

# SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

23-06-2026

## Sarinda (Tripura)

News On AIR

### Tripura's traditional Sarinda receives GI tag

Tripura's rich cultural heritage has received a major boost with the traditional Tripura Sarinda being granted the Geographical Indication,...



### Why in News

- Tripura Sarinda has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

### Cultural Identity

- It is a traditional bowed string musical instrument associated with indigenous communities of Tripura.
- It is crafted from a single block of wood with a hollow resonator.
- It is also known as Sarinda Uakhrap.

### Other GI Products of Tripura

- Tripura Queen Pineapple.
- Risa and Pachra (Rignai).
- Matabari Peda.

### Structural Features

- It is specially made using bamboo.
- It has an oval-shaped vibrating chamber covered with thin skin.
- The instrument is about 65–70 cm long with a narrow waist.
- It contains three pegs for fastening strings.
- The strings are made from metal, Muga thread or animal gut.
- It is played using a bow made of horse hair.

## Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)

The Indian Express

Western Ghats: What is the ESA plan for conservation, why it is necessary and the concerns

The proposal aims to protect one of India's richest biodiversity hotspots, but consensus on defining ecologically sensitive areas remains...



### Why in News

- The **Western Ghats** may receive stronger legal protection through notification of **Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs)**.

### Legal Framework

- ESAs are also known as **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)**.
- They are notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- The **Central Government** has the power to declare such areas.

#### Western Ghats Committees

- **Madhav Gadgil Committee (Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel)**.
- **Kasturirangan Committee**.

### Environmental Significance

- ESAs protect regions with rich biodiversity and fragile ecosystems.
- They function as **"shock absorbers"** for nearby protected areas.
- They minimise adverse impacts of human activities.

### Regulatory Implications

- Certain activities are prohibited while others are regulated or encouraged.
- Development projects undergo stricter environmental scrutiny.
- These areas act as transition zones between high and low protection regions.

## Lake Baikal

TOI The Times of India

### The world's oldest known plague outbreak was discovered in Siberian graves dating back 5,500 years

Rest of World News: Long before cities appeared, before fields were cleared for crops and before people began living in permanent villages,...



### Why in News

- Ancient DNA from the **Lake Baikal region** revealed the oldest known strains of **Yersinia pestis**, the plague bacterium.

### Geographical Profile

- It is located in **southern eastern Siberia, Russia**, near **Mongolia**.
- It is the **oldest freshwater lake** on Earth, estimated at **20–25 million years old**.
- It is the **deepest lake in the world** with a depth of **1,642 m**.



### Geological Importance

- It is the world's largest freshwater lake by volume.
- It is an active **continental rift valley**.
- About **7 km of sediments** lie beneath its floor.

### Hydrological Features

- It contains **45 islands**, with **Olkhon Island** being the largest.
- Around **330 rivers** drain into it.
- Major inflowing rivers are **Selenga, Barguzin, Upper Angara, Sarma and Turka**.
- It has only one outlet, the **Angara River**.

### Cultural and International Significance

- It is home to the **Buryat people**, followers of **Tibetan Buddhism**.
- It was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1996.

## Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)

THE Hindu

### ASI transfers 'Rakhigarhi' skeletons to Anthropological Survey of India for further research

ASI transfers Rakhigarhi skeletons to AnSI for advanced research into the Indus-Saraswati Civilisation's urban centre.



### Why in News

- Human skeletal remains from **Rakhigarhi (Haryana)** were transferred by **ASI** to **AnSI**.

### Institutional Profile

- **Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)** is a government-funded anthropological research institution.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Culture**.
- It is headquartered in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- It was established in **1945** under **Dr. S.C. Roy**.

### Core Objectives

- It studies India's population from biological and cultural perspectives.
- It examines and conserves ancient and modern human skeletal remains.
- It documents tribal arts and crafts.
- It provides training in anthropology and management.
- It publishes research findings.

### Expanding Research Scope

- Initially, it focused on tribes and castes of India.
- Its research now includes rural, urban, marginalised and diaspora populations.
- It employs anthropologists, sociologists, linguists and archaeologists.

## Regional Presence

- Important centres are located in Delhi, Lucknow, Shillong and Pune.
- Publications include **Journal of Anthropological Survey of India**, **Monographs and Occasional Papers**.

## Vaigai River

TOI The Times of India

### Madurai residents protest trash bins along Vaigai river, slam ineffective civic body

Madurai: The roadside along the southern bank of the Vaigai river in ward 49 has turned into a dumping yard, with all types of waste being...



