

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

23-09-2026

Garamantes Civilization

 The Times of India

In 2011, researchers scanning satellite images over Libya spotted faint desert shapes; field surveys help

Rest of World News: Satellite imagery reveals over 100 Roman-era farms, villages, and forts in Libya's Sahara, changing our understanding of...



Why in News: Satellite imagery and aerial photographs have revealed previously undocumented **fortified farms, walled villages and fortified towns** linked to the **Garamantes civilization** in Libya's Fezzan region.

Geographical and Historical Setting

- The **Garamantes** flourished in the **Sahara Desert**, mainly in the **Fezzan region of southwestern Libya**.
- Their civilization flourished approximately from **500 BCE to 200 CE**.
- **Germa** served as their capital, while **Zinchera and Saniat Gebril** were other important urban centres.



Technological Adaptation

- The Garamantes developed underground irrigation systems called **foggara/foggaras** to access groundwater in the arid Sahara.
- Their irrigation technology supported cultivation of **cereals, grapes, olives and dates**.
- Their population may have reached around **50,000** at its peak.

Trade and Decline

- They traded **salt, gold, ivory and slaves** with neighbouring Mediterranean regions.

- Their relations with the **Roman Empire** evolved from military conflict to commercial partnership.
- Declining water levels and environmental changes contributed to their decline and eventual abandonment of urban centres by the **sixth century CE**.

Great Cormorant



Telangana Today

Rare leucistic great cormorant spotted at Ameenpur Lake

A Hyderabad-born Canadian birder spotted a rare leucistic Great Cormorant at Ameenpur Lake during a recent visit. The bird's unusually pale...



Why in News: A rare **leucistic Great Cormorant** was spotted at **Ameenpur Lake near BHEL, Hyderabad**.

Taxonomy and Distribution

- It is a large waterbird belonging to the **cormorant family**.
- It has a wide distribution across **North America, Europe, Africa, China, India, Southeast Asia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Australia**.
- It inhabits **marine shorelines, lakes and rivers**, particularly shallow waters.

Identification Features

- It can reach **35–40 inches in length** with a wingspan exceeding **five feet**.
- It has **dark glossy plumage, a long neck, hooked bill, webbed feet, longish tail and yellow throat patch**.
- Adults develop **white thigh patches during the breeding season**.
- Its limited plumage waterproofing causes it to **spread its wings for drying** after diving.

Ecological Significance

- It feeds on **fish, crabs, frogs and occasionally ducklings**.
- In some regions, it has a traditional fishing association with **Asian fishermen**, who train the birds to catch fish.
- It generally nests in colonies that may exceed **2,000 pairs**.
- The species is classified as **Least Concern (LC)** under the **IUCN Red List**.

National Single Window System



PIB Backgrounder

The National Single Window System (NSWS) is a digital platform that guides investors in identifying the approvals required for their...



Why in News: The **National Single Window System (NSWS)** continues to strengthen India's technology-driven and transparent regulatory framework for business approvals.

Institutional Framework

- **NSWS** is a digital platform that helps investors identify and apply for business-related approvals.
- It was launched in **September 2021**.
- It is implemented by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- It integrates approvals from **Central Ministries, State Governments and regulatory authorities** on a common platform.



Core Functionalities

- The **Know Your Approvals (KYA)** module identifies approvals applicable to a proposed business activity.
- The platform hosts applications from **32 Central Ministries/Departments and 34 States/Union Territories**.
- A **Common Registration Form** enables reuse of information across applications.
- The **Applicant Dashboard** allows submission, tracking and responses to departmental queries.
- A **Centralized Document Repository** enables one-time document upload and reuse.

Governance Significance

- NSWS reduces duplication through **one-time submission of information and documents**.
- **Real-time application tracking and online communication** improve transparency.
- Integration of regulatory systems improves **inter-departmental coordination** and can reduce approval and compliance timelines.

Koel River

 The New Indian Express

Five youths drown in Jharkhand's Palamu while immersing Karma Puja ritual items in Koel River

The victims, aged between 8 and 22, were caught in a strong current after entering deep water; their bodies were later recovered by...



