



**Sanskriti IAS**



**DAILY**  
**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**

**6th Mar 2026**

**TOPICS:-**

- 1. Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD)**
- 2. Takydromus ultapanensis**
- 3. World Wildlife Day**
- 4. Census 2027 Mascots 'Pragati' and 'Vikas'**
- 5. Ravi Shankar Prasad to Head Lok Sabha Privileges Committee**
- 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**  
**sanskritiias.com**

## CASSAVA BROWN STREAK DISEASE (CBSD)

 Down To Earth

### Deadly cassava virus threatens food security across Africa

Weak clean-seed systems, whitefly transmission and climate pressures accelerating spread of Cassava Brown Streak Disease beyond historic...



### Why in News

- A recent **scientific study** warns that more than **one-third of Africa** is at risk from **Cassava Brown Streak Disease**, threatening cassava production and regional food security.

### Disease Profile and Scientific Basis

- **Cassava Brown Streak Disease** is a viral disease that damages **cassava tubers**, reducing yield and quality.
- It is caused by **Cassava Brown Streak Virus (CBSV)** and **Ugandan Cassava Brown Streak Virus (UCBSV)**.
- The disease was first identified in **coastal East Africa in the mid-20th century**.



### Transmission and Geographical Spread

- The virus spreads mainly through the **whitefly pest *Bemisia tabaci***.
- Efficient transmission occurs through **Sub-Saharan Africa 1 and 2 whitefly populations**.
- It is present in **Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, DR Congo, South Sudan, Malawi, and Zambia**.
- Spread also occurs through **infected cassava cuttings in weak clean-seed systems**.

### Symptoms and Agricultural Impact

- Symptoms appear **on leaves, stems and roots**, indicating systemic infection.
- Typical signs include **leaf chlorosis, brown stem streaks and dry root rot**.
- Root **necrosis often causes severe yield loss or total crop failure**.

### Control and Policy Relevance

- **Planting virus-free cassava cuttings** is the primary control strategy.
- Development of **CBSD-resistant cassava varieties** offers the most sustainable solution.

## TAKYDROMUS ULTAPANENSIS



NENow.in

<https://nenow.in> > Assam

### New grass lizard species discovered in Assam's Manas ...

2 days ago — The species, named *Takydromus ultapanensis*, was found in the Ultapani Reserve Forest in Kokrajhar district and formally described in the ... [Read more](#)

#### Why in News

- Researchers discovered a new species of **Asian grass lizard, *Takydromus ultapanensis***, in the **Manas Biosphere landscape in Assam**.

#### Discovery and Habitat

- The species was discovered in the **Ultapani Reserve Forest in Kokrajhar district, Assam**.
- It inhabits **lowland semi-evergreen forests mixed with waterlogged grasslands and fern patches**.
- Lizards were observed **basking on fern bushes in open areas intersected by seasonal water channels**.



#### Taxonomic Characteristics

- *Takydromus ultapanensis* differs from related species such as **T. khasiensis and T. sikkimensis**.
- Differences are identified through **distinct scale patterns, body proportions, and diagnostic head features**.

#### Conservation Concerns

- The species is currently **known from only one forest range**, which raises conservation concerns.
- Protection of **biodiversity-rich landscapes such as the Manas Biosphere Reserve** is crucial for safeguarding newly discovered species.

# WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

## Why in News

- The **Prime Minister of India** reaffirmed India's commitment to **wildlife conservation and sustainable practices** on **World Wildlife Day**.

TOI The Times of India

Beyond Big Cats: World Wildlife Day 2026 shines spotlight on medicinal and aromatic plants

World Wildlife Day is celebrated today, which focuses on the importance of protecting wild animals and plants across the world.



## Origin

- **World Wildlife Day (WWD)** is observed annually on **March 3** to celebrate wildlife and raise awareness about conservation.
- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** officially declared the day on **20 December 2013**, with the first celebration in **2014**.
- The date marks the anniversary of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**, signed on **3 March 1973**.



## Theme and Global Significance

- Theme for 2026 is “**Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods.**”
- The theme highlights the role of **plant-based medicines in traditional healthcare and cultural heritage**.
- Around **70–95% of people in developing countries** rely on **traditional medicine**, largely derived from plants.

