

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

25-08-2026

Adi Vaani Platform

 News On AIR

Ministry of Tribal Affairs to organise national conclave on tribal languages & museums in Mysuru

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will organise a three-day National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums from today till Wednesday in...



Why in News

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched the **Adi Vaani Platform**, India's first AI-powered translator for tribal languages, during a National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums in **Mysuru, Karnataka**.

Technology and Institutional Framework

- Adi Vaani is designed to reduce communication barriers between **tribal and non-tribal communities** while helping preserve endangered tribal languages through **Artificial Intelligence**.
- It was developed by a consortium led by **IIT Delhi**, with **BITS Pilani, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Nava Raipur** and Tribal Research Institutes from Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Meghalaya.
- The platform uses AI models such as **No Language Left Behind (NLLB)** and **IndicTrans2**, particularly for low-resource tribal languages (**Santali, Mundari and Bhili**).

Key Functions

- It enables **real-time text and speech translation** between Hindi/English and tribal languages.
- It provides interactive language-learning facilities for **students and early learners**.
- It supports the **digital preservation of folklore, oral traditions and cultural heritage**.
- It can facilitate **digital literacy, healthcare communication, civic inclusion and awareness of government schemes**.

Dak MITRA and Dak Sewa Apps

DD News

India Post rolls out upgraded Dak MITRA, Dak Sewa apps; inaugurates 14 renovated post offices

The Department of Posts on Monday launched upgraded versions of its Dak MITRA and Dak Sewa mobile applications and inaugurated 14 renovated...



Why in News

- The Union Minister for Communications launched the revamped **Dak Sewa App** and **Dak MITRA App** in New Delhi.

Digital Inclusion

- Dak Sewa supports **23 Indian languages through BHASHINI**, strengthening multilingual access to digital postal services.

Dak MITRA

- Dak MITRA (Mobile Interface for Transactions & Rural Assistance)** serves as a unified operational platform for more than **1.4 lakh Branch Post Offices**.
- It was developed indigenously by the **Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology (CEPT)** under the **Advanced Postal Technology (APT)** platform as part of **DoP IT 2.0 Modernization**.
- It enables Branch Postmasters to conduct **paperless and real-time postal and financial transactions**.

Service Delivery

- Dak MITRA supports **mail booking, OTP-based doorstep delivery, Core Banking Services, insurance services, Aadhaar-based biometric e-KYC and cash deposits and withdrawals**.
- The **Dak Sewa App** provides citizens with **24×7 access** to postal services such as tracking, booking, complaints and Post Office/PIN-code locators.

Information Technology Resilience Index

THE HINDU

SEBI introduces IT Resilience Index for market infrastructure institutions

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced an Information Technology Resilience Index (ITRI) for market...



Why in News

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced the **Information Technology Resilience Index (ITRI)** for **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)**.

Institutional Scope and Objective

- ITRI assesses the functioning and resilience of IT systems of **stock exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations**.
- It aims to strengthen SEBI's oversight and identify emerging weaknesses in IT systems at an early stage.

Assessment Framework

- The index is calculated using **nine parameters**, including **availability, security, integrity, governance, reliability and monitoring, business continuity, modularity and flexibility, and scalability**.
- Availability and security carry the highest weightage of 20% each**, while several other parameters carry **10% each**.

**NEWS
ALERT**

SEBI

- Creates IT resilience index for market infrastructure institutions
- IT resilience index computation by market infra cos to be system driven
- Aligns cyber-security incident reporting norms with Financial Stability Board

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Compliance and Early Warning

- MIIs must calculate ITRI **half-yearly within 60 days** of the end of each half-year.
- They must submit a comparison of two consecutive half-years, along with corrective actions, to their **Standing Committee on Technology (SCOT)** and governing boards.
- MIIs must also establish an **Early Warning System (EWS)** to detect deterioration that could cause performance issues, system slowness or disruptions.

