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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC



31st May 2026

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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**
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1. LOGISTICS PORT PERFORMANCE INDEX (LPPI)

ANI News

[DPA Kandla receives 'Sagar Aankalan' Award from Sarbananda Sonowal for best performing port](#)

The Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla, on Sunday received the Sagar Aankalan Award from Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways...



In News: Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the LPPI for FY 2024-25 along with 4 digital initiatives.

What is it?

- LPPI is a **national benchmarking mechanism** to assess and improve operational performance of Indian ports. It is developed under the **Sagar Aankalan framework (2024)**.

Key Parameters Evaluated

- Ports are evaluated across 3 cargo segments:
 - **Dry Bulk Cargo** (e.g., coal, grain, ore)
 - **Liquid Bulk Cargo** (e.g., petroleum, chemicals)
 - **Container Cargo** (measured in TEUs — Twenty-foot Equivalent Units)

Operational Indicators used:

- Cargo handled — total volume processed
- Vessel Turnaround Time — time a ship spends in port from arrival to departure
- Berth Idle Time — time when the berth is vacant/unused
- Pre-berthing Waiting Time — time a ship waits before getting a berth
- Container Dwell Time — time containers stay in the port terminal
- Ship Berth Day Output — cargo output per ship per day

Equal weightage (50:50) is given to **absolute performance** and **year-on-year improvement** — ensuring continuous growth is rewarded.

Rankings - FY 2024-25

- **Dry Bulk:** Paradip Port Authority (>5 million tonnes)
- **Liquid Bulk:** Sikka Port and Terminals
- **Container Cargo (1st):** Mundra Port (>0.5 million TEUs)
- **Container Cargo (2nd):** Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)

Policy Links

- Aligns with **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, Maritime India Vision 2030**, and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.

Ship Recycling Credit Scheme

- Part of the **Rs 70,000-crore maritime development package (2025)**. Ship owners recycling vessels at **Hong Kong Convention-compliant** Indian yards receive a credit note equal to **40% of scrap value**, redeemable for new shipbuilding in India.

2. SKYCAST SYSTEM

DD News

[Mission Mausam gets major boost as India launches first SkyCast system at IGI Airport](#)

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh on Friday inaugurated India's first "SkyCast"...



In News: Union Minister of Earth Sciences inaugurated India's first SkyCast system at IGI Airport, New Delhi.

What is it?

- SkyCast is an **advanced integrated aviation weather monitoring system** developed under **Mission Mausam**. It evolved from the **Winter Fog Experiment (WiFEX)**, jointly initiated by **IITM and IMD** at IGI Airport in **2015**.
- India becomes the **19th country in the world** to deploy this kind of advanced aviation weather system.

Key Components

- **Radar Wind Profiler:** Core component which measures wind speed, direction, turbulence, vertical velocity, and boundary-layer dynamics.
- **GFAS (Ground-based Fog Aerosol Spectrometer):** Monitors fog droplets, aerosols, and their interactions.
- **CL61 Lidar-based Ceilometer:** Monitors vertical fog structure and visibility in real time.

What it can do

- Assesses atmospheric conditions from the surface up to **~10 km altitude**.
- Generates parameters like **wind shear, turbulence, fog formation indicators, icing potential**.
- Provides **real-time weather intelligence to pilots**, reducing flight delays, diversions and cancellations caused by fog.
- Supports **AI-enabled decision support systems**, urban weather forecasting, pollution management and disaster preparedness.

3. UNCLAIMED ASSETS PORTAL



[Department of Financial Services Launches Common Landing Portal for Unclaimed Financial Assets](#)

Department of Financial Services Launches Common Landing Portal for Unclaimed Financial Assets. Single unified online platform for citizens...



In News: Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance launched the Unclaimed Assets Portal.

