

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

17-06-2026

World Crocodile Day 2026

Moneycontrol

World Crocodile Day 2026: Meet 10 most famous 'crops' in the world!

World Crocodile is celebrated every year on June 18. From record-breaking giants to legendary man-eaters, these crocodiles became famous...



Why in News: World Crocodile Day is observed annually on **17 June** to promote awareness about crocodile conservation and the protection of aquatic ecosystems.

Theme and Significance

- The **2026 theme** is **"Legacy in Every Scale."**
- The theme highlights the evolutionary legacy of crocodilians.
- It promotes long-term conservation for future generations.
- The observance covers crocodiles, gharials, alligators and other crocodilians.

Ecological Importance

- Crocodiles are apex predators that maintain aquatic ecological balance.
- They help regulate prey populations and support biodiversity.
- They are considered **keystone species** in wetland ecosystems.

Major Threats

- Habitat loss due to urbanisation is a major threat.
- Pollution, climate change and overfishing affect survival.
- Sand mining and riverbank erosion destroy nesting sites.

About Crocodiles

- Crocodiles belong to the order **Crocodylia**.
- They have existed for over **200 million years**.
- **Saltwater Crocodile (Crocodylus porosus)** is the world's largest living reptile.

Conservation Efforts in India

- India launched the **Crocodile Conservation Project** in 1975.
- Major habitats are protected under **National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries**.
- **Bhitarkanika National Park (Odisha)** is important for **Saltwater Crocodile** conservation.
- **National Chambal Sanctuary** protects the Gharial.
- Crocodiles are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- India has **three native crocodilians**: **Mugger Crocodile, Saltwater Crocodile and Gharial**.

Tasgaon Lift Irrigation Scheme

bl. BusinessLine

[Patel Engineering gets LoA for Tasgaon Lift Irrigation Scheme in Maharashtra](#)

PEL's share in the joint venture contract is ₹64.45 crore (51 per cent); project to cover 2277 hectares in Satara district.



Why in News

- Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (MKVDC) issued the **Letter of Award (LoA)** to a joint venture involving **Patel Engineering Ltd** for works under the **Tasgaon Lift Irrigation Scheme** in Maharashtra.

Geographical Profile

- It is an irrigation infrastructure project located in **Satara Taluka of Satara district, Maharashtra**.
- It will provide irrigation facilities to **2,277 hectares** of command area.
- The project covers six villages namely **Tasgaon, Varne, Karandwadi, Devkarwadi, Degaon and Nigadi**.

Technological Dimensions

- It is a **lift irrigation scheme**, which uses electrically powered pumps instead of gravity flow.
- Water is lifted from the source and supplied through a **pressurised closed-pipe distribution network**.
- The project includes head works, pump houses, switch yards, rising mains and delivery chambers.

Governance Significance

- The scheme is implemented under Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (MKVDC), Pune.
- It aims to improve agricultural productivity and strengthen rural water security.
- It will support long-term agricultural and socio-economic development in the region.

Knob-Billed Duck

Why in News

- The **Knob-billed Duck** was

 The Tribune

Rare knob-billed duck spotted at Pong Lake for 1st time

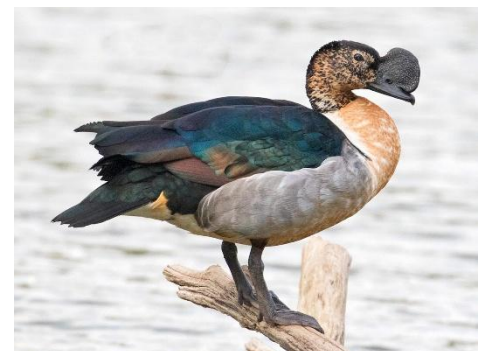
The arrival of the knob-billed duck adds another fascinating chapter to Pong Lake's growing ornithological significance and underscores the...



recorded for the first time at **Pong Lake Wildlife Sanctuary**, expanding its known Indian distribution.

Species Profile

- Scientific Name: **Sarkidiornis melanotos**.
- It is also called the **African Comb Duck**.
- The species is named after the prominent **leaf-shaped comb** on the male's bill.



Habitat and Distribution

- It occurs in **Sub-Saharan Africa, Madagascar and the Indian subcontinent**.

- Its range extends from **northern India to Laos and southern China**.
- It inhabits **freshwater swamps, lakes and tropical wetlands**.

Physical Characteristics

- It is among the largest duck species with a length of **56–76 cm**.
- Adult birds have a **white spotted head and glossy blue-black upperparts**.
- Males are significantly larger than females.

Conservation Status

- IUCN Red List: **Least Concern (LC)**.

GRAPES-3 Telescope

Sanskriti IAS

[GRAPES-3 Telescope: New Discoveries on Cosmic Rays and Muons](#)

Why in the news ? Recently, researchers from Mumbai, Kochi, and Japan used the GRAPES-3 (Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV Energies Phase-3) telescope to study how...



