



Sanskritii IAS



**DAILY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

24th Mar 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. Chhagarus ngankeeae (New Crab Species)**
- 2. Litani River**
- 3. Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)**
- 4. Smog-Eating Photocatalytic Coating**
- 5. Kolleru Lake**
- 6. Other Important News of the day**
- 7. Uttar Pradesh in News**

DELHI CENTRE:
636, Mukherjee Nagar
New Delhi-110009

PRAYAGRAJ CENTRE:
1/1/8A, Stanley Rd,
Maharana Pratap Chauraha,
Civil Lines, Prayagraj, UP - 211002

9555-124-124
sanskritiiias.com

CHHAPGARUS NGANKEEAE (NEW CRAB SPECIES)



Inshorts

<https://inshorts.com/news/new-crab-species-found-i...>

New crab species found in west coast mangrove forests

4 days ago — Researcher Sameer Kumar Pati identified new crab species *Chhapparus ngankeeae* in Goan mangroves. Previously misidentified in ZSI collections ... [Read more](#)

Why in News

- **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** discovered a new crab species in **Goan mangroves**.

Taxonomic and Morphological Features

- Named *Chhapparus ngankeeae* in honour of **Dr Ngan Kee Ng**.
- It is a small crab (~1.6 cm width) with a **brown hairy shell**.
- Unique features include **narrow abdomen and V-shaped gonopod structure**.



Habitat and Distribution

- Found in **muddy intertidal mangrove ecosystems along India's west coast**.

Ecological Significance

- Mangrove crabs play a role in **nutrient recycling and maintaining coastal food chains**.
- Discovery highlights the importance of **mangrove conservation under coastal regulation frameworks**.

LITANI RIVER



The Economic Times

Will Israel annex southern Lebanon soon? Israel Lebanon conflict, Litani River border plan, Hezbollah war

Will Israel annex southern Lebanon soon? The statement by Bezalel Smotrich on shifting Israel's border to the Litani River has raised...



Why in News

- **Israeli airstrikes destroyed Qasmiyeh Bridge** over the Litani River in Lebanon.

Geographical Features

- It originates near **Baalbek** and flows through the **Bekaa Valley**.

- It cuts through the **Lebanon Mountains** and drains into the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Hydrological Importance

- It supports **irrigation, water supply, and hydroelectricity** in Lebanon.
- Major dams include **Qaraoun Dam** and **El Wauroun Dam**.



Strategic Relevance

- The river region is geopolitically sensitive due to **conflict in West Asia**.
- Infrastructure damage affects **regional water security and civilian livelihoods**.

CABINET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY (CCS)

in India

Committee on Security reviews West Asia conflict; possible disruption to food, fuel



ster Narendra Modi chaired the meeting and directed the setting up of a ministers and secretaries to work through a...

Why in News

- The **Prime Minister chaired CCS meeting** on West Asia security situation.

Institutional Structure

- It is the **apex decision-making body on national security** in India.
- Members include **PM, Defence, Home, Finance, and External Affairs Ministers**.

Functional Domain

- It deals with **defence policy, nuclear issues, intelligence, and strategic appointments**.
- The **National Security Advisor (NSA)** acts as coordinator.

Evolution and Governance Role

- Formalised post **1999 Kargil War**, strengthening institutional security framework.
- Reflects **executive authority under Article 74 (Council of Ministers)** framework.

SMOG-EATING PHOTOCATALYTIC COATING

Jagran Josh

Photocatalytic Coating Trials Target Delhi Air Pollution

Can 'smog-eating' roads save Delhi? Explore the Delhi government and IIT Madras's 2026 pilot study on photocatalytic coatings to fight air...



Why in News

- **Delhi Government and IIT Madras** are testing smog-eating coatings on roads.

Scientific Mechanism

- Uses **Titanium Dioxide (TiO₂)** as a photocatalyst to neutralise pollutants.
- Photocatalysis breaks down **NO₂ and volatile hydrocarbons into less harmful substances.**

ROAD TO CLEANER AIR?

What Is Photocatalytic Coating
"Smog-eating" photocatalytic coatings are applied on roads, concrete and tiles to reduce nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and harmful hydrocarbons. These coatings utilise a photocatalyst, predominantly titanium dioxide (TiO₂), which breaks down pollutants—mainly nitrogen oxides (NOx) and some volatile organic compounds (VOCs)—when exposed to sunlight.

