Red Gram** from Telangana was exported to **Australia from Hyderabad**.

Origin and Distinctive Features



- Also known as **Tandur Toor Dal**, it is cultivated in the rainfed areas of four mandals: Tandur, Basheerabad, Peddemul and Yelal in Telangana.
- Its characteristics are associated with fertile deep black soils, **attapulgite clay mineral deposits** and substantial limestone deposits.
- It received **Geographical Indication (GI) registration in 2022**, becoming the first agricultural product from Telangana to receive this recognition.
- It contains approximately **22–24% protein**, nearly three times the protein content of cereals.
- It is valued for its taste, cooking quality and storage characteristics.

Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

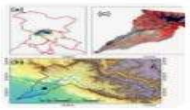
- A GI identifies products originating from a specific geographical area whose qualities or reputation are linked to that origin.
- It applies to agricultural products, foodstuffs, handicrafts, industrial products and certain beverages.
- In India, GI registration and protection are governed by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**.
- A GI registration is valid for **10 years** and can be renewed.

Ravi River

EurekAlert!

Reservoir, human activity impact Ravi River's surface water availability by fivefold

Researchers from IIT Gandhinagar monitored three decades of river discharge data and satellite imagery to examine changes in the Ravi River...



Why in News: IIT Gandhinagar researchers studied three decades of river discharge data and satellite imagery to assess changes in the Ravi River and its floodplain before and after the **Ranjit Sagar reservoir** became operational in 2001.

Origin and Course

- A transboundary river flowing through **India and Pakistan** and one of the five major tributaries of the Indus.
- Known as **Iravati and Parushni/Purushni** in Vedic times and Hydraotes to the ancient Greeks.
- Originates from the northern face of **Rohtang Pass** in Himachal Pradesh.
- Flows through Chamba and Punjab before entering Pakistan, where it joins the **Chenab River**.
- Total length: approximately **720 km**, including 320 km in India and 400 km in Pakistan.
- Lahore, Pakistan, is situated on its eastern bank; hence, it is also called the **"River of Lahore".**

Dams and Water Sharing

- Major projects include **Thein (Ranjit Sagar) Dam**, Chamera Dam, Shahpurkandi Dam and Ujh Dam.
- The **Indus Waters Treaty, 1960**, between India and Pakistan allocated the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers to India.
- The Upper Bari Doab Canal is an important irrigation canal system in Punjab.

Hydrology and Tributaries

- Its flow is influenced by Himalayan snowmelt and the South Asian monsoon, particularly rainfall from June to September.
- Major tributaries include **Siul, Baira and Ujh**.

Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak

News On AIR

[Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak awarded to 490 police personnel for 2026]

The Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak has been awarded to 490 police personnel from various States and Union Territories, Central Armed...



Why in News: The **Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak 2026** was awarded to **490 police and security personnel**.

Origin and Objectives

- Instituted by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in 2024**.
- Recognises outstanding professional work, promotes high standards and boosts the morale of police and security personnel.
- It consolidated **four earlier MHA awards**:
  - Special Operation Medal.
  - Medal for Excellence in Investigation.
  - Exceptional Intelligence Efficiency Medal.
  - Union Home Minister's Award for Meritorious Service.

Four Award Categories

- **Special Operation:** Recognises excellence in special operations.
- **Investigation:** Recognises outstanding investigative work.
- **Intelligence:** Recognises exceptional intelligence-related performance.
- **Forensic Science:** Recognises excellence in forensic work.

Eligibility and Announcement

- Eligible recipients include personnel of Police Forces, Security Organisations, Intelligence Wings/Branches, Central Police Organisations (CPOs), Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Central/State/UT forensic science organisations.
- The award is announced every year on **31 October**, the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Kariyachalli Island

The New Indian Express

[85% gone: Can artificial reefs save Kariyachalli Island from the sea?]

TNIE travels to Kariyachalli with scientists, divers and forest officials and undertakes a couple of dives to witness the restoration work...



Why in News: Tamil Nadu is deploying **8,500 artificial reef modules** to restore Kariyachalli Island, which has lost a major part of its landmass due to erosion and ecological degradation.

Location and Ecological Significance

	➢ One of the **21 islands of the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park region**, located off southeastern India between Rameswaram and Thoothukudi. ➢ The **Gulf of Mannar** contains one of India's four major coral reef regions and is an ecologically sensitive marine zone. ➢ The **uninhabited island** features beaches, sand dunes, spits and sandy plains. **Causes and Extent of Degradation** ➢ Major threats include coastal erosion, rising sea levels and degradation of surrounding coral reefs and seagrass meadows. ➢ According to an IIT Madras report (January 2025), the island's area declined from **20.85 hectares in 1969 to less than 6 hectares in 2024**. ➢ The island could be submerged by **2036** if the current erosion trend continues. **Restoration Measures** ➢ Restoration is being undertaken under the **Tamil Nadu SHORE (Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources) project**, with World Bank support. ➢ **8,500 multipurpose artificial coral reef modules**, designed by IIT Madras using wave dynamics and bathymetry studies, aim to reduce wave energy and promote sediment deposition. ➢ The project also targets restoration of **three acres of degraded seagrass beds** and includes a blue-carbon assessment.
Environment	**Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary** The Indian Express After dropping plan for highway, Bihar pushes for tourism project in Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary Head of eco tourism society under forest dept says can start work in area where nod not needed, wait where permissions required.  **Why in News:** The Bihar government floated a tender for tourism infrastructure inside the sanctuary despite reported statutory restrictions and a Supreme Court order restraining construction in protected areas. **Location and Geography** ➢ Located in **Bihar's Kharagpur Hills**, south of the Ganga River and along the northern edge of the Chota Nagpur Plateau.

