

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

25-09-2026

Rangee River

TI Telegraph India

River as guest of honour at Sikkim festival celebrating Rangee and conservation

The Sikkim Anglers' Association (SAA), which is celebrating its silver jubilee this year, will organise the first Chirbirey River Fest on...



Why in News

- A **three-day river festival** is being organised near **Jorethang, Sikkim**, combining catch-and-release fishing, river conservation, adventure tourism and local culture.

Geographical Setting

- The **Rangee (Rangit)** is a major tributary of the **Teesta River**, the largest river system in Sikkim.
- It originates from a **glacier of Mount Kabru** in the lower **Kanchenjunga** region and flows through the Himalayan terrain of Sikkim.
- The river joins the **Teesta at Teesta Bazaar** near the Sikkim–West Bengal boundary after flowing past **Pelling, Jorethang and Legship**.
- In its final stretch, the Rangee forms part of the boundary between **Sikkim and Darjeeling district of West Bengal**.

Hydropower Infrastructure

- The **Rangee Dam** began operation in **2000** and has an installed capacity of **60 MW**.
- The dam is a **45-metre-high concrete gravity structure** with a length of about **100 metres**.

mBridge Project

FT Financial Times

Saudi Arabia quits China-led cross-border currency platform

Saudi Arabia has withdrawn from a Beijing-led digital currency programme that is part of China's efforts to develop an alternative...

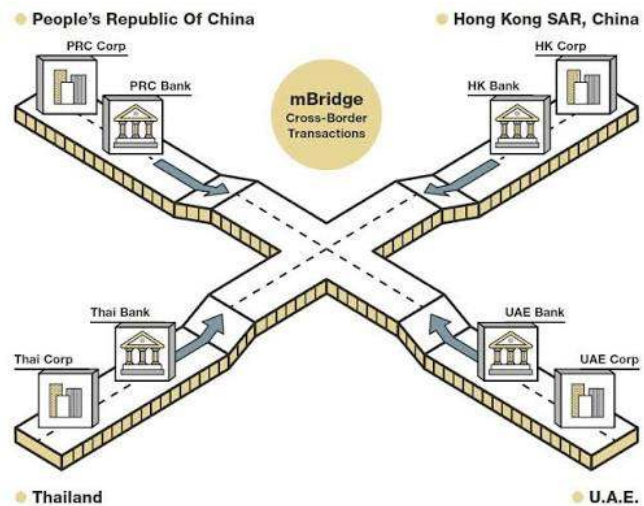


Why in News

- Saudi Arabia exited the China-led mBridge digital-currency project in 2025**, stating that the withdrawal was consistent with its original plan.

Institutional Architecture

- **mBridge** is a cross-border payment platform designed to enable central banks to transact directly using **Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs)**.
- It was launched in **2021** by the **BIS Innovation Hub**, Bank of Thailand, Central Bank of the UAE, Digital Currency Institute of the **People's Bank of China** and **Hong Kong Monetary Authority**.
- China has been associated with the project from its inception through the **Digital Currency Institute of the People's Bank of China**, contributing to its description as a China-led initiative.



Technology and Operational Mechanism

- The platform uses **Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)**, including blockchain-based technology, to facilitate cross-border settlement.
- Participating institutions operate **validating nodes** that maintain the shared digital record of transactions.
- The model enables transactions to be settled through a shared platform rather than passing through multiple intermediary banks.

Cross-Border Payment Significance

- mBridge seeks to address **high costs, slow transaction speeds and operational complexities** associated with conventional international payments.
- It could reduce dependence on **correspondent banking** and potentially reduce the need for the **US dollar as an intermediary currency** in some transactions.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya–Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Rural Development** is scheduled to roll out **DDU-GKY 2.0 training batches** across most States and Union Territories from **October 2026**.

DD News

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana 2.0: How India is reshaping rural skilling from training to sustainable employment

Equipping rural youth with industry-relevant skills, connecting them with employment opportunities and helping them remain in work for...



Scheme Architecture

- **DDU-GKY** is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** launched on **25 September 2014** under the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission**.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development** is the nodal ministry, and the scheme provides **placement-linked skill training** to poor rural youth.
- The primary target group comprises rural youth aged **15–35 years** from poor households.
- Mandatory social-inclusion coverage includes **50% SC/ST candidates, 33% women and 5% persons with disabilities**.

DDU-GKY 2.0

- The Government notified **DDU-GKY 2.0 Guidelines in May 2025**, aligning training with industry requirements across sectors such as aerospace, agriculture, healthcare, textiles and green jobs.
- **Roshni** provides residential skill training in **Left-Wing Extremism-affected districts** and has been extended to Aspirational Districts.
- **Himayat** is a special DDU-GKY programme for **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh**, supporting wage, self and gig employment and receiving **100% central funding**.

Regional and Special Provisions

- **10% of the total DDU-GKY allocation is earmarked for the North-Eastern States** to address their distinctive geographical challenges.
- **Special Area Allowance** provides implementing agencies an additional **10% of the base training cost per candidate** in hard-to-reach areas.

