

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

26-09-2026

Digital Connectivity Rating Platform

 DD India

TRAI launches Digital Connectivity Rating platform

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Thursday launched the Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform, an integrated digital...



Why in News

- **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** launched the **Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform** to rate digital connectivity infrastructure in properties.

TRANSFORMING PROPERTIES WITH DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY RATING

SIGNIFICANCE OF RATING

- Promoting Uniform Digital Connectivity Assessment
- Future-ready & Resilient Digital Connectivity Infrastructure
- Transparent Service Performance
- Empowering Consumers for Property Choices
- Enabling Property Managers to Build Digitally Connected Properties

[Know more about Digital Connectivity Rating](#)

Platform Architecture

- The platform integrates **Property Managers (PMs)**, **Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies (DCRAs)** and consumers through a common digital interface.
- It covers **residential, commercial, government and other properties**, including both constructed and under-construction properties.

Stakeholder Functions

- **Property Managers** can register properties, submit documents, select a registered DCRA and track applications.
- **DCRAs** assess properties, record observations and test results, and complete ratings through the prescribed framework.
- Field assessments are facilitated through a dedicated **DCRA mobile application**.

Consumer Interface

- Consumers can search rated properties using the **property name, certificate ID or location**.
- Digitally signed rating certificates can be authenticated through the **QR code** provided on the certificate.

ICGS Shaunak and QUAD-at-Sea Mission

 The Statesman

ICG ship Shaunak sails for Perth under QUAD-at-Sea mission to boost maritime interoperability

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Friday strengthened maritime cooperation with Australia, Japan and the United States as its ship Shaunak...



Why in News

- **ICGS Shaunak** sailed from Chennai to Perth, Australia, for the **QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission** involving India, Australia, Japan and the United States.

Vessel Profile

- **ICGS Shaunak** is a **Samarth-class Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)** of the Indian Coast Guard.
- It was indigenously designed and built by **Goa Shipyard Limited** and commissioned on **21 February 2017**.
- It is based at **Visakhapatnam** under the Commander, Coast Guard Region (East).

Operational Capabilities

- The vessel is **105 m long**, has a displacement of about **2,500 tonnes**, and uses two **9,100 kW diesel engines**.
- It can attain **26 knots** and has an endurance of about **6,500 nautical miles** at economical speed.
- Its equipment includes a **30 mm CRN 91 Naval Gun, Integrated Bridge System, Integrated Machinery Control System and High Power External Fire Fighting System**.

Maritime Security Role

- The ship supports **EEZ surveillance, maritime patrol, search and rescue, law enforcement and pollution response**.
- It can carry **one twin-engine light helicopter and five high-speed boats**, including two Quick Reaction Inflatable Boats.

QUAD Maritime Cooperation

- The mission facilitates professional exchanges among personnel of the **four QUAD countries** and seeks to enhance interoperability and coordination.

- Six **Sea Riders** comprising personnel from India, Japan, Australia and the United States embarked on the vessel.
- The mission aligns with India's **MAHASAGAR — Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions** vision.

Global Cities Index 2026

... BBC

The world's top cities for 2026 - and why they stand out

From cultural investment to cutting-edge technology, the 2026 Global Cities Index reveals what makes the world's leading cities such...



Why in News

- **Delhi ranked 268th among 1,000 cities** in the **Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026**, making it the highest-ranked Indian city.

Index Framework

- The **Global Cities Index (GCI)** is an annual ranking published by **Oxford Economics**.
- It evaluates cities on **Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment and Governance**.
- The index assesses both present performance and future potential.

Global and Indian Rankings

- **New York** ranked first, followed by **London, Paris, Seattle and San Francisco**.
- Among Indian cities, **Delhi (268), Bengaluru (311), Mumbai (330), Chennai (381), Hyderabad (421) and Pune (427)** were the leading six.

Urban Economic Trends

- Around **100 Indian cities** feature among the 1,000 cities assessed, while **55 Indian cities** feature among the world's 100 fastest-growing city economies.
- Delhi is currently the world's **63rd-largest city economy** and is projected to become the **14th-largest by 2050**, with output exceeding **USD 2 trillion**.
- Mumbai is currently the world's **99th-largest city economy** and is projected to rise to **36th by 2050**.

Urban Challenges

- Indian cities below the top 250 are constrained particularly by **inadequate infrastructure and quality of life**.
- Indian cities also perform poorly on **income equality**, while Delhi ranks second globally for **poor air quality** according to the cited index.

City-Specific Indicators

- Delhi ranked **13th globally in Human Capital**, while Mumbai ranked **23rd globally for corporate headquarters**.
- Bengaluru climbed **20 places to 311th** and was identified as a **City to Watch**.
- Chennai and Hyderabad ranked **16th and 15th globally**, respectively, for forecast GDP growth.

