

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

11-07-2026

Carl Gustaf Mark-IV (M4)

 India Today

[Army floats proposal to buy 450 India-made Carl Gustaf Mk IV rocket launchers](#)

The Indian Army has initiated the procurement process for 450 indigenous Carl Gustaf Mk IV multi-role rocket launchers, issuing a Request...



Why in News

- The Indian Army issued an RFP for **450 Carl Gustaf M4 84 mm recoilless rifles** in July 2026.

About Carl Gustaf M4

- Developed by **Saab (Sweden)**.
- An 84 mm shoulder-fired recoilless rifle used for anti-armour and multi-role infantry operations.
- Weight: **Less than 7 kg**, compared to **14 kg (M2)** and **10 kg (M3)**.



Manufacturing in India

- To be manufactured at **Saab's facility in Jhajjar, Haryana**.
- India's first 100% foreign-owned defence manufacturing unit.

Key Features

- Operational temperature: **-20°C to +50°C**.
- Suitable for **Himalayas** and **Rajasthan deserts**.
- Supported by **15 years product support** and 24-month warranty.

Important Facts

- The Carl Gustaf is one of the world's most widely used recoilless rifle systems.
- Munitions India Limited (MIL)** manufactures ammunition for the system.
- Procurement supports the Indian Army's infantry modernisation programme.

Pratapgad Fort

Why in News

- The Maharashtra Government approved the construction of a memorial for **Veer Jivaji Mahale** near Pratapgad Fort.



Geographical Profile

- Pratapgad Fort** is located in **Satara district, Maharashtra**.
- It stands at an altitude of about **1,080 metres**.
- The fort overlooks the route between Par and **Kinesvar** villages.



Historical Significance

- The fort was commissioned by **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**.
- Construction was supervised by **Moropant Pingle** and completed in **1656**.
- It witnessed the historic **Battle of Pratapgarh (1659)** between Shivaji and **Afzal Khan**.
- The battle marked the emergence of Shivaji as a major power in the Deccan.

Architectural Features

- The fort consists of an **Upper Fort** and a **Lower Fort**.
- The Upper Fort contains the **Mahadev Temple**.
- The Lower Fort houses the **Bhavani Temple**.
- A **17-foot bronze statue of Shivaji Maharaj** was unveiled by **Jawaharlal Nehru** in 1957.

Colonial Legacy

- The fort was surrendered to the British in **1818** after the Third Anglo-Maratha War.
- Afzal Buruj (Afzal Tower)** was built after the Battle of Pratapgarh as a lookout point.

Molluscs

 Down To Earth

Desert rain frog, over half of molluscs pushed towards extinction: IUCN Red List

Over half of molluscs face extinction from deep-sea mining, while the desert rain frog's status worsens and Australia's numbat shows fragile...



Why in News

- The **IUCN** reported that more than half of mollusc species are threatened by **deep-sea mining**.

Biological Profile

- Molluscs belong to **Phylum Mollusca**.
- They are among the most diverse groups of invertebrate animals.
- They occur in marine, freshwater and terrestrial habitats.
- Many species possess protective external shells.



Ecological Importance

- Molluscs constitute nearly **25% of all living marine species**.
- They are important food sources in aquatic ecosystems.
- They contribute significantly to marine biodiversity.

Major Groups

- Polyplacophora** includes chitons with eight overlapping shell plates.
- Gastropoda** includes snails and slugs and is the most diverse molluscan class.
- Bivalvia** includes clams, oysters, mussels and scallops.
- Cephalopoda** includes octopus, squid, cuttlefish and nautiloids.

Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco



Department of Commerce Reviews Andhra Pradesh FCV Tobacco Marketing Season 2025-26

A team of senior officers from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, led by Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce...



Why in News

- Senior officials from the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** reviewed the **Andhra Pradesh FCV Tobacco Marketing Season 2025-26**.

Cultivation Geography

- Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco is also known as **Virginia Tobacco** or **Bright Leaf Tobacco**.
- India mainly produces FCV tobacco in **Andhra Pradesh** and **Karnataka**.
- It is among the most widely traded tobacco varieties in international commerce.

Distinctive Characteristics

- FCV tobacco is cured using controlled heat through **flues**.
- It possesses **high sugar content** and **medium to high nicotine levels**.
- It is primarily used in the manufacture of **cigarettes**.
- Its rich tannin content imparts a mild and slightly sweet flavour.

