

# SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

07-06-2026

## JAN SAMARTH PORTAL

DD News

### [Jan Samarth turns four: Inside India's unified credit access portal](#)

Four years after its launch, the Jan Samarth Portal has evolved into a key digital gateway for individuals and businesses seeking credit...

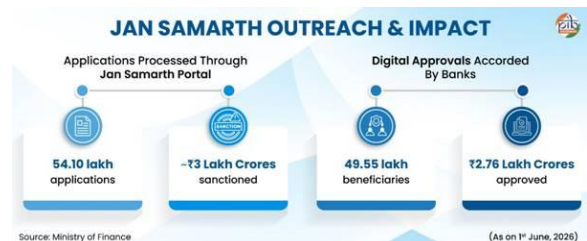


### Why in News

- **Jan Samarth Portal** has completed four years of its journey and continues to strengthen financial inclusion through seamless credit delivery.

### Financial Inclusion Architecture

- **Jan Samarth Portal** is a digital platform for **credit-linked government schemes** launched in **2022**.



- It aims to expand the reach of government-sponsored schemes and streamline credit delivery.
- It connects beneficiaries, financial institutions, government agencies, and nodal agencies through a unified platform.
- The portal uses **India Stack** components such as **Aadhaar e-KYC**, **DigiLocker**, **Account Aggregator**, and **UPI**.
- It has a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism for beneficiaries and banks.

### Digital Governance Features

- The portal functions as a digital marketplace integrated with centralized databases.

- It provides **24×7** loan application facilities with an inbuilt rule engine for approvals.
- The platform is available in **8 languages** to improve accessibility among rural and underprivileged populations.

### Credit Delivery Ecosystem

- It offers a single-window facility for **15 Credit-Linked Central Government Schemes**.
- Beneficiaries can choose from **254 Member Lending Institutions**, including all Public Sector Banks.
- The portal conducts eligibility checks, grants in-principle sanction, and forwards applications to selected bank branches.

## EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (EMRS)

 PIB

[NESTS signs MoU with CoGrad to strengthen AI-enabled academic support in Eklavya Model Residential Schools \(EMRS\)](#)



The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of...

### Why in News

- **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** signed an MoU with **Learning Links Foundation (LLF)** to implement the **Amazon Future Engineer (AFE)** programme in EMRSs.

### Institutional Framework

- **EMRS** is a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched in **1998**.
- It aims to provide quality residential education to **Scheduled Tribe (ST)** students from **Class VI to XII**.
- The scheme was revamped in **2018-19** to improve quality and geographical coverage.

### Governance Mechanism

- **NESTS** functions as an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.

- EMRSs are to be established in blocks having **more than 50% ST population** and at least **20,000 tribal persons**.

### Educational Features

- EMRSs are co-educational residential schools following the **CBSE curriculum**.
- Education is completely free and includes sports, skill development, and preservation of tribal culture.
- Each school has a capacity of **480 students** with equal seats for boys and girls.

### Reservation Provisions

- Up to **10% seats** may be allotted to non-ST students.
- **20% seats** are reserved under the sports quota for deserving tribal students.

## FORAMINIFERA

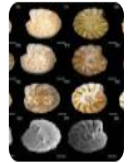
### Why in News

- Scientists at **Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune** discovered a new species named **Portatrochammina भारतensis**.

TOI The Times of India

[ARI experts find new species of forams that hold secrets to Earth's past climate on India's coast](#)

ARI Pune researchers used microscopy and DNA to identify three new Ammonia foraminifera species in Indian estuaries, aiding past climate...



### Biological Profile

- Foraminifera are single-celled marine organisms that have existed for over **500 million years**.
- They are among the most abundant and ecologically important oceanic organisms.

### Morphological Features

- Their shells contain numerous pores called **foramen**.
- They generally measure between **50–500 micrometres**.
- Most species move using **pseudopodia (false feet)**.

## Habitat and Ecology

- They occur in the open ocean, coastal waters, and estuaries.
- They may be **planktonic** or **benthic** in nature.
- Their diet includes bacteria, algae, diatoms, detritus, and tiny copepods.

## Scientific Significance

- They build complex shells called **tests** using materials obtained from their surroundings.
- Their fossil records are widely used in palaeoclimatic and marine geological studies.

