SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

25-11-2026

The Ganga Water Sharing Treaty (1996)

The Indian Express

Ganga Water Treaty: Will the 1996 pact be renewed? Where India, Bangladesh stand

The Ganga Water Sharing Treaty expires on December 12, 2026, raising questions over renewal, water allocation and India-Bangladesh...



Why in News?

- India and Bangladesh held their **91st Joint Committee meeting in Dhaka** ahead of the treaty's expiry on **12 December 2026**, discussing its renewal.

Historical Background

- Signed on **12 December 1996** in New Delhi by **H. D. Deve Gowda and Sheikh Hasina** for 30 years, renewable by mutual consent.
- It governs lean-season Ganga water sharing at **Farakka Barrage (Murshidabad, West Bengal)** from **1 January to 31 May**.
- The dispute arose from India's diversion of Ganga water towards the **Hooghly River** to maintain Kolkata Port's navigability.
- Temporary agreements in **1977, 1982 and 1985** preceded the treaty.
- It is the only formal water-sharing treaty among the **54 transboundary rivers** shared by India and Bangladesh.

Water Allocation Mechanism

- The treaty follows a three-tier formula based on average flows during **1949–1988**.

Water Availability	Allocation
70,000 cusecs or less	India and Bangladesh: 50% each
70,000–75,000 cusecs	Bangladesh: 35,000 cusecs; India: balance
75,000 cusecs or more	India: 40,000 cusecs; Bangladesh: balance

- Both countries receive **35,000 cusecs each** during three alternating 10-day periods between **11 March and 10 May**.
- **Article II:** Provides for immediate consultations based on equity and the no-harm principle when flows fall below 50,000 cusecs.
- **Article XII:** Provides for treaty validity and renewal through mutual consent.

Institutional Mechanism and Implications

- A **Joint Committee** monitors flows at Farakka and **Hardinge Bridge (Bangladesh)**; unresolved disputes may be referred to the **Joint Rivers Commission (JRC)**.

- Non-renewal may affect Bangladesh's **agriculture, dry-season water security and Sundarbans ecology**.
- Renegotiation could address irrigation, drinking water and siltation concerns of **Bihar and West Bengal**, while testing India's **Neighbourhood First Policy**.

The SAMPADA Survey (2023–2025)

www.pib.gov.in

ICMR's SAMPADA survey shows lower prevalence of anaemia compared to previous national surveys

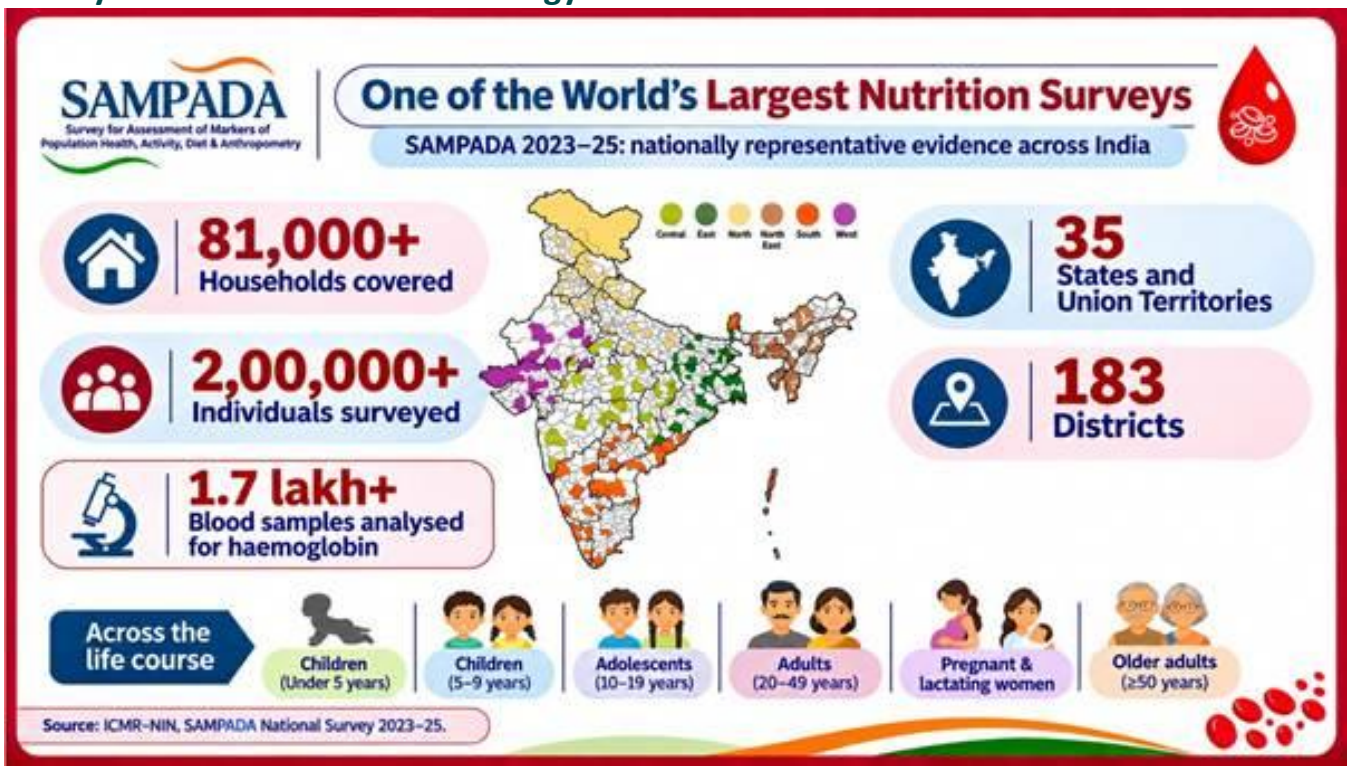
ICMR's SAMPADA survey shows lower prevalence of anaemia compared to previous national surveys. Severe anaemia below 2% across most age...



