

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

13-07-2026

Thamirabarani River

 The Times of India

No one has right to pollute waterbody even in the name of religion: HC

Madras High Court condemns Thamirabarani river pollution from funeral rituals, seeks public input and district proposals; hearing set for...

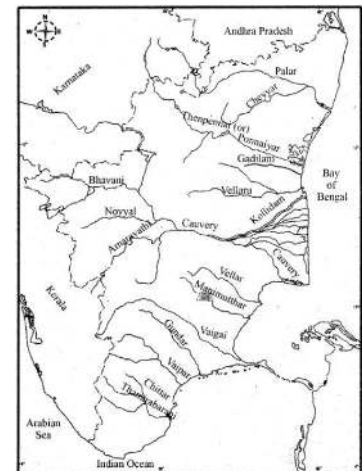


Why in News

- The **Madras High Court** recently criticized pollution of the **Thamirabarani River** due to religious rituals involving dumping of clothes and other materials.

Geographical Features

- Thamirabarani (Tamraparni/Porunai)** is a rare **perennial river** flowing entirely within **Tamil Nadu**.
- It originates from **Agastyarkoodam Peak** in the **Pothigai Hills of the Western Ghats**.
- It drains into the **Gulf of Mannar** near **Thoothukudi (Tuticorin)**.
- Total length of the river is about **128 km**.



Map 2: Major Rivers of Tamil Nadu

Ecological Importance

- The river supports nearly **669 fish species** and rich freshwater biodiversity.
- It is one of the few rivers inhabited by all three Indian otter species.

Important Facts

- Major tributaries include **Manimuthar, Gadananathi and Pachaiyar** rivers.
- Important dams include **Papanasam, Manimuthar, Servalar, Karaiyar and Gadananathi**.

Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)

Why in News

- The Centre recently approved **28** projects of the Delhi Government under the **SASCI Scheme**.

THE Hindu

[Centre clears financial for 28 Delhi projects](#)

Centre approves ₹1647 crore for 28 Delhi projects to enhance infrastructure and public facilities under the SASCI scheme.



Scheme Profile

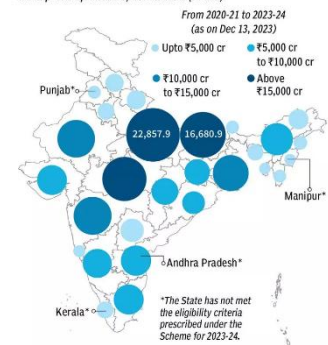
- SASCI** was launched in **2020-21** by the **Ministry of Finance**.
- It provides **50-year interest-free loans** to States and Union Territories.

Key Objectives

- It promotes **capital expenditure** and **infrastructure creation** by states.
- It incentivizes reforms linked to governance and public investment.

Centre's capex loans

Funds released under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure/ Investment (in ₹ cr)



Governance Significance

- The scheme strengthens state finances without increasing immediate debt burdens.
- It supports tourism, connectivity and long-term asset creation.

Māori

DD India

[PM Modi describes Māori powhiri as moving tribute to New Zealand's heritage](#)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said he was "honoured" to receive a traditional Māori powhiri ceremonial welcome at Government...



Why in News

- The Prime Minister recently referred to the Māori concept of **"Waka"** while discussing **India-New Zealand relations**.

Community Profile

- The **Māori** are the indigenous people of **New Zealand** and arrived there in the **13th century**.
- They belong to the **Polynesian cultural group** and constitute about **one-sixth** of New Zealand's population.



Cultural Features

- **Māori** is an official language of New Zealand and belongs to the **Austronesian language family**.
- The **Marae** serves as the traditional sacred community meeting place.
- **Haka** is the famous Māori ceremonial war dance.
- **Ta Moko** refers to traditional Māori facial tattoos symbolising identity and ancestry.

Important Term

- **Waka** literally means a canoe but symbolises **unity, cooperation and a shared journey** in Māori culture.

