



SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

12-06-2026

Angkor Thom

Why in News

- Archaeologists discovered remains of a 12th-century hydraulic system and architectural structures within the royal palace complex of Angkor Thom.

Historical Background

- Angkor Thom was the last and longest-lasting capital of the ancient Khmer Empire.
- It is located in present-day Cambodia north of Angkor Wat.
- The city was established by King Jayavarman VII after defeating the Cham invaders in 1181 CE.
- The name Angkor Thom translates to "Great City."

Religious and Cultural Significance

- The city was designed primarily as a center of Mahayana Buddhism.
- It also incorporated elements of Hinduism and ancestral worship.
- The architecture reflects the religious syncretism of the Khmer civilization.
- It remained the imperial capital until the empire's decline and abandonment around the 16th century.

Architectural Features

- The city covers nearly 9 sq km.
- It has a square layout with walls approximately 8 m high and 3 km long on each side.
- A large moat surrounds the fortified city.
- The centrally located Bayon Temple is famous for its giant stone faces.

Important Structures

- Terrace of the Elephants is associated with royal ceremonies.
- Terrace of the Leper King contains intricate carvings.
- Baphuon is a temple mountain dedicated to Hindu deities.
- Phimeanakas formed part of the royal palace complex.
- Angkor Thom is part of the Angkor Archaeological Park, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1992).

Doctrine of Forum Non Conveniens

Why in News

- The Supreme Court of India observed that the doctrine may rarely apply when writ jurisdiction is invoked under Article 226(1) of the Constitution.

Legal Concept

- The doctrine allows a court to decline jurisdiction when another forum is more suitable for adjudicating the dispute.
- The term “Forum Non Conveniens” means “inconvenient forum” in Latin.
- It originated from English Common Law traditions.
- The doctrine applies even when the court legally possesses jurisdiction.

Constitutional and Judicial Relevance

- The ruling is important in matters involving constitutional remedies under Article 226.
- High Courts exercise writ jurisdiction to enforce Fundamental Rights and legal rights.
- Courts must ensure that access to constitutional remedies is not unnecessarily restricted.

Application in International Law

- The doctrine is widely used in Private International Law (Conflict of Laws).
- It becomes relevant when disputes involve multiple jurisdictions.
- Courts evaluate whether another jurisdiction can better serve the interests of justice.

Factors Considered by Courts

- Courts assess convenience of parties and witnesses.
- Location of evidence and applicable law are examined.
- Availability of a fair trial in the alternate forum is considered.
- The defendant must prove that an adequate alternative forum exists.

RISA: Timeless Tribal

Why in News

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED launched the premium tribal brand “RISA: Timeless Tribal.”

Institutional Framework

- The initiative is implemented through TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India).
- The project is executed with support from the National Design Centre (NDC) under the Ministry of Textiles.
- National Institute of Design (NID), Haryana is developing sustainable premium packaging solutions.

Objectives

- The initiative aims to establish a distinct identity for tribal products.
- It seeks to strengthen market linkages for tribal artisans.
- The project promotes product diversification and design innovation.
- It supports preservation of indigenous knowledge and traditional crafts.

- It aims to enhance livelihood opportunities for tribal communities.

Tribal Products Covered

- Eri Silk and Muga Silk of Assam are included.
- Santal Cotton of Jharkhand has been selected.
- Changpa Pashmina of Ladakh is part of the first phase.
- Kotpad Cotton and Dongria Embroidery of Odisha are included.
- Toda Embroidery of Tamil Nadu is also covered.

Important Handicrafts and Infrastructure

- Promoted handicrafts include Longpi Pottery (Manipur), Turtuk Brass Cutlery (Ladakh) and Dokhra Art (Chhattisgarh).
- The project includes cluster strengthening and artisan capacity building.
- Garment prototypes and stitching facilities are being developed.
- The first exclusive RISA Store is located at Rajiv Gandhi Handicrafts Bhawan, Connaught Place, New Delhi.

International Labour Conference (ILC)

Why in News

- India participated in the 114th International Labour Conference (ILC) held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Institutional Significance

- The ILC is the supreme deliberative and decision-making body of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- It meets annually with representatives from the ILO's 187 Member States.
- The Conference functions as a global parliament on labour issues.

