

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

15-07-2026

Krishna River

TOI The Times of India

60-year-old Sangli swimmer injured in crocodile attack in Krishna river

60-year-old Sangli swimmer Jalindar "Nana" Salunkhe injured in Krishna River crocodile attack; rescued and treated in ICU as officials urge...

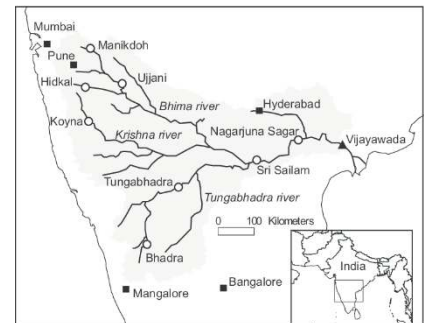


Why in News

- A prolonged dry spell in the Western Ghats has reduced inflows into the **Krishna River** and its tributaries.

River Profile

- The **Krishna (Krishnaveni)** is India's fourth-largest river basin after the Ganga, Godavari, and Brahmaputra.
- It originates near **Mahabaleshwar** in the **Western Ghats (Maharashtra)**.
- The river flows through **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh** before draining into the **Bay of Bengal** at **Hammasaladevi**.
- Total length is about 1,400 km and the basin covers 2.59 lakh sq km.



Tributaries and Projects

- Major tributaries include **Bhima, Tungabhadra, Musi, Ghataprabha, and Malaprabha**.
- Important dams include **Almatti, Nagarjuna Sagar, Srisailem, Narayanpur, Dhom, and Jurala**.

Historical Significance

- The river supported ancient kingdoms such as the **Satavahanas** and the **Vijayanagara Empire**.

Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)

Why in News

- A recent study found that coal-based thermal power plants are the major contributors to **SO₂ pollution** around Delhi.

The Quint

Coal Plants Exempt From Pollution Rules Drive Most SO₂ Emissions Around Delhi

Analysis reveals unchecked sulphur dioxide emissions from exempted coal plants near Delhi, highlighting regulatory gaps and health risks.



About Sulphur Dioxide

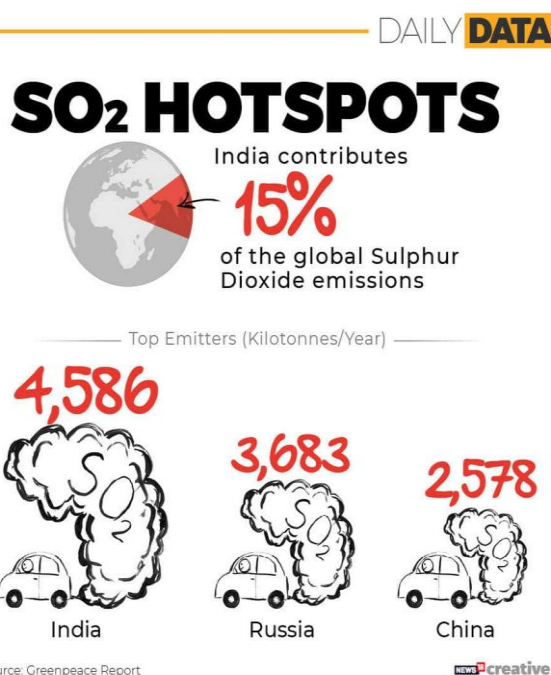
- SO₂** is a colourless gas with a strong pungent odour.
- It is widely used in **sulphuric acid production**, paper industries, food processing, and metal refining.

Sources

- Major sources include **coal-fired power plants**, **industrial smelting**, **oil combustion**, and **fossil fuel burning**.
- Natural emissions also occur during **volcanic eruptions**.

Environmental Impact

- It causes respiratory illnesses and aggravates asthma and lung diseases.
- In the atmosphere, it contributes to **acid rain** by forming **Sulphurous Acid (H₂SO₃)** and other sulphate compounds.
- It also negatively impacts crops, forests, water bodies, and visibility.



Indian Grey Hornbill

TNIE The New Indian Express

Grey Hornbill returns to Gir after six decades; Four years of successful breeding signal wildlife revival

The success reflects India's renewed focus on wildlife restoration through scientific conservation, habitat management,...



Why in News

- The **Indian Grey Hornbill** has returned to the **Gir forests of Gujarat** after an absence of more than 60 years.

