

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

02-07-2026

Five New Species of Flowering Plants

M Mathrubhumi English

[Tributes in petals: New flower species named after Kerala icons](#)

A team of Malayali researchers discovers five new flower species of *Impatiens* (Kashithumba) in the Western Ghats, naming them after Kerala's...



Why in News

- Researchers discovered five new *Impatiens* species in the **Western Ghats of Kerala**, a global biodiversity hotspot.

Geographical Significance

- All five species were discovered in the high-altitude ecosystems of **Kerala's Western Ghats**.
- The species belong to the genus *Impatiens* of the **Balsaminaceae** family.
- Their occurrence highlights the rich endemic biodiversity of the Western Ghats.

Species-Specific Characteristics

1. *Impatiens berchmansiensis* bears bright yellow flowers and was found near streams in **Vagamom, Idukki**.
2. *Impatiens ninanii* is characterized by violet petals and purple-speckled stems in **Mankulam Viripara, Idukki**.
3. *Impatiens filcyii* has pinkish-purple flowers with yellow and purple markings and was found in **Mamalakkandam, Ernakulam**.
4. *Impatiens xanthopetala* possesses golden-yellow petals with brown spots and occurs in **Pambanar, Idukki**.
5. *Impatiens flavispicata* bears white flowers with a concealed yellow spur and was found in **Mamalakkandam, Ernakulam**.

Conservation Relevance

- The discovery strengthens the ecological importance of the **Western Ghats**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Newly discovered endemic species require habitat protection and long-term monitoring.

PaleoIndia Portal



Financial Samachar

<https://financialsamachar.com> › Metrocity

Union Environment Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav ...

2 days ago — Union Environment Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav inaugurates Animal Taxonomy Summit 2026 on 111th Foundation Day of ZSI ... launched the PaleoIndia ... [Read more](#)

Why in News

- The Union Minister for Environment launched the PaleoIndia Portal to digitally document India's fossil heritage.

Institutional Framework

- The portal was jointly developed by the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** and **National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)**.
- Dynamic geological maps are provided by the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**.
- It represents a major digital initiative for paleontological conservation.

National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)

- **NCSCM** was established in 2011 under MoEFCC.
- Headquarters: **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- It supports **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)** and coastal policy formulation.
- Its activities include coastal vulnerability assessment, ESA mapping and environmental impact studies.

Database Features

- The portal documents fossil fauna across all **28 States and 8 Union Territories**.
- It currently contains information on over **5,000 fossil specimens**.

- Records include mammals, reptiles, birds, fishes, amphibians, molluscs, arthropods and ichnofossils.

Governance and Research Utility

- The platform supports real-time data uploads from researchers and citizen scientists.
- It aims to safeguard India's paleontological heritage through digital documentation.
- It promotes scientific research and public participation in fossil conservation.

Transcaspian Marinka

Why in News

- The **Sangon** clan in Arunachal Pradesh launched a conservation initiative for the **Transcaspian marinka** fish.



Taxonomic Profile

- Scientific Name: **Schizothorax pelzami**.
- Family: **Cyprinidae**.
- It is a species of **ray-finned fish**.

Distribution and Habitat

- It is mainly found in **Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Iran**.
- It inhabits freshwater rivers, streams, springs and qanats.
- It occupies a **benthopelagic** ecological niche.


Ray-Finned Fishes

- Ray-finned fishes belong to **Actinopterygii**, the largest group of fishes.
- They constitute nearly half of all living vertebrate species.
- They possess sensory mechanisms including vision, chemoreception, electroreception and magnetic reception.

Conservation Status

- IUCN Status: **Least Concern (LC)**.
- In Arunachal Pradesh it is locally known as **Ngarsing** in the **Nyishi** language.

Taal Volcano

 CNN

Taal Volcano erupts, sending ash plumes 4,000 feet into the sky

Dark ash and steam burst from the Philippine volcano on Tuesday, with three explosive pulses creating plumes for four and a half minutes.



Why in News

- **Taal Volcano** in the Philippines recently produced a brief phreatomagmatic eruption.

Geographical Features

- It is located in **Batangas Province**, about 70 km south of **Manila**.
- It is one of the most active volcanoes in the **Philippines**.
- It forms part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**.

Geological Characteristics

- It is classified as a **complex volcano** by **PHIVOLCS**.
- It comprises multiple stratovolcanoes, craters and volcanic cones.
- It has recorded at least **38 eruptions** during the last 450 years.

