SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

21-11-2026

Bridal Veil Bamboo Mushroom (*Phallus indusiatus*)

The Hindu

Rare 'bridal veil' bamboo mushroom spotted near Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary

Rare Phallus indusiatus bamboo mushroom spotted at Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, highlighting surprising forest-floor biodiversity and...



Why in News?

- Biologists recently spotted the short-lived **Bridal Veil Bamboo Mushroom** at **Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Karnataka**.

Biological Characteristics

- Scientifically known as ***Phallus indusiatus***, it is also called the **Veiled Lady** or bamboo pith mushroom.
- Its characteristic net-like structure around the stalk is called the **indusium**, resembling a bridal veil.
- It grows up to **25 cm** and has a brown cap, hollow stalk and distinctive netting.

Habitat and Distribution

- It commonly grows on **decaying bamboo wood** in moist conditions and also occurs in shaded habitats rich in decaying organic matter.
- It is distributed across tropical regions, including the **Amazon and Southern China**.

Ecological and Economic Significance

- It acts as a **decomposer**, supporting nutrient recycling in forest ecosystems.
- Its distinctive odour attracts insects that assist in spore dispersal.
- It is consumed as a delicacy in Asian cuisines after proper processing, particularly in soups and stir-fries.

Swachh Shauchalay – Garimamay Bhavishya Campaign

Why in News?

DD News

Ministry of Jal Shakti Launches 'Swachh Shauchalay – Garimamay Bhavishya' Campaign on World Toilet Day 2026

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, on Thursday launched the 'Swachh Shauchalay...



- The **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti**, launched the campaign on **19 November 2026** under **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)]**.

Campaign Framework

- Campaign period: **19 November – 10 December 2026**.
- Focus groups include **women, girl students and Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**.
- Guiding principle: **Dignity for All and Sanitation for All**.

World Toilet Day

- Observed annually on **19 November**.
- **2026 Theme:** "Safe toilets. Equal futures."
- Highlights the link between **sanitation, safety and gender equality**.

Key Interventions

- Repair **Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs)** and toilets in schools, Anganwadi centres and Panchayat Ghars.
- Promote **IHHL maintenance**, conversion of single-pit toilets into twin-pit toilets and upgrading septic tanks with soak pits.
- Strengthen **Faecal Sludge Management (FSM)**, mechanised desludging and maintenance of institutional toilets.
- Promote hygiene, handwashing, **four-way waste segregation** and compliance with **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026**.

ODF Sustainability and Progress

- Promote continued toilet usage through **Behaviour Change Communication (BCC)**.
- Approximately **89.9% of villages** have achieved **ODF Plus (Model)** status under SBM(G).
- DDWS has developed a dedicated reporting module for States and UTs; **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Karnataka** shared implementation plans.

DIVERSIFARM-India and Community Seed Banks

AgroSpectrum India

DIVERSIFARM-India maps 652 Community Seed Banks (CSBs) and releases new capacity-building manual



India has at least 1000 community seed banks (CSBs), according to a survey conducted by DIVERSIFARM-India. The project's digital atlas has...

Why in News?

- A DIVERSIFARM-India survey identified at least **1,000 community seed banks (CSBs)** in India, with 652 documented in a digital atlas.

Institutional Framework

- DIVERSIFARM-India aims to strengthen **community seed banks, farmer-managed seed systems and Farmers' Rights**.

- It is led by the **Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI)** and **M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)** and funded by the **Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi**.

Community Seed Banks: Key Features

- CSBs are local institutions that conserve, manage and distribute seeds of diverse local crop varieties.
- They support **agrobiodiversity, traditional knowledge and climate-resilient agriculture**.
- They may be collectively governed institutions or individual initiatives serving farming communities.

Agricultural and Policy Significance

- CSBs strengthen access to locally adapted seeds and conserve **crop genetic diversity**.
- They contribute to **food and nutritional security, farmers' livelihoods and Farmers' Rights** under the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001**.

Major Findings and Initiatives

- The project estimates at least **1,000 CSBs**, with **652 profiled in a digital atlas**.
- An earlier survey of 475 CSBs identified **six management models**.
- A **ten-point Odisha roadmap** recommends a coordinating secretariat, district-level recognition and technical and financial support.
- A capacity-building manual covers **seed quality, storage, documentation, governance and financial sustainability**.

Hypereteone indica: New Marine Bristle Worm

The Times of India

Bengal, Odisha shores yield new bristle worm species

Scientists discover Hypereteone indica, a new marine bristle worm in Odisha and Bengal, the first Indian Hypereteone in nearly a century,...



Why in News?

- Scientists discovered a new marine bristle worm, ***Hypereteone indica***, along the northern **Bay of Bengal coast**.

