

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

15-10-2026

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

 Moneycontrol.com

What India's accession to Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement means

India's planned accession to SIOFA could expand authorised fishing opportunities for Indian vessels in the high seas, improve access to...



Why in News: The Union Government has approved India's accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

Institutional Framework

- SIOFA was signed in Rome on **7 July 2006** and entered into force in **June 2012**.
- Its objective is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources through international cooperation.
- It covers fish, molluscs, crustaceans and other sedentary species but excludes highly migratory species listed under **Annex I of UNCLOS**.

Governance Structure

- The **Meeting of the Parties** is the governing body and meets at least annually.
- The **Scientific Committee** conducts scientific assessments and provides scientific advice.
- The **Secretariat** coordinates administrative functions and maintains official records.

Significance for India

- India was previously a **Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP)**, which limited its participation in decision-making.
- Full accession will improve India's access to scientific data, research programmes and fish-stock assessments.
- It will create fishing opportunities for Indian vessels while supporting sustainable fisheries and coastal livelihoods.

Measles

Why in News: Kozhikode district in Kerala reported one death and 161 confirmed measles cases during the year.

TH The Hindu

[161 confirmed measles cases, one death reported in Kozhikode](#)

Measles outbreak in Kozhikode: 161 confirmed cases, 116 suspected, one death; officials plan intensified vaccination and cross-department...



Disease Characteristics

- Measles is a highly contagious, airborne viral disease caused by a virus belonging to the **Paramyxovirus family**.
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- The infection initially affects the respiratory tract before spreading throughout the body.

Transmission and Symptoms

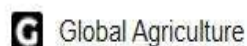
- The virus spreads through infected respiratory droplets and airborne particles released during coughing or sneezing.
- It can remain active in the air or on contaminated surfaces for up to **two hours**.
- Initial symptoms include high fever, runny nose, cough, watery eyes and small white spots inside the cheeks.
- A characteristic rash generally appears on the face and upper neck after the initial symptoms.



Prevention and Treatment

- No specific antiviral treatment is available for measles.
- The **measles-rubella (MR) vaccine** provides effective prevention and long-term immunity.

Soybean Cultivation



ICAR Soybean Varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270 Show Potential to Yield 20 Quintals per Hectare

ICAR's NRC 268 and NRC 270 soybean varieties show preliminary yields of around 20 quintals per hectare despite adverse weather,...



Why in News: The ICAR–National Soybean Research Institute (ICAR-NSRI), Indore, assessed the yield potential of improved soybean varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270.

Agricultural Characteristics

- Soybean (*Glycine max*) is an annual legume belonging to the **Fabaceae** family.
- It is primarily cultivated during the **kharif season (July–October)** in rainfed regions of central and peninsular India.
- Soybean improves soil fertility through **biological nitrogen fixation**.

Climatic and Soil Requirements

- It grows well in warm, moist climates, with an optimum temperature of approximately **26.5–30°C**.
- It requires well-drained, fertile loam soil with a **pH of 6.0–7.5**.
- Water stress during flowering, pod development and seed filling can significantly affect yield.

Major Producing States

- Major soybean-growing states include **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Telangana**.

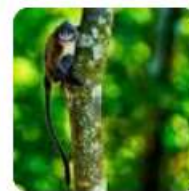
Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary



The Sentinel - of this Land, for its People

Rare Spectacle Monkeys Sighted in Tripura's Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary

Camera captures rare pair of endangered Spectacle Monkeys in South Tripura, highlighting critical need for forest corridor protection.



Why in News: A rare sighting of Phayre's leaf monkeys, also known as spectacle monkeys, was recorded at Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary in South Tripura.

Geographical and Ecological Features

- Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Tripura** and was established in **1988**.
- Its vegetation includes tropical semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests and savannah woodland.
- The sanctuary supports diverse flora, including medicinal plants such as Tulsi, Vasak, Sarpaganda and Rudraksha.
- The bamboo species ***Oxytenanthera nigrociliata***, locally known as Kaillai, is found here.

Conservation Concerns

- **Phayre's leaf monkey is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.**
- Habitat destruction, forest degradation, fragmentation and other human pressures threaten its survival.

Important Fauna

- The sanctuary supports the **gaur (Indian bison)**, hoolock gibbon, capped langur and golden langur.
- Phayre's leaf monkey is recognised by pale markings around its eyes that resemble spectacles.
- It is primarily arboreal and feeds mainly on leaves and other plant matter.

Alpine Musk Deer

TNIE The New Indian Express

Endangered musk deer, Uttarakhand's state animal, faces a future without females

The RTI disclosures also record two musk deer deaths in zoos over the past five years, both in Himachal Pradesh. The CZA's reply on Monday...



