SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

13-11-2026

MAWMLUH CAVE, MEGHALAYA

Meghalaya Monitor

Communities experiment with new ways to protect old caves

Meghalaya's caves preserve a remarkable record of the planet's climate history, including evidence of 4200-year-old climate event.



Why in News

- Climate change and mining are threatening **Mawmluh Cave**, affecting its geological formations and underground ecosystem.

Geographical Profile

- Also known as **Krem Mawmluh**, it is located at Sohra in **East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya**.
- It was explored by British official **Lieutenant Yule in 1844** and extends approximately **7.2 km**.

Geological Significance

- It is the **Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP)** for the **Meghalayan Stage of the Holocene Epoch**, which began around **4,200 years before present**.
- It formed near the junction of **Early Eocene dolomite and sandstone formations**.
- It contains stalactites, stalagmites, columns and drapes, collectively known as **speleothems**.
- It is among the **First 100 Geological Heritage Sites** recognised by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY (INSA)

The Statesman

INSA backs G20 on science-led solutions to global challenges

The Indian National Science Academy (INSA), under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting...

Why in News

- INSA endorsed the Joint Statement released by G20 science academies under the **Science20 (S20) 2026** engagement process.

Institutional Background

- Established in **January 1935** as the National Institute of Sciences of India (NISI), it was inaugurated in Calcutta on **7 January 1935**.
- Its headquarters shifted to Delhi in **1951**, and it was renamed INSA in **1970**.
- It is an autonomous institution under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

Objectives

- It promotes scientific research and its application for national welfare.
- It coordinates scientific institutions, supports publications and facilitates international research collaborations.
- Distinguished scientists are recognised through its **Fellowship**.

International Linkages

- INSA became India's adhering organisation to the **International Council for Science (ICSU)** in January 1968, now known as the International Science Council (ISC).
- **Science20 (S20)** provides scientific recommendations to G20 countries on global challenges.
- The 2026 Joint Statement focuses on scientific preparedness and responses to natural hazards and disasters.

YUGE YUGEEN BHARAT MUSEUM

The Indian Express

Cabinet clears Rs 3,230-crore museum with world's largest display area

Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum will be built through adaptive reuse of the North and South Block complex by 2031.



Why in News

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved the ₹3,230 crore Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum project in New Delhi.

Concept and Institutional Framework

- Developed by the **Ministry of Culture**, it will showcase India's tangible and intangible civilisational heritage.
- It will involve adaptive reuse of the historic **North Block and South Block** buildings.
- It forms part of the **Central Vista Redevelopment Project** and was announced in May 2023.

Major Features

- It will have a proposed built-up area of approximately **1,78,509 sq. metres**.

- It is envisaged as the museum with the **largest display area in the world**.
- Around **1.8 million objects** have been identified from national, state and ASI site museums and private collections.
- It will include thematic galleries, conservation facilities and immersive technologies.

Implementation

- The project will be implemented during **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**.
- Its first gallery, themed **Adornment**, is expected to open in the North Block in late 2027.
- Other themes include Mathematics and Astronomy, Architecture and Cityscapes, Languages and Scripts, and Faith and Spirituality.

BLUE FLAG CERTIFICATION: THREE MAHARASHTRA BEACHES

The Hindu

Three Maharashtra Beaches receive international Blue Flag certification for the first time

Three Maharashtra beaches—Ladghar, Guhagar, and Shrivardhan—earn international Blue Flag status for 2026–27, highlighting environmental,...



Why in News

- Three Maharashtra beaches received **Blue Flag Certification for 2026-27**, the first such recognition for the State.

Newly Certified Beaches

- **Ladghar and Guhagar:** Ratnagiri district.
- **Shrivardhan:** Raigad district.



About Blue Flag Certification

- It is an international eco-label awarded by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark**.
- The programme began in **France in 1985**, expanded across Europe in 1987 and internationally in 2001.
- It promotes sustainable coastal and marine tourism.

