

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

19-10-2026

Port of Constanta

 India Today

9 Indians safe as drone-hit tanker docks at Romania's Constanta port

A chemical tanker hit by a drone off Romania has reached the Port of Constanta with all nine Indian seafarers aboard safe, news agency PTI...



Why in News

- A chemical tanker carrying **nine Indian seafarers**, damaged by a drone near Romania, safely reached the **Port of Constanta**.

Geographical and Maritime Location

- **Port of Constanta** is a major Romanian seaport located on the **Black Sea**.
- It serves as an important maritime gateway for **Central and Eastern Europe**.
- The port connects with the **Danube River** through the **Danube-Black Sea Canal**.
- It facilitates maritime trade for several **landlocked European countries**.

Strategic Significance of the Black Sea

- The **Black Sea** is an inland sea situated between **Eastern Europe and Western Asia**.
- It is bordered by **six countries: Romania, Bulgaria, Türkiye, Georgia, Russia and Ukraine**.
- **Bosporus Strait** connects the Black Sea with the **Sea of Marmara**.
- **Dardanelles Strait** connects the Sea of Marmara with the **Aegean Sea**.
- **Aegean Sea** forms part of the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- **Kerch Strait** connects the Black Sea with the **Sea of Azov**.

Important River Systems

- The **Danube River** is one of the major rivers draining into the Black Sea.
- Other important rivers include the **Dnieper, Dniester, Southern Bug and Rioni**.
- The **Danube** passes through or borders several European countries before entering the Black Sea.
- The **Danube-Black Sea Canal** provides a navigable route between the Danube and Constanta.



Barak River

TT Telegraph India

Two Bangladeshi nationals arrested by Katigorah police from Assam's Barak river

Katigorah police in Assam's Cachar district arrested two suspected Bangladeshi nationals following a boat chase in the Barak river on Sunday...



Why in News

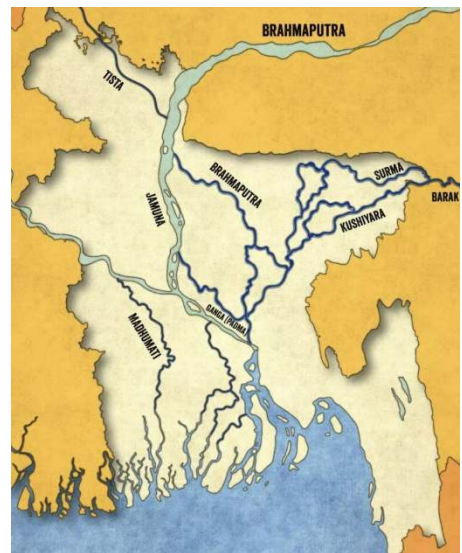
- Two Bangladeshi nationals were recently arrested following an incident involving the **Barak River** in **Cachar district, Assam**.

Geographical Origin and River Course

- The **Barak River** is a transboundary river associated with **India and Bangladesh**.
- It originates in the **Manipur Hills**, south of **Mao in Senapati district, Manipur**.
- The river flows through **Manipur and Assam**, passing along parts of neighbouring state boundaries.
- After entering **Bangladesh**, it divides into the **Surma and Kushiara rivers**.
- These rivers contribute to the formation of the **Meghna River system**.
- The Meghna ultimately drains into the **Bay of Bengal**.

River Basin and Physiography

- The Barak River has an approximate total length of **900 km**.
- Approximately **524 km** of its course lies within India.
- The **Barak basin** extends across **India, Bangladesh and Myanmar**.
- In India, the basin covers parts of **Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland**.
- The **Barail Range** separates the Barak basin from the **Brahmaputra basin** towards the north.
- The basin is bounded by the **Naga and Lushai Hills** towards the east.
- The **Mizo Hills and Bangladesh** form important southern and western geographical boundaries.
- Much of the basin is forested, and **terrace cultivation** is practised in its hilly regions.



Important Tributaries

- **Jiri** is an important tributary of the Barak River.
- Other tributaries include **Chiri, Modhura, Jatinga and Harang**.