Why in News: A recent report highlighted conservation concerns over the Alpine musk deer, with recognised Indian zoos reportedly holding only two captive Himalayan musk deer, both males.

Biological Characteristics

- The Alpine musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*) is a musk deer species found in Asia.
- It inhabits coniferous and deciduous mountain forests at elevations of **3,000–5,000 metres**.
- It is generally solitary and crepuscular, meaning it is most active around dawn and dusk.
- It is a ruminant herbivore that feeds on forbs, grasses, mosses, lichens, shoots, leaves and twigs.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered.
- **CITES:** Appendix I.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I.

Distribution and Threats

- Its distribution includes **India, Nepal, Bhutan and China**.
- Males possess an externally visible musk sac, and their elongated canine teeth are used in sparring.
- **Poaching for musk**, which is used in cosmetic products, is a major threat.

BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Demonstration Games 2026

News On AIR

BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Sports Demonstration Games 2026 inaugurated in Ahmedabad

Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya today inaugurated the BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Sports Demonstration Games 2026 at the...



Why in News: The BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Demonstration Games 2026 were held at the **Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Naranpura, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, where India proposed a repository of traditional sports.

Major Initiatives

- **BRICS Repository:** The proposed voluntary repository will document the history, cultural significance, rules and equipment of traditional and indigenous sports.
- **Khelo India:** The government has committed nearly **USD 3.76 billion**, to support the transformation of India's sporting ecosystem.
- **Fit India Movement:** It promotes fitness as a way of life.
- **Sundays on Cycle:** The campaign has reportedly attracted over **five million participants across more than three lakh locations**, with 94 editions conducted.

Traditional Sports Showcased

- India presented **Mallakhamb, Yogasana and Kalaripayattu**.
- China demonstrated **Wushu and Lion Dance**, while Brazil presented **Capoeira**.
- Russia, Kazakhstan and South Africa showcased **Sambo, Qazaq Kuresi and Kgati**, respectively.

BRICS: Institutional Evolution

- The term **BRIC** was coined by economist **Jim O'Neill in 2001**.
- The first official BRIC Summit was held in **Russia in 2009**.
- **South Africa joined in 2010**, converting BRIC into BRICS.
- The grouping expanded in 2024, followed by **Indonesia's membership in 2025**.

Other Important News of the day

Persons News

in Smriti Mandhana Named UNICEF India Celebrity Advocate

 The Indian Express

Smriti Mandhana named celebrity advocate by UNICEF India

Earlier this week, Mandhana was handed the India captain's mantle after Harmanpreet Kaur stepped down from the role.



Why in News: Indian cricketer **Smriti Mandhana** was named a **Celebrity Advocate by UNICEF India** to promote equal opportunities, health, well-being and empowerment of adolescent girls.

Role and Objectives

- The appointment was announced on the occasion of the **International Day of the Girl (October 11, 2026 Theme: "End Child Marriage and Invest in Girl's Rights")**.
- The initiative seeks to promote gender equality, protect girls' rights and empower adolescent girls.

	➤ Mandhana has supported UNICEF and International Cricket Council campaigns on gender equality, life skills and UNICEF's Promise to Children campaign. ➤ She is also a recipient of the Arjuna Award. About UNICEF ➤ UNICEF was established in 1946, following the Second World War. ➤ It works in over 190 countries and territories to protect children's rights. ➤ Its headquarters are located in New York City, United States. ➤ It publishes the annual <i>The State of the World's Children</i> report. ➤ Its major honours include the Nobel Peace Prize (1965), Indira Gandhi Prize (1989) and Princess of Asturias Award (2006).
Places News	in Brunei Why in News: The third meeting of the India–Brunei Darussalam Joint Trade Committee reviewed bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Geographical Location  Mapcreator/OSM/F.A.Z.-Karte: sie. ➤ Brunei is located on the northern coast of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia. ➤ It is bordered by the South China Sea to the north and Malaysia on its other sides.

	➤ A portion of the Malaysian state of Sarawak separates Brunei into two non-contiguous parts. Political and Physical Features ➤ The capital is Bandar Seri Begawan. ➤ Brunei is a member of the Commonwealth and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). ➤ Its terrain includes coastal plains, western hilly lowlands and eastern mountains. ➤ Bukit Pagon, at approximately 6,069 feet, is the country's highest point. Climate and Resources ➤ Brunei has an equatorial climate, characterised by hot, humid and rainy conditions throughout the year. ➤ Important rivers include the Belait, Pandaruan and Tutong. ➤ Major natural resources include crude oil, natural gas and tropical timber.
Environment	Jeypore Ground Gecko THE Hindu <u>Mining project threatens future of rare Jeypore ground gecko</u> Just four individuals of the endangered Jeypore ground gecko have been documented in the past year in Odisha's Balda hills, the site of a...  Why in News: Herpetologists have raised concerns that a bauxite mining project in Odisha threatens the Jeypore ground gecko. Ecological Characteristics ➤ The Jeypore ground gecko (<i>Cyrtodactylus jeyporensis</i>) is a nocturnal reptile also known as the Jeypore Indian gecko. ➤ It was first described in 1878 by British naturalist Richard Henry Beddome. ➤ It has a yellow-orange body, a comparatively large head and a length of approximately 3.6 inches. Conservation Concerns ➤ Habitat loss, forest fires, tourism, quarrying and mining threaten its survival. ➤ IUCN Red List: Endangered. ➤ CITES: Appendix II.

