

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

28-08-2026

Buckingham Canal

TH The Hindu

Buckingham Canal back in the limelight

Authorities revive Buckingham Canal's navigability plans, aiming for eco-friendly transport and pollution reduction in Chennai's waterways.

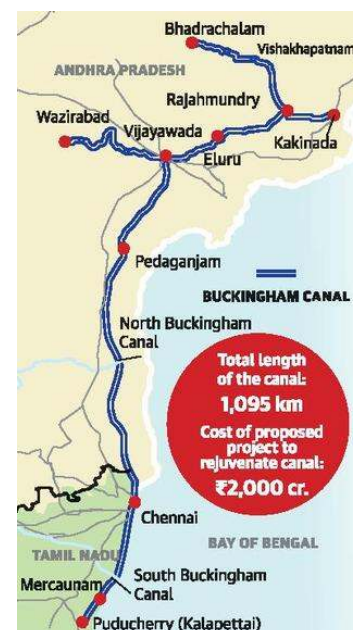


Why in News

- The **restoration of Buckingham Canal** has again received attention from authorities in **Tamil Nadu**.

Geographical and Historical Setting

- The canal runs along India's **east coast for about 450 km**, including **250 km in Andhra Pradesh** and **200 km in Tamil Nadu**.
- Along with the **Krishna and Godavari irrigation canal systems**, it once formed a navigable stretch of around **650 km**.
- It was originally constructed in **1806 by Basil Cochrane** and was known as the **Cochrane Canal**.
- The government took it over in **1837**, renamed it the **East Coast Canal**, and it was extended to **Dugarajapatnam** in Andhra Pradesh in 1857.
- It acquired its present name in **1878**, after the Governor of Madras, the **Duke of Buckingham and Chandos**.



Economic and Environmental Significance

- The canal historically served as an important route for transporting bulky commodities such as **fuel, salt and dried fish** to Madras, now Chennai.
- Major present challenges include **encroachment, untreated sewage and solid-waste pollution**.

Jago AI Assistant

Why in News

- The **Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched the

PIB

National Conclave on Tribal Languages & Museums begins in Mysuru, Karnataka

National Conclave on Tribal Languages & Museums begins in Mysuru, Karnataka.
Launch of Adi Vaani Platform along with iOS application,...



Jago AI Assistant to improve access to tribal welfare information.

Technology and Accessibility

- Jago is an **AI-powered conversational assistant** that provides information on tribal welfare schemes, policies, programmes, guidelines and official documents.
- Citizens can ask questions in **simple language** and receive relevant information more quickly.
- The assistant is currently available in **English and Hindi**.



Governance Significance

- The initiative seeks to bridge the gap between **government information and intended beneficiaries** by simplifying access to scheme-related information.
- Its AI-based architecture can support the continuous expansion of its knowledge base with new schemes, policies and official documents.
- It can promote more **efficient, transparent, accessible and technology-driven delivery** of tribal welfare services.
- The conversation is intended to remain **secure and private**.

Salmonella

THE HINDU

Why India needs to look beyond typhoid to address the health burden of Salmonella infections

Salmonella is often linked to food poisoning, diarrhoea and typhoid. But the infection can range from mild gastroenteritis that gets better...



Why in News

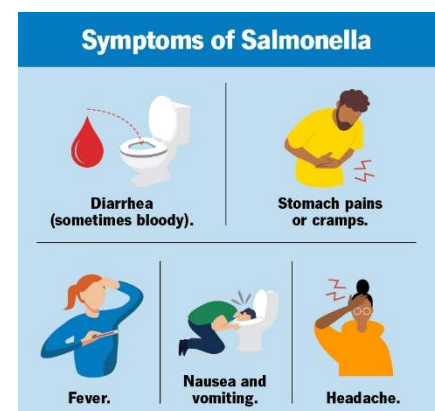
- Experts have highlighted that **Salmonella infection** in India can range from mild gastroenteritis to serious bloodstream infection and requires greater attention.

Causative Organisms and Diseases

- Salmonella** is a group of bacteria capable of causing different infections.
- Typhoid** and **paratyphoid/enteric fever** are caused by **Salmonella Typhi** and **Salmonella Paratyphi**, respectively.

Transmission

- Salmonella occurs widely among **domestic and wild animals**, particularly poultry, pigs, cattle and pets.



- Human salmonellosis is primarily acquired through **contaminated food of animal origin**, although contaminated vegetables can also transmit infection.
- **Faecal-oral transmission** and direct contact with infected animals are additional routes of infection.

Clinical Features

- Symptoms generally develop within **12–72 hours** after infection and commonly include **diarrhoea, fever and abdominal cramps**.
- Severe infection may cause **high fever, aches, headache, lethargy, rash and blood in urine or stool**.
- Most cases last **four to seven days** and recover without treatment, while severe cases require **electrolyte replacement and rehydration**.

Corbett Tiger Reserve

ETV Bharat

Popular Among Visitors, Tiger 'Bhola' Passes Away In Corbett Reserve

Ramnagar: A tiger who was popular among tourists at the Phato zone of the Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) in Uttarakhand died on Thursday.



Why in News

- **Bhola**, a well-known tiger popular among tourists in the **Phato Zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve**, recently