

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

21-07-2026

Digital Local Pass System

 DD News

NHAI launches digital local pass, 'MargMitra' Help Centre on RajmargYatra App

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has expanded the digital services available on the RajmargYatra mobile application by...



Why in News

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has introduced the **Digital Local Pass System** through the **RajmargYatra** mobile application to simplify monthly toll pass issuance.

Governance Initiative

- The system enables eligible commuters to purchase **monthly toll passes** digitally without visiting toll plazas.
- It has been launched initially at the **Mundka-Bakkarwala Toll Plaza** on Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II), Delhi.
- The initiative promotes **paperless, citizen-centric and digital service delivery** in highway management.

RajmargYatra App

- **RajmargYatra** is a citizen-centric mobile application developed by **NHAI**.
- It provides information on **national highways, toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals, EV charging stations, and weather updates**.
- It is integrated with a web-based platform for **complaint monitoring and grievance redressal**.

Eligibility and Verification

- Residents living within a **20-kilometre radius** of an eligible toll plaza can avail the facility.
- The pass permits **unlimited travel** through the designated toll plaza for **one month**.

- Eligibility is verified using GIS-based validation.
- The system uses consent-based integration with DigiLocker, VAHAN, and FASTag databases for authentication.
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Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN)



News On AIR

Operation Vajra: Central Bureau of Narcotics Seizes 12 Crore Tramadol Tablets

The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) has prevented an attempt to illegally divert an export consignment of 12 crore high-strength Tramadol...



Why in News

- The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) recently intercepted an attempt to illegally divert an export consignment of 12 crore Tramadol Hydrochloride tablets.

Institutional Framework

- CBN is a central government organisation regulating the international trade of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals.
- It functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- Its headquarters is located at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- The organisation operates under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 and relevant United Nations Conventions.



Organisational Structure

- The Narcotics Commissioner heads the organisation.
- Deputy Narcotics Commissioners supervise operations in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, the three licensed opium-growing states.
- District Opium Officers issue licences for opium poppy cultivation under notified licensing conditions.

Core Functions

- It supervises the **licit cultivation of opium poppy** in India.
- It investigates offences under the **NDPS Act, 1985** and files complaints before courts.
- It issues licences for the manufacture of **synthetic narcotic drugs**.
- It grants **Export Authorisations**, **Import Certificates**, and **No Objection Certificates (NOCs)** for notified narcotic substances and precursor chemicals.
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Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY)



PIB

<https://www.pib.gov.in> > PressReleasePage

kala sanskriti vikas yojna

2 days ago — The objective of this scheme is to provide assistance for holding the 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs' organized by Ministry of Culture. [Read more](#)

Why in News

- The **Union Minister for Culture** recently informed the **Lok Sabha** about the implementation of the Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY).

Scheme Overview

- **Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY)** is an umbrella scheme of the **Ministry of Culture**.
- It promotes, preserves and develops India's **artistic and cultural heritage**.
- Financial assistance is provided to eligible **artists, cultural organisations and institutions** engaged in performing arts.

Governance Significance

- The scheme supports **festivals, exhibitions, seminars, workshops and cultural performances**.
- It funds the development of **auditoriums, museums and cultural centres**.
- It safeguards **intangible cultural heritage**, including traditions recognised by **UNESCO**.
- It promotes participation from **tribal, rural and underrepresented communities** with **pan-India coverage**.

Major Components

- It includes the **Guru-Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant) Scheme**.
- It supports the **Scheme for Promotion of Art and Culture** and **Scholarship and Fellowship Scheme**.
- It provides assistance for constructing **Tagore Cultural Complexes (TCCs)**.
- Other components include **Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists**, **Seva Bhoj Yojana**, **National Gandhi Heritage Site Mission**, and the **National Award Scheme**.

WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS)

Why in News

- **India** has deposited its

Instrument of Acceptance of the **WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS)**, becoming the **123rd WTO Member** to accept the Agreement.

THE Hindu

[India joins WTO's agreement on fisheries subsidies](#)

India officially joins the WTO's Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, promoting sustainable fishing practices and protecting small-scale...



Agreement Profile

- The Agreement was adopted during the **12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12)**, **Geneva, 2022**.
- It is the first multilateral WTO agreement with an explicit **environmental sustainability objective**.
- It entered into force on **15 September 2025** after acceptance by **two-thirds of WTO Members**.

Key Provisions

- The Agreement prohibits subsidies supporting **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing**.
- It bans subsidies contributing to the exploitation of **overfished fish stocks**.

- It applies only to **marine wild capture fisheries** and fishing-related activities at sea.
- **Aquaculture** and **inland fisheries** remain outside its scope.