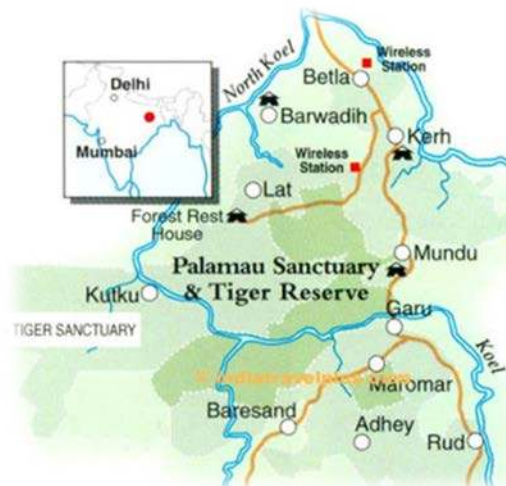
Why in News: Four teenagers drowned in the **Koel River in Palamu district, Jharkhand**, while immersing materials associated with **Karma Puja**.

Geographical Course

- The Koel River flows through **Jharkhand and Odisha**.
- It originates from the **Palamau Tiger Reserve** and flows through western Palamu district.
- It is associated with three streams of Jharkhand, namely **South Karo, North Karo and Koina**.

River Systems

- The **North Koel** is tapped near **Kutku** for irrigation and ultimately joins the **Son River**, a southern tributary of the Ganga.
- The **South Koel** joins the **Sankh River** near **Rourkela in Odisha** to form the **Brahmani River**.
- The river system passes through the hilly terrain of **Jharkhand and Odisha**.



Economic and Hydrological Significance

- The Koel forms part of the broader **Damodar Valley region**, which is known for its mineral-rich landscape.
- It is susceptible to **seasonal flooding during the monsoon**.
- The **North Koel Dam/Mandal Dam** was constructed on the North Koel for **irrigation and hydropower generation**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Lord Howe Island

 Down To Earth

[Seabird chick found with almost 900 plastic pieces in stomach, setting new pollution record](#)

Record-breaking plastic ingestion in Lord Howe Island's sable shearwaters has seen one chick carry 894 plastic pieces, with many others...



Why in News: A **16-year study** on Lord Howe Island recorded high levels of **plastic ingestion among fledgling sable shearwaters**.

Geographical Setting

- **Lord Howe Island** is a crescent-shaped **volcanic island** located about **650 km off Australia's east coast in the Tasman Sea**.
- It was discovered in **1788** and named after **Admiral Lord Howe**.
- **Mount Gower and Mount Lidgbird** rise above **760 metres** at its southern end.

	➤ It contains the most southerly coral reef in the world. Endemic Biodiversity ➤ Around 47% of its vascular plants are endemic, including the Kentia Palm (Howea forsteriana). ➤ The island supports the Lord Howe Island Phasmid, regarded as the world's largest stick insect. ➤ It also supports the flightless Lord Howe Woodhen (Gallirallus sylvestris). Conservation Significance ➤ Lord Howe Island hosts the world's largest known population of sable shearwaters, estimated at around 22,000 breeding pairs. ➤ The Lord Howe Island Group is a UNESCO World Heritage Site noted for its exceptional endemic biodiversity.
Environment	Oxyserphus narendrani  Rare parasitic wasp genus found in Assam's lowlands Tap to know more Inshorts Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India discovered a new parasitic wasp, <i>Oxyserphus narendrani</i>, in Assam's DibruSaikhowa National... Why in News: Researchers discovered a new parasitic wasp species, Oxyserphus narendrani, in Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Assam. Species Profile ➤ Oxyserphus narendrani is a newly discovered species of parasitic wasp. ➤ The genus Oxyserphus is extremely rare in insect collections and is generally associated with high-altitude areas. ➤ It has a black head, brownish-black body and yellow legs. ➤ Distinctive features include a single horizontal groove on the thorax, a short ovipositor sheath and a uniquely shaped wing spot.

	Dibru-Saikhowa National Park ➤ The park is located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam. ➤ It was originally established to conserve the habitat of the White-winged Wood Duck. ➤ It is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north and the Dibru River in the south. ➤ Its vegetation includes moist mixed semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, canebrakes and grasslands. ➤ It is described as the largest Salix swamp forest in northeastern India. Biodiversity Profile ➤ Important flora includes Hollong, Nahor, Simul, Sissoo, Khair and Jamun. ➤ Important fauna includes Asian Elephant, Wild Water Buffalo, Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Fishing Cat, Jungle Cat, Hog Deer, Sambar Deer and Barking Deer.
Defence	Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026  Why in News: The Indian Air Force (IAF) will host the second edition of its major multinational air exercise, Tarang Shakti-26, in Jodhpur. Exercise Profile ➤ Tarang Shakti-26 is a multinational air exercise focused on enhancing interoperability among participating air forces. ➤ Its first edition was conducted in August–September 2024 in two phases.

