

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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ASPIRE Scheme

OpenGov Asia

ASPIRE Scheme Expands Rural Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Opportunities in India

India's ASPIRE scheme is helping transform rural livelihoods by supporting aspiring entrepreneurs with training, incubation and business...



Why in News

- **ASPIRE Scheme** is transforming rural livelihoods by supporting entrepreneurship, incubation, and innovation in rural and agro-based sectors.

Governance Dimensions

- **ASPIRE (A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship)** was launched in **2015** by the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**.
- It aims to promote **entrepreneurship, innovation, and employment generation** in rural and agro-based sectors.
- The scheme strengthens the competitiveness of **MSMEs** through incubation and technology support.

Institutional Support Framework

- It promotes **Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs)** in rural and underserved regions.

Eligibility and Beneficiaries

- Government institutions, PSUs, and private or PPP entities can establish incubators under the scheme.
- MSMEs with valid **Entrepreneurs Memorandum (EM)** registration are eligible for support.
- Individual innovators and entrepreneurs can access incubation and mentoring services.
- Priority is given to enterprises in **agro-based, rural, and technology-driven sectors**.

- It supports Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) for innovation-driven start-ups.
- It provides mentoring, technical assistance, and business development support to entrepreneurs.
- It encourages cluster-based enterprise development to improve productivity and market access.

Financial Incentives

- Government and PSU incubators can receive grants up to ₹1 crore.
- Private and PPP incubators can receive grants up to ₹75 lakh.
- Incubators can obtain one-time operational support of up to ₹1 crore.
- The scheme also facilitates seed capital and risk funding for early-stage innovators.

Rewa Sundarja Mango



[APEDA Begins Commercial Export of Rewa Sundarja Mangoes to UAE](#)

APEDA facilitates the first export of GI-tagged Rewa Sundarja Mangoes to the UAE, boosting global market access and higher returns for mango...



Why in News

- APEDA facilitated the first commercial export of Rewa Sundarja Mango from Madhya Pradesh to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Geographical Significance

- Rewa Sundarja Mango is a renowned mango variety cultivated in Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh.
- It is known for ripening only after the arrival of the first monsoon showers.
- The variety received a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in 2023.

Distinctive Characteristics

- It possesses **fibreless yellow pulp** with a smooth and creamy texture.
- It is known for its unique **vanilla-like aroma** and balanced sugar-acid ratio.
- It has a thick peel and excellent shelf life, making it suitable for export.
- Its comparatively lower sugar content makes it suitable for diabetic consumers.
- It is valued for exceptional sweetness, rich aroma, and distinctive flavour.

About APEDA

- **APEDA** is a statutory body established under the **APEDA Act, 1985**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- Its mandate is to promote exports of scheduled agricultural and processed food products.
- The headquarters of **APEDA** is located in **New Delhi**.

India Ranks 13th in QS World Future Skills Index 2027

Why in News

- **India secured 13th rank globally in the QS World Future Skills Index 2027** and emerged as the **top AI-ready lower-middle-income economy**.

 The Indian Express

India ranks 13th globally in AI readiness, but graduate skills lag: QS World Future Skills Index 2027

India has secured the 13th position globally in AI-economy readiness, according to the QS World Future Skills Index 2027, released today by...



Key Highlights

- India scored **89.4/100** overall.
- **United States** ranked first, followed by **Australia, United Kingdom, and Germany**.
- India was the **highest-ranked country in South Asia**.

India's Performance

- **Economic Capacity: 1st globally** (100 score).
- **Future of Work: 5th globally** (96.0 score).
- **Economic Transformation: 14th globally** (93.3 score).

AI Readiness

- India was recognized as a **leading AI-ready economy**.
- **AI-related investments** reached about **\$90 billion** by February 2026.

Concern Areas

- The report highlighted shortages in **advanced AI, digital, and green skills**.
- It stressed better alignment between **higher education and industry needs**.

