

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

01-07-2026

India Today NE

Centre launches 'Ayushman Sarathi' WhatsApp chatbot for PM-JAY services

The Centre has launched Ayushman Sarathi, the official PM-JAY WhatsApp chatbot for citizens. It is intended to speed up access,...

Ayushman Sarathi

Why in News

- The Government of India launched **Ayushman Sarathi**, the official **PM-JAY WhatsApp chatbot**, to provide digital access to healthcare services.

Digital Health Governance

- **Ayushman Sarathi** is a WhatsApp chatbot developed by the **National Health Authority (NHA)**.
- It provides beneficiaries direct access to services under **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**.
- The platform is built on secure **API-based integration** with existing PM-JAY systems.

Citizen-Centric Service Delivery

- It enables beneficiaries to check **PM-JAY eligibility** and apply for **Ayushman Cards**.
- Users can complete **eKYC**, link **Aadhaar**, and lock or unlock PM-JAY cards.
- It offers **24×7 access** to scheme services without requiring physical visits.

Health Coverage Features

- Beneficiaries aged **70 years and above** can access the **Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card**.

- Users can view treatment history, wallet balance, and nearby empanelled hospitals.
- The chatbot supports grievance registration, tracking, withdrawal, feedback submission, and callback requests.
- Beneficiaries can access the service by sending “Hi” to +91 72908 23838.

Malaprabha River

DH Deccan Herald

[Malaprabha river dries up, leaving farmers, villages in distress](#)

Malaprabha River water scarcity: Farmers and villages in Guledagudda face severe distress as the riverbed dries up due to poor Naviluteertha...



Why in News

- The **Malaprabha River** in Karnataka has recently dried up in some stretches, affecting communities along its banks.

Geographical Profile

- **Malaprabha River** is an important tributary of the **Krishna River**.
- It originates at **Kanakumbi village** in the **Sahyadri Range (Western Ghats)** at an elevation of **792 m**.
- The river has a total length of **304 km**.



Drainage Characteristics

- The river flows eastward and northeast before joining the Krishna at **Kudala Sangama** in **Bagalkot district**.
- Major tributaries include **Bennihalla**, **Hirehalla**, and **Tuprihalla**.
- The **Renukasagar Dam** is built across the river.

Cultural Significance

- The source region is associated with the **Shri Mauli Devi Temple**.
- The river basin contains the historic temple complexes of **Aihole**, **Pattadakal**, and **Badami**, important centres of **Chalukyan architecture**.

Academic Bank of Credit (ABC)

DD India

Academic Bank of Credits and APAAR Strengthen India's Digital Education Ecosystem

The Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) are emerging as key pillars of India's...



Why in News

- The **Academic Bank of Credit (ABC)** and **APAAR** are strengthening India's digital academic records ecosystem.

Educational Reform Framework

- ABC is a digital platform created by the **Ministry of Education** and regulated by the **UGC**.
- It supports the goals of **NEP 2020** and the **National Credit Framework (NCrF)**.
- It stores, transfers, manages, and redeems academic credits digitally.

Operational Mechanism

- Students receive a unique **ABC ID/APAAR ID** linked to **Aadhaar** and **DigiLocker**.
- Higher Education Institutions upload student credits directly to the portal.
- Credits can be accumulated and transferred across recognised institutions.

Academic Flexibility

- ABC enables **Multiple Entry and Exit (MEE)** provisions under **NEP 2020**.
- Students can earn up to 40% credits through **SWAYAM**.
- It facilitates seamless academic mobility among institutions.

Institutional Architecture

- Credits remain valid for up to **7 years** unless discipline-specific rules apply.
- Academic records are stored through the **National Academic Depository (NAD)**.
- Credit redemption and certification are handled by educational institutions.

Conservation Concerns

- **IUCN Status: Least Concern.**
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule II.**
- Major threats include habitat fragmentation, feral dogs, disease transmission, and persecution during traditional festivals.

Bengal Fox

The Hindu

Tamil Nadu's elusive Bengal foxes and their shrinking space

In traditional Sangam literature, references to the iconic Bengal fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*) speak of their ubiquity in the dry,...



Why in News

- Researchers in Tamil Nadu have reported no recent sightings of the **Bengal Fox** in areas where it was previously common.

Species Profile

- Scientific Name: **Vulpes bengalensis**.
- It is also known as the **Indian Fox** or **Indian Desert Fox**.
- It is a small carnivorous mammal native to the Indian subcontinent.

Habitat and Distribution

- It inhabits grasslands, thorn scrub, semi-desert regions, and arid landscapes.
- Its range extends across **India, Nepal, and Pakistan**.
- It occurs from the Himalayan foothills to peninsular India.

Behavioural Traits

- The species is known for **monogamous pair bonding**.
- It increasingly exhibits crepuscular and nocturnal behaviour.
- It is considered an **edge species** between forests and agricultural landscapes.