Habitat and Distribution

- Found in **deciduous forests, thorn forests, open woodlands, rural landscapes, and urban gardens.**
- Distributed across most parts of India except **Assam**, extending into **Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.**

Species Profile

- Scientific Name: **Ocyrocus birostris.**
- It is a tropical bird native to the **Indian subcontinent.**
- **IUCN Status: Least Concern.**

Key Features

- It is predominantly **arboreal** and usually seen in pairs.
- The species has a curved grey-black bill with a prominent **casque.**
- Its diet mainly consists of **fruits, especially figs**, along with insects and small vertebrates.

Ecological Importance

- It acts as an important **seed disperser**, aiding forest regeneration and ecosystem stability.
- Its reappearance in Gir indicates improving habitat conditions and ecological connectivity.

New Species of Bees

TH The Hindu

ATREE researchers discover two new bee species in Arunachal Pradesh

Researchers from the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) have discovered two new species of solitary bees in...



Why in News

- Researchers discovered two new species of solitary bees, **Elaphropoda triangulata** and **Habropoda adi**, in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Key Facts

- Both species belong to the **Anthophorinae** subfamily of ground-nesting solitary bees.
- **Elaphropoda triangulata** is named after the triangular markings on its abdomen.
- **Habropoda adi** is named after the **Adi indigenous community** of Arunachal Pradesh.

Significance

- Solitary bees are important **pollinators** that support biodiversity and agriculture.
- Unlike honeybees, they do not live in colonies and generally nest alone.
- The species were discovered using **Malaise traps**, which are effective in detecting rare and low-density insects.

Periyar Tiger Reserve

Why in News

- A conservation initiative in **Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR)** is

TH The Hindu

Initiative launched in Periyar Tiger Reserve for managing invasive African catfish

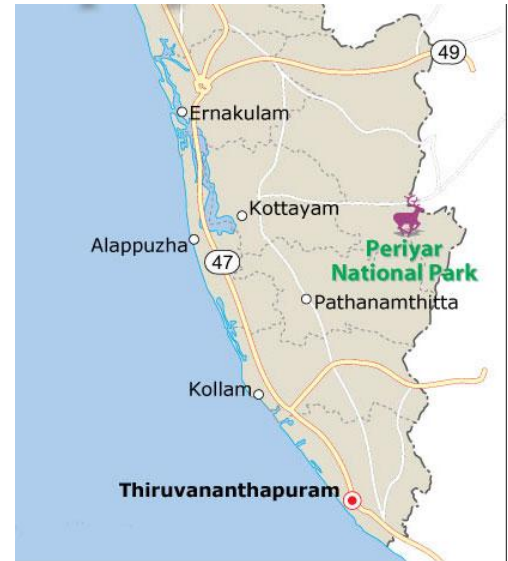
A conservation initiative in Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) seeks to demonstrate how the management of invasive species can protect...



linking invasive species management with biodiversity conservation and livelihood generation.

Location and Geography

- Located in **Idukki district, Kerala**, in the **Cardamom Hills and Pandalam Hills** of the Western Ghats.
- It surrounds **Periyar Lake**, formed in **1895** after damming the Periyar River.
- **Mullaperiyar Dam** is located within the reserve.



Biodiversity

- Home to **Tiger, Elephant, Gaur, Nilgiri Tahr, Lion-tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Langur, and Sambar**.
- Major rivers draining the reserve are **Periyar and Pamba**.
- The reserve contains **evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist deciduous forests, and grasslands**.

Greater Sand Plover

TOI The Times of India

Another rare coastal bird spotted in Chandu

Rare Greater Sand Plover spotted in Chandu village near Gurgaon, the region's fifth record. Repeated sightings suggest Chandu is a key...



Why in News

- A **Greater Sand Plover** was recently recorded, marking the fifth documented sighting in the region.

Species Profile

- Scientific Name: **Charadrius leschenaultii** (*Anarhynchus leschenaultii*).
- It is a migratory **shorebird (wader)** belonging to the plover family.



Habitat and Distribution

- Breeds in **Central Asia, Siberia, Mongolia, northern China, and parts of West Asia.**
- Winters along coastal regions of **Africa, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and Australasia.**
- Prefers **coastal mudflats, estuaries, sandy beaches, and tidal flats** during winter.

Key Features

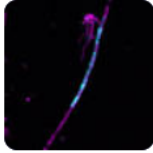
- It is a medium-sized plover with a **long, stout bill.**
- Breeding adults possess an **orange-buff neck and chest with a dark facial mask.**
- **IUCN Status: Least Concern.**

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Maldives
	Why in News • The first round of negotiations for the India–Maldives Free Trade Agreement (FTA) concluded successfully.

