

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

19-08-2026

Giloy

N NDTV

Vets Turn To Common Garden Herb To Treat Tigress With Deadly Viral Disease

For more than a month, the injured tigress from Rani Durgavati Tiger Reserve, Nauradehi, has been under treatment at Jabalpur's School of...



Why in News: **Giloy**, an important medicinal plant of India, was reportedly being used in connection with a young tigress in Madhya Pradesh suffering from canine distemper.

Botanical Profile

- Giloy is a climbing shrub belonging to the family **Menispermaceae**.
- Its scientific name is **Tinospora cordifolia**, and it is also known as **giloe**, **guduchi** and **amrita**.
- The plant is native to **India** and is also found in China and tropical regions of Australia and Africa.

Distribution and Cultivation

- Giloy grows under diverse climatic and soil conditions across India.
- It is commonly cultivated through **stem cuttings during May–June**.
- Although all parts are used in **Ayurvedic medicine**, the **stem** is considered particularly valuable.

Traditional Uses

- Giloy is traditionally used in **Ayurvedic and folk medicine** for conditions including fever, urinary disorders, asthma, dysentery, diarrhoea and diabetes.
- It contains compounds such as **alkaloids, steroids, glycosides, sesquiterpenoids and essential oils** along with minerals including iron, copper, manganese and zinc.

Tamirabharani River

Down To Earth

Tamil Nadu's Tamirabharani or Porunai river is now a 'legal person', marking a milestone in India's Earth Jurisprudence

Tamil Nadu's Tamirabharani (Porunai) river has been declared a deity and a legal person by the Madras High Court, marking a landmark moment...



Why in News: The Madurai Bench of the **Madras High Court** declared the **Tamirabharani (Porunai) River** a deity and granted it **legal personhood** to help curb pollution.

Geographical Profile

- The **Tamirabharani** is a perennial river flowing entirely within **Tamil Nadu**.
- It originates from **Agasthyarkoodam Peak** in the **Pothigai Hills of the Western Ghats**.
- It initially flows northward before turning eastward through **Tirunelveli** and **Thoothukudi** districts and drains into the **Gulf of Mannar**.

Hydrological Significance

- The river receives water from both the **Southwest and Northeast Monsoons**.
- Major tributaries include **Servalar**, **Manimuthar**, **Gadananathi**, **Pachaiyar**, **Chittar**, **Ramanathi** and **Koraiyar**.
- Important dams include **Karaiyar**, **Manimuthar**, **Gadananathi** and **Ramanathi** dams.

Associated Features

- The river forms **Paanatheertham Falls**, about 40 metres high, near Karaiyar Reservoir.
- **Kalyanatheertham** and **Agasthiar Falls** are other important waterfalls associated with the river.



National Sports Awards

 The Indian Express

No Khel Ratna for first time since 2014, 17 Arjuna Awards recipients

Hardik Singh was initially nominated for the award, but the government decided against conferring the country's highest sporting honour.



Why in News: The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** recently announced the **National Sports Awards 2025**.

Institutional Framework

- The **National Sports Awards** are conferred annually to recognise excellence and contribution in sports.
- The nodal ministry is the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
- The awards are presented on **29 August**, observed as **National Sports Day**.

Major Awards

- **Arjuna Award** recognises sustained sporting performance over the previous four years along with leadership, sportsmanship and discipline.
- **Arjuna Award (Lifetime)** recognises sportspersons who continue contributing to sports after retirement from active competition.
- **Dronacharya Award** honours coaches for outstanding and consistent work enabling sportspersons to excel internationally.

Sports Promotion

- **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar** is given to corporate entities and **NGOs** for significant contributions to sports promotion and development.

Regional Rural Banks

 News On AIR

Regional Rural Banks record strong growth in credit delivery in 2025-26, says Ministry of Finance

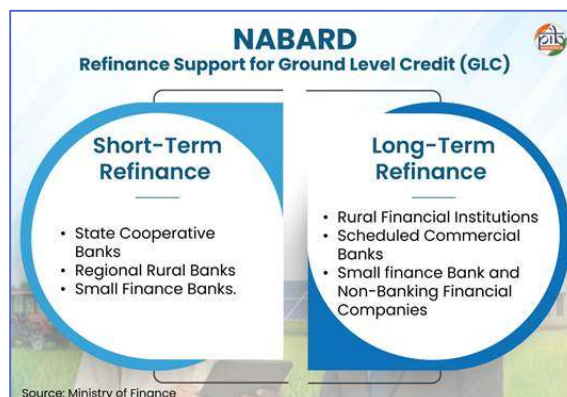
Ministry of Finance has said that Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have recorded strong growth in credit delivery during the financial year...