Australian Grass Owl

India Today NE

Rare Australian grass owl spotted at Assam's Maguri Motapung Beel

A rare sighting of an Australian Grass Owl at Maguri Motapung Beel in Assam's Tinsukia district has excited birdwatchers and wildlife...



Why in News

- A rare sighting of the **Australian Grass Owl (*Tyto longimembris*)** was recently recorded at **Maguri Motapung Beel, Assam**.

Species Profile

- Also known as the **Eastern Grass Owl** and belongs to the **Tytonidae** family.
- Found across **South and Southeast Asia, New Guinea, Australia, and the Western Pacific**.
- Prefers **grasslands, floodplains, savannas, and agricultural fields**.



Key Features

- It is a **medium-sized owl** with long slender legs.
- Unlike most owls, it **nects and roosts on the ground**.
- It has a distinctive **heart-shaped facial disc** and a wingspan of **100–116 cm**.

Conservation and Habitat

- Listed as **Least Concern** by the **IUCN**.
- The sighting highlights the ecological importance of **Maguri Motapung Beel**, an **IBA site** supporting over **110 bird species**.

CITES

DH Deccan Herald

[Ahmedabad blasts: Gujarat HC cites scale of terror, 56 deaths in upholding death penalty for 38 IM operatives](#)

Gujarat High Court: The court upheld the death penalty for 38 Indian Mujahideen operatives in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts case,...



Why in News

- The **34th Animals Committee Meeting of CITES** is being held in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

About CITES

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** was adopted in **1973** and came into force in **1975**.

- Also known as the **Washington Convention**.
- It has **185 Parties** and is administered by **UNEP**.

Objective

- It regulates international trade in wild plants and animals to ensure it is **legal, sustainable, and traceable**.

Appendices

- **Appendix I**: Species threatened with extinction; commercial trade generally prohibited.
- **Appendix II**: Species requiring regulated trade.
- **Appendix III**: Species protected by a country seeking international assistance.

Important Fact

- The **CITES Secretariat** is located in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

New Species of Jumping Spiders

THE Hindu

Researchers discover three new species of rare jumping spiders

Three new species of rare jumping spiders, genus *Onomastus*, have been discovered by a team of researchers from India and Sri Lanka,...



Why in News

- Researchers discovered **three new species of jumping spiders** belonging to the genus **Onomastus**.

Key Findings

- **Onomastus brahmagiri** – Brahmagiri Hills, Western Ghats.
- **Onomastus silentvalley** – Silent Valley National Park, Kerala.
- **Onomastus wijesinghei** – Montane forests of Sri Lanka.



Scientific Importance

- **Onomastus** belongs to one of the oldest lineages of jumping spiders.
- The discoveries support the **Sky Island Theory** and high endemism in isolated mountain ecosystems.

Negotiated Dealing System–Order Matching (NDS-OM)

 Business Standard

Bloomberg rolls out electronic platform for Indian government bond trading

Bloomberg's platform enables foreign portfolio investors to execute Indian government bond trades electronically through a single interface...



Why in News

- **Bloomberg** executed the first electronic trade in Indian Government Bonds through direct connectivity with **NDS-OM**.

About NDS-OM

- Launched by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in **2005**.
- It is an electronic platform for secondary trading of **Government Securities (G-Secs)**.

Key Features

- Covers **Central Government Securities, State Development Loans (SDLs), and Treasury Bills**.
- Members include **banks, primary dealers, insurance companies, and mutual funds**.
- Provides a **Request for Quote (RFQ)** facility for bilateral trades.

Significance

- Trades are settled on a **T+1 basis** and guaranteed by **CCIL**.
- It improves **transparency, liquidity, and market access**.

Other Important News of the day

Environment

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

 The Times of India

Rhino population in UP's Dudhwa Tiger Reserve rises to 53, 4th census records net growth

Pilibhit: The rhino population in the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) has increased to 53, according to the fourth rhino census conducted between...