	Geographical Features • Island nation located in the Indian Ocean, southwest of India. • Comprises over 1,110 islands arranged in a double chain of 26 atolls. • Capital: Male. Important Facts • Separated from India's Lakshadweep Islands by the Eight Degree Channel. • Possesses the world's 7th largest coral reef system. • The average elevation is only 1.7 metres above mean sea level, making it highly vulnerable to sea-level rise. • Gan Island in Laamu Atoll is the country's largest island.
Environment	Valmiki Tiger Reserve TOI The Times of India Valmiki Tiger Reserve emerges as Bihar's snake hotspot Experts say Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve has 45+ snake species, but only eight are highly venomous; most are harmless—awareness urged,... Why in News • Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) has emerged as a major reptile habitat with more than 45 species of snakes recorded recently. Location and Geography • Located in West Champaran district of Bihar along the India–Nepal border.

	• It is the only Tiger Reserve in Bihar and forms the easternmost limit of the Himalayan Terai forests in India. • The reserve comprises Valmiki National Park and Valmiki Wildlife Sanctuary. Ecological Features • It lies in the Gangetic Plains Biogeographic Zone and contains both Bhabar and Terai ecosystems. • Major rivers include Gandak, Pandai, Harha, Manor, Masan, and Bhapsa. • It shares an international ecological boundary with Chitwan National Park (Nepal). Biodiversity • Important fauna include Tiger, Leopard, Fishing Cat, Leopard Cat, Gaur, Sloth Bear, Sambar, and Hog Deer. • Dominant flora includes Sal, Teak, Bamboo, Semal, and Khair.
Organisations in News	Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)  Food and Agriculture Organization  <u>CAC49 / New and revised science-based standards now added to the Codex Alimentarius</u> The 49th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) has concluded with adoption of some key texts or revisions of texts,... Why in News • India achieved significant outcomes at the 49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49) in Geneva. About CAC • Established in 1963 jointly by FAO and WHO.

	• It is the global body responsible for setting international food standards. • Headquarters: Rome, Italy. Key Facts • Objective: Protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in food trade. • Membership consists of 189 members (188 countries and the European Union). • India became a member in 1964. • The Commission meets annually, alternating between Rome and Geneva.
Science and Technology	Intron TH The Hindu Why scientists watched a gene hop from a predator into its prey Scientists visually tracked an RNA intron jumping from a predator to its prey, revealing insights into gene transfer across species.  Why in News • Scientists recently tracked an RNA intron moving between species, providing insights into gene transfer mechanisms. About Intron • Introns are non-coding DNA/RNA sequences removed before protein synthesis. • Protein-coding portions of genes are known as Exons. • Newly formed pre-mRNA contains both introns and exons. Key Process • Introns are removed through RNA splicing inside the nucleus.

- The resulting **mature mRNA** contains only exons and is translated into proteins.

Importance

- Introns help **regulate gene expression** and RNA processing.
- They may influence how genes are activated and expressed in cells.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Chief Minister's Teachers' Cashless Medical Scheme

 News On AIR

UP Govt launches cashless health scheme for teachers and non-teaching staff

Uttar Pradesh government has launched the cashless health scheme for teachers as well as non-teaching staff in the state. Chief Minister...



Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** has launched the **Chief Minister's Teachers' Cashless Medical Scheme** to provide health and social security benefits to teachers and non-teaching staff.

Key Features

- Launched by **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** from **Varanasi**.
- Provides cashless medical treatment up to ₹5 lakh per beneficiary family.
- Covers more than 15 lakh teachers and non-teaching staff associated with basic and secondary education.

Beneficiaries

- Includes **regular teachers, Shiksha Mitras, instructors, cooks**, and eligible staff of **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs)**.
- Aims to strengthen health and financial security for the education workforce.

Social Security Provisions

- An MoU with State Bank of India (SBI) has been signed for additional insurance coverage.
- Contractual employees earning above ₹10,000 per month will receive accident insurance of ₹30 lakh–₹80 lakh.
- Coverage for permanent disability ranges from ₹30 lakh–₹80 lakh, while partial disability coverage ranges from ₹15 lakh–₹40 lakh.
- The scheme also provides air accident insurance, support for children's education, and assistance for daughters' marriage in case of unforeseen tragedies.