

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

14-10-2026

Yenisei River

 The Independent

Siberian 'man eating' bear attack surge prompts population warning

Bounding across the Siberian taiga, a brown bear is tracked by two hunters. Three shots are fired, bringing down the animal into the long...



Why in News: Brown bear attacks were reported near **Podtesovo**, a settlement situated on the banks of the Yenisei River in Russia.

Hydrological Significance

- **Location:** The Yenisei is a major river system flowing through **central Siberia, Russia**, from south to north.
- **Formation:** It is formed by the confluence of the **Great Yenisei and Little Yenisei** at **Kyzyl, Russia**.
- **Sources:** The Great Yenisei rises in the **Eastern Sayan Mountains of Tyva**, while the Little Yenisei, also called **Ka-Khem**, originates in Mongolia's Darhadin Bowl.
- **Outfall:** The river ultimately empties into the **Kara Sea**, a marginal sea of the **Arctic Ocean**.

Drainage and Ecological Importance

- **Global significance:** The Yenisei is the **largest river system draining into the Arctic Ocean** and is described as the world's fifth-largest river.
- **Major tributary:** The **Angara River**, which drains **Lake Baikal**, is an important headwater tributary.
- **Ecosystem:** The river supports the Siberian taiga, characterised by extensive **boreal forests**.
- **Aquatic fauna:** Its waters support approximately **55 native fish species**, including Siberian sturgeon, Arctic flounder, common roach and northern pike.

Maritime State Development Council (MSDC)

Why in News: The **21st Maritime State Development Council meeting** concluded in

 NDTV

'One Nation One Port' Process To Begin For India's Maritime Sector By 2027

The council resolved that all ports shall integrate with the Maritime Single Window (MSW-Sagar Setu) by March 2027, ensuring unified digital...



Mumbai with key outcomes for India's maritime sector.

Institutional Framework

- **Establishment:** The MSDC was constituted in **May 1997** as an apex advisory body for maritime sector development.
- **Legal status:** The **Indian Ports Act, 2025** grants statutory status to the Council.
- **Chairperson:** The Union Minister for **Ports, Shipping and Waterways** chairs the Council.

Governance and Coordination

- **Composition:** It includes port ministers of maritime States, Union Territory administrators and representatives of the Navy, Coast Guard and other stakeholders.
- **Integrated development:** It promotes coordinated growth of **major and non-major ports** in consultation with State governments.

Infrastructure and Policy Functions

- **Port monitoring:** The Council monitors minor, captive and private ports and recommends their integration with major ports.
- **Connectivity planning:** It assesses requirements for **roads, railways and inland waterways (IWT)** connecting ports.
- **Policy advisory:** It advises the Central Government on national maritime planning, legislative reforms, port efficiency, data transparency and connectivity.

Central Electricity Authority (CEA)

TH The Hindu

Govt. to roll out National Electricity Data Sharing framework in October: Power Secretary

India to launch National Electricity Data Sharing Framework in October, plus a national data governance body chaired by CEA.



Why in News: The **Central Electricity Authority** organised a two-day international conference-cum-exhibition on **"Making Indian Power Sector AI Enabled"** in New Delhi.

Statutory and Administrative Framework

- **Legal basis:** The CEA is a statutory body established under **Section 3(1) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948**.
- **Nodal ministry:** It functions under the **Ministry of Power**.
- **Leadership:** It is headed by a **Chairperson who serves as ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India**.

Technical and Regulatory Functions

- **Policy advice:** It advises the Central Government on national electricity policy and prepares short-term and perspective plans for electricity-system development.
- **Technical standards:** It specifies standards for electrical plants, electric lines and grid connectivity.
- **Data management:** It collects electricity-sector data covering generation, transmission, trading, distribution and utilisation.
- **Research promotion:** It promotes research and undertakes studies on electricity-sector costs, efficiency and competitiveness.

Organisational Structure

- **Membership:** The CEA comprises **six full-time Members**.
- **Functional divisions:** These members are designated for **Thermal, Hydro, Economic and Commercial, Power Systems, Planning, and Grid Operation and Distribution**.

National Culture Fund (NCF)

 www.pib.gov.in

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), National Culture Fund (NCF) and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Sign MoA for Conservation and Development of Heritage Sites

HAL, NCF and ASI today signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for undertaking heritage conservation and development works at three prominent...



Why in News: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the National Culture Fund and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the conservation and development of heritage sites.