Etruscan Civilization

 Live Science

Archaeologists discover 'tomb of the very highest rank' in 2,700-year-old Etruscan cemetery

Archaeologists have discovered a massive Etruscan burial mound with a vast assortment of grave goods north of Rome.



Why in News

- Archaeologists have discovered a **2,700-year-old monumental tomb at Vulci**, an important ancient Etruscan settlement north of Rome.

Geographical and Historical Setting

- The **Etruscans**, also called **Tyrrhenians**, constituted a pre-Roman Mediterranean civilization that flourished mainly between the **8th and 3rd centuries BCE**.

- Their territory, known as **Etruria or Tuscya**, occupied central Italy and was bounded by the **Tyrrhenian Sea, Arno River and Tiber River**.
- Etruria consisted of a **confederation of twelve city-states**, each retaining considerable political and administrative autonomy.

Economic and Cultural Contributions

- Etruscan prosperity was supported by **metal resources, fertile agricultural land and maritime trade**, with substantial iron reserves in the western Mediterranean.
- They developed advanced architectural techniques involving the **arch and vault** and pioneered urban settlements based on **grid planning**.
- Etruscan society was noted for elaborate burial traditions, distinctive art and comparatively greater social status of women than in several contemporary cultures.
- Their strong navy enabled them to exercise maritime influence along the **western Italian coast**.

Legacy in Roman Civilization

- Etruscan influence contributed significantly to the development of **early Rome**, including aspects of government, religion and urban planning.
- The civilization declined from the **5th century BCE** as Etruscan territories were progressively absorbed by the expanding **Roman Republic**.

National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions

TH The Hindu

How will new NCAHP regulations impact allied and healthcare professionals? | Explained

Under the new regulations, all allied and healthcare professionals spanning 57 vocations, will soon have to register in the State and...



Why in News

- The **National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP)** has notified the **Registration of Allied and Healthcare Professionals Regulations, 2026**.

Statutory Framework

- The NCAHP is a **statutory body established under the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** and seeks to establish national standards for allied healthcare professionals.



- The framework covers **57 allied and healthcare professions** grouped into **10 broad recognised categories**.

Regulatory Functions

- The Commission establishes standards for the **evaluation of educational institutions and training programmes** in allied healthcare.
- It oversees **registration, training and accreditation** of allied healthcare practitioners.
- It promotes **continuous professional development** so that practitioners can update their skills in line with advances in healthcare.
- It also supports **research, development and adoption of scientific advancements** in allied healthcare.

Technology Development Fund Scheme



ANI News

DRDO inks first high-value deep tech project agreement with a start-up under TDF scheme

DRDO has signed its first high-value Technology Development Fund agreement with Zero mK India Pvt Ltd for indigenous development of a 20 mK...



Why in News

- The **DRDO** has signed its first high-value deep-tech project agreement under the **Technology Development Fund (TDF)** for indigenous development of a **dilution refrigerator**.

Institutional Framework

- The **Technology Development Fund** was established to promote **self-reliance in defence technology** under the **Make in India** initiative.
- The **Ministry of Defence** is the nodal ministry, while the **DRDO** executes the scheme.
- The scheme particularly encourages **MSMEs, startups and private industries** to develop cutting-edge defence and aerospace technologies.

Financial and Project Parameters

- The maximum development period under the scheme is **four years**.
- Projects costing up to **₹50 crore** may be considered for funding, with support of up to **90% of the total project cost**.

Eligibility Framework

- Eligible entities include Indian companies, partnership firms, LLPs, one-person companies and sole proprietorships, with particular emphasis on **MSMEs and startups**.
- The industry must be owned and controlled by a **resident Indian citizen**, while entities with more than **49% foreign investment** are ineligible.
- Startups must be recognised by **DPIIT**, and nascent startups incorporated for less than three years must be incubated at a government-assisted incubator.
- A startup must have at least **51% ownership by a resident Indian citizen** and cannot have received government grants for similar technology.

Other Important News of the day

Environment

Tokay Gecko



DRI seizes 86 live Tokay Geckos in Assam in a crackdown on wildlife trafficking; two arrested

Acting on specific intelligence regarding an illegal wildlife trade deal, officers of DRI, intercepted two persons at Bandar Chalia Gaon...



Why in News

- The **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence** intercepted two persons in **Mariani, Assam**, and seized **86 live Tokay Geckos**.

