SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

18-11-2026

Paradip Port

The Asian Age

Paradip Port Authority Successfully Completes Maritime Rescue Operation of MV Vishva Uday



The operation was initiated following an urgent communication received from Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) Limited, reporting that the...

Why in News?

- Paradip Port Authority conducted a maritime assistance and salvage operation involving the distressed vessel MV Vishva Uday, carrying 27 crew members, around 50 nautical miles off Paradip Port.



Location and Significance

- **Location:** Paradip, Jagatsinghpur district, Odisha.
- It is Odisha's **only major port**, situated on the Bay of Bengal near the mouth of a branch of the Mahanadi River.
- It was designated a **Mega Port under the Indian Ports Act, 2025**, and is the only Mega Port on India's eastern coast among the four notified ports.
- Its hinterland includes Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

Infrastructure and Administration

- It is managed by the **Paradip Port Authority (PPA)**, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- It handles bulk cargo, steel products, project cargo and containers, with dedicated railway connectivity.

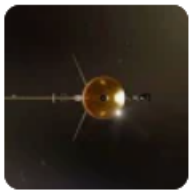
Cargo Performance

- It handled **150.41 MMT** of cargo in 2024–25.
- It recorded **156.45 MMT** in 2025–26, becoming India's second-largest major port by cargo volume.
- Its soft underwater soil facilitates channel deepening.

Voyager 1

NDTV

NASA's Voyager 1 Phones Home From Awe-Inspiring One Light-Day Away



Voyager 1 and its twin, Voyager 2, are NASA's longest-operating space missions, still churning out data despite powering down most of their...

Why in News?

- NASA's Voyager 1 is approaching the milestone of becoming the first human-made object to reach **one light-day from Earth**.

Mission and Objectives

- Launched by **NASA in 1977**, Voyager 1 was designed to explore the outer planets of the Solar System.
- It is the most distant human-made object from Earth and the first spacecraft to enter interstellar space.
- Its planetary mission included flybys of **Jupiter and Saturn**, studying their moons, rings and magnetic fields.
- Important instruments include the Cosmic Ray Subsystem, Plasma Wave Subsystem and Infrared Interferometer Spectrometer and Radiometer (IRIS).

One Light-Day

- A light-day is the distance travelled by light in 24 hours, approximately **25.9 billion kilometres**.
- At this distance, a signal takes around 24 hours to reach Voyager 1 and another 24 hours for its response to return.

Major Discoveries

- Discovered a thin ring around Jupiter and two moons, **Thebe and Metis**.
- Discovered five moons and the G-ring around Saturn.
- Detected active volcanic eruptions on Jupiter's moon **Io**, providing the first evidence of active volcanism beyond Earth.
- Crossed the heliosphere and entered interstellar space in **August 2012**.

Communication and Power

- It communicates with NASA through the **Deep Space Network**, whose antennas are located in California, Spain and Australia.
- It uses **Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs)**, which generate electricity from the radioactive decay of plutonium-238.
- Its power supply is gradually declining, although it continues transmitting scientific data.

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

American Nuclear Society

Bangladesh's Rooppur begins supplying nuclear electricity to grid -- ANS / Nuclear Newswire

State-owned Power Grid Bangladesh, which is the South Asian nation's only distributor of electric power, reported that Unit 1 of the Rooppur...



Why in News?

- Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant began trial electricity supply after synchronisation with the national grid.

Location and Significance

- **Location:** Rooppur, near Ishwardi in Pabna district, Bangladesh, on the eastern bank of the Padma River.
- It is Bangladesh's **first nuclear power plant**, with an installed capacity of **2.4 GW**.
- It is expected to meet around 10–12% of Bangladesh's electricity demand.

Technology and Construction

- Implemented by the **Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC)** with Russian assistance.
- It has two third-generation **VVER-1200 reactors**, constructed by Russia's State Atomic Energy Corporation, Rosatom.
- VVER-1200 is a Russian-designed **Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR)**.
- Construction began in November 2017, and the plant uses nuclear fission to generate electricity.

Financing and Cooperation

- The project is largely financed through a Russian loan repayable over 20 years.
- Indian companies are also participating in its construction.

Ratapani Tiger Reserve

The New Indian Express

MP orders probe into celebration attended by Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inside Ratapani Tiger Reserve

MP forest dept headquarters seeks report in three days on event attended by union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan; probe to examine...



Why in News?

- The Madhya Pradesh Forest Department ordered an investigation into a celebration attended by a minister inside Ratapani Tiger Reserve.