Certification Criteria

- Beaches are assessed under four categories:
  - Environmental education and information.

- Bathing water quality.
- Environmental management and conservation.
- Safety and services.

- India's established certification framework refers to **33 criteria**.
- **Chandrabhaga Beach, Odisha**, was India's first Blue Flag-certified beach in **2018**.
- **Centre for Environment Education (CEE)** serves as India's National Operating Agency.

LEADERSHIP GROUP FOR INDUSTRY TRANSITION (LeadIT)

DD News

Bhupender Yadav Holds Talks with LeadIT Industry Members, Project Partners Ahead of COP31



Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Thursday held discussions with industry representatives from hard-to-abate sectors, including steel,...

Why in News

- The Union Environment Minister interacted with LeadIT members and project partners to promote industrial decarbonisation.
- **LeadIT 3.0** is scheduled for launch at COP31 in Türkiye on 17 November 2026.

Background and Objectives

- LeadIT was jointly launched by **India and Sweden in September 2019** at the UN Climate Action Summit.
- It is supported by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** and aims to achieve **net-zero industrial emissions by 2050**.
- It focuses on decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors such as steel and cement.

Institutional Framework

- Its secretariat is hosted by the **Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)**.
- It brings together **19 countries and 33 companies**, including 13 Indian companies.
- It promotes public-private cooperation, technology transfer and climate finance.

LeadIT 2.0 and 3.0

- **LeadIT 2.0 (2024-26)** focused on:
  - Inclusive and just industrial transition.
  - Development and transfer of low-carbon technologies.
  - Financial support for emerging economies.
- **LeadIT 3.0** aims to strengthen implementation of industrial decarbonisation commitments.

SWACHH SHEHAR JODI INITIATIVE

ANI News

Ahmedabad-Sanand bag top honour in Swachh Shehar jodi results



The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has announced the top three performing city pairs under the Swachh Shehar Jodi initiative...

Why in News

- President Droupadi Murmu highlighted the **Swachh Shehar Jodi initiative** during the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2025-26.

Institutional Framework

- Launched on **27 September 2025** by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, it operates under **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**.
- It promotes mentorship and peer learning between high-performing mentor cities and comparatively weaker mentee cities.

Major Features

- **70 mentor cities** have been paired with **191 mentee cities** across 33 States and Union Territories.
- Each pair jointly prepares an **Action Plan**.
- Its eight focus areas include waste segregation, scientific waste processing, sanitation access, used-water management, worker welfare, visible cleanliness, citizen engagement and grievance redressal.

Funding and Recognition

- Cities can use **Capacity Building Funds under SBM-U 2.0**, with additional State/UT support where required.
- The initiative follows the **Each One – Teach One** approach.
- Top city pairs in 2025-26:
  - **First:** Ahmedabad-Sanand.
  - **Second:** Indore-Depalpur.
  - **Third:** Tirupati-Kuppam.

Other Important News of the day

Environment

FIVE NEW NEMATODE SPECIES DISCOVERED IN KERALA

The Hindu

Five new species of free-living nematodes discovered in mangrove sediments along Keralam coast

Researchers from the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, have discovered five new species of free-living...



Why in News

- Researchers from the **University of Kerala** discovered five new free-living nematode species in mangrove sediments along the Kerala coast.

Biological Characteristics

- Nematodes are unsegmented, elongated roundworms belonging to **phylum Nematoda**.
- They are bilaterally symmetrical and occur as parasites or free-living organisms in soil, freshwater and marine environments.
- Some possess a fluid-filled body cavity called a **pseudocoelom**.

Newly Discovered Species

- All five belong to the genus **Pseudochromadora** and family **Desmodoridae**:
  - *P. coronata*
  - *P. cryptica*
  - *P. kairali*
  - *P. kandeli*
  - *P. longicaudata*

Ecological Significance

- Marine nematodes facilitate **organic matter decomposition and nutrient cycling**.
- They maintain sediment health and serve as **bio-indicators** of environmental pollution and ecological changes.

