SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

23-11-2026

NCG VISHWAS

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Union Health Secretary Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava launches NCG VISHWAS at National Cancer Grid Annual Meeting 2026, stresses linking of screening records with…

Smt. Srivastava emphasises leveraging India's digital health infrastructure for interoperable health records, responsible data sharing and...



Why in News?

- The Union Health Secretary launched **NCG VISHWAS**, an AI-enabled patient education initiative of the National Cancer Grid.

Key Features

- **VISHWAS** stands for *Videos to Support Health, Wellness, Awareness and Self-care*.
- It provides cancer-related information on **breast, cervical and oral cancers** in **Hindi, Marathi, Tamil and English**.
- Videos cover prevention, diagnosis, treatment and long-term care.
- Dissemination will take place through National Cancer Grid hospitals and healthcare partners, with support from **ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and Ayushman Arogya Shivirs**.
- Wider dissemination may use platforms such as the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** and Swasth Bharat portals.

National Cancer Grid

- Established in **August 2012**, it is funded by the Government of India through the **Department of Atomic Energy**.
- It connects **over 400 cancer centres, research institutions and patient groups**.
- Its activities include standardised treatment protocols, quality assurance, capacity building and collaborative cancer research.

Tangail Saree and GI Dispute

Why in News?

- The **Madras High Court** held that Bangladesh's

Bar and Bench

Madras High Court agrees to hear Bangladesh's challenge to India's GI tag for Bengal's Tangail saree

The Court rejected West Bengal State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Limited's plea seeking summary dismissal of Bangladesh's petition...



petition challenging India's GI registration of the **Tangail Saree of Bengal** is maintainable.

Distinctive Features and Craftsmanship

- It is known for fine texture, intricate designs and traditional motifs.
- Its distinctive features include **Buti** (small woven motifs), decorated borders and pallu.
- Fine yarn and starching during weaving give it a lightweight, smooth and slightly crisp texture.
- Cotton is the most common material, although silk, tussar and blended varieties also exist.
- Men traditionally undertake designing, yarn dyeing and handloom weaving.

Origin and Cultural Significance

- Tangail Saree is a traditional **handwoven cotton saree** originating in Tangail district of present-day Bangladesh.
- After Partition, many weavers migrated to **Phulia and nearby villages of West Bengal**, continuing the tradition on the Indian side.

GI Registration and International Recognition

- The **Tangail Saree of Bengal** received an Indian **GI tag on 2 January 2024**, registered in favour of the **West Bengal State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Limited**.
- Bangladesh obtained a separate domestic GI registration for **Tangail Sari in 2024**.
- In **December 2025**, UNESCO inscribed Bangladesh's Tangail saree weaving tradition on the **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.

Nayi Chetna 5.0 Campaign

DD India

Govt to launch fifth edition of Nayi Chetna gender campaign on November 25, focus on women's economic empowerment



The Ministry of Rural Development will launch the fifth edition of its national gender campaign, Nayi Chetna – Pahal Badlav Ki,...

Why in News?

- The **Ministry of Rural Development** will launch the fifth edition of its national gender campaign, **Nayi Chetna 5.0**, on 25 November 2026.

Institutional Framework

- It is implemented under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
- The campaign focuses on **women's economic empowerment**.

Four Major Focus Areas

- **Economic Recognition:** Recognising women as contributors to the economy.
- **Asset Ownership:** Improving women's access to and control over assets.
- **Safe Mobility:** Ensuring safe access to workplaces, markets and public spaces.
- **Unpaid Care Work:** Promoting equitable distribution of household and care responsibilities.

Governance and Developmental Objectives

- It addresses barriers to women's access to **livelihoods, markets, financial services and essential services**.
- It seeks measurable improvements in women's economic participation, agency and decision-making.
- **Theme:** "From Access to Agency: Empowering Women through Livelihoods and Equal Opportunities for a Viksit Bharat."

Indraprastha Communiqué and SCO Civilisational Dialogue

News On AIR

First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum adopts 'Indraprastha Communiqué' to strengthen cultural cooperation



The First Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum concluded at Purana Qila in New Delhi.

Why in News?

- The first **SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum** concluded in New Delhi with the adoption of the 12-point **Indraprastha Communiqué**.

Institutional and Event Background

- The forum was held at **Purana Qila, New Delhi, from 20–22 November 2026**.
- The communiqué recognises culture as a bridge for **friendship and good neighbourliness** among nations.

Cultural Heritage and Technology

- It recognises heritage through monuments, manuscripts, literature, art, cuisine, performing arts, living traditions and traditional knowledge.
- It highlights the role of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in improving access to and understanding of cultural heritage.
- It stresses responsible technology use while protecting **cultural authenticity, accuracy and community interests**.

