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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC



20th May 2026

TOPICS:-

1. Zwan-Wolf Effect
2. Ayush Anudan Portal
3. Trachischium lalremsangai
4. ULPGM-V3
5. Loktak Lake
6. Blue Straggler Star
7. SHE-MART Initiative
8. Other Important News of the day
9. Uttar Pradesh In News

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ZWAN-WOLF EFFECT

TH The Hindu

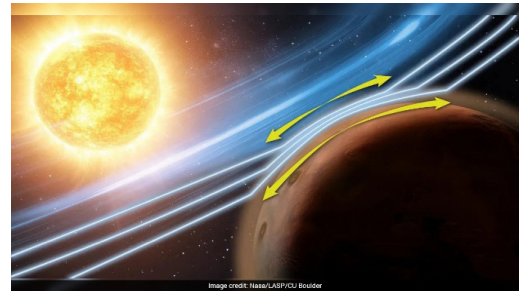
What is the Zwan-Wolf effect at Mars?

Discover the Zwan-Wolf effect at Mars, revealing how solar wind interacts with the planet's weak magnetic field.



Why in News

- NASA's **MAVEN spacecraft** recently observed the **Zwan-Wolf Effect** in the atmosphere of **Mars** for the first time.



Scientific Mechanism

- The effect involves charged particles being compressed along magnetic structures called **flux tubes**.
- It occurs due to interaction between the **solar wind** and planetary magnetic fields.
- Pressure differences created near magnetic boundaries redistribute charged particles.

Mars-Related Findings

- The phenomenon was observed in the **Martian ionosphere** below 200 km altitude.
- Mars lacks a global magnetic field unlike Earth.
- The findings improve understanding of Martian atmospheric dynamics and space weather interactions.

MAVEN Mission

- **MAVEN** stands for **Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution** mission of NASA.
- It was launched in **2013** and reached Mars in **2014**.
- The mission studies atmospheric loss caused by solar wind interactions.

AYUSH ANUDAN PORTAL

Why in News

- The Union **Ministry of Ayush** launched the **Ayush Anudan Portal** under the **Ayush Grid Initiative**.



Union Minister Shri Prataprao Jadhav Launches Ayush Anudan Portal under Ayush Grid Initiative

Union Minister Shri Prataprao Jadhav Launches Ayush Anudan Portal under Ayush Grid Initiative. Ayush Anudan Portal to Ensure Transparency...



Purpose and Objectives

- The portal digitises submission, approval, and monitoring of grant proposals.
- It aims to improve transparency, efficiency, and accountability in grant management.
- It supports funding under various Central Sector schemes of the Ministry of Ayush.

Key Features

- It includes a scheme-wise application management and real-time tracking system.
- The portal is integrated with the **NGO Darpan Portal**.
- It is accessible through the **My Ayush Integrated Services Portal (MAISP)**.



The Hindu

<https://www.thehindu.com> › Sci-Tech › Science

New worm-eating snake named after Mizoram herpetologist ✓

1 day ago — A new worm-eating snake, **Trachischium lalremsangai**, discovered in Mizoram, honors herpetologist **Lalremsanga** for his contributions.

TRACHISCHIUM LALREMSANGAI

Why in News

- Scientists discovered a new burrowing snake species named **Trachischium lalremsangai** in Mizoram.



Species Characteristics

- It is a burrowing snake with smooth iridescent scales and a white-speckled underside.
- The species was named after **Dr. Lalremsanga** for contributions to herpetology.

Habitat and Biodiversity

- The species was discovered in **Murlen National Park** near the India–Myanmar border.
- The park lies within the **Indo–Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**.
- The area supports rich orchid diversity and species like **Hoolock Gibbon** and **Mrs. Hume's Pheasant**.

ULPGM-V3

PIB

[Major boost to Aatmanirbhar Bharat: DRDO completes development trials of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile-V3 in Air-to-Ground & Air-to-Air...](#)



Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed the final deliverable configuration development trials of...

Why in News

- **DRDO** successfully completed trials of the **ULPGM-V3** missile in air-to-ground and air-to-air modes.

Development and Features

- The missile was developed by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad**.
- It is a **drone-launched precision-guided missile** with day-and-night capability.
- It includes a dual-channel seeker and two-way data link system.



