

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

06-06-2026

SCREW PINE (KEWRA)

 Down To Earth

[Conflict in the backyard: In Odisha, wild boars push farmers from paddy to kewra cultivation](#)

In Odisha's Ganjam district, rising wild boar attacks are forcing farmers to abandon paddy and shift to kewra cultivation, declare crop...

Why in News

- Farmers in **Odisha's Ganjam district** are shifting from paddy cultivation to **Kewra (Screw Pine) cultivation** due to recurring crop damage by wild boars.

Botanical Profile

- Screw Pine or Kewra is scientifically known as **Pandanus odorifer**.
- It belongs to the **Pandanaceae** family and is a **monocotyledonous plant**.
- It is more closely related to grasses and palms than to coniferous trees.
- The plant is a small branched tree or shrub with characteristic **prop roots**.

Ecological Importance

- It naturally grows in **tropical coastal ecosystems**.
- Dense root systems help stabilize sand dunes and **prevent coastal erosion**.
- It functions as a natural bio-shield against coastal hazards.
- It supports biodiversity and acts as a keystone species in coastal landscapes.

Distribution and Climate Requirements


- It is found in southern India, Myanmar and the **Andaman Islands**.
- It grows extensively along Odisha's **Ganjam coast** between the **Rushikulya** and **Bahuda** rivers.
- It requires warm, humid conditions with bright sunlight.
- It prefers loamy soils rich in organic matter.
- Annual rainfall of about **1,500–2,000 mm** is considered suitable.



Economic Applications

- Male flowers are used for extraction of **Kewra oil and attar**.
- It is widely used in perfumery, cosmetics, food flavouring and Ayurvedic medicines.
- Leaves are used in making mats, baskets and bags.
- **Pandanus odorifer** (syn. **Pandanus fascicularis**) is the principal commercial source of Kewra oil in India.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR E-GOVERNANCE (NAEG)

 The Economic Times

[Seventeen projects, initiatives selected for National Awards for e-Governance](#)

Seventeen projects will receive National Awards for e-Governance 2026. These awards recognize outstanding digital governance initiatives.



Why in News

- The Union Government announced winners of the **National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026**, recognizing 16 outstanding digital governance projects.

Institutional Framework

- NAeG was instituted in **2003** to promote excellence in e-governance.

- The awards are administered by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**.
- The nodal ministry is the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.

Award Structure

- Gold awardees receive **₹10 lakh**, a trophy and a certificate.
- Silver awardees receive **₹5 lakh**, a trophy and a certificate.
- Award funds are utilized for public welfare initiatives and resource-gap bridging.

Governance Focus Areas

- Digital transformation through government process re-engineering.
- Use of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and emerging technologies for citizen-centric services.
- **Cybersecurity innovations** in e-governance.
- District-level and grassroots digital governance initiatives.
- Replication and scaling of successful mission-mode projects.
- Data analytics-driven governance reforms.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (APEDA)

Why in News

- APEDA facilitated the first sea shipment of botanical-infused ready-to-cook millet functional foods from Karnataka to New Zealand.

DD News

[India's 1st-ever sea shipment of value-added millet heads for New Zealand](#)

In a significant boost to India's food exports, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has...



Statutory Status

- APEDA was established under the **APEDA Act, 1985**.

- It became operational on **13 February 1986**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

Organisational Features

- Headquarters are located in **New Delhi**.
- It is headed by a Chairman appointed by the Central Government.
- It maintains **15 regional offices** across India.

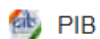
Core Functions

- It develops and promotes exports of scheduled agricultural products.
- It prescribes standards and specifications for export commodities.
- It registers exporters and conducts quality inspections.
- It undertakes surveys, feasibility studies and industry development activities.
- It provides financial assistance and export-related guidance.

Organic Export Promotion

- APEDA serves as the Secretariat of the **National Accreditation Board (NAB)**.
- It supports implementation of the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**.
- It facilitates accreditation of certification bodies for organic exports.

NATIONAL E-VIDHAN APPLICATION (NEVA)



[West Bengal Legislative Assembly Signs MoU for Implementation of National e-Vidhan Application \(NeVA\)](#)

A Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the West Bengal Legislative...



Why in News

- The **West Bengal Legislative Assembly** signed an MoU for implementation of **NeVA**.

Digital Governance Initiative

- NeVA is a digital platform for paperless functioning of State Legislatures.
- It is one of the 44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under the Digital India Programme.
- It operates under the vision of “One Nation, One Application.”