Institutional Framework

- **Establishment:** The NCF was established as a trust on **28 November 1996** under the **Charitable Endowments Act, 1890**.
- **Governing Council:** It is chaired by the **Union Minister of Culture** and can have a maximum of **25 members**.
- **Executive Committee:** It is headed by the **Secretary, Ministry of Culture**, and can have a maximum of **11 members**.

Heritage Conservation Priorities

- **Monument preservation:** The Fund supports the conservation, maintenance, protection and restoration of monuments and cultural heritage.

- **Capacity building:** It facilitates training and development of specialists and cultural administrators.
- **Museum development:** It supports museum expansion, new museums and specialised galleries.
- **Cultural documentation:** It promotes documentation of traditional cultural expressions and art forms facing decline or extinction.

Financial and Legal Linkages

- **Tax benefits:** Donations to the NCF are eligible for **100% deduction under Section 80G(ii) of the Income-tax Act, 1961.**
- **Corporate Social Responsibility:** The NCF is an eligible recipient of CSR contributions under **Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013**, including activities relating to heritage, art, culture and traditional handicrafts.
- **Funding sources:** It can receive contributions from **corporates, public sector undertakings, trusts and individuals** for eligible heritage projects.

Kanha Tiger Reserve

 **Organiser**

Wild buffaloes return to Madhya Pradesh's Kanha Tiger Reserve after almost a century

Madhya Pradesh releases eight wild buffaloes at Kanha Tiger Reserve as part of a conservation project targeting 50 animals in three years.



Why in News: Eight wild buffaloes brought from **Assam's Kaziranga National Park** were released into a **17-hectare enclosure** at Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.

Geographical and Ecological Profile

- **Location:** Kanha Tiger Reserve lies in the **Maikal ranges of the Satpuras in Madhya Pradesh.**
- **Terrain:** Its landscape includes forested undulations, hills, plateaus and valleys.
- **Vegetation:** The reserve primarily contains **moist Sal and moist mixed deciduous forests.**

Wildlife and Conservation

- **Fauna:** Major wildlife includes the **Royal Bengal Tiger, leopard, sloth bear and Indian wild dog.**
- **Flora:** Important plant species include **Sal, bamboo, tendu, jamun, arjun and lendia.**
- **Mascot:** Kanha became the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot, **"Bhoorsingh the Barasingha."**

Landscape Connectivity and Communities

- **Wildlife corridors:** Kanha has an active corridor with **Pench Tiger Reserve** and is connected with **Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh**.
- **Tribal communities:** The region is inhabited by the **Gond and Baiga** communities.
- **Conservation relevance:** Wildlife translocation and habitat connectivity are important tools for strengthening species recovery and landscape-level conservation.

Prosopis juliflora

TH The Hindu

WRD begins removal of invasive plants from irrigation tanks along Palar River in Vellore

WRD and Exnora begin removing invasive seemsai karuvelam from irrigation tanks along Palar River to store rainwater ahead of monsoon.



Why in News: The **Water Resources Department of Tamil Nadu** began removing invasive *Prosopis juliflora* from irrigation tanks along the **Palar River in Vellore**.

Biological Characteristics

- **Scientific classification:** *Prosopis juliflora* is a shrub or small tree belonging to the **Fabaceae family** and is a type of mesquite.
- **Native range:** It is native to **Mexico, South America and the Caribbean**.
- **Indian names:** It is locally known as **vilayati kikar, seemai karuvelam, seemai jaali, Bellary jaali and gando baval**.
- **Introduction:** It was brought to Delhi by the British during the **1920s**.

Invasive Potential

- **Ecological adaptability:** It grows across diverse soil conditions, including sandy, saline and alkaline soils.
- **Climatic tolerance:** It can survive in areas receiving approximately **50–1,500 mm of annual rainfall**.
- **Competitive advantage:** Its vigorous growth enables it to outcompete native plant species, particularly in **arid and semi-arid regions**.

Environmental Implications

- **Water stress:** The tree can consume more than **4 litres of water/ kg of biomass**.
- **Grassland degradation:** Its spread can displace native vegetation and degrade grassland habitats.
- **Biodiversity loss:** Invasion can alter habitats and reduce the availability of resources for indigenous plants and animals.

- **Management priority:** Removal from irrigation tanks and other invaded landscapes can support the restoration of native vegetation and water-management infrastructure.

Tele-MANAS

 The New Indian Express

73% of Tele-MANAS users are aged 18-45; exam stress, workplace and relationship issues top concerns

Mental health services have also been integrated into the Comprehensive Primary Health Care package offered through over 1.83 lakh Ayushman...



