

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

17-09-2026

Sankh River

TNIE The New Indian Express

Odisha: Three girls drown in Sankh river during Karma Puja preparations in Sundargarh

According to villagers, the children had gone to the river in a cheerful mood to bathe and collect sand from the riverbank as part of...



Why in News: Three minor girls drowned in the **Sankh River** in Odisha while preparing for the **Karma Puja** festival.

Geographical Course

- The **Sankh (Shankh) River** flows through Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha as part of the **Brahmani River system**.
- It originates at **Lupungpat village, Gumla district, Jharkhand**, at about **1,000 m altitude**.
- It is about **240 km long** and finally merges with the **South Koel at Vedavyas near Rourkela** to form the **Brahmani**.

Important Feature

- **Sadni Falls**, a **60-metre-high scarp/knick-line waterfall**, lies along its course at the edge of the **Ranchi Plateau**.



Taklamakan Desert

CD China Daily

Two large groundwater sources discovered in Taklamakan Desert

Two large groundwater sources have been discovered in the Taklamakan Desert in the Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region, according to a CCTV...



Why in News: Two large groundwater sources have been discovered in the **Taklamakan Desert** in China's **Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region**.

Geographical Location

- The **Taklamakan Desert** lies in **southwestern Xinjiang, China**, within the **Tarim Basin**.

- It covers about **320,000 sq km**, extending roughly **960 km east-west** with a maximum width of **420 km**.
- It is the **world's second-largest shifting-sand desert**, with about **85%** of its area covered by crescent-shaped dunes.



Physical Features

- The desert is bordered by the **Tien Shan Mountains to the north** and **Kunlun Mountains to the south**.
- The **Tarim River** flows along its northern edge, while the **Gobi Desert** lies to the east.
- It has a **continental climate**, characterised by very low precipitation, strong winds and large **day-night temperature variations**.

Indian Council of World Affairs

Why in News: The Vice-President of India addressed the **25th Anniversary celebrations of ICWA** at **Sapru House, New Delhi**.

Institutional Profile

News On AIR

[Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan praises successful BRICS summit in New Delhi](#)

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan today said that amid a world weighed down by conflicts and contradictions, the successful BRICS summit...



- The **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)** was established in **1943** by Indian intellectuals led by **Sir T.B. Saprú and Dr. H.N. Kunzru**.
- It was initially registered as a **non-official, non-political and non-profit organisation** under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- An **Act of Parliament in 2001** declared ICWA an **institution of national importance**.

Administration

- The **Vice-President of India is the ex-officio President** of ICWA.
- It is funded by the **Ministry of External Affairs** while retaining institutional autonomy.
- Its primary focus is the study of **international relations and foreign affairs**.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award



Why Dadasaheb Phalke Award Recipient Anant Nag Doesn't Want To Return To Acting

Dadasaheb Phalke Award recipient veteran actor Anant Nag said he doesn't want to return to acting, citing what he described as deteriorating...



Why in News: Veteran actor **Anant Nag** will receive the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024** for his contribution to Indian cinema.

Award Profile

- The **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** is the **highest Indian award in cinema** for lifetime contribution.
- It was instituted in **1969**, the birth centenary year of **Dadasaheb Phalke**.
- The first recipient was **Devika Rani**.
- The award consists of a **Swarna Kamal, shawl and ₹10 lakh cash prize** and is presented by the **President of India**.

Dadasaheb Phalke

- **Dhundiraj Govind Phalke** was born on **30 April 1870 in Trimbak, Maharashtra**.
- He is regarded as the **Father of Indian Cinema** and directed India's first full-length feature film, **Raja Harishchandra (1913)**.

Year	Recipient	Major Contribution / Recognition
2023	Mohanlal	Renowned actor known for his extensive work in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Hindi cinema .
2022	Mithun Chakraborty	Iconic actor, producer and singer with a career spanning several decades in Hindi and Bengali cinema .

2021	Waheeda Rehman	Acclaimed veteran actress of classic Hindi cinema , known for landmark films such as <i>Pyasa</i> and <i>Guide</i> .
2020	Asha Parekh	Veteran actress, director and former chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) .
2019	Rajinikanth	Superstar recognised for his major contributions to Tamil and Indian cinema .