PM-RAHAT Scheme

 News On AIR

[Government announces launch of PM RAHAT Scheme for cashless treatment of up to Rs 1 Lakh 50 thousand for road accident victims](#)



Government announces launch of PM RAHAT Scheme for cashless treatment of up to Rs 1 Lakh 50 thousand for road accident victims ... Prime Minister...

Why in News

- The requirement of facial identification for accident victims seeking benefits under **PM-RAHAT** has been removed.

Welfare and Legal Framework

- **PM-RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**.
- It provides cashless treatment up to **₹1.5 lakh** per victim.
- Benefits are available for **seven days** from the date of the accident.
- The scheme takes precedence over any other Central or State accident treatment scheme.

Lonar Lake

DH Deccan Herald

Groundreport | Lonar crater lake's rising water level causes concern

Lonar (Buldhana): At a time when water levels in reservoirs and lakes are receding and groundwater is depleting across Maharashtra,...



Why in News

- Despite declining water levels elsewhere in Maharashtra, **Lonar Lake** has witnessed a rise in water level.

Geological Importance

- **Lonar Lake** is located in **Buldhana district, Maharashtra**.
- It was formed by a meteorite impact approximately **50,000 years ago**.
- It lies within the **Deccan Trap basaltic region**.

Unique Scientific Features

- It is the world's only known **impact crater lake in basaltic rock**.
- It is also the world's only known **saline crater lake**.
- Its water is highly saline and alkaline due to basaltic geology.

Ecological Characteristics

- Several springs continuously feed the lake.
- Vents release gases such as **methane, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen sulphide**.
- Seasonal colour changes from green to pink are caused by specialized microorganisms.

Cultural Linkages

- The lake is mentioned in ancient texts including the **Puranas** and **Ain-i-Akbari**.
- The crater is surrounded by historic temples of archaeological importance.

Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary

India Today NE

[Meghalaya releases rehabilitated pangolin, palm civet into protected sanctuary](#)

A rescued Chinese pangolin and an injured Asian palm civet have been released into Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary after treatment and...



Why in News

- A rescued **Chinese Pangolin (Manis pentadactyla)** and Asian Palm Civet were recently released into **Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Conservation Geography

- The sanctuary is located in **Meghalaya** within the **Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot**.
- It was notified in **1981** under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The **Umtrew River** forms its western boundary.

Habitat Characteristics

- The terrain comprises low hills, plains, and riverine landscapes.
- Vegetation is dominated by **Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests**.
- Patches of **Tropical Semi-Evergreen Forests** are also present.

Biodiversity Profile

- Important flora include **Shorea robusta**, **Tectona grandis**, **Terminalia myriocarpa**, and **Gmelina arborea**.
- The sanctuary supports over **400 bird species**.
- It is known for the endangered **Rufous-necked Hornbill**.
- Mammals include **Clouded Leopard**, **Asian Elephant**, **Himalayan Black Bear**, and other wildlife.
- Four hornbill species, including **Great Pied Hornbill** and **Wreathed Hornbill**, occur in the sanctuary.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Seychelles

Why in News

- The Prime Minister of India recently undertook a three-day state visit to **Seychelles**.

Geographical Focus

- **Seychelles** is an archipelagic nation located in the **Western Indian Ocean**.
- It lies northeast of **Madagascar** and east of mainland **Africa**.
- The country comprises **115 islands**, of which only **eight** are permanently inhabited.
- Its capital city is **Victoria**.



Physical Features

- The climate is **tropical oceanic** with limited annual temperature variation.
- The islands are divided into mountainous **granitic islands** and low-lying **coralline islands**.
- Much of the archipelago lies on the **Mascarene Plateau**.
- The highest peak is **Morne Seychellois**.

International Relevance

- Seychelles occupies a strategic position in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- It is important for India's maritime security and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.

Brachybacterium netajii

Research Matters

Researchers discover *Brachybacterium netajii*, a new pollution-eating bacteria from Hooghly

A team of researchers has discovered a tough, new species of bacteria in the waters of the River Ganges that possesses a remarkable ability...



Why in News

- Researchers discovered a new bacterial species, *Brachybacterium netajii*, in the waters of the Ganges-Hooghly region.

