

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

27-07-2026

South China Sea

 Moneycontrol.com

23 missing after Vietnamese cargo ship sinks in South China Sea, search underway

Rescue teams are searching for 23 people after a Vietnamese cargo vessel carrying 62 crew members sank in the South China Sea, according to...



Why in News: A Vietnamese cargo ship carrying 62 people sank during stormy weather in the disputed **South China Sea**.

Geographical Features

- It is a marginal sea of the **Western Pacific Ocean**.
- It is bordered by **China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Vietnam**.
- It is connected to the **East China Sea** through the **Taiwan Strait** and to the **Philippine Sea** through the **Luzon Strait**.



Strategic Significance

- It carries nearly one-third of global maritime trade and is a key energy shipping route.
- Major disputed island groups are the **Paracel Islands** and **Spratly Islands**.
- The sea is believed to possess significant **oil, natural gas, and fisheries resources**.

Other Important Facts

- Major ports include **Singapore, Hong Kong, and Kaohsiung**.
- **Scarborough Shoal** is disputed between **China and the Philippines**.

National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC)

 News On AIR

NFDC invites entries for 57th International Film Festival of India

The National Film Development Corporation has officially opened entries for the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) scheduled...



Why in News: NFDC has invited entries for the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), 2026.

Institutional Profile

- Established in 1975 under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Promotes financing, production, distribution, and development of Indian cinema.

Key Developments

- In 2022, Films Division, DFF, NFAI, and CFSI were merged with NFDC.
- It manages the National Museum of Indian Cinema.
- It also organizes Film Bazaar to promote film co-production.

NFDC
cinemas of india

About IFFI

- Founded in 1952 and permanently hosted in Goa since 2004.
- It is Asia's oldest international film festival.
- It is accredited by FIAPF as South Asia's only competitive international film festival.

Nalabana Wildlife Sanctuary

TOI The Times of India

24 fishermen arrested for fishing inside Nalabana

Chilika wildlife officials arrest 24 fishermen for illegal fishing in Nalaban sanctuary, seizing mechanized boats, engines, nets and 23 kg...



Why in News: Wildlife authorities arrested fishermen for illegal fishing inside **Nalabana Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Location

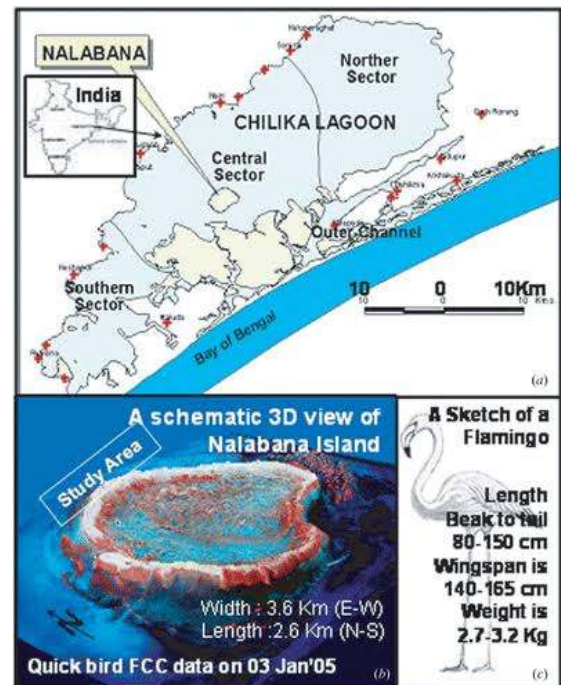
- It is the core area of the **Ramsar Site of Chilika Lake** in **Odisha**.
- Declared a bird sanctuary in **1987**.
- The sanctuary remains submerged during the monsoon.

Ecological Importance

- It supports nearly **60%** of migratory birds visiting Chilika.
- Important species include the **Spoon-billed Sandpiper**, **Asian Dowitcher**, and **Pallas's Fish Eagle**.

More about Chilika Lake

- It is **Asia's largest brackish water lake**.
- It became India's **first Ramsar Site** in **1981**.
- It receives water mainly from the **Daya** and **Bhargavi** rivers.



Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

DD India

'CRPF personnel have always placed the nation first': PM Modi hails force's service on 88th Raising Day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday extended his greetings to all personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on the occasion of...



Why in News: The nation observed the **Foundation Day of the CRPF**.