	Geographical Distribution ➤ It inhabits semi-evergreen forests at elevations of 900–1,400 metres. ➤ Its restricted distribution includes the northern Eastern Ghats of southern Odisha and northern Andhra Pradesh.
Defence	Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154)  DD News  <u>Indian Navy to Hand Over Command of Combined Task Force 154 in Bahrain</u> The Indian Navy is scheduled to hand over command of Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154) at a ceremony in Manama, Bahrain, on October 14,... Why in News: The Indian Navy is scheduled to hand over command of Combined Task Force 154 at a ceremony in Manama, Bahrain. Organisational Framework ➤ CTF 154 is the dedicated multinational maritime training task force of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). ➤ It was established in May 2023 to strengthen maritime security through training across the Middle East and surrounding regions. ➤ India joined CMF as an associate partner in 2022 and became a full member in 2023. Operational Mandate ➤ Its five training pillars are Maritime Domain Awareness, Law of the Sea, Maritime Interdiction Operations, Maritime Rescue and Assistance, and Leadership Development. ➤ It builds interoperability, professional skills and operational readiness among participating nations. Related Task Forces ➤ CTF 150 focuses on maritime security. ➤ CTF 151 focuses on counter-piracy operations. ➤ CTF 152 focuses on maritime security in the Arabian Gulf. ➤ CTF 153 focuses on maritime security in the Red Sea.
Science and Technology	Magnesium Hydridomethylzincate  The Hindu Sci-Tech > Science">https://www.thehindu.com > Sci-Tech > Science <u>IISER researchers make solid material that releases two ...</u> 1 day ago — IISER researchers create magnesium hydridomethylzincate that releases hydrogen and methane upon heating, offering a potential solid storage ... Why in News: Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Thiruvananthapuram, have developed magnesium hydridomethylzincate.

Chemical Characteristics

- It is a crystalline, hydride-rich **organometallic compound** containing magnesium, zinc, hydrogen and carbon.
- It remains solid at room temperature and does not require bulky supporting ligands.

Properties and Reactions

- Under solvent-free, anaerobic conditions, it releases hydrogen and methane at temperatures as low as **80°C**.
- Heating the compound in solution to **100°C** releases hydrogen.
- Its paired molecular structure can produce two molecules each of hydrogen and methane, with methane emerging before hydrogen.

Potential Applications

- The compound may provide a molecular platform for the storage and controlled release of fuel gases.
- It could offer an alternative to transporting hydrogen and methane as compressed gases.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Ram Temple Receives FSSAI's Highest 'Eat Right Place of Worship' Rating

Why in News: The **Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra in Ayodhya** received the highest '**Ati Vishisht**' rating under the FSSAI's Eat Right Place of Worship initiative on **11 October 2026**.

Certification Details

- The temple scored **103 out of 114 points**, earning the highest rating category.
- The certificate was presented by **FSSAI Chief Executive Officer Rajit Punhani**.
- The certification is valid from **11 October 2026 to 10 October 2028**.
- Assessment covers food preparation, kitchen hygiene, storage, serving areas and food-handling practices.

Other Certified Places of Worship

- Other Ayodhya shrines include **Hanumangarhi, Kanak Bhawan, Devkali Temple and a Jain temple**.
- The initiative aims to strengthen food safety and hygiene at religious institutions serving large numbers of devotees.

BHOG Programme

- **BHOG** stands for **Blissful Hygienic Offering to God**.

- It is implemented by **FSSAI under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- It promotes safe preparation and distribution of *prasad*, *langar* and other food offerings.
- It operates under the broader **Eat Right India movement**.

Certification Framework

- **Step 1:** Verify a valid FSSAI licence or registration.
- **Step 2:** Conduct a preliminary assessment of food safety and hygiene.
- **Step 3:** Train food handlers and supervisors under the **Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC)** programme.
- **Step 4:** Conduct a final audit through an empanelled auditing agency or hygiene-rating auditor.
- **Step 5:** FSSAI reviews the assessment and issues certification when requirements are met.

About FSSAI

- FSSAI was established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.
- Its headquarters are in **New Delhi**.
- It regulates food safety, prescribes standards, monitors compliance and promotes awareness of safe food practices.