Heritage Protection and Cooperation

- It identifies threats such as **illegal trafficking, environmental damage and natural disasters**.
- It proposes cooperation in heritage conservation and exploring **joint UNESCO heritage nominations**.
- India proposed holding the dialogue **every two years**, with venues decided by member states at respective SCO summits.

Muthuvan Tribe and Edamalakkudy Panchayat

TH The Hindu

Without funds, Edamalakkudy panchayat grinds to a halt

Keralam's first tribal panchayat, Edamalakkudy, established exclusively for the Muthuvan community, has shut down due to an acute financial...



Why in News?

- **Edamalakkudy**, Kerala's first tribal panchayat established exclusively for the Muthuvan community, reportedly shut down due to a financial crisis.

Geographical Distribution and Linguistic Identity

- The **Muthuvans (Mudugars)** inhabit the **Western Ghats of Kerala and Tamil Nadu**.
- Their language belongs to the **Dravidian family**.
- They comprise two groups: **Malayalam Muthuvan and Pandi Muthuvan**.
- They are known for traditional ecological knowledge and coexistence with forest wildlife.

Social Organisation and Governance

- The community has six **matrilineal clans called Kootams**, further divided into sub-clans.
- They follow **community endogamy and clan exogamy**, with clans regulating marriage alliances and descent.
- Their traditional **Kani System** is headed by a Kani (headman), assisted by a council of elders responsible for community governance.
- Their settlements, called **Kudis**, have houses arranged in parallel rows facing each other.

Livelihood and Agriculture

- **Virippukrishi**, a form of shifting cultivation, is their traditional agricultural practice.
- They traditionally cultivate **millets**, along with cash crops such as cardamom, pepper, arecanut and lemongrass.

Religious Beliefs and Traditional Knowledge

- They traditionally practise **animism and spirit worship**, including worship of forest deities.

- They preserve traditional herbal medicine knowledge across generations.
- Some members also worship Hindu gods and goddesses.

BepiColombo Mission to Mercury

Space

European-Japanese BepiColombo mission becomes 2nd ever to arrive in orbit around Mercury

The BepiColombo spacecraft finally arrived in orbit around Mercury on Saturday (Nov. 21), more than eight years after leaving its home...



Why in News?

- The joint **European-Japanese BepiColombo Mission** reached a major milestone in its journey to study Mercury, the smallest and innermost planet of the Solar System.

Mission Background

- Launched on **20 October 2018**, it is a joint mission of the **European Space Agency (ESA)** and **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)**.
- It is named after Italian mathematician and engineer **Giuseppe "Bepi" Colombo**.
- Its objective is to study Mercury's surface, composition, magnetic field and interaction with the solar environment.

Major Spacecraft Components

- **Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO):** Developed by ESA, it carries **11 instruments** to study Mercury's surface, interior and exosphere.
- **Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO):** Developed by JAXA, it carries **5 instruments** to study the magnetic field, exosphere, waves and surrounding particles.

Scientific Objectives

- Investigating Mercury's **surface composition, geological history and formation**.
- Studying its **magnetic field and magnetosphere**, including interaction with solar wind.
- Examining its extremely thin **exosphere**.
- Testing aspects of **Einstein's General Theory of Relativity** and improving understanding of gravity.

Kawal Tiger Reserve, Telangana

The Hindu

Migratory birds flock to Kawal Tiger Reserve as winter sets in

The arrival of migratory birds from Siberia, Central Asia and other northern regions has brought renewed attention to the ecological...



Why in News?

- Migratory birds from **Siberia and Central Asia** have arrived at Kawal Tiger Reserve, highlighting its ecological importance.

Geographical Location and Connectivity

- Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in **Telangana**, at the southernmost tip of the **Central Indian Tiger Landscape**.
- It has ecological linkages with **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra)** and **Indravati Tiger Reserve (Chhattisgarh)**.
- It forms an important catchment of the **Godavari River** and local watercourses such as **Peddavagu and Kadam**.

Forest Ecosystem and Vegetation

- Its predominant vegetation is **Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest**.
- Major habitats include forests, grasslands, rivers, streams and water bodies.
- Important flora includes **teak, bamboo, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Mitragyna parviflora*, *Terminalia crenulata*, *Terminalia arjuna* and *Boswellia serrata***.