India Electric Mobility Index 2025

bl. BusinessLine

Delhi retains top spot in India Electric Mobility Index 2025 with score of 84

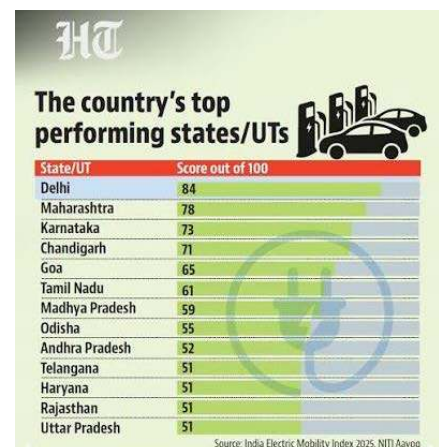
Delhi retained the top spot in NITI Aayog's India Electric Mobility Index 2025 with a score of 84, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.



Why in News: **NITI Aayog** released the **India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2025**, with **Delhi** recording the highest composite score of **84**.

Index Framework

- The **IEMI** is developed by **NITI Aayog in collaboration with WRI India** to assess state-level e-mobility policies and outcomes.
- It evaluates all **36 States and Union Territories** on **16 indicators** across three themes: **transport electrification, charging infrastructure and EV research & innovation**.
- States and UTs are classified as **Top Performers (≥65)**, **Frontrunners (50–64)**, **Emerging Performers (35–49)** and **Aspirants (<35)**.

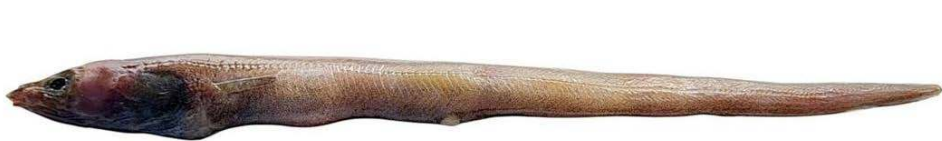


Key Findings

- **Delhi (84)** was followed by **Maharashtra (78)**, **Karnataka (73)**, **Chandigarh (71)** and **Goa (65)**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** improved from **23rd to 7th position**.
- **Karnataka** recorded the highest score of **97** in **Charging Infrastructure Readiness**, while **Delhi** scored **94** in EV Research and Innovation.
- The overall scores ranged from **10 to 84**, with a **median score of 40**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary  ThePrint Administration orders spatial mapping of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary in Ladakh Jammu/Leh, Sept 16 (PTI) Authorities will undertake spatial mapping and field verification of military installations within the Changthang... Why in News: Authorities will conduct spatial mapping and field verification of military installations within the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary in coordination with police and defence authorities. Geographical Profile ➤ The sanctuary lies in the Changthang Plateau of Ladakh, covering nearly 4,000 sq km. ➤ Its altitude ranges from approximately 14,000 to 19,000 feet, with deep gorges and extensive plateaus. ➤ Important high-altitude lakes include Tso Moriri, Pangong Tso and Tso Kar. Ecology and Communities ➤ The region is primarily inhabited by the nomadic pastoral Changpa tribe, who rear yaks, goats and sheep. ➤ It is known for Tibetan Buddhist culture and includes Korzok Village and Korzok Monastery. Key Wildlife ➤ The Snow Leopard is a major attraction of the sanctuary. ➤ Other important species include Kiang (Tibetan wild ass), Tibetan wolf, wild yak, bharal, Tibetan argali, Tibetan gazelle, brown bear and dark-necked crane. ➤ The sanctuary supports nearly 200 species of wild plants and several species of waterbirds.
Environment	Black-headed Ibis Why in News: Large flocks of Black-headed Ibis were observed in the Pallar paddy fields of Tirunavaya, Malappuram, Kerala. Biological Profile ➤ The Black-headed Ibis (<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>) belongs to the wading-bird family Threskiornithidae.

