

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

17-07-2026

Operation Southern Readiness 26-2

 News On AIR

Indian Navy to organise Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 in Kochi

The Indian Navy will host Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 at the Southern Naval Command, Kochi, from 20th to 23rd of this month.



Why in News:

The **Indian Navy** will host **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2** at **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, in partnership with the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**.

Maritime Security Cooperation

- It is a **multinational maritime training exercise** hosted by the Indian Navy.
- It is conducted with the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)** under **Combined Task Force-154 (CTF-154)**.
- The exercise promotes professional training and exchange of maritime security best practices.



Institutional Framework

- **CMF** is a multinational maritime partnership comprising **40+ nations**.
- **CTF-154** serves as CMF's dedicated training task force.
- India plays an active role in strengthening collaborative maritime security initiatives.

Training Components

- The programme includes classroom sessions, simulator-based training and practical exercises.

- Topics include Maritime Law, Maritime Domain Awareness, Information Sharing, Counter-Narcotics and Force Protection.
- Participants receive training in Uncrewed Systems, Firefighting, Survival at Sea, Boarding Procedures and onboard naval operations.

Strategic Significance

- The initiative enhances regional maritime capacity-building.
- It strengthens collective security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- It improves interoperability among participating navies.

Lestes Paloti

TH The Hindu

New damselfly species discovered in Kerala's Western Ghats

A team of odonatologists has discovered a new species of spreadwing damselfly, *Lestes paloti*, from the Western Ghats in Kerala.



Why in News:

Scientists have discovered *Lestes paloti*, a new species of spreadwing damselfly, in the Western Ghats of Kerala.

Taxonomic Importance

- *Lestes paloti* belongs to the family Lestidae.
- It is the first new Indian species of the genus *Lestes* described since *Lestes garoensis* (1987).

Habitat Characteristics

- It inhabits scrub vegetation around homesteads and laterite hillocks.
- It is often found away from open freshwater bodies.

Distinctive Features

- It changes colour from brown during the dry season to bluish during the monsoon.

- It is a spreadwing damselfly that holds its wings in a characteristic “V” shape.

About Damselflies

- Damselflies belong to the insect order **Odonata**.
- They are predatory aerial insects found near shallow freshwater habitats.
- They are generally smaller and more delicate than dragonflies.

PARIVARTAN Scheme

 Jagran Josh

What is the PARIVARTAN Scheme? Check Eligibility, Incentives and Scrapping Rules for Delhi-NCR Trucks and Buses

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs approved the PARIVARTAN scheme to accelerate the replacement of old trucks and buses from the...

Why in News:

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has approved guidelines for the **PARIVARTAN Scheme**.

Environmental Objective

- **PARIVARTAN** stands for **Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions**.
- It aims to replace old polluting trucks and buses in the **National Capital Region (NCR)**.
- The scheme promotes **BS-VI compliant** and electric vehicles.

Institutional Framework

- It is implemented by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**.
- Funding is provided by the **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)**.
- Covered regions include **Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh**.

Financial Incentives

- Beneficiaries receive motor vehicle tax concessions and registration fee waivers.
- The scheme provides **5% interest subvention** on vehicle loans.
- Eligible vehicles receive a minimum **8% OEM discount**.
- Additional support includes fuel vouchers and EV replacement assistance.

Digital Governance

- The scheme will operate through an integrated digital platform.
- It will interface with **VAHAN**, **V-Scrap**, **DigiELV** and **PFMS**.
- It supports the objectives of **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**.

Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project

 The Times of India

[Power secy reviews SJVN's 900MW Nepal hydel project](#)

Shimla: Union power secretary Pankaj Agarwal on Thursday reviewed the progress of SJVN's 900MW Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project in Nepal,...



Why in News:

The Power Secretary reviewed the progress of **SJVN's 900 MW Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project** in Nepal.

Project Profile

- It is a **900 MW run-of-the-river** hydropower project on the **Arun River**.
- The project is located in **Sankhuwasabha District of eastern Nepal**.
- Arun River is a tributary of the **Koshi River**.

