

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

16-07-2026

Ravidassias

 The Indian Express

Who are the Ravidassias and why do they want a separate religion category in Census?

The Dalit community argues that Ravidassia has evolved into a distinct religious identity with its own places of worship, scripture,...

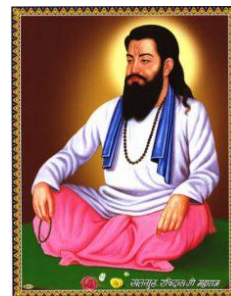


Why in News?

Members of the Ravidassia community in Punjab renewed their demand for a separate “Ravidassia religion” category in the Census.

Community Profile

- Ravidassias are a Dalit community following the teachings of Guru Ravidas.
- They are concentrated in Punjab's Doaba region comprising Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur, and Nawanshahr.



Religious Features

- Their holy book is Amrit Bani Guru Ravidas Ji, containing about 200 hymns.
- Seer Goverdhanpur (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh) is a major pilgrimage centre.

Prelims Facts

- Guru Ravidas (1377–1527 CE) was a prominent saint of the Bhakti Movement.
- He advocated Nirguna Bhakti, social equality, and rejection of caste discrimination.
- Begampura refers to an ideal society free from sorrow, fear, and inequality.

Colobus congoensis

Why in News?

Researchers discovered **Colobus congoensis**, a previously unknown monkey species, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Taxonomic Significance

- It is only the **fifth new monkey species** identified in Africa in the last 75 years.
- It belongs to the genus **Colobus**.

Distinctive Features

- It has a **glossy black coat**, long fur, sweeping tail, and orange-cream facial markings.
- It possesses a distinctive **roaring call**.

Conservation Concerns

- It is found between the **Lomami** and **Congo (Lualaba)** rivers.
- Scientists have recommended its classification as **Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List**.

BBC

New monkey species with orange lips found 'hiding' in DRC forest

A monkey that has striking pinkish-orange lips and a black face - and lives in the forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo - has been...



Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet approved the **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)** with an outlay of **₹62,500 crore**.

Objectives

- The scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing and value addition.
- It seeks to build Indian brands and promote technological sovereignty.

PM India

Cabinet approves Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with a...



MOBILE PHONE MANUFACTURING SCHEME (MPMS)

- Cabinet approves the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with a budgetary outlay of ₹62,500 crore
- The scheme will be implemented for 5 years (FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29)
- It provides incentive support of 2.25%-5% on eligible sales for manufacturing mobile phones in India
- An additional incentive of up to 15% is offered to domestic sourcing of key components and sub-components



Implementation Framework

- The scheme will operate from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31.
- Incentives on eligible sales range from 2.25% to 5%.

Key Incentives

- Additional incentive up to 1.5% is linked to domestic sourcing of components.
- An extra 3% incentive is provided for design and R&D activities.

CapaCITIES Programme

Why in News?

A recent event reviewed achievements of the CapaCITIES Programme in promoting urban climate resilience.

News On AIR

[India, UNODA Organise Capacity Building Programme on UNSC Resolution 1540 | Akashvani News](#)

India, UNODA Organise Capacity Building Programme on UNSC Resolution 1540 ...
The government in partnership with the United Nations Office for...



Programme Overview

- CapaCITIES stands for Capacity Building Project on Low Carbon and Climate Resilient City Development in India.
- It was launched in 2016.

Institutional Framework

- It is funded by the Embassy of Switzerland to India and Bhutan.
- It is implemented by ICLEI South Asia, South Pole, and econcept.
- The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) serves as the knowledge partner.

Key Achievements

- It established Net-Zero and Climate Action Cells in six cities

- It supported cities such as Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Vadodara, Udaipur, Siliguri, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, and Tirunelveli.

