

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

12-08-2026

World Elephant Day

TH The Hindu

World Elephant Day: Special treats for elephants at Sakrebyle camp

World Elephant Day was celebrated at Karnataka's Sakrebyle Elephant Camp with special prayers, festive rituals and treats for the elephants.



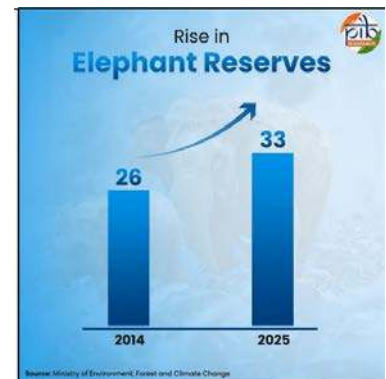
Why in News: **World Elephant Day** was observed on **12 August 2026**, highlighting elephant conservation, habitat protection and **human-elephant conflict** management.

Conservation Status

- The **Asian Elephant** is listed as **Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List**.
- Theme - **"Be More Like Elephants"**
- India hosts nearly 60% of the global wild Asian elephant population.

Elephant Reserves & Corridors

- India has **33 Elephant Reserves across 14 States** for landscape-level elephant conservation.
- **150 scientifically validated elephant corridors** facilitate elephant movement between forest patches.



Project Elephant

- **Project Elephant** was launched in **1992** as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for elephant conservation, habitat protection and conflict mitigation.
- It supports population monitoring, corridor protection and human-elephant conflict management.

Human-Elephant Conflict

- Conflict mainly arises from competition over **land, crops, water and movement space**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** uses **trained kumki elephants** and **HANUMAN** teams for wildlife response and conflict mitigation.

Hallaniyat Islands

Reuters

Oman says grounded tanker oil spill covers 400 square km

The Caroline Bezenji is loaded with close to one million barrels of Russian oil.



Why in News: A crude oil spill from the tanker **Caroline Bezenji** is threatening the pristine marine environment around **Oman's Hallaniyat Islands**.

Geographical Setting

- The **Hallaniyat** Islands, also called the **Kuria Muria Islands**, form a five-island archipelago off southeastern **Oman in the Arabian Sea**.
- From west to east, the islands are **Al-Hasikiyah, Al-Sawda, Al-Hallaniyah, Qarzawit and Al-Qibliyah**.
- Al-Hallaniyah** is the largest and the only inhabited island.



Marine Ecology

- The islands contain rocky patches, coral reefs and sandy substrates supporting diverse marine ecosystems.
- The area overlaps with the **Hallaniyat Islands Key Biodiversity Area** and Oman Arabian Sea **Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area (EBSA)**.
- The region supports diverse **corals, sponges, seaweeds, algae, fish and other marine species**.

Oceanographic Significance

- The Arabian Sea region is influenced by the **Somali Current and seasonal monsoon upwelling**.
- Upwelling brings **cold, nutrient-rich water** to the surface, supporting plankton blooms and higher marine productivity.
- The islands also have strategic significance because they lie along maritime routes connecting the **Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea**.

Amphora

The Art Newspaper

Bottoms up: vast Roman shipwreck filled with ancient wine amphoras discovered near Sicily

Extraordinary site "could reveal "interesting story about trade routes", maritime archaeologist David Gibbins says.



Why in News: A **Roman shipwreck over 2,100 years old** was recently located off **Mazara del Vallo, Sicily**, carrying around **500 amphorae** at a depth of 46 metres.

Archaeological Significance

- An amphora is an ancient storage vessel widely used in **Mediterranean cultures**.
- It is typically a **two-handled pot** with a narrow neck and was used for storing and transporting goods.
- The term **amphora** originates from Greek, meaning "**carried on both sides.**"

Forms and Uses

- The **neck amphora** has a neck that meets the body at a sharp angle.
- The **one-piece amphora** has a neck and body forming a continuous curve.
- Amphorae commonly transported wine, oil and grains, while decorative varieties were used for display.
- Archaeological amphorae provide evidence about **ancient trade, diet and social structures**.

Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme

DD India

India steps up container manufacturing push with ₹10,000 crore assistance scheme

The Government has proposed a ₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS) to strengthen domestic production of shipping...



Why in News: The Government has proposed a **₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS)** to strengthen India's domestic shipping-container manufacturing capacity.

Scheme Architecture

- The scheme aims to establish a **competitive domestic container manufacturing industry** through financial and institutional support.
- It will support both **new Greenfield facilities** and expansion of existing Brownfield manufacturing units.
- The scheme has an outlay of **₹10,000 crore over five years**.

Capacity and Components

- CMAS targets annual domestic production capacity of up to **7.5 lakh Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs)**.
- Support includes **capital assistance, operational support, testing infrastructure, skilling and capacity building**.

WHY CMAS MATTERS

Growing Global Trade
Rising trade drives higher demand for shipping containers.