Strategic Importance

- It promotes **sustainable fisheries** and protects **marine biodiversity**.
- It safeguards the livelihoods of traditional and small-scale fishers.
- It disciplines harmful subsidies benefiting **large distant-water industrial fishing fleets**, creating a fairer global fisheries regime.

e-Shram Portal

BS Business Standard

[Labour Ministry Expands e-Shram Ecosystem with 31.78 Crore Registrations, State Microsites and One-Stop Social Security Integration](#)

The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched e-Shram portal (eshram.gov.in) on 26th August, 2021 for creation of a comprehensive National...

BS

Why in News

- The **e-Shram Portal** has registered **more than 31.78 crore unorganised workers**, reinforcing its position as India's largest digital database for the informal workforce.

Institutional Framework

- The portal was launched on **26 August 2021** by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
- It creates the **National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)**.
- It is India's first comprehensive database covering **migrant, construction, gig, platform and other unorganised workers**.

Objectives

- It establishes a centralised database for effective implementation of **social security schemes**.
- It improves access to welfare benefits, **skill development**, and employment opportunities.
- It promotes **financial inclusion** through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** and digital payments.

- It facilitates integration of informal workers into the formal economy.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be **unorganised workers** aged **16–59 years**.
- They should not be members of **EPFO**, **ESIC**, or **government-funded NPS**.
- Registration requires an **Aadhaar-linked mobile number**, **Aadhaar card**, and a **bank account**.

Key Features

- Every registered worker receives a unique **Universal Account Number (UAN)** linked to **Aadhaar**.
- The portal offers self-registration, **multilingual support**, and a dedicated **grievance redressal mechanism**.
- It enables integration with employment, apprenticeship, pension, digital skilling and state welfare schemes.
- It supports **Data Sharing Portal (DSP)** and shares data with **Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Welfare Boards** for targeted welfare delivery.

White Rabbit Technology-based Indian Standard Time (IST) Dissemination Demonstration Network

 PIB

Shri Pralhad Joshi commissions White Rabbit Technology-based Indian Standard Time Dissemination Demonstration Network in Bengaluru

The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi, commissioned the White...



Why in News

- The Government commissioned the **White Rabbit Technology-based Indian Standard Time (IST) Dissemination Demonstration Network** at **Regional Reference Standard Laboratory (RRSL), Bengaluru**.

Institutional Framework

- The project was jointly developed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR–National Physical Laboratory (CSIR–NPL) and ISRO.
- It disseminates Indian Standard Time (IST) traceable to UTC (NPLI).
- The network uses Precision Time Protocol (PTP)–based White Rabbit Technology.
- The system has successfully demonstrated secure IST transmission between RRSL Bengaluru and the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Chennai.

Technology Features

- White Rabbit is an advanced Ethernet-based optical fibre networking protocol.
- It synchronises clocks with an accuracy of less than one nanosecond.
- The technology was originally developed at CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research).
- It continuously compensates for transmission delays, eliminating time drift.

Strategic Importance

- The network supports critical sectors such as banking, financial markets, telecommunications, power systems, transportation, and digital governance.
- It reduces dependence on foreign satellite timing services such as the US GPS.
- It strengthens cyber security, resilience, and technological self-reliance in India's digital infrastructure.

Other Important News of the day

Persons in News

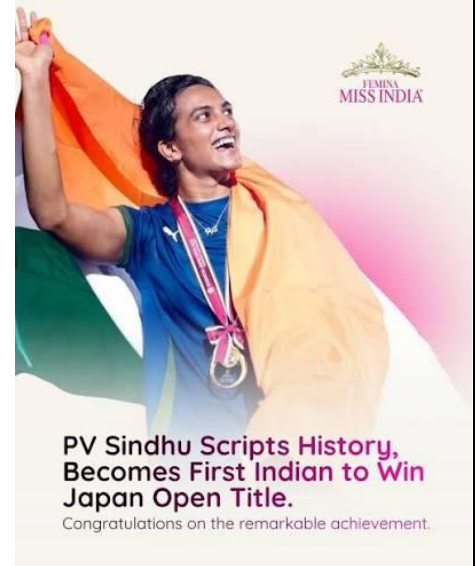
P. V. Sindhu Becomes First Indian to Win Japan Open

Why in News

- P. V. Sindhu became the **first Indian** to win the **Japan Open 2026**, defeating Akane Yamaguchi of Japan.

Historic Achievement

- Sindhu won the women's singles final **21-17, 21-17**.
- This was her **first Japan Open title**, while Yamaguchi was playing her **sixth final**.



Career Highlights

- It is Sindhu's biggest title since the **BWF World Championships 2019**.
- Her previous international title was the **Syed Modi International 2024**.
- She is a **two-time Olympic medallist** with **Silver (Rio 2016)** and **Bronze (Tokyo 2020)**.