Why in News: India's national mental health helpline, **Tele-MANAS**, received nearly **48 lakh calls in four years**.

Policy Framework and Objectives

- **Full form:** **Tele-MANAS** stands for *Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States*.
- **Launch:** It was launched in **2022** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- **Programme linkage:** It forms a key digital component of the **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)**.
- **Core objective:** It **provides 24x7 tele-mental health services** to improve access to equitable, affordable and quality mental healthcare across India.

Service Delivery Architecture

- **Tier 1:** State Tele-MANAS cells staffed by trained counsellors and mental health professionals provide initial tele-counselling and tele-consultation.
- **Tier 2:** Specialists associated with **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) facilities and medical colleges** provide advanced support and physical consultations.
- **Digital integration:** The service includes video consultations through **e-Sanjeevani**, e-prescriptions, follow-up care and referral to in-person services.

Digital Accessibility

- **Mobile application:** The Tele-MANAS app provides mental health resources, self-care guidance, stress-management strategies and tools to identify early signs of distress.
- **Digital features:** The platform includes a multilingual interface, the **"Asmi" chatbot**, accessibility features and an emergency module.

- **Language coverage:** Services are available in **Hindi and English**, along with **10 regional languages**—Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Odia and Punjabi.

Public Health Significance

- **Universal access:** The service operates across all **States and Union Territories**, including support for vulnerable and difficult-to-reach populations.
- **Continuum of care:** Its counselling, specialist consultation and referral mechanisms connect digital support with formal healthcare services.
- **Governance relevance:** Tele-MANAS strengthens the use of digital public infrastructure for mental health service delivery.

Other Important News of the day

Persons in News

Sunil Bharti Mittal Honoured with France's Highest Civilian Award

TH The Hindu

Sunil Bharti Mittal conferred France's highest civilian award

Bharti Enterprises founder Sunil Bharti Mittal is conferred France's highest civilian award, the Légion d'Honneur, by President Emmanuel...



Why in News: **Sunil Bharti Mittal**, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, was honoured with the **Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour** by French President Emmanuel Macron.

Award Characteristics

- The **Legion of Honour** was established in **1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte**.
- It is France's highest civilian distinction.
- The award recognises Mittal's contributions to telecommunications, digital infrastructure and **India–France economic relations**.

India–France Economic Cooperation

- Mittal's association with France began through collaboration between **Compagnie Générale des Eaux and Bharti** to introduce mobile telephony in India.
- He serves as Co-Chairman of **Eutelsat**, a European satellite company.
- He received the **Padma Bhushan in 2007** and was awarded the **Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) in 2024**.

	Award Ceremony ➤ The insignia was scheduled to be conferred at the French Embassy in New Delhi in October 2026.
Places in News	Czech Republic Why in News: India's Defence Minister held a bilateral meeting in New Delhi with the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic.  The map illustrates the Czech Republic's location in Central Europe, bordered by Germany to the west and north, Poland to the northeast, Slovakia to the east, and Austria and Hungary to the south. Key geographical features include the Bohemian Massif, the Sudetic Mountains (home to Mt. Sněžka), and the Carpathian Mountains. Major rivers such as the Elbe, Vltava, Morava, and Danube are shown. Significant cities like Prague (the capital), Brno, and Olomouc are marked. The map also identifies regions like Bohemia and Moravia, and natural areas like the Bohemian Forest. A legend at the bottom left categorizes terrain into Low, Hills, and Mountains. A scale bar indicates distances of 80 miles and 80 kilometers, and a north arrow is present.

Geographical Orientation

- **Location:** The Czech Republic is a **landlocked country** in **Central Europe**, with **Prague** as its capital.
- **Boundaries:** It borders **Poland** to the north and northeast, **Slovakia** to the east, **Austria** to the south, and **Germany** to the west and northwest.
- **Mountain systems:** Its major mountain regions include the **Carpathian, Ore, Sudetic and Šumava mountains**.

Physical and Economic Features

- **Highest point:** **Mount Sněžka (1,603 m)** in the Sudetic Mountains is the country's highest point.
- **Rivers:** Major rivers include the **Elbe, Oder, Vltava and Morava**; the Oder flows northwards towards the Baltic Sea.
- **Natural resources:** The country possesses **arable land, forests, coal, kaolin, graphite and clay**.
- **Climate:** It experiences a temperate climate with warm summers and cold, cloudy and humid winters.