Why in News?

- **ICMR** released SAMPADA Survey findings indicating a decline in anaemia prevalence compared with earlier national surveys.

Survey Framework and Methodology



- **SAMPADA:** Survey for Assessment of Markers of Population Health, Activity, Diet and Anthropometry.
- Conducted by **ICMR**, including **National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)**, under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- Assesses anaemia, micronutrient deficiencies, inflammation, diet, physical activity and anthropometric indicators.
- Covered **2 lakh individuals, 81,000 households, 183 districts and 35 States/UTs**, analysing approximately **1.7 lakh venous blood samples**.
- Unlike **NFHS-5**, it used venous blood samples instead of capillary samples to improve anaemia assessment.

Major Findings

- Anaemia among children aged **12–59 months declined from 67.1% (NFHS-5) to 42%**.
- Prevalence stands at **56% among reproductive-age women, 46% among adolescent girls and 22–23% among adolescent boys and adult men**.
- **Less than 2%** of individuals across most age groups suffer from severe anaemia.
- Nearly half of anaemia cases among women, adolescent girls and children are associated with **iron deficiency**.
- Vitamin B12 and folate deficiencies show similar prevalence among anaemic and non-anaemic individuals, indicating their limited contribution to overall anaemia burden.
- Iron deficiency is concentrated among **under-five children, adolescent girls and reproductive-age women**.

Policy Significance

- The survey provides the **first nationally representative anaemia baseline for older adults**.
- Its findings can strengthen targeted, life-cycle interventions and the test-and-treat approach under **Anaemia Mukt Bharat 2.0**.

2026 Tata Transformation Prize

The Hindu

IISc professor among winners of 2026 Tata Transformation Prize

An Indian Institute of Science (IISc) professor is among the winners of the 2026 Tata Transformation Prize, which was announced on Monday by...



Why in News?

- The **New York Academy of Sciences and Tata Sons** announced three Indian winners of the **2026 Tata Transformation Prize** on 23 November 2026.

Award Categories and Winners

Category	Awardee and Institution	Recognised Research

Food Security	**Lakshminarayana Rao**, IISc	Plasma-activated water as an alternative to chemical nitrogen fertilisers.
Sustainability	**Amol Kulkarni**, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory	Solvent-free manufacturing of dyes, zeolites and pharmaceuticals using screw reactors.
Healthcare	**Colin Jamora**, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence	Hair follicle stem cells for treating diabetic foot ulcers.

Prize Features and Scientific Facts

- Each winner receives **₹2 crore** to advance research and its practical applications.
- Winners were selected from **217 nominations across 19 Indian states** by an international jury; the award ceremony is scheduled in Mumbai in December 2026.
- **Plasma-Activated Water (PAW):** Contains reactive oxygen and nitrogen species and generally has lower pH and higher electrical conductivity than untreated water.
- **Hair Follicle Stem Cells:** Located in the **bulge region of the outer root sheath**, they contribute to hair regeneration and epidermal wound healing.