DELHI IS MULLING ITS USE, BUT IT'S NOT FIRST TO DO SO

The Netherlands Field trials with TiO ₂ -treated paving blocks in part of Hengelo city showed substantial NOx reductions in test stretches.	Italy Tests were conducted on building facades and pavements in Milan.	Denmark A study was conducted on photocatalytic-treated asphalt roads in Copenhagen for urban NOx removal.
Mexico A hospital building facade was made with tiles coated with titanium dioxide.	US Pavements with titanium dioxide coatings exist on some stretches.	

JURY IS OUT ON ITS EFFICACY

- Street environments with variable wind, dust deposition, traffic, shading and humidity reduce effectiveness.
- Photocatalysis targets gaseous pollutants; evidence of particulate matter reduction is weak.
- Photocatalytic activity declines over time.

Types of Smog

- **Sulfurous smog** arises from sulfur oxides due to coal burning.
- **Photochemical smog** forms due to vehicular emissions in urban areas.

Environmental Governance Relevance

- Aligns with **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** objectives.
- Offers **low-cost, scalable urban pollution mitigation technology.**

KOLLERU LAKE

The Hindu

Environmental activist expresses concern at degradation of Kolleru Lake

Environmental activist Bolisetty Satyanarayana urges urgent action to protect Kolleru Lake from ecological degradation and illegal...



Why in News

- Reports indicate **decline in ecological health over last 50 years.**

Geographical and Hydrological Features

- Located in **Andhra Pradesh** between **Krishna and Godavari** deltas.
- Receives water from **Budameru, Ramileru, Tammileru, and Errakalva** rivers.

Environmental Status

- Declared a **Wildlife Sanctuary (1999)** and **Ramsar Site (2002).**

Biodiversity Importance

- Supports over **20 million migratory birds annually**.
- Hosts species from **Siberia, Central Asia, and Himalayas**.

Governance Concerns

- Decline linked to **encroachment, pollution, and unsustainable aquaculture**.
- Requires **wetland conservation under Ramsar obligations and Wetland Rules 2017**.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

<p>Persons in News</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;"><u>GURU ANGAD DEV</u></h3> <p> News On AIR</p> <p>HM Amit Shah Pays Tributes to Guru Angad Dev on Jyoti Jyot Day</p> <p>Union Home Minister Amit Shah has paid tributes to the second Sikh Guru, Guru Angad Dev, on his Jyoti Jyot Day, remembering his immense...</p>  <h4>Why in News</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tribute paid on Jyoti-Jyot Diwas of Guru Angad Dev. <h4>Historical Contributions</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He was the second Sikh Guru (1539–1552) and successor of Guru Nanak Dev. ➤ He standardised the Gurmukhi script, promoting literacy. <h4>Socio-Cultural Reforms</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He established schools at Khadur Sahib to spread education. ➤ Strengthened Langar system and Sangat institutions, promoting equality. ➤ Promoted physical fitness and moral discipline in Sikh society.
<p>Environment</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;"><u>MONARCH BUTTERFLY</u></h3> <p> Down To Earth</p> <p>64 per cent increase in Mexico's Monarch butterfly population</p> <p>Monarch butterfly population in Mexico sees a 64% rise in 2025-2026.</p>  <h4>Why in News</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A 64% increase in Monarch butterfly presence was recorded in Mexican overwintering forests (2025–26).

Biological Characteristics

- The **scientific name is Danaus plexippus**, meaning “sleepy transformation” in Greek.
- Adults have **orange-red wings with black veins and white-spotted edges**.
- Males are slightly larger and have **distinct black spots on wings**.

Ecological Behaviour

- The species depends exclusively on **milkweed plants for egg-laying and larval nutrition**.
- It undertakes long-distance migration of **1,200–2,800 miles from North America to Mexico**.
- The adult lifespan is short, lasting only **4–5 weeks**, influencing population dynamics.



Distribution and Habitat

- It is distributed across **Americas, Australia, Hawaii, and India**, indicating wide adaptability.
- Habitats include **gardens, agricultural lands, corridors, and restored ecosystems**.

