

## SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

26-07-2026

### Tripura Sarinda

 The News Mill

#### Tripura Sarinda musical instrument receives GI tag recognition

The Sarinda, a handcrafted bowed string instrument, is closely linked with the folk music traditions of Tripura's tribal communities and...



### Why in News

- The **GI-tagged Tripura Sarinda** was showcased at **Indi Haat 2026** in **New Delhi**.

### Cultural Significance

- **Tripura Sarinda (Sarinda Uakhrap)** is a traditional **bowed string musical instrument** of Tripura.
- It is closely associated with the **Twiprasa and other indigenous communities** during folk performances.
- It has received the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag.

### Construction and Features

- It is primarily made of **bamboo** with an **oval wooden resonating chamber** covered by thin animal skin.
- The instrument is about **65–70 cm** long with a narrow waist and open upper portion.
- It has **three tuning pegs**, while the strings are made of **metal, Muga silk thread, or animal gut**.
- It is played using a **horsehair bow**, and tuning is achieved by adjusting string tension.

### Regional Linkages

- It is known as **Foli** in several Indian states.
- Similar instruments include the **Sarangi** and **Nepali Sarangi**.
- The **Bodos** call it **Serja/Serenja**.
- Other **GI-tagged products of Tripura** include **Tripura Queen Pineapple, Risa, Pachra (Rignai)** and **Matabari Peda**.

## Mahanadi River

### Why in News

- ONGC has spudded its first deepwater appraisal well in the Mahanadi offshore basin.

 The Economic Times

[ONGC starts drilling first deepwater well in Mahanadi basin under Samudra Manthan mission](#)

ONGC began drilling its first deepwater exploratory well in the Mahanadi offshore basin. This ambitious campaign aims to tap India's vast...



### Geographical Profile

- The Mahanadi is India's third-largest peninsular east-flowing river after the Godavari and Krishna.
- It originates from the Sihawa Hills, Dhamtari district (Chhattisgarh) at about 442 m elevation.
- It has a total length of about 860 km.



### Drainage System

- It flows through Chhattisgarh and Odisha, with smaller basin areas in Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- It forms a large delta near Cuttack before draining into the Bay of Bengal near False Point and Paradip.
- The basin is bounded by the Central India Hills, Eastern Ghats, and Maikal Range.
- It is among India's most active silt-depositing rivers.

### Tributaries and Projects

- Major tributaries include Seonath, Hasdeo, Mand, Ib, Ong, Jonk and Telen rivers.
- Major projects include Hirakud Dam, Gangrel Dam, Hasdeo Bango Dam, Tandula Dam, Kalma Barrage, and Sondur Dam.
- Chilika Lake, a Ramsar Site, receives nearly 61% of its inland inflow from Daya and Bhargabi, distributaries of the Mahanadi.

## Undavalli Caves

 The Times of India

### Undavalli caves come alive as Telugu Mahotsavam draws 12,000 visitors

Andhra Pradesh Telugu Mahotsavam at Undavalli Caves drew 12000+ visitors with poetry, folk arts, music, calligraphy, pottery and AI-led...

### Why in News

- The **Telugu Mahotsavam** commenced at the historic **Undavalli Caves** in **Andhra Pradesh**.

### Historical Importance

- The **Undavalli Caves** are located in **Undavalli village, Guntur district**, overlooking the **Krishna River**.
- They were constructed during the **4th–5th centuries CE** and are associated with the **Gupta period**.
- They later came under the patronage of the **Vishnukundina dynasty (420–620 CE)**.

### Architectural Features

- The caves are carved from **solid sandstone**.
- The largest cave has **four storeys** and houses a massive **reclining Vishnu** sculpture carved from a **single granite block**.
- The third floor contains sculptures of **lions, elephants**, and other decorative motifs.

### Religious Evolution

- The caves originally functioned as a **Buddhist monastery (Vihara)**.
- Buddhist sculptures and monastery cells still survive on the first floor.
- They were later converted into **Hindu temples** dedicated to **Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva**.
- The complex also reflects the historical transition from **Buddhist-Jain traditions** to **Hindu worship**.

## United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

 News On AIR

### India committed to create modern, transparent & compatible legal environment, says EAM S Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar today emphasized India's unwavering commitment to create a modern, transparent and...



### Why in News

- India's External Affairs Minister addressed the 60th anniversary celebrations of UNCITRAL.

### Institutional Profile

- UNCITRAL was established by the UN General Assembly in 1966.
- It is the principal legal body of the United Nations dealing with international trade law.
- India is a founding member.