- **Dhaleswari, Singla and Longai** also contribute to the river system.
- **Sonai and Katakhal** are additional tributaries of the Barak.

Economic and Inland Waterway Significance

- The **Lakhipur–Bhanga stretch**, measuring approximately **121 km**, is designated **National Waterway-16 (NW-16)**.
- **NW-16** is located in **Assam** and supports inland water transport development.
- The **Barak Valley** includes **Cachar, Hailakandi and Sribhumi**, formerly Karimganj.
- The valley supports diverse communities, including **Dimasa, Manipuri, Rongmei Naga and Hmar** groups.
- The river system is important for **irrigation, inland navigation and regional connectivity**.
- Its transboundary character makes it relevant to **India–Bangladesh water cooperation**.

Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)

Why in News

- A major Indian automobile company recently reported a favourable **Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)** order with an estimated tax impact of approximately **₹13,000 crore**, including interest.

Institutional and Legal Framework

- **ITAT** is a **quasi-judicial institution** established in **January 1941**.
- It specialises in adjudicating appeals arising under India's **direct tax laws**.
- The tribunal has historically adjudicated appeals under the **Income-tax Act, 1961**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Law and Justice**.
- ITAT is often referred to as the **Mother Tribunal of India**.

Administrative Structure and Composition

- ITAT initially began with **six members and three benches** in **1941**.
- Its original benches were located in **Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai**.
- According to the source, ITAT currently has **63 benches across 27 cities**.
- Each ordinary bench generally comprises **one Judicial Member and one Accountant Member**.
- The **President of ITAT** constitutes benches from among tribunal members.
- A **Special Bench** consisting of **three or more members** may be constituted for appropriate cases.

Appellate Jurisdiction and Judicial Hierarchy

- ITAT hears appeals against specified orders of **income-tax authorities**.

- It ordinarily acts as the **second appellate forum** after the **Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals)**.
- ITAT serves as the **final fact-finding authority** in income-tax disputes.
- Appeals from ITAT orders may reach the **High Court** when a **substantial question of law** arises.
- Under the **Income-tax Act, 1961**, such appeals are governed by **Section 260A**.
- The **Supreme Court** remains the highest judicial authority in India's appellate structure.
- ITAT is a **statutory tribunal**, not a constitutional court.

Constitutional and Governance Linkages

- **Article 323A** provides for administrative tribunals dealing with specified public-service matters.
- **Article 323B** permits legislatures to establish tribunals for specified matters, including **taxation**.
- ITAT predates these constitutional provisions and was established through **ordinary legislation**.
- Judicial review by **High Courts under Articles 226 and 227** forms part of India's constitutional framework.
- ITAT facilitates **specialised dispute resolution** and reduces the burden on ordinary courts.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	France
	NDTV France Protests: Night Curfew In Several Cities In France After Violent Protests  DW.com Macron slams 'failures' over protest unrest in France but refuses his interior minister'...  Why in News ➤ France recently witnessed nationwide protests concerning the rising cost of living and conditions in schools. Political and Geographical Location ➤ Its capital is Paris. ➤ Metropolitan France shares land borders with Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Andorra and Monaco.

- The **Bay of Biscay**, part of the Atlantic Ocean, lies to its west.
- The **English Channel** separates northern France from southern England.
- The **Mediterranean Sea** lies along its southern coastline.

Physical Geography and Major Landforms



- The **Alps** extend across southeastern France and neighbouring European countries.
- **Mont Blanc** is the highest mountain of the Alps.
- The **Pyrenees Mountains** form a natural boundary between **France and Spain**.
- The **Jura Mountains** lie along parts of the **France–Switzerland border**.
- The **Loire River** is the longest river flowing entirely within France.
- The **Loire** drains into the **Atlantic Ocean**.

- The **Seine River** flows through **Paris** and drains into the **English Channel**.
- The **Rhône River** drains into the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Climate and Natural Resources

- Metropolitan France predominantly experiences a **temperate climate**.
- Western France has an **oceanic climate**, influenced by the Atlantic Ocean.
- Southern coastal regions experience a **Mediterranean climate**.
- Mountainous regions experience colder **alpine climatic conditions**.
- Important mineral resources include **iron ore, bauxite, zinc and uranium**.
- Other resources include **coal, potash, gypsum and fluorspar**.

