

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

23-07-2026

Hedychium zubeengargianum

 ETV Bharat

'Hedychium zubeengargianum': New Plant Species In Shillong Named After Late Music Legend Zubeen Garg

The research on the ginger lily species 'Hedychium zubeengargianum' was published in the latest issue of botanical research journal...



Why in News

- A new species of ginger lily, **Hedychium** zubeengargianum, was recently discovered by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong.

Taxonomic Significance

- Hedychium** zubeengargianum is a newly identified species belonging to the ginger lily (genus **Hedychium**).
- The species was identified after prolonged study of an unusual plant maintained in the BSI botanical garden at Shillong.
- The plant had been growing since at least 2018, but its original collection source remains unknown due to missing records.

Distinctive Botanical Features

- The species bears **creamy-white fragrant flowers** with **yellow anthers**.
- It possesses a **densely hairy flowering stalk**, distinguishing it from related species.
- It flowers during **April–May**, earlier than its closest relative **Hedychium gracile**.

Biodiversity Perspective

- The species is named after **Meghalaya-born Assamese musician Zubeen Garg**.
- India has nearly **41 taxa of Hedychium**, concentrated mainly in the **Northeast** and the **Western Ghats**.
- Ginger lilies are among the most prominent flowering plants of India's biodiversity-rich regions.

Borophene

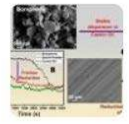
Why in News

- Indian scientists used **borophene** as a lubricant additive in castor oil, significantly improving lubrication efficiency.

PIB

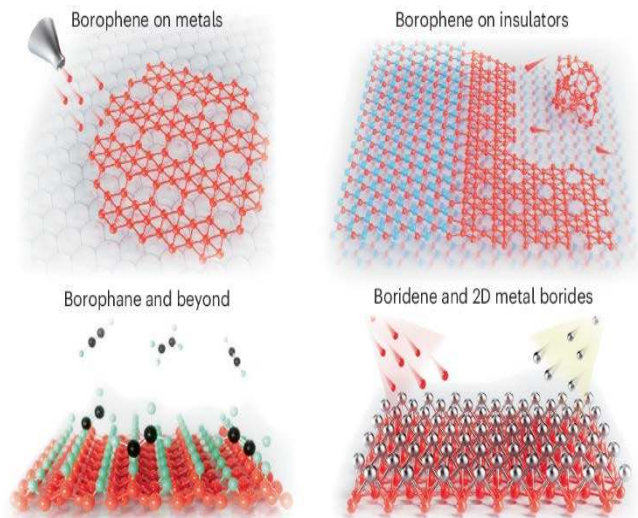
[Borophene-based green lubricant can help save energy.](#)

Scientists have achieved a significant breakthrough in sustainable lubrication by demonstrating, for the first time, the use of borophene,...



Key Features

- Borophene** is a **two-dimensional allotrope of boron** made of a **single-atom-thick sheet**.
- Unlike **graphene**, it is **highly polymorphic** and was experimentally confirmed in 2015.
- It is ultra-light, strong, flexible, and has excellent electrical and **thermal conductivity**.



Applications

- Used in electronics, optoelectronics, capacitors, biosensors, catalysis and energy storage.
- Adding **0.1% borophene** to castor oil reduced friction by about **42%** and improved wear resistance through the formation of a protective **tribofilm**.

Significance

- Supports green lubrication, renewable energy systems, marine applications and **sustainable manufacturing** by reducing industrial energy losses.

Sal Borer

 Down To Earth

Madhya Pradesh's Dindori seeks Centre's permission to cut 150,000 sal trees affected by borer infestation

Forest department officials warn 30-year sal borer cycle peaking again, as over 1.4 million insects already collected in Dindori to be...



Why in News

- The **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department** has sought approval to fell nearly **1.5 lakh Sal trees** in **Dindori district** following a severe Sal borer infestation.

Biological Profile

- Sal borer is a beetle belonging to the order **Coleoptera** and family **Cerambycidae**.
- It is the most destructive insect pest affecting Sal (**Shorea robusta**) forests in India.
- The adult beetle is **dark brown** and approximately the size of a human finger.



Damage Characteristics

- The pest attacks both **standing Sal trees** and **freshly felled timber**.
- Weak, unhealthy and low-vigour trees are more susceptible to infestation.
- An infestation is considered **epidemic** when more than **1%** of Sal trees are affected.

Sal Tree Ecology

- Sal (**Shorea robusta**) is among India's oldest and strongest forest tree species.
- It is popularly known as the "**Sentinel of the Forests**" due to its longevity and resilience.

- It naturally occurs in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh (Terai), Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.
- The tree can survive for nearly 100 years under suitable conditions.

Habitat Requirements

- Sal grows best in a warm and humid climate up to 1,500 m altitude.
- It tolerates temperatures from 5°C to 45°C.
- It prefers well-drained light loamy soils receiving 1,000–3,000 mm annual rainfall.