Defence

SUPER ICE CRUISE MISSILE

Why in News

- Israeli defence company **Rafael**

Naval News

Rafael Unveils Super Ice Cruise Missile with 1,000-lb Warhead

Rafael has unveiled Super Ice, a new long-range cruise missile featuring a 1000-pound warhead and full compatibility with air, land,...



	Advanced Defense Systems unveiled SUPER ICE, a cruise missile carrying a **454 kg warhead**. **Development and Capabilities** ➢ It belongs to Rafael's cruise missile family, which includes **Sea Breaker (2021)** and **ICE BREAKER (2023)**. ➢ It is designed for long-range stand-off strikes against strategic targets, military installations and air-defence systems. ➢ It supports launch from aircraft, ground-based systems and naval platforms. **Technical Features** ➢ It carries a **454 kg warhead**, compatible with the US-made **MK83 aerial bomb**. ➢ It uses autonomous navigation and low-altitude terrain-following flight. ➢ Its **electro-optical image-matching guidance** helps identify targets even when satellite navigation signals are disrupted. ➢ Its exact range and speed remain undisclosed; its predecessor ICE BREAKER has a reported range of up to **300 km**.
Science and Technology	**VITAMIN B12-BASED RECHARGEABLE BATTERY** The New Indian Express Researchers develop rechargeable battery using vitamin B12 University of Córdoba researchers develop a rechargeable zinc-air battery using vitamin B12 as a catalyst, achieving 250 charge-discharge...  **Why in News** ➢ Researchers at Spain's **University of Córdoba** developed a rechargeable zinc-air battery using Vitamin B12 as a catalyst. **About Vitamin B12** ➢ Also called **cobalamin**, it is a water-soluble vitamin containing the metal ion **cobalt**. ➢ It is naturally found in fish, meat, eggs and dairy products; the human body cannot synthesise it. **Functions and Deficiency** ➢ It supports **DNA synthesis, red blood cell formation and nervous system functioning**. ➢ Deficiency may cause anaemia, weakness, numbness and neurological problems.

	➢ The liver stores Vitamin B12 for future use. **Battery Technology** ➢ The research used Vitamin B12 anchored to **single-walled carbon nanotubes**. ➢ Cobalt (III) in cobalamin helps facilitate the electrochemical reaction. ➢ The prototype achieved up to **250 charge-discharge cycles**. ➢ The research highlights the potential of biomolecules in sustainable energy-storage technologies.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Ganga Mahotsav and Dev Deepawali

DD News

CM Adityanath reviews preparations for Ganga Mahotsav, Dev Deepawali in Varanasi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday reviewed preparations for the Ganga Mahotsav, scheduled from November 20 to 23,...



Why in News?

- CM Yogi Adityanath reviewed preparations for **Ganga Mahotsav (20–23 November 2026)** and **Dev Deepawali (24 November 2026)** in Varanasi.

Major Celebrations

- **Ganga Mahotsav:** Four-day cultural festival at Namo Ghat.
- **Dev Deepawali:** Over **11 lakh earthen lamps** will illuminate ghats, riverbanks and more than 100 ponds.
- **Dashashwamedh Ghat:** Maha Aarti.
- **Chet Singh Ghat:** Projection and laser show.
- Drone shows and green fireworks are also planned.
- **Cultural Significance**
- Dev Deepawali is celebrated on **Kartik Purnima** and reflects the religious and cultural heritage of Kashi.
- Local artists and women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) will participate in the celebrations.
- **Guru Nanak Jayanti** also falls on 24 November 2026, requiring arrangements at gurdwaras.

Administrative Measures

- A special cleanliness drive will run from 20–25 November.
- Boatmen will receive training for safe operations, and arrangements will be made for tourist safety and convenience.