	➤ The 2026 edition will provide opportunities for operational experience exchange and showcasing India's air-combat capabilities. International Participation ➤ Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Greece, Sri Lanka, UAE and USA will participate with air assets. ➤ A total of 32 countries are expected to attend as observers. ➤ Participating aircraft include the US F-35, French Rafale, UAE F-16 and Bangladeshi C-130J. Indian Air Force Platforms ➤ The IAF will field Rafale, Mirage-2000, Jaguar, Tejas, MiG-29 and Su-30MKI aircraft. ➤ The exercise is being conducted in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
Science and Technology	International Mobile Equipment Identity Number DD News <u>IMEI tampering poses threat to digital security; DoT urges responsible use of telecom devices</u> India's rapid digital transformation has made telecommunications integral to everyday life, commerce and governance.  Why in News: India's active wireless mobile subscriber base reached 1,204.01 million in July 2026, highlighting concerns over IMEI misuse and tampering. Technical Features ➤ IMEI is a unique 15-digit number used to identify a mobile device on a telecom network. ➤ The first eight digits constitute the Type Allocation Code (TAC), which identifies the device model or type. ➤ The GSMA oversees global TAC allocation to manufacturers and brand owners. ➤ A dual-SIM phone generally has two IMEI numbers, one for each SIM slot. Indian IMEI Ecosystem ➤ Users can display their IMEI by dialling *#06# on a mobile device.

- Manufacturers and importers must register applicable IMEIs through the **Device Setu–Indian Counterfeited Device Restriction (ICDR) portal**.
- Resellers and retailers must ensure that devices have **valid and untampered IMEI numbers**.
- Brand owners must ensure compliance with applicable **IMEI registration and cybersecurity requirements**.

Legal Safeguards

- The **Telecommunications Act, 2023** provides penalties for tampering with telecommunication identifiers.
- **Section 42(3)(c)** prohibits tampering with telecommunication identifiers, while **Section 42(3)(e)** addresses fraudulent procurement of SIMs or identifiers.
- Violations may attract **up to three years' imprisonment, ₹50 lakh fine, or both**, with offences being **cognizable and non-bailable** under **Section 42(7)**.
- **Section 42(6)** extends liability to persons who abet or promote such offences.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Reorganisation of Uttar Pradesh into Four States

 India Today

UP to be split into 4 states, claims minister. What happened when Mayawati tried

UP minister Om Prakash Rajbhar has claimed Uttar Pradesh will be split into four after the caste census, reviving a debate almost as old as...