Geographical and Taxonomic Profile

- It was discovered in the intertidal zones of **Udaipur Beach (Odisha)** and **Hijli Beach (West Bengal)**.
- Its discovery takes the recognised global species count of the genus *Hypereteone* to **10**.

- Its holotype (specimen used for formal scientific description) measures approximately **43 mm**.

Distinctive Biological Features

- It has an **elongated, flattened body**, pale yellowish when alive and opaque brown after preservation.
- Its bristles possess a **long, curved tooth with smaller accessory teeth**.
- It has distinctive proboscidial papillae and ventral cirri comparable in length to the neuropodia.
- It was observed in the early morning but not after sunrise, suggesting possible light sensitivity or a distinct daily activity pattern.

Bristle Worms: General Characteristics

- Bristle worms belong to the **phylum Annelida** and comprise over **10,000 species**.
- They are primarily marine, although some occur in freshwater.
- Their segmented bodies bear bristle-like structures called **chaetae** along their sides.
- Many species are nocturnal and inhabit rocks or marine sediments.

Purana Qila and SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum

Organiser

SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum: PM Modi Inaugurates platform to celebrate shared heritage and ancient traditions

PM Modi inaugurated the first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum at Purana Qila in New Delhi to strengthen cultural cooperation and highlight...



Why in News?

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the first **SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum** at Purana Qila, New Delhi.

Historical Background

- Purana Qila, also called **Qila-e-Kohna**, is located in southeastern New Delhi along the **Yamuna River**.
- **Humayun (1533–1538)** constructed the present fort and named it **Dinpanah**.
- **Sher Shah Suri** defeated Humayun in 1540, renamed it Shergarh and added structures.
- It came under British control in **1803** and served as a military camp and prison during the **Revolt of 1857**.

Architectural Features

- It combines **Hindu, Islamic and Persian architectural styles**.
- Its walls are approximately **1.5 km long and 18 metres high**.

- Its three principal gateways are **Bara Darwaza (western), Humayun Gate (southern) and Talaqi Gate (Forbidden Gate)**.
- A moat historically associated with the **Yamuna River** surrounds the fort.

Important Structures

- **Sher Mandal:** Double-storeyed octagonal tower built by Humayun and used as his library.
- **Qila-i-Kuhna Mosque:** Indo-Islamic structure built by Sher Shah Suri in **1541**.
- The complex features decorative tilework, marble inlay and pillared pavilions.

International Linkages

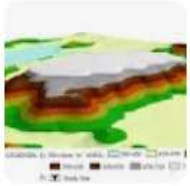
- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** provides a platform for cooperation among Eurasian countries.
- The Civilisational Dialogue Forum highlights historical and cultural connections among member countries.

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

www.pib.gov.in

Pollen from wetland of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve regenerative capacity of tropical forest ecosystems

A new study carried out at Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve shows that in 2700- and 2300-years BP, the region experienced a strong Indian Summer...



Why in News?

- Researchers used pollen-based records and the **Earth System Paleoclimate Simulation (ESPS) model** to reconstruct vegetation and **Indian Summer Monsoon variability over approximately 2,700 years**.

Geographical and Historical Profile

- It is located in **Umaria district, Madhya Pradesh**, between the **Vindhyan and Satpura ranges**.
- It was declared a **National Park in 1968** and a **Tiger Reserve in 1972**.
- Its landscape comprises valleys, hills and plains, with **Bandhavgarh Fort** as a prominent landmark.
- It contains around **39 caves with Pali inscriptions and animal depictions**, along with stupas and statues dating to the **1st century BCE**.

Ecological Characteristics

- Vegetation includes **tropical moist deciduous forests, sal forests, mixed forests and grasslands**.
- Important trees include **Sal, Saja, Dhauda, Tendu, Arjun, Aonla, Palas and Jamun**.

- Major fauna include **tigers, leopards, gaur, sambar, spotted deer, nilgai, sloth bears, wolves and jackals**.

Wildlife Conservation Significance

- Bandhavgarh is known for its high **tiger density**.
- It is associated with the white tiger captured by **Maharaja Martand Singh in 1951**.
- Other fauna include **wild boars, langurs and rhesus macaques**.

Climate Research Significance

- **Pollen-based palaeoecological records** help reconstruct historical vegetation and climate.
- Their integration with the **ESPS model** helps understand long-term monsoon variability and its ecological implications.

Lonar Lake: IUGS Geological Heritage Site

ThePrint

Lonar Lake in Maharashtra finds place in 'Third 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites'

Nagpur, Nov 18 (PTI) Lonar Lake, a meteorite-impact crater located in the Buldhana district of Maharashtra, has been included in the...

Why in News?