### Mandate and Functions

- It promotes the harmonisation and unification of international trade laws.
- It develops modern, fair and uniform legal rules governing international commercial transactions.
- It facilitates international trade and investment through legal certainty.

### Membership and Governance

- It comprises 70 member states elected by the UN General Assembly.
- Members serve six-year terms, with half the membership renewed every three years.
- It has five regional groups representing all UN regions.
- It is headquartered in New York, while annual sessions are held alternately in Vienna.

## Sarnath

PIB

### "Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath" Inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List

Today, in a remarkable decision taken at the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee being held at Busan, South Korea, India's official...

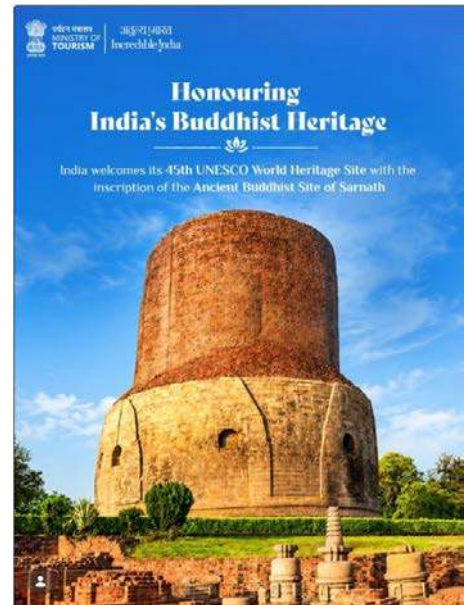


### Why in News

- The **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath** has been inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.

### Religious Significance

- Sarnath**, located in **Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)**, is one of the holiest Buddhist pilgrimage centres.
- It is the place where **Gautama Buddha** delivered his **first sermon (Dharmachakra Pravartan)** after attaining enlightenment.
- Ancient Buddhist texts refer to it as **Rishipattan, Ishipatana, and Mrigadava**.



### World Heritage Value

- It has become **India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site** and **Uttar Pradesh's fourth**.
- The serial property includes **Chaukhandi Stupa** and the **Archaeological Remains of Sarnath**.
- Important monuments include **Dhamekh Stupa, Dharmarajika Stupa, Mulagandhakuti Vihara**, and the **Ashokan Pillar**.

### Historical Evolution

- The site developed through **royal, monastic and lay patronage**.
- It preserves remains from the **5th–4th century BCE** to the **12th century CE**.

- Extensive excavations by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** revealed nearly **16 centuries** of continuous occupation.
- The famous **Sarnath School of Sculpture** is associated with the **Dharmachakra Pravartan Mudra** of Buddha.

## Sone River

Hindustan Times

### [Bihar, Jharkhand set to sign MoU for sharing Sone river waters | India News](#)

New Delhi: Bihar and Jharkhand are set to sign an agreement formalising the sharing of Sone river waters, bringing to a close a dispute that...

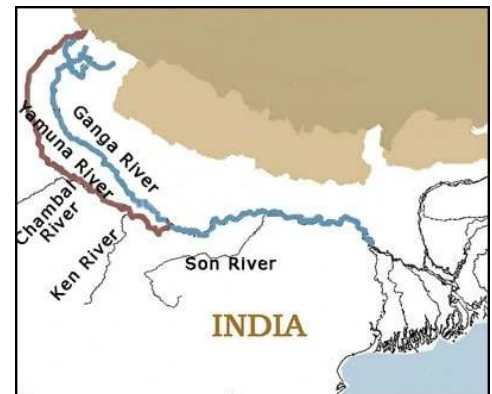


### Why in News

- **Bihar** and **Jharkhand** are set to formalise an agreement on **sharing Sone River waters**.

### River Profile

- The **Sone (Son)** is the largest southern tributary of the **Ganga** after the **Yamuna**.
- It originates from the **Amarkantak Hills** in the **Maikal Range (Madhya Pradesh)**.
- It is a **perennial river** flowing through **Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand** and **Bihar**.



### Course and Tributaries

- It initially flows north-west before turning east near the **Bansagar Reservoir**.
- It flows parallel to the **Kaimur Range** before joining the **Ganga** near **Patna**.
- Major tributaries include **Rihand, Kanhar, North Koel, Gopad, and Banas**.

- The **Sone Valley** is considered a geological continuation of the **Narmada Valley**.

### Water Resource Importance

- Major projects include **Bansagar Dam**, **Rihand Dam**, and **Indrapuri Barrage**.
- The river is important for **irrigation**, **hydropower generation**, and **inter-state water management**.

## ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

 ASEAN Main Portal

### Chair's Statement of the 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum

Chair's Statement of the 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum. July 25, 2026. 33rd-asean-regional-forum. The Thirty-Third Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was...



### Why in News

- India reaffirmed that the **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)** remains an important platform for **Indo-Pacific political and security dialogue**.

### Institutional Framework

- The **ARF** was established in **1994**.
- It is the principal **multilateral security dialogue platform** in the **Indo-Pacific**.
- It functions through **consensus-based decision-making** and dialogue.

### Objectives

- It promotes dialogue on **political and security issues**.
- It supports **confidence-building measures** among member countries.
- It contributes to **preventive diplomacy** and regional stability.

### Membership and Governance

- It has **27 members**, including **11 ASEAN member states**, **10 ASEAN Dialogue Partners**, and other regional participants.

- **India** is an **ASEAN Dialogue Partner** and an active ARF member.
- The **ASEAN Chair** of the respective year serves as the **Chair of the ARF**.

### Other Important News of the day

Places in  
News

#### Appointment of Union Education Minister: Pralhad Joshi



#### Pralhad Joshi Appointed Education Minister After Dharmendra Pradhan Quits



The President's office, after accepting Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, confirmed Pralhad Joshi's appointment in a communique this evening.

#### Why in News

- **Pralhad Joshi** was appointed **Union Education Minister** on **25 July 2026** following the resignation of **Dharmendra Pradhan**.

#### Key Facts

- He assumed charge on **26 July 2026** at **Kartavya Bhavan, New Delhi**.
- He continues to hold the portfolios of **Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and New & Renewable Energy**.
- The **Ministry of Education** oversees school education, higher education, and literacy through two departments.
- It was known as the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)** until 2020.
- Under Article 75 of the Constitution, Union Ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

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|                       | <p><b>Political Profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pralhad Joshi</b> is a five-time BJP MP from Dharwad (Karnataka).</li> <li>• He served as <b>Union Minister for Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs (2019–2024)</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>Places in News</p> | <p style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 5px;"><b>Tanzania</b></p> <p><b>Why in News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>India and Tanzania</b> recently reviewed bilateral cooperation in trade, defence, development partnership and security.</li> </ul> <p><b>Geographical Profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tanzania</b> is located in <b>East Africa</b>, just south of the Equator.</li> <li>• It borders <b>Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique</b>.</li> <li>• It has a coastline along the Indian Ocean.</li> </ul> <p><b>Physical Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dodoma is the legislative capital, while Dar es Salaam is the principal administrative and commercial city.</li> <li>• It has a tropical climate with one long dry season and two rainy seasons.</li> </ul> |



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|                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major lakes include <b>Victoria, Tanganyika</b>, and Nyasa (Malawi).</li> <li>• Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, is located in Tanzania.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resources and Islands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major rivers include <b>Rufiji, Great Ruaha</b>, and Kagera.</li> <li>• Important islands include <b>Zanzibar, Pemba</b>, and <b>Mafia</b>.</li> <li>• It possesses rich reserves of <b>gold, diamonds, tanzanite, nickel, uranium, coal</b>, and natural gas.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Sports</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Viswanathan Anand Becomes Interim FIDE President</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>F.</b> Firstpost</p> <p><u><a href="#">Viswanathan Anand appointed interim FIDE president following Dvorkovich's inclusion on EU sanctions list</a></u></p> <p>Indian chess grandmaster Viswanathan Anand has been appointed as FIDE's interim president after Dvorkovich stepped down upon being named in...</p>  </div> <p><b>Why in News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Viswanathan Anand</b> became the <b>Interim President of FIDE</b> on <b>24 July 2026</b> after <b>Arkady Dvorkovich</b> suspended his duties due to EU and Swiss sanctions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Facts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs)</b> is the <b>global governing body for chess</b>, founded in 1924.</li> <li>• <b>Anand</b> is a <b>five-time World Chess Champion and India's first Grandmaster (1988)</b>.</li> <li>• He was elected <b>FIDE Deputy President in 2022</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>2026 FIDE Presidential Elections</b> will be held in <b>Samarkand, Uzbekistan</b>.</li> </ul> |

## Defence

### Kheybar Shekan Missile

 Defence Security Asia

#### Iran's Kheybar Shekan Missile Evolves in Combat, Testing US-Israeli Air Defences Across the Middle East

Iran is refining Kheybar Shekan missile tactics to challenge Patriot, THAAD and Arrow defences protecting US bases, Israel and the wider...