Bagmati River

Hindustan Times

Nepal Flood Alert: Bagmati River Surges Through South-Central Nepal as Floodwaters Rise | Videos

The Bagmati River surged through south-central Nepal as heavy flooding brought dangerous conditions across parts of the country.

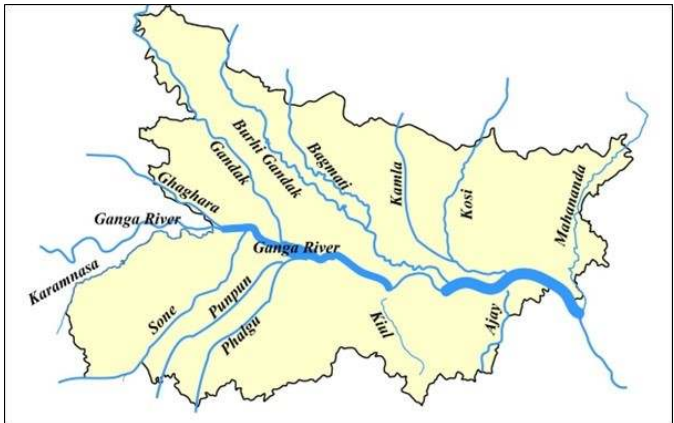


Why in News

- Heavy rainfall in Nepal caused the **Bagmati River** to overflow, affecting low-lying riverside communities.

Geographical Course

- The Bagmati originates at **Bagdwar in the Shivapuri Hills**, north of Kathmandu.
- It flows through the **Kathmandu Valley**, including Kathmandu and Patan, before passing through **Chovar**.
- It crosses the **Shivalik Range** and the **Terai plains**, enters Bihar and ultimately joins the **Burhi (Old) Gandak River**.



Basin Characteristics

- The river is approximately **360 km long** and lies between the **Gandak Basin in the west and Kosi Basin in the east**.
- Its basin spans three physiographic zones of the Nepal Himalayas: **Mountain, Siwalik and Terai**.

India–Nepal Linkage

- It flows through both **Nepal and India**, making it a transboundary river system.
- It is fed by **springs, monsoon rainfall and tributaries** within the Kathmandu Valley and downstream areas.

Cultural Significance

- The river is considered sacred by **Hindus and Buddhists**.
- The **Pashupatinath Temple**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, is located on its banks in Kathmandu.

Blazar

 Department of Science and Technology (DST)

New X-Ray clues from blazars could provide insights on powering of active galaxies

Astronomers tracked some of the blazars with the highest energy radiations revealing new clues about the sources of X-ray emission in these...



Why in News

- Astronomers studying high-energy **blazars** have obtained new insights into the sources of X-ray emission from these highly energetic astronomical objects.

Astrophysical Structure

- A **blazar** is an active galaxy powered by a **supermassive black hole** at its centre.
- Its structure includes a **supermassive black hole, accretion disk and host galaxy**.
- Matter falling towards the black hole releases enormous amounts of energy and produces relativistic particle jets.

Relativistic Jets

- Blazars appear exceptionally bright because their high-speed particle jets are directed close to **Earth's line of sight**.
- **TeV blazars** represent an extreme class that produces very-high-energy gamma rays reaching **tera-electron volt (TeV)** energies.

Scientific Significance

- Blazars provide opportunities to study **extreme physics** that cannot be reproduced under terrestrial conditions.
- Their relativistic jets offer clues about matter and physical processes near **supermassive black holes**.

Observation Challenge

- Because the relativistic jet points almost towards Earth, its **X-ray spectrum** can dominate observations.
- This makes it difficult to isolate radiation originating from other components, particularly the **accretion disk**.

Other Important News of the day

Environment

Caspian Cobra

TH The Hindu

Researchers document first human deaths by Caspian cobra in India

Researchers have documented the first confirmed snakebite envenomation and subsequent human deaths in India caused by the venomous Caspian...



Why in News

- India recorded the first confirmed cases of **snakebite envenomation and human deaths** caused by the **Caspian cobra** (*Naja oxiana*).

Taxonomic and Geographic Profile

- The **Caspian cobra** belongs to the family **Elapidae** and is also known as the **Central Asian cobra**, **Oxus cobra** or **Russian cobra**.
- It inhabits **arid and semi-arid regions**, including rocky hillsides and scrublands.
- Its native range includes parts of **Central Asia, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and northern Himachal Pradesh in India**.

Conservation Status

- The **IUCN Red List** classifies the Caspian cobra as **Near Threatened**.

