

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

19-07-2026

72nd National Film Awards Announced

 The Times of India

72nd National Film Awards: Dhanush says first National Award as director is unforgettable; says, 'I'm tru

Actor and filmmaker Dhanush has shared an emotional reaction after securing two honours at the 72nd National Film Awards.



Why in News

- The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** announced the **72nd National Film Awards** (for **2024**) on **18 July 2026**, recognising excellence in feature films, non-feature films, and writings on cinema.

Major Award Winners

- **Best Feature Film:** **Article 370** (Hindi).
- **Best Actress:** **Yami Gautam** for **Article 370**.
- **Best Actor:** **Mammooty** (*Bramayugam*) and **Kartik Aaryan** (*Chandu Champion*) (shared).
- **Best Direction:** **Rajkumar Periasamy** for **Amaran**.
- **Best Debut Director:** **Randeep Hooda** for **Swatantrya Veer Savarkar**.



Special Category Awards

- **Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment:** **Kalki 2898 AD**.
- **Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values:** **Captain Miller**.
- **Best Children's Film:** **35 – Chinna Katha Kaadu**.
- **Best Non-Feature Film:** **Bhangaar**.
- **Best Documentary:** **Ram-Nami**.

Writing on Cinema & Jury

- **Best Film Critic:** Sanjeev Shrivastava (Hindi).
- **Best Book on Cinema:** Naaniruvude Nimagaagi Naadiruvude Nanagaagi: Kannada Cinemada Thathva matthu Rajakeeya by Kenchanuru Pradeep Kumar Shetty.
- **Jury Chairpersons:** Jayaraj (Feature Films), Aseem Sinha (Non-Feature Films), and A. Chandrasekhar (Best Writing on Cinema).

Falkland Islands

 The Mirror

Argentina star's sister reignites Falklands row with rant after World Cup final

The Falklands controversy between England and Argentina is back in the headlines following a declaration from a family member of one player.



Why in News

- Argentina recently renewed its claim over the **Falkland Islands (Malvinas)** during celebrations following its FIFA World Cup semi-final victory.

Geographical Profile

- The **Falkland Islands** are an **archipelago** in the **South Atlantic Ocean**, about **480 km** east of the **Strait of Magellan**.
- They lie northeast of the southern tip of South America.
- The islands comprise **East Falkland**, **West Falkland**, and about 776 smaller islands.



Political Status

- The islands are also known as the **Malvinas Islands**.
- They are an **internally self-governing Overseas Territory** of the **United Kingdom**.
- **Stanley**, located on **East Falkland**, is the capital.

Physical Features

- The islands experience a cool temperate oceanic climate.
- Falkland Strait separates the two principal islands.

Pallikaranai Marshland

THE Hindu

Quicksand in Chennai's Pallikaranai marshland

Explore the conflict between urban development and ecological preservation surrounding Chennai's vital Pallikaranai marshland in this...



Why in News

- Pallikaranai Marshland has continued to shrink due to urbanisation, encroachment, and indiscriminate dumping.

Location and Hydrology

- It is a freshwater marsh with partly saline characteristics located about 20 km south of Chennai in Tamil Nadu.
- It acts as a natural flood buffer for Chennai and Chengalpattu districts.
- The marsh drains into the Bay of Bengal through Okkiyam Madavu and Kovalam Creek.
- Buckingham Canal lies along its eastern boundary.

Ecological Importance

- It is a designated Ramsar Site.
- The marsh supports over 115 bird species, 10 mammals, 21 reptiles, 10 amphibians, and 46 fish species.
- Notable fauna include Russell's Viper (*Daboia siamensis*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Grey-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*), and Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*).

Threats

- Major threats include encroachments, sewage discharge, urbanisation, and landfills.

National Commission for Minorities (NCM)



Shri Harjit Singh Grewal assumes charge as Chairman, National Commission for Minorities

Shri Harjit Singh Grewal assumed office as Chairman, National Commission for Minorities today. This appointment marks the beginning of a...



Why in News

- The Central Government recently appointed **Harjit Singh Grewal** as the **Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**.

Institutional Framework

- **NCM** is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**.
- It was constituted under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**, replacing the **Minorities Commission (1978)**.
- The notified minority communities are **Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis (Zoroastrians), and Jains**.

Composition

- The Commission comprises a **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and five Members** nominated by the Central Government.
- At least **five members**, including the Chairperson, must belong to **minority communities**.
- Members hold office for a three-year term.

Functions

- It monitors **constitutional and legal safeguards** available to minorities.
- It evaluates minority welfare programmes and investigates complaints regarding deprivation of rights.
- It undertakes **research**, recommends measures for minority welfare, and submits reports to the **Central Government**.

