

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Mexico

 India Today

7.4 magnitude earthquake hits Mexico's Chiapas coast, tsunami threat issued

A powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck off Mexico's southern Pacific coast on Friday, triggering a tsunami threat and sending strong...



Why in News

- A **magnitude 7.3 earthquake** recently struck off the southern coast of **Mexico**, triggering a tsunami warning for parts of the Pacific.

Geographical Profile

- Mexico is located in the southern part of **North America**.
- It shares land borders with the United States to the north and **Guatemala** and **Belize** to the southeast.
- It is bounded by the **Pacific Ocean** to the west and south and the **Gulf of Mexico** and **Caribbean Sea** to the east.
- Its capital is **Mexico City**.

Mexico at the junction of five tectonic plates



Physiographic Features

- Mexico forms part of the **Circum-Pacific Ring of Fire**, making it highly prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity.
- It comprises the **Baja California Peninsula** and the Yucatán Peninsula.

- The **Sierra Madre** is the country's principal mountain system.
- Major rivers include the Rio Grande and the **Colorado River**, both shared with the **United States**.

Resource Significance

- Important lakes include **Lake Chapala** and **Lake Cuitzeo**.
- Major mineral resources include **silver**, **petroleum**, **copper**, **gold**, **lead**, **zinc**, **antimony**, and **natural gas**.
- Mexico is among the world's leading producers of **silver**.

Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary



The Assam Tribune

[Beyond Gibbons: Assam's Hoollongapar hosts 281 butterfly species, says new book](#)

Naturalist Sarangapani Neog documents several elusive 'dream butterflies' prized by lepidopterists for their rarity & exceptional sightings.



Why in News

- A recent publication highlighted **Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary** as one of Assam's richest butterfly habitats besides being the stronghold of the endangered Western Hoolock Gibbon.

Protected Area Profile

- The sanctuary is located in **Jorhat district, Assam**.
- It is named after the **Hoolock Gibbon**, the **only ape species found in India**.
- It supports one of the densest populations of **Western Hoolock Gibbon** in Assam.
- The **Bhogdoi River** forms a waterlogged boundary along the sanctuary.

Ecological Features

- The forest is predominantly **tropical evergreen** with multiple canopy layers.

- **Hollong** trees form the upper canopy, while **Nahar** trees dominate the middle canopy.
- Dense shrub vegetation forms the lower canopy, supporting diverse wildlife.

Biodiversity Significance

- It is home to the Bengal Slow Loris, the only nocturnal primate in Northeast India.
- Other primates include **Stump-tailed Macaque**, **Northern Pig-tailed Macaque**, **Assamese Macaque**, **Rhesus Macaque**, and **Capped Langur**.
- The sanctuary supports **Indian Elephant**, **Tiger**, **Leopard**, **Wild Boar**, civets and squirrels.
- It harbours over 200 bird species, including the **White-winged Wood Duck**, **Bengal Florican**, and **Great Hornbill**.

Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA)



News On AIR

DGMA directs ship owners to avoid deploying Indian seafarers amid security situation in Gulf region

The Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) has directed shipowners, ship managers and Recruitment and Placement Service...



Why in News

- Recently, the **Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA)** directed ship owners to avoid deploying Indian seafarers on vessels transiting the **Strait of Hormuz** until further orders.

Institutional Framework

- **DGMA** is the apex maritime authority of India, established in **September 1949**.
- It functions as an attached office under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**.
- Its headquarters is located in Mumbai.

Regulatory Responsibilities

- It implements India's national shipping policy and merchant shipping legislation.
- It regulates the **registration, survey and certification** of merchant vessels.
- It conducts examination and certification of **Merchant Navy Officers**.
- It issues statutory licences and competency certificates to Indian seafarers.

International & Safety Dimensions

- It promotes maritime education in coordination with the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**.
- It safeguards the rights and welfare of Indian seafarers.
- It ensures compliance of Indian and foreign vessels with international maritime conventions in Indian waters.

Narwar Fort

TH The Hindu

One more U.S. made anti-submarine helicopter delivered to the Indian Navy

The Indian Navy has received another MH-60R Seahawk multi-role naval helicopter from the United States, further strengthening its...



