SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

26-11-2026

Demwe Lower Hydroelectric Project

Why in News?


India Today NE

69 former bureaucrats urge Centre to scrap 1,750-MW Demwe dam project in Arunachal

A group of 69 former bureaucrats has urged the Union Environment Ministry to scrap the proposed 1750-MW Demwe Lower Hydroelectric Project on...

- **69 former bureaucrats** urged the Union Environment Ministry to scrap the proposed **1,750 MW Demwe Lower Hydroelectric Project** over ecological and geographical concerns.

Environmental Concerns
Major concerns include ecological sensitivity, riverine ecosystems and impacts on local communities.

Geographical and Technical Features

- It is proposed on the **Lohit River**, a major tributary of the **Brahmaputra**, in Arunachal Pradesh, upstream of **Parshuram Kund**.
- It involves a **163.12-metre-high concrete gravity dam** with a crest length of **474.35 metres**.
- Infrastructure includes six diversion tunnels, underground pressure shafts and a surface powerhouse on the river's right bank.
- Its spillway system comprises surface ogee and sluice spillways with multiple gates.

Power Generation and Implementation

- It will have **five 342 MW units and one 40 MW unit**, with a total capacity of **1,750 MW**.
- Expected annual electricity generation is **7,326 million units**.
- It is jointly executed by **Athena Demwe Power Ltd.** and the **Arunachal Pradesh Government**.

Sleep Study Facility and Autism Lab at IIT Madras


DD News

Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava Inaugurates Sleep Study Facility, Autism Lab at IIT Madras

Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava on Sunday inaugurated a sleep study facility and an autism lab at the Indian Institute of...

Why in News?

- Union Health Secretary **Punya Salila Srivastava** inaugurated a Sleep Study Facility and Autism Lab and flagged off an E-cart Ambulance service at **IIT Madras** in November 2026.

Healthcare and Research Facilities

- The **Sleep Study Facility**, established at the Campus Health Centre, provides assessment, consultation and treatment for sleep disorders and supports research.
- The **E-cart Ambulance** provides campus medical assistance, particularly for elderly people and patients requiring transportation.
- The **Autism Lab** studies **Integrated Varmam Therapy** for children with **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** by combining traditional medical knowledge, clinical expertise and technology.
- IIT Madras proposes collaboration with the Paediatric Neurology team at **AIIMS Jodhpur**.

Scientific Research Initiatives

- **C-STROKE** has developed the world's first human ischaemic stroke atlas, containing over **1,000 annotated brain sections**.
- The **National Cancer Tissue Biobank** is a joint initiative of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and IIT Madras for collecting and preserving cancer tissue samples.
- The **Bharat Cancer Genome Atlas**, launched in **February 2025**, aims to develop an India-specific cancer genomic database for early diagnosis and personalised treatment.

Hodeidah Port

The Times of Israel

Yemen's Houthis say they hit two Saudi ports in response to coalition strikes

Iran-backed group claims to target Jeddah and Jazan after Saudi-led forces bombed key Red Sea port of Hodeida, held by rebels; Houthis also...



Why in News?

- Yemen's **Houthi movement** threatened to target Saudi Arabia's Jeddah and other Red Sea ports if Saudi Arabia attacked Hodeidah Port.

Geographical and Historical Significance



- **Hodeidah (Al Hudaydah)** is a major port on Yemen's western coast along the **Red Sea**, within the coastal plain of **Tihāmah**.
- It gained importance during Ottoman expansion in the 1520s and remained under Ottoman suzerainty until **1918**.
- The region was retaken by Yemen in **1925** after its transfer to the Idrīsī rulers of Asir following World War I.
- The modern port was established in **1961** with cooperation from the former Soviet Union.
- The **Houthis captured Hodeidah in 2014**.

Economic Importance

- The port operates **eight berths** handling general cargo, bulk grains and containers.
- Major imports include rice, grains, flour, petroleum, metals, timber and machinery.
- Traditional exports include **coffee, myrrh, sesame oil, hides, dried fruits, seeds and tobacco**.
- It handles approximately **5.7 million tonnes of cargo annually**, including 1 million tonnes of petroleum products.

Strategic Importance

- It is a major entry point for **humanitarian assistance to Yemen** and strategically important for Red Sea maritime security.

SAMAVESH Portal

Why in News?

- The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment is set to launch **SAMAVESH** and the new **e-Anudaan Portal**.

Institutional Framework

- **SAMAVESH** stands for *Single Access Mechanism for All Verticals of Empowerment & Social Harmony*.
- It is developed by the **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment**, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It provides a unified digital gateway for departmental schemes, services and organisational portals.

Digital Integration

- It integrates **20+ departmental portals**, including nine with end-to-end digital workflows.
- It connects with **DigiLocker** and the **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)**.
- A **common login facility** enables access to multiple services through unified authentication.

AI and Accessibility

- **Samajik Sahayak** is an AI-powered chatbot offering assistance in **22+ regional languages**.
- It uses **BHASHINI** integration to improve multilingual access to government services.