Operational Significance

- It **can target bunkers, armoured vehicles, and high-altitude** targets.
- The missile weighs about **12.5 kg**, enabling deployment through lightweight drones.
- It has a range of **4 km during day** and **2.5 km at night**.

LOKTAK LAKE

BBC Wildlife Magazine

[There's a mysterious lake in India that's filled with perfectly circular floating islands. And it's home to one of the longest snakes on Earth](#)



Why in News

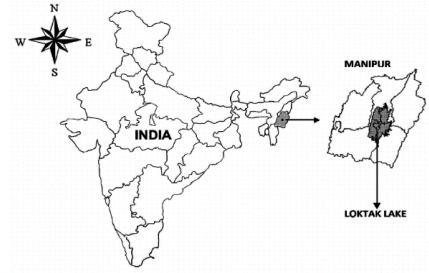
- **Loktak Lake** in **Manipur** was recently highlighted for its floating islands called **phumdis**.

Geographical Features

- It is the largest freshwater lake in **Northeast India**.
- Rivers like **Imphal, Iril, Thoubal, and Nambul** drain into the lake.

Unique Ecological Features

- Phumdis are floating masses of vegetation, soil, and organic matter.
- The lake contains **Keibul Lamjao National Park**, the world's only floating national park.
- It is the habitat of the endangered **Sangai deer**.



International Recognition

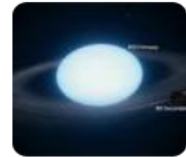
- Loktak Lake became a **Ramsar Site in 1990**.
- It was included in the **Montreux Record in 1993** due to ecological concerns.

BLUE STRAGGLER STAR

PIB

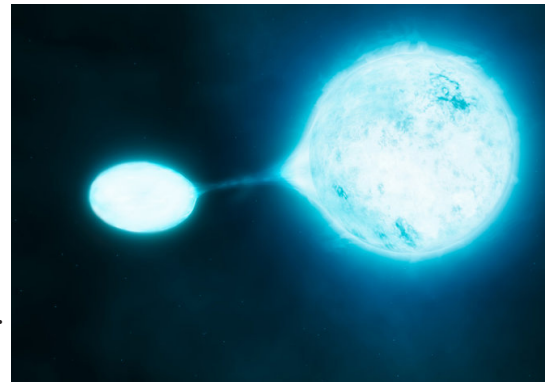
[Indian researchers spot one of the shortest-period stellar binary system](#)

In a breakthrough that could reshape astronomers' understanding of how stars evolve, researchers have made the world's first confirmed...



Why in News

- Scientists recently discovered a **Blue Straggler Star** with a brown dwarf companion in a compact binary system.



Key Characteristics

- Blue Stragglers are hot and massive stars found in old stellar systems like **globular clusters**.
- They appear bluer and brighter than stars of similar age.
- These stars evolve differently by becoming hotter instead of cooling.

Formation Theories

- One theory suggests **they gain matter from companion stars**.
- Another theory proposes **stellar mergers or interaction in triple-star** systems.

SHE-MART INITIATIVE

PIB

MoRD Charts Roadmap for Women-Led Rural Marketing Ecosystems Across India Through SHE-MARTs

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, through the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission...



Why in News

- **The Ministry of Rural Development** launched the nationwide **SHE-MART Initiative**.

Objectives

- **SHE-MART** stands for **Self Help Entrepreneurs–Marketing Avenues for Rural Transformation**.
- The initiative aims to strengthen women-led rural entrepreneurship and market access.
- It promotes sustainable income generation for women-led **Self Help Groups (SHGs)**.

UNION BUDGET 2026 The Indian EXPRESS

SHE marts to be set up

- Self-Help Entrepreneurs (SHE) will be established as community-owned retail outlets for women
- To enable women-led self-help groups to operate local retail networks
- Building on *Lakhpati Didi* Programme, the initiative will help women move from credit-linked livelihoods to owning businesses.
- Move is expected to **improve market access for products made by women**.

Implementation Framework

- The initiative is implemented under DAY-NRLM.
- It supports community-owned retail outlets managed by SHG federations.
- It promotes sale of handicrafts, textiles, food products, and processed goods.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Places in News

KUMBHALGARH FORT

MSN

Kumbhalgarh fort wall ranked second longest in the world

India's surprise entry: Kumbhalgarh Fort Wall in Rajasthan is now ranked as the second-longest surviving wall globally at 36 km.