Why in News

- A **3,000 kg Scindia-era cannon** was recently stolen from **Narwar Fort** in **Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh**.

Geographical Setting

- The fort is located in **Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh**.
- It stands atop the Vindhya Range, about **500 feet** above the surrounding plains.
- It covers an area of nearly **8 sq. km**.
- **Madhav National Park** lies to its west.

Historical Importance

- Narwar was known as **Nalapura** and is associated with **Raja Nala** of the **Mahabharata**.
- The fort was built by the **Kachwaha Rajputs** in the **10th century**.
- It later came under the **Parihara**, **Tomara**, Mughals, and finally the **Scindia** rulers in the early nineteenth century.

Architectural Features

- The fort is divided into four sections called **Ahata** and **Dholaahata**.
- Its architecture reflects the **Rajput style** with flat ceilings, fluted columns and multifold arches.
- The palace interiors contain decorative paintings and glass bead ornamentation.

India's First Immersive Language Museum (Shabdalo)

THE Hindu

Amit Shah inaugurates India's first immersive language museum in Kolkata

Amit Shah inaugurates Shabdalo, India's first immersive language museum in Kolkata, celebrating the nation's rich linguistic heritage and...



Why in News

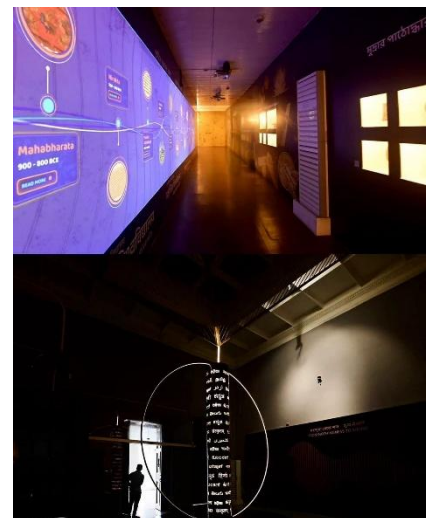
- India's first immersive language museum, **Museum of Word (Shabdalo)**, was inaugurated at the **National Library, Kolkata**.

Institutional Significance

- It has been developed by the **National Library** under the Ministry of Culture.
- It is located within the **National Library Campus, Kolkata**.

Cultural Importance

- It showcases India's linguistic heritage through the evolution of **oral and written traditions**.



- It celebrates all **22 languages** listed in the **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution.
- It traces the transition from ancient manuscripts to modern digital texts.

Technological Features

- The museum uses **interactive digital displays**, **holograms** and **motion-sensor technology**.
- It consists of **nine galleries** depicting the history and evolution of Indian languages.
- Visitors can observe changes in the pronunciation, meaning and usage of words across centuries.

Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)

News On AIR

NSE Launches Electronic Gold Receipts to Formalise Gold Market

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has announced the launch of Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs), a new segment aimed at bringing...



Why in News

- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) introduced **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)** as an exchange-traded platform for electronic ownership of gold.

Regulatory Framework

- **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)** are exchange-traded securities representing ownership of physical gold stored in **SEBI-regulated vaults**.
- They are held electronically through a **Demat Account**.
- **SEBI** launched the EGR framework to standardise gold trading.

HOW IT WORKS

- Investors can buy **electronic receipts** for gold kept in vaults
- These e-receipts could be **traded on exchanges**
- These could also be **exchanged for physical gold** at authorised vaults
- Govt has also allowed fund houses to launch **silver ETFs**



Trading Features

- EGRs follow a **T+1 settlement cycle**.
- They are available in **999 (99.9%)** and **995 (99.5%)** purity standards.
- Denominations range from **10 mg** to **1 kg**.
- Eligible investors include retail investors, jewellers, refiners, bullion traders and institutions.

Economic Significance

- EGRs can be converted into physical gold through a prescribed process.
- They improve transparency, standardisation and price discovery in the gold market.
- They eliminate concerns related to purity verification and personal storage of gold.

Other Important News of the day

Persons in News

Mangal Pandey

 News On AIR

[PM Modi pays tribute to the great revolutionary, freedom fighter Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary](#)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tribute to the great revolutionary and freedom fighter Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary today.