Impact of CapaCITIES Phase 1 in the Project Cities

Implementation of Pilot Projects on Climate Resilience	Potential of Climate Resilient Action Plans Developed by the Cities	GHG Emission Reduction Targets Set by Cities for 2022-23 from 2015 Levels
 102200m³/ year Biogas generation	 60 Billion INR Cost of Climate interventions	 Coimbatore: 33%
 257060kWh/ year Renewable energy generated	 6.9 Billion INR Secured under Municipal Budget	 Udaipur: 18%
 6000 tCO₂e/ year GHG emission reduced	 2 million tCO₂e Annual GHG emission reduction	 Siliguri: 14.8%
		 Rajkot: 14%

Thukkachi Abatsahayesvar Temple

TH The Hindu

[UNESCO Award-winning restoration of Thukkachi temple in Tamil Nadu: a blend of traditional wisdom and modern technology](#)

The Thukkachi temple in Thanjavur district restoration merges traditional craftsmanship and modern technology to preserve Tamil Nadu's rich...



Why in News?

The restoration of the Thukkachi Abatsahayesvar Temple received international recognition for heritage conservation.

Historical Background

- The temple is located in Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu on the banks of the Arasalar River.
- It dates to the 10th–11th century CE Chola period.

Architectural Features

- It is dedicated to Lord Shiva.



- The temple showcases classic **Chola architecture** with a **garbhagriha**, gopuram, and detailed stone carvings.
- Inscriptions mention **Kulothunga Chola** and **Vikrama Chola**.

Recognition

- It received the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Distinction for Cultural Heritage Conservation (2024)**.
- The award recognized its restoration while preserving heritage authenticity.

Greenland

Why in News?

Scientists are studying whether melting glaciers in **Greenland** could affect major Atlantic Ocean currents.

Geographical Features

- Greenland is the world's largest **non-continental island**.
- It lies between **North America** and **Europe** in the **North Atlantic Ocean**.

Political Status

- Greenland is an autonomous territory within the **Kingdom of Denmark**.
- Its capital is **Nuuk**.

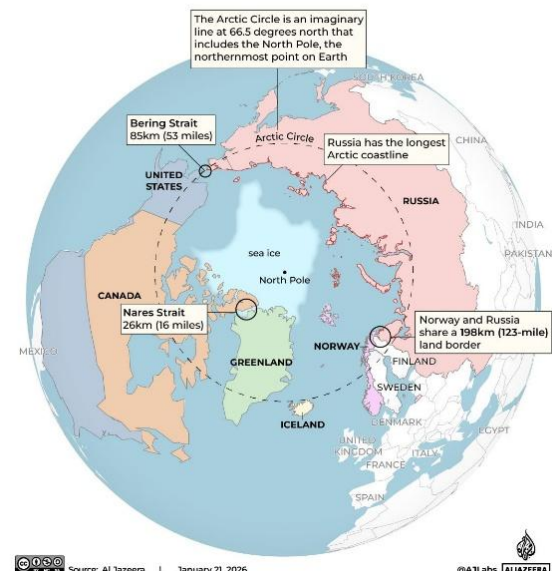
Important Facts

- Highest point: **Gunnbjørn Fjeld**.
- It is bordered by the **Arctic Ocean**, **Greenland Sea**, **Davis Strait**, **Baffin Bay**, and **North Atlantic Ocean**.
- Major resources include **coal**, **iron ore**, **zinc**, **lead**, **diamonds**, **gold**, **platinum**, and **niobium**.

ARCTIC

Countries in the Arctic Circle

Eight countries: Canada, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States, have lands that lie within this region.



Gandak River

Why in News?

Heavy rainfall in Nepal has increased water levels in the Gandak River basin.

River Profile

- Gandak is a major left-bank tributary of the Ganga.
- It originates north of Dhaulagiri Mountain near the Nepal-Tibet border.

Course and Drainage

- It is formed by the confluence of the Kali and Trisuli rivers.
- In Nepal, it is known as Kali Gandaki and Narayani.
- It enters India at Valmikinagar (Bihar) through Triveni.