Institutional Profile

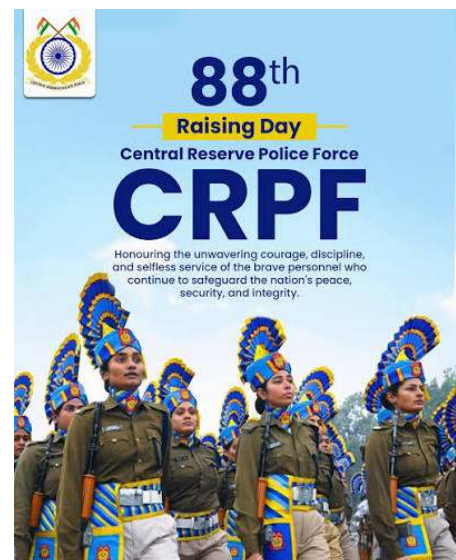
- It is India's largest **Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Raised as the **Crown Representative's Police (1939)**.
- Renamed under the **CRPF Act, 1949**.

Functions

- Maintains internal security and conducts counter-insurgency operations.
- Assists in elections, disaster management, riot control, and UN peacekeeping.
- Protects critical government infrastructure.

Special Units

- **Rapid Action Force (RAF)** specializes in riot control.
- **CoBRA** specializes in anti-Naxal operations.
- It is the only CAPF with **six all-women battalions**.



Gobind Sagar Lake

The Indian Express

Himachal's first island tourism project at Gobind Sagar Lake to be ready by Sept-end

The three islands — Jeori Pattan, Dhararsani and Bholu — have been envisaged to be developed in line with island destinations in Andaman and...



Why in News: Himachal Pradesh is developing its first island tourism project at **Gobind Sagar Lake**.

Location & Formation

- It is a man-made reservoir in **Bilaspur district**, Himachal Pradesh.
- Created by the **Bhakra Dam** on the **Sutlej River**.
- Named after **Guru Gobind Singh**.



Importance

- It is among the **deepest** man-made lakes and the **third-largest reservoir** in India by storage.
- It provides irrigation to **Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan**.
- Water from the **Beas River** is diverted through the **Beas-Sutlej Link**.

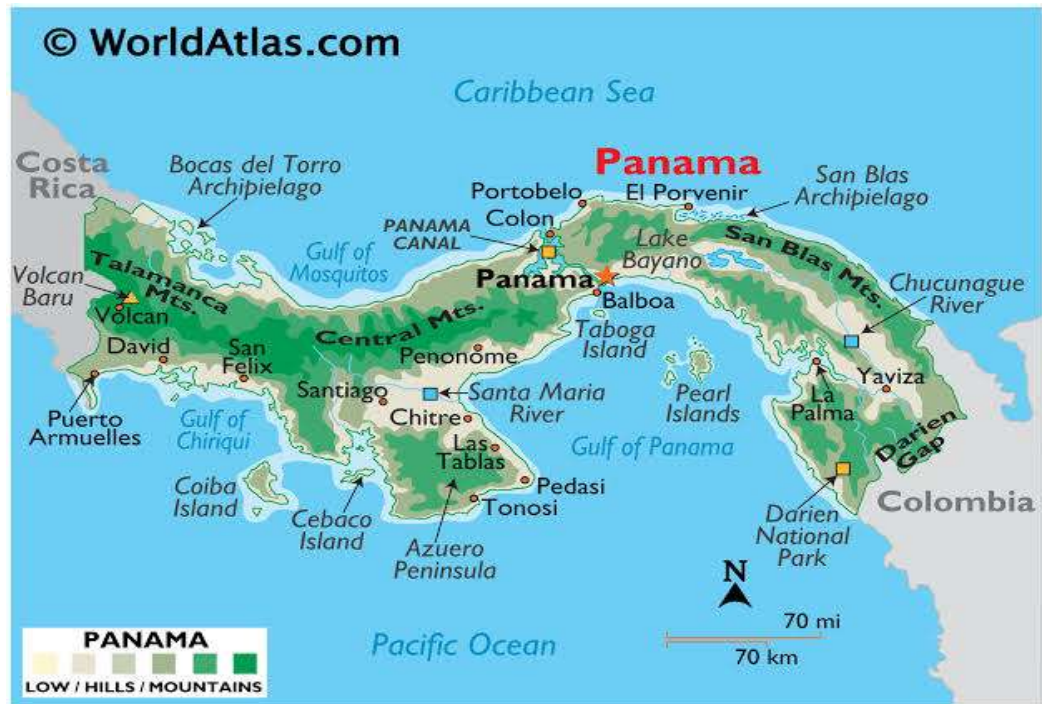
Biodiversity

- Declared a **Waterfowl Refuge** in **1962**.
- It supports around **50 fish species**, including **Mahseer (Tor putitora)**.
- It also provides habitat for numerous migratory birds and mammals.

Other Important News of the day

Places
News

Panama



Why in News: India and Panama held bilateral talks to strengthen maritime security, logistics, skilling, and digital cooperation.

Geographical Profile

- Panama is located on the **Isthmus of Panama** in **Central America**.
- It borders **Costa Rica** and **Colombia**.
- It is bounded by the **Caribbean Sea** and the **Pacific Ocean**.
- Capital: **Panama City**.