Tripartite Structure

- Each delegation comprises 2 Government, 1 Employer, and 1 Worker representative (2-1-1 format).
- Government, employer, and worker delegates vote independently.

- The tripartite structure ensures balanced representation of labour interests.

Core Functions

- The Conference adopts International Labour Conventions and Recommendations.
- It supervises implementation through the Committee on the Application of Standards.
- It approves the ILO's programme and budget.
- It elects members of the ILO Governing Body.
- It admits eligible new member states.

Important Facts

- The Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) was adopted by the ILC.
- It provides policy guidance for future activities of the ILO.

Network Survey Vehicle (NSV)

Why in News

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) launched nationwide deployment of advanced Network Survey Vehicles (NSVs).

Technology Profile

- NSVs are specialized vehicles equipped with advanced sensors and data acquisition systems.
- They collect road inventory and pavement-condition data on National Highways.
- The vehicles can survey up to 300 km daily.

Key Components

- NSVs use 3D laser profilers, GPS, and high-resolution cameras.
- They contain Inertial Measurement Units (IMU).

- They also use Distance Measuring Indicators (DMI) and video-processing systems.

Data Collection Framework

- The system identifies 13 categories of road defects.
- Defects include potholes, cracks, ravelling, rutting, and edge breaks.
- Surveys also record pavement width, land use, shoulder width, and median details.
- Data collection is mandatory before project commencement and every six months thereafter.

Governance Significance

- Survey data is uploaded to NHAI's AI-enabled Data Lake Portal.
- Raw data reaches the centralized NSV centre within 48 hours.
- Actionable insights are generated within 10 days, compared to the earlier 4–6 months.

Pseudocapritermes novus

Why in News

- A new soil-dwelling termite species, *Pseudocapritermes novus*, was discovered in Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary, West Bengal.

Taxonomic Significance

- *Pseudocapritermes novus* is a newly identified species of soil-feeding termite.
- The discovery increases the number of *Pseudocapritermes* species recorded in India to five.
- It belongs to a group of termites known for asymmetrical snapping jaws.

Ecological Importance

- The species feeds on soil and humus, improving soil fertility.

- It serves as an important indicator of soil health and ecosystem productivity.
- Unlike common termites, it is not known for causing structural damage.

Distinctive Features

- It possesses a strongly bent left mandible with a slightly incurved tip.
- The species has a longer and wider postmentum than related species.
- Strong and prominent spurs are present on its forelegs.
- It produces a clicking sound through its snapping jaws for defence and alarm signalling.

Other Important News of the day

Persons in News	Narendra Modi Becomes India's Longest-Serving Elected Prime Minister
	<p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Narendra Modi became India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister, completing over 4,399 days in office. <p>Key Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He surpassed Jawaharlal Nehru's elected tenure of 4,398 days. • PM Modi has won three consecutive Lok Sabha elections in 2014, 2019, and 2024. • He previously served as Chief Minister of Gujarat for nearly 12 years. <p>Global Recognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Morning Consult's Global Leader Approval Rating Tracker, PM Modi recorded a 70%

	<p>approval rating in April 2026, the highest among surveyed world leaders.</p>
<p>Places in News</p>	<p>Tajikistan</p> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and Tajikistan agreed to deepen economic cooperation during the 12th India–Tajikistan Joint Commission Meeting. <p>Geographical Location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tajikistan is a landlocked country in Central Asia. It borders Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, China, and Afghanistan. It is a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). <p>Physical Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country is dominated by the Pamir Mountains and Alay Mountains. Its highest peak is Qullai Ismoili Somoni (7,495 m). Major rivers include the Amu Darya and Syr Darya. Important lakes include Karakul and Iskanderkul. <p>Political System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital: Dushanbe. It follows a presidential system with a bicameral parliament. The President is the chief executive authority. <p>Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major resources include petroleum, uranium, mercury, coal, gold, silver, tungsten, antimony, lead, and zinc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tajikistan possesses significant hydropower potential due to its river systems.
<p>Environment</p>	<p>Echathalakenda incognita</p>
	<p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientists discovered a new fish species, <i>Echathalakenda incognita</i>, in the Western Ghats of Kerala. <p>Taxonomic Classification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It belongs to the Cyprinid subfamily Torinae. It was discovered in streams of the Periyar Tiger Reserve. The species was previously misidentified as <i>Echathalakenda ophicephala</i>. <p>Scientific Distinction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It possesses circular scales, unlike the rhomboid scales of <i>E. ophicephala</i>. A unique dark lateral stripe distinguishes it visually. Genetic analysis shows 4.9–5.3% variation from its closest relative. <p>Endemism and Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The species is restricted to fast-flowing streams within the reserve. It is the ninth point-endemic fish species identified in Periyar Tiger Reserve. A point-endemic species is confined to a single geographical location worldwide.
<p>Disease</p>	<p>Sjögren's Disease</p>
	<p>Why in News</p>

