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**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**

*2nd Mar 2026*

**TOPICS:-**

- 1. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)**
- 2. Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**
- 3. Football for Schools (F4S) Programme**
- 4. Gypsum**
- 5. Yadava Dynasty (Seuna Dynasty)**
- 6. Other Important News of the day**
- 7. Uttar Pradesh in News**

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# CENTRAL DRUGS STANDARD CONTROL ORGANISATION (CDSCO)

TH The Hindu

## CDSCO modifies norms for testing permissions to speed up drug approvals

CDSCO updates drug testing norms, allowing immediate laboratory testing post-application to expedite drug approvals while ensuring...



### Why in News

- The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation** decided to fast-track drug approvals by issuing immediate **No-Objection Certificates (NOCs)** for laboratory testing.



### Institutional Position

- India's **National Regulatory Authority (NRA)** for drugs and medical devices.
- Functions under the **Directorate General of Health Services**, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- Headed by the **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)**.

### Statutory Powers

- Operates under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- Approves new drugs and oversees clinical trials.
- Lays down drug standards and monitors imported drugs.
- Coordinates activities of State Drug Control Organisations.

### Regulatory Significance

- Jointly licenses critical drugs such as **vaccines, sera, blood products and IV fluids**.
- Fast-tracking approvals can improve innovation and access.
- Requires balancing **ease of doing business with patient safety safeguards**.
- Headquarters located in **New Delhi**.

## CONTROLLER GENERAL OF ACCOUNTS (CGA)

### Why in News

The Controller General of Accounts

(CGA) launched the **Government**

**Bank Dashboard** and **Government**

**Bank Manual** in **New Delhi** to strengthen fiscal transparency.

PIB

CGA launches Government Bank Dashboard and Government Bank Manual to Strengthen Compliance, Reduce Risk, and Enhance Accountability in handling...

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### Institutional Architecture

- The CGA is the Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India.
- It was established in **October 1975** after departmentalisation of Union Government accounts.
- It functions under the **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance**.
- It oversees the central government's exchequer control and internal audit systems.

### Core Functions in Public Financial Management

- The CGA consolidates and prepares the **monthly and annual accounts of the Union Government**.
- It prescribes accounting rules, forms and procedures for Central Civil Ministries.
- It administers payment, receipt and accounting systems through the **Central Civil Accounts Service (CCAS)**.
- It compiles key fiscal indicators such as revenue, expenditure and fiscal deficit for policy use.

### Digital Oversight and Coordination Role

- It operates the **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)** for real-time tracking of government expenditure.
- It monitors submission of Action Taken Notes on **PAC** recommendations and **CAG** audit observations through the **Audit Para Monitoring System (APMS)**.
- It also oversees pension accounting for Central Government employees.

## FOOTBALL FOR SCHOOLS (F4S) PROGRAMME

### Why in News

- Footballs were distributed at **PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal** under the **Football for Schools (F4S)** initiative.

PIB

Dr. Sukanta Majumdar presides over football distribution programme in West Bengal; Football for Schools (F4S) programme completed in 33 States/UTs

Dr. Sukanta Majumdar presides over football distribution programme in West Bengal; Football for Schools (F4S) programme completed in 33

## Global Framework and Partnerships

- The programme is run by **FIFA** in collaboration with **UNESCO**.
- It aligns with **UNESCO's Kazan Action Plan, Education 2030: Incheon Declaration, and WHO's Global Action Plan on Physical Activity (GAPPA)**.
- It was **launched in 2019** with pilot projects in Puerto Rico and Lebanon.
- In India, it is implemented by the **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)** with support from **AIFF** and **SAI**.

### Educational and Social Objectives

- The programme aims to empower nearly 700 million children globally through sports-based education.
- It integrates football into school curricula to develop life skills and competencies.
- It promotes gender inclusion by ensuring access to both boys and girls.
- It contributes to achieving **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** related to education, health, and equality.

