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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC



2nd June 2026

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MTKVARI (KURA) RIVER

Why in News

- A body believed to be that of a missing Indian medical student was recently recovered from the **Mtkvari River** in Georgia.

Geographical Significance

- The **Mtkvari River**, also called the **Kura River**, is the longest river in the **Caucasus region**.
- It originates in **eastern Turkey** and flows through **Georgia** and **Azerbaijan** before entering the **Caspian Sea**.
- The river flows through the valley between the **Greater Caucasus** and **Lesser Caucasus** mountains.

Key Facts

- The total length of the river is about **1,515 km**.
- The **Araxes (Aras) River** is its largest tributary.
- **Tbilisi**, the capital of Georgia, lies on its banks.

Historical Importance

- Ancient settlements along the river date back to the **Bronze Age**.
- It historically served as an important Eurasian trade route connecting the Caucasus region.

BEAUFORT CASTLE

Why in News

- During the ongoing West Asia conflict, Israel captured the strategic **Beaufort Castle** area in southern Lebanon.

Location and History

- Beaufort Castle, locally called **Qalaat al-Shaqif**, is located near **Nabatieh**, southern Lebanon.
- It lies approximately **14.5 km from the Israeli border**.
- The fortress was originally built by **Crusaders in the 12th century**.

Strategic Importance

- The castle overlooks southern Lebanon, the **Litani River Valley**, and parts of northern Israel.
- Its elevated position has made it a key military stronghold for centuries.

Historical Control

- The fortress has been controlled by **Crusader, Muslim, Mamluk, and Ottoman** rulers.
- Israel captured it from the **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)** during the **1982 Lebanon War** and retained control until 2000.

GIANT MALABAR SQUIRREL

Why in News

- A rare **Giant Malabar Squirrel** was recently spotted in the **Barnawapara Forest** of Chhattisgarh.

Taxonomy and Distribution

- Scientific Name: **Ratufa indica**.
- It is an endemic species found only in India.
- It occurs mainly in the **Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, and Satpura Range**.

Ecological Characteristics

- It is an **arboreal species** spending most of its life in forest canopies.
- The squirrel can leap up to **6 metres** between trees.
- It inhabits tropical deciduous, semi-deciduous, and evergreen forests.

Identification Features

- It displays shades of **black, brown, and deep red**.
- The tail is longer than the body and ends with a creamy-white tip.
- It possesses powerful claws for gripping branches and tree bark.

Conservation Status

- It is listed as **Least Concern** under the **IUCN Red List**.
- It is the **State Animal of Maharashtra** and is locally known as **Shekru**.

DOCTRINE OF PROMISSORY ESTOPPEL

Why in News

- The **Supreme Court** recently held that promissory estoppel cannot be invoked where a government policy was never intended to benefit a particular class.

Legal Concept

- The doctrine prevents a person from going back on a promise when another party has reasonably relied upon it.
- It applies even when the promise is oral and not formally contracted.

Essential Conditions

- There must be a **clear and unambiguous promise**.
- The promisee must have acted relying upon that promise.
- The promisee must have suffered a loss due to non-fulfilment.
- Enforcement should be necessary to prevent injustice.

Judicial Dimensions

- The doctrine was elaborated by the Supreme Court in **Chhaganlal Keshavalal Mehta v. Patel Narandas Haribhai (1981)**.
- It is widely applied in administrative and contract-related disputes involving fairness.

METTUR DAM

Why in News

- Concerns have emerged regarding delayed opening of **Mettur Dam** due to low storage levels and weak monsoon forecasts.

Location and Structure

- The dam is situated at **Mettur, Salem District**, Tamil Nadu.
- It is built across the **Kaveri (Cauvery) River**.
- It is the largest dam in Tamil Nadu and one of India's largest dams.
- It is a **masonry gravity dam**.

Key Features

- The reservoir formed by the dam is called **Stanley Reservoir**.
- The dam is **65 m high** and **1,700 m long**.
- It contributes around **240 MW** of hydroelectric power generation.

Economic Importance

- It supports irrigation for about **271,000 acres** of farmland.
- It provides irrigation and water supply to **Salem, Erode, Namakkal, Karur, Tiruchirappalli, and Thanjavur** districts.

Hydrological Linkages

- The dam receives inflows from the **Kabini Dam** and **Krishna Raja Sagara Dam** in Karnataka.

DESIGN LINKED INCENTIVE (DLI) SCHEME

Why in News

- The Union Government recently stated that the **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme** is delivering positive outcomes.

Institutional Framework

- The scheme is implemented by **MeitY** under the **Semicon India Programme**.
- **C-DAC** serves as the nodal implementing agency.

Objectives

- It aims to build India’s **fabless semiconductor ecosystem**.
- It seeks to reduce import dependence and improve supply-chain resilience.
- It promotes domestic value addition in semiconductor manufacturing.

Coverage and Eligibility

- **Start-ups, MSMEs, and domestic companies** are eligible under different components.
- The scheme supports design and deployment of **ICs, Chipsets, SoCs, Systems, and IP Cores**.

Financial Incentives

- Product Design Incentive offers reimbursement of up to **50% of eligible expenditure**, capped at **₹15 crore**.
- Deployment Incentive provides **6%–4% of net sales turnover** for five years.
- The deployment incentive is capped at **₹30 crore per application**.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Person in News

AHILYABAI HOLKAR

Why in News

- The Prime Minister paid tributes to **Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar** on her birth anniversary.