National Chambal Sanctuary



The New Indian Express

Preventive detention orders should be passed against those facilitating illegal sand mining: SC

The bench also stressed the need to have an institutionalised and structured scheme for the welfare of frontline forest personnel,...



Why in News

- The Supreme Court directed action against illegal sand mining around the National Chambal Sanctuary.

Location

- Also known as the National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary.
- A tri-state riverine sanctuary across Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan along the Chambal River.

Conservation Importance

- Protects the Critically Endangered Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*).
- Also conserves the Red-crowned Roof Turtle and Endangered Ganges River Dolphin.
- Supports the largest wild population of Gharials and is an Important Bird Area (IBA).

Key Features

- Characterised by ravines, sandy banks and Kathiar-Gir Dry Deciduous Forest.
- Major fauna include Mugger Crocodile, Smooth-coated Otter, Striped Hyena, Indian Wolf and Nilgai.

PM-YASASVI Scheme



Government Strengthens Educational Opportunities for OBC, EBC and DNT Students through PM-YASASVI

The Government of India has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding educational opportunities for students belonging to the Other Backward...

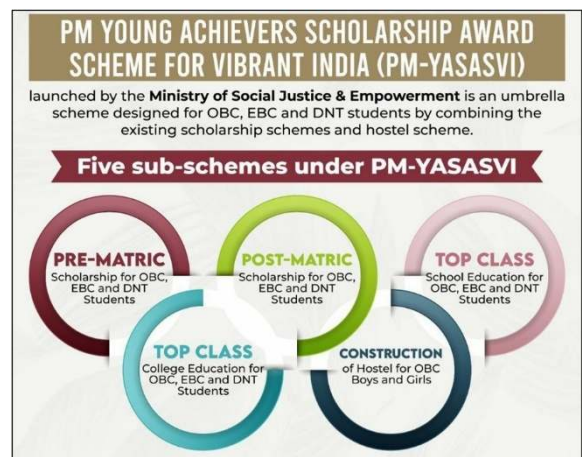


Why in News

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment recently provided details of the PM-YASASVI Scheme in the Lok Sabha.

Scheme Framework

- PM-YASASVI stands for Prime Minister Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India.
- It is an umbrella scholarship scheme implemented by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The scheme aims to promote inclusive, equitable and quality education.



Coverage and Eligibility

- The scheme benefits students belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) and Denotified Tribes (DNTs).

- Annual family income should not exceed ₹2.5 lakh.
- The scheme seeks to reduce financial barriers during students' formative years.

Scholarship Components

- The umbrella scheme comprises Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme.
- It includes the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme.
- It provides the Top Class Education in Schools Scheme.
- It also covers the Top Class Education in Colleges Scheme.

Governance Importance

- The scheme promotes educational inclusion among socially and educationally disadvantaged communities.
- It supports the constitutional vision of social justice under Articles 15(4), 15(5) and 46 of the Constitution of India.

Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha

TH The Hindu

CJP Protests 2026: What is Rule 267 in Rajya Sabha?

The Opposition on July 22, 2026, submitted a notice under Rule 267 in the upper house of the Indian Parliament, the Rajya Sabha,...



Why in News

- Opposition MPs recently invoked Rule 267 in the Rajya Sabha seeking discussion on the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak.

Key Provisions

- Rule 267 allows suspension of the day's listed business to discuss a matter of urgent public importance.
- The notice is admitted only at the discretion of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- The Vice-President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Article 64).

Important Facts

- Rule 267 suspends the day's business, whereas Rule 176 allows a Short Duration Discussion without suspension.

- The last admitted discussion under Rule 267 was on demonetisation (November 2016) during Md. Hamid Ansari's tenure.
- The rule is invoked only in the "rarest of rare" situations.

Karlapat Bauxite Block

BS Business Standard

Why Karlapat bauxite block has become a major prize for aluminium industry

Some of India's biggest industrial groups, including Adani, Reliance Industries, Hindalco, Vedanta Aluminium, Naveen Jindal-backed Powercem...



Why in News

- Several leading Indian companies have shown interest in the Karlapat Bauxite Block located in Kalahandi district, Odisha.

Resource Profile

- Karlapat is a greenfield mining block with no previous commercial mining.
- The block contains nearly 207 million tonnes of bauxite resources.
- Its reserves include 153 million tonnes proved reserves and 54 million tonnes possible reserves.
- The deposit extends over approximately 9.6 sq. km with an average ore thickness of 12 metres.

Geological Characteristics

- The ore contains around 45.2% alumina with comparatively low silica content.
- The resource falls under proved and possible reserve categories.

Economic Importance

- Bauxite is the only commercial ore used for producing aluminium.
- Aluminium is the second most widely used industrial metal after silica-based materials.
- Aluminium is extensively used in the transport, construction, power, chemical and manufacturing sectors.

- These characteristics make the deposit commercially attractive for aluminium production.