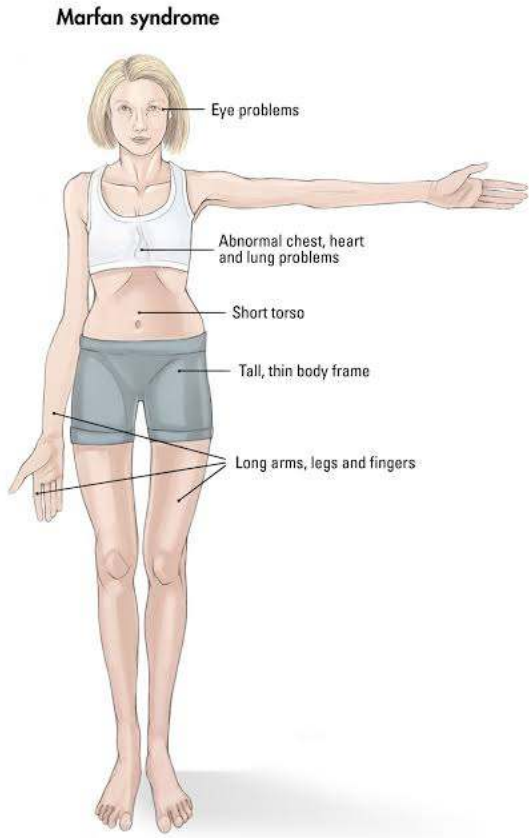
Taxonomy and Distribution

- The **Tokay Gecko (Gekko gekko)** is a large **arboreal lizard** and one of the largest gecko species.
- It occurs across **South-East and East Asia**, inhabiting tropical rainforests, rock crevices and human-modified environments.
- Two colour variants are recognised in the source: **red-spotted and black-spotted** forms.

Ecological and Behavioural Features

- Tokay geckos are generally **solitary and nocturnal**, with males displaying strong territorial behaviour.
- They are **carnivorous insectivores** that feed mainly on insects and small vertebrates.
- They use their nostrils and tongue to collect scent particles and transfer them to the **Jacobson's organ**, aiding chemical sensing.
- The species can shed its tail as a **defensive mechanism** and uses vocal calls for communication and defence.

	Conservation Status - The IUCN Red List classifies the Tokay Gecko as Least Concern. - It is listed in CITES Appendix II and under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
Defence	Exercise VARUNA  News On AIR <u>INS Trishul reaches Toulon for 24th India-France maritime exercise VARUNA</u> INS Trishul has arrived at Toulon in France to participate in the 24th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise 'VARUNA' between the...  Why in News INS Trishul reached Toulon, France, to participate in the 24th edition of Exercise VARUNA with the French Navy. Exercise Profile VARUNA is a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and French Navy. - The exercise includes harbour and sea phases, cross-deck visits, operational interactions and sporting engagements. - It facilitates exchange of operational experience, enhances interoperability and promotes mutual understanding between the two navies. India–France Defence Exercises FRINJEX is the joint exercise conducted between the Indian and French Armies. GARUDA is the bilateral exercise conducted between the Indian Air Force and French Air Force. INS Trishul INS Trishul is a front-line Talwar-class guided-missile frigate inducted into the Indian Navy in 2003. - The warship has a displacement/carrying capacity of about 3,700 tonnes, a top speed exceeding 30 knots and an endurance of about 30 days at sea. - INS Trishul became the second Indian warship to incorporate the eight-cell KBSM 3S-14NE Vertical Launcher.

	It was the first Indian warship to upload the BrahMos PJ-10 AShCM, a supersonic anti-ship/anti-surface cruise missile.
Science and Technology	Marfan Syndrome
	Why in News Researchers have published the first molecular characterization of Marfan syndrome in domestic cats, providing a comparative model for studying the disorder.
	Genetic and Biological Basis Marfan syndrome is a hereditary disorder affecting the connective tissue, which supports organs, bones and blood vessels. - It is primarily associated with mutations in the FBN1 gene, which encodes the connective-tissue protein fibrillin-1. Clinical Features - The disorder commonly affects the heart, eyes, blood vessels and bones, with severity varying even within the same family. - Typical features include a tall, thin body, unusually long limbs or digits, chest deformities, crowded teeth, curved spine and myopia. - The major cardiovascular complication is aortic weakness or tearing, which can become life-threatening. Treatment and Management - There is no definitive cure, so treatment focuses on controlling symptoms and preventing complications.  

- Medicines that lower **blood pressure** can reduce stress on the aorta, while some patients require preventive **aortic surgery**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

High-Level Railway Platforms in Uttar Pradesh



The Indian Express

36 railway stations in Uttar Pradesh to get high-level platforms for easier train boarding

North Central Railway is upgrading 36 railway stations in Uttar Pradesh with high-level platforms to make train boarding and alighting...



Why in News

- North Central Railway** is upgrading railway stations in Uttar Pradesh with **high-level platforms** to improve boarding and deboarding, particularly for **senior citizens and Divyangjans**.

Infrastructure Upgrade

- Works have been sanctioned at **39 stations covering 55 platforms**, while tenders have been awarded for **36 stations covering 51 platforms**.
- Work is currently underway at **23 stations covering 26 platforms** under the **Prayagraj Division** of North Central Railway.

Technical Standards

- Under **Broad Gauge** standards, a high-level platform is generally **760–840 mm above rail level**.
- At suburban stations, the platform height may be permitted up to **920 mm**, wherever applicable.

Completion Timeline

- The works are being implemented in phases, with the overall completion target extending up to **December 2027**.