

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

14-07-2026

Begonia quadricornualata

 Research Matters

New species of Begonia with a 'four-horned' fruit discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

Botanists have discovered a new plant species in the remote forests of northeast India, characterised by its four-horned fruit and vibrant,...



Why in News

- Botanists have discovered a new plant species, **Begonia quadricornualata**, in Arunachal Pradesh.

Discovery and Habitat

- It was discovered in **Papum Pare district** near **Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- The region lies at the junction of the **Himalayan** and **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspots**.

Key Features

- It is characterized by **four-horned winged fruits**, white-to-pink flowers, and upright stems.
- Female plants possess dense **reddish-brown hispid hairs** and long petioles up to 50 cm.
- Currently classified as **Data Deficient**.

Divya Kala Mela

 DD News

Divya Kala Mela opens in Kolkata, showcases talent and entrepreneurship of persons with disabilities

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar on Tuesday inaugurated the 31st edition of the Divya Kala Mela at...



Why in News

- The **31st Divya Kala Mela** was inaugurated on **14 July 2026** at **Ravindra Sadan, Kolkata**, and will continue till **22 July 2026**.

Initiative Profile

- **Divya Kala Mela** promotes products made by **Divyang (Persons with Disabilities)** entrepreneurs.
- The initiative was launched in **December 2022** to enhance livelihood opportunities and market access.

Organisation and Participation

- The 31st edition is being jointly organized by the **Central Government** and the **Government of West Bengal**.
- Around **40 stalls** have been set up, with significant participation from artisans of **West Bengal**.
- The event was inaugurated by **Virendra Kumar**, Union Minister for **Social Justice and Empowerment**.

Social Inclusion Dimensions

- The Mela promotes **economic empowerment, self-reliance, dignity, and social inclusion** of persons with disabilities.
- It supports the sale and promotion of handicrafts, artwork, and other products made by Divyang entrepreneurs.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



Why in News

- A recent **UNFPA survey** highlighted that economic pressures and gender inequality are delaying parenthood among young Indians.

About UNFPA

- Established in **1967** as the **United Nations Fund for Population Activities**.



- Renamed **United Nations Population Fund** in **1987**, while retaining the abbreviation UNFPA.
- Headquarters: **New York, USA**.

Key Functions

- Works on **sexual and reproductive health**, family planning, and population issues.
- Supports countries in conducting **population censuses and demographic surveys**.
- Receives funding through **voluntary contributions**, not the UN regular budget.

Jodhpuri Mojari

 The Indian Express

[Knowledge Nugget: 200-year old Jodhpuri Mojari gets GI tag — why it matters for your UPSC exam](#)

The 200-year-old Jodhpuri Mojari has earned a GI tag, boosting the identity of Rajasthan's renowned leather craft.



Why in News

- Jodhpuri Mojari has recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

About Jodhpuri Mojari

- It is a traditional handcrafted footwear of **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.
- It is mainly crafted by the **Jinagar community**.



Key Features

- Made entirely by hand using **camel, goat, cow, and buffalo leather**.
- Known for durability, flexibility, and suitability to Rajasthan's hot climate.

GI Tag Facts

- Protected under the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**.
- A GI registration remains valid for **10 years** and is renewable.

SwaYaan Initiative

News On AIR

MeitY launches NIDAR 2.0 to develop drones powered by Indian-made chips

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with Drone Federation India today launched the second edition...



Why in News

- MeitY and Drone Federation India recently launched the **National Innovation Challenge for Drone Research (NIDAR)** under the **SwaYaan Initiative**.

About SwaYaan

- Launched in **2022** by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- Aims to strengthen India's **Drone/UAS ecosystem** and support the goal of becoming a global drone hub by **2030**.

Key Features

- Implemented through **30 premier institutions** including **IITs, IISc, NITs, IIITs, C-DAC and NIELIT**.
- Focuses on **Drone Electronics, Aeromechanics, GNC Algorithms, Drone Applications and Allied UAS Technologies**.

UMANG Portal

The Hindu

UMANG portal flaws exposed user data across hundreds of services, researchers find

Researchers reveal significant vulnerabilities in the UMANG portal, exposing millions of users' sensitive data across various government...



Why in News

- Researchers recently highlighted security vulnerabilities in the **UMANG Portal**.

About UMANG

- **UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance)** provides access to government services through a single platform.

- It is a flagship initiative under **Digital India** by **MeitY**.