Basin Characteristics

- The river is approximately 630 km long.
- Its basin contains about 1,710 glaciers and over 300 lakes.
- The basin includes Dhaulagiri, Manaslu, and Annapurna peaks.

Environmental Significance

- The river forms the Kali Gandaki Gorge, one of the world's deepest gorges.
- The basin includes Chitwan National Park (Nepal) and Valmiki Tiger Reserve (India).
- Major tributaries include Budhi Gandaki, Marsyandi, Madi, Seti, and Daraudi.



Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Greater Tunb Island

Why in News?

The U.S. military reportedly conducted airstrikes on **Greater Tunb Island** targeting Iranian military installations.

Strategic Location

- Greater Tunb lies in the **Persian Gulf** near the entrance of the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- The island covers about **10.3 sq km**.



Geopolitical Importance

- Nearly **one-fifth of global oil trade** passes through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Iran has maintained military facilities including naval bases and an airstrip on the island.

Territorial Dispute

- Iran took control of **Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa** in **1971**.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** continues to claim sovereignty over these islands.

Environment

Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Bengal shrinks Mahananda sanctuary eco-sensitive zone from 5km to 1km

Siliguri: Bengal govt has decided to shrink the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary from 5 km to 1 km.



Why in News?

West Bengal proposed reducing the **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** around **Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary** from 5 km to 1 km.

	Geographical Location - It is located in Darjeeling district, West Bengal. - It lies between the Teesta and Mahananda rivers in the Himalayan foothills.  Ecological Features - It was declared a sanctuary in 1959. - Vegetation ranges from riverine forests to dense mixed wet forests. Biodiversity - Important fauna include Royal Bengal Tiger, Indian Elephant, Gaur, Clouded Leopard, Himalayan Black Bear, and Serow. - Around 243 bird species occur here, including the Himalayan Pied Hornbill. - It is an important destination for migratory birds from Central Asia.
Miscellaneous	Korku Tribe  ETV Bharat Korku Community Holds Rally In Khandwa Supporting Anti-Encroachment Drive On Forest Land Khandwa: More than 2,000 members of the Korku tribal community held a rally in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa on Thursday in support of the Forest...  Why in News? The Korku tribe demanded removal of encroachments from forest lands in Madhya Pradesh. Distribution and Language - Korkus belong to the Munda (Kolarian) group. - They inhabit Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra's Melghat region.

	• Korku language is listed among UNESCO endangered languages. Cultural Features • The tribe practices traditional healing and ancestor worship. • Gadli is their traditional dance form. • Women use Chitkola during performances and practice Kapar-Godai tattooing. Governance System • Their traditional self-governance system is known as Chavadi Swashasan. • Agriculture remains the primary occupation.
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Uttar Pradesh in News

CCEA Approves Two Elevated Highway Projects for Varanasi



News On AIR

Cabinet approves highway projects worth over ₹25,000 crore for Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

The Union Cabinet has approved two elevated highway projects worth over 25,000 crore rupees for Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.



Why in News?

The **CCEA** approved two elevated highway projects worth over **₹25,000 crore** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, to improve connectivity and reduce traffic congestion.

Key Infrastructure Projects

- A **46-km six-lane Greenfield Elevated Corridor** will connect **NH-19** with the **Varanasi Ring Road**.
- The project will be developed under the **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)** at a cost of over **₹14,400 crore**.
- A **43-km six-lane/four-lane Elevated Corridor** will be constructed along the **Varuna River** at an estimated cost of **₹11,000 crore**.

Connectivity Significance

- The projects will ease traffic congestion and reduce travel time within Varanasi.
- They will improve connectivity between major transport corridors and support regional economic growth.

Important Facts

- **CCEA** – Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- **NH-19** is a part of the **Golden Quadrilateral** network.
- **HAM** is a PPP model in which the government and private sector share project financing and risks.
- **Varuna River** is an important tributary of the **Ganga** and gives Varanasi its name (Varuna + Assi).