### Policy and Governance Linkages

- The initiative complements India's **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which promotes holistic and experiential learning.
- It strengthens sports-based pedagogy and supports youth development in line with national sports policy objectives.

## GYPSUM

THE Hindu

### Why are scientists studying gypsum in the Salar de Pajonales?

Explore how Salar de Pajonales in Chile serves as a vital Mars analogue for studying microbial life and ancient fossils.



### Why in News

- Scientists are studying gypsum deposits in **Salar de Pajonales**, found on both Earth and Mars.

### Geological Characteristics

- Gypsum is a sedimentary mineral composed of **calcium sulfate dihydrate (CaSO<sub>4</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O)**.
- It commonly forms in evaporite deposits alongside anhydrite and halite.
- It is found in saline lakes, salt pans, and salt dome cap rocks.
- In India, marine gypsum is recovered from salt pans in **Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**.

### Economic and Industrial Significance

- It is widely used in **cement manufacturing** and production of **Plaster of Paris**.

- It is applied in **agriculture to reclaim saline and alkaline soils**.
- It plays a role in construction and pharmaceutical industries.

### Scientific and Planetary Relevance

- Presence of **gypsum on Mars** indicates past water activity.
- Studying terrestrial gypsum aids in understanding planetary geology and climate history.

## YADAVA DYNASTY (SEUNA DYNASTY)

**O** Organiser

Yadava-era Mandir pillar remains discovered along Vena river in Hinganghat, highlighting region's medieval heritage



Remains of a 12th-century Mandir-style stone pillar from the Seuna (Yadava) dynasty have been discovered near the Vena River in Hinganghat.

### Why in News

- A 12th-century Mandir-style stone pillar from the **Seuna (Yadava) dynasty** was discovered near the **Vena River in Maharashtra**.

### Territorial Expansion and Political Milestones

- The Yadavas ruled from the **12th to 14th century** in central India.
- Their empire extended from the **Tung-abhadra River to the Narmada River**.
- King **Bhillama (c.1187–91)** founded **Devagiri (Daulatabad)** as the capital.
- Under **Singhana (c.1210–1247)**, the dynasty reached its territorial peak.



### Military Conflicts and Decline

- In **1294**, **Alauddin Khilji** invaded Devagiri and imposed tributary status.
- The last ruler **Ramachandra (1271–c.1309)** was defeated and later reinstated as a vassal.
- The kingdom was annexed by the **Khalji Empire in 1317**.
- The annexation consolidated Delhi Sultanate authority in the Deccan.

## Cultural and Architectural Contributions

- The Yadavas laid foundations of **Marathi language and regional identity**.
- The **Hemadpanti architectural style** used dry masonry without mortar.
- Temple architecture and irrigation structures expanded during their rule.

## Historical Significance

- Their rule marked a transitional phase before full Delhi Sultanate expansion in peninsular India.
- Archaeological discoveries strengthen understanding of medieval Deccan polity.

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

### SULAWESI ISLAND

#### Why in News

- A 67,800-year-old **hand stencil** discovered in a **limestone cave** on **Sulawesi Island** is now the oldest known rock art.

#### Geographical Profile

- Sulawesi is in Southeast Asia within the Indonesian archipelago.
- It is part of the **Greater Sunda Islands** and covers 180,680 sq. km.
- It is the 11th largest island globally and has four interconnecting peninsulas.
- **Makassar** is the largest city.

#### Ecological and Biodiversity Significance

- The island is mountainous with active volcanoes; highest peak is **Mount Ratenkombola**.
- It hosts 127 native mammal species, of which 62% are endemic.
- It contains Lake Matano, the deepest lake in Southeast Asia.



### Cultural and Anthropological Importance

- The island contains prehistoric cave paintings depicting early human activity.
- It is inhabited by major ethnic groups such as the Toraja, Buginese, and Makassarese.
- The discovery reshapes understanding of early human cognitive and artistic evolution.