Growing Container Demand
India's expanding EXIM trade requires reliable container availability.

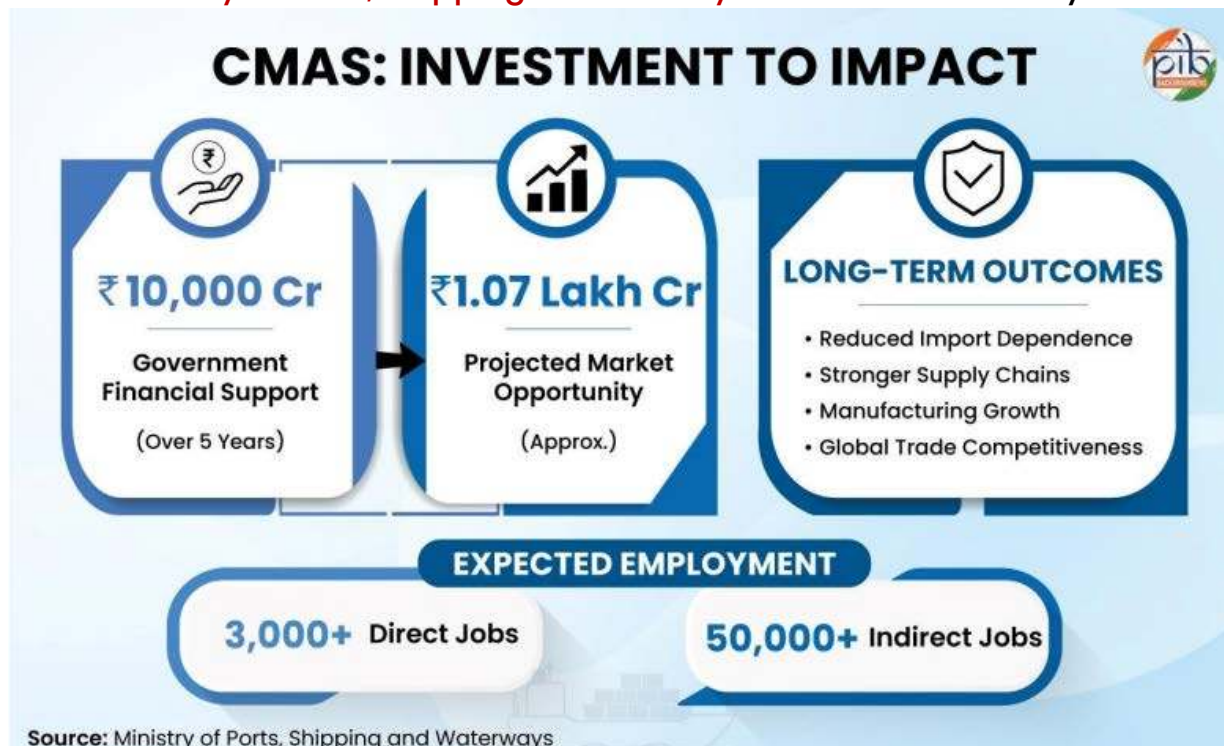
Import Dependence
Nearly 2 million empty containers imported annually.

CMAS Response
Promotes domestic manufacturing and reduces import dependence.

- It seeks to meet India's growing demand for shipping containers and strengthen the domestic value chain.

Policy Linkages

- The scheme complements [Make in India](#), [Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047](#), [PM Gati Shakti](#), [National Logistics Policy](#) and [Sagarmala](#) Programme.
- The [Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways](#) is the nodal ministry.



Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Tiger sighting at 8,000-ft Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttarakhand prompts heightened vigil

The video filmed by the tourists and purportedly showing a tiger moving through the sanctuary was widely circulated on social media.



Why in News: A **tiger** was recently sighted near Zero Point in [Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary](#), Uttarakhand.

Geographical and Ecological Profile

- Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Kumaon region of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand.
- It lies at an altitude of approximately **900–2,500 metres**.

- The sanctuary is named after the **Bineshwar Mahadev Temple**, a 16th-century temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Vegetation and Conservation

- The sanctuary contains **Western Himalayan sub-alpine coniferous forests** and **Western Himalayan alpine shrub and meadows**.
- **Oak and rhododendron forests** dominate higher elevations, while **chir pine** occurs at lower elevations.
- It was established primarily to conserve the **broadleaf oak forests** of the Central Himalayan region.

Biodiversity Profile

- Important fauna include **barking deer, Himalayan bear, leopard, musk deer, langur, porcupine, flying squirrel, chital and jungle cat**.
- Binsar is an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** recognised by **BirdLife International** and supports more than 200 bird species.
- **Zero Point/Jhandi Dhaar** is the highest point within the sanctuary.

