

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

25-07-2026

Ceratocaudia antiqua

 Research Matters

Rare fossil reveals new dinosaur species with a spiky tail in Gujarat's Kachchh Basin

Scientists have discovered a new species of long-necked dinosaur in western India that possessed a unique, horn-like tail crest.



Why in News

- Scientists discovered a new species of long-necked dinosaur, *Ceratocaudia antiqua*, from the **Kaladongar Formation** of the **Kachchh Basin, Gujarat**.

Scientific Significance

- *Ceratocaudia antiqua* is a new species of macronarian sauropod dinosaur.
- It lived during the **Jurassic Period**, around **170–180 million years ago**.
- At approximately **7 metres** in length, it was considerably smaller than giant sauropods such as *Brachiosaurus*.
- It represents one of the earliest diagnosable macronarian dinosaurs known globally.

Important Pointers

- The genus name "**Ceratocaudia**" is derived from the Greek words '**cerato**' (**horn**) and '**caud**' (**tail**).
- The species name "**antiqua**" is derived from Latin, meaning **ancient or old**.
- It belongs to the **Macronaria** group, characterised by **large box-shaped skulls** and **broad nostrils**.

Distinctive Characteristics

- The species possesses a unique **curved horn-like crest** on the anterior tail vertebrae.
- It has a distinctive notch on the **neck vertebrae** and unique **tibia and fibula** morphology.
- The tail shows a rare transition from **flat-ended** to **ball-and-socket vertebral joints**.

Lake Mansarovar

Why in News

- Pilgrims undertaking the Kailash

Mansarovar Yatra were again not permitted by Chinese authorities to take a holy dip in Lake Mansarovar.

ETV Bharat

[Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Pilgrims Denied Holy Dip In Lake Mansarovar, Flag Toilet Shortage Along Parikrama Route](#)

Pilgrims returning from the yatra have raised concerns over inadequate toilet facilities along the Kailash parikrama route, particularly at...



Geographical Importance

- Lake Mansarovar is a freshwater lake located in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.
- It lies at an altitude of about 4,590 metres, making it one of the world's highest freshwater lakes.
- It covers an area of approximately 410 sq. km.
- It is connected to the saltwater Lake Rakshastal through the Ganga Chhu channel.



Religious and Hydrological Significance

- The lake is sacred in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Bon traditions.
- Mount Kailash lies to the north, while Gurla Mandata (7,694 m) is the highest nearby peak.
- The Kailash-Mansarovar region forms the source area of the Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo) and the Karnali, a major tributary of the Ganga.
- The lake has exceptionally clear water with visibility reaching nearly 14 metres.

Chenab River

Hindustan Times

'Baseless': India rejects reports of 'deliberate' flooding as water level rises in Chenab; cites Pak's weather advisory.
India News



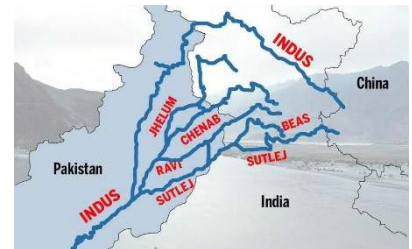
MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal added that Pakistan had itself earlier attributed the high water levels in the Chenab River to heavy...

Why in News

- India rejected reports linking recent flooding in the **Chenab River** to dam releases, stating that heavy monsoon rainfall caused the increase in water levels.

About Chenab river

- The **Chenab** is a major **tributary of the Indus River**.
- It originates from the confluence of the **Chandra** and **Bhaga** rivers in **Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh**.
- In its upper reaches, the river is known as **Chandrabhaga**.
- It flows through **Himachal Pradesh** and the **Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir** before entering Pakistan.



Hydrological Features

- Major left-bank tributaries include **Niru, Neeru, Tawi and Liddrari**.
- Major right-bank tributaries include **Ans, Bhut Nalla, Bichleri, Kalnai, Marusudar and Miyar Nalla**.
- Important dams on the river include **Salal, Aalal, Baglihar and Dul**.

Strategic Importance

- The waters of the **Chenab River** are governed by the **Indus Waters Treaty (1960)** between **India and Pakistan**.
- After receiving the **Jhelum River** near **Trimmu**, the Chenab eventually joins the **Sutlej River** in Pakistan.

Portfolio Management Service (PMS)

 The Indian Express

Overhaul of portfolio management services: What SEBI has proposed and what it means for investors

SEBI has proposed major reforms to portfolio management services, including overseas investments, a mutual fund-only PMS and eased...



Why in News

- SEBI has proposed a comprehensive review of the SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020 to modernise the regulatory framework governing Portfolio Management Services (PMS).

Regulatory Framework

- Portfolio Management Service (PMS) is a professional investment service regulated under the SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020.
- It enables a qualified portfolio manager to manage investments in equity, debt and other securities on behalf of clients.
- Only companies, corporate entities and LLPs registered with SEBI can legally provide PMS in India.