Caldera System

- Its caldera contains **Taal Lake** covering about **265 sq km**.
- **Volcano Island** lies within the lake and spans approximately **24 sq km**.
- The island contains **Crater Lake** and the famous **Vulcan Point**.

Phreatomagmatic Eruption

- It occurs when magma explosively interacts with water.



USGS
Topographic USGS/CNO, 1999, From CIA Gazetteer, 1997

- Rapid steam generation fragments magma and surrounding rocks.
- The eruption produces ash, pyroclastic material and rock fragments.

Centralised IT-Enabled System (CITES)

The Hindu

[What is Centre's new EPFO upgrade? | Explained](#)

Discover Employees Provident Fund Organisation's new system aimed at improving member services through centralisation and automation and...



Why in News

- EPFO completed nationwide database consolidation under the **Centralised IT-Enabled System (CITES)** project.

Institutional Framework

- CITES is an initiative of the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**.
- It was designed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**.
- It aims to modernise EPFO services through automation and rule-based processing.

Digital Governance Features

- It provides a **single national database** architecture.
- Most services including **KYC updation** are available online.
- Members can access all PF accounts linked to a single **Aadhaar-based UAN**.

Citizen-Centric Benefits

- It enables faster claim settlements and transfer processing.
- Beneficiaries can approach any PF office across India for grievance redressal.
- Claims and queries can be processed electronically through the system.

SHE-LEAPS Platform

Why in News

- The Government launched the **SHE-LEAPS Platform** to strengthen women-led rural entrepreneurship.

DD India

[SHE-LEAPS: Driving digital empowerment and enterprise growth for rural women](#)

India's efforts to strengthen women-led rural entrepreneurship have entered a new phase with the launch of SHE-LEAPS, a digital platform...



Institutional Architecture

- SHE-LEAPS stands for **Self-Help Entrepreneur-Livelihoods and Enterprise Application for Prosperity and Sustainability**.
- It was launched during the **Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan**.
- The application was developed by the Digital India Corporation under the **LokOS Platform**.

Developmental Objectives

- It aims to empower women associated with **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.
- It supports enterprise creation, monitoring and performance tracking.
- It seeks to accelerate the Lakhpati Didi Initiative through data-driven entrepreneurship.

Governance Dimensions

- The platform will cover **34 States and Union Territories**.
- It integrates rural producers with formal value chains.
- It strengthens financial inclusion and evidence-based policy making.

Key Features

- It captures real-time operational data across sectors.
- It supports both farm and non-farm enterprises.
- It improves monitoring, planning and governance outcomes.

National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)

DD News

[Assam's Borjuli wetland notified as Biodiversity Heritage Site for wild rice conservation](#)

The Borjuli wetland in Assam, known for harbouring a disease and pest-resistant variety of wild rice, has been notified as a Biodiversity...



Why in News

- **NRAA** achieved a significant milestone in conserving wild rice (*Oryza rufipogon*) in Assam's Sonitpur district.

Institutional Profile

- **NRAA** was established in 2006.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**.
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**.

Mandate and Functions

- It promotes sustainable agriculture in rainfed regions.
- It focuses on holistic development beyond water conservation.
- It supports sustainable farming and livelihood systems.


Governance Structure

- The **Governing Board** is chaired by the **Union Agriculture Minister**.
- The **Union Rural Development Minister** serves as Co-Chairperson.
- The **Executive Committee** is headed by a full-time **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.

Agricultural Significance

- It enhances productivity and resilience in rainfed areas.
- It supports conservation of genetic resources such as *Oryza rufipogon*, the wild ancestor of cultivated rice.
- It contributes to climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural development.

Other Important News of the day

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Persons in News | <div style="background-color: #cfe2f3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> Ravi Agrawal Reappointed as CBDT Chairman </div> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Government reappointed Ravi Agrawal (1988-batch IRS officer) as CBDT Chairman for six months from 1 July–31 December 2026.  <p>CBDT at a Glance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBDT is the apex body for direct taxes under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. It administers the Income-tax Act, 1961 and oversees direct tax policy and enforcement. <p>Other relevant Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extension was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Ravi Agrawal was first appointed CBDT Chairman in June 2024. Net direct tax collections stood at ₹5.21 trillion as of 17 June 2026, recording 14.64% YoY growth. |
| Places in News | <div style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> Greece </div> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and Greece recently discussed expanding cooperation in fintech, digital payments and emerging technologies. <p>Strategic Location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greece lies on the southern edge of the Balkan Peninsula. |

- It shares land borders with Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Turkey.
- It is bordered by the **Aegean Sea**, **Ionian Sea** and **Mediterranean Sea**.



