SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

16-11-2026

Five New Horned Frog Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

The Times of India

Five new species of tiny horned frogs discovered in Arunachal Pradesh; one of them even eats snails, shel

If you've ever visited India's eastern Himalayas or heard stories of that region, you know that it holds fascinating secrets like no other.



Why in News

- Indian and American scientists have discovered **five new species of diminutive horned frogs** in Arunachal Pradesh.

Taxonomic and Geographical Significance

- All five species belong to the genus **Jingophrys**, commonly known as diminutive horned frogs.
- All five species were discovered in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Newly Discovered Species

- **Jingophrys taniitatii:** Also known as Tanii Horned Frog, it is named after the **Tanii tribe of the Ziro Valley**; the word 'tatii' means frogs and toads in the Apatani language.
- **Jingophrys tanogogo:** Also known as the Snail-eating Horned Frog, it is the **first known snail-eating frog species recorded in India**.
- Its discovery represents the first report of snail-eating behaviour in the frog family **Megophryidae**.
- **Jingophrys siangensis:** Also known as Siang Horned Frog, it is named after the Siang region.
- **Jingophrys hrdy:** Also known as Hrdy's Horned Frog, it is named after anthropologist Sarah Blaffer Hrdy and medical professor Daniel Bruce Hrdy.
- **Jingophrys wularsoni:** Also known as WuLarson's Horned Frog, it is named after herpetologists.

Regional and Scientific Linkages

- The discovery highlights the biodiversity of **Arunachal Pradesh**, particularly the Eastern Himalayan region.
- The Apatani language and tribal heritage of the **Ziro Valley** are reflected in the nomenclature of the newly identified species.

Three Butterfly Species Recorded for the First Time in Silent Valley National Park

The Times of India

Three butterfly species recorded for first time in Silent Valley National Park

Three new butterfly species—Branded Royal, Extra Lascar and Orange-spotted Grass Jewel—were recorded in Silent Valley NP during a Nov 13-15...



Why in News

- Three butterfly species, namely **Branded Royal, Extra Lascar and Orange-spotted Grass Jewel**, were recorded for the first time in Silent Valley National Park during a three-day survey.

Geographical Profile

- **Location:** Palakkad district, Kerala, in the **Western Ghats**.
- It covers approximately **237.52 sq. km.** and forms part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**.
- It is one of India's last undisturbed tropical rainforest regions.
- The park derives its name from the relative absence of **cicadas**, insects known for their loud buzzing sounds.
- The **Kunthipuzha River**, also known as the Silent River of India, flows through the park.

Biodiversity Significance

- The park contains more than **1,000 flowering plant species** and **108 orchid species**.
- Important fauna include the **lion-tailed macaque**, Nilgiri langur, Malabar giant squirrel, elephant, tiger, leopard and gaur.
- It supports more than **200 bird species**, including the Great Indian Hornbill and Nilgiri Wood Pigeon.
- Important tribal communities include the **Kurumba, Muduga, Irula and Kattu Naiken**.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools

Why in News

News On AIR

PM Modi inaugurates 4 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools across Tripura

Four newly constructed Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) were inaugurated across Tripura today on the occasion of the 151st birth...



- The Prime Minister inaugurated **four newly constructed Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** in Tripura on the **151st birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda**.

Objectives and Institutional Framework

- EMRS is a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, launched in **1998**.
- It aims to provide quality residential education to **Scheduled Tribe students from Classes VI to XII**, particularly in remote areas.
- The programme was revamped during **2018–19** to expand geographical coverage and improve educational infrastructure.
- EMRSs are to be established in every block having **more than 50% Scheduled Tribe population and at least 20,000 tribal persons**.
- The **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs responsible for establishing and managing EMRSs.

Educational and Infrastructure Features

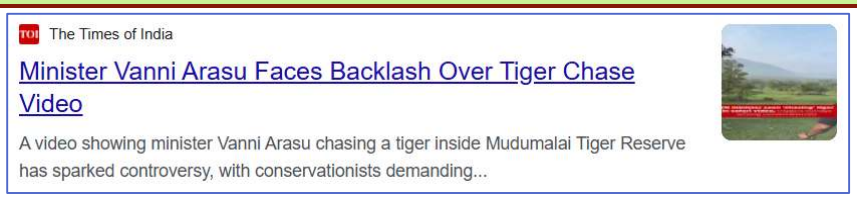
- EMRSs are **co-educational residential schools** providing education from Class VI to XII.
- They follow the **CBSE curriculum**, and education is completely free.
- Their infrastructure includes classrooms, administrative blocks, hostels and playgrounds.
- Each school has a capacity of **480 students**, with equal seats for boys and girls.
- Up to **10% of total seats** may be allotted to non-ST students.
- A **20% sports quota** is provided for deserving ST students who have excelled in sports.