Legislative Modernisation

- It digitizes legislative documents, notices, bills and proceedings.
- It assists presiding officers in efficient conduct of House business.
- It enables members to access information through a unified platform.

Technological Features

- The platform is hosted on MeghRaj 2.0, India's cloud infrastructure.
- It provides real-time access to agendas, bills and reports.
- It contains a secure digital repository for legislative records.
- It supports multilingual functionality across states.
- It is accessible through smartphones, tablets, laptops and desktops.

Important Facts

- NeVA 2.0 includes AI/ML-based real-time translation and speech-to-text capabilities.
- Nagaland Legislative Assembly became the first fully paperless assembly under NeVA.

NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL (NEC)

Why in News

- The 73rd Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council commenced in Shillong.

 News On AIR

[HM Amit Shah asks NE CMs to focus on AI, machine learning for new generations](#)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today instructed the Chief Ministers of North Eastern states to shift the focus from law and order to...



Legal Foundation

- NEC was established under the **North Eastern Council Act, 1971**.
- It functions as the nodal institution for regional development in Northeast India.



Composition

- It comprises all eight Northeastern states.
- **Sikkim** became the eighth member through the **NEC (Amendment) Act, 2002**.
- The **Union Home Minister** serves as Ex-Officio Chairman.
- The **Minister of State for DoNER** serves as Ex-Officio Vice-Chairman.

Developmental Role

- It acts as the apex regional planning body for the Northeast.
- It promotes coordinated economic and social development.
- It strengthens **cooperative federalism** through Centre-State coordination.
- Headquarter: **Shillong, Meghalaya**.
- Members include Governors, Chief Ministers and three Presidential nominees.

PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA (PMKVY)

TH The Hindu

[House panel pulls up government over PMKVY mismatch between training and demand](#)

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), headed by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, pulled up the government over its flagship...

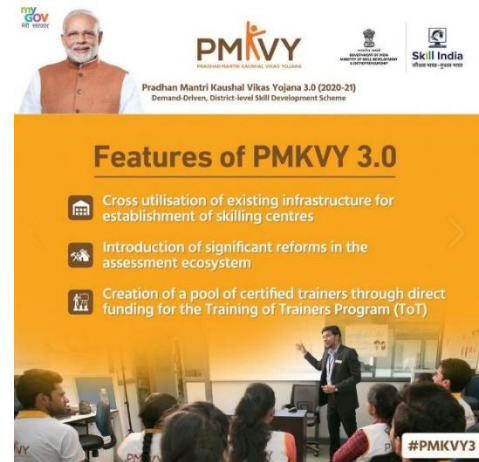


Why in News

- The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** reviewed the performance of PMKVY and raised concerns regarding implementation outcomes.

Scheme Overview

- PMKVY was launched in 2015.
- It is the flagship skill development scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- It seeks to provide industry-relevant skills and improve employability.



Implementation Framework

- It is implemented through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and partner institutions.
- It promotes demand-driven skill training aligned with industry needs.

Beneficiary Focus

- Individuals aged 14–35 years are generally eligible.
- Priority is given to unemployed and underemployed youth.
- It accommodates learners from diverse educational backgrounds.

Key Features

- Industry experts periodically update training modules.
- Short-term training programmes facilitate rapid skill acquisition.
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) certifies existing skills.
- Placement assistance is provided to trained candidates.

MY BHARAT PLATFORM

Why in News

- The MY Bharat Platform received a Guinness World Record for the highest participation in an online quiz within one week.



Institutional Framework

- MY Bharat stands for **Mera Yuva Bharat**.
- It is an autonomous body under the **Department of Youth Affairs**.
- It is registered under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.



Youth-Centric Approach

- The platform caters primarily to youth aged **15–29 years**.
- It supports both youth development and youth-led development.
- It promotes participation in nation-building initiatives.

Digital Features

- It provides access to mentorship, networking and learning opportunities.
- Youth can create skill-based digital profiles.
- It links users with businesses, government bodies and NGOs.
- It enables experiential learning beyond classroom education.

Governance Relevance

- It contributes to the vision of **Viksit Bharat** through youth engagement.
- It creates a technology-enabled ecosystem for community transformation.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Why in News

- The Prime Minister extended greetings on **World Environment Day 2026**.



[World Environment Day: 5 Electric Cars Celebrities Chose - You Can Buy Them Too](#)

Multiple celebrities in India own electric vehicles, which can also be your choice; here are a few options from brands like Mahindra,...



Historical Evolution

- World Environment Day is observed annually on **5 June**.

- It was established during the **1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment** held in Stockholm.
- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** was also established in 1972.
- The first celebration took place in **1973**.