#### Why in News

- Iran has recently used the Kheybar Shekan missile in complex attacks, highlighting its advanced ballistic missile capabilities.

#### Key Features

- It is Iran's latest long-range solid-fuel ballistic missile and the fourth generation of the Khorramshahr missile family.
- The name "Kheybar Shekan" means "Breaker of Khayber", referring to the Battle of Khayber.
- It is about 4 m long, weighs 1,500 kg, and carries a 550 kg high-explosive warhead.

#### Technological Capabilities

- It uses solid fuel, enabling faster launch, easier storage, and better concealment.
- It is powered by the indigenous Arond engine, integrated into the fuel tank to reduce length.
- It can be launched from a mobile platform and is operational within 15 minutes.
- It follows three flight phases: take-off, mid-course guidance, and precision-guided terminal descent.

#### Strategic Significance

- It has a reported range of about 1,450 km.
- It employs satellite guidance and manoeuvrable warheads for higher accuracy.

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|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It reportedly reaches speeds of Mach 12 (about 19,500 km/h in the atmosphere).</li> <li>• Its aileron-less aerodynamic design lowers radar signature and improves interception avoidance.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>Science<br/>and<br/>Technology</p> | <div style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 5px;"> <h3>INSAT-3DR</h3> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p><small>Jagran Josh</small></p> <p><u><a href="#">What is INSAT-3DR? Know Its Objectives, Features, Applications and Latest Updates</a></u></p> <p><small>What is INSAT-3DR? Learn about INSAT-3DR, ISRO's advanced weather satellite. Explore its objectives, key features, applications,...</small></p> </div> <div style="flex: 0.5; text-align: center;">  </div> </div> </div> <p><b>Why in News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent INSAT-3DR images showed that nearly 60–70% of India's landmass was under cloud cover.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mission Profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INSAT-3DR is an advanced <b>meteorological satellite</b> developed by ISRO.</li> <li>• It was launched on 8 September 2016 by GSLV-F05.</li> <li>• It enhances <b>weather forecasting, cyclone tracking, disaster warning, and environmental monitoring.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Payloads</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It carries an Imaging System and an Atmospheric Sounder.</li> <li>• It also carries a Data Relay Transponder (DRT) and a Search and Rescue Transponder (SART).</li> <li>• It ensures continuity of India's operational meteorological satellite services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Advanced Capabilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It provides <b>half-hourly multispectral images</b> from geostationary orbit.</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It includes middle infrared imaging for night-time cloud and fog detection.</li> <li>• It uses <b>dual thermal infrared bands</b> for improved Sea Surface Temperature (SST) estimation.</li> <li>• It offers higher spatial resolution in visible and thermal infrared bands.</li> </ul> |
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## Uttar Pradesh in News

### UP State Development Initiatives: Etawah & Mainpuri

 Hindustan Times

#### No identity crisis for Etawah, Mainpuri people now: UP CM Yogi | Hindustan Times

Yogi Adityanath praised BJP's crime crackdown for transforming Etawah and Mainpuri, once feared areas, into hubs of respect and development.



### Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for major infrastructure and development projects in **Etawah** and **Mainpuri**.

### Infrastructure & Connectivity

- **Etawah: 128 projects** worth ₹604 crore; **Mainpuri: 111 projects** worth ₹682 crore.
- Major works include the **Signature Bridge** over the **Chambal River (NH-92)**, ₹79 crore **Yamuna Bridge**, and ₹73 crore **Ram Nagar Phatak Overbridge**.
- Road upgradation on **NH-91A** and **NH-92**, along with a **railway overbridge** and a proposed ₹800 crore **railway flyover and bypass**.
- Etawah is strategically located on **NH-19**, the **Delhi-Kolkata railway line**, and the **Bundelkhand Expressway**.

- The proposed linkage of the **Ganga**, **Agra–Lucknow**, and **Bundelkhand Expressways** will strengthen regional connectivity.

### Economic Development

- A **217-acre Integrated Manufacturing and Logistics Cluster (IMLC)** is proposed at **Bharthana** and **Takha**.
- Major industries include **Petroleum** and **Food Processing**.
- **Etawah's ODOP: Textile Products**.

### Public Welfare Initiatives

- Under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**, **₹1,000 crore** projects are underway in **540 villages**, targeting **2.33 lakh households** under **Har Ghar Nal**.
- **Saifai Medical Institute** is being expanded with **500-bed** and **300-bed** hospital blocks.
- Other projects include a **paramedical hostel**, **Cybercrime Administrative Building**, and **Police Lines Transit Hostel**.