Why in News

- **Kumbhalgarh Fort** was recognised as having the world's second-longest surviving wall after the **Great Wall of China**.

Historical Importance

- The fort was built in the **15th century** by **Rana Kumbha** of Mewar.

- It served as a refuge for Mewar rulers during wars.
- It is the birthplace of **Maharana Pratap**.

Architectural Features

- The fort is located in the **Aravalli Hills of Rajsamand district, Rajasthan**.
- Its wall stretches over **36 km**, earning it the title “**Great Wall of India**”.
- The fort has seven fortified gateways and more than 360 temples.



Recognition and Ecology

- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** under the “Hill Forts of Rajasthan”.
- The fort is surrounded by the **Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Environment

iii The Hindu

[Rare Kashmir Flycatcher spotted at Chemmattamavayal wetlands in Kasaragod](#)

The rare Kashmir Flycatcher, a migratory bird species, has been spotted at the Chemmattamavayal wetlands in Kasaragod district.



Why in News

- The rare **Kashmir Flycatcher** was recently spotted in **Kasaragod district of Kerala**.

Species Profile

- Scientific name: **Ficedula subrubra**.
- It belongs to the **Muscicapidae** family.
- It is a small migratory passerine bird **endemic to the Indian Subcontinent**.

Distribution and Conservation

- The species breeds in the **Kashmir region** of the northwest Himalayas.
- It winters in the **Nilgiris** and parts of **Sri Lanka**.
- It is listed as **Vulnerable** on the **IUCN Red List**.

**Awards in
News****INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE**

DH Deccan Herald

International Booker Prize 2025 Winner: Taiwan's Yáng Shuang-zi Honoured

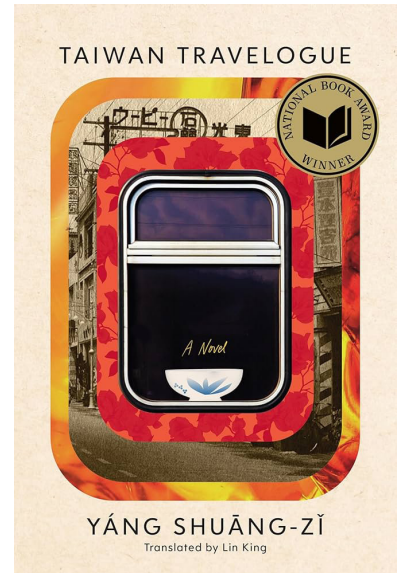
International Booker Prize Winner: Yáng Shuang-zi wins with Taiwan Travelogue, a novel set in 1930s Japan-occupied Taiwan.

**Why in News**

- **Taiwan Travelogue** by **Yáng Shuāng-zǐ**, translated by **Lin King**, won the **2026 International Booker Prize**.

About the Prize

- The award was established in **2005** as the **Man Booker International Prize**.
- It recognises translated fiction published in the **UK or Ireland**.
- The prize money of **£50,000** is equally shared between author and translator.

**Indian Winners**

- **Geetanjali Shree's Tomb of Sand** became the first Hindi work to win in **2022**.
- **Banu Mushtaq's Heart Lamp** became the first Kannada work to win in **2025**.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS**NEP 2020**

ET The Economic Times

UP Governor mandates uniforms in state universities and colleges, pushes NEP and skill-based education

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel has directed all state universities and colleges to implement a uniform dress code, while emphasizing...

**Why in News**

- UP Governor Anandiben Patel directed universities to **introduce uniforms** and **push NEP-aligned reforms**.

Key Features

- Linked to reforms like skill-based education, multidisciplinary learning, and institutional restructuring
- **5+3+3+4 school** structure replacing 10+2
- Multidisciplinary higher education; no rigid streams
- **Multiple entry-exit in degrees**; Academic Bank of Credits

Skill & Employability Focus

- **Vocational education** from school level
- Internships and industry linkage
- Emphasis on critical thinking over rote learning

Institutional & Governance Reforms

- **Single regulator (HECI)** for higher education
- Greater autonomy to colleges; phasing out affiliation system
- Push for digital learning and research ecosystem