# SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 10-11-2026

## Magda Linette Wins Chennai Open 2026

The New Indian Express

Found myself here after tough tournaments: Magda Linette after Chennai Open glory

the 34-year-old Pole clinched singles event in postponed final to jump up to World No 43 in WTA rankings.



### Why in News?

- Polish tennis player **Magda Linette** won the **Chennai Open 2026** by defeating Janice Tjen in the final on **9 November 2026**.

### Tournament Highlights

- Linette won the final **5–7, 6–1, 6–4** in 2 hours and 49 minutes, securing her **fourth career title**.
- The final was delayed by 24 hours due to rain and poor air quality.
- Linette dedicated her victory to the victims of the **Kraków mass shooting** in Poland.

### Kraków Shooting

- The shooting occurred on **7 November 2026** at Kraków's Main Square, killing six people and injuring 15–16 others.
- Poland declared **two days of national mourning** following the incident.

### Important Facts

- The Chennai Open is a **WTA Tour outdoor hardcourt event** that has been held in different Indian cities since 2003.
- It returned in **2022 as a WTA 250 event** after a gap in India's WTA tournament calendar following the 2009 tour restructuring.

## Indian Students Win Five Medals at Junior Astronomy Olympiad

### Why in News?

The Indian Express

India wins five medals including two gold at International Astronomy Olympiad

Indian students have won five medals, including two gold, two silver and one bronze, at the 5th International Olympiad on Astronomy and...



- Indian students won **five medals, including two gold medals**, at the **5th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics for Juniors (IOAA-Jr) 2026**.

### Competition and Performance

- The event was held in **Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand, from 1–8 November 2026**.
- India's five-member team competed against 104 students from 25 countries.

- **Gold:** Siddharth Laxmisha (Puducherry) and Swara Srujal Patel (Gujarat).
- **Silver:** Aarna Chaplot and Krish Bhaskar (Rajasthan).
- **Bronze:** Akshara Gulab Ambone (Maharashtra).

### Institutional Support

- The **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)** facilitated India's participation and students' preparation.
- NCSM is an autonomous scientific organisation under the **Ministry of Culture**, established in **1978**.
- Its **Mobile Science Exhibition** programme uses specially equipped buses to take science exhibits to rural and remote areas.

### Important Facts

- The inaugural IOAA-Jr was open to students below 16 years; the second edition reduced the age limit to below 15 years.
- The parent **International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)** includes theoretical, data-analysis and observational examinations, along with a team contest.

## Oxford Returns Remains of 39 Naga People to India

NDTV

Oxford Museum Returns 39 Colonial-Era Human Remains To Naga People In India

The handover at the Pitt Rivers Museum came as part of a broader trend among Western museums reassessing how they acquired exhibits from...



### Why in News?

- The **Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford**, returned the ancestral remains of 39 Naga people to community representatives on **9 November 2026**.

### Repatriation Process

- The remains, primarily skulls, were taken during British colonial rule between **1910 and 1940**.
- A six-year, community-led repatriation process began in **2020**.
- Oxford University Council approved the return on **13 July 2026**, following a formal request by a Naga delegation in June 2025.
- The remains are to be buried at a joint memorial site in **Naga Solidarity Park, Kohima**.

## Pitt Rivers Museum

- The museum holds more than **6,000 Naga cultural objects** and has a collection exceeding 600,000 items.
- It removed all human remains from public display in **2020** as part of efforts to address its colonial legacy.
- The museum follows community consultation to address gaps in collection records and discuss repatriation.

## Important Facts

- The museum follows a **typological display system**, arranging objects according to their use rather than primarily by age or geographical origin.
- Augustus Pitt Rivers made his collection donation conditional on Oxford appointing a permanent anthropology lecturer.

# Supreme Court Upholds Power to Retire Employees in Public Interest

The New Indian Express

Compulsory retirement order is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character: SC

The bench also rejected the employees' argument that the action was discriminatory because other similarly placed employees had not been...



## Why in News?

- On **10 November 2026**, the Supreme Court upheld the government's power to compulsorily retire employees in public interest, dismissing appeals filed by two Chhattisgarh government employees.

## Basis of Compulsory Retirement

- Compulsory retirement in public interest is generally **not a punishment** and does not carry stigma or amount to a finding of misconduct.
- A formal disciplinary hearing is therefore not required.
- Decisions must be based on objective material, including integrity, honesty, physical fitness, reputation, efficiency and service records such as **Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs)**.
- The Court found that the employees' records from 2013 to 2017 showed consistently low gradings.

## Judicial Review and Constitutional Position

- Courts can intervene where the decision is arbitrary, perverse, unsupported by evidence, based on non-application of mind or affected by mala fides.

