

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

14-06-2026

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

bl. BusinessLine

NPPA hikes Cisplatin and Carboplatin prices by 50% amid cancer drug shortage

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has increased the price of chemotherapy drugs Cisplatin and Carboplatin by 50 per cent,...



Why in News

- **NPPA** recently increased ceiling prices of two platinum-based cancer drugs by **50%** due to rising raw material costs.

Institutional Framework

- NPPA is India's independent drug pricing regulator.
- It was established in **1997** under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**.
- It derives pricing powers from the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**.



Regulatory Functions

- It implements the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO).
- It fixes ceiling prices for medicines listed under **Schedule I of DPCO**.
- It monitors drug shortages and takes corrective measures.
- It advises the Central Government on drug pricing policies.

Data and Monitoring Role

- It maintains data on drug production, imports, exports and market share.
- It tracks profitability and availability of pharmaceutical products.

Governance Significance

- It ensures **availability, accessibility and affordability** of essential medicines.
- It helps prevent excessive pricing and market distortions.

Chocolate Chip Sea Star

THE Hindu

Science Snapshots: June 14, 2026

Sea star sports nature's optic fibres to focus light. Advertisement. Advertisement. A remarkable structure in the chocolate-chip sea star...



Why in News

- Scientists discovered a unique skeletal structure that transmits 70% of incident light in the Chocolate Chip Sea Star.

Species Identification

- Scientific name: *Protoreaster nodosus*.
- It is also called the **Horned Sea Star**.
- It is a highly recognizable ornamental sea star.

Habitat and Distribution

- It is found in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- It inhabits **coral reefs, sandy lagoons and seagrass beds**.
- It generally occurs up to 30 metres depth.

Biological Features

- It grows up to 12 inches in diameter.
- It can regenerate lost limbs through autotomy.
- It is a carnivore feeding on small invertebrates and coral tissues.

Scientific Importance

- Its skeletal structures behave like optical fibres.
- Engineers may use this design for **lightweight sensors and displays**.

Important Points

- Sea stars belong to phylum **Echinodermata**.
- They possess **radial symmetry** and **tube feet**.
- Around **2,000 species** of sea stars exist globally.

Thamirabarani River

ETV Bharat

Tamil Nadu: Endangered Otter Habitats Need Protection, Will Save Thamirabarani River's Biodiversity.



Tirunelveli: Unknown to many, the Thamirabarani River flowing through Tamil Nadu is home to otters among a plethora of fauna and flora.

Why in News

- Researchers raised concerns over declining otter populations in the **Thamirabarani River** due to habitat destruction.

Geographical Profile

- It is a rare **perennial river** flowing entirely within **Tamil Nadu**.
- It is also called **Tamraparni River** or **Porunai River**.
- It originates from **Agastyarkoodam Peak** in the **Western Ghats**.
- It drains into the **Gulf of Mannar (Bay of Bengal)**.



Physical Characteristics

- Total length is approximately **128 km**.
- Major tributaries include **Gadananathi, Manimuthar and Pachaiyar** rivers.
- Major dams include **Papanasam, Karaiyar and Manimuthar dams**.

Biodiversity Significance

- It supports nearly **669 fish species**.
- It hosts all three Indian otter species.
- It is among the richest rivers globally in fish diversity.

Cultural Relevance

- **Porunai** has extensive references in **Sangam literature**.

ANCHOR (3D Atlas of Human Brainstem)

ThePrint

A Google Maps for the brain? IIT Madras releases detailed 3D atlas of human brainstem

IIT Madras has unveiled ANCHOR, the world's most detailed 3D atlas of the human brainstem built using AI, high-resolution imaging and...

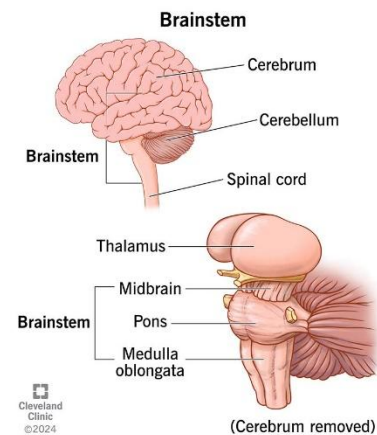


Why in News

- IIT Madras recently released ANCHOR, the world's most detailed 3D atlas of the human brainstem.

Scientific Features

- ANCHOR stands for **Atlas of Neurochemical Characterization of the Human Brainstem with 3D Reconstruction**.
- It is developed by the **Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre (SGBC), IIT Madras**.
- It contains over **200 brainstem nuclei and fibre tracts** reconstructed from hundreds of serial sections.
- It maps the brainstem from the **prenatal stage to adulthood** using multi-modal datasets.