Shiveluch Volcano

Why in News?

- Russia's **Shiveluch Volcano** erupted, sending an ash plume approximately **10 km high** and triggering aviation alerts.

Geographical and Geological Features

- It is one of the largest and most active volcanoes on Russia's **Kamchatka Peninsula** and the northernmost active volcano in the region.
- It is approximately **60,000–70,000 years old**, with a summit height of **3,283 metres**.
- It is a **stratovolcano**, consisting of alternating layers of solidified ash, lava and volcanic rocks.
- Its summit has a **9-km-wide caldera** containing a complex of lava domes.

Volcanic Activity

- It has experienced approximately **60 substantial eruptions in the last 10,000 years**.
- Continuous eruptive activity has been reported since **August 1999**.

- Major hazards include ash emissions, dome collapses, debris avalanches, **pyroclastic flows** and lava flows.

Global Significance

- Its ash clouds can disrupt aircraft routes connecting **Asia and North America**.

Musi River

Why in News?

- The Telangana government reviewed the **Musi River Rejuvenation Project** and directed officials to expedite the 55-km riverfront development initiative.

Geographical Course

- The **Musi (Muchukunda/Musunuru)** is a tributary of the **Krishna River**, flowing through Telangana.
- It originates in the **Anantagiri Hills, Vikarabad district**, and is formed by the Esi (8 km) and Musa (13 km) rivulets.
- It flows eastward through Hyderabad and joins the Krishna near **Wazirabad, Nalgonda district**.
- Its total length is approximately **240 km**.

Important Water Bodies

- **Osman Sagar (1920):** Constructed after the 1908 Hyderabad floods; supports drinking water, irrigation and flood control.
- **Himayat Sagar (1927):** An important reservoir supplying water to Hyderabad.
- **Mir Alam Tank (1806):** Historically supplied water to Hyderabad.
- **Hussain Sagar:** Constructed on a tributary of the Musi.
- The river has **24 irrigation diversion weirs**, locally called *Kathwas*.

Historical and Cultural Significance

- **Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah**, founder of Hyderabad, established the city along its banks in the late 16th century.
- The river historically separated Hyderabad's Old City and New City.
- In **2025, Musi River Historic Buildings** were included in the **World Monuments Watch**, a programme of the **World Monuments Fund (WMF)**.

Environmental Concerns

- Unplanned urbanisation and untreated domestic and industrial waste have severely polluted the river.

Bali Jatra Festival

Why in News?

- The President of India participated in the **Bali Jatra Festival 2026** at Cuttack, Odisha.

Historical and Maritime Significance

- **Bali Jatra**, meaning *Voyage to Bali*, is celebrated annually in **Cuttack, Odisha**, on **Kartika Purnima**.
- It commemorates the departure of ancient **Kalinga traders** towards Bali and other Southeast Asian destinations.
- It celebrates approximately **2,000 years of maritime and cultural connections** between Kalinga and **Bali, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Myanmar and Sri Lanka**.

Traditional Celebrations

- **Boita Bandana** involves floating miniature boats made of paper or banana leaves with lighted lamps in the **Mahanadi River**.
- The festival features traditional fairs, food, rides, dances and cultural performances.

Ahom Dynasty and Moidams

Why in News?

- The **Moidams of the Ahom Dynasty in Assam** were inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.

Historical Background

- The **Ahom Dynasty (1228–1826)** ruled the Brahmaputra Valley for nearly **600 years**.
- It was founded by **Sukaphaa**, a Shan prince from Mong Mao who crossed the **Patkai Mountains** to enter Assam.
- Ahom rulers were known as **Chaopha or Swargadeo**.
- In the **Battle of Saraighat (1671)**, Ahom forces led by **Lachit Borphukan** defeated the Mughals.
- The Mughal influence was eliminated by **1682**; earlier, Mir Jumla had occupied Garhgaon in 1662.
- The kingdom weakened due to the **Moamoria Rebellion** and Burmese invasions.
- The **Treaty of Yandabo (1826)**, following the First Anglo-Burmese War, brought the kingdom under British East India Company control.

Moidams: Burial Architecture

- **Moidams (Maidams)** are burial mounds of Ahom kings, queens and nobles.
- The term derives from Tai words **Phrang-Mai-Dam or Mai-Tam**, associated with burial and the spirit of the dead.
- **Charaideo**, the first Ahom capital, is the principal necropolis.
- Each Moidam consists of an underground burial vault, a hemispherical earthen mound and a **Chaw-chali** structure for annual offerings.

- The complex also includes an octagonal boundary wall and an arched gateway.
- Burial chambers initially used wood but later incorporated stone and brick, particularly during **Rudra Singha's reign (1696–1714 CE)**.
- The deceased were buried with belongings such as clothes, ornaments and weapons.

UNESCO and Cultural Significance

- **UNESCO** is a specialised UN agency promoting international cooperation in education, science and culture.
- It has **193 Member States and 11 Associate Members**.
- The Moidams represent the distinctive funerary architecture and cultural traditions of the Ahom civilisation.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Solomon Islands

Why in News?