Historical Background

- **Ahilyabai Holkar (1725–1795)** ruled the Malwa region from **1767 to 1795**.
- She was known as **Punyashlok** and was called the “**Philosopher Queen**” by historian **John Keay**.
- She made **Maheshwar (Madhya Pradesh)** the capital of the Holkar dynasty.

Administrative Contributions

- She appointed **Tukoji Rao Holkar** as commander of her army.
- She established educational institutions including **gurukuls and schools**.
- She created a women’s military force and trained women in warfare and security.

Cultural and Religious Legacy

- She rebuilt the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple** in **1780**.
- She developed pilgrimage infrastructure including ghats and rest houses.
- She patronised scholars, poets, and artists.

Economic Contributions

- She promoted the textile industry of Maheshwar, leading to the famous **Maheshwari Sarees** tradition.

Places in News

MONGOLIA

Why in News

- The Holy Relics of **Arhat Sariputra** and **Arhat Mahamoggallana** were ceremonially enshrined at **Gandantegchenling Monastery, Ulaanbaatar**, strengthening India-Mongolia cultural ties.

Geographical Profile

- **Mongolia** is a **landlocked country** located in north-central Asia.
- It shares borders with **Russia** in the north and **China** in the south.
- The capital city of Mongolia is **Ulaanbaatar**.

Physical Features

- Mongolia experiences a **continental climate** due to high altitude and distance from oceans.
- The country contains four vegetation zones: **forest-steppe, steppe, semi-desert, and desert**.
- Major mountain ranges include the **Khentii, Khangai, and Altay Mountains**.
- The highest peak is **Nayramadlin Orgil (4,374 m)**.

Hydrological Importance

- The **Orkhon River** is Mongolia's major river and its valley is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- **Hovsgol Nuur**, located near Russia, is among Asia's largest freshwater lakes.

Economic Significance

- Mongolia possesses rich reserves of **coal, copper, gold, silver, fluorite, and metallic ores**.

**Environ-
ment**

INDOPOTTIA HIMALAYENSIS

Why in News

- Scientists from the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** have discovered a new moss species named **Indopottia himalayensis**.

Scientific Discovery

- The species was discovered in high-altitude forests of the **Western Himalayas in Uttarakhand**.
- It is only the **third known species** of its genus globally.
- The other two species are found in the **Western Ghats** and **Thailand**.

Distinctive Features

- It is entirely terrestrial and grows on soil-covered rocks.
- The moss reaches about **13 mm** in height and possesses a rounded stem.
- It produces a single cylindrical spore capsule with a lid that bends sideways when dry.
- Its leaves lack transparent bulging cells present in related species.

About Mosses

- Mosses belong to **Division Bryophyta** and are **non-vascular spore-bearing plants**.
- They are among the earliest land plants and occur even in extreme environments.
- Major types include **peat moss, granite moss, and true moss**.

Space

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE (JWST)**Why in News**

- The **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** recently captured weather patterns on an exoplanet located nearly **700 light-years** away.

Institutional Collaboration

- JWST was launched in **December 2021**.
- It is a joint mission of **NASA, European Space Agency (ESA), and Canadian Space Agency (CSA)**.

Technical Features

- It operates mainly in the **infrared spectrum**.
- It is positioned around the **L2 Lagrange Point**, about **1.5 million km from Earth**.
- Major components include **OTE, ISIM, Sunshield, and Spacecraft Bus**.

Scientific Objectives

- It aims to study galaxies formed shortly after the **Big Bang**.
- It examines the evolution of galaxies and star formation processes.
- It investigates planetary systems and the possibility of extraterrestrial life.

Prelims Facts

- JWST is the **largest and most powerful space observatory** ever built.
- It is regarded as the scientific successor to the **Hubble Space Telescope**.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS**Nausena Shaurya Vatika**

- Uttar Pradesh Police Achievements under DGP Rajeev Krishna

Why in News

- **Rajeev Krishna** was recently appointed as the new **DGP of Uttar Pradesh** and highlighted key policing achievements.

Crime Control and Convictions

- Uttar Pradesh achieved a **93% conviction rate**, with **29,911 convictions** out of **32,071 cases** decided by courts.

- Courts awarded **18 death sentences** and **3,340 life imprisonments**.
- Action was taken against **5,684 criminals** under the **Gangsters Act**, and assets worth **₹788.38 crore** were attached.

Technology and Cyber Policing

- A **Cybercrime Call Centre** was established in Lucknow.
- Authorities froze **₹400.66 crore** linked to cyber fraud.
- The **Yaksh AI App** supports facial recognition, voice search, CrimeGPT analysis, and criminal tracking.

Police Reforms and Public Safety

- **Mission Shakti Centres** and women help desks have been set up in police stations.
- A structured grievance-redressal mechanism has been introduced.
- **573 Crash Control Teams** were deployed to improve road safety.

Border Security Innovation

- Rajeev Krishna played a key role in developing the **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)** for the **BSF**.
- **CIBMS** integrates radars, cameras, and multiple sensors for advanced border surveillance.
- The Union Government has approved its implementation across all **BSF-guarded borders**.

Prelims Facts

- **Rajeev Krishna** is a **1991-batch IPS officer**.
- He has received the **Police Medal for Gallantry**, **President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service**, and **Medal for Meritorious Service**.