

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

24-06-2026

Antaram idukki (New Tiger Moth Species)

III The Hindu

[Discovery of new moth genus in Kerala's Idukki highlights Western Ghats' hidden biodiversity](#)

A team of researchers has discovered a new genus and species of tiger moth from the southern Western Ghats. Published in the internationally...



Why in News

- Researchers discovered a new genus and species of tiger moth, **Antaram idukki**, from the **southern Western Ghats** in **Kerala's Idukki district**.

Taxonomic Significance

- **Antaram idukki** belongs to **Subfamily Arctiinae** under **Family Erebidae**.
- It is presently known only from **Idukki district of Kerala**.
- It is distinguished by unique external and genital morphological characteristics.

Ecological Importance

- Tiger moths act as important **pollinators of night-blooming plants**.
- They serve as a major food source for **birds, bats and other wildlife**.
- They function as **bioindicators** that reflect environmental changes.

Facts about Moths

- Moths belong to the insect order **Lepidoptera**, which they share with butterflies.
- They are found in all habitats except **polar regions**.
- Their antennae are generally **feathery**, unlike the clubbed antennae of butterflies.

- Most moth species are **nocturnal**, though some are active during the day.
- Examples include the Luna Moth and Atlas Moth.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)

DD India

[Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2026 nominations open till July 31](#)

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has invited nominations for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2026,...



Why in News

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) invited nominations for **PMRBP 2026**.

Award Significance

- It is India's **highest civilian honour for children**.
- It is conferred annually by the **President of India** on **Veer Bal Diwas (26 December)**.
- **Veer Bal Diwas** commemorates **Sahibzada Zorawar Singh** and **Sahibzada Fateh Singh**.

Additional Facts

- A maximum of **25 awards** are given annually.
- Each awardee receives a **medal, ₹1 lakh cash prize and certificate**.
- **Self-nomination** and institutional nominations are permitted.

Award Categories

- It recognises achievements in **Bravery, Social Service, Environment, Sports, Art & Culture and Science & Technology**.
- The awardees are selected by a committee headed by the **Secretary, MoWCD**.

Eligibility Criteria

- The child must be an Indian citizen.
- The eligible age is **5 to 18 years** as on **31 July**.

- The achievement must have occurred within **2 years** of nomination.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

 International Maritime Organization

IMO announces evacuation plan in the Strait of Hormuz

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States, IMO Secretary-General...



Why in News

- The **IMO Secretary-General** announced plans to evacuate ships and seafarers stranded in the **Persian Gulf** amid the West Asia conflict.

Institutional Profile

- **IMO** is a specialised agency of the **United Nations**.
- It develops global standards for safe, secure and environmentally sustainable shipping.
- It creates a universally adopted regulatory framework for maritime transport.

Important Facts

- It has **176 Member States**.
- **India joined in 1959**.
- Headquarters: **London, United Kingdom**.

Historical Background

- It was established as **Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)** in **1948**.
- It became a UN specialised agency in **1959**.
- It was renamed **International Maritime Organization** in **1982**.

Governance Structure

- The **Assembly** is the highest governing body and meets every two years.
- The **Council** is the executive organ consisting of **40 elected members**.
- Five committees develop and update maritime regulations.

Sahariya Tribe

News On AIR

[President Droupadi Murmu interacts with Cheetah Mitras and Sahariya tribe members at Kuno National Park](#)

President Droupadi Murmu today interacted with Cheetah Mitras and members of the Sahariya tribe at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's...



Why in News

- The President interacted with members of the Sahariya tribe at **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.**

Tribal Identity

- The **Sahariya** are recognised as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).**
- They are mainly found in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- Other names include **Seher, Sair, Savar, Saonar and Sahra.**

Social and Cultural Features

- Their settlements are called **Seharana.**
- Their traditional dance is **Saharia Swang**, performed during Holi.
- The dance uses **dhol, nagari and matki** instruments.
- They practice **Hinduism blended with animistic traditions.**
- They are divided into Jati, Arsi, Muli, Kindal and Kumbi sub-groups.

Economic Activities

- They depend on **forest produce and wage labour.**
- They cultivate small landholdings.
- They are skilled in producing **catechu from Khair trees.**

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

Why in News

- **INCOIS** began issuing

specialised El Niño Bulletins for maritime sectors.