Location and Geography

- **Location:** Madhya Pradesh.
- It runs parallel to the northern side of the **Narmada River**, while the Kolar River forms its western boundary.
- Major water bodies include Barna Reservoir and Ratapani Dam (Barrusot Lake).
- Its terrain comprises hills, plateaus, valleys and plains.

Ecological Features

- It has **dry and moist deciduous forests**, with teak covering approximately **55% of the area**.
- Important fauna include chinkara, leopard, hyena, jackal, Indian fox, wild dog, jungle cat, blue bull, blackbuck, chausingha and spotted deer.

Historical and Cultural Significance

- It encompasses **Bhimbetka Rock Shelters**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for prehistoric rock paintings.
- Other sites include Ginnourgarh Fort, Keri Mahadeo, Ratapani Dam and Jholiyapur Dam.

Salvadora alii

ETV Bharat

Rajasthan Forest Scientists Find New Species Of 'Peelu', Publish Findings In Journal

Udaipur: Previously, only two species of 'Peelu' (Salvadora) — known locally as 'Meetha Jaal' and 'Khari Jaal' — were documented in...



Why in News?

- Forest scientists recorded the presence of *Salvadora alii* in Rajasthan for the first time.



Botanical Features

- It is an evergreen flowering plant belonging to the family **Salvadoraceae**.
- Locally known as **Meetha Jaal** and **Khari Jaal** in Rajasthan, it is also called pilu, khabbar and the white-berry toothbrush tree.
- It is valued for its juicy fruits.

Habitat and Distribution

- It grows in **arid and semi-arid regions**, including dry bushland, rocky slopes and open woodlands.

- It is adapted to low rainfall and high temperatures.
- It has previously been documented in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Distinguishing Feature

- It bears **white, juicy fruits**, unlike the two previously known *Salvadora* species in Rajasthan, which have pinkish-red fruits.

National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)

www.pib.gov.in

Dr. Rajesh Sharma Joins NCVET as Executive Member

Dr. Rajesh Sharma has joined the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), Ministry of Skill Development and...



Why in News?

- Dr. Rajesh Sharma joined NCVET as an Executive Member.

Establishment and Mandate

- Established in **2018** by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), it became fully operational on **1 August 2020**.
- It is the overarching national regulator for the **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** sector.
- It aims to ensure quality and standardisation in vocational education and skill development.

Institutional Role

- It took over the functions of the **National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)** and the former **National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT)**.
- It regulates vocational education entities involved in long-term and short-term training and establishes minimum operational standards.

Principal Functions

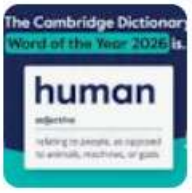
- Recognises, monitors, disciplines and de-recognises awarding bodies, assessment agencies and Skill Information Providers.
- Frames guidelines for qualification approval and approves qualifications.
- Establishes grievance-redressal mechanisms against recognised bodies.
- Promotes quality assurance and improved employability across the skilling ecosystem.

Cambridge Dictionary Names ‘Human’ Word of the Year 2026

News On AIR

[Cambridge Dictionary names ‘human’ as Word of the Year 2026 amid growing influence of AI]

The Cambridge Dictionary has picked 'human' as its Word of the Year for 2026, arguing that a year of Artificial Intelligence (AI) appearing...



Why in News?

- On **18 November 2026**, Cambridge Dictionary selected **‘Human’** as its Word of the Year 2026.

Significance

- Reflects debates over human identity as AI increasingly generates human-like images, voices and content.
- Highlights human creativity, connection and authenticity.
- Selection is based on data about words searched in Cambridge Dictionary.

AI and Human Authorship

- Bill Gates advocated “human reserved jobs”; Geoffrey Hinton warned about “creating alien beings”.
- In April 2026, **Matthew McConaughey and Taylor Swift** trademarked their voices and images amid deepfake concerns.
- The **Authors Guild** introduced a “Human Authored” kitemark for human-written books, allowing limited AI assistance such as spelling checks and research.

Important Legal and Institutional Facts

- **EU AI Act:** Requires machine-readable marking of synthetic outputs and disclosure of deepfakes, with context-sensitive provisions for artistic, satirical and fictional works.
- **US copyright:** AI-generated material alone is not copyrightable; sufficiently creative human selection, arrangement or modification may qualify for protection.

U.S., Mexico and Bolivia Lose Measles Elimination Status

Why in News?

Reuters

[US loses measles elimination status after nearly three decades; Mexico, Bolivia also lose designation]

The United States lost its hard-fought measles elimination status after 26 years, as the country failed to curb the continuous spread of...