About the Portal

- A **unified platform** to search for unclaimed financial assets, developed by DFS in collaboration with the **Public Sector Bank Alliance (PSBA)**.
- Covers: **unclaimed bank deposits, insurance claims, shares, dividends, and mutual funds** across the financial ecosystem.
- Part of the campaign **“Your Money, Your Right” run** by DFS in coordination with financial regulators and banks.

What is PSBA?

- PSBA (Public Sector Bank Alliance) is a **centralised umbrella organisation jointly promoted by all 12 Public Sector Banks** in India. It delivers tech-driven, secure services to the banking sector. Previously developed the **Doorstep Banking Services platform**.

4. LOKAYAN 26



[INS Sudarshini arrives at Antigua after historic trans-Atlantic passage under Lokayan 26 expedition](#)

INS Sudarshini arrived at Antigua yesterday after successfully completing a historic trans-Atlantic passage as part of the ongoing Lokayan...



In News: INS Sudarshini visited Antigua after completing a historic trans-Atlantic passage as part of Lokayan 26.

About the Expedition

- **Lokayan 26** is a **10-month transoceanic expedition** of INS Sudarshini.
- Embarked on **20 January 2026 from Kochi**; will cover **22,000 nautical miles**, visiting **18 foreign ports across 13 countries**.
- Over **200 Indian Navy and Coast Guard trainees** will undergo intensive sail training during the voyage.

- Mission: Strengthen India's maritime cooperation and advance the **MAHASAGAR vision** (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

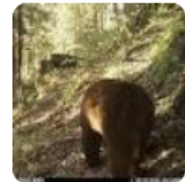
About INS Sudarshini

- Indigenously built **Sail Training Ship (STS)**, built by **Goa Shipyard Limited**.
- Based at **Kochi, Kerala** under the **Southern Naval Command**. Commissioned on **27 January 2012**.
- Endurance: Up to **20 continuous days at sea**. Trains sailors in survival, rough weather, and seamanship.

5. GAMGUL SIYABEHI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

 The Times of India

[Himalayan brown bears confirmed after decades in Chamba sanctuary](#)



Chamba: For the first time since the issuance of notification of the Gamgul Siyabehi Wildlife Sanctuary in Chamba in 1974, wildlife...

In News: *A rare Himalayan Brown Bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus) was captured on camera inside this sanctuary in Chamba, HP.*

Location & Overview

- Located in **Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh**. Established in **1962**. Situated within the catchment of **Siul Nala** (a tributary of the **Ravi River**). Altitude ranges from **1,800 to 3,900 metres**. Its northern end adjoins **Union Territory of J&K**.

Vegetation

- Western Mixed Coniferous Forests, Moist Temperate Deciduous Forests, Kharsu Oak Forest, Birch/Rhododendron Forests, and **Alpine Pastures**. **Deodar forests** dominate the higher altitudes.

Fauna

- **Special sighting:** Himalayan Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*) are rare and significant.
- Others: Asiatic Black Bear, Common Leopard, Ibex, Himalayan Tahr, Musk Deer, Red Fox, Pheasants.
- **Unique fact:** The **Kashmir Stag (Hangul)** has been reported here, the **only such record in Himachal Pradesh**.

6. NICKEL

 The Times of India

[In 1961, scientists heated a twisted nickel-titanium strip and uncovered Nitinol's hidden memory.](#)



Science News: In 1961, scientists unveiled Nitinol, a groundbreaking nickel-titanium alloy with a unique shape memory property.

- **In News:** India's EV and stainless-steel sectors face rising nickel prices due to West Asia conflict.

Basic Facts

- **Chemical Symbol: Ni** | **Atomic Number: 28** | **Group 10, Transition Metal.** Silver-white shiny metal; **5th most common element on Earth.**
- Occurs in **laterite deposits, sulphide ores**, soil, water, and even meteorites. In India, occurs principally as oxides, sulphides, and silicates.
- **India's reserves: Sukinda region, Odisha** (lateritic nickel ore are one of the largest deposits in Asia).