Why in News: The **Ministry of Finance** reported strong growth in credit delivery by **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** during **FY 2025–26**.

Origin and Mandate

- RRBs were established following the recommendations of the **Narasimham Working Group (1975)** and the **Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976**.
- The first RRB, **Prathama Grameen Bank**, was established on **2 October 1975**.
- RRBs primarily provide credit to **small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs**.



Ownership and Structure

- RRBs are jointly owned by the **Central Government, State Government and Sponsor Bank** in the ratio of **50:15:35**.
- They combine the rural orientation of cooperative institutions with the professional banking characteristics of commercial banks.
- At present, there are **82 RRBs** in India.

Regulation and Lending

- RRBs operate within geographical areas notified by the Government, generally covering **one or more districts**.
- The **RBI** regulates RRBs, while **NABARD** supervises them.

- RRBs have a **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** target of **75%** of total outstanding advances, compared with **40%** for **Scheduled Commercial Banks**.
- Their funds come from owned funds, deposits, borrowings from **NABARD and sponsor banks**, and other sources such as **SIDBI and National Housing Bank**.

Thames River

TOI The Times of India

[Ganga Aarti comes to London: Varanasi's iconic river ritual comes to the Thames this September; what trav](#)

This might sound like an extraordinary travel experience in London. But a familiar Indian riverside ritual is all set to be performed this...



Why in News: A traditional **Ganga Aarti** associated with Varanasi, Haridwar and Rishikesh is scheduled to be held on the banks of the **River Thames in London** in September.

Geographical Profile

- The **Thames** is approximately **346 km long** and flows through southern England.
- It is the **longest river in England** and the **second-longest river in the United Kingdom** after the River Severn.
- It originates at **Thames Head near Kemble in the Cotswold Hills, Gloucestershire**.
- The river drains into the **North Sea through the Thames Estuary**.

Hydrology and Tributaries

- The **Nore** is a sandbank marking the mouth of the Thames Estuary and the confluence with the North Sea.

Economic and Urban Significance

- The Thames historically served as a major **trade and transport route** before the development of modern roads and railways.
- It passes through or near major centres including **London, Reading,**

• The river has tidal and non-tidal sections, with the tidal section extending from the mouth to Teddington Lock. • Major tributaries include Lea, Leach, Churn, Coln, Windrush, Kennet, Evenlode, Ock and Loddon.	Henley-on-Thames, Windsor and Oxford, where it is also known as the River Isis. • The river supplies approximately two-thirds of London's drinking water and has numerous bridges within Greater London.
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Gujarat's Desert-Themed Drive-Through Night Safari

 Jagran Josh

Asia's First Desert-Themed Night Safari Is Coming to Gujarat: Know the Zoological Park

Gujarat is set to get Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari and zoological park at Juna Deesa in Banaskantha.



Why in News: The **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)** approved Gujarat's **Desert Zoological Park and Drive-Through Night Safari** at **Juna Deesa, Banaskantha**, expected to be **Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari**.

Project Profile

- The park will be developed by the **Gujarat Forest Department** over **103 hectares** at an estimated cost of **₹542.14 crore**.
- It will house around **2,700 animals and birds representing 83 species**.
- It will showcase wildlife from **Indian, African and Australian desert ecosystems**.

Conservation and Tourism

- The project combines **wildlife conservation, environmental education and desert-ecosystem awareness** with tourism.
- It is expected to strengthen **Gujarat's wildlife tourism and ecotourism** sector.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Central African Republic

NDTV

At Least 100 Dead After Goldmine Collapses In Central African Republic

The death toll from a gold mine collapse in the western part of Central African Republic has risen to more than 100, a Red Cross volunteer involved in...



Why in News: A gold-mining site in the western **Central African Republic (CAR)** recently collapsed, killing at least 30 miners and trapping others.

Geographical Location

- The **Central African Republic** is a **landlocked country in Central Africa** with **Bangui** as its capital.
- It shares borders with **Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo and Cameroon**.
- Its official languages are **French and Sango**.

Physical Features

- Much of the country consists of a **plateau covered by savannah grasslands** under a tropical climate.
- The **Oubangui River** is a major tributary of the Congo River, while the **Chari River** drains northwards towards Lake Chad.
- **Mount Ngaoui (1,410 m)** in the Karre Mountains is the country's highest point.

Resources and Biodiversity

- Major mineral resources include **diamonds, gold, uranium, iron ore, copper and manganese**.