- Australia and the **Solomon Islands** signed a bilateral security pact recognising Australia as the country's **primary security partner**.

Geographical Features

- Located in the **south-western Pacific Ocean**, southeast of **Papua New Guinea** and northwest of **Vanuatu**.
- It comprises nearly **1,000 islands**, including six major islands and over 900 smaller islands; approximately **147 are inhabited**.
- The archipelago consists of volcanic islands and coral atolls.
- The terrain is predominantly mountainous and forest-covered.

Political Features

- **Capital:** Honiara, located on **Guadalcanal**, the largest island.
- It gained independence from British colonial rule in **1978**.
- It is a **parliamentary democracy and Commonwealth member** with a unicameral Parliament.
- Its population is predominantly **Melanesian (93%)**, followed by Polynesian (4%) and Micronesian (1.5%) communities, as per the supplied source.

Environment

Indri Lemur

Why in News?

- A scientific study examined the vocalisation mechanism of the **Indri Lemur**, highlighting how its calls travel through dense forests.

Biological and Ecological Features

- **Indri (Indri indri)**, also called **Babakoto**, is one of the largest living lemurs.
- It is endemic to **northeastern Madagascar** and inhabits coastal and montane rainforests up to **1,800 metres**.
- It measures approximately **60–70 cm** and has a rudimentary tail.
- It is **diurnal and arboreal**, climbing trees in an upright position.
- Its diet includes **leaves, fruits, flowers and other vegetation**.
- It has predominantly black fur with white markings on the head, throat, forearms and buttocks.
- Its wild lifespan is approximately **15–18 years**.

Conservation Status

- It is classified as **Critically Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List**.

Art and Culture

Rogan Art of Gujarat

Why in News?

- The Prime Minister of India gifted a traditional **Rogan Art painting** to the Prime Minister of Thailand.

Cultural Identity

- Rogan art has been practised for nearly **300 years** in **Nirona village, Kutch, Gujarat**, traditionally by the **Khatri community**.
- The Persian word **Rogan** means oil-based.

Technique and Materials

- It uses thick, colourful paint prepared from **heated castor oil and pigments**.
- Artists use a metal stylus to guide thread-like paint strands onto fabric without directly touching its surface.
- Folding the cloth transfers the painted design onto the opposite side, creating symmetrical, mirror-image patterns.
- Traditional fabrics include **silk, tussar silk, jute, wool and cotton**.

Artistic Features

- Designs feature curvilinear and geometric patterns.
- Traditional motifs include **Phool (flower), Trikhani (three dots), Vesur (wavy border) and Jhad (trees)**.
- Contemporary designs include concentric circles, **Jali patterns** and the **Tree of Life**.

Science and Technology	Quasars

Why in News?

- Astronomers discovered the oldest known compact pair of quasars, powered by two massive black holes existing approximately **900 million years after the Big Bang**.

Astronomical Features

- **Quasars (Quasi-Stellar Radio Sources)** are among the brightest and most energetic objects in the universe.
- First discovered in **1963**, they are a type of **Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN)**.
- They can outshine their host galaxies and are observable from billions of light-years away.

Formation and Energy Source

- Quasars are powered by **supermassive black holes** at galaxy centres.
- Their brightness results from the heating of matter in the **accretion disk** surrounding a black hole.
- They emit electromagnetic radiation, including **visible light, radio waves and gamma rays**.

Related Types of AGN

- **Blazars:** Their relativistic jets are directed approximately towards Earth.
- **Radio galaxies:** They produce powerful radio emissions through jets and lobes.
- **Seyfert galaxies:** They contain highly luminous active galactic nuclei.
- Their observed differences are partly explained by the **orientation of the object relative to Earth**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

5th Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh

Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the **5th Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh** in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Skill Development: Key Achievements

- Nearly **5,000 new ITIs** have been established since 2014, with enrolment increasing by over **5 lakh**.
- Female ITI enrolment has increased more than **2.5 times**.
- Over **30 new-age trades** have been introduced, including AI Assistant, Drone Technician, Cyber Security Assistant, Green Hydrogen Technician and Semiconductor Technician.

PM-SETU Scheme

- **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)** was launched on **4 October 2025** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.
- **Financial outlay:** ₹60,000 crore over five years, shared by the Centre (₹30,000 crore), States (₹20,000 crore) and Industry (₹10,000 crore).
- It aims to upgrade **1,000 Government ITIs** comprising 200 Hub ITIs and 800 Spoke ITIs.
- It also strengthens five **National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs)** at Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Ludhiana.
- It envisages sector-specific **National Centres of Excellence** and international partnerships for advanced trainer development.

Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh

- It is an annual national-level skill convocation instituted in **2021–22**.
- It is organised by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** through the **Directorate General of Training (DGT)**.
- It recognises meritorious trainees from ITIs, NSTIs and other skill development programmes.
- India will host the **WorldSkills Asia Competition 2027** in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.