Doronicum sanctum

 Inshorts

The rare yellow flower of Arunachal Pradesh | Tap to know more | Inshorts

Botanists from CSIRIHBT have discovered Doronicum sanctum, a new plant species in the sunflower family, at 4086 metres altitude in Tawang,...



Why in News

- Researchers from **CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT)** announced a new plant species named *Doronicum sanctum* from the high-altitude region of Arunachal Pradesh.

Taxonomy and Discovery

- *Doronicum sanctum* belongs to the **sunflower family Asteraceae** and represents the first documented member of the **Doronicum** genus in Northeast India.
- It was discovered at approximately **4,086 m above sea level in Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The species name *sanctum* refers to its type locality near the **Chumi Gyatse Holy Waterfalls**, a site of high spiritual significance to local communities.



Distinctive Features

- The plant has **pubescent ray cypselae**, a **caducous pappus**, dilated flower stalks and flat, lance-shaped green bracts.
- It bears **yellow flowers and heart-shaped leaves** and appears to be extremely rare.

Biodiversity Significance

- Arunachal Pradesh forms part of the **Himalaya and Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspots**, making such high-altitude species discoveries important for biodiversity documentation and conservation.

GENESIS Entrepreneur-in-Residence Cohort 3

DD News

GENESIS EIR 3.0 launched to support early-stage tech innovators with funding of up to Rs 10 lakh

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), through MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), has launched the third cohort of its...



Why in News

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, through **MeitY Startup Hub (MSH)**, launched **GENESIS Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Cohort 3**.

Scheme Architecture

- Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups (GENESIS)** is a flagship MeitY Startup Hub initiative aimed at discovering, supporting and scaling startups in **Tier-II and Tier-III cities**.
- Its components include **Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR)**, **Pilot, Investment and DeepTech funding**.
- The EIR component provides funding of up to **₹10 lakh per startup** for innovators, students and entrepreneurs at the ideation and prototype stages.
- The scheme has a total budget outlay of **₹490 crore** and targets **1,600 startups**.



Technology Focus

- GENESIS supports emerging technologies including **AI/ML, Internet of Things, semiconductors and VLSI, cybersecurity, blockchain, quantum technologies, AR/VR, spatial and immersive technologies**.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be **Indian citizens** and may include entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers, students and founders or co-founders of early-stage startups.
- Proposed innovations must fall within **Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 1–4**, covering ideation, proof of concept, prototype, MVP or early validation.
- Incorporated startups must be **less than two years old** and based in a **Tier-II or Tier-III city**.
- The proposed idea or startup must not have received more than **₹10 lakh** in financial assistance under any Central or State Government scheme.

Waterspout

Moneycontrol.com

'Water Tornado' over River Brahmaputra goes viral—What really happened in Assam?

A strange rotating column appeared over the Brahmaputra River in Assam, resembling a giant 'water tornado'. The viral phenomenon has sparked...

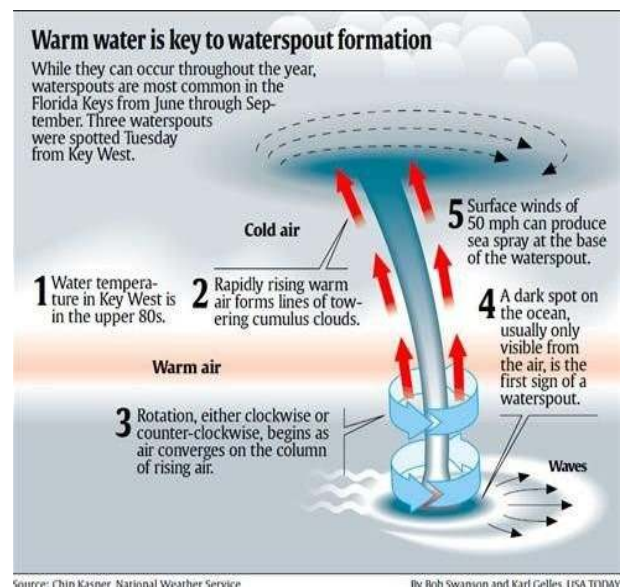


Why in News

- A rare weather phenomenon resembling a **waterspout** was observed over the **Brahmaputra in Barpeta district, Assam**.