### Environment

### GITCHAK NAKANA

 Hindustan Times

Gitchak nakana: New blind aquifer fish discovered in Northeast India | India News

A team of ichthyologists from Europe, America and India has discovered Gitchak nakana, the first aquifer-dwelling (phreatobitic) fish from...



### Why in News

- A new groundwater fish species, **Gitchak nakana**, has been discovered in a **dug-out well in Assam**.

### Taxonomic and Morphological Features

- It belongs to a newly described genus under the family **Cobitidae (loaches)**.
- It is a miniature blind fish measuring only **2 cm in length**.
- It shows troglomorphic traits such as **absence of visible eyes and pigmentless translucent body**.
- It uniquely lacks a skull roof, with the brain covered only by skin.

### Ecological and Evolutionary Importance

- It is a **phreatobitic species**, living in groundwater aquifers.
- Globally, over **300 subterranean fish species** are known, but fewer than **10% inhabit aquifers**.
- This is the first aquifer-dwelling fish recorded from **Northeast India**.
- Its adaptations indicate long-term evolutionary isolation in subterranean ecosystems.

### Conservation and Governance Dimensions

- Groundwater ecosystems are vulnerable to over-extraction and contamination.
- Protection of aquifers is linked to sustainable management under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- The discovery underscores the need for biodiversity mapping in groundwater habitats.

### Science and Technology

## CARBON-14

### Why in News

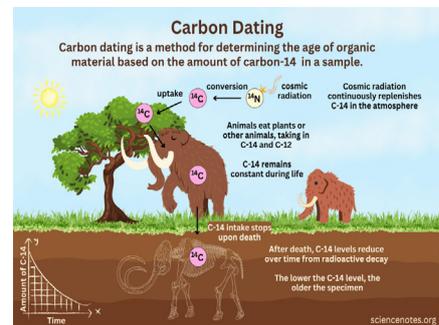
- The discovery of **Carbon-14** by Martin Kamen and Samuel Ruben enabled scientific dating of ancient artefacts.

### Scientific Properties

- **Carbon-14 is a radioactive isotope** with six protons and eight neutrons.
- It is formed when cosmic rays bombard atmospheric nitrogen.
- It has a half-life of approximately 5,730 years.

### Radiocarbon Dating Mechanism

- **Living organisms absorb Carbon-14 during their lifetime.**
- After death, **Carbon-14 decays into nitrogen** at a constant rate.
- Measuring residual **Carbon-14 helps determine age between 500 and 50,000 years.**



### Applications Across Disciplines

- It is used in archaeology, geology, paleoclimatology, and oceanography.
- The technique was developed by **Willard Libby**, who received the Nobel Prize.

### Scientific Significance

- Radiocarbon dating provides objective chronological frameworks for historical and prehistoric studies.
- It strengthens interdisciplinary research linking natural sciences and social sciences.

## LIGHT COMBAT HELICOPTER (LCH) PRA-CHAND

### Why in News

- The President of India undertook a sortie in the indigenous **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand** at Air Force Station Jaisalmer.



### Strategic and Defence Significance

- LCH Prachand is indigenously developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- It is the only attack helicopter capable of operating at altitudes up to **5,000 metres**.
- It enhances India's high-altitude combat capability along sensitive borders.

### Technological Features

- It is powered by **twin Shakti engines** and has a maximum speed of 268 km/h.
- It has a **range of 550 km** and endurance of over three hours.
- It features stealth characteristics, radar and infrared signature reduction systems.
- It has crash-resistant landing gear and an NBC-protected pressurised cabin.

### Combat and Operational Capabilities

- It **carries a 20 mm nose gun** capable of firing 800 rounds per minute up to 2 km.
- It includes a countermeasure dispensing system to evade enemy missiles.
- It is customised for desert and high-altitude warfare requirements.