Significance

- The victory further strengthens P. V. Sindhu's position among India's most successful **badminton players** on the international stage.

Places in News

Senegal

Why in News

- Recently, **Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye** was elected as the new **Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**.



Geographical Profile

- Senegal** is a country located in **West Africa**.
- It is bordered by **Mauritania** (north), **Mali** (east), **Guinea** (southeast) and **Guinea-Bissau** (southwest).
- It has a western coastline along the **Atlantic Ocean**.
- Dakar is the capital and largest city of Senegal.

Physiographic Significance

- Most of the country lies in the **Senegal-Mauritanian Basin**, making it predominantly flat.
- Major geographical regions include the **Cap-Vert Peninsula**, **Sahelian Zone**, **Sudanian Zone**, and **Casamance Region**.
- Cap-Vert Peninsula is the **westernmost point of mainland Africa**.
- Baunez Ridge (648 m)** is the highest point in the Sahelian Zone.

Natural Resource Base

- The country experiences a **tropical dry climate**.
- Major rivers include the **Senegal River**, **Gambia River**, and the Saloum Delta.
- Senegal possesses important critical minerals such as **titanium, zirconium, gold, and phosphate**.

Environment

Pachycheles ravichandrani

 The New Indian Express

[Tiny crab, snake eel among fresh marine discoveries](#)

The discoveries include a tiny porcelain crab, as tiny as 3mm, from the coral reef ecosystem of Lakshadweep, as well as a new snake eel from...



Why in News

- Scientists have discovered a new species of porcelain crab named **Pachycheles ravichandrani** from the coral reefs of **Lakshadweep Islands**.

Taxonomic Features

- **Pachycheles ravichandrani** is a new species of **porcelain crab**.
- Porcelain crabs are more closely related to **squat lobsters** than true crabs.
- They possess fragile bodies and can shed limbs to escape predators.

Habitat and Distribution

- The species was discovered in the **shallow coral reefs** of **Agatti Island, Lakshadweep**.
- It inhabits rock boulders covered with **coralline algae**.
- It occurs at depths of **less than one metre**.

Distinctive Characteristics

- It possesses a **sub-circular carapace** with specialised **setae** along its ridges.
- The species has a unique gap between the fingers of its smaller claw.
- It exhibits a **deep carmine-red shell** with a white dorsal blotch and white-spotted claws.
- Its walking legs display characteristic **horizontal carmine stripes**.

QDENGGA (TAK-003)

NDTV

[India Gets Its First Dengue Vaccine, QDENGGA: Effectiveness, Doses, Eligibility Explained](#)

India has taken a major step in the fight against dengue after the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) approved Takeda's...



Why in News

- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted market authorisation to **QDENGGA (TAK-003)**, making it the **first dengue vaccine approved in India**.

Vaccine Profile

- QDENGGA (TAK-003)** is developed by the Japanese pharmaceutical company **Takeda**.
- It is a **live-attenuated tetravalent vaccine** providing protection against all **four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4)**.
- It is approved for individuals aged **4–60 years**.
- The vaccine is administered in **two doses**, spaced three months apart.

Clinical Significance

- The vaccine can be administered irrespective of previous dengue infection.
- It does not require pre-vaccination screening, improving ease of deployment.
- It has already received approval in **more than 40 countries**, including the **EU, UK, Brazil, Indonesia, and Argentina**.

Disease Overview

- Dengue** is a **mosquito-borne viral disease** caused by the **dengue virus**.

	• Severe dengue can cause haemorrhage, organ damage, and death. • Dengue is endemic in over 125 countries. • India accounts for nearly one-third of the global dengue burden.
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Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh Launches 'Kaushal Setu' and 'Kaushal Sarathi' Portals



India Gets Its First Dengue Vaccine, QDENGVA: Effectiveness, Doses, Eligibility Explained

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Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** launched the **Kaushal Setu** and **Kaushal Sarathi** portals to make the state's skill development system **paperless, transparent, and technology-driven.**

Digital Skill Initiative

- The portals were inaugurated by **Kapil Dev Aggarwal** during **World Youth Skills Day 2026** at **Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow.**
- They operate under the **Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM)** to digitise skill development services.

Key Features

- **Kaushal Setu** enables online registration and empanelment of Training Partners.
- **Kaushal Sarathi** provides **district-wise details** of training centres, courses, and Training Partners with a **digital map** for easy access.
- Institutions can complete **online application, document upload, and registration**, reducing physical visits.

Skill Development Boost



- UPSDM signed MoUs with KLK Private Limited and Winsome Textile Industries Limited for training and placement in Robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Textiles.
- A coffee table book titled "Skilling the Future Uttar Pradesh: Journey from Training to Transformation" was also released.