Why in News

- The **4th Rhino Census** reported that the rhino population in **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve** has increased to **53**.

Location and Landscape

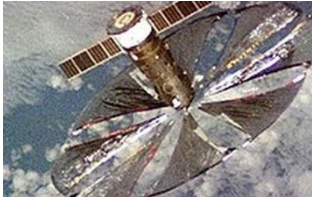
- It is located in **Lakhimpur Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh**, along the **India–Nepal border**.
- It comprises **Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- It represents the **Tarai–Bhabar ecosystem** of the Upper Gangetic Plains.

Rivers and Vegetation

- Important rivers include **Sharda, Geruwa, Suheli and Mohana**.
- The reserve contains extensive **North Indian Moist Deciduous Sal forests**.

Biodiversity

- Key fauna include **Tiger, One-horned Rhinoceros, Swamp Deer, Leopard, Sambhar and Hog Deer**.
- It supports nearly **400 bird species**, including **Bengal Florican and Black-necked Stork**.

Space	Eärendil-1 Satellite S Space The FCC just gave Reflect Orbital permission to launch its 1st space mirror to orbit. Tens of thousands more could follow Reflect Orbital just got approval to launch its first light-directing space mirror, which it plans to do later this year.  Why in News - The FCC (USA) approved the launch of Eärendil-1, developed by Reflect Orbital. Key Features - It is designed to reflect sunlight to selected locations on Earth during nighttime. - The satellite carries a deployable thin-film reflector. - It will operate in Low Earth Orbit (600–650 km). Significance - It may increase the working hours of solar energy systems. - It can support disaster response, humanitarian missions, agriculture, and industry. 
Science and Technology	Hyperkeratosis in India Today Jaipur's Galtaji monkeys suffer bleeding skin disease as devotees feed sweets Experts say feeding sweets to monkeys at Jaipur's Galtaji temple is causing hyperkeratosis among them. Officials are warning devotees and...  Why in News - Experts linked hyperkeratosis in monkeys at Jaipur's Galtaji Temple to excessive feeding of sweets. About Hyperkeratosis - It is the abnormal thickening of skin caused by excess production of keratin. - It can affect the hands, feet, mouth, nails, and nose.

	Types and Causes • Non-pressure hyperkeratosis is mainly genetic. • Pressure-related hyperkeratosis develops due to friction or irritation. • Causes include allergies, skin infections, autoimmune disorders, vitamin A deficiency, and sun exposure. Symptoms • Common symptoms include thickened skin, scaling, dryness, discoloration, and itching. • Major forms include calluses, corns, psoriasis, eczema, and plantar warts.
--	---

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026

 The Indian Express

[UP Cabinet approves new startup, data centre policies to boost investment and innovation](#)

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Monday approved the new startup and data centre policies with an aim to promote innovation, entrepreneurship...



Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** approved the **Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026** to strengthen innovation, investment, and entrepreneurship.

Key Objectives

- To make Uttar Pradesh a leading startup hub and support the state's **\$1 trillion economy** vision.
- To promote startups in emerging and deep-tech sectors.

Financial Incentives

- **Sustenance Allowance:** Increased to ₹20,000/month for 2 years.

- Prototype Grant: Increased to ₹10 lakh.
- **Seed Funding:** Increased to ₹15 lakh, extendable up to ₹50 lakh in special cases.

Deep-Tech Support

- Special incentives for AI, Robotics, Quantum Technology, Space Technology, HealthTech, and Agritech startups.
- **Prototype support:** Up to ₹20 lakh.
- **Seed funding:** Up to ₹30 lakh.
- **Patient capital support:** Up to ₹100 crore.

Institutional Support

- A **Startup Mission Directorate** will be established under the **Department of IT & Electronics, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **20 new Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** will be set up with funding of up to ₹12 crore each.