## E85 FUEL

 PIB

[E85 rollout commences across 48 retail outlets of Public Sector OMCs; Save Money, Save Environment, Save Foreign Exchange!](#)

E85 rollout commences across 48 retail outlets of Public Sector OMCs; Save Money, Save Environment, Save Foreign Exchange!



## Why in News

- The Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas launched **E85 Fuel** at an IndianOil retail outlet in New Delhi.

## Fuel Composition and Technology

- **E85** contains **80–85% ethanol** and 14–19% petrol.
- It is specifically designed for **Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs)**.
- FFVs can operate on ethanol blends ranging from **E20 to E100**.



- E85 ethanol-blended petrol launched for Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs)
- Phase-I rollout across Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur



*E85 comprises of 80-85% ethanol and 14-19% motor gasoline. FFVs have an internal combustion engine capable of running on petrol or blend of petrol and ethanol.*

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## Energy Security Significance

- Higher ethanol use reduces dependence on imported crude oil.
- It promotes the utilization of domestically produced biofuels.
- It supports India's transition toward cleaner transportation fuels.

## Environmental Benefits

- E85 can reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by about **61%** compared to conventional petrol.
- It promotes cleaner combustion with near-zero particulate matter emissions.

## Technical Advantages

- Ethanol has a **Research Octane Number (RON)** of around **108**.
- Higher octane value improves knock resistance and engine efficiency.
- E10, E20, and E85 indicate **10%, 20%, and 80–85% ethanol blending**, respectively.

## SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY PARKS OF INDIA (STPI)

PIB

### [STPI Marks 35th Foundation Day; Organises Tech Summit 2026 to Shape India's Next Leap in Technology and Innovation](#)

STPI Marks 35th Foundation Day; Organises Tech Summit 2026 to Shape India's Next Leap in Technology and Innovation...



## Why in News

- **STPI Tech Summit 2026: India's Next Leap** was organized on the occasion of the **35th Foundation Day** of STPI.

## Institutional Profile

- **STPI** was established in **1991** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- It is a premier Science and Technology organization focused on software exports.

## Industrial Development Role

- STPI implements the **Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme** and **Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme**.
- It facilitates software development, exports, customs compliance, and foreign exchange regulations.

- It nurtures startups through **Centres of Entrepreneurship (CoEs)** and **Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS)**.

### Key Services

- It provides plug-and-play infrastructure for software exporters.
- It facilitates duty-free imports for export-oriented units.
- It assists companies in meeting export and regulatory obligations.

## INDIAN STUDENTS WIN THE EARTH PRIZE 2026 FOR 'PLAS-STICK'

ThePrint

### [What is 'Plas-Stick'—the invention which won 3 Indian teens the Earth Prize](#)

New Delhi: Three Indian teenagers have received the prestigious Earth Prize for their invention, Plas-Stick. The 16-year-olds developed a...



### Why in News

- Three Indian teenagers - **Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal, and Avyana Mehta**, won **The Earth Prize 2026** for developing **Plas-Stick**, a solution to remove microplastics from water.

### About Plas-Stick

- It is a biodegradable magnetic powder made from discarded **tamarind seed waste**.
- The powder binds microplastics into visible clumps when mixed with water.
- The clumps can be removed using a handheld magnet.
- It provides a sustainable and low-cost method for water purification.

### Environmental Importance

- It helps tackle the growing problem of **microplastic pollution** in drinking water.
- It promotes the reuse of agricultural waste and supports a circular economy.
- The innovation uses a nature-based and environmentally friendly approach.

## The Earth Prize

- The Earth Foundation was established in 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is the world's largest environmental sustainability competition for students aged 13–19 years.
- The competition offers a total prize pool of \$100,000.
- The Indian team became the first Indian global winner of the award.

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

### Places in News

### VENEZUELA

#### Why in News

- India and Venezuela discussed long-term cooperation in energy, pharmaceuticals, and critical minerals.

••• BBC

[Delcy Rodriguez: Will Venezuelan oil earn a permanent place in India's energy mix?](#)

Delcy Rodriguez's India visit highlights Venezuela's growing role in Delhi's oil diversification.




