

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

12-07-2026

Jayaprakash Narayan Public Library

 The Indian Express

35,000 books, 1 cr e-books: Delhi gets a tech-enabled public library.



The Jayaprakash Narayan Public Library, inaugurated by Amit Shah under the NDMC, offers 35000 books, access to nearly one crore e-books,...

Why in News

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Jayaprakash Narayan Public Library in the NDMC area of Delhi on 11 July 2026.

Knowledge Infrastructure

- The library has been developed by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).
- It functions as a multimedia and digital knowledge centre.
- The facility is named after Jayaprakash Narayan, leader of the Total Revolution Movement.

Digital and Physical Resources

- The library houses around 32,000 physical books.
- It provides access to nearly 1 crore e-books and digital resources.
- It has a seating capacity of 200 persons.

Educational Significance

- The library contains reading halls, research facilities, and children's sections.
- It is designed to support students preparing for examinations including UPSC Civil Services Examination.
- NDMC administers civic services in parts of central Delhi.

Aastha Van Sanrakshan Yojana

Why in News

- The Union Government approved the ₹3,000-crore **Aastha Van Sanrakshan Yojana** to conserve nearly **15,000 sacred groves** across India.

PIB

[Shri Bhupendra Yadav chairs the 7th Meeting of Governing Body of National CAMPA and reviews Overall Performance of the Authority, at Coimbatore](#)

Shri Bhupendra Yadav chairs the 7th Meeting of Governing Body of National CAMPA and reviews Overall Performance of the Authority...



Conservation Framework

- Sacred groves are community-protected forest patches preserved for religious and cultural reasons.
- The scheme will run from 2026–27 to 2030–31.
- Sacred groves will be recognised as **Aastha Vans** under the programme.

Institutional Support

- The scheme will be funded through the **National CAMPA Fund**.
- Approval was granted during the **7th Governing Body Meeting of CAMPA** held in **Coimbatore**.
- The meeting was chaired by **Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav**.

Legal and Policy Context

- The initiative follows a **Supreme Court directive** dated **18**

Mangrove Forests

- Mangroves** are salt-tolerant forests found in tropical and subtropical coastal intertidal zones.
- They grow in estuaries, deltas, lagoons, and sheltered coastlines where freshwater mixes with seawater.
- Major mangrove species in India include **Rhizophora, Avicennia, Sonneratia, and Bruguiera**.
- India has about **4,992 sq km** of mangrove cover (ISFR 2023), with the **Sundarbans** being the largest mangrove forest.

Importance of Mangroves

- They act as a **natural barrier** against cyclones, storm surges, and coastal erosion.
- They provide breeding and nursery grounds for fish, crabs, and shrimp.
- They support rich biodiversity, including several endangered species.
- They are highly efficient **blue carbon ecosystems**, storing large amounts of carbon.
- They improve water quality by trapping sediments and pollutants.
- They sustain the livelihoods of coastal communities through fisheries and eco-tourism.

December 2024 regarding protection of sacred groves.

- It complements compensatory afforestation and ecological restoration efforts.
- The programme also addresses biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and ecosystem restoration.

Associated Developments

- The **MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes)** programme has been extended till 2029.
- An additional allocation of **₹500 crore** has been approved for mangrove conservation.

Nifty500 Ahimsa Index

 The Times of India

[NSE Indices launches Nifty500 Ahimsa Index: From 'ethical' filters to screening, how the benchmark works](#)

NSE Indices Limited, the index services subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), announced the launch of Nifty500 Ahimsa Index,...



Why in News

- **NSE Indices Limited** launched the **Nifty500 Ahimsa Index** on 10 July 2026.

Index Characteristics

- The index is derived from the Nifty 500 Universe.
- It has a base date of 1 April 2016 and a **base value of 1000**.
- It uses **free-float market capitalisation** for assigning stock weights.

Ahimsa Screening Framework

- The index was developed with the **Ahimsagain Foundation**.
- Companies are classified into **Green, Orange, and Red Bands**.
- Firms involved in activities harmful to animals are excluded.
- Companies falling in Orange and Red categories are not included.

Financial Market Relevance

- The index will be reconstituted on a semi-annual basis.
- It is intended to serve as a benchmark for asset managers.
- It can support Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and index funds.

Important Facts

- NSE Indices Limited is a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- The Nifty 500 represents 500 listed companies across sectors in India.

NABARD Facilitates 28 New GI Registrations

bl. BusinessLine

NABARD facilitates GI registration for 28 new products

NABARD said on Friday that it has facilitated the Geographical Indication registration of 28 new products such as traditional handicrafts,...



Why in News

- NABARD facilitated Geographical Indication (GI) registration for 28 new products on 10 July 2026.

Legal Framework

- GI protection is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- Registration is administered by the GI Registry, Chennai.
- GI status protects products whose qualities are linked to a specific geographical region.

Important Registered Products

- Nalanda Bawanbuti Saree and Fabrics and Gaya Pattharkatti Stone Craft belong to Bihar.
- Kuchai Silk Saree and Fabrics belong to Jharkhand.
- Ba Shilp (Bamboo Craft) and BiHu Pepa belong to Assam.
- Himachal Wood Carving Craft and Khajuraho Metal Craft received GI recognition.

Rural Development Significance

- NABARD-supported GI products have reached **176** in total.
- GI initiatives have connected over **13,000 artisans and producers** to markets.
- These initiatives have generated over **50,000 direct jobs**.
- **Dr. Shaji K.V.** is the Chairman of **NABARD**.