Additional Focus Areas

- EMRSs are intended to function at par with **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas**.
- They promote the preservation of tribal art and culture alongside sports and skill development.
- The **Amazon Future Engineer Programme** is being introduced to expand technology-oriented learning opportunities for tribal students.

Minister Faces Criticism Over Tiger Incident in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

Why in News



- A state minister faced criticism after a video allegedly showed him pursuing a tiger inside the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)** in Tamil Nadu.

Geographical Location and Connectivity

- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is located in the **Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu**.

- It lies at the tri-junction of **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala**.
- It forms part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**, India's first biosphere reserve.
- It shares boundaries with **Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary** in Kerala and **Bandipur Tiger Reserve** in Karnataka.
- Its elevation ranges from approximately **960 metres to 1,266 metres**.
- The **Moyar River** flows through the reserve.

Ecological Characteristics

- The reserve contains tropical evergreen forests, moist deciduous forests, moist and dry teak forests, grasslands and swamps.
- Important vegetation includes **Elephant Grass, giant bamboo, teak and rosewood**.
- It also contains wild relatives of cultivated plants, including **wild rice, ginger, turmeric and cinnamon**.

Faunal Diversity

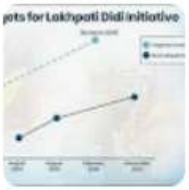
- Important herbivores include elephants, gaur, sambar, four-horned antelope, spotted deer, barking deer and mouse deer.
- Major predators include **tigers, leopards and wild dogs (dhole)**.
- Its location makes it an important component of the interconnected wildlife habitats of the **Western Ghats**.

Lakhpati Didi Initiative: Target Increased to Six Crore Women

www.pib.gov.in

The Lakhpati Didi Initiative

The Lakhpati Didi Initiative promotes sustainable household incomes through women's entrepreneurship and diversified livelihoods.



Why in News

- As of **June 2026**, approximately **3.76 crore women** had become Lakhpati Didis, against the revised target of **six crore women by March 2029**.

Objectives and Evolution

- The **Lakhpati Didi Initiative** was announced on **15 August 2023** to strengthen women's economic participation in rural India.
- It aims to enable women from Self-Help Group (SHG) households to earn sustainable incomes through livelihood activities and micro-enterprises.
- The initial target of **two crore women** was increased to **three crore in February 2024**.
- The target was further enhanced to **six crore women by March 2029**, as envisioned in February 2026.

Institutional Framework

- The initiative is implemented through the institutional network of **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development** is the nodal ministry.
- It encourages rural women to establish and operate **micro-enterprises within their villages**.

Implementation Strategy

- **Livelihood Diversification:** Women are encouraged to undertake diversified income-generating activities.
- **Capacity Building:** A cascade training strategy is adopted to train and support potential Lakhpati Didis across States and Union Territories.
- **Financial Assistance:** DAY-NRLM facilitates financial assistance and provides institutional support for women's enterprises.
- The initiative focuses on sustainable household income generation rather than one-time financial assistance.

India and Egypt Hold 7th Joint Trade Committee Meeting

DD India

India, Egypt agree to explore preferential trade pact, target USD 12 billion bilateral trade

India and Egypt have agreed to explore a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) or Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to strengthen bilateral economic...



Why in News

- India and Egypt conducted the **7th ministerial-level Joint Trade Committee Meeting** to strengthen bilateral economic and trade relations.

Geographical Location

- **Egypt** is located in northeastern Africa, with the **Sinai Peninsula** extending into southwestern Asia.
- The Sinai Peninsula acts as a geographical land bridge between **Africa and Asia**.
- Its capital is **Cairo**.
- Egypt shares land borders with **Libya in the west, Sudan in the south, and Israel and the Gaza Strip in the northeast**.
- It is bounded by the **Mediterranean Sea in the north** and the **Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba in the east**.

Physical and Geological Features

- Egypt's landscape is characterised by extensive arid deserts and the fertile **Nile River Valley**.

- The **Nile River** flows from south to north through Egypt and is traditionally recognised as the world's longest river.
- **Mount Catherine**, at approximately **2,642 metres**, is the country's highest peak.
- Egypt experiences a predominantly **arid desert climate**, with high temperatures and very low rainfall across most of its territory.