	➤ It is also called the Oriental white ibis, Indian white ibis and black-necked ibis. ➤ It inhabits wetlands, agricultural fields, coastal areas and human-modified landscapes across South and Southeast Asia.  Identification and Status ➤ Adults are about 65–76 cm long and have predominantly white plumage with a black head and neck. ➤ Their ornamental tail feathers become jet black during the breeding season. ➤ The species is classified as Least Concern under the IUCN Red List.
	Ariosoma cmfriense Why in News: Scientists discovered a new conger eel species, <i>Ariosoma cmfriense</i>, in the deep waters of the Arabian Sea. Discovery and Habitat ➤ The species was discovered about 300 metres deep off Kollam, Kerala. ➤ Scientists from ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi made the discovery under the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Distinctive Features  ➤ It has 135 vertebrae and 127–130 lateral-line pores. ➤ Its preanal length is nearly half its total length, with two supraorbital pores. ➤ A dark patch over the operculum and fine black speckling below the lateral line distinguish it from related species.
Defence	MQ-9 Reaper Why in News: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed that it shot down a US MQ-9 Reaper over Qeshm Island in southern Iran.

Platform Profile



- The **MQ-9 Reaper** is an armed, multi-mission, **medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) UAV** developed by **General Atomics Aeronautical Systems**.
- It is an upgraded version of the **MQ-1 Predator** and was first deployed in **Afghanistan in October 2007**.
- It performs **reconnaissance, battlefield surveillance and direct target engagement**.

Key Capabilities

- The UAV has a **20-metre wingspan** and endurance exceeding **27 hours**.
- It can operate at altitudes up to **50,000 feet** and is powered by a **turboprop engine**.
- It can carry **Hellfire air-to-ground missiles and laser-guided bombs**.
- It is operated remotely by a **two-person team** comprising a pilot and a sensor/weapons operator.

Science and Technology

Gallium Nitride MMIC Technology

 The Economic Times

[DRDO develops GaN chip: Meet Dr Meena Mishra, scientist behind the technology that was denied by other cou](#)

Dr Meena Mishra, director of DRDO's Solid State Physics Laboratory, has led work on indigenous Gallium Nitride-based Monolithic Microwave...



Why in News: The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully demonstrated indigenous **Gallium Nitride Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit (GaN MMIC)** technology.

Technology and Capabilities

- **GaN MMIC** integrates components such as transistors, resistors and capacitors on a single chip for high-frequency microwave applications.
- The technology is designed for applications up to the **X-band frequency range**.
- An indigenous **3.5 × 3 mm GaN chip** can deliver up to **30 watts** of power.

Defence Applications

- **Gallium Nitride (GaN)** offers high power output, energy efficiency, faster signal processing, compact size and improved thermal performance.
- It has applications in **radars, sensors, satellites and missiles**.
- DRDO developed the technology in **2024**, contributing to India's indigenous capability in advanced defence electronics.

Uttar Pradesh in News

UP Panchayat Assistants: Salary Hike and New Benefits

 The Indian Express

UP raises panchayat assistants' salary by 50%; protest called off

Thousands of panchayat assistants staged a sit-in protest in Lucknow to press for their demands.



Why in News

The **Uttar Pradesh Government** increased the monthly honourarium of **Panchayat Assistants by 50%**, following a protest by thousands of assistants in Lucknow.

Key Decisions

- Monthly honourarium increased from **₹6,000 to ₹9,000** for more than **57,000 Panchayat Assistants**.
- Pending payments, which were sometimes delayed by **6–7 months**, will now be transferred directly through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.
- **Maternity leave** will be provided to women Panchayat Assistants.
- **Cashless healthcare** benefits will be extended to Panchayat Assistants and their families.

Service and Legal Safeguards

- Panchayat Assistants removed during the agitation will be **reinstated**.
- Cases registered against Panchayat Assistants during the agitation will be **withdrawn**.
- **Panchayat Secretaries** will no longer have the power to remove them.
- Removal will be decided only by a **committee headed by the District Magistrate (DM)**.

Significance

- The measures strengthen **financial security, social protection and job-related safeguards** for Panchayat Assistants.
- The announcement led to the **calling off of the Lucknow protest**.