Threats and Conservation Concerns

- Key threats include **climate change, illegal logging, land-use change, and loss of milkweed**.
- Conservation requires **habitat restoration and transboundary ecological cooperation** due to migratory nature.

BURA CHAPORI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Sentinel - of this Land, for its People

Assam Plans New Reserved Forest Near Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary

The Government of Assam's Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department has issued a notification proposing the creation of a new Reserved...



Why in News

- Proposal to create **Reserved Forest near sanctuary in Assam**.

Geographical Location

- Located on **south bank of Brahmaputra in Sonitpur district, Assam.**
- Part of **Laokhowa–Burachapori ecosystem near Kaziranga and Orang National Parks.**

Biodiversity Profile

- Habitat includes **grasslands, wetlands, riparian forests.**
- Fauna includes **one-horned rhinoceros, Bengal florican, elephants, tigers.**

Conservation Significance

- Acts as a **wildlife corridor supporting Kaziranga landscape connectivity.**
- Expansion improves **habitat security under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**

Science and Technology

SAHIWAL CATTLE & OPU-IVF TECHNOLOGY

 Down To Earth

Indian Veterinary Research Institute produces calves of prized Sahiwal indigenous breed using advanced reproductive technologies



IVRI aims to expand application of OPU–IVF–ET technology on a larger scale to accelerate production of elite indigenous cattle and buffalo.

Why in News

- **ICAR–IVRI, Bareilly** produced Sahiwal calves using **OPU–IVF–ET reproductive technology.**

Breed Significance

- **Sahiwal cattle** is one of India’s best **indigenous milch breeds** with high productivity.
- It originated from **Sahiwal region (Punjab, Pakistan)** and is widely adapted in India.
- Average milk yield ranges between **1600–2750 kg per lactation.**

Reproductive Biotechnology (OPU–IVF–ET)

- **Ovum Pick-Up (OPU)** enables extraction of oocytes from live animals using **ultrasonography-guided aspiration.**
- The process involves **IVM (maturation), IVF (fertilisation), and IVC (culture)** for embryo production.
- Embryos are transferred to recipients, enabling **rapid genetic improvement and pedigree selection.**

Adaptive Traits and Economic Value

- The breed is **heat tolerant, tick-resistant, and disease resistant**, enhancing climate resilience.
- It has been exported to **Asia, Africa, and Caribbean regions**, contributing to livestock economy.

Policy and Agricultural Implications

- Supports **National Livestock Mission** goals of genetic upgradation.
- Enhances **dairy productivity and farmers' income**, aligning with **Doubling Farmers' Income** strategy.

SUBARNAREKHA RIVER

 The New Indian Express

MoEFCC directs strict action on illegal sand mining in Balasore's Subarnarekha river

BALASORE: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has issued instruction to the state government agencies to take...

Why in News

- **MoEFCC directed action against illegal sand mining** in the river.

Geographical Features

- Originates near **Nagri village, Ranchi (Jharkhand)** at ~600 m elevation.
- Flows ~**395 km** through **Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal** into Bay of Bengal.



Hydrological System

- Major tributaries include **Kanchi, Kharkai, and Karkari rivers**.
- Key projects include **Getalsud Reservoir, Chandil Dam, Icha Dam**.

Environmental Issues

- **Illegal sand mining** threatens **river ecology and groundwater stability**.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

 News On AIR

Indian Army conducts Exercise Amogh Jwala at Babina Field Firing Ranges

The Indian Army's Southern Command conducted Exercise Amogh Jwala at Babina Field Firing Ranges. The drill demonstrated high-tempo...



EXERCISE AMOGH JWALA

Why in News

- The **Indian Army's Southern Command** conducted **Exercise Amogh Jwala at Babina Field Firing Ranges (Uttar Pradesh)**.

Operational Overview

- The exercise was held for **13 days (6–18 March 2026)**.
- It involved deployment of **mechanised forces and armoured units** in realistic combat scenarios.

Technological Integration

- It showcased coordination of **mechanised units with attack helicopters, fighter aircraft, and UAS**.
- It included **counter-drone systems and network-enabled battlefield platforms**.
- The exercise tested **C4ISR-based command and control architecture** for joint operations.

Strategic Significance

- It aimed to validate **technology-driven mechanised warfare in a multi-domain environment**.
- It reflects the shift towards **network-centric warfare and Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs)**.