Meteorological Characteristics

- A waterspout is a **large rotating column of air and mist over a water body**.
- It is generally less intense and lasts around **five minutes**, although some can persist for up to 10 minutes.
- An average waterspout may be about **165 feet in diameter**, with wind speeds of around **100 km/h**.
- Waterspouts generally develop under conditions of **high humidity and relatively warm water beneath cooler overlying air**.



Major Types

- Tornadic waterspouts** are tornadoes that form over water or move from land to water and are associated with severe thunderstorms, strong winds, large hail and dangerous lightning.
- Fair-weather waterspouts** generally form under calmer conditions beneath developing cumulus clouds and are usually not associated with thunderstorms.
- Fair-weather waterspouts develop **upward from the water surface**, whereas tornadic waterspouts develop downward from a thunderstorm.
- Fair-weather waterspouts usually move very little because of relatively light winds.

India's Merchant Fleet Expansion

BS Business Standard

India's merchant fleet to get 100 ships, but ageing fleet remains a hurdle

India merchant fleet ships: The move comes at a time when nearly half of India's registered vessels are more than 20 years old.



Why in News

- India plans to add **100 new vessels over five years** to reduce dependence on foreign shipping lines.

Key Facts

- India currently has around **1,600 Indian-flagged vessels** and spends nearly **\$75 billion annually** on foreign shipping.
- Critical cargo includes **crude oil, gas, coal and urea**.
- Indian-flagged ships cost around **16–20% more** to operate than foreign-flagged vessels.
- The **National Shipping Board** proposed reforms covering financing, fiscal measures, assured cargo and regulatory streamlining.
- The initiative aligns with **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.
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Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Mongolia
	Why in News High-level bilateral meetings were held with South Asian counterparts on the sidelines of the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

	Geographical Profile • Mongolia is a landlocked country in north-central Asia, bordered by China to the south and Russia to the north. • Its capital is Ulaanbaatar, which is also the country's principal political and administrative centre. • Mongolia has a continental climate due to its high latitude, elevation and distance from oceans. • Its major vegetation zones are forest-steppe, steppe, semidesert and desert, arranged broadly from north to south and across mountains and basins. Physical Features • The major mountain systems are the Khentii, Khangai and Altay Mountains. • Nayramadlin Orgil, at about 4,374 m, is the highest point of Mongolia. • The Orkhon River is a major river, and its valley is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. • Hovsgol Nuur is one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes and lies near the Russian Federation border. Natural Resources and Strategic Facts • Mongolia has significant deposits of coal, fluorite (fluorspar), copper, gold and silver, along with other metallic ores. • Its location between Russia and China gives it important geographical and strategic significance in north-central Asia.
Environment	Dihing Patkai National Park Why in News



- A **male tiger** was recently camera-trapped in **Dihing Patkai National Park** in Assam.

Geographical and Ecological Setting



- The park is located in **Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam**.
- It lies in the **Dehing Patkai Landscape**, a **dipterocarp-dominated lowland rainforest** at the foothills of the **Patkai Hill Ranges**.
- The **Dehing River**, a tributary of the **Brahmaputra**, flows through the landscape, while **Namdapha Wildlife Sanctuary** lies adjacent to it.
- It contains one of India's largest stretches of **tropical lowland rainforest**.

Conservation Status and Communities

- Dihing Patkai was declared a **wildlife sanctuary on 13 June 2004** and was upgraded to a **national park on 13 December 2020** by the Assam Government.
- Indigenous communities associated with the landscape include **Tai Phake, Khamyang, Khampti, Singpho, Nocte, Ahom, Kaibarta, Moran and Motok**, along with Burmese and non-indigenous Nepali communities.