Global Distribution

- **Indonesia (22%)** > **Australia (21%)** > Brazil (17%) > Russia (7%) > Cuba (6%) > Philippines (5%).

Key Properties & Uses

- **Stainless Steel:** alloyed with chromium to produce stainless and heat-resisting steels.
- **Electric Vehicles:** Critical in EV batteries (NMC - Nickel Manganese Cobalt cathodes).
- **Batteries:** Used in nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd) and nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries for hybrid vehicles.
- **Electroplating:** Forms protective coatings on other metals.

7. BANNI GRASSLAND

 The Hindu

[Gujarat's Banni grasslands: A heap of broken images, where the sun beats](#)

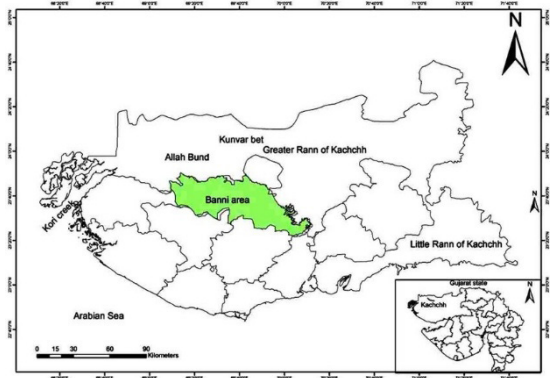


Merubai Husain Jat explains her community's relationship with the Banni grasslands simply: "Sukh ho ya dukh ho, hamare liye Banni he sab..."

- **In News:** NTPC's proposed solar project in Banni Grassland threatens one of Asia's most fragile ecosystems.

Location & Overview


- Located along the **northern border of Kachchh (Kutch) district, Gujarat**. One of **Asia's largest tropical dry grasslands**. Contains **Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Chhari Dhand Conservation Reserve** within its boundaries.
- Home to **22 ethnic groups** predominantly pastoralists like **Maldharis, Rabaris, Jats, Mutwas, and Meghwals**.
- Biodiversity: **37 grass species, 275 bird species**, domesticated animals (buffalo, sheep, camel, horses), and diverse wildlife.



Flora & Fauna

- **Dominant flora: Prosopis juliflora** (invasive species — a major ecological threat here), Cressa critica, Cyperus, Sporobolus, Dichanthium, Aristida.
- **Wildlife:** Nilgai, Chinkara, **Blackbuck, Indian Wolf, Caracal, Asiatic Wildcat, Desert Fox**, Golden Jackal, Wild Boar, Indian Hare.

8. LAVENDER CULTIVATION

 The Tribune

[Lavender Festival 2026 to be held in J&Ks Baderwah valley on June 6-7](#)

Lavender festival has emerged as a national platform showcasing the transformation brought by the 'Purple Revolution' in remote Himalayan...



- **In News:** CSIR-IIIM, Jammu is set to organise the 4th Lavender Festival under theme 'Lavender goes global'.

About Lavender

- Genus: **Lavandula** (47 species). Family: **Lamiaceae (mint family)**. A small, **perennial aromatic herb/shrub** with blue, violet or lilac flowers.
- Native to **Europe**, but introduced in **Jammu & Kashmir** by the **CSIR Aroma Mission**. Associated with the '**Purple Revolution**' in J&K.
- One plant bears flowers for **up to 15 years**, can be harvested from Year 2. Highly **drought and frost tolerant** — ideal for marginal lands.

Growing Conditions

- **Climate:** Cool winters and cool summers; tolerates frost and drought.
- **Soil:** Light, well-aerated, neutral to alkaline, free-draining; very sensitive to waterlogging.
- **Rainfall:** 300 to 1,400 mm per year.

Uses

- Food & flavouring, pharmaceuticals (aromatherapy), **cosmetics and essential oils**, industrial purposes.

9. BORDER SECURITY FORCE (BSF)

Telangana Today

Govt mulling expansion of border security force operational mandate: Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the government is planning a new “territorial security” framework integrating BSF, police, military and...