Geographical Distribution

- Odisha accounts for nearly **41% of India's bauxite resources**.
- The state possesses approximately **2,057 million tonnes** of bauxite resources.
- Major bauxite-bearing districts include **Kalahandi, Koraput, Rayagada, Kandhamal, Kendujhar, Malkangiri, Sundargarh and Balangir**.
- India's principal bauxite deposits are concentrated along the **East Coast** in **Odisha** and **Andhra Pradesh**.

Other Important News of the day

Environment

Kawal Tiger Reserve

 The Times of India

Kawal reserve on NTCA priority list for tiger reintroduction

Hyderabad: The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has identified Kawal Tiger Reserve in Telangana as a 'priority recipient site'...



Why in News

- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** identified **Kawal Tiger Reserve** in **Telangana** as a priority recipient site for tiger recovery.

Location and Landscape

- **Kawal Tiger Reserve** is located in **Telangana** along the **Godavari River**.
- It forms part of the **Deccan Peninsula–Central Highlands** landscape.
- The reserve lies at the southern edge of the **Central Indian Tiger Landscape**.

	Ecological Connectivity • The reserve maintains landscape connectivity with Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra). • It is also linked to Indravati Tiger Reserve (Chhattisgarh). • Major streams include Peddavagu and Kadam, which drain into the Godavari. Habitat Characteristics • The dominant vegetation is Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest. • Important flora include Teak, Bamboo, Anogeissus latifolia, Mitragyna parviflora, Terminalia crenulata, Terminalia arjuna and Boswellia serrata. • The reserve contains forests, grasslands, rivers, streams and wetlands. Faunal Diversity • Major mammals include Tiger, Leopard, Wild Dog, Wolf, Jackal and Jungle Cat. • Herbivores include Nilgai, Chinkara, Blackbuck, Sambar and Spotted Deer. • The reserve represents the characteristic wildlife of the Deccan Plateau.
Defence	Samudra Pradakshina News On AIR Samudra Pradakshina is testament to India's Nari Shakti: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today flagged in Samudra Pradakshina, the first-ever tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing...  हौं तीनों एकजुट हो, हौं सिजय स्थित है। Why in News • The Raksha Mantri flagged in Samudra Pradakshina, India's first Tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition, after its successful completion.

Expedition details

- It is the first-ever Tri-service all-women circumnavigation expedition.
- Officers from the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force participated together.
- The expedition was conducted aboard the Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni.

Operational Achievements

- The voyage lasted 314 days and covered nearly 25,500 nautical miles.
- The expedition was flagged off from the Gateway of India, Mumbai, on 11 September 2025.
- It concluded successfully in Mumbai on 22 July 2026.

International Maritime Milestones

- The crew crossed all meridians of longitude during the voyage.
- They crossed the Equator twice and the International Date Line once.
- The expedition rounded the Three Great Capes—Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope.
- Successful navigation through the Drake Passage earned the crew membership of the prestigious Cape Horners fraternity.

Sports in
News

Commonwealth Games 2026 – Lovlina Borgohain

 India Today

[Commonwealth Games 2026 Highlights: Lovlina, Mirabai lead India's contingent in style](#)

Commonwealth Games 2026 Highlights: The Commonwealth Games 2026 began with a star-studded opening ceremony at Glasgow's OVO Hydro Arena.



Why in News

- Lovlina Borgohain secured India's first medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026 by reaching the semifinals in women's 75 kg boxing.

Key Highlights

- The Commonwealth Games 2026 are being held in Glasgow, Scotland from 23 July–2 August 2026.
- Lovlina entered the semifinals after receiving a bye, guaranteeing at least a bronze medal.
- In Commonwealth Games boxing, both losing semifinalists receive bronze medals.

Important Facts

- India has sent a 124-member contingent participating in 10 sports.
- Mirabai Chanu is India's flag bearer at the opening ceremony.
- The opening ceremony is being held at OVO Hydro, Glasgow.

Uttar Pradesh in News

UP's Natural Bio-Economy Model

Outlook India

Yogi Government Is Transforming The Lives Of Tribal Women Through The 'Natural Bio-Economy Model'

UP's Natural Bio-Economy Model empowers rural women by turning forest resources into marketable products. Sonbhadra's women make goat milk...



Why in News

- The Uttar Pradesh Government's Natural Bio-Economy Model is empowering tribal women by enabling **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** to manufacture herbal soaps from local resources.

Key Features

- The initiative is implemented under the **Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission (UPSRLM)** with support from the **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**.
- It promotes value addition to local biological resources to generate sustainable rural livelihoods.

Implementation

- The **Bajrangbali Self-Help Group** in **Sajaur** village, **Robertsganj** Block, **Sonbhadra district** has emerged as a successful model.
- SHGs receive training in scientific processing, manufacturing, packaging, branding and marketing.

Significance

- The SHG earns **₹50,000–60,000 per month**, while each member earns **₹8,000–10,000 per month**.
- The initiative promotes tribal women's economic empowerment, strengthens the bio-economy, and helps reduce rural migration.