## India's Biodiversity Importance

- India is among the **17 megadiverse countries** of the world.
- The country hosts around **15,000 medicinal plant species**, with about **8,000 used in traditional systems of medicine** such as **Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani**.
- Conservation of these plants supports **healthcare systems, biodiversity protection, and rural livelihoods**.

## CENSUS 2027 MASCOTS 'PRAGATI' AND 'VIKAS'

III The Hindu

### Census 2027 mascots 'Pragati' and 'Vikas' unveiled

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday (March 5, 2026) unveiled two mascots, 'Pragati' and 'Vikas', for the upcoming Population Census...



### Why in News

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** unveiled mascots **“Pragati”** (female) and **“Vikas”** (male) for **Census 2027** and launched digital platforms for India's **first fully digital census**.

### Mascots and Outreach

- **Pragati and Vikas** will act as **public awareness symbols** to make the census **citizen friendly**.
- They represent **gender equality and inclusive participation** in nation-building aligned with **Viksit Bharat 2047**.



### Digital Census Features

- **Census 2027** will be conducted using **secure mobile applications and digital platforms**, replacing paper-based enumeration.
- Citizens can submit data online through the **Self-Enumeration (SE) portal** and receive a **Self-Enumeration ID** for verification.

### Legal Basis and Key Feature

- Conducted under the **Census Act, 1948** and **Census Rules, 1990**.
- It will include **comprehensive caste enumeration**, the first such exercise since the **1931 Census**.

## RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD TO HEAD LOK SABHA PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

### Why in News

III The Hindu

### BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad to head Lok Sabha's Privileges Committee

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday (March 3, 2026) reconstituted the Committee of Privileges. The panel, tasked with examining issues...



- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** nominated **15 MPs** to the **Committee of Privileges**, effective **3 March 2026**, appointing **Ravi Shankar Prasad** as Chairperson.

### Role of the Committee

- The **Committee of Privileges** examines cases of **breach of parliamentary privilege or contempt of the House**.
- It can **summon individuals, call for documents, and conduct inquiries** before submitting reports to the House.

### Constitutional Basis

- **Parliamentary privileges** are provided under **Article 105 of the Constitution of India**.
- These privileges ensure **MPs can perform legislative functions without obstruction, intimidation, or interference**.

### Significance for Parliamentary Governance

- **Breach of privilege** occurs when actions obstruct MPs or undermine the **authority of Parliament**.
- The committee recommends **warnings, reprimands, or disciplinary measures**, protecting the **dignity and independence of Parliament**.

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

### Places in News

### GOLESTAN PALACE

#### Why in News

- Amid rising tensions in the **Middle East**, reports indicated structural damage in **Tehran, Iran**, including to the historic **Golestan Palace**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

#### Historical Evolution and Dynastic Significance

- It is a historic royal complex located in **Tehran, the capital of Iran**.
- The name **“Golestan”** derives from Persian words meaning **“rose garden” or “flower garden.”**
- The palace dates to the **16th century**, originally built as a **citadel during the Safavid dynasty**.
- It later became the **seat of government of the Qajar dynasty**, which came to power in **1779** and declared **Tehran as the capital**.



- The complex continued to be used during the **Pahlavi dynasty**, reflecting successive phases of Persian royal architecture.

### Architectural and Artistic Features

- The palace is renowned for its **intricate Persian tile work**, featuring **bright colours such as turquoise, cobalt blue, yellow, pink, and white**.
- Architectural spaces combine **Persian design traditions with European influences**, reflecting cultural exchanges during the **Qajar and Pahlavi periods**.

### Important Structures within the Complex

- These halls were used for **royal ceremonies, diplomatic receptions, and administrative functions**.
- The interiors showcase **mirrored decorations, ornate architecture, and royal artefacts**.

## Environment

### MUSA SIKKIMENSIS

 ddnews.gov.in

**Nagaland varsity's study highlights genetic richness of wild banana for climate-resilient farming**

Researchers at Nagaland University, the only Central varsity in the state, have conducted an extensive study on the genetic diversity of...



### Why in News

- Researchers at **Nagaland University** highlighted the **genetic potential of wild banana *Musa sikkimensis*** for developing **climate-resilient crops**.