Biodiversity

- The vegetation includes **deciduous, semi-evergreen and lush green forests**, with species such as **Hollong, Nahor, Mekai, Paroli, Simul, orchids, ferns, cane and bamboo**.
- Important fauna include **slow loris, pig-tailed macaque, stump-tailed macaque, capped langur, Indian leopard, Asian elephant and Royal Bengal tiger**.

Defence	Kerala Renamed as Keralam  The Times of India <u>Kerala becomes 'Keralam': List of Indian states and UTs renamed after Independence</u> Learning with TOI News: When India became independent on 15 August 1947, the map it inherited was not a finished document.  Why in News • Kerala was officially renamed Keralam on 25 August 2026 under the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026. Constitutional Linkages • Article 3 empowers Parliament to alter the name, area or boundaries of States. • The concerned State Legislature's views are sought, but Parliament is not bound by them. • The First Schedule contains the names of States and Union Territories. • State renaming under Article 3 does not require a constitutional amendment under Article 368. Key Legislative Facts • The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 11 August 2026 and Rajya Sabha on 12 August 2026. • President Droupadi Murmu gave assent on 14 August 2026. • The Union Home Ministry notified 25 August 2026 as the commencement date.
Science and Technology	Lead Why in News • Researchers at ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN), Hyderabad found that lead exposure can significantly disrupt the natural waste-clearing and recycling system of nerve cells. TH The Hindu <u>Environmental lead exposure linked to greater neuronal damage: ICMR-NIN</u> Researchers at the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN), Hyderabad, have found that exposure to lead can significantly disrupt... 

Chemical and Physical Characteristics

- **Lead (Pb)** is a naturally occurring element found in small quantities in the Earth's crust and belongs to **Group 14 (IV-A)** of the periodic table.
- It is a dense, ductile, highly malleable, bluish-white metal with poor electrical conductivity and high resistance to corrosion.
- Lead commonly occurs with **zinc, silver and copper**, and its principal mineral is **galena (PbS)**, while other ores include **cerussite (PbCO₃)** and **anglesite (PbSO₄)**.

Major Uses

- Lead is widely used in **lead-acid batteries**, including those used in vehicles, emergency backup systems, telecommunications and forklifts.
- It is also used in **glass and plastics, rolled and extruded products, ammunition and radiation shielding**.

Health Significance

- Lead is **highly toxic to humans and the environment** and can affect multiple body systems.
- Exposure is particularly harmful to **young children and women of child-bearing age**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

bl. BusinessLine

India's first large-scale biopolymer plant in UP set for October launch

India's first large-scale biopolymer plant, being built at an investment of ₹3,080 crore in Lakhimpur Kheri district, is likely to become...



India's First Large-Scale Biopolymer Plant

Why in News

- India is set to operationalise its **first large-scale biopolymer facility** at **Kumbhi sugar unit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh**, by **October 2026**.

Project Profile

- The foundation stone was laid by the **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in February 2025**.
- The project is being developed by **Balrampur Chini Mills Limited (BCML)** under the **Balrampur Bioyug** brand.
- The fully integrated greenfield project involves an investment of about **₹2,850–₹3,080 crore**.
- The plant will have an annual production capacity of **80,000 tonnes of Polylactic Acid (PLA)**.

Technology and Sustainability

- **Polylactic Acid (PLA)** is a **biodegradable bioplastic** that can decompose naturally within a few months under suitable conditions.
- The facility is designed to use **renewable energy**, supporting low-carbon and sustainable manufacturing.
- The plant will adopt a **Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)** system to prevent industrial wastewater from being discharged into local water bodies.

Environmental Significance

- PLA can be used to manufacture products such as **plates, cups, bottles, pens and carry bags**.
- PLA-based products can decompose naturally in around **three to six months**, unlike conventional plastics that persist for much longer.