Why in News

- The **Prime Minister** recently paid tribute to **Mangal Pandey** on his birth anniversary.

Historical Background

- **Mangal Pandey** was born on 19 July 1827 in **Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh**.
- He joined the British East India Company army in **1849** at the age of **22 years**.
- He served in the **6th Company of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry** at **Barrackpore**.

	Role in the Revolt of 1857 - On 29 March 1857, he attacked two British officers in protest against greased cartridges made from animal fat. - His actions became the first major spark of the Revolt of 1857, also known as the First War of Independence. - He was executed on 8 April 1857 at Barrackpore at the age of 29 years. Changes introduced after 1857 revolt - The Revolt of 1857 led to the enactment of the Government of India Act, 1858. - The Act abolished the rule of the East India Company and transferred the administration of India directly to the British Crown. - The office of the Governor-General was redesignated as the Viceroy of India, marking the beginning of Crown Rule.
Places in News	Aral Sea Why in News A recent study reported that the drying Aral Sea has released over 200 teragrams of carbon, converting it from a carbon sink into a greenhouse gas source.



Geographical Profile

- The **Aral Sea** is a saline lake located between **Kazakhstan** and **Uzbekistan** in **Central Asia**.
- It was once the **world's fourth-largest inland water body**.
- It lies east of the **Caspian Sea**.

Hydrological Characteristics

- The lake was historically fed by the **Amu Darya** and **Syr Darya** rivers.
- The depression was formed during the **Neogene Period**.
- The region experiences a desert-continental climate.

Environmental Concerns

- Diversion of river water for irrigation by the **Soviet Union** in the 1960s triggered rapid shrinkage.
- By the 1980s, the lake had lost nearly **80% of its volume**.

	• The shrinking lake resulted in the formation of the Aralkum Desert and severe biodiversity loss. • The Aral Sea is regarded as one of the world's largest human-induced environmental disasters.
Environment	Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary TH The Hindu <u>Action against illegal fish ponds in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary brooks no delay, Supreme Court panel tells A.P. government</u> Supreme Court panel directs Andhra Pradesh to act against illegal fish ponds in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary for ecological restoration.  Why in News • The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) recently issued directions regarding illegal fish ponds and ecological degradation in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. Conservation Framework • The sanctuary is situated in West Godavari and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh. • It was notified in 1999 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. • It conserves a major portion of the Kolleru Lake wetland ecosystem. Wetland Importance • Kolleru Lake was designated a Ramsar Site in 2002. • The lake is fed by the seasonal Budameru and Tammileru rivers. • It is also connected to the Krishna and Godavari river systems through 67 inflowing drains and channels. • It serves as an important wintering and stopover site for migratory birds.

	Biodiversity Presence • The wetland supports submerged macrophytes and diverse aquatic vegetation. • It is home to more than 150 species of resident and migratory birds. • Notable birds include the Little Egret, Pied Kingfisher, Black-capped Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Night Heron, and Pond Heron.
Science and Technology	Yantur 4.5 kN Turbofan Engine Programme  ET Government  Indian startup unveils indigenous compact turbofan engine programme for autonomous defence systems Bengaluru-based Paninian India Pvt. Ltd. unveils the Yantur turbofan engine programme to power autonomous cruise missile platforms,... Why in News • Panianian India Pvt. Ltd. unveiled the Yantur 4.5 kN Turbofan Engine Programme for indigenous propulsion of long-range autonomous systems. Key Features • Yantur is a compact turbofan (gas turbine) engine designed to generate 4.5 kN thrust and is scalable up to 12.5 kN. • It is intended for combat drones, cruise missiles, and the Swayatt CCAV platform. • The programme has entered subsystem testing, validation, and engine certification stages. Strategic Significance • The engine will power the Swayatt LI autonomous cruise missile under the Ministry of Defence's Make-I programme.

- It strengthens India's indigenous aerospace propulsion capability and supports Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence.

Important Facts

- The programme includes five patent claims, including digital twin health monitoring technology.
- kN (Kilonewton) is the unit used to measure engine thrust.
- Paninian India Pvt. Ltd. is based in Bengaluru and Hyderabad.