India to Establish Offshore IIT Campus in Nepal

The Indian Express

IIT in Nepal: India to set up offshore campus, startup and innovation hub

India will establish an offshore campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Nepal and set up a startup incubator and innovation...



Why in News?

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi announced on 23 November 2026** that India will establish an offshore **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus in Nepal**.

India–Nepal Educational Cooperation

- The announcement followed talks with Nepalese Prime Minister **Balendra Shah** during his first bilateral visit to India (22–23 November 2026).
- India also committed to establishing a **startup incubator and innovation hub** and expanding scholarships for Nepali students in law and technology.
- These initiatives form part of the Joint Vision Document titled **"Viksit Bharat and Samunnat Nepal: Reimagining the Partnership"**.

Offshore IIT Campuses and Institutional Facts

- Nepal will become the third country outside India to host an offshore IIT campus.
- **IIT Madras:** Established an offshore campus in **Zanzibar, Tanzania (2023)**.
- **IIT Delhi:** Established an offshore campus in **Abu Dhabi, UAE (2024)**.

- The Nepal campus's location and operational model remained undecided as of 24 November 2026.
- Under the **Institutes of Technology Act, 1961**, IITs are recognised as **Institutions of National Importance**.
- The **IIT Council** provides coordination among IITs, while individual IITs have academic senates responsible for academic policies.

Welopōʻai: Triple-Star System with Two White Dwarfs

Moneycontrol.com

Astronomers discover mysterious triple star system just 28 light-years from earth; Red Dwarf's survival...

Astronomers discover Welopōʻai, a rare triple star system 28 light-years from Earth, where a red dwarf survived alongside two white dwarfs,...



Why in News?

- Astronomers identified **Welopōʻai**, a triple-star system located approximately **28 light-years from Earth**, containing a red dwarf and two white dwarfs.
- The findings were published in *Astronomy & Astrophysics* on **19 November 2026**.

Discovery and Orbital Characteristics

- The international research team was led by the **Trottier Institute for Research on Exoplanets, Université de Montréal**, with **Étienne Artigau** as lead author.
- The system was initially investigated using **SPIRou** at the Canada–France–Hawaii Telescope and confirmed through **Gemini North's 'Alopeke instrument**.
- It is the closest known triple-star system containing two white dwarfs.
- The inner pair (red dwarf and white dwarf) completes an orbit in **9.83 years**, at approximately **4.64 AU**.
- The second white dwarf orbits the inner pair at a projected distance of approximately **124 AU**.

Stellar Characteristics and Scientific Significance

- The newly measured white dwarf has a mass of **0.618 solar masses**, while the red dwarf has a mass of **0.419 solar masses**.
- The system's estimated age is **9–11 billion years**.
- **White Dwarfs:** Stellar remnants supported against gravitational collapse by **electron degeneracy pressure**, rather than nuclear fusion.
- **Hierarchical Triple Systems:** Require sufficient separation between the outer star and inner binary for orbital stability.

- **Kozai–Lidov Cycles:** Gravitational interactions with a distant third star can periodically alter the inclination and eccentricity of an inner binary, potentially triggering mergers.

Australia Becomes Solomon Islands' Primary Security Partner

DW.com

Australia and Solomon Islands sign a new security pact in setback for China



Australia will become the Solomon Islands' primary security partner, while the archipelago will reject any foreign power trying to...

Why in News?

- Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** and Solomon Islands Prime Minister **Matthew Wale** signed a bilateral security treaty in Canberra on **25 November 2026**, recognising Australia as the Solomon Islands' primary security partner.

Treaty Provisions and Financial Assistance

- The treaty restricts the establishment of **foreign military or security bases** in the Solomon Islands and seeks to protect sensitive infrastructure from militarisation and foreign interference.
- The Solomon Islands must consult Australia before entering critical infrastructure or security cooperation agreements with countries outside the **Pacific Islands Forum**.
- Australia committed an additional **A$740 million over 10 years**, comprising A$670 million in grants and A$70 million in loans.
- Cooperation also covers infrastructure, education, renewable energy, policing, sports and visa arrangements.