## Why in News

- Residents opposed the conversion of a stretch of the **Vaigai River** into a garbage dumping site.

## Geographical Profile

- It is an important east-flowing river of **Tamil Nadu**.
- It originates from the **Varusanadu Hills** of the **Western Ghats**.
- It empties into the **Palk Strait** near **Ramanathapuram**.



## Physical Features

- The river is about **256 km long**.
- It flows through the historic city of **Madurai**.
- It also forms **Vattaparai Falls**.

## Water Resource Linkages

- It receives major water supply from the **Periyar Dam** in Kerala.
- Periyar waters are diverted through a tunnel across the Western Ghats.

- Major tributaries include **Suruli, Mullaiyar, Varaha and Manjal rivers.**

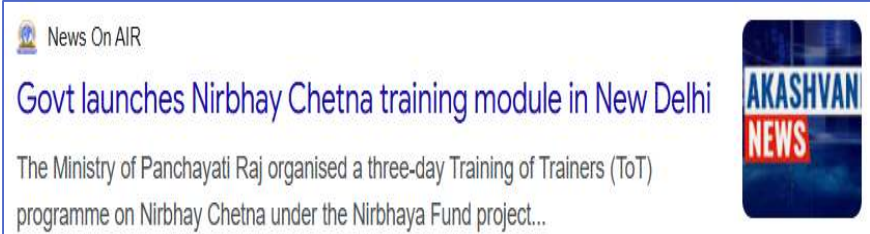
## Vaigai Dam

- It is located near **Andipatti** in **Theni** district.
- It supplies irrigation water to **Madurai and Dindigul** districts.
- It also provides drinking water to **Madurai and Andipatti.**

## Nirbhay Chetna Initiative

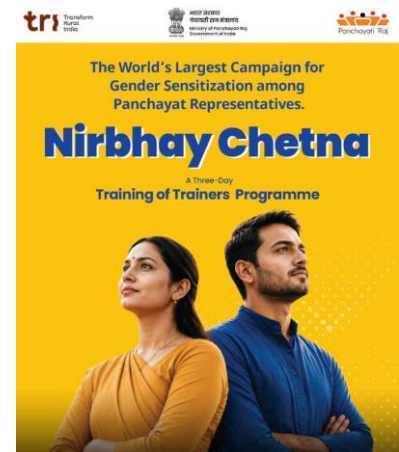
### Why in News

- The Central Government launched 'Nirbhay Chetna' to sensitise **17.5 lakh male elected representatives** on gender equality and women's safety.



### Governance Architecture

- Nirbhay Chetna** is a flagship intervention under the broader **Nirbhay Raho Initiative**.
- It is the **first national initiative of its kind** implemented under the **Nirbhaya Fund**.
- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** is the nodal ministry responsible for implementation.



### Gender-Responsive Local Governance

- It aims to strengthen **gender-responsive governance** through **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**.
- It promotes awareness, accountability and community leadership among elected representatives.
- It focuses on sensitising men towards issues of **women's safety, security and gender equality.**

## Components of Nirbhay Raho

- **Nirbhay Chetna** sensitises male elected representatives on gender equality and women's safety.
- **Nirbhay Netri** focuses on capacity building and legal awareness of elected women representatives.
- **Nirbhay Drishti** envisages installation of **CCTV cameras** at strategic rural locations.

## Institutional Reach

- Around **28,500 Master Trainers** are being developed at **State, district and block levels**.
- The programme targets more than **17.5 lakh male elected representatives** across India.
- It strengthens grassroots governance through a technology and community-based approach.

## Ambubachi Mela

### Why in News

- The **annual Ambubachi Mela** commenced at **Kamakhya Temple, Assam**.

Organiser

[Kamakhya Mandir's Ambubachi Mela: The ancient tradition that honours the menstruation of mother Earth](#)

The annual Ambubachi Mela at the Kamakhya Mandir in Guwahati celebrates the sacred belief that Mother Earth undergoes her annual menstrual...



### Festival Significance

- It is celebrated during the **monsoon season (June)**.
- It marks the annual menstruation period of **Goddess Kamakhya**.
- The temple remains closed during this period.

### Religious Importance

- Kamakhya Temple is a major centre of **Tantric Shaktism**.
- It is one of India's **51 Shakti Peethas**.
- The festival symbolises fertility and the onset of monsoon.