Operational Features

- SEBI has prescribed a minimum investment of ₹50 lakh per client, making PMS a product primarily for High Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs).
- Discretionary PMS authorises the portfolio manager to take all investment decisions independently.
- Non-Discretionary PMS allows the manager to advise, while the investor makes the final investment decisions.
- Advisory PMS offers only investment advice, with execution remaining entirely with the investor.

Governance and Investor Protection

- Every PMS provider must obtain **SEBI registration** before commencing operations.
- Providers must furnish periodic disclosures on **portfolio performance, fees and investment risks**.
- Client assets must be held by an **independent custodian** to prevent conflicts of interest.
- Every PMS entity must appoint a **Compliance Officer** to ensure adherence to regulatory requirements.

State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2026 Report

 World Health Organization (WHO)

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026 (SOFI) is the UN system's flagship assessment of global hunger, food insecurity...



Why in News

- The **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2026 Report** was recently released, assessing global progress towards ending hunger and malnutrition.

Institutional Significance

- **SOFI** is the flagship global assessment of hunger, food insecurity and nutrition under the **United Nations** system.
- It is jointly prepared by **FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO**.
- The report monitors progress towards **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-2: Zero Hunger**.

India-related Highlights

- India's undernourished population declined from **21.1% (2004–06)** to **9.8% (2023–25)**.
- The cost of a healthy diet in India has increased by nearly **48% since 2017**, exceeding the corresponding rise in the **United States (32%)**.

Global Findings

- Around **7.8%** of the global population experienced hunger in **2025**.

- Nearly **2.1 billion people** faced moderate or severe food insecurity worldwide.
- Food insecurity continues to disproportionately affect **women, children and rural populations**.
- Global improvements remain insufficient to achieve the **2030 SDG targets**.

BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme

TOI The Times of India

BHAVYA Rasayan scheme: Cabinet approves Rs 3,030 crore for three chemical parks

The Union cabinet on Friday approved a new Rs 3,030-crore scheme to establish three dedicated chemical parks across the country,...



Why in News

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) Scheme** for establishing dedicated chemical parks across India.

Industrial Significance

- The scheme aims to establish three dedicated Chemical Parks across the country.
- It seeks to strengthen the entire chemical value chain, including upstream, downstream and ancillary industries.
- The scheme will be implemented during **FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31**.

Financial Architecture

- The total financial outlay is **₹3,030 crore**.

Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) Scheme

Cabinet approves BHAVYA – Rasayan Scheme for establishing 3 dedicated Chemical Parks in the country

Total financial outlay: **₹ 3,030 crore**

Scheme will run for a period of 5 years from **FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31**

Parks to provide **plug-and-play infrastructure**, in the form of Common Infrastructure Facilities and Basic Utilities for the chemical industry

Each such park will have a minimum contiguous area of **8 sq. km.** (minimum 2,000 acres) of encumbrance-free land

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- ₹3,000 crore is earmarked for common infrastructure, while ₹30 crore is allocated for administrative expenditure.
- The Central Government will provide up to ₹1,000 crore per chemical park.
- Each participating State Government must contribute at least ₹500 crore.

Infrastructure and Governance

- States will be selected through a challenge-based selection process.
- Each chemical park must have at least 2,000 acres (8 sq. km.) of contiguous encumbrance-free land.
- Parks will provide plug-and-play infrastructure for chemical industries.
- Common facilities include CETPs, TSDFs, solvent recovery units, steam networks, interconnected pipelines, logistics and warehousing infrastructure.

Other Important News of the day

Places in
News

Spain

Why in News

- Massive forest fires near **Madrid (Spain)** and **Bordeaux (France)** recently led to the evacuation of over **1.66 lakh people**, highlighting the growing impact of climate-induced wildfires.

Geographical Profile

- **Spain** is located on the **Iberian Peninsula** in **Southwestern Europe**.



	• It shares land borders with Portugal, France, Andorra, and the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar. • It is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, and the Bay of Biscay. • The capital city is Madrid. Physical Features • The Pyrenees Mountains form a natural barrier between Spain and France. • The Meseta Central is the country's vast interior plateau. • Major rivers include the Tagus (Tajo), shared with Portugal, and the Ebro, which drains into the Mediterranean Sea. • The Tabernas Desert (Andalusia) is the only true desert in mainland Europe. • The Strait of Gibraltar separates Spain from Morocco.
Environment	Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary Why in News • Camera traps recently confirmed the return of the Dhole (<i>Cuon alpinus</i>) to Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam. Key Facts • Located in Udalguri and Baksa districts of Assam, along the Eastern Himalayan foothills, forming part of the Indo-Bhutan transboundary landscape. • Named after the Bornadi River; the Nalapara River marks its eastern boundary.

- Established in **1980** to conserve the Hispid Hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*) and Pygmy Hog (*Porcula salvania*).
- Vegetation includes **tropical semi-evergreen, moist deciduous, and dry deciduous forests**.