Physical Features

- **Lake Gatun** is essential for the functioning of the **Panama Canal**.
- **Tuira River** is the country's longest river.

	• The Cordillera Central runs through the country's interior. • Darién Gap lies in Panama. • Major mineral resources include gold, copper, manganese, and iron.
Environment	Caridina sharmai  Inshorts Lucknow researchers discover new shrimp species in Gomti River Tap to know more Inshorts Researchers in Lucknow have discovered a new freshwater shrimp species, Caridina sharmai, in the Gomti River. Why in News: Scientists discovered a new freshwater shrimp species, Caridina sharmai, in the Gomti River near Lucknow. Discovery - It is a new freshwater shrimp species endemic to the upper Gomti River, a tributary of the Ganga. - It measures 15–24 mm in length.  Distinctive Features - It has a knife-shaped rostrum, lacks a median tail spine, and possesses brush-like feeding hairs. - It feeds mainly on algae and organic particles. - It naturally appears dark brown or black with yellow-grey stripes. - Its body becomes nearly transparent in aquarium conditions. - It is a social species that prefers underwater vegetation.

Asiatic Wild Dog (Dhole)

Why in News: A recent study found that dholes mainly prey on wild herbivores such as **sambar** and **chital**, with limited livestock predation.

 Down To Earth

[What do Asiatic wild dogs or dholes in India eat? Mostly chital and sambar and hardly any livestock, says study](#)

A new DNA metabarcoding study from Central India reveals that endangered Asiatic wild dogs, or dholes, are hypercarnivores feeding mainly on...



Distribution

- Found across **Central, Eastern, and Southeast Asia**.
- Indian populations occur in the **Western Ghats, Central India, and Northeast India**.



Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List: Endangered**.
- Protected under **Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

Key Features

- Also known as the **Whistling Dog** or **Indian Wild Dog**.
- It is a highly social predator that hunts in packs.
- It is an excellent runner, swimmer, and jumper.

Defence

Dark Eagle Hypersonic Missile

F. Firstpost

[US Deploys 'Dark Eagle' Hypersonic Missile in China's Range For First Time | Vantage on Firstpost](#)

The United States has deployed the Dark Eagle hypersonic missile in Guam for the first time. The missile has been deployed to the...



Why in News: The **United States** deployed the **Dark Eagle** hypersonic missile system in **Guam** for the first time.

	Missile Profile - Also known as the Long Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW). - It is a ground-launched, non-nuclear hypersonic missile. - Developed by Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman. Capabilities - Maximum strike range is 3,500 km. - Uses the Common Hypersonic Glide Body (C-HGB). - Travels at speeds exceeding Mach 5 with high manoeuvrability. Strategic Importance - Designed to destroy heavily defended strategic targets. - Uses a conventional warhead with precision guidance.
Science and Technology	PRAXIS Mission  ETV Bharat  NASA Plans To Send AI-Powered Mission To Sample Saturn's Planetary Rings For The First Time PRAXIS (Planetary Rings Autonomous EXploration with In-situ Sampling), a proposed AI-driven robotic explorer would autonomously sample... Why in News: NASA selected PRAXIS under its NIAC Phase-I (2026) programme. Mission Overview PRAXIS stands for Planetary Rings Autonomous EXploration with In-situ Sampling. - It aims to directly collect and analyse particles from planetary rings.

	Key Features • It uses an AI-enabled robotic explorer with autonomous navigation. • It will study rings of Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Centaurs like Chariklo and Chiron. • It employs a touch-and-go sampling mechanism. Prelims Facts • It will provide the first direct observations of millimetre- to centimetre-sized ring particles. • It is still a mission concept and not an approved launch mission.
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Uttar Pradesh in News

Sarnath Becomes India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site

 The Indian Express

Knowledge Nugget | Sarnath joins UNESCO World Heritage List: How it was 'rediscovered' and other facts

Sarnath, where Buddha delivered his first sermon, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Discover its significance and other key Buddhist...



Why in News: **Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh)** was inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** during the **48th Session of the World Heritage Committee** in **Busan, South Korea**.

Historical Significance

- **Sarnath** is where **Gautama Buddha** delivered his **first sermon (Dharmachakra Pravartana)** and established the **Buddhist Sangha**.
- It is one of the **four major Buddhist pilgrimage sites**.

Heritage Importance

- It has become **India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has conserved the site for over 150 years.
- The Ashokan Lion Capital discovered here is India's National Emblem.

Important Facts

- Three major Buddhist sites—Lumbini, Mahabodhi Temple (Bodhi Gaya), and Sarnath—are now UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- India now has 45 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, ranking 6th globally and 2nd in the Asia-Pacific region.