	• Dzanga-Sangha National Park lies in the southwest and is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Environment	Mushk Budji  ETV Bharat  <u>Is Kashmir's Famed Aromatic 'Mushk Budji' Rice Facing The Problem Of Plenty?</u> Anantnag: Kashmir's indigenous aromatic rice variety 'Mushk Budji', which was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag three years ago,... Why in News: Kashmir's indigenous aromatic rice variety Mushk Budji, which received a GI tag in 2023, is facing declining prices due to expansion into unsuitable cultivation areas. Geographical Identity • Mushk Budji is a highly aromatic, short-grain rice variety native to Kashmir. • It is traditionally cultivated at about 5,000–7,000 feet above mean sea level in the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley. • It received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag on 31 July 2023. Nutritional and Cultural Value • Mushk Budji contains carbohydrates, fibre and selected B-vitamins. • Its distinctive aroma and geographical association make it an important traditional agricultural product of Kashmir. Distinctive Characteristics • The grains have a light ivory colour and slightly translucent appearance. • Cooked grains are slightly sticky and chewy, with a distinctive fragrance and delicate nutty flavour.

	It is traditionally associated with special occasions and festivals.
Health	Kikuchi–Fujimoto Disease THE HINDU <u>Vizag man with rare Kikuchi–Fujimoto disease treated at KIMS</u> A Vizag man diagnosed with Kikuchi–Fujimoto disease after years of misdiagnosis receives successful treatment at KIMS Hospitals. Why in News: A 32-year-old man from Visakhapatnam was recently diagnosed with rare Kikuchi–Fujimoto Disease (KFD) after recurrent lymph-node swelling was repeatedly treated as tuberculosis. Disease Characteristics KFD, also called histiocytic necrotizing lymphadenopathy, is a rare inflammatory disorder primarily affecting lymph nodes. - It commonly causes painful cervical lymphadenopathy, fever and fatigue, particularly among people aged 30 years or below. - The disease can closely mimic tuberculosis and lymphoma, creating diagnostic challenges. Etiology and Symptoms - The exact cause remains unclear, although viral infections and autoimmune mechanisms are suggested as possible triggers. - Symptoms may include fever, headache, sore throat, cough, skin rash, night sweats, nausea, vomiting and unexplained weight loss. Clinical Course and Treatment - KFD is generally self-limiting and usually resolves without causing severe complications.

	• It may sometimes be associated with autoimmune disorders in which the immune system attacks the body's own tissues. • Treatment is mainly symptomatic, with NSAIDs used for pain and fever and corticosteroids considered in severe cases.
Science and Technology	Escherichia coli DH Deccan Herald <u>DH Toon Top it off with Salmonella or E. coli?</u> A sharp cartoon questions food safety as topping choices raise Salmonella or E. coli risks. Experts weigh in on hygiene lapses in... Why in News: A recent CAG report on railway-station facilities found E. coli bacteria in samples of drinking water. Biological Profile • Escherichia coli (E. coli) is a rod-shaped bacterium belonging to the family Enterobacteriaceae. • It normally occurs in the intestines of humans and animals, and many strains are harmless or beneficial. • Some pathogenic strains can cause diarrhoea, urinary tract infections, respiratory illnesses and pneumonia. Transmission and Disease • Pathogenic E. coli can spread through contaminated food, water or faecal contact. • Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) strains cause illness by producing Shiga toxin, which damages the lining of the small intestine. • Common symptoms include fever, persistent or bloody diarrhoea and vomiting.

	Important Facts - Some harmless E. coli bacteria in the human gut contribute to synthesis of Vitamin K. - Most E. coli infections are self-limiting, although maintaining adequate hydration is important during illness.
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Uttar Pradesh in News

India's First Privately Branded Train

The Times of India

[Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express becomes India's first privately branded train, to be called 'Sprite' Tejas](#)

NEW DELHI: The Lucknow-Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express will become the country's first privately branded train from Aug 20,...

Why in News: The **Lucknow–New Delhi Tejas Express** is set to become India's **first commercially branded passenger train**, operating as the **'Sprite Tejas Express'** temporarily.

Key Facts

- The train operates on the **Lucknow–New Delhi** route under **IRCTC**, with train numbers **82501/82502**.
- Sprite**, a Coca-Cola brand, will provide commercial branding from **19 August to 11 November 2026**.
- External coach branding and station announcements will use the **'Sprite Tejas Express'** name.

Significance

- The initiative seeks to generate **non-fare revenue** through commercial branding and advertising.
- Commercial branding **does not amount to railway privatisation** and represents revenue diversification beyond fares and freight.