- **Lonar Lake, Maharashtra**, has been included in the **Third 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites**, recognising its exceptional scientific importance.

Geological Origin and Physical Characteristics

- It is located in **Buldhana district, Maharashtra**, within the **Deccan Plateau**.
- The nearly circular crater, less than **1.6 km in diameter**, formed approximately **52,000 years ago** due to a meteorite impact on basaltic rocks.
- The presence of **maskelynite**, a glass formed under extremely high-pressure impact conditions, confirmed its meteoritic origin.
- It is the **world's only known impact crater lake formed in basaltic rock**.

Ecological and Hydrological Features

- It is a **saline and alkaline lake**, with salinity reported to be around seven times that of seawater.
- Surrounding springs supply water, while vents release **methane, carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide**.
- Its colour changes from **green to pink** due to microorganisms adapted to saline and alkaline conditions.

Geological and Cultural Significance

- Lonar is a **Ramsar Site** and a **National Geological Heritage Monument**.
- It provides evidence of meteorite impact processes on basaltic terrain.
- The region is mentioned in the **Skanda Purana and Ain-i-Akbari** and contains historic temples associated with **Chalukya and Hemadpanti architecture**.

IUGS Geological Heritage Sites

- The **International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)** recognises sites of exceptional scientific value for understanding Earth's geological features and history.
- It has **74 active national members** and promotes international cooperation in Earth sciences.
- The **First 100** were announced at Zumaia, Spain (2022), and the **Second 100** at the 37th International Geological Congress, Busan (2024).
- The **Third 100** were announced at an IUGS Geoheritage event in Algarve, Portugal.
- The list covers **100 sites across 47 countries**, including the Norwegian Fjords, San Andreas Fault, Chocolate Hills and Mount Fuji.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Estonia: Geographical and Strategic Profile

TH The Hindu

Estonia to close border with Russia, Moscow decries 'new Iron Curtain'

Estonia to close its Russia border for six months over security concerns after alleged Russian arson attacks, prompting Moscow's threats of...



Why in News?

- Estonia announced the closure of its road border crossings with Russia for at least six months on security grounds, triggering diplomatic tensions with Moscow.

Geographical Location

- Estonia is the **northernmost of the three Baltic states** in Northern Europe.
- It shares land borders with **Russia (east)** and **Latvia (south)**.
- It is bounded by the **Gulf of Finland (north)** and **Baltic Sea (west)** and shares maritime boundaries with **Finland and Sweden**.
- It has approximately **1,500 islands and islets**, with **Saaremaa and Hiiumaa** being the largest.

Physical Features

- Estonia is predominantly **low-lying and flat**.
- Important lakes include:
  - **Lake Peipus:** Shared with Russia and one of Europe's largest lakes.
  - **Lake Pskov:** Part of the lake system shared with Russia.
  - **Lake Võrtsjärv:** Located entirely within Estonia.
- It has more than **1,400 small lakes**.



Political and Economic Profile

- **Capital:** Tallinn; **Official Language:** Estonian; **Currency:** Euro.

	➢ It is a **parliamentary republic** and member of the **European Union and NATO**. ➢ It is recognised for advanced **digital governance and e-governance systems**. ➢ Tallinn's medieval Old Town is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. **Historical and Strategic Linkages** ➢ Estonia gained independence in **1918**, was forcibly incorporated into the **USSR in 1940**, and restored independence in **1991**. ➢ Its location between Russia and the Baltic Sea makes it strategically important for **NATO's eastern flank and European security**.
Environment	**Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary** India Today Environmental violations reported in Aru Valley sanctuary near Pahalgam raise concerns - India Today A report from Kashmir reveals severe environmental violations in the ecologically sensitive Aru Valley wildlife sanctuary near Pahalgam.  **Why in News?** - A recent report highlighted **environmental violations** in the ecologically sensitive Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary near Pahalgam. **Geographical and Historical Profile** ➢ It is located in **Aru Valley, Anantnag district, Jammu and Kashmir**, near Pahalgam. ➢ Established as a **Game Reserve in 1945** under Dogra rule, it was upgraded to a sanctuary in **1981**. ➢ It covers approximately **511 sq. km**, with elevations ranging from **2,100 to 5,425 metres**. **Ecological Significance** ➢ It protects the **Lidder River catchment**, important for regional irrigation and drinking water. ➢ Vegetation varies with altitude, including **walnut, chestnut, blue pine, silver fir, birch and alpine shrubs**. ➢ Important fauna include **Hangul (Kashmir stag), musk deer, Asiatic ibex, Himalayan serow, leopard and Asiatic black bear**. ➢ It supports over **117 bird species**, including the endangered **Egyptian vulture** and vulnerable **Kashmir flycatcher**.