Why in News

- Researchers from **Mumbai, Kochi and Japan** used the **GRAPES-3 telescope** to study interactions between atmospheric temperature, solar magnetic fields and muons.

Scientific Profile

- **GRAPES-3** stands for **Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV Energies Phase-3**.
- It studies the origin, acceleration and propagation of **cosmic rays**.
- It analyses extensive air showers produced by high-energy particles.

Institutional Dimensions

- It is located at Ooty, Tamil Nadu.
- It is operated by the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)**.
- It employs **plastic scintillator detectors and a large muon detector**.

Prelims Facts: Cosmic Rays

- Cosmic rays are among the most energetic particles in the universe.
- They constantly bombard Earth from all directions.
- They generate showers of **electrons, photons, muons, protons and neutrons**.
- Their energy ranges from 10^8 to 10^{20} **electron volts (eV)**.

Wind Turbine Supply Chain Management Portal

News on air

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi launches WT-MARUT Portal to strengthen Wind Energy Supply Chain

In a major boost to India's renewable energy sector, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi today launched the Wind...



Why in News

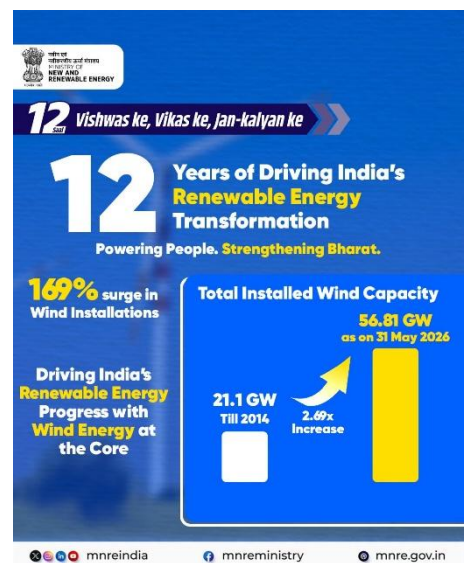
- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** launched India's first **Wind Turbine Supply Chain Management Portal (WT-MARUT)**.

Institutional Framework

- It is India's first dedicated digital platform for the wind energy sector.
- It was developed by **MNRE** with support from **Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA)**.

Strategic Significance

- It aims to strengthen domestic wind manufacturing capabilities.
- It supports India's clean energy and energy transition goals.
- It enhances export preparedness of Indian manufacturers.



Functional Features

- It improves supply chain visibility.
- It supports supplier discovery and stakeholder collaboration.
- It facilitates compliance with the **Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM)** framework.

Prelims Facts

- Wind energy converts the **kinetic energy of wind into electricity**.
- Major wind energy states are **Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Gujarat** possesses the highest wind energy potential in India.

Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)



[India, Japan adopt Rules of Implementation for Joint Crediting Mechanism under Paris Agreement](#)

India and Japan have adopted the Rules of Implementation for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement,...



Why in News

- **India and Japan** adopted the **Rules of Implementation** for the **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** under **Article 6.2** of the **Paris Agreement**.

Institutional Profile

- It was proposed by **Japan** and officially launched in **2013**.
- It is a bilateral carbon market mechanism.
- India is among 31 partner countries.

International Linkages

- It operates under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
- It complements mechanisms such as **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** and **Joint Implementation (JI)**.
- It contributes to achieving countries' **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.

Sectoral Focus

- It prioritises renewable energy with storage.
- It covers **green hydrogen, green ammonia and compressed biogas**.
- It also targets hard-to-abate industrial sectors.

Governance Dimensions

- The nodal ministry in India is the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- It facilitates technology transfer and low-carbon investments.

Powai Lake

Hindustan Times

No sewage water inflow into Powai lake from October | Mumbai news

Work on diverting the sewage water is likely to be completed by month-end and sewage inflow is likely to stop by July.



Why in News

- **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** proposed a redevelopment plan for a section of **Powai Lake**.

Geographical Profile

- It is an **artificial lake** located in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- It was built by the British in **1890**.
- It was created by constructing dams across the **Mithi River**.

Ecological Importance

- It is surrounded by the **Powai Bird Sanctuary**.
- It supports migratory and resident bird species.
- It hosts a small population of **Marsh Crocodile (Mugger)**.

Associated Institutions

- **IIT Bombay** and **National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE)** are situated nearby.

- The **Padmavati Devi Temple** on the IIT campus dates back to the **10th century CE**.

Conservation Concerns

- Nearly **40% of the lake area has disappeared** over time.
- Rapid urbanisation has degraded the ecosystem.
- It is currently used for Indian Mahaseer conservation.

Other Important News of the day

Persons in News

Indian Jurist Bimal N. Patel Elected to ITLOS

Why in News

- Indian jurist **Bimal N. Patel** was elected as a Judge of the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)** on **19 June 2026**.

About ITLOS

- **ITLOS** is an independent judicial body established under **UNCLOS**.
- It adjudicates disputes related to the interpretation and application of the law of the sea.
- Its headquarters are located in **Hamburg, Germany**.