Processing Dimensions

- **Curing** is the process of drying harvested tobacco leaves to prepare them for the market.
- Curing reduces **moisture and chlorophyll** content while enhancing flavour and aroma.
- The process helps release natural tannins that contribute to smoking characteristics.
- Traditional curing methods include **Air-Cured**, **Fire-Cured**, and **Flue-Cured** techniques.

Samriddh Gram



News On AIR

[Samriddh Gram initiative nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026 in Enabling Environment category](#)

Samriddh Gram initiative nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026 in Enabling Environment category ... Samriddh Gram Initiative is being nominated for the...



Why in News

- **Samriddh Gram** won the **WSIS Prizes 2026** under **Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment**.

Institutional Framework

- It is a flagship rural digital transformation initiative of the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**.
- The programme is built on the **BharatNet** digital infrastructure network.
- It follows a **phygital model** combining physical and digital service delivery.

Service Delivery Architecture

- **Samriddhi Kendras** serve as village-level integrated service hubs.
- They provide telecom connectivity, digital platforms and assisted services.
- The initiative seeks to bridge the rural digital divide.

Developmental Components

- Education services include **smart classrooms** and **AR/VR-based learning**.
- Agriculture support includes **IoT soil testing**, drones and smart irrigation.
- Healthcare services include teleconsultation and **Health ATMs**.
- E-governance services facilitate documentation and grievance redressal.
- Financial inclusion is promoted through digital banking and payments.

Connectivity Backbone

- The scheme strengthens **BharatNet FTTH** connectivity.
- It provides **Village Area Networks** and public Wi-Fi hotspots.
- **BBNL (Bharat Broadband Network Limited)** implemented BharatNet Phases I and II.

Financial Intelligence Unit–India (FIU-IND)

 PIB

[FIU-IND case regarding large-scale cyber fraud recognised as runner-up at Best Egmont Case Award \(BECA\) 2026 during the Egmont Group Plenary in Baku, Azerbaijan](#)

FIU-IND case regarding large-scale cyber fraud recognised as runner-up at Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) 2026 during the Egmont Group Plenary...



Why in News

- **FIU-IND** secured the Runner-up position at the **Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) 2026**.

Institutional Framework

- FIU-IND was established in **2004** by the Government of India.
- It functions under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**.
- It reports directly to the **Economic Intelligence Council (EIC)** headed by the Finance Minister.

Core Functions

- It receives and processes reports relating to suspicious financial transactions.
- It analyses financial data to detect money laundering and related crimes.
- It disseminates intelligence to law-enforcement and regulatory agencies.

Reporting Mechanism

- It receives **Cash Transaction Reports (CTRs)**.
- It receives **Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs)**.
- It receives **Cross Border Wire Transfer Reports (CBWTRs)** and **Immovable Property Reports (IPRs)**.

Strategic Importance

- It serves as India's central repository of financial intelligence.
- It coordinates with domestic and international intelligence networks.
- It strengthens anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing efforts.

Saryu River

 The Times of India

[NGT seeks report from Almora DM over waste disposal in Saryu river](#)

NGT orders Almora DM to file report in 3 months on action against waste dumping along Saryu river at Sera Ghat after UKPCB inspection...



Why in News

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** sought a report on improper waste disposal along the Saryu River in Uttarakhand.

Cultural and Geographical Importance

- The river flows through **Uttarakhand** and **Uttar Pradesh**.
- It is also known as Sarayu or **Sarju**.
- The river finds mention in the **Vedas** and the **Ramayana**.
- **Ayodhya** is situated on its banks.

Course of the River

- It originates at Sarmul (Sarmool) in **Bageshwar district, Uttarakhand**.
- It flows through the **Kumaon Himalayas**.
- It joins the **Sharada (Kali) River** at **Pancheshwar** on the India-Nepal border.

River System Linkages

- The Sharada River subsequently joins the **Ghaghara River** in Uttar Pradesh.

- The lower Ghaghara is popularly referred to as the **Sarayu River** around Ayodhya.
- The river's total length is approximately **350–400 km**.

Other Important News of the day

Environment

Sharavathi Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary

DH Deccan Herald

Expert Committee did not approve Sharavathi Project, Centre tells Karnataka High Court

Sharavathi project: The Centre told Karnataka High Court that an expert panel did not approve KPCL's 2000 MW pumped storage plan,...



Why in News

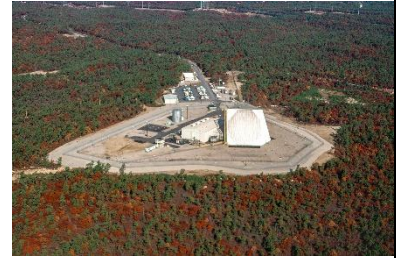
- An expert committee of MoEFCC recommended against the proposed **2,000 MW Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project**.