The Hindu

El Niño may trigger coral bleaching, hit fish catch: INCOIS

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), in a special bulletin, stated that the El Niño phenomenon...



Institutional Profile

- It was established in 1999.
- It is an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
- It functions under the **Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO)**.
- It is a permanent member of **UNESCO-IOC**.
- Headquarters: **Hyderabad, Telangana**.



Core Mandate

- It provides ocean information and advisory services.
- It supports governments, industries and scientific communities.
- It relies on sustained ocean observations and research.

Key Initiatives

- **Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC)** issues alerts within **10 minutes**.
- It serves **India and 28 Indian Ocean countries**.
- **SARAT** assists in search and rescue operations at sea.
- SynOPS integrates real-time data for disaster response.

Interstellar Comet 3I/ATLAS



Webb finds clues to ancient origin of Comet 3I/ATLAS

The third identified interstellar comet in human history has a surprising chemical makeup, raising questions as to how common, or unusual,...



Why in News

- Scientists found that **3I/ATLAS** formed around **10–12 billion years ago**.

Astronomical Significance

- It is the **third confirmed interstellar object**.
- Earlier objects were **1I/‘Oumuamua (2017)** and **2I/Borisov (2019)**.
- It was detected by the **ATLAS survey** in Chile.

Physical Characteristics

- It is an active comet with a visible **coma**.
- It follows a **hyperbolic orbit**.
- It travels at **57–68 km/s** relative to the Sun.

Composition

- It has a **reddish appearance**.
- It may contain **complex organic compounds and water ice**.
- It will **permanently exit the Solar System** after its passage.

Concept: Interstellar Objects

- They originate outside the Solar System.
- They are not gravitationally bound to any star.
- They usually follow an **open-ended hyperbolic trajectory**.

Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026

The World Economic Forum

[Latest Energy Transition Index shows the global energy transition is fragmenting, and more top energy stories](#)

Top energy news: Energy transition fragmenting; energy security is reshaping country pathways; Hormuz reopening hopes and Gulf pipeline...



Why in News

- India improved to **70th rank** in the World Economic Forum (WEF) Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026.

India's Performance

- India's score increased by **1.9%**.
- **Low-carbon jobs** grew by **24% in 2024**.
- Renewable energy employment rose by **25%**, reaching 1.3 million jobs.
- The **hydropower sector** led job creation.

Important Facts

- Global energy investment reached **USD 3.3 trillion**.
- **USD 2.3 trillion** was invested in **clean energy**.
- Transition readiness declined for the first time in over a decade.

Global Highlights

- Sweden, Finland and Denmark retained the top three positions.
- Singapore climbed 10 places to 42nd rank.
- Six G20 countries entered the top 20: Germany (9th), France (10th), UK (11th), China (14th), Brazil (17th) and USA (19th).

Energy Transition Index (ETI)

- Published annually by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- Assesses countries on Energy Security, Sustainability, Equity and Transition Readiness.
- Evaluates 120 countries using 44 indicators.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Volcán de Fuego

Why in News

- Guatemala's Volcán de Fuego recently erupted, affecting tourists on its slopes.

Geographical Features

- It is an active volcano located in Guatemala.
- It is a basaltic stratovolcano.
- It rises to 3,763 metres above sea level.

Tectonic Significance

- It is part of the Central American Volcanic Arc.
- Guatemala lies within the Pacific Ring of Fire.
- It is situated along the Cocos Plate–Caribbean Plate boundary.

Volcanic Characteristics


- It possesses an open-vent system.



- It frequently releases gases and magma through small eruptions.
- It exhibits **Vulcanian eruptions, pyroclastic flows, lava flows and lahars.**
- It is one of Central America's most active volcanoes.
- It has erupted over 60 times in the last 500 years.
- The **2018 eruption** killed **194 people.**

Environment

Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

 Outlook India

[Captive-Bred Vulture Soars 3,334 Km from Maharashtra to Ranthambore](#)

A captive-bred Indian vulture has flown 3334 km from Melghat in Maharashtra to Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, proving its ability to survive...