- **In News:** Government is considering assigning additional areas of responsibility to BSF to address emerging security challenges.

Key Facts

- One of the **seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** under **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- Raised on **1 December 1965**, in the wake of the **1965 India-Pakistan War**.
- Motto: **“Duty Unto Death”**. Head: **Director General (DG)** — must be an **IPS officer**.
- Deployed at: **Indo-Pakistan Border, Indo-Bangladesh Border, Line of Control (LoC)**, and **Anti-Naxal Operations**.

Unique Features

- **Only CAPF** to have its own **Air Wing, Marine Wing, and Artillery Regiments**.
- Has a **Camel Wing** for operations in the Rann of Kutch (India-Pakistan desert border).
- Has a **Dog Wing** to expand reach in varied terrain.

Powers (Acts)

- BSF has arrest, search, and seizure powers under: **Passport Act 1967, Passport (Entry into India) Act 1920, Customs Act, NDPS Act, and Arms Act**.

10. HOG DEER

◆ The Indian Express

'Something this rare': Assam CM spotlights albino hog deer sighting in Kaziranga



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently shared a video capturing an incredibly rare albino hog deer sighting in Kaziranga National...

In News: Assam CM highlighted a rare albino Hog Deer sighting in Kaziranga National Park.

About the Species

- Named for its **hog-like manner of running** where head hung low, ducking under obstacles instead of jumping. Scientific name: **Axis porcinus**.
- Solitary animal; exhibits **sexual dimorphism** (females smaller and lack antlers). Males are territorial, marking territory via glandular secretions. **Largely sedentary**, does not migrate.

Habitat & Distribution

- Prefers **tall riverine grasslands (Terai belt)**, dense forests and clearings.
- Native to **India (Himalayan foothills), Myanmar, Thailand** and Southeast Asia.
- Introduced populations in Sri Lanka, Australia, and USA (Texas, Florida, Hawaii).

Conservation Status

- **IUCN: Endangered** | Wildlife **Protection Act 1972: Schedule I** (highest protection).
- Found in **Kaziranga National Park, Assam** which also hosts one-horned rhino, tiger, and elephant.
- Albino sightings are **extremely rare**, albinism results from absence of melanin pigmentation.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

UP GETS FULL-TIME DGP AFTER FOUR YEARS

Why in News?

- **Rajeev Krishna, 1991-batch IPS officer**, was appointed **full-time DGP of Uttar Pradesh** on 1 June 2026 — ending a **4-year vacuum** since the removal of **Mukul Goel in 2022**.

Key Facts

- **Last full-time DGP:** Mukul Goel who was removed in 2022 for alleged inefficiency.
- **5 acting DGPs** served between 2022–2026: DS Chauhan, RK Vishwakarma, Vijay Kumar, Prashant Kumar, Krishna.
- **Selection process:** UPSC sent a panel of 3 senior-most IPS officers; state picks from the list as mandated by SC in **Prakash Singh case (2006)**.
- **Rajeev Krishna** had been **acting DGP since 31 May 2025**. Retires in **June 2029**.

About Rajeev Krishna

- **Founded UP ATS** (Anti-Terrorist Squad) in **2008** and become its first head.
- Headed **BSF's Jammu frontier**, a critical border zone near Pakistan.
- Oversaw recruitment of **60,000 police personnel** amid paper-leak controversies.
- Priorities set as acting DGP: **cybercrimes, crimes against women, tech-based policing, traffic management**.

Key Facts

- **Prakash Singh vs Union of India (2006):** SC directed states to appoint DGPs from a UPSC panel with **minimum 2-year tenure**, UP violated this for 4 years.
- **Police = State List (Entry 2)**, Seventh Schedule. But **IPS = All India Service** under **Article 312** -> recruited centrally, cadre-allocated to states.
- **UP Police = largest police force in India**.