**Miscellaneous**

## MANGALURU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – ASQ AWARD 2025

TH The Hindu

Mangaluru International Airport wins ACI's award for the second consecutive time

Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) is among six airports in the world chosen for Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award – 2025 in the 'Best...



### Why in News

- **Mangaluru International Airport (MIA)** has been selected among **six global airports** for the **ASQ Award 2025** in the **'Best Airport at Arrivals'** category.
- The award is conferred by **Airports Council International (ACI) World**.

### About the ASQ Awards

- **ASQ (Airport Service Quality) Awards** are a global benchmark for **passenger satisfaction**.
- Rankings are based on **real-time passenger feedback surveys** independently administered by **ACI World**.
- The arrivals category evaluates:
  - Immigration efficiency
  - Baggage delivery timelines
  - Cleanliness and terminal ambience
  - Signage and wayfinding
  - Overall passenger comfort

### Global Recognition and Ceremony

- In **2025, 100 airports** have been recognised with **195 awards**.
- The ceremony will be held in **Istanbul, Türkiye**, during the **ACI World Airport Experience Summit (August 31–September 4, 2026)**.
- This marks the **second consecutive year** MIA has won the arrivals award.

### Institutional and Operational Aspects

- Managed by **Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL)**.
- Recognition reflects improvements in **process optimisation, digital initiatives and staff training**.
- Better coordination with government agencies has reduced **turnaround time** and improved **passenger flow efficiency**.

## GOONJ 2026 – UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

 News On AIR

### University of Jammu Launches 3rd Edition of Multi-Genre Youth Festival Goonj 2026



The University of Jammu is going to organise 3rd edition of its flagship multi-genre youth festival, Goonj 2026 from today.

#### Why in News

- The **University of Jammu** will host the third edition of its multi-genre youth festival **Goonj 2026**.

#### Academic and Participation Highlights

- Around **600 students** from affiliated colleges and departments will participate.
- The University's **42 disciplines** will present research and best practices.

#### Governance Context

- The University is located in the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- In UTs, the **Lieutenant Governor** generally serves as Chancellor of state universities.

#### Educational Significance

- Launched in **2024**, the festival promotes holistic development.
- It aligns with co-curricular reforms under **NEP 2020**.

## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

### URBAN AFFORESTATION IN VARANASI (NAMO VAN PROJECT)

#### Why in News

- **Varanasi Municipal Corporation** entered the **Guinness World**

**Records** by planting **2.51 lakh saplings within 60 minutes** along the Ganga riverfront.

 Moneycontrol.com

Varanasi plants 2.51 lakh saplings in one hour, sets Guinness world record

On March 1, 2025, a total of 2.51 lakh saplings were planted within one hour using the Miyawaki method, surpassing China's previous record...



## Record and Geographical Facts

- The plantation was conducted in the **Domari area** along the Ganga.
- It surpassed China's previous record of **1.53 lakh saplings in one hour**.
- The project spans nearly **350 bighas of land**.
- More than **20,000 residents** participated in the drive.



## Miyawaki Method and Ecological Features

- The **Miyawaki method** promotes dense plantation of native species.
- **Nearly 3 lakh trees** are planned under the project.
- The plantation includes **2.5 lakh Miyawaki saplings, 10,000 timber trees, and 40,000 fruit-bearing trees**.
- Dense forests grow faster and enhance biodiversity compared to conventional plantations.

## Governance and Economic Dimensions

- The project integrates a **4 km walking track**, yoga zones, and public amenities.
- It includes a **4-hectare flower park and 2-hectare herbal park**.
- Estimated annual revenue is projected **at ₹2 crore by the third year**, rising to **₹7 crore by the seventh year**.
- The initiative supports India's commitments under **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.

## Environmental and Policy Implications

- Urban forests improve air quality and enhance climate resilience.
- Riverbank plantations support erosion control along the Ganga.
- Replication in other cities can support sustainable urban planning under national missions.