Technological Innovations

- It integrates **MRI, histology and chemo-architectural mapping** into a single framework.
- It uses **eight complementary immunostains** across more than **500 sections**.
- It enables visualization nearly **1,000 times more detailed than conventional MRI**.
- It allows researchers to study brain cells at the micron level.

Medical and Research Significance

- It serves as a navigational map for understanding neural networks and cellular organization.
- It can help detect neurodegenerative diseases at earlier stages.
- It may improve diagnosis and treatment of brain disorders across age groups.
- **Brainstem** connects the brain to the spinal cord.
- It regulates vital functions like **breathing, heart rate and sleep**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

France

Why in News

- The Prime Minister of India recently visited **Nice, France**, for bilateral discussions with the French President.


Geographical Profile

- France is located in **North-Western Europe**.
- It shares borders with Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Andorra.
- It is bordered by the **Bay of Biscay**, **English Channel** and **Mediterranean Sea**.

Key Physical Features

- The climate is predominantly **temperate** with regional variations.
- Major rivers include **Loire** and **Seine**.
- Major mountain ranges include the **Alps, Jura and Pyrenees**.



	<p>Strategic Territories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France has five overseas regions: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique and Mayotte. • The capital city is Paris. <p>India-France Linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France is assisting India in the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant, Maharashtra.
<p>Environment</p>	<p>Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p><small>ANI News</small></p> <p>Cine style smuggling bid foiled in Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve</p> <p><small>A joint team of police and forest officials foiled a bid to smuggle expensive teak planks, which were hidden in a pond, riverbanks and...</small></p>  </div> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tigress recently entered Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, raising hopes for tiger revival. <p>Location and Connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is located in Chhattisgarh. • It was formed by merging Udanti and Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuaries. • It connects to Indravati Tiger Reserve through forest corridors. <p>Hydrological Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mahanadi is the principal river. • Other rivers include Udanti, Sitanadi, Indravan and Pairi. <p>Ecological Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It mainly has tropical dry and moist deciduous forests. • Dominant flora includes Sal (Shorea robusta), Teak (Tectona grandis) and Mahua.

Biodiversity Importance

- It shelters the endangered **Wild Buffalo**.
- Other species include **Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear and Indian Wolf**.
- **PVTGs: Kamar Tribe** and **Bhunja Tribe** inhabit the landscape.

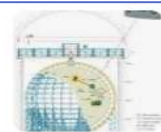
Space

Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO)

 Nature

[Measurement of reactor neutrino oscillation with the first JUNO data](#)

Neutrino oscillations (see refs. 1,2 and references therein), a quantum effect manifesting at macroscopic scales, are governed by lepton...

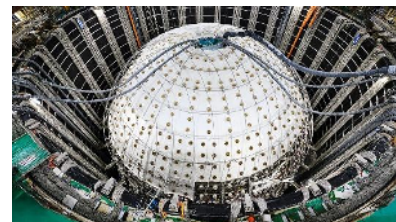


Why in News

- China's **JUNO** collaboration published its first neutrino oscillation results.

Project Profile

- JUNO is located near **Kaiping, Guangdong Province, China**.
- It is led by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).
- It involves **74 institutions** and around **700 researchers**.



Scientific Objectives

- Its primary aim is determining Neutrino Mass Ordering (NMO).
- It studies electron anti-neutrinos from nearby nuclear reactors.

Technical Features

- It is located **700 m underground**.
- It contains **20,000 tonnes of liquid scintillator**.
- It is the world's largest high-precision liquid scintillator detector.
- Its designed lifespan is **30 years**.

About Neutrinos

- Neutrinos are elementary particles belonging to the **lepton family**.
- They interact only through gravity and the **weak nuclear force**.
- They were predicted in **1930** and discovered in **1956**.
- Around **100 trillion neutrinos** pass through the human body every second.

Defence

Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Medium Range (NASM–MR)



[DRDO demonstrates the nation's next-gen defence capabilities](#)

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated multiple crucial technologies bolstering the nation's...



Why in News

- India successfully tested **NASM-MR** and advanced **Ballistic Defence systems** and **Missile (BMD)**.



Missile Profile

- **NASM-MR** is a **subsonic, sea-skimming anti-ship missile**.
- It is developed by **DRDO** for the **Indian Navy**.
- It targets **frigates, corvettes and destroyers**.

Operational Features

- It will have **ship, air and submarine launched variants**.
- It is powered by a **Small Gas Turbine Jet Engine (SGTJE)**.
- It has a strike range of **350 km**.
- It carries a **200+ kg warhead**.

Guidance Technology

- It combines an **active radar seeker** and an **imaging infrared seeker**.
- It is capable of all-weather operations.

Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Facts

- **AD-1** intercepts missiles within the atmosphere (endo-atmospheric).
- **AD-2** intercepts missiles beyond the atmosphere (exo-atmospheric).
- Both operate at **Mach 6–7** speeds.
- India now joins an elite group of nations capable of intercepting threats up to **ICBM class missiles**.