Technical Features

- The project includes a **70 m high concrete gravity dam**.
- It has an **11.74 km Head Race Tunnel (HRT)**.
- The underground powerhouse contains **four units of 225 MW each**.

Implementation Structure

- It is being developed by **SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company (SAPDC)**.
- The project follows the **Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT)** model.
- SAPDC will operate the project for **25 years** before transfer to Nepal.

Institutional Background

- **BRO** was established on **7 May 1960**.
- It is India's premier border infrastructure agency.
- Since **2015-16**, it functions fully under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- Its motto is **"Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam."**

India-Nepal Cooperation

- Nepal will receive **21.9% free power** during the operational period.
- Electricity will be exported from **Dhalkebar (Nepal)** to **Muzaffarpur (India)**.
- The project strengthens India-Nepal energy and economic connectivity.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

 News On AIR

[Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chairs meeting of Parliamentary Consultative Committee for MoD on Border Roads Organisation | Akashvani News](#)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today chaired a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Defence on the Border...



Why in News:

The Defence Minister highlighted the importance of strategic infrastructure at the **BRO Strategic Infrastructure Conclave**.

Operational Responsibilities

- BRO develops and maintains roads in border areas.
- It undertakes projects in **19 States, 3 UTs** and neighbouring countries.
- It also constructs bridges, tunnels, airfields and hydroelectric projects.

Strategic and Military Role

- BRO supports the Army during hostilities and national emergencies.
- It helps maintain roads in forward military areas.
- It assists in rehabilitation of Indian Air Force airfields.
- It forms part of the **Order of Battle of the Armed Forces**.

Administrative Structure

- **Border Roads Development Board (BRDB)** coordinates BRO projects.
- The **Prime Minister** chairs BRDB and the **Defence Minister** serves as Deputy Chairman.
- The organisation is headed by the **Director General Border Roads (DGBR)** with the rank of Lieutenant General.

Disaster Management Role

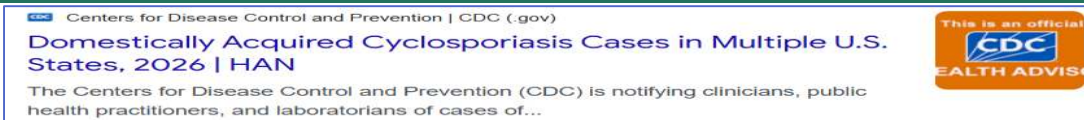
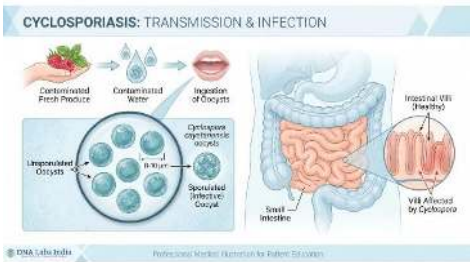
- BRO restores connectivity during natural disasters.
- It acts as a critical infrastructure responder in Himalayan and Northeastern regions.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Finland	
	Why in News: India and Finland recently discussed expanding economic, financial and digital cooperation. Geographical Location • Finland is located in Northern Europe. • It shares borders with Norway, Sweden and Russia.	

	- It is bounded by the Gulf of Finland, Gulf of Bothnia and Baltic Sea. Political Significance - Capital: Helsinki. - It is a member of both the European Union (EU) and NATO. Physical Geography - Finland contains nearly 56,000 lakes. Lake Saimaa is the largest lake in the country. - The highest point is Mount Halti (1,328 m). Economic Resources - Major mineral resources include copper, iron ore, nickel, cobalt and chromium. - The country is heavily forested and possesses extensive marshlands.
Environment	Koala  TOI The Times of India Australia's koalas face disease, habitat loss and shrinking populations, but scientists are freezing eggs Animals & Pets News: Australia's koalas have become an increasingly familiar symbol of a wider conservation problem. Habitat loss, disease... Why in News: Australian scientists are preserving koala genetic material through cryogenic storage to support future conservation efforts. Biological Classification - Scientific name: Phascolarctos cinereus. - It is a marsupial mammal possessing a pouch for offspring development.