- On **17 November 2026**, the **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)** announced that the United States, Mexico and Bolivia had lost their measles elimination status.

Reasons and Outbreaks

- The countries experienced uninterrupted transmission of the same measles virus genotype for at least **12 months between January 2025 and January 2026**.
- The Region of the Americas became the first WHO region to eliminate endemic measles transmission in **2016**; Canada lost its status in 2025.
- By 12 November 2026:
  - **United States:** Over 5,400 cases and 10 deaths; worst outbreak since 1991.
  - **Mexico:** Over 13,800 cases, its highest total since the 1989–90 epidemic.
- US kindergarten MMR vaccination coverage fell from **95.2% (2019–20) to 92.4% (2025–26)**, below the 95% community-immunity threshold.
- The three countries are expected to submit corrective plans.

Important Facts

- **Serotype:** Measles has one serotype; antibodies against one genotype, including the vaccine strain, protect against others.
- **Second MMR dose:** Covers the 2–5% who may not develop immunity after the first dose.
- **PAHO governance:** Pan American Sanitary Conference is the highest authority; Directing Council governs between its sessions.
- **Immune amnesia:** Measles can erase immune memory of previously encountered pathogens, increasing susceptibility to infections.

Hannah Lillith Assadi Wins National Book Award for Fiction

The Guardian

Hannah Lillith Assadi wins US National book award for 'visionary' novel Paradiso 17

Assadi's third novel was inspired by the story of her late father, a Palestinian who escaped the Nakba as a child in 1948.



Why in News?

- **Hannah Lillith Assadi** won the 2026 National Book Award for Fiction for *Paradiso 17* at the 77th ceremony on **18 November 2026** in New York.

Other Award Winners

- **Nonfiction:** Abdelrahman ElGendy – *Huna: A Memoir of Revolution, Prison, and Becoming*.
- **Poetry:** Brenda Hillman – *Still House in the Desert: An eco-contemplation*.
- **Translated Literature:** Vicente Luis Mora – *Centroeuropa*, translated by Rahul Bery.

- **Young People's Literature:** David Levithan and Gabriel Duckels – *The Fight of Our Lives: AIDS in America*.
- Each competitive-category winner received **$10,000 and a bronze sculpture**.

Special Honours and Visa Issue

- **Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters:** Salman Rushdie.
- **Literarian Award:** Perri Klass.
- Egyptian finalist **Abdelrahman ElGendy** and Syrian finalist **Samar Yazbek** were denied US visas and could not attend.

Important Facts

- **National Book Foundation:** Nonprofit established in **1989**; administers the National Book Awards.
- **Judging:** Each category has an independent five-member panel, which selects winners through longlisting and shortlisting.
- **Translated Literature Award:** Established in **2018**; recognises US-published English translations and credits both author and translator.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Japan

DH Deccan Herald

Japan to train its troops in India to fire missiles made to deter China

New Delhi: Tokyo is set to conduct live-fire training in India for personnel of the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force to operate...



Why in News?

- India's Raksha Mantri is scheduled to participate in the fourth **India–Japan Foreign and Defence Ministers' Dialogue (2+2)** in Japan.

Location and Political Geography

- Japan is an island nation in **East Asia**, situated in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.
- **Capital:** Tokyo.
- It is bordered by the Pacific Ocean (east), Sea of Okhotsk (north), Sea of Japan (west) and East China Sea (southwest).

Physical Geography

- Over **80% of Japan is mountainous**.

- Its four main islands, from north to south, are **Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu**.
- **Highest peak:** Mount Fuji (3,776 metres), a stratovolcano.
- Major mountain ranges include the Japanese Alps; important rivers include the Shinano (longest), Tone and Kiso.



Climate and Natural Resources

- Its climate ranges from **subarctic in the north to humid subtropical in the south**.
- Located in the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, Japan experiences frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity.
- Important mineral resources include coal, iron ore, zinc, lead, copper, sulphur, gold and silver.

Environment

Andaman Cobra

The Hindu

India's sole island-dwelling cobra faces conservation challenges

The Andaman cobra (Naja sagitiferra) is the only cobra species in India that lives in an island ecosystem. It was first described in 1913 by...



Why in News?

- The Andaman cobra has drawn attention because it is highly venomous and can spit venom as a defence mechanism.

Taxonomy and Distribution

- **Scientific name:** *Naja sagittifera*.
- Also known as the **Andaman spitting cobra**, it is endemic to the **Andaman and Little Andaman Islands**.
- It is one of the rarest and least-studied cobra species and inhabits dense, undisturbed rainforests.