- An employee cannot claim **negative equality under Article 14** merely because comparable colleagues were retained.

**Important Legal Provisions and Cases**

- **Fundamental Rule 56(j):** Provides for retirement of government employees in public interest.
- **Rule 11 of CCS (CCA) Rules:** Provides compulsory retirement as a major penalty.
- **Dev Dutt v. Union of India (2008):** Held that ACR entries relevant to promotion, including below-benchmark gradings, must be communicated to the employee.

## Google Launches TPU 8tx and TPU 8i Max

blog.google

Our newest TPUs: 8tx and 8i Max, built for the agentic era

Google is expanding its eighth-generation TPU portfolio with the new 8tx for secure inference and 8i Max for massive context.



**Why in News?**

- On **9 November 2026**, Google expanded its eighth-generation **Tensor Processing Unit (TPU)** portfolio by introducing TPU 8tx and TPU 8i Max.

**New TPU Systems**

- **TPU 8tx:** Designed for secure, confidential AI inference and small-scale model training, with hardware-level protection for data and AI models during processing.
- **TPU 8i Max:** Designed for memory-intensive workloads, including large context windows and AI agents processing extensive codebases and videos.
- Google states that TPU 8i Max offers twice the computing capacity and memory bandwidth of TPU 8i.
- TPU 8tx uses the same silicon as TPU 8t and is paired with fifth-generation AMD EPYC CPU hosts.

**Software and Accessibility**

- Google open-sourced **TorchTPU** in October 2026, enabling PyTorch code and Hugging Face models to run natively on its chips.
- Its open-source TPU agent suite supports tools such as Claude Code, Cursor and Google Antigravity.
- Customers can access TPUs through **Google Cloud** or deploy them in their own data centres.

**Important Technical Facts**

- **TPU:** An application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) developed by Google for machine-learning workloads, particularly neural-network processing.

- **Systolic-array design:** TPU architecture uses interconnected processing elements to perform computational operations efficiently.
- **Computational profile:** TPUs are designed for high-volume, low-precision computation and efficient data movement, rather than graphics rendering.
- **bfloat16:** Introduced in the second-generation TPU, this numerical format supports both AI training and inference.

## Other Important News of the day

**Environment**

### Supreme Court: Commercial Forest Cultivation Not Protected by FRA

The Hindu

Commercial cultivation within forest land not protected under FRA, 2006: Supreme Court

Supreme Court clarifies FRA protects forest dwellers' rights, not commercial cultivators; silk cotton farming inside forests deemed...



#### Why in News?

- On **6 November 2026**, the Supreme Court observed that commercial crop cultivation in reserve forests is not protected under the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**, while hearing a case concerning silk cotton cultivation in Tamil Nadu's Megamalai region.

#### Court's Observations

- The Court distinguished commercial cultivation from the collection of naturally occurring minor forest produce under **Section 3(1)(c) of FRA**.
- Around **3,637.83 hectares** of forest land in the region are under silk cotton cultivation.
- The **Central Empowered Committee (CEC)** will examine its classification as minor forest produce.
- A committee headed by former CJI **B.R. Gavai** will supervise FRA claim adjudication in the region.

#### Important FRA Provisions

- **Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes:** Must have forest residence before 13 December 2005 and depend on forests for livelihood.
- **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers:** Must establish three generations (75 years) of forest residence and livelihood dependence before the same date.

- **Claim process:** Gram Sabha recommends claims, the Sub-Divisional Committee screens them, and the District Level Committee gives final approval.

**Space**

## China's CERES-2 Rocket Places Four Satellites in Orbit

Global Times

China's CERES-2 rocket returns to flight, placing four satellites into orbit

Chinese commercial space company Galactic Energy successfully launched its CERES-2 carrier rocket on Saturday, placing four satellites into...



### Why in News?

- China's **CERES-2 Y3** rocket placed four satellites into a **535-km sun-synchronous orbit** on 7 November 2026.

### Launch and Payload

- Launched from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center**, the mission carried:
  - **Guanlan:** Ocean remote sensing.
  - **Yunyao-1 28:** Commercial meteorology.
  - **Zhongbei Daxue-1:** Scientific research.
  - **Juntian-1 06A:** Space situational awareness.

### Important Facts about CERES-2

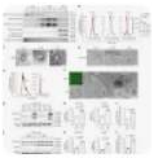
- Developed by Chinese company **Galactic Energy**, it is a medium-lift rocket with three solid-propellant stages and a liquid upper stage.
- Its liftoff mass is approximately **100 tonnes**.
- It can carry **1,600 kg to a 500-km LEO** and 1,300 kg to a sun-synchronous orbit at the same altitude.
- Its maiden flight in January 2026 failed; the November launch marked its first successful orbital mission.
- CERES-2 is an upgraded version of the smaller **CERES-1** launcher.