	- It is the only living member of the family Phascolarctidae. Geographical Distribution - It is endemic to eastern Australia. - Its range extends from Queensland to Victoria. - It is closely associated with eucalyptus forests. Physical Characteristics - It is an arboreal species that spends most of its life in trees. - It possesses strong clawed feet and a broad leathery nose. - It can sleep for up to 18 hours daily. Conservation Status - The species is listed as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List.
Defence	Malvan – Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft  PIB  INDIAN NAVY SET TO COMMISSION THE LATEST ASW SHALLOW WATER CRAFT MALVAN The Indian Navy will commission Malvan, the second of the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) on 22 July 26. Why in News: The Indian Navy is set to commission Malvan, the second Mahe-class ASW-SWC. Platform Overview - Malvan is the second vessel of the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft. - It has been designed and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited.

	- It is named after the coastal town of Malvan, Maharashtra. Combat Capabilities - It is equipped with lightweight torpedoes and anti-submarine rockets. - It carries advanced radar and sonar systems. - It supports underwater surveillance and anti-submarine operations. Technical Specifications - The vessel has a displacement of approximately 1,100 tonnes. - It uses waterjet propulsion technology. Strategic Importance - The craft supports coastal defence and Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO). - It also possesses mine warfare capabilities. - More than 80% indigenous content reflects the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
Science and Technology	Cyclosporiasis  Why in News: The U.S. CDC reported 1,645 confirmed domestic cases of cyclosporiasis since May 2026. Disease Profile Cyclosporiasis is a food-borne disease caused by the protozoan parasite Cyclospora cayetanensis. 

- It primarily affects the **gastrointestinal tract**.
- The disease spreads through the **faeco-oral route** via contaminated food or water.

Sources and Transmission

- Common sources include contaminated **lettuce, spinach, basil, cilantro, parsley, raspberries** and **snow peas**.
- The infection does not spread directly from person to person.

Clinical Features

- The major symptom is severe watery diarrhoea.
- Other symptoms include bloating, stomach cramps, fatigue, loss of appetite and weight loss.
- Children, elderly persons and immunocompromised individuals face higher risks.

Treatment and Prevention

- The standard treatment is **Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX)**.
- Adequate hydration is recommended during recovery.

Uttar Pradesh in News

IPC–UPPPC MoU

 PIB

[Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission Signs MoU with Uttar Pradesh Promote Pharma Council \(UPPPC\) to Strengthen Quality, Innovation, and Regulatory Excellence in Healthcare](#)

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission Signs MoU with Uttar Pradesh Promote Pharma Council (UPPPC) to Strengthen Quality, Innovation,...



Why in News:

The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** signed an **MoU** with the **Uttar Pradesh Promote Pharma Council (UPPPC)** during the **YEIDA MedTech Investors Meet 2026** in **Greater Noida**.

Objective

- The partnership aims to strengthen the pharmaceutical and medical device ecosystem.
- It focuses on quality standards, regulatory excellence, innovation and capacity building.

Quality & Compliance

- The MoU will promote awareness of the **Indian Pharmacopoeia**, **Pharmacovigilance** and **Materiovigilance**.
- It seeks to improve regulatory compliance in the pharma and medical device sectors.

Industry Support

- IPC and UPPPC will conduct training programmes, workshops and awareness campaigns.
- Digital adverse event reporting tools will be provided to support **MSMEs**.

Patient Safety

- The initiative will strengthen post-market surveillance.
- It aims to enhance patient safety through better quality assurance mechanisms.

Important Facts

- **IPC** functions under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- IPC publishes the **Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)**, India's official drug standards book.
- **YEIDA** stands for **Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority**.