Environment

Ceropegia tamilnaduensis

 Research Matters

New plant species discovered in the Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary named after Tamil Nadu

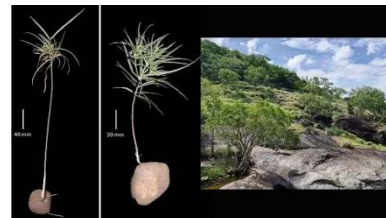
Botanists from the Botanical Survey of India have discovered and described a new plant species, named *Ceropegia tamilnaduensis*, from the...



Why in News: Botanists from the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** discovered and described a new plant species, *Ceropegia tamilnaduensis*, in Tamil Nadu.

Botanical Significance

- **Habitat:** The perennial herb was discovered on stream-adjacent hill slopes in **Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu**, at approximately **380 metres** elevation.
- **Distinctive features:** It has solitary flowers in leaf axils, drooping stems, a **glabrous central corona**, lateral wings on the pollinial corpusculum, and seeds up to **14 mm** long.



	➤ Morphological similarities: Its flower structure resembles <i>Ceropegia annamacharyae</i>, while its narrow leaves and body structure resemble <i>Ceropegia swarupa</i>. Geographical and Ecological Profile ➤ Location: Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Tamil Nadu and received sanctuary status in 2015. ➤ Mountain ranges: The sanctuary includes 29 mountain peaks, with Sivagiri Mala (1,748 m) identified as the highest peak. Biodiversity and Conservation ➤ Flora: Important vegetation includes sandalwood (<i>Santalum album</i>), teak (<i>Tectona grandis</i>), <i>Shorea</i>, shola species and <i>Strobilanthes kunthiana</i>. ➤ Fauna: Notable wildlife includes the Nilgiri Tahr, Bengal Tiger, Asian Elephant, Lion-tailed Macaque, Grizzled Giant Squirrel, Gaur and Sloth Bear.
Defence	INS Samarthak TH The Hindu <u>Navy to commission indigenous multi-purpose vessel Samarthak on October 16</u> The Indian Navy will commission INS Samarthak, the first of four indigenously built Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs), at the Naval Base in...  Why in News: The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Samarthak at Naval Base Karwar. Indigenous Defence Capabilities ➤ Classification: INS Samarthak is the first of four Multi-Purpose Vessels being inducted into the Indian Navy. ➤ Builder: It was built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. under the Government of India's Make in India initiative. ➤ Motto: The ship's motto is "Victory is Our Sole Aim." ➤ Combat systems: It incorporates an integrated combat suite comprising indigenous sensors, weapons and electronic systems. Operational Capabilities ➤ Primary role: The vessel is designed for maritime surveillance and patrol.

	➤ Special operations: It can support Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and serve as a target deployment and trials platform. ➤ Unmanned systems: It can function as a mothership for unmanned and autonomous systems. ➤ Humanitarian assistance: It can undertake Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), limited hospital-ship conversion and salvage operations. Strategic Significance ➤ Maritime security: The vessel strengthens the Indian Navy's multi-purpose operational capabilities. ➤ Defence indigenisation: It reflects the growing role of domestic shipbuilding in meeting India's maritime security requirements.
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Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh Model Building Regulations, 2026



Hindustan Times

UP clears Model Building Regulations 2026: How new rules could reshape real estate markets in Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway | Real Estate News

The Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved the Model Building Regulations, 2026, for industrial development authorities, a move expected to...



Why in News: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the **Model Building Regulations, 2026**, to accelerate urban development, attract private investment and improve land utilisation.

Key Regulatory Provisions

- **Removal of FAR Ceiling:** Floor Area Ratio (FAR) restrictions have been removed for plots along roads wider than **45 metres**, subject to setbacks, fire safety norms and aviation clearances.
- **Deemed Approval:** Building plans prepared by licensed technical experts will receive deemed approval if authorities fail to decide within **60 days**, for residential plots up to **500 sq m** and commercial plots up to **200 sq m**.

- **Simplified Approvals:** Building-plan approval procedures have been simplified for residential plots up to **100 sq m** and commercial plots up to **30 sq m**.

Safety and Applicability

- High-rise buildings will undergo mandatory **structural audits every five years**.
- Individual development authorities will decide whether the regulations apply to sectors that are already more than **60% developed**.
- The regulations particularly target industrial development authorities in **Noida, Greater Noida and the Yamuna Expressway region**.