International and Strategic Significance

- France is one of the **five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**.
- It is a **nuclear-weapon state** recognised under the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**.
- France is a founding member of the **European Union's predecessor communities**.
- It is a member of **NATO, G7 and G20**.
- France has overseas territories in the **Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans**.
- **Réunion Island** is a French overseas department located in the **Indian Ocean**.
- France is an important partner of India in **defence, space cooperation and Indo-Pacific security**.

Environment

Kufri Jamunia

Why in News

- The **ICAR–Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI)** developed nutrient-rich coloured potato varieties, including **Kufri Jamunia, Kufri Neelkanth and Kufri Manik**.



Agricultural Research and Institutional Framework

- **Kufri Jamunia** is a **biofortified purple potato variety** developed by **ICAR–CPRI**.
- The variety was officially released in **2024**.
- **ICAR** stands for **Indian Council of Agricultural Research**.
- ICAR functions under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)**.
- **CPRI** is headquartered in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**.
- Kufri Jamunia is recommended for cultivation in the **North Indian plains**.



Nutritional and Biochemical Significance

- Kufri Jamunia contains higher levels of **ascorbic acid (Vitamin C)**.
- Its purple colour is associated with **anthocyanins**, which are antioxidant pigments.
- The variety also contains **carotenoids**, another group of plant pigments.

	➤ It has enhanced levels of important micronutrients, including zinc and iron. ➤ Biofortification improves the nutritional quality of crops through breeding or other agricultural techniques. ➤ Anthocyanins are water-soluble pigments belonging to the flavonoid group. Agronomic and Morphological Characteristics ➤ Kufri Jamunia produces dark-purple-skinned tubers with purple flesh. ➤ Its tubers are generally oblong, with shallow eyes and a mealy texture. ➤ It is a medium-maturing variety with medium-tall plants. ➤ The plants develop a semi-compact canopy. ➤ Its tubers have a dormancy period of approximately 6–8 weeks. ➤ The variety demonstrates good storage quality, with limited rotting and weight loss. ➤ Multi-location trials have demonstrated its stable agricultural performance.
Defence	Exercise Akhand Prahar-II  The Times of India <u>Indian Army conducts Exercise Akhand Prahar-II in Jaisalmer to boost combat readiness</u> JAISALMER: Building on the success of Exercise Akhand Prahar-I, the Indian Army's Black Mace Brigade and Battle Axe Division conducted...  Why in News ➤ The Indian Army recently conducted Exercise Akhand Prahar-II at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, to strengthen operational readiness. Military Organisation and Location ➤ Akhand Prahar-II is a military exercise conducted by the Indian Army. ➤ It was jointly conducted by the Black Mace Brigade and Battle Axe Division. ➤ The exercise took place in the desert region of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. ➤ It followed the earlier Exercise Akhand Prahar-I, which tested operational readiness.

Technological and Operational Dimensions

- The exercise focused on integrating **New Generation Equipment (NGEs)** into military operations.
- It incorporated **Force Multipliers (FMs)** to improve battlefield effectiveness.
- Military formations conducted **integrated battle drills** in a multi-domain environment.
- The exercise tested coordination among different **combat elements and operational capabilities**.
- It demonstrated the application of **advanced military technologies** in desert warfare.
- It assessed the ability of military formations to respond to **evolving battlefield challenges**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

'Namo Digital Temple' Launched in Lucknow

DH Deccan Herald

'Namo Digital Temple' launched in Lucknow

Modi temple: A digital shrine dedicated to Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been launched in Lucknow by a former Bihar welfare board...



Why in News?

The proposed **'Namo Digital Temple'** was announced in Lucknow as a platform to connect people through digital media and integrate **faith with service**.

Key Features

- **Location:** Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Digital Platform:** Envisioned as a platform to connect people through digital media.
- **Core Objective:** To bring together **spirituality, faith and service** through digital connectivity.
- **Significance:** Reflects the use of digital technology to facilitate spiritual engagement and community participation.