Physical Geography

- Capital: **Athens**.
- Nearly **80%** of the country consists of mountains and hills.
- The climate is predominantly **Mediterranean**.

Important Geographical Features

- The **Pindus Range** contains the deep **Vikos Gorge**.
- **Mount Olympus (2,918 m)** is the highest peak.
- Major rivers include **Maritsa, Struma and Vardar**.

Economic Resources

- Important resources include **petroleum, lignite, bauxite, magnetite, marble and hydropower**.

Environment

Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary

 The Times of India

[Gaur introduction not feasible in Chandaka: PCCF](#)

Bhubaneswar: With Chandaka wildlife sanctuary having a lot of anthropogenic pressure, particularly due to the presence of cattle,...



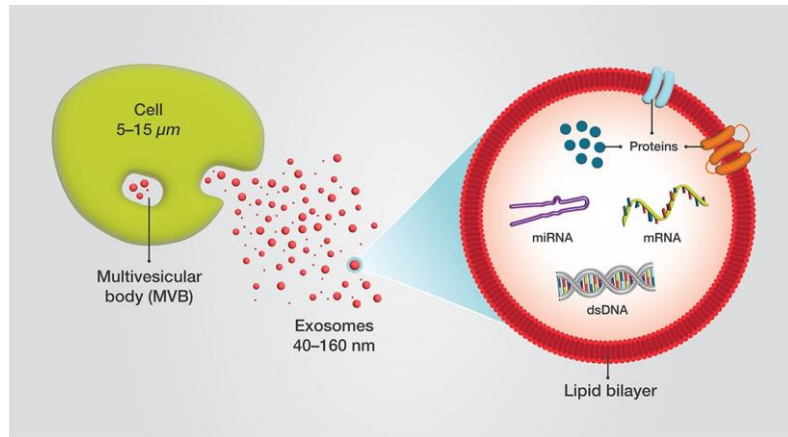
Why in News

- The proposed Indian Gaur translocation programme has been put on hold due to anthropogenic pressures in **Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Geographical Importance

- It is located near Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It marks the northeastern limit of the Eastern Ghats. • It was primarily notified for conserving wild elephants and their habitats. <p>Ecological Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sanctuary contains a mix of evergreen and deciduous vegetation. • Kumarkhunti Reservoir is the only major water source within the sanctuary. • Major tree species include Sal, Teak, Karanja, Jamu and Kumbhi. <p>Faunal Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammals include elephants, pangolins, sloth bears, hyenas and Indian wolves. • Reptiles include Python and Monitor Lizard. • Key bird species include Peafowl, Paradise Flycatcher and Crested Serpent Eagle. |
| Science and Technolog y | Exosomes |
| | <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists are exploring exosomes as potential tools for diagnosing and treating diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's. |



Biological Characteristics

- Exosomes are small **extracellular vesicles** secreted by cells.
- They generally range from 30–200 nanometres in diameter.
- They are enclosed by a **lipid bilayer membrane** similar to the cell membrane.

Functional Importance

- Exosomes contain **proteins, lipids, RNA, and signalling molecules**.
- They transfer cellular information between neighbouring cells.
- They facilitate **intercellular communication** and genetic material exchange.

Medical Significance

- Exosomes influence immune responses and cellular activities.
- They are emerging as promising biomarkers for disease diagnosis.
- They may support future targeted therapies and precision medicine.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC)

TH The Hindu

UP defence corridor attracts ₹39,571 cr investment

The Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) launched in 2018 and strategically developed by Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial...



Why in News

- The UP Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) has attracted investment proposals worth **₹39,571.09 crore**, boosting India's defence self-reliance.

Strategic Highlights

- Developed by UPEIDA across six nodes: **Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Kanpur, and Lucknow**.
- 2,095 hectares** acquired, of which **1,141.79 hectares** have been allotted.
- 65 companies** have secured land, with projects expected to create **15,300 jobs**.



Major Investments

- Adani Defence:** ₹1,500 crore ammunition plant in **Kanpur**.
- Aerolloy Technologies:** ₹320 crore titanium casting facility in **Lucknow**.
- BrahMos Aerospace:** ₹300 crore facility for BrahMos-NG missile system.
- Werywin Defence (₹65 crore)** and **Nitya Creations (₹12 crore)** projects in **Aligarh**.

Important Facts

- Kanpur** leads with ₹12,948 crore investment, followed by **Jhansi (₹12,190 crore)**.



- Nine manufacturing units have become operational across Kanpur, Lucknow, and Aligarh.
- The corridor supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and strengthens India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.