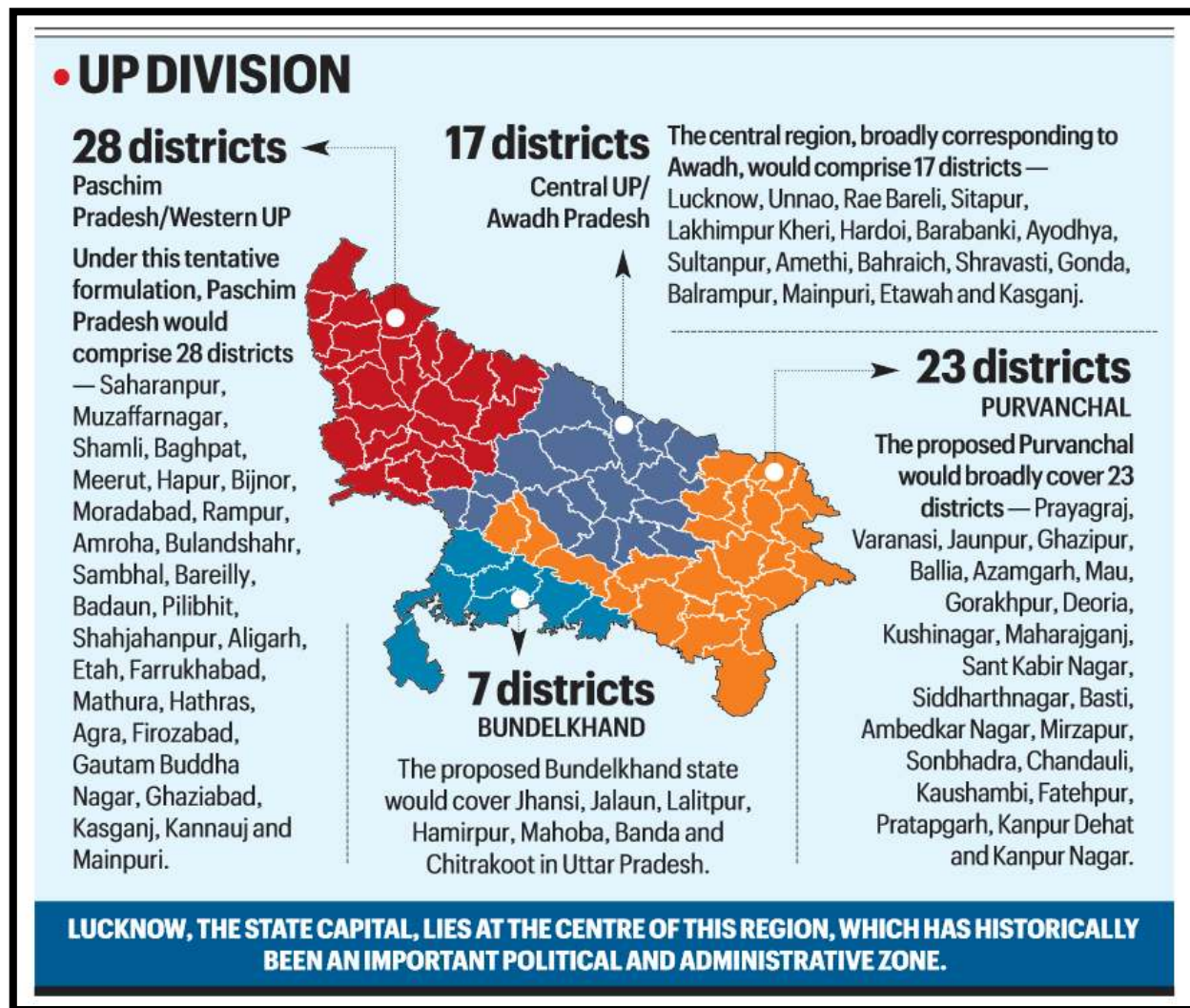


Why in News: The debate over reorganising **Uttar Pradesh into four states** has resurfaced following recent political remarks, reviving the proposal formally advanced by the **Mayawati government in 2011**.

Historical Context

- The four proposed regions are **Paschim Pradesh, Awadh Pradesh, Bundelkhand and Purvanchal**.

- In **November 2011**, the Mayawati-led BSP government passed an **Uttar Pradesh Assembly resolution** proposing the division of the state into four parts.
- The resolution was sent to the **Union Government** but was not pursued further after the **Samajwadi Party government** came to power in 2012.
- Earlier demands have included **Western Uttar Pradesh/Harit Pradesh**, with **Ajit Singh** being among the prominent advocates of a separate Western UP.



Proposed Regional Configuration

- **Paschim Pradesh** was proposed to cover **28 districts and parts of several other districts**, including Meerut, Agra, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Bareilly.
- **Awadh Pradesh** was proposed around the central region, comprising **17 districts**, with **Lucknow** as its historical political and administrative centre.

- **Bundelkhand** was proposed to include **Jhansi, Jalaun, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda and Chitrakoot**, although the region extends into **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Purvanchal** was proposed to broadly cover **23 districts**, including **Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Azamgarh, Sonbhadra and Kanpur Nagar**.

Arguments and Administrative Dimensions

- Supporters argue that the state's **large geographical size, regional disparities, migration patterns and distinct economic structures** make smaller states administratively more manageable.
- The proposed **Paschim Pradesh** demand is associated with the region's **sugarcane-based economy, agriculture, trade, manufacturing and proximity to Delhi**.
- Supporters of **Purvanchal** have highlighted its **large population, economic disparities, migration and distance from Lucknow**.
- Critics argue that statehood alone may not eliminate development disparities and could create **administrative, financial and institutional complications**.

Constitutional Procedure: Article 3

- **Article 3** empowers **Parliament** to form a new state by separating territory from an existing state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states.
- Parliament may also **increase or diminish the area, alter boundaries or change the name** of a state.
- A Bill for this purpose can be introduced only on the **recommendation of the President**.
- If the proposal affects a state's **area, boundaries or name**, the President must refer the Bill to the concerned **State Legislature for its views** within a specified period.
- The **State Legislature's consent is not mandatory**; its views are sought, while the **final authority rests with Parliament**.