Institutional Support

- NABARD operates GI Facilitation Centres at **EDI Ahmedabad, Bihar Agricultural University**, and **MABIF Tamil Nadu**.
- It also runs a dedicated **GI Store at Aihole, Karnataka**.

Trachynotothrips vyaghrahahini



Research Matters

New 'Tiger River' thrips species discovered in the local flowers in Dakshina Kannada

Researchers have discovered a new species of insect, known as a thrips, inside the bright flowers of a tropical plant. The new species...



Why in News

- Researchers discovered a new thrips species named **Trachynotothrips vyaghrahahini** in the **Western Ghats of Karnataka**.

Taxonomic Features

- It belongs to the insect group known as **Thrips**.
- It was discovered inside flowers of a tropical plant in **Pilikula, Karnataka**.
- The name derives from Sanskrit words **Vyaghra (Tiger)** and **Vahini (Flowing River)**.

Identification Characteristics

- The species has a uniformly pale midsection without brown stripes.
- It possesses completely pale hind legs.

- It lacks spine-like hairs on the sides of the abdomen.
- It shows a unique arrangement of microscopic bristles.

About Thrips

- Thrips are minute, slender-bodied insects generally less than **5 mm** long.
- Many species feed on flowers, leaves, buds, and fruits.
- Some species act as vectors of plant diseases.
- A few species are beneficial predators of mites and insects.

Manas Tiger Reserve

TH The Hindu

14 invasive plants behind grassland loss in one of India's first tiger reserves

Invasive plants have caused over 43% grassland loss in Manas Tiger Reserve, threatening vital wildlife habitats in India.

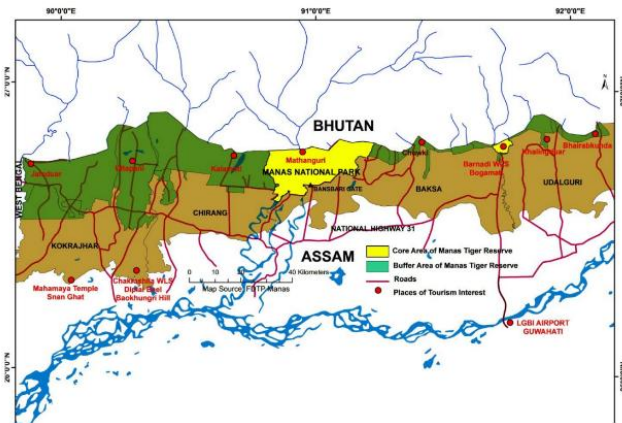


Why in News

- A recent study found that **14 invasive plant species** contributed to the loss of over **43% grassland cover** in **Manas Tiger Reserve** during the last three decades.

Geographical Location

- The reserve is located in **Assam**.
- It shares an international boundary with **Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan**.
- The **Manas River**, along with **Beki** and **Hakua Rivers**, forms the northern boundary.
- The **Sankosh River** separates it from **Buxa Tiger Reserve (West Bengal)**.



Unique Conservation Status

- It is a **UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site**.
- It is also designated as a **Tiger Reserve, Elephant Reserve, Biosphere Reserve, and Important Bird Area (IBA)**.

Biodiversity Features

- Vegetation includes scrub forests, semi-evergreen forests, mixed deciduous forests, and grasslands.
- Important flora include **Sal (*Shorea robusta*)** and **Khair-Sisoo forests**.
- Key fauna include **Tiger, Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros, Pygmy Hog, Swamp Deer, and Bengal Florican**.

Other Important News of the day

Environment

Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros

Why in News

- The Central Government approved a **DNA-based indexing system** for conservation of the **Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros**.

Species Profile

- Scientific Name: **Rhinoceros unicornis**.
- It is the largest among the three Asian rhinoceros species.
- It is commonly known as the **Indian Rhinoceros**.



Distribution and Habitat

- It is found in **India and Nepal**, mainly in Himalayan foothill ecosystems.
- It inhabits swamps, riverine forests, floodplains, and grasslands.

	• Kaziranga National Park (Assam) supports the world's largest population. Distinctive Features • It possesses a single black horn and thick armour-like skin folds. • The species is largely solitary except females with calves. • It is a herbivore feeding on grasses, aquatic plants, fruits, and leaves. Conservation Status • IUCN Red List: Vulnerable. • Poaching for horns remains the major threat to the species.
Miscellaneous	Delhi Schools Rainwater Harvesting Project TH The Hindu <u>Delhi government signs MoU for rainwater harvesting in 75 CM Shri schools</u> Delhi government signs MoU for rainwater harvesting in 75 schools, aiming to expand to 800 for water conservation.  Why in News • The Delhi Government signed a tripartite MoU on 10 July 2026 to install rainwater harvesting systems in 75 CM Shri Schools under the Catch the Rain Campaign. Key Highlights • The project involves the Directorate of Education, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), and Ehsaas NGO. • IGL will fund the initiative through CSR under the Companies Act, 2013.

- The project includes restoration of existing systems and installation of new rooftop harvesting units.
- Each school is expected to recharge about **2 lakh litres** of groundwater annually.
- The total annual harvesting potential is estimated at **50 crore litres** across 75 schools.

Important Facts

- The project uses the **Ehsaas Model**, approved by the **Delhi Jal Board (2021)**.
- The model is low-cost, low-maintenance, and supports groundwater recharge.
- The initiative may be expanded to **800 government schools** in the future.
- Delhi aims to convert all **1,000 government schools** into zero-waste campuses.