Sangeet Natak Akademi

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President Murmu to confer Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards on August 13

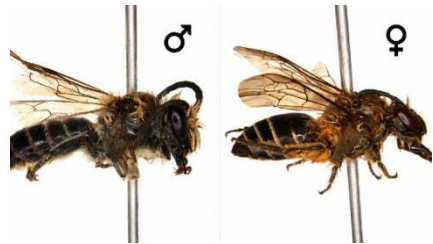
President Droupadi Murmu will confer the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) and Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for 2024 and 2025...



Why in News: President **Droupadi Murmu** will confer **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2024 and 2025** on **115 artists** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Institutional Profile

- The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** is India's national academy for **music, dance and drama**.
- It was established on 31 May 1952 and became functional in 1953 under its first Chairman, **Dr P. V. Rajamannar**.
- **Dr Rajendra Prasad** inaugurated the Akademi on **28 January 1953**.
- It is an **autonomous body** under the **Ministry of Culture** with headquarters in **New Delhi**.

	Physical Geography - Namibia can broadly be divided into the Namib Desert, Central Plateau and Kalahari from west to east. - Important rivers include the Kunene, Okavango, Mashi, Zambezi and Orange. - Brandberg (Mount Brand) is the country's highest mountain and lies along the western escarpment of the plateau. Resource and Strategic Profile - Namibia possesses significant reserves of uranium, lithium, graphite and manganese. - Its location on the Atlantic coast and mineral-resource base contribute to its importance in India-Africa economic and strategic engagement.
Environment	Colletes bhutanicus Why in News: Colletes bhutanicus has been recorded in India for the first time from Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh, by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). Taxonomic and Geographical Profile - It is a rare solitary Himalayan plasterer bee recorded at elevations of 1,500–3,800 metres. - It was previously recorded from Bhutan and China, including the Xizang region. - It belongs to the family Colletidae, whose members are commonly called plasterer or cellophane bees. Ecological Role - Unlike honeybees, Colletes bees are solitary and generally nest individually. - The species was observed visiting 25 flowering plant species belonging to 10 botanical families. - Its visits included economically important crops such as mustard, buckwheat, coriander, beans, chilli and eggplant. 

	Bees contribute to pollination, biodiversity maintenance and ecosystem stability and can act as bioindicators of environmental change.
Health	Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme Why in News: PMNDP is operational across 36 States/UTs, covering 751 districts with 1,856 haemodialysis centres and 13,535 machines. Programme Framework - Launched in 2016 as a centrally funded scheme under NHM to make dialysis affordable and accessible. - BPL beneficiaries receive free dialysis, while non-BPL patients get services at subsidised rates. Service Delivery - It provides Haemodialysis (HD) and Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) services. - States can establish centres at CHCs, particularly in remote and tribal areas. Implementation - Services are delivered through PPP, in-house and hybrid models. - The PMNDP portal (2022) supports dialysis-centre integration and a renal registry. - It aims for "One State-One Dialysis" and ultimately "One Nation-One Dialysis" portability. Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. 
Defence	Shruti Patrol Vessel BW BW Businessworld Indian Navy's Next-Gen Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Shruti' Launched In Kolkata India's next-generation offshore patrol vessel Shruti was launched at GRSE, Kolkata, to support surveillance, rescue and maritime security...  Why in News: The Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) Shruti was launched at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

Defence and Maritime Functions

- **Shruti** is an indigenously designed **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel** intended for multi-domain maritime operations.
- It will undertake **maritime surveillance, search and rescue, offshore asset protection, HADR and anti-piracy operations.**
- The name **Shruti** refers to the four Vedas, while its crest depicts **Ursa Major and a lighthouse.**



Technical Profile

- NGOPVs have a displacement of about **3,000 tonnes** and can attain speeds of up to **23 knots.**
- They have an endurance of **8,500 nautical miles** at a cruising speed of **14 knots.**
- Construction of NGOPVs is being undertaken concurrently by **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** and GRSE.

Strategic Significance

- The vessel will augment India's existing **Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)** and **Next Generation OPVs.**
- The programme supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India** through indigenous naval shipbuilding.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Eco-Educational Hub – Prakriti Gyan Dham

DD News

Jitendra Singh inaugurates CSIR-NBRI's 'Prakriti Gyan Dham' eco-educational hub in Lucknow

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday dedicated to the nation the first-of-its-kind...



Why in News

- The Union Minister of State for Science and Technology dedicated **Prakriti Gyan Dham**, described as a first-of-its-kind **eco-educational hub.**

Institutional Framework

- The hub has been developed by CSIR–National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR–NBRI).
- It aims to connect **scientific knowledge with public engagement** through experiential and interactive learning.

Major Components

- **PAaVan Path** is an interpretive heritage trail displaying curated plant collections representing diverse ecological regions and associated vegetation.
- **Vibhav Enclave** is a **Threatened Plants of India Garden** dedicated to rare, endangered and threatened plant species.
- **Bhairav Enclave** is a **State Plants of India Garden** showcasing officially designated State Plants of States and Union Territories.
- The hub promotes awareness about biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, climate change and plant genetic-resource conservation.