#### Geographical Location


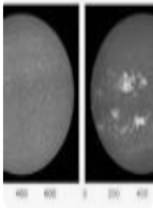
- Venezuela is located on the northern coast of South America.
- It borders Guyana, Brazil, and Colombia.
- It faces the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.



#### Important Physical Features

- Capital city: Caracas.
- Major physiographic regions include the Andes Mountains, Llanos, and Guiana Highlands.
- Highest peak: Pico Bolívar.



	<p><b>Hydrology and Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major rivers include the <b>Orinoco</b> and <b>Rio Negro</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Lake Maracaibo</b> is the largest lake in South America.</li> <li>• Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven oil reserves.</li> <li>• <b>Angel Falls</b>, the world's highest waterfall, is located in the <b>Guiana Highlands</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<b>NILGIRI TAHR</b>
	<p><b>Why in News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The third synchronised population survey estimated the <b>Nilgiri Tahr</b> population at <b>1,364 individuals</b>.</li> </ul>  <p><b>Distribution and Habitat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nilgiri Tahr is a mountain ungulate endemic to the <b>Western Ghats</b>.</li> <li>• It inhabits montane grasslands and <b>Shola forests</b> between <b>1200–2600 metres</b>.</li> <li>• Its range extends across <b>Kerala and Tamil Nadu</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Species Characteristics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is also known as <b>Nilgiri Ibex</b> or <b>Varayaadu</b>.</li> <li>• It is the only mountain ungulate found in southern India.</li> <li>• Both sexes possess curved horns, though males are larger and darker.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conservation Status</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IUCN Status: <b>Endangered</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I</b>.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major threats include habitat loss, deforestation, livestock competition, hydroelectric projects, and monoculture plantations.</li> <li><b>Eravikulam National Park</b> contains the largest surviving population.</li> </ul>
<b>Space</b>	<b>SOLAR CYCLE</b>
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 70%;"> <p> PIB</p> <p><a href="#"><u>100 Years of solar data traces new clues on how the Sun's surface tracks its 11-Year Activity Cycle</u></a></p> <p>The Kodaikanal solar observatory, known for the oldest continuous series of solar data collected in India, have helped uncover how giant...</p> </div> <div style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <p><b>Why in News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Researchers from the <b>Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)</b> studied supergranulation behaviour using data from the <b>Kodaikanal Solar Observatory</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Scientific Basis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Solar Cycle is an approximately <b>11-year cycle</b> driven by the Sun's magnetic field.</li> <li>It is measured through the frequency and intensity of <b>sunspots</b>.</li> <li>The Sun's magnetic poles reverse approximately every <b>11 years</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cycle Stages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Solar Minimum</b> represents the phase with the fewest sunspots.</li> <li><b>Solar Maximum</b> represents the phase with the highest sunspot activity.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Impact on Earth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar activity influences solar radiation, cosmic rays, and ozone distribution.</li> <li>• It can affect Earth's climatic conditions and space weather systems.</li> </ul> <p><b>Supergranulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supergranulation is a cellular pattern on the Sun with a horizontal scale of about <b>30,000 km</b>.</li> <li>• It has a lifespan of around <b>1.8 days</b> and was discovered by Hart (1954).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Science and Technology</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (ANRF)</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p> News On AIR</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#"><u>ANRF Portal announced for Training in Patent Filing and Research Paper Writing</u></a></p> <p>Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today announced an Anusandhan National Research Foundation-ANRF supported digital portal...</p> </div>  <p><b>Why in News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANRF-supported digital portal will facilitate patent filing support and research paper writing assistance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Institutional Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANRF was established under the <b>Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023</b>.</li> <li>• It functions under the <b>Department of Science and Technology (DST)</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)</b> has been merged into ANRF.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It promotes research, innovation, and R&amp;D culture across universities and research institutions.</li> </ul>

- It acts as an apex body for strategic direction of scientific research under the vision of **NEP 2020**.

#### Funding Framework

- ANRF aims to mobilise **₹50,000 crore** during **2023–28**.
- Funding sources include the **ANRF Fund, Innovation Fund, Science and Engineering Research Fund**, and **Special Purpose Funds**.

#### Collaborative Role

- ANRF promotes collaboration among industry, academia, government departments, and research institutions.