	Conservation Concerns ➢ Environmental violations threaten its fragile mountain ecosystem, biodiversity and watershed health.
Health	**Klebsiella pneumoniae and Antimicrobial Resistance** UN News Patients running out of options as antibiotics stop working against common infections Common bacteria are becoming highly resistant to front-line and even "last-resort" antibiotics, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) said...  **Why in News?** - The **ICMR Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Research Network (AMRSN) Annual Report 2025** highlighted low antibiotic effectiveness against *E. coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. **Microbiological Characteristics** ➢ *Klebsiella pneumoniae* is a **Gram-negative bacterium** found in the human gastrointestinal and respiratory tracts, soil and water. ➢ It is a major cause of **healthcare-associated infections**, particularly in adult and neonatal ICUs. **Types and Disease Manifestations** ➢ **Classical Klebsiella:** Commonly causes hospital-associated infections, particularly in patients with underlying illnesses or medical devices. ➢ **Hypervirulent Klebsiella:** Can cause severe infections and spread beyond healthcare settings. ➢ It causes **pneumonia, bloodstream infections and sepsis**, with high mortality among critically ill patients. **Antimicrobial Resistance Concerns** ➢ It can develop **multidrug resistance**, including resistance to **carbapenems**, which are important antibiotics for severe bacterial infections. ➢ Increasing resistance reduces treatment options and raises hospital-associated mortality risks. ➢ **ICMR-AMRSN** monitors antimicrobial resistance patterns to support evidence-based treatment and public health interventions.

Science and Technology	Allan-Herndon-Dudley Syndrome (AHDS)

The Hindu

Hyderabad doctor brings down rare disease drug cost from ₹9 crore to ₹2.5 lakh; seven children to get free treatment

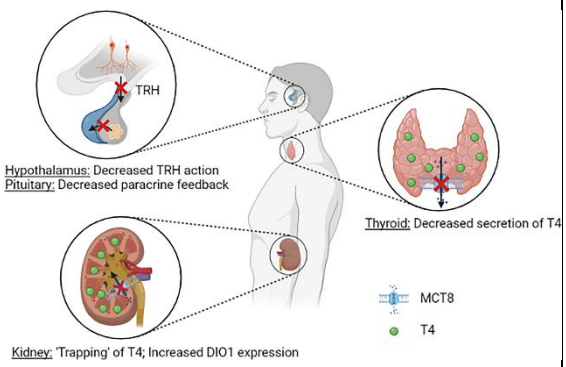


Hyderabad doctor cuts AHDS drug cost from ₹9 crore to ₹2.5 lakh, enabling seven children's free year-long tiratricol treatment.

Why in News?

- An initiative led by a Hyderabad-based paediatrician reduced the cost of the rare disease drug **tiratricol from ₹9 crore to ₹2.5 lakh**, enabling seven children to receive it free of cost.

Genetic and Biological Characteristics



- AHDS, also called **MCT8 deficiency**, is a rare **X-linked genetic disorder** primarily affecting males.
- It results from mutations in the **SLC16A2 gene**, disrupting the transport of thyroid hormone **triiodothyronine (T3)** into developing brain cells and causing excess T3 in the bloodstream.
- It impairs brain development and motor functions.

Clinical Manifestations

- Symptoms include **hypotonia (weak muscle tone), muscle hypoplasia, joint contractures, spasticity and involuntary limb movements**.
- Patients experience significant limitations in mobility and motor development.

Treatment and Medical Significance

- **Tiratricol** is used to target the underlying thyroid hormone transport abnormality.
- Other interventions include **botulinum toxin injections, levodopa/carbidopa, assistive devices and rehabilitation**.
- Affordable access to **orphan drugs** is important for rare disease management.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Two-Way River Traffic System on Ganga, Varanasi

The Ganges River splits into two parts in Varanasi, creating a 7.5-km-long 'expressway', with red lights running through the river to manage traffic.

Reported by: Ravi Pandey | Written by: Aishwarya Kumar Rai | Agency: News18Hindi

Last Updated: November 19, 2026, 16:13 IST

Why in News?

- **Varanasi Police (Kashi Police)** planned a **7.5-km two-way boat traffic system** on the Ganga for Dev Deepawali celebrations.

River Traffic Management

- The route will extend between **Namo Ghat and Assi Ghat**.
- Two separate lanes will regulate boats moving in opposite directions, using **floating jetties and water pendulums**.
- Designated **U-turn points** will prevent congestion and regulate boat movement.

Security and Emergency Response

- **Drone surveillance** will monitor river traffic and surrounding areas.
- Deployment includes **nine NDRF teams, two companies of Flood PAC and Water Police personnel**.
- One **Water Ambulance** and floating rescue stations will provide emergency medical assistance and water rescue services.