China and Indo-Pacific Security

- The Solomon Islands indicated that it would not renew its **2022 security pact with China**, which is due to expire in April 2027; however, Prime Minister Wale did not publicly confirm non-renewal.
- The 2022 agreement provided for Chinese police trainers in Honiara.
- The development reflects Australia's efforts to strengthen its strategic presence and limit external security influence in the **South Pacific region**.

Important Regional Organisations and Treaties

- **Biketawa Declaration (2000):** Pacific Islands Forum framework for responding to regional political crises and facilitating collective assistance.

- **Treaty of Rarotonga (1985):** Establishes the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone and restricts nuclear explosive devices and testing within its zone; it does not generally prohibit conventional military bases.
- **Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG):** Comprises **Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia's FLNKS** and promotes subregional cooperation.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Portugal

DD India

India and Portugal review bilateral ties, set sights on five-year roadmap for 2027-2032



India and Portugal on Thursday reviewed the full range of their bilateral relations and agreed to deepen cooperation across key sectors,...

Why in News?

- India and Portugal reviewed their bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to finalising a **Five-Year Roadmap for India–Portugal Relations (2027–2032)**.

Geographical Location and Political Features

- Portugal is located on the **Iberian Peninsula** and is the westernmost country of mainland Europe.
- It shares its only land border with **Spain** to the north and east.
- It is bounded by the **North Atlantic Ocean** to the west and south.
- Its capital is **Lisbon**.
- Portugal administers two autonomous Atlantic archipelagos: **Madeira and the Azores**.

Physical Geography and Natural Resources

- The **Tagus River** flows westward into the Atlantic Ocean and divides the country into mountainous northern regions and rolling southern plains.
- **Ponta do Pico (Pico Alto)**, located in the Azores, is the highest point of Portugal.
- Portugal experiences a predominantly **Mediterranean-type climate**, with hot summers and temperate winters.
- Important mineral resources include **iron ore, copper, zinc, tin, tungsten, silver, gold and uranium**, along with marble, clay and gypsum.



Defence

Exercise Suryakiran

DW. Defence Watch

India and Nepal begin 20th edition of joint military exercise 'SURYAKIRAN' in Nepal



India and Nepal have commenced the 20th edition of their joint military exercise, SURYAKIRAN, at the Nepal Army Battle School in Saljhandi,...

Why in News?

- India and Nepal are set to conduct the **20th edition of Exercise Suryakiran**, their joint bilateral military exercise.

Defence Cooperation Framework

	➢ **Exercise Suryakiran** is an annual bilateral military exercise conducted between the **Indian Army and Nepal Army**. ➢ It is hosted alternately by India and Nepal. ➢ Its objective is to strengthen military cooperation and deepen the defence partnership between the two neighbouring countries. **Operational Significance** ➢ The exercise enhances **interoperability, operational coordination and joint training capabilities**. ➢ It enables both armies to exchange operational experiences and improve coordination in military operations. ➢ Its tagline is **"Two Nations. One Mission. An Enduring Bond."**

Uttar Pradesh in News

Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary

Rediff.com

Man killed in leopard attack in UP's Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary

A 45-year-old man was killed in a leopard attack in the Sujauli area of the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich...



Why in News?

- A man was recently killed in a leopard attack in the **Sujauli area of Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary**, located in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh.

Geographical Location and Protected Area Status

- Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the **Terai belt of the Upper Gangetic Plains** in Bahraich district, Uttar Pradesh, near the Indo-Nepal border.
- It covers an area of approximately **400 sq. km**.
- It was brought under **Project Tiger in 1987**.
- Along with **Dudhwa National Park and Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary**, it forms the **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**.

Ecological Features and Vegetation

- Its vegetation comprises **grasslands, mixed deciduous forests and moist deciduous forests**.

- Important tree species include **Sal, teak and jamun**.
- The sanctuary also supports several medicinal plant species.

Biodiversity and Wildlife Corridors

- Important fauna include **tiger, leopard, one-horned rhinoceros, gharial, Gangetic dolphin, swamp deer, hispid hare and Bengal florican**.
- It also supports **white-backed vultures and long-billed vultures**.
- The **Gairwa River**, a tributary of the Ghaghara River, flows through the sanctuary and supports gharials, muggers, freshwater turtles and fish.
- The river is recognised for its gharial and mugger conservation significance.
- The sanctuary provides an important transboundary ecological corridor connecting **Dudhwa and Kishanpur tiger habitats in India with Bardia National Park in Nepal**.
- It is among the important habitats of the **Gangetic river dolphin**, India's National Aquatic Animal.