Imp Pointers

- Flagship species:** Pygmy Hog and Hispid Hare.
- Other fauna:** Royal Bengal Tiger, Asiatic Elephant, Indian Bison (Gaur), Hog Deer, Wild Boar, and Dhole (Endangered, IUCN).
- Important flora:** *Alstonia scholaris*, *Mesua ferrea*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Garuga pinnata*, and *Bischofia javanica*.

Defence

Bhargavastra Counter-Swarm Drone System



ANI News

Solar Defence and Aerospace Ltd demonstrates indigenous 'Bhargavastra' counter-swarm drone system

Developed entirely in India, Bhargavastra is designed as a cost-effective hard-kill solution capable of neutralising both individual drones...



Why in News

- Indigenous Bhargavastra counter-swarm drone system was demonstrated by Solar Defence and Aerospace Ltd. (SDAL) on **24 July 2026**.

	Key Features • Vehicle-mounted hard-kill system developed under Make-II for the Indian Army. • Dual-layer interception: Micro-rockets (20 m lethal radius) and guided micro-missiles (2.5 km range). • Detects large UAVs up to 10 km and small drones up to 6 km. • Integrates Radar, EO/IR sensors, passive RF detectors, and C4I for real-time engagement. • Will support the proposed Sudarshan Chakra layered air defence system.  • Make-II: Industry-funded prototype under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP). • EO/IR: Electro-Optical/Infrared sensors. • C4I: Command, Control, Communications, Computers & Intelligence.
Miscellaneous	Rajasthan State Water Plan 2047  The Times of India Water Plan 2047 to drive Raj's push for water security, says CM Jaipur: Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma Friday said the Rajasthan State Water Plan 2047 will guide the state's long-term strategy for water...  Why in News • Rajasthan launched the Rajasthan State Water Plan 2047 (24 July 2026) for river-linking, groundwater conservation, and participatory water management. Key Highlights • Rajasthan, India's largest state by area, relies on canals, groundwater recharge, and rainwater harvesting.

- **Indira Gandhi Canal Project** is the state's major irrigation and drinking water source.
- **Ramjal Setu Link Project:** Water to **17 districts** and irrigation for **4.84 lakh ha**.
- **Yamuna Water Agreement (2026):** **1,917 cusecs** through a 295-km pipeline to **Shekhawati (Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Churu)**.
- **AMRUT 2.0, Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana, and Jal Sanrakshan Abhiyan (2026)** strengthen urban water supply, rural tap water, groundwater conservation, and rainwater harvesting.

Important Pointers

- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** Launched in **2019**.
- **AMRUT:** *Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation.*
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana:** Community-based groundwater management programme.
- **1 cusec = 1 cubic foot of water per second.**

Uttar Pradesh in News

Rani Laxmi Bai Scooty Yojana

 mint हिन्दी

Free Scooty Scheme: उत्तर प्रदेश की बेटियों को योगी सरकार दे रही फ्री स्कूटी, जानिए कौन और कैसे उठा सकता है लाभ

यूपी सरकार ने रानी लक्ष्मीबाई स्कूटी योजना बनाई है जिसमें मेधावी छात्राओं को मुफ्त स्कूटर प्रदान किया जाएगा। विशेष प्राथमिकता दिव्यांग, शहीद परिवारों और निराश्रित बेटियों को मिलेगी। इस योजना के लिए 400 करोड़ रुपये...



Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** approved the **Rani Laxmi Bai Scooty Yojana** to promote **women's empowerment and higher education**.

Key Features

- ₹400 crore allocated for the scheme.
- Free scooties for the top 5% meritorious girl students graduating in 2025–26 from universities and colleges in Uttar Pradesh.
- For beneficiaries with annual family income below ₹12 lakh, the government will bear registration, insurance, and provide 5 litres of petrol.
- Scooties will be procured through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- No merit criterion for daughters of persons with disabilities, destitute women, and martyrs.
- Covers students of state/private universities, government, aided, and self-financed colleges.
- Aims to improve access to higher education, mobility, and self-reliance among women.

Other Important UP Cabinet Decisions

- **Research Centres:** ₹1 crore fixed deposit grant for eligible universities under NEP 2020 to promote the Indian Knowledge Tradition.
- **Women's Hostels:** Approved a 112-bed hostel at Basant Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Varanasi, and land for a 500-bed CM Shramik Mahila Hostel.
- **Vindhya Expressway:** Approved 333-km, 6-lane (expandable to 8-lane) expressway connecting Prayagraj, Bhadohi, Mirzapur, and Sonbhadra.
- **Vindhya–Purvanchal Spur Link:** Approved 117-km Greenfield expressway connecting Ghazipur, Mirzapur, and Chandauli.
- Approved 220 new buses, including electric buses, and procurement of modern firefighting equipment.