Institutional Significance

- It is led globally by **UNEP**.
- It promotes awareness and action on environmental protection.
- Each year a host nation coordinates the global campaign.

World Environment Day 2026

- Theme: **"Only One Earth."**
- Host Country: **Azerbaijan**.
- The campaign focuses on climate change and ecosystem degradation.

Important Facts

- The **UN General Assembly** officially designated 5 June as World Environment Day.
- The first World Environment Day theme was also **"Only One Earth"**.
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OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

<p>Places in News</p>	<p>Cambodia</p>
	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p> NDTV</p> <p><u>Cambodia Becomes 9th Country Where Indian Travellers Can Make UPI Payments</u></p> <p>Indian travellers visiting Cambodia can now make QR-based payments at over 4.5 million merchants across the country.</p> </div> <div style="float: right; text-align: center;"> </div> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPCI International partnered with ACLEDA Bank to enable UPI acceptance in Cambodia. <p>Geographical Location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia is located in the southern part of the Indo-China Peninsula in Southeast Asia.

- Capital city: **Phnom Penh**.
- It shares borders with **Thailand, Laos and Vietnam**.
- It is bounded by the **Gulf of Thailand** in the southwest.

Physical Features

- The country experiences a tropical savanna climate influenced by monsoons.
- Major mountain ranges include the **Dangrek**, **Krâvanh** and **Dâmrei** ranges.
- **Phnom Aural (1,810 m)** is the highest peak.



Hydrography and Resources


- The **Mekong River** is the principal river system.
- **Tonlé Sap Lake** is connected to the Mekong River.
- Important minerals include iron ore, copper and gold.

Cultural Heritage

- **Angkor Wat** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Preah Vihear Temple**, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is another UNESCO-listed site.


Environment

SIMILIPAL TIGER RESERVE

 The Times of India

[Rare image of a family of 4 black tigers spotted at this tiger reserve: What wildlife lovers should know](#)

A stunning wildlife pic from Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve is getting tons of attention. It shows an extremely rare sight: a melanistic...



Why in News

- Four rare black tigers were recently sighted in **Similipal Tiger Reserve** of Odisha.

Geographical Profile

- It is located in **Mayurbhanj district, Odisha**.

- The reserve derives its name from the **Simul (Silk Cotton) Tree**.
- It lies within the **Deccan Peninsular Biogeographic Zone**.
- It contains famous waterfalls such as **Joranda** and **Barehipani**.

Ecological Significance

- It represents a unique convergence of biodiversity from the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and Eastern Himalayas.
- It forms part of the **Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve**.
- The highest peaks are **Khairiburu** and **Meghashini (1515 m)**.

Biodiversity Features

- Moist mixed deciduous forests dominate the landscape.
- Sal is the dominant tree species.
- It contains tropical semi-evergreen forests, grasslands and dry deciduous patches.
- Around **7% of India's flowering plants** and **8% of its orchid species** occur here.

Faunal Diversity

- Major species include tiger, elephant, leopard and sambar.
- The reserve is known for its population of melanistic or black tigers.
- The **Hill Mynah** is an important avifaunal species of the reserve.

Uttar Pradesh in News

JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN BIRD SANCTUARY (SURHA TAL) – INDIA'S 100TH RAMSAR SITE

DD News

Surha Tal in UP's Ballia designated as India's 100th Ramsar site; PM Modi hails landmark

India has achieved a significant milestone in wetland conservation with the designation of the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha...



Why in News

- **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)** in **Ballia, Uttar Pradesh** has been designated as **India's 100th Ramsar Site**.
- The achievement highlights India's growing commitment to wetland conservation and biodiversity protection.

Geographical Significance

- Surha Tal is a natural freshwater wetland located in **Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh**.
- It is an important habitat for several **migratory and resident bird species**.
- The wetland is known for its rich **avifaunal biodiversity**.

Ramsar Convention

- The **Ramsar Convention (1971)** is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
- India became a contracting party to the Convention in **1982**.
- With Surha Tal's inclusion, India now has **100 Ramsar Sites**.

Ecological Importance

- Wetlands support biodiversity by providing habitats for birds, fish and aquatic species.
- They help in groundwater recharge, flood control and climate resilience.

- Wetlands act as natural carbon sinks and maintain ecological balance.

Conservation and Governance

- Wetland conservation in India is guided by the [Wetlands \(Conservation and Management\) Rules, 2017](#).
- Community participation, scientific management and awareness initiatives are strengthening wetland protection.
- Conserved wetlands support local livelihoods and sustainable ecosystem management.