Economic and Natural Resource Significance

- Important natural resources include **petroleum, natural gas, phosphates and iron ore**.
- Egypt's geographical position provides strategic access to the **Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea and Suez Canal**, connecting Europe and Asia through maritime trade routes.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Canary Islands: Geographical and Volcanic Features

The Times of India

Spain's Canary Islands record highest daily migrant arrivals since 2020; 1,488 rescued

Spain's Canary Islands face unprecedented migrant arrivals, with 1488 people rescued from boats, highlighting the growing crisis on the...



Why in News

- Spain's coastguard rescued **1,488 migrants in 14 boats** near the Canary Islands, marking the highest one-day rescue total since 2020, with most migrants landing on El Hierro.

Geographical Location

- The **Canary Islands** are an archipelago located off the northwest coast of Africa in the **Macaronesia region of the North Atlantic Ocean**.
- They are politically part of **Spain** but geographically associated with the African continent.
- The islands are approximately **100 km from Morocco** and lie southwest of mainland Spain.
- It is the largest and most populated archipelago in Macaronesia.

Island Groups and Important Locations

- The western group includes **La Palma, Tenerife, La Gomera, Gran Canaria and Ferro**.

- The eastern group comprises **Fuerteventura, Lanzarote and six islets of the Chinijo Archipelago**.
- The eastern islands are situated on the underwater **Canary Ridge**.
- **Tenerife** is the largest island, covering approximately **2,034 sq. km.**, and is also Spain's most populated island.
- **Santa Cruz de Tenerife** is the capital of the Canary Islands.
- Tenerife contains **Mount Teide**, the highest point in Spain.



Geological Significance

- The Canary Islands were formed through **volcanic eruptions millions of years ago**.
- Some volcanoes in the archipelago remain active.
- The Canary Islands are the only Spanish region where a volcanic eruption has occurred in the modern era.
- Many beaches have **black volcanic sand** due to their volcanic origin.

Environment

Bar-Headed Goose: GPS Tracking Reveals Migration Patterns

The Times of India

The bar-headed goose that flies over the Himalayas: How it survives one of the world's most extraordinary



Imagine flying over the Himalayas, surrounded by some of the tallest mountains on Earth, with freezing temperatures, powerful winds and...

Why in News

- The bar-headed goose was spotted at **Nandur Madhmeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary** after a gap of approximately **8–10 years**.
- GPS tracking has also helped researchers understand its migration routes and flight patterns in eastern India.

Taxonomy and Habitat

- **Scientific Name:** *Anser indicus*.
- It is a migratory bird and one of the world's highest-flying bird species.
- It breeds in **Central Asia**, particularly near high-altitude mountain lakes.
- During winter, it migrates to **South Asia**, extending as far south as peninsular India.
- It generally inhabits freshwater lakes, rivers and streams during its wintering period.

Unique Physiological and Behavioural Features

- The species can fly at altitudes of approximately **25,000 feet** while crossing the Himalayas.
- It can withstand extremely low oxygen levels and low temperatures during high-altitude migration.
- Its body is predominantly grey and white, with **two horseshoe-shaped brownish-black bands** on the back of its white head.
- Its bill and legs are generally pink, orange or yellow.
- Males and females look similar, although males are slightly larger.
- It generally forms **monogamous pairs** and is a seasonal breeder.

Conservation Status

- The **IUCN Red List** classifies the bar-headed goose as **Least Concern (LC)**.
- Its migratory distribution connects the breeding grounds of Central Asia with wintering habitats across South Asia.

	➢ **Nandur Madhmeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary**, where the species was recently recorded, is located in Maharashtra.
Defence	**Russia Deploys Geran-5 (K5-K) Jet-Powered Attack Drones Against Ukraine**

The New Voice of Ukraine

Ukraine reveals upgraded Russian Geran-5 drone capable of 1,000 km/h maneuvers — NV infographic



Russia began using a new version of the Geran-5 jet-powered drone in attacks on Ukraine in fall 2026, making the strike drone more similar...

Why in News

- Russia has reportedly deployed the **K5-K variant of the Geran-5 drone** to attack Ukrainian cities, according to Ukraine's military intelligence agency (GUR).

Technical Specifications

- **Geran-5** is a Russian **jet-powered, one-way attack drone** designed in the shape of a small cruise missile.
- Unlike the propeller-driven **Geran-2**, it uses a **turbojet engine** and has a conventional aircraft configuration.
- It measures **6.5 metres in length**, has a wingspan of **3.2 metres** and a maximum take-off weight of **850 kg**.
- It carries a warhead weighing approximately **90 kg**.

Navigation and Operational Capabilities

- It has a cruising speed of **450–600 km/h** and an operational range of approximately **950 km**.
- It can reach an altitude of up to **6 km**.
- It uses an **autonomous optical navigation system** and an electro-optical correction system to navigate using images of the ground surface.