**Science and Technology**

## Extracellular Vesicles (EVs)

Nature

Mitochondria-derived extracellular vesicles mediate Alzheimer's disease pathology through transmitting microglial Ggt1

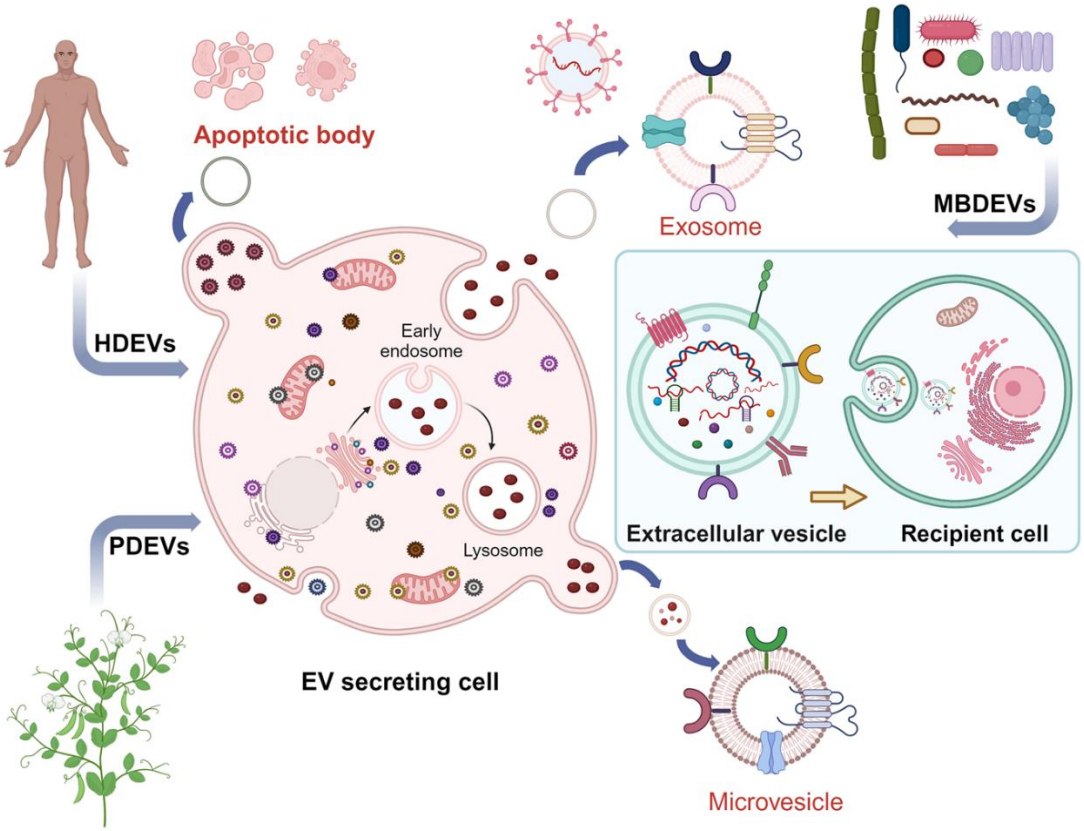


Extracellular vesicles (EVs) can modify pathological progression in Alzheimer's disease (AD), the most common neurodegenerative disease in...

### Why in News?

- Extracellular Vesicles (EVs) may influence the progression of **Alzheimer's disease (AD)** by spreading disease-causing factors.

### Structure and Characteristics




- EVs are small, membrane-bound particles secreted by cells into the extracellular space.
- They are found in body fluids such as **blood, urine and cerebrospinal fluid**.
- Their major components include **lipids, proteins and nucleic acids**.
- They cannot replicate independently.

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| | **Types of Extracellular Vesicles**<br>➢ **Exosomes (30–150 nm):** Originate from endosomal compartments.<br>➢ **Microvesicles (100–1,000 nm):** Shed directly from the plasma membrane.<br>➢ **Apoptotic Bodies (>1,000 nm):** Released by dying cells.<br>**Applications**<br>➢ **Cell Communication:** Transfer proteins, lipids and nucleic acids between cells, influencing immunity, tissue regeneration and cancer progression.<br>➢ **Disease Diagnosis:** Carry biomarkers useful in detecting cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.<br>➢ **Drug Delivery:** Can transport therapeutic molecules with high biocompatibility and low immunogenicity.<br>➢ **Tissue Engineering:** Support bone regeneration, cartilage repair and wound healing. |