Two New Spider Species

ETV Bharat

Zoological Survey Of India's Big Leap: ZSI Scientists Discover Two New Spider Species In Andhra Pradesh And Meghalaya

The two new species have been discovered in a cave in Meghalaya and a forest area in Andhra, reports Sahajan Purkait.



Why in News

- Scientists of the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** have documented two new spider species—**Simonia lawbah** and **Hamataliwa papikonda**—from **Meghalaya** and **Andhra Pradesh**, respectively.

Species Profile

- Simonia lawbah** is a cave-dwelling ray spider belonging to the **Theridiosomatidae** family.
- It marks the **first record of the genus Simonia in India**.
- Hamataliwa papikonda** is a **lynx spider** belonging to the **Oxyopidae** family.
- It is the **first documented occurrence of the genus Hamataliwa in Andhra Pradesh**.

Habitat and Distribution

- Simonia lawbah** was discovered in **Krem Lawbah Cave**, Meghalaya.
- It is **troglophilic**, thriving in caves while retaining the ability to survive outside them.
- Hamataliwa papikonda** was recorded in the **mixed deciduous forest canopy** of **Papikonda National Park**, Andhra Pradesh.

Distinctive Features

- Simonia lawbah** constructs a cone-shaped "ray web" that acts like a slingshot to capture insects.
- Hamataliwa papikonda** is an active predator that does **not build webs**.

- It captures prey using its **spiny legs**, agility, and characteristic **hexagonal arrangement of eight eyes**.

Naying Hydroelectric Project

CW Construction World

Centre Clears 1,000 MW Naying Hydel Project in Arunachal Pradesh

20 Jul 2026 2 Min Read CW Team. An expert panel of the Union Environment Ministry has granted environmental clearance to the 1,000 megawatt (MW) Naying...



Why in News

- The **Central Government** has granted **environmental clearance** to the **1,000 MW Naying Hydroelectric Project** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Project Profile

- It is a 1,000 MW run-of-the-river hydropower project on the **Siyom (Yomgo) River** in **West Siang district**.
- The project includes a concrete dam, underground powerhouse, and tunnels.
- It comprises **four turbines**, each with a capacity of **250 MW**.
- Commercial commissioning is targeted for **2032**.

Siyom River

- The **Siyom River** is a **right-bank tributary** of the **Brahmaputra River**.
- It flows through **West Siang district** of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Mouling National Park** is situated on its eastern bank.
- The river is approximately **170 km** long.

Implementation

- The project will be implemented by the **North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO)**.
- **NEEPCO** is a **Miniratna Schedule 'A' PSU** under the **Ministry of Power**.
- It is expected to generate around **4,966.77 million units** of electricity annually.

Ana Sagar Lake

 The Times of India

Ana Sagar pollution triggers political slugfest

Ajmer's Ana Sagar Lake stench and fish deaths fuel political row: Congress calls July 23 bandh, BJP launches 3-day cleaning drive;...



Why in News

- A large-scale **fish mortality** has recently been reported in **Ana Sagar Lake** at **Ajmer, Rajasthan**.

Geographical Features

- **Ana Sagar** is an **artificial lake** located in **Ajmer, Rajasthan**.
- It was created by constructing a dam across the **Luni (Lavanavari) River**.
- The lake is situated amidst the **Aravalli Hills** and extends over about 13 km.

Historical Importance

- It was built by **Arnoraja Chauhan** between **1135 and 1150 AD**.
- The lake is named after **Arnoraja Chauhan**, grandfather of **Prithviraj Chauhan**.
- The marble **Baradari Pavilions** were constructed by **Shah Jahan** in **1637**.
- **Daulat Bagh Gardens** surrounding the lake were laid out by **Jahangir**.

Notable Facts

- The lake contains a central island accessible by boat.
- The nearby hilltop **Circuit House** earlier served as the **British Residency**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in
News

Hungary

Why in News

- Hungary's President recently signed a constitutional amendment ending his term in office, concluding a political dispute with the country's new government.

Geographical Profile

- Hungary is a **landlocked country** in **Central Europe**, located in the **Carpathian Basin**.
- It shares borders with **Slovakia**, **Ukraine**, **Romania**, **Serbia**, **Croatia**, **Slovenia**, and **Austria**.
- **Budapest** is the capital and largest city.



Physical Features

- It has a **moderately dry continental climate**.
- The country is largely occupied by the **Great Hungarian Plain**.
- Major rivers include the **Danube**, **Tisza**, **Rába**, and **Dráva**, while **Lake Balaton** is its largest lake.
- Mt. Kékes (1,015 m) in the **Mátra Hills** is the highest point.