Physical Features and Behaviour

- It generally measures **0.9–1.8 metres** and has a slender, dark-brown body with glossy scales.
- Lighter arrow-shaped patterns occur along its back, with a distinctive arrow marking on its hood.
- It is **nocturnal and solitary**.
- It spits venom infrequently and has relatively poor aim compared with typical spitting cobras.

Venom and Conservation

- Its venom can cause **paralysis and necrosis** (tissue death).
- **IUCN Red List status:** Endangered.

Defence

Exercise JAIMEX

www.pib.gov.in

INDIAN NAVAL SHIP SAHYADRI PARTICIPATES IN BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE JAIMEX 2026 WITH JAPAN MARITIME SELF-DEFENCE FORCE

Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri participated in the bilateral naval exercise JAIMEX 2026 with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) on...



Why in News?

- **INS Sahyadri** participated in the bilateral naval exercise JAIMEX 2026 with Japan.

About the Exercise

- JAIMEX is a **bilateral naval exercise between India and Japan**.
- The 2026 edition involved INS Sahyadri and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) ship **JS Ise**.
- It aims to strengthen maritime cooperation, operational coordination and interoperability.

Key Activities and Significance

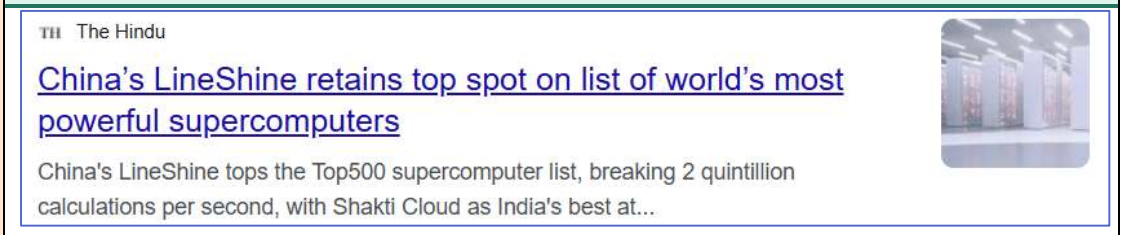
- Activities included communication drills and cross-deck landings.
- The exercise enhanced familiarity with operational procedures and facilitated professional exchanges.
- It strengthens mutual trust and Navy-to-Navy cooperation.

Other India–Japan Military Exercises

- **Malabar:** Naval exercise.
- **Veer Guardian:** Air Force exercise.
- **Dharma Guardian:** Army exercise.

Science and Technology

LineShine Supercomputer



Why in News?

- China's LineShine retained the top position in the **November 2026 TOP500 rankings**, released at the SC26 conference in Chicago.

Key Features

- **Location:** National Supercomputing Center, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China.
- **Developer:** Shenzhen Cloud Computing Center.
- **Platform:** Indigenous LingKun computing platform.
- It achieved over **2.19 exaflops**, approximately 21% faster than the US-based El Capitan.
- It uses nearly **14 million processing cores** and consumes around **42.2 MW** of power.

Technology and Performance

- Unlike most modern supercomputers, it does not rely on separate **Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)**.

	➢ It integrates traditional computing and AI capabilities within one architecture. ➢ Its energy efficiency is approximately **52.07 Gigaflops/Watt**. **TOP500 Rankings** ➢ The **TOP500 list** ranks the world's most powerful supercomputers and is released twice a year. ➢ It uses the **Linpack benchmark** to measure computational performance. ➢ LineShine first secured the top position in June 2026, ending a nine-year gap in China's leadership.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Varanasi Biscuits Exported to Madagascar

The Times of India

From Kashi to Madagascar, city's biscuits go places

Banarasi biscuits from Varanasi reach Madagascar in first APEDA-facilitated export; 10 MT shipment sent via JNPT, expanding global markets...



Why in News?

- **APEDA** facilitated the first-ever export of biscuits from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, to Madagascar.

Export Details

- **Exporter:** M/s Shree Tirupati Balaji Industries Private Limited, Varanasi.
- **Route:** Varanasi (road) → Nhava Sheva/JNPT, Maharashtra → Tamatave Port, Madagascar (sea).
- India's biscuit exports under cereal preparations were approximately **₹3,642 crore in FY 2025–26**, including ₹7.60 crore to Madagascar.
- APEDA supported market access through trade fairs such as **AAHAR 2026 and Gulfood 2026**.

APEDA

- **Established:** 1986 under the **APEDA Act, 1985**, effective from 13 February 1986.
- **Ministry:** Commerce and Industry; **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- Promotes agricultural and processed food exports and serves as Secretariat for the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**.