Why in News

- A captive-bred Indian vulture travelled **3,334 km** and reached **Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.**

Geographical Features

- It is located in **Sawai Madhopur district, Rajasthan.**
- It lies at the junction of the **Aravalli and Vindhyan ranges.**
- It covers around **1,411 sq km.**

Hydrological Importance

- The Banas River forms its northern boundary.
- The **Chambal River** forms its southern boundary.
- Major lakes include **Padam Talab, Raj Bagh Talab and Malik Talab.**

Ecological Features

- Vegetation consists of **dry deciduous forests and grasslands.**

- Dominant tree species is Dhok (*Anogeissus pendula*).
- Other species include Acacia, Capparis, Zizyphus and Prosopis.

Biodiversity

- Mammals include tiger, leopard, caracal, jungle cat, sambar and chinkara.
- Important birds include peacocks, green pigeons, parakeets and warblers.

Defence

Burevestnik Missile

 The Times of India

[Radioactive trail in the sky? How Putin's Burevestnik 'Skyfall' missile could backfire on Russia](#)

International News: Russia's controversial nuclear-powered cruise missile, the Burevestnik, may leave a trail of radioactive material in the...



Why in News

- New research suggests Russia's **Burevestnik missile** may release radioactive material during flight.

Strategic Profile

- It is a **ground-launched, low-flying, nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed cruise missile**.
- It was developed by **Russia**.
- It is the world's first **nuclear-powered cruise missile**.

Technical Features

- It uses a **small nuclear reactor** for propulsion.
- It has a virtually **unlimited operational range**.
- It can remain airborne for extended durations.

Military Significance

- It flies at low altitude, making radar detection difficult.

- It was among six strategic weapons unveiled by **President Vladimir Putin in 2018**.
- NATO designates it as **SSC-X-9 Skyfall**.

Science and Technology

Vitamin B3 (Niacin)

ScienceDaily

[A common vitamin could help fight one of the deadliest brain cancers](#)

A clinical trial is exploring whether high doses of vitamin B3 could give patients with glioblastoma a better chance against the aggressive...



Why in News

- A clinical trial is examining whether high doses of **Vitamin B3** can improve treatment outcomes for **glioblastoma**, an aggressive brain cancer.

Biochemical Characteristics

- **Vitamin B3 (Niacin)** is a **water-soluble vitamin**.
- Excess amounts are excreted through urine and require regular intake.
- The body synthesises small amounts from the amino acid **Tryptophan**.

Physiological Functions

- It acts as a coenzyme for more than **400 enzymes**.
- It helps convert nutrients into energy and synthesise cholesterol and fats.
- It supports **DNA repair** and provides antioxidant effects.

Food Sources

- Animal sources include **red meat, poultry and fish**.
- Plant sources include **brown rice, legumes, nuts, seeds and bananas**.
- It is also added to **fortified cereals and breads**.

Deficiency Disorders

- Severe deficiency causes **Pellagra**.
- Pellagra causes photosensitive skin rash, red tongue and digestive disturbances.
- Other symptoms include **depression, hallucinations, fatigue and memory loss**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Delayed Monsoon Causes Rain Deficit in Uttar Pradesh

 The Indian Express

[Why has monsoon progress stalled, and when can rains be expected next?](#)

Overall, the Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon appears to be making slower progress this year compared to the Bay of Bengal branch.



Why in News

- Delay in the **Southwest Monsoon** has caused a major rainfall deficit in **34 of Uttar Pradesh's 75 districts**, affecting agriculture and water availability.

Rainfall Pattern

- Rainfall deficit ranges between **60% and 99% below normal** in several districts.
- **Kaushambi** recorded a **100% rainfall deficit**.
- **Lucknow (-66%), Ayodhya (-69%), Amethi (-72%), and Gonda (-80%)** witnessed severe shortages.
- Western districts received excess rainfall, with **Agra (+158%)** and **Etah (+146%)**.
- Banda recorded temperatures up to **43.3°C**.
- Delayed monsoon may adversely affect **Kharif crop sowing** and increase dependence on groundwater.

Government Measures

- The state government launched a coordinated response involving Irrigation, Agriculture, Revenue, Groundwater, Panchayati Raj and Namami Gange departments.
- Efforts are focused on preventing a drinking water crisis and supporting farmers.

Water Conservation Initiatives

- The 'Catch the Rain' campaign is being intensified.
- Amrit Sarovars are being cleaned and rejuvenated to improve water storage.
- Jalaandolan is being promoted as a community-led rainwater conservation movement.