Arul Mihi Navasakthi Vinayagar Temple



PM Modi Visits The Only Hindu Temple In Seychelles. Why Is It So Special?

The temple is dedicated to Lord Vinayagar, better known around the world as Lord Ganesha. One of the most loved deities in Hinduism.



Why in News

- The Prime Minister visited the **Arul Mihi Navasakthi Vinayagar Temple** during his State visit to Seychelles.

Geographical Significance

- The temple is located in **Victoria**, the capital of **Seychelles**.
- It is the only Hindu temple in the country.
- It was built in **1992** by the local Hindu community.

Cultural Linkages

- The temple is dedicated to **Lord Vinayagar (Ganesha)**.
- It reflects the cultural presence of the Indian diaspora in Seychelles.
- Hindus constitute around **2%** of Seychelles' population.

Architectural Features

- The temple follows the **Dravidian architectural style**.
- Its colourful **gopuram** rises nearly **100 feet** high.
- It contains a **garbha griha** and a **mandapam** used for rituals and ceremonies.

United Nations ESCAP

TH The Hindu

[UN report flags \\$800 billion climate fund gap in Asia-Pacific, calls for synergistic action](#)



UN report reveals an \$800 billion climate fund gap in Asia-Pacific, urging synergistic action for biodiversity and sustainable development.

Why in News

- A recent **UNESCAP** report highlighted an annual climate finance gap of nearly **USD 800 billion** in developing Asia-Pacific economies.

Institutional Profile

- **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)** was established in **1947**.
- It is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region.
- It is one of the **five regional commissions of the United Nations**.
- Headquarters: **Bangkok, Thailand**.

Membership Structure

- It consists of **53 member States** and **9 associate members**.
- It promotes regional cooperation for sustainable development challenges.

Functional Domains

- It works in areas such as trade, transport, innovation, social development, and disaster risk reduction.

- It supports macroeconomic policy, financing for development, and poverty reduction.
- It promotes regional and sub-regional integration across Asia-Pacific.

29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2026

 Indiatimes

[Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma to inaugurate 29th National Conference on e-Governance in Jaipur on July 1](#)

Jaipur will host the 29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) on July 1 and 2 at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC),...



Why in News

- The **29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2026** is being held on **1-2 July 2026** at the **Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur**.

Governance and Institutional Framework

- The conference is jointly organised by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, and the **Government of Rajasthan**.
- It serves as India's premier annual platform for digital governance and administrative reforms.

Technology Focus Areas

- The conference includes discussions on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **Deep Tech**, **Quantum Computing**, and **Voice-First Solutions**.
- Special emphasis is placed on **Secure Digital Infrastructure** and citizen-centric governance.
- The event comprises **6 plenary sessions** and **6 breakout sessions**.

National e-Governance Awards 2026

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, will present the awards.
- Awards will be conferred on **17 initiatives across 7 categories**.
- The distribution includes **10 Gold Awards, 6 Silver Awards, and 1 Jury Award**.

Participation and Key Outcomes

- The conference is expected to witness participation from **2,700 delegates**.
- More than **1,000 startups** and **400 academic institutions** are participating.
- Over **40 digital governance and AI-based initiatives** will be showcased.
- The conference will adopt the **Jaipur Declaration on e-Governance 2026**.
- **NASSCOM** and Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur are the knowledge partners.

Other Important News of the day

Person in News

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Appointed Vice Chief of Air Staff

Why in News

- **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** assumed charge as the **51st Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS)** on **1 July 2026**.



Strategic Military Leadership

- The Vice Chief of the Air Staff is a senior **three-star appointment** in the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

- The office functions under the **Chief of the Air Staff** at **Air Headquarters, New Delhi**.
- He succeeded **Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor**, who retired on **30 June 2026**.

Honours and Prelims Facts

- He has been awarded the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM)**, **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)**, **Vayu Sena Medal (VM)**, and **Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM)**.
- The **PVSM** is India's highest peacetime distinguished service decoration.
- The **Indian Air Force** was established on **8 October 1932**.
- The **NDA** is located at **Khadakwasla, Maharashtra**.

Places in News

Mount Erebus

Why in News

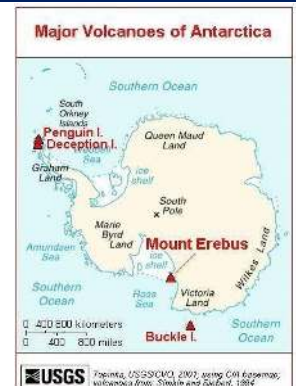
- **Mount Erebus**, the world's southernmost active volcano, has drawn attention for emitting microscopic crystals of pure gold.

Geological Profile

- Mount Erebus is a **stratovolcano** located on **Ross Island** in Antarctica.
- It belongs to the **McMurdo Volcanic Group** within the **West Antarctic Rift System**.
- It is considered an **intraplate volcano**.