Faunal Diversity and Ecological Importance

- Major mammals include **tiger, leopard, nilgai, chousingha, chinkara, blackbuck, sambar and spotted deer**.
- Other species include **dhole, wolf, jackal, fox and jungle cat**.
- Migratory birds from **Siberia and Central Asia** highlight its importance for seasonal avifauna.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Benghazi Port, Libya

UN News

Libya: UN mission urges probe into Benghazi port attacks

The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has called for an independent investigation into attacks carried out at Benghazi port and off the...



Why in News?

- An explosion and fire occurred aboard a Russian ship docked at **Benghazi Port, Libya**, with the eastern Libyan government suspecting a drone attack.

Geographical Location and Features

- Benghazi Port is one of the largest commercial ports in **eastern Libya**, located along the **Gulf of Sidra**, an arm of the **Mediterranean Sea**, in the region of **Cyrenaica**.
- Covering over **450,000 sq. m.**, it handles conventional cargo, bulk cargo and containers.

Economic and Strategic Significance

- Major exports include **oil, wool, livestock and rugs**, while imports include food, textiles, chemicals and pottery.
- It handles humanitarian supplies, including medicines, for conflict-affected regions such as **Darfur and Chad**.
- It houses a major **water desalination plant** supplying freshwater to several Libyan cities.

Connectivity and Historical Background

- The port is connected to major Libyan cities through road networks.
- Operations were disrupted after **2013** due to political instability and resumed in **2018**.

Environment

Short-Eared Owl (Asio flammeus)

The Times of India

Short-eared owl spotted at Sasihithlu as Dakshina Kannada coast records another rare bird sighting

Short-eared owl spotted at Sasihithlu beach, Dakshina Kannada, in a rare first for coastal Karnataka, adding to recent unusual bird...



Why in News?

- A **Short-Eared Owl** was spotted at **Sasihithlu Beach and estuary in Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka**.



Biological Characteristics

- It is a medium-sized owl belonging to the family **Strigidae**.
- Its scientific name is ***Asio flammeus***, and it is named after its very small, inconspicuous ear tufts.
- It measures **33–43.2 cm** in length, with a wingspan of **84–102 cm**.
- It has mottled yellowish-brown upperparts, pale underparts and yellow eyes with dark surrounding circles.

Distribution and Habitat

- It occurs on every continent except **Australia and Antarctica**.
- Northern populations migrate south during winter.
- In India, it winters in grasslands and is more abundant in the **western and northwestern regions**.
- It prefers open habitats with low vegetation and abundant small mammals.

Feeding and Conservation Status

- It captures prey using its strong beak and talons.
- Its flight features deep wingbeats, with wings appearing pushed forward in a rowing motion.
- It is classified as **Least Concern (LC)** under the **IUCN Red List**.

Defence

DSC A21: Diving Support Craft

www.pib.gov.in

DELIVERY OF DSC A21 (YARD 326) OF DIVING SUPPORT CRAFT (DSC) PROJECT TO THE INDIAN NAVY

'DSC A21' of the Diving Support Craft (DSC) project, was delivered to the Indian Navy on 20 Nov 2026 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.



Why in News?

- **DSC A21**, an indigenously built Diving Support Craft, was delivered to the **Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai**.

Technical Features

- Designed and constructed by **Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL), Kolkata**.
- It has a **catamaran hull**, advanced diving equipment and enhanced stability.
- Its enlarged deck and improved sea-keeping characteristics support specialised maritime operations.
- It has been built under relevant **Naval Rules and Regulations of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)**.

Strategic Significance

- It will strengthen the Navy's capabilities in **diving support, underwater inspection, salvage assistance and coastal operations**.
- It represents the **Make in India initiative** in indigenous defence shipbuilding.

Science and Technology	Genome Language Models

Healthcare Finance News

AI-powered genome analysis supports precision medicine

Genome-grounded AI, which offers greater accuracy than large language models for analyzing large genomic data sets, can help clinicians...



Why in News?

- Scientists are using **Genome Language Models** to predict genetic changes and generate new DNA sequences.

Scientific Basis and Working Mechanism

- These are **AI models** trained on DNA, RNA and other biological sequences to identify genetic patterns.
- DNA contains four nitrogenous bases: **Adenine (A), Thymine (T), Guanine (G) and Cytosine (C)**.
- Their sequence carries genetic instructions, while the complete genetic information of an organism constitutes its **genome**.
- Artificial neural networks learn patterns by predicting the next DNA base or filling missing sequence portions.

Applications in Biotechnology and Medicine

- They help identify patterns in **genes, regulatory sequences and interactions across genomes**.
- They can predict the effects of genetic changes and generate new biological sequences.
- Alongside laboratory experiments, they can improve understanding of genetic processes and support the development of **new medical treatments**.