Geographical Setting

- The sanctuary is located in **Shimoga district, Karnataka**.
- It lies within the **Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot**.
- It is nourished by the **Sharavathi River**.
- **Linganamakki Reservoir** forms part of the sanctuary.

Formation and Landscape

- It was formed by merging the **Sharavathi Valley Wildlife Sanctuary**, **Aghanashini Lion-Tailed Macaque Conservation Reserve**, and adjoining reserve forests.
- Altitude ranges from **94 m to 1,102 m**.
- The sanctuary shares a boundary with **Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary**.

	Ecological Significance • It contains tropical evergreen, semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests. • Jog Falls, nearly 300 m high, lies on its northern boundary. • The sanctuary supports rich floral diversity including Dhoopa, Gulmavu, and Surahonne. Faunal Diversity • It supports the endangered Lion-tailed Macaque (<i>Macaca silenus</i>). • It also hosts tiger, leopard, wild dog, sloth bear and sambar. • Around 700 lion-tailed macaques occur here, representing the largest protected population of the species.
Defence	AN/FPS-115 Pave Paws TOI The Times of India Pave Paws: Taiwan's \$1.4bn-radar that precisely tracked China's 'surprise' ballistic missile launch International News: Taiwan's advanced Pave Paws radar system has enhanced its defense capabilities by precisely tracking China's recent... Why in News • Taiwan's AN/FPS-115 Pave Paws radar helped track China's recent ballistic missile launch. Technological Profile • It is an Ultra High Frequency (UHF) phased-array radar operating in the 420–450 MHz band. • It was developed by the US defence company Raytheon. 

	• The system is designed primarily to detect submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). Strategic Capabilities • It can track ballistic missiles, aircraft, cruise missiles and maritime activity. • The radar can detect a target with a 10 m² radar cross-section up to 5,600 km (3,000 nautical miles). • Two antenna arrays provide 120° azimuth coverage each. • Vertical coverage extends from 3° to 85°. Advanced Features • The antenna contains 1,792 active elements within a 22 m diameter array. • Beam steering is performed electronically through phased-array technology. • It continuously scans large areas without mechanical rotation. • It enables simultaneous detection and tracking of multiple targets.
Science and Technology	Helium  Investing.com China halts helium exports as renewed Middle East tensions threaten chip supplies Investing.com -- China has suspended helium exports with immediate effect on Friday, seeking to safeguard domestic supplies as renewed...  Why in News • China recently imposed a temporary ban on helium exports. Scientific Properties • Helium is an inert noble gas with atomic number 2. • It is the second-lightest element after hydrogen.

- It has an extremely low boiling point of -268.9°C .
- It is the only element that cannot be solidified by cooling under normal pressure.

Formation and Reserves

- Helium is produced by radioactive decay of **uranium** and **thorium**.
- It is a non-renewable resource.
- Major reserves are found in the **United States**, **Algeria**, and **Russia**.
- India's **Rajmahal Volcanic Basin (Jharkhand)** contains significant helium reserves.

Applications

- It is used as a coolant in **MRI machines**, semiconductors and quantum computing devices.
- It is used for leak detection because its atoms escape through tiny gaps.
- It is essential in **optical fibre manufacturing**.
- Space agencies such as **ISRO**, **NASA**, and **SpaceX** use it for rocket fuel tank pressurisation.

Historical Fact

- Helium was discovered in **1868** by **Jules Janssen** and **Norman Lockyer** during a solar eclipse.

Uttar Pradesh in News

India's First Made-in-India EXIM Shipping Container

TOI The Times of India

Sonowal unveils first Made in India EXIM shipping container, Maersk orders 1,000 of them

India News: NEW DELHI: In a move aimed at reducing India's dependence on other countries for export-import (EXIM) containers due to any...



Why in News

- Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** unveiled India's first **Made-in-India EXIM Shipping Container** at Dadri, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Highlights

- Developed for **A.P. Moller–Maersk**.
- Supported by the ₹10,000 crore **Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)** announced in **Budget 2026**.
- Manufactured as per ISO standards and the **International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC)**.

Significance

- Promotes **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India**.
- Supports **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.
- Reduces dependence on imported shipping containers.

Maritime Reforms

- Key laws: **Merchant Shipping Act, 2025**, **Coastal Shipping Act, 2025**, and **Indian Ports Act, 2025**.
- Digital initiatives: **One Nation One Port Process (ONOP)**, **Maritime Single Window**, and **e-Samudra**.