- Researchers in Japan identified a self-reinforcing immune cell loop that sustains autoimmune responses in Sjögren's Disease.

Disease Profile

- Sjögren's Disease (Sjögren's Syndrome) is a chronic autoimmune disorder affecting moisture-producing glands.
- The immune system primarily attacks glands producing tears, saliva, and sweat.
- The disease may occur independently or alongside Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE).
- Most patients are diagnosed after 40 years of age.
- Around 90% of diagnosed adults are women.

Etiology and Risk Factors

- The exact cause remains unknown, but genetic predisposition is considered important.
- Viral infections, hormonal changes, and stress may trigger disease onset.
- Autoimmune dysfunction causes progressive glandular damage and reduced secretion.

Clinical Manifestations

- Patients commonly experience dry eyes, burning sensation, itching, and eye discomfort.
- Dry mouth may impair swallowing, speaking, and consumption of dry foods.
- Swelling of salivary glands in the face and neck region is frequently observed.
- Some patients develop joint pain, skin rash, dry skin, vaginal dryness, and chronic cough.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent fatigue is a common systemic symptom. <p>Complications and Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disease can affect liver and kidneys in severe cases. • A small proportion of patients may develop lymphoma (lymph node cancer). • There is currently no permanent cure for the disease. • Treatment focuses on lubrication and moisturization of affected tissues to reduce dryness.
<p>Science and Technology</p>	<p>Epichlorohydrin</p> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) prohibited harmful chemicals such as Epichlorohydrin in tea bags. <p>Chemical Profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epichlorohydrin is an epoxide compound where a methyl hydrogen is substituted by chlorine. • Chemical Formula: C_3H_5ClO. • It is a volatile, flammable, colourless chlorinated cyclic ether. • It possesses a chloroform-like irritating odour. • It is soluble in water. <p>Industrial Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is primarily used in the manufacture of epoxy resins. • It is used for producing glycerol. • It is utilized in water-treatment resins and ion-exchange resins.

- It is used in pharmaceuticals, lubricants, adhesives, surfactants, and dyes.

Health Impacts

- Exposure may irritate the eyes, skin, and respiratory tract.
- It can cause chemical pneumonitis and pulmonary edema.
- Long-term exposure may damage kidneys and other organs.

BIS: Key Facts

- BIS is India's national standards body under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016.
- It succeeded the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) established in 1947.
- It functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- BIS represents India in the ISO and IEC.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh Launched Project GANGA

Why in News

- The Uttar Pradesh Government launched Project GANGA to expand rural broadband connectivity and promote digital inclusion.

Key Features

- The project was launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow.
- It aims to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to nearly 20 lakh rural and semi-urban households.



- The initiative seeks to bridge the digital divide and improve access to digital services.

Entrepreneurship and Inclusion

- The state targets creation of 8,000 Digital Entrepreneurs under the project.
- Around 50% of beneficiaries are expected to be women.
- Beneficiaries can avail interest-free loans up to ₹5 lakh under the CM Yuva Scheme.

Developmental Significance

- The project will improve access to digital education, telemedicine, e-Governance, skill development, and digital employment opportunities.
- It supports rural empowerment through technology-driven service delivery.

Implementation

- The project is being supported by the Hinduja Group on a "No Profit, No Loss" basis.
- The first phase covers 21 districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- OneOTT Intertainment Limited is the Knowledge Partner and Implementation Enabler.