Physical Characteristics


- Its elevation is **3,794 metres (12,448 feet)** above sea level.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is Antarctica's second-highest volcano after Mount Sidley. • It is one of only two active volcanoes in Antarctica, the other being Deception Island. <p>Volcanic Uniqueness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It contains a persistent active lava lake, active since at least 1972. • Most eruptions are Strombolian, ejecting volcanic bombs around the crater rim. • It is the only known volcano releasing tiny crystals of pure gold into the atmosphere. • It forms part of the broader Pacific Ring of Fire system.
<p>Environment</p>	<p>Southern Birdwing</p> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southern Birdwing has been recorded for the first time in Telangana's Amrabad Tiger Reserve. <p>Species Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Name: Troides minos. • It is also called the Sahyadri Birdwing. • It is India's second-largest butterfly species. <p>Distribution Pattern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The species is endemic to South India, especially the Western Ghats. • It occurs up to an elevation of 910 metres (3,000 feet). • It inhabits evergreen forests, deciduous forests, scrublands, and agricultural landscapes.



	<p>Distinctive Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wingspan ranges between 140–190 mm. • The forewing is glossy black with white-bordered veins. • The hindwing is golden yellow with black markings. <p>Conservation Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the State Butterfly of Karnataka. • IUCN Status: Least Concern. • Adults are active mainly during the early morning hours.
Defence	<p style="text-align: center;">Project BRAHMANK</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p> PIB</p> <p>Project BRAHMANK of BRO Marks its 16th Raising Day</p> <p>Project BRAHMANK of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 16th Raising Day on Jun 29, 2026 at Ranaghat, Arunachal Pradesh,...</p>  </div> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated the 16th Raising Day of Project BRAHMANK in Arunachal Pradesh. <p>Strategic Infrastructure Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project BRAHMANK is a strategic road infrastructure initiative of the BRO. • It was raised on 29 June 2011 at Ranaghat, East Siang District, and became operational on 3 December 2011. <p>Border Connectivity Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It develops and maintains infrastructure in Siang, East Siang, West Siang, Upper Siang, Shi-Yomi districts and parts of Dhemaji district (Assam). • It enhances military mobility and connectivity in remote border regions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project integrates remote villages into the national mainstream. <p>Border Roads Organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRO was established on 7 May 1960. • It was brought entirely under the Ministry of Defence in 2015. • Motto: “Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam”. • It develops infrastructure in border areas and friendly neighbouring countries. • BRO projects in Arunachal Pradesh include Vartak, Arunank, Brahmank, and Udayak.
Space	<p style="text-align: center;">Interplanetary Coronal Mass Ejections (ICMEs)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>PIB https://www.pib.gov.in > PressReleasePage</p> <p>Thermal signatures of three decades of solar storms at ...</p> <p>1 day ago — The most geoeffective storms tend to be associated with ICMEs in a heating state (low Gamma) and are characterized by strong magnetic fields, ... Read more</p> </div> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian astrophysicists have reported new findings on the thermal evolution of Interplanetary Coronal Mass Ejections (ICMEs). <p>Scientific Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICMEs are massive eruptions of magnetized plasma released from the Sun's outer atmosphere. • They travel through interplanetary space and may interact with Earth's magnetic field. <p>Space Weather Implications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth-directed ICMEs can trigger severe geomagnetic storms.

- They generate colourful **auroras** in the upper atmosphere.
- The frequency of ICMEs increases during the **11-year solar maximum cycle**.

Technological Impact

- ICMEs can disrupt **satellites, GPS systems, radio communications**, and **power grids**.
- They can also affect aviation routes and navigation systems.
- These events serve as natural laboratories for studying plasma physics in space.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh School Chalo Abhiyan – Phase II

Hindustan Times

Enrolment festivals mark launch Phase II of School Chalo Abhiyan across 1.32 lakh UP schools

The campaign aims to ensure every child has access to quality education in a safe and inclusive learning environment. The second phase will...



Why in News

- Uttar Pradesh launched the second phase of **School Chalo Abhiyan** on **1 July 2026** from **Saharanpur**.

Educational Inclusion Initiative

- The campaign will run from **1 July to 15 July 2026** for the **2026–27 academic session**.
- It aims to achieve **100% school enrolment** across the state.
- Special focus is placed on bringing **out-of-school children and dropouts** back into formal education.



Implementation Mechanism

- The state government has allocated ₹163.60 lakh for the campaign.
- The initiative involves Gram Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies, School Management Committees, and Self-Help Groups.
- Anganwadi Workers, ASHA Workers, teachers, and public representatives are actively participating.

Outreach Activities

- Activities include door-to-door surveys, enrolment rallies, and special admission camps.
- Schools will conduct Prabhat Pheris and parent interaction programmes.
- Teachers are encouraged to use activity-based and sports-based learning methods.

Important Facts

- Bal Vatika refers to pre-primary classes for children aged 3–6 years.
- ASHA stands for Accredited Social Health Activist.
- During the launch event, 11 development projects worth over ₹620 crore were inaugurated or announced in Saharanpur.