## Kamakhya Temple Location

- It is situated on **Nilachal Hill** near the **Brahmaputra River**.
- It is one of the most important Tantric pilgrimage centres in India.

## Architectural Features

- It combines **Nagara** and **Saracenic (Mughal)** architectural styles.
- This unique blend is called **Nilachala Architecture**.
- It has five chambers: **Garbhagriha**, **Antarala**, **Jaganmohan**, **Bhogmandir** and **Natmandir**.

## Other Important News of the day

### Places in News

### Bolivia

#### Why in News

- Bolivia declared a **state of emergency** recently.


#### Geographical Profile

- Bolivia is a **landlocked country** in **west-central South America**.
- It shares borders with **Brazil**, **Paraguay**, **Argentina**, **Chile** and **Peru**.
- The constitutional capital is **Sucre**.
- **La Paz** is the administrative and executive capital.

#### Physical Features

- The **Andes Mountains** dominate western Bolivia.
- Major mountain ranges are **Cordillera Occidental** and **Cordillera Oriental**.
- The highest peak is **Nevado Sajama (21,463 ft)**.



	<p><b>Water Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major rivers include Beni, Desaguadero, Guapore, Madre de Dios and Mamore.</li> <li>• Lake Titicaca is shared between Peru and Bolivia.</li> <li>• It is the largest freshwater lake in South America.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic and Economic Significance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bolivia possesses vast reserves of natural gas, tin, silver, zinc and lithium.</li> <li>• It is associated with MERCOSUR, where India is an Observer.</li> <li>• Lake Titicaca is regarded as the world's highest large navigable lake.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environment</b></p>	<p><b>Blue Swimmer Crab (<i>Portunus reticulatus</i>)</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p><small>THE Hindu</small></p> <p><a href="#"><u>ICAR-CIBA achieves breakthrough in Blue Swimmer Crab Farming Technology</u></a></p> <p>ICAR-CIBA pioneers Blue Swimmer Crab farming technology, enhancing aquaculture with advanced hatchery seeds and specialized feed.</p> </div>  <p><b>Why in News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICAR-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIBA), Chennai, successfully demonstrated Blue Swimmer Crab farming technology for the first time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Biological Profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Swimmer Crab (<i>Portunus reticulatus</i>) belongs to the Portunidae family of brachyuran crabs.</li> <li>• It is also known as Blue Crab, Blue Manna Crab and Flower Crab.</li> <li>• It is identified by its flat paddle-like hind legs and nine spikes along the carapace.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Distribution Pattern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is found in India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and Sweden.</li> <li>• In India, it occurs along both the east and west coasts.</li> <li>• The dominant fishery occurs in Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecological Characteristics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It remains buried under sand or mud during the daytime and winter.</li> <li>• It shows high tolerance to ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>).</li> <li>• It feeds during high tide on bivalves, fish and macroalgae.</li> </ul> <p><b>Prelims Facts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its habitat includes shallow estuaries, lagoons and coastal waters.</li> <li>• Bottom trawling is banned for Blue Swimmer Crab in Palk Bay.</li> </ul>
<p>Science and Technology</p>	<p><b>Apristurus drona (Arabian Slender Catshark)</b></p> <p><b>Why in News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientists discovered a new deep-sea catshark species, <b>Apristurus drona</b>, in the Arabian Sea.</li> </ul> <p><b>Species Profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is commonly known as the Arabian Slender Catshark.</li> </ul>

The New Indian Express

[New deep-sea catshark species discovered off Kerala's Kollam coast](#)

According to the study, the specimens were recovered as bycatch from deep-sea shrimp trawlers operating off southwest India and landed at...



- It was discovered near **Sakthikulangara harbour, Kollam coast, Kerala**.
- It represents a distinct evolutionary lineage.

### Scientific Significance

- It is closely related to catsharks from the **Pacific Ocean and New Zealand**.
- Scientists reported **5.5–5.7% genetic divergence** from its nearest relative.
- This confirms its status as a separate species.

### Habitat and Conservation

- It occurs along the continental slope near **Kollam and Wadge Bank**.
- It is considered extremely rare.
- It has no commercial value and appears mostly as fishery bycatch.

### About Catsharks

- Catsharks belong to the order **Carcharhiniformes**.
- More than **150 species** have been identified globally.
- They inhabit tropical and temperate marine ecosystems.
- No species is known to be aggressive towards humans.