Election and Tenure

- He secured **115 votes out of 168 valid votes**.
- He will serve a **nine-year term (2026–2035)**.
- He will assume office on **1 October 2026**.

India's Representation

- He succeeds India's current representative **Neeru Chadha**, whose term ends in September 2026.
- He currently serves on the **United Nations International Law Commission (ILC)**.

- He is also the Vice-Chancellor of Rashtriya Raksha University.

NOTE: UNCLOS and ITLOS

- UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) was adopted in 1982 and entered into force in 1994.
- ITLOS comprises 21 judges serving staggered nine-year terms.
- Judges are elected by States Parties to UNCLOS.
- The International Law Commission (ILC) is a body of the UN General Assembly responsible for codification and progressive development of international law.

Places in News

Thailand

Why in News

- India and Thailand agreed to deepen defence collaboration during the 10th Defence Dialogue in Bangkok.

Geographical Profile

- Thailand is located in mainland Southeast Asia.
- It shares land borders with Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia.
- It is bordered by the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand.



Physiographic Features


- Fold mountains dominate the north and west.
- The Khorat Plateau occupies the northeast.
- The highest peak is Doi Inthanon (2,565 m).

	<p>Hydrography and Climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major rivers are Chao Phraya and Mekong. The climate is influenced by Southwest and Northeast Monsoons. <p>IMPORTANT FACTS :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital: Bangkok. Key resources include Rubber, Rice, Tin, Natural Gas, Timber, Tungsten and Tantalum. Exercise Maitree is the bilateral India-Thailand Army exercise.
<p>Environment</p>	<p>Manas National Park</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p> ANI News</p> <p>"Zero rhino, tiger poaching in Manas National Park for three straight years": Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma</p> <p>Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma applauded the Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve for achieving a remarkable milestone as the...</p>  </div> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manas National Park recorded zero rhino and tiger poaching cases for three consecutive years. <p>Geographical Profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is located in Assam along the foothills of the Himalayas. It shares an international boundary with Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan. The Manas River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, flows through it. <p>Multi-Layered Recognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is simultaneously a Tiger Reserve, Elephant Reserve, Biosphere Reserve and Important Bird Area. It was included under Project Tiger in 1973. <p>Biodiversity Significance</p>

- It contains semi-evergreen forests, grasslands and riparian vegetation.
- It is home to **Pygmy Hog, Hispid Hare, Golden Langur and Indian Rhinoceros**.
- Indigenous communities such as the **Bodo** inhabit the landscape.


Defence

INS Tarkash

 PIB

[INDIAN NAVAL SHIP TARKASH CONCLUDES PORT CALL AT PORT VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES](#)

INS Tarkash, a stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, departed from Port Victoria, Seychelles, on 15 Jun 2026 on completion of her port call...



Why in News

- INS Tarkash arrived at **Port Victoria, Seychelles**, during its deployment in the South-West Indian Ocean Region.

Institutional Profile

- It is a **Talwar-class guided missile stealth frigate** of the Indian Navy.
- It is the second ship of its class.
- It was built at **Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia**.

Technical Specifications

- It displaces **3,850 tonnes**.
- It can achieve speeds exceeding **30 knots**.
- It has an operational endurance of **30 days or 4,500 miles**.

Strategic Capabilities

- It employs advanced stealth technologies.
- It is equipped with **BrahMos missiles**.
- It can operate **Ka-28 anti-submarine** and **Ka-31 airborne early warning helicopters**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Lucknow–Unnao–Kanpur Rapid Rail Corridor

Hindustan Times

[Rapid rail corridor between Lucknow, Kanpur, outer ring road for SCR on anvil: Yogi | Hindustan Times](#)

UP CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurates and lays the foundation stone of 101 development projects worth over ₹570 crore.

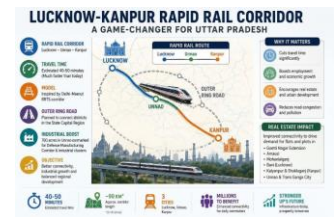


Why in News

- UP CM Yogi Adityanath announced that a proposal is being prepared for a Lucknow–Unnao–Kanpur Rapid Rail Corridor, similar to the Delhi–Meerut RRTS (Namo Bharat).

Urban Connectivity

- The corridor will connect Lucknow, Unnao and Kanpur through a high-speed regional rail network.
- It aims to improve inter-city mobility and reduce travel time.



Regional Development

- Unnao has been included in the proposed Lucknow State Capital Region (SCR).
- An Outer Ring Road is also being planned to connect SCR areas.

Economic Significance

- Around 700 acres have been earmarked in Unnao for the UP Defence Industrial Corridor and an industrial cluster.
- Two additional Ganga bridges between Unnao and Kanpur have been approved.

Prelims Facts

- RRTS (Regional Rapid Transit System) is a high-speed inter-city rail network.



- India's first RRTS is the **Delhi–Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor**, implemented by **NCRTC**.
- **UP Defence Industrial Corridor** has six nodes: **Lucknow, Kanpur, Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi and Chitrakoot**.