Distinctive Features

- It is slightly shorter than the **Indian cobra** and has a slender body with a medium-length tail.
- Its long cervical ribs allow it to expand a hood, but it lacks the characteristic hood marking.
- Its colour ranges from **light brown to dark brown or black**, sometimes with faint banding.

Ecology and Behaviour

- The snake is an efficient **climber and swimmer** and feeds on small mammals, amphibians and birds.
- It generally **hibernates from late September/October to March–April**.

Defence	Mission Pégase 26 Why in News - The French Air and Space Force deployed Rafale F4 fighters and other aircraft to Jodhpur as part of Mission Pégase 26. Strategic Profile Pégase 26 is the seventh edition of France's long-range air projection exercise. - The exercise is being conducted from 8 September to 15 October and covers more than 40,000 km. - The deployment includes around 300 personnel, four Rafale F4 fighters, three A330 MRTT Phénix aircraft and two A400M Atlas aircraft. Geographical Reach - The route connects Greenland, Canada, Alaska, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, India, Qatar, Réunion and Egypt. - It links the Arctic, Indo-Pacific and Middle East regions. - Its stated objectives include operational readiness, strategic partnerships and freedom of air navigation. India–France Air Cooperation - The French contingent will participate in Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 in India. Tarang Shakti 2026 is hosted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Jodhpur and adjoining air bases. - Seven foreign air forces—United States, France, Germany, Australia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and UAE—are participating, while 32 nations are observers. Aircraft Participation - Participating advanced aircraft include the US F-35, French Rafale, UAE F-16 and Bangladeshi C-130J. - The IAF is fielding Rafale, Mirage-2000, Jaguar, Tejas, MiG-29 and Su-30MKI aircraft.
	Krashennikov Volcano and NISAR
Science and Technology	

NASA (.gov)

US-India Satellite Captures Time-lapse Video of Volcanic Eruption

Like tendrils on a vine, lava spreads out from the northern crater of Krasheninnikov, a volcano pair on the Pacific coast of Russia's...



Why in News

- **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)** captured detailed radar observations of the **Krasheninnikov Volcano** in Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula during volcanic activity.

Geographical and Geological Setting

- Krasheninnikov is an **active stratovolcano** located in the eastern **Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia**.
- Kamchatka lies along the Pacific **Ring of Fire** and has **114 volcanoes** that have erupted during the Holocene.
- The volcano rises to about **1,856 m** and lies within a **9 × 11 km collapse-originated caldera**.

Volcanic Structure and Activity

- The volcanic complex consists of **two adjacent stratovolcano cones**.
- The southern cone has a crater of approximately **800–900 m**, while the northern cone is younger and has a telescopic structure.
- The volcano erupted on **2 August 2025**, three days after a nearby **magnitude 8.8 earthquake**, with ash reaching about **20,000 ft**.

NISAR Mission

- **NISAR** is a joint **NASA-ISRO Earth-observation mission** launched on **30 July 2025** by **GSLV-F16** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.
- It is the first satellite mission to use both **L-band and S-band radar frequencies** for Earth-surface monitoring.
- NISAR can map the entire Earth's surface approximately every **12 days** and detect surface changes of less than a centimetre.

Disaster-Management Applications

- NISAR can monitor **earthquakes, volcanic activity, land deformation and environmental changes**.
- Its observations support **hazard assessment, disaster response and resource management**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Bharat Taxi Service in Uttar Pradesh

TH The Hindu

U.P. CM Yogi launches Bharat Taxi and Mukhyamantri Krishak Samriddhi Yojana

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday launched Bharat Taxi service and the Mukhyamantri Krishak Samriddhi Yojana,...



Why in News

- **Bharat Taxi** was launched in **Uttar Pradesh** in five cities along with three digital initiatives.

Key Features

- The service was launched in **Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kanpur and Prayagraj**.
- It follows the **"Driver is the Owner"** cooperative model, making drivers stakeholders.
- Over **10 lakh Saarthis** have joined since its launch in **February 2026**, with around **20,000 daily rides**.

Scale and Impact

- Around **40 lakh passengers** have joined the platform, while over **₹100 crore** has been credited to Saarthis.
- Around **40,000 Saarthis** are registered across the five Uttar Pradesh cities.

Cooperative Initiatives

- **White Revolution 2.0** aims to increase India's milk production capacity by about **40%**.
- **Tribhuvan Sahkari University** is India's first **cooperative university**.
- **UP State Cooperative Bank** became the first cooperative bank authorised to **issue and update Aadhaar cards**.

Other Launches

- **Mukhyamantri Krishak Samriddhi Yojana Portal, Urvarak Setu App and UPCDC App** were launched.
- **Airport Authority, Lucknow Metro Rail and Lucknow Police** signed **MoUs** with Bharat Taxi.