Natural Resources

- Hungary possesses deposits of **copper**, **iron ore**, **coal**, **lignite**, and **natural gas**.

Environment

Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

THE Hindu

[APW injured in gaur attack during patrol in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve](#)

A 43-year-old Anti-Poaching Watcher was injured in a gaur attack during patrol in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve.



Why in News

- Authorities recently sealed 21 unauthorised resorts in the **buffer zone** of the **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve** in Tamil Nadu.

Location and Landscape

- The reserve is located in **Tamil Nadu** at the junction of the **Eastern and Western Ghats** within the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**.
- It is contiguous with **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve**, **Bandipur Tiger Reserve**, and BRT Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka.
- The terrain is **hilly and undulating**, with elevations ranging from **750–1,649 m**.

Ecological Features

- Major rivers include the **Bhavani, Moyar, and Noyyal**.
- Vegetation comprises **tropical dry thorn, mixed deciduous, semi-evergreen, and riparian forests**.
- Important flora include **teak, sandalwood, bamboo, Terminalia, and Albizia**.

Biodiversity

- The reserve supports **Tiger, Elephant, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Gaur, Blackbuck, Nilgiri Langur, Bonnet Macaque**, and several other species.
- It is home to indigenous communities such as the **Irula** and **Kurumba** tribes.

Health

Legionnaires' Disease

Why in News

- A recent outbreak of

India Today

[Legionnaires disease outbreak in New York: Symptoms, causes and who is most at risk](#)

New York City is investigating a Legionnaires' disease outbreak after 76 infections and four deaths on the Upper East Side.



Legionnaires' disease in New York City resulted in one death and dozens of hospitalisations.

Disease Profile

- **Legionnaires' disease** is a severe form of **pneumonia** caused by Legionella bacteria.
- The disease was first identified after a 1976 American Legion convention in Philadelphia.
- Legionella also causes Pontiac fever, a milder flu-like illness.

Transmission

- The bacteria occur naturally in freshwater but multiply mainly in man-made water systems.
- Infection occurs by inhaling contaminated **water droplets or aerosols** from sources such as hot tubs, fountains, and large building plumbing systems.
- The disease is **not transmitted from person to person**.



Clinical Features

- Symptoms generally appear **2-14 days** after exposure.
- Common symptoms include **fever, cough, breathlessness, headache, muscle pain, and diarrhoea**.

	• Severe cases may lead to respiratory failure and neurological complications. • The disease is treated with antibiotics, and no vaccine is currently available.
Reports/In dex	Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026
	 ThePrint Gujarat tops NITI Aayog's first Investment Friendliness Index, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu follow New Delhi: Gujarat has emerged as India's most investment-friendly state in Niti Aayog's first-ever Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026...  Why in News • NITI Aayog released the first-ever Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026, with Gujarat emerging as the top-ranked state. Index Framework • The Index evaluates the investment attractiveness of 28 States and 8 Union Territories. • It is based on 84 indicators using secondary data and investor perception surveys. • Assessment is carried out on a 100-point scale across eight pillars. Assessment Parameters • The pillars include Infrastructure, Business Climate, Resources, Government Policy, Regulatory Ease, Institutional Environment, Financial Health, and Environmental Resilience. • States are classified as Top Performers, Frontrunners, Emerging Performers, and Aspiring States. • Rankings are also prepared for Large States, Hilly & Northeastern States, and UTs/City States.

Major Highlights

- **Top Performers:** Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Odisha.
- Uttarakhand ranked first among Hilly & Northeastern States.
- Goa topped the UTs and City States category, followed by Delhi and Chandigarh.

Uttar Pradesh in News

MY Bharat to Organise National Youth Volunteers Convention in Lucknow



PIB

MY Bharat National Youth Volunteers Convention Brings Together 1500 + Volunteers In Lucknow

MY Bharat National Youth Volunteers Convention Brings Together 1500 + Volunteers In Lucknow. "The Next 25 Years Of Amrit Kaal Belong To The...



Why in News

- The Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, will organise the MY Bharat National Youth Volunteers (NYVs) Convention in Lucknow in July 2026 to strengthen youth participation in governance.

Convention Highlights

- The event will be inaugurated by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.
- It aims to promote grassroots youth engagement, institutional coordination, and youth-led nation building.
- Volunteers will be trained on the MY Bharat Portal, leadership, and flagship initiatives such as Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat.



Chintan Shivir

- The Chintan Shivir will bring together officials from MY Bharat, NSS, and four States—Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.
- Discussions will focus on governance reforms, technology, youth engagement, and the roadmap for Viksit Bharat @2047.