### Distribution and Taxonomy

- It is a **wild banana species** of the family **Musaceae**.
- It is native to the **Eastern Himalayas and Northeast India**.
- It is commonly called **Darjeeling banana, Sikkim banana, or Himalayan banana**.

### Botanical Features

- It is a **tall evergreen perennial plant** with large **paddle-shaped leaves up to 3 m long**.
- The plant produces **pendulous deep maroon flowers about 60 cm long**.
- It is **not widely cultivated for edible fruits** but has strong genetic importance.

**Climatic Requirements**

- It grows best at **20–30°C temperature** with **50–60% humidity**.
- It tolerates cooler climates but **temperatures below 10°C can damage the plant**.

**NEWLY DISCOVERED EARTHWORM SPECIES**

**Why in News**

- Scientists have discovered two new earthworm species: **Moniligaster girishi** and **Drawida reynoldsi**.

**Species Identification and Habitat**

- It belongs to **family Moniligastridae** and is **endemic to the Western Ghats**.
- It was discovered in **tropical wet evergreen forests**.
- **Drawida reynoldsi** was found in **montane grasslands**.



**Ecological Importance of Earthworms**

- Earthworms belong to **class Oligochaeta** under **phylum Annelida**.
- They convert **organic matter into nutrient-rich humus**, improving soil fertility.
- Their burrowing activity **aerates soil and enhances water infiltration**, supporting agricultural productivity.

**Health**

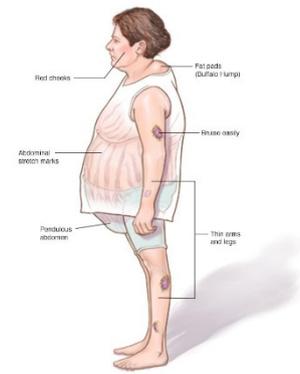
**CUSHING'S SYNDROME**

**Why in News**

- Recent studies report **new treatment options for Cushing's syndrome**, improving disease management.

**Disease Mechanism**

- **Cushing's syndrome** occurs due to **prolonged excess of cortisol hormone** in the body.
- **Cortisol**, produced by the **adrenal glands**, regulates **metabolism, blood pressure, immunity and stress response**.



### Major Causes

- The most common cause is **long-term use of steroid medicines** for conditions like **asthma, arthritis and autoimmune diseases**.
- Endogenous cases usually arise from a **non-cancerous tumour in the pituitary gland**, called **Cushing's disease**.
- Naturally occurring cases are more common in **women aged 30–50 years**.

### Symptoms and Health Effects

- Common symptoms include **weight gain around the abdomen and face and fat accumulation between shoulders**.
- Patients may develop **thin skin, purple stretch marks, high blood pressure and diabetes**.
- Long-term complications include **osteoporosis, fractures and mood disorders**.

### Treatment Approaches

- Treatment aims to **restore normal cortisol levels**.
- Doctors may **gradually reduce steroid medicines or remove cortisol-producing tumours through surgery**.

## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

### UP Secures ₹1 Lakh Crore Investment During Singapore Visit

**f** Fortune India

UP CM Yogi's Singapore, Japan visit secures ₹1.5 lakh crore in MoUs, ₹2.5 lakh crore in fresh investment proposals

The visit has resulted in investment commitments and proposals worth ₹4 lakh crore combined, marking a major push towards UP's ambition of...



### Why in News

- During an official visit to **Singapore**, **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath** secured **investment proposals worth nearly ₹1 lakh crore**, including **MoUs worth ₹60,000 crore** through **Invest UP**.



## Investment Profile

- Invest UP is the **state's nodal investment promotion and facilitation agency**.
- Proposed investments span **infrastructure, logistics, warehousing, urban development, fintech, data centres, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing**.
- Delegation engaged with **sovereign wealth funds, private equity firms, and institutional investors**.

## Strategic Infrastructure Focus

- Development of an **integrated economic ecosystem around Noida International Airport (Jewar Airport)** was emphasised.
- Proposed projects include **Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hubs, logistics parks, and industrial clusters**.

## Governance and Economic Impact

- The state highlighted reforms such as **single-window clearance systems, improved law and order, and regulatory simplification** to improve **Ease of Doing Business**.
- Investments are expected to generate **large-scale employment** and support **Uttar Pradesh's goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy**.