Scientific Discovery

- It is a newly identified bacterial species discovered in West Bengal.
- It demonstrates remarkable resilience under extreme environmental conditions.

Environmental Significance

- It can degrade *p-nitrophenol (PNP)*, a toxic industrial pollutant.
- It survives exposure to heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury.
- It is halotolerant, tolerating salinity levels up to 9%.

Unique Biological Features

- It contains unique fatty acids including C11:0 and C10:0 2-OH.
- Its genome contains several genomic islands acquired through genetic exchange.
- These genomic islands encode industrial enzymes and stress-protective compounds such as ectoine.

Defence

National War Memorial

The Hindu

Names of six personnel who died in action during Op Sindoor inscribed at National War Memorial

Six military personnel who died in Operation Sindoor are honored with inscribed names at the National War Memorial.



Why in News

- Names of six personnel martyred during **Operation Sindoor** were recently inscribed at the **National War Memorial**.

National Significance

- The **National War Memorial (Rashtriya Samar Smarak)** was inaugurated in **January 2019**.
- It is located in **New Delhi**.
- It commemorates the sacrifices of Indian soldiers since Independence.

Architectural Features

- The memorial consists of **four concentric chakras** symbolising military values.
- The innermost **Amar Chakra** contains the eternal flame and a **15.5-metre obelisk**.
- Veerta Chakra** contains six bronze murals depicting battle actions.
- Tyag Chakra** is made of granite blocks bearing names of fallen soldiers.

The fallen heroes honoured in this first official public release are:

- Subedar Major Pawan Kumar** (Indian Army)
- Rifleman Sunil Kumar, VrC** (Indian Army)
- Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar** (Indian Army)
- Agniveer Mood Muralinaik** (Indian Army)
- Havildar Sunil Kumar Singh** (Indian Army)
- Sergeant Surendra Kumar, VM** (Indian Air Force).

- **Rakshak Chakra** consists of more than **600 trees** representing national protection.

Honouring Gallantry

- A separate section commemorates all **21 Param Vir Chakra** awardees.
- Each awardee is honoured through a bronze bust and detailed information plaques.

Space

Euclid Space Telescope

 The Guardian

[Millions of stars light up largest and most detailed shot of Milky Way's centre](#)

The glittering image, taken by the European Space Agency's Euclid telescope, heralds a new age of planetary discovery.



Why in News

- The Euclid Space Telescope recently captured one of the most detailed images of the Milky Way's central region.

Mission Objectives

- **Euclid** is a **1.2-metre telescope** launched in **2023** by the **European Space Agency (ESA)**.
- It studies the composition and evolution of the **Dark Universe**.
- It seeks to understand the roles of **dark matter** and **dark energy**.
- It will map billions of galaxies up to **10 billion light-years** away.

Scientific Payloads

- It carries the **Visible Instrument (VIS)** and **Near-Infrared Spectrometer and Photometer (NISP)**.

- VIS captures high-resolution galaxy images for gravitational lensing studies.
- NISP measures galaxy movement and expansion rates of the Universe.

Strategic Features

- The mission operates around the **Sun-Earth L2 Lagrange Point**.
- L2 offers a stable thermal and gravitational environment for deep-space observations.
- **NASA** contributed detector and sensor technologies to the mission.

Uttar Pradesh in News

First Biscuit Export from Varanasi to Oman

bl. BusinessLine

[APEDA facilitates first biscuit export from Varanasi to Oman](#)

APEDA facilitates Varanasi's first biscuit export to Oman, enhancing international trade and boosting local food product visibility.



Why in News

- **APEDA** facilitated the first export of **40 MT biscuits** from **Varanasi to Oman** after the India-Oman CEPA.

Trade Significance

- **M/s Shree Tirupati Balajee Industries Pvt. Ltd., Varanasi** exported the consignment.
- It showcases growing export potential of **Eastern Uttar Pradesh** and benefits of **CEPA**.

Export Route

- Shipment will move via **ICD Kanpur** for customs clearance and then through **JNPT, Mumbai** to Oman.