Key Features

- Accessible through mobile apps, web portals, and partner service centres.
- Supports 23 Indian languages.
- Targets delivery of 2000+ services across 220+ departments.

Important Fact

- Developed by the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** and **MeitY**.

PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

 News On AIR

[PMFME scheme sanctions loans to over two lakh micro food processing enterprises, says Union Minister Chirag Paswan | Akashvani News](#)

The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme has crossed the milestone of sanctioning loans to more...



Why in News

- The Union Government is considering extending the **PMFME Scheme** beyond **2025-26**.

About the Scheme

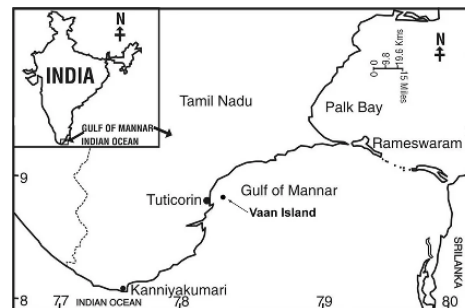
- Launched on **29 June 2020** under **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
- Implemented by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**.
- Total outlay: ₹10,000 crore.

Key Features

- Provides 35% credit-linked subsidy up to ₹10 lakh for micro enterprises.
- Provides ₹40,000 seed capital per SHG member engaged in food processing.
- Supports branding, marketing, common infrastructure, and skill development.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Gulf of Mannar
	Why in News - A recent study reported a significant decline in bird populations in the Gulf of Mannar. Geographical Features - Located between Southeastern India and Western Sri Lanka. - Forms part of the Laccadive Sea in the Indian Ocean. - Connected to Palk Bay through the Palk Strait. Biodiversity Importance - Contains coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangroves. - Supports over 4,223 species of flora and fauna. - Home to dugongs, dolphins, sea turtles, sharks, and 117 species of hard corals. Conservation Status - Declared Gulf of Mannar National Park in 1986. - Notified as India's first Marine Biosphere Reserve in 1989 and the first in South Asia.
Environment	Indian Giant Flying Squirrel Why in News The Indian Giant Flying Squirrel was recently sighted in Uttarakhand's Ramnagar forests after nearly 12 years.



	About the Species - Scientific Name: Petaurista philippensis. - Belongs to the Sciuridae family. Key Features - Glides using a skin membrane called the patagium. - It is nocturnal, arboreal, and one of the largest flying squirrels. Distribution and Status - Found across South Asia, Southeast Asia, and southern China. - Inhabits deciduous and evergreen forests. IUCN Status: Least Concern. 
Science and Technology	Chandipura Virus (CHPV)  India Today 3 children dead, 4 on life support as Chandipura virus outbreak hits Gujarat Gujarat has recorded 32 suspected Chandipura virus cases since July 1, with seven confirmed infections among children.  Why in News - Gujarat recently reported several confirmed cases of Chandipura Virus (CHPV). About CHPV - Belongs to the Rhabdoviridae family, which also includes the rabies virus. - First identified in 1965 at Chandipura village, Maharashtra. Transmission and Disease - Primarily transmitted through infected sand flies.

- Causes **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)**, especially among children.

Key Facts

- Symptoms include **fever, headache, vomiting, seizures, and altered consciousness.**
- No specific **vaccine or antiviral treatment** is currently available.
- Case fatality rate during outbreaks has ranged between **56%–75%.**

Uttar Pradesh in News

UPSSSC One-Time Registration (OTR) System

TOI The Times of India

UPSSSC rolls out One-Time Registration system to simplify PET; here's how it works

News News: The Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC) has introduced a One-Time Registration (OTR) system to make...



Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** has introduced a **One-Time Registration (OTR)** system for **UPSSSC PET** and other recruitment examinations.

Key Features

- Candidates need to register their details only once for all future UPSSSC recruitments.
- The OTR facility is free of cost.
- Details submitted after OTR generation cannot be modified.

Important Facts

- Implementing Agency: **UPSSSC**
- OTR Fee: Nil
- PET Validity: 3 Years
- Similar OTR systems are already used by **UPSC, SSC, and State PSCs.**



Registration Details

- Verification is done through **mobile number and email ID**.
- Candidates must upload a recent photograph, signature, and educational details.

PET Provision

- PET scores will remain valid for 3 years.
- Candidates with multiple valid PET scores can use their highest score.