- Covers approximately **682 sq. km**.
- Its drainage network is associated with the **Ganga, Gandak, Kosi and Son river systems**.
- It is particularly known for its natural hot springs.

Vegetation and Biodiversity

- Predominant vegetation: **Northern Tropical Moist Deciduous Sal forests**.
- **Important flora** includes *Shorea robusta* (Sal), *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Syzygium cumini* and aquatic macrophytes.
- **Major fauna** includes Leopard, Sloth Bear, Hyena, Wolf, Large Indian Civet and Barking Deer.

Defence

AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM)

South China Morning Post

Japan and US strike deal on missile assembly as Tokyo expands long-range arsenal

Tokyo has struck a deal to build an assembly line for advanced American air-to-air missiles, while simultaneously exploring missile testing...



Why in News: The US and Japan signed an agreement to establish an AIM-120 AMRAAM production facility in Japan.

Overview and Operational Role

- Developed by the **United States**, the AIM-120 is an active radar-guided, medium-range, supersonic air-to-air missile.
- It is one of the widely used **Beyond Visual Range (BVR)** air-combat missiles.
- Became operational with the US Air Force in **1991**.
- Used by over 35 countries, including the US, UK, Japan, Australia and NATO members.
- Designed to engage enemy fighters, bombers and cruise missiles beyond visual range.

AMRAAM-ER Variant

- **AMRAAM-ER** is an extended-range, ground-launched variant with improved range and altitude capabilities.
- Designed for ground-based air-defence systems such as **NASAMS (National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System)**.

Technology and Specifications

- Length: **3.65 metres**; diameter: 178 mm; wingspan: 484 mm.

	➢ Uses a solid-fuel rocket motor and can exceed **Mach 4**. ➢ Has a range of over **160 km** under optimal launch conditions. ➢ Equipped with a blast-fragmentation warhead and proximity fuse. ➢ Uses inertial guidance during mid-course flight and **terminal active radar homing**. ➢ Optional mid-course data-link updates improve targeting, while its fire-and-forget capability allows the launching aircraft to disengage after launch. ➢ Can be launched in all weather conditions, day or night.
Science and Technology	***Dicharax tilariensis***

The Times of India

New microscopic snail species discovered in Kolhapur's Tilari

New micro-snail species Dicharax tilariensis discovered in Kolhapur's Tilari region, endemic to northern Western Ghats; findings published...



Why in News: Researchers discovered a new microscopic land snail species, *Dicharax tilariensis*, in the Tilari region of Maharashtra.

Discovery and Habitat

- Discovered near **Swapnavel Point**, in the Tilari region of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra.
- Currently known only from its discovery site at an altitude of **700–800 metres**, making it locally endemic.
- It inhabits **semi-evergreen forests**, particularly forest litter, decaying organic matter and moist soil.
- It is the **second endemic species of its genus** described from the northern Western Ghats.

Distinctive Features

- It has a whitish shell with a pinkish or brownish tinge.
- Shell dimensions: **4.21–4.87 mm wide** and **3.01–3.52 mm high**.
- It has an elevated spire, distinctive rib patterns and a sharp swelling on the shell.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh Cyber Security Operations Centre (UP-CSOC)

The Indian Express

IIT Kanpur to set up Rs 104-crore UP Cyber Security Operations Centre

C3iHub, the cybersecurity technology innovation hub at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, will establish and operate the Uttar...



Why in News

- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, approved a cybersecurity project worth **₹104.28 crore** to establish the UP Cyber Security Operations Centre.

About UP-CSOC

- **Implementing Institution:** C3iHub, IIT Kanpur.
- **Initial Operational Period:** Three years.
- It will establish a coordinated system for cybersecurity monitoring, threat detection and incident response across the state's government digital infrastructure.
- Its coverage will include government networks, applications, data and other critical digital systems.

Key Functions and Technologies

- **Continuous Monitoring:** Round-the-clock surveillance of government digital infrastructure.
- **Threat Detection:** Identification, analysis and prioritisation of cyber threats.
- **Incident Response:** Coordination of investigations and responses to cybersecurity incidents.
- **Vulnerability Management:** Identification of weaknesses in digital systems and strengthening of security controls.
- **Post-Incident Analysis:** Examination of cyberattacks to prevent their recurrence.
- Technologies to be used include:
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML):** Identification of suspicious patterns and emerging threats.

Role of C3iHub and Significance

- C3iHub is the **Cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub at IIT Kanpur**.
- It will establish, operate and maintain UP-CSOC for three years.
- It has previously deployed Security Operations Centre capabilities for **SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant, NHAI and the Indian Ports Association**.
- The project will strengthen digital governance, protect sensitive government data and improve the state's cyber resilience.

- **Security Information and Event Management (SIEM):** Collection and analysis of security logs and alerts.
- **Security Orchestration, Automation and Response (SOAR):** Automation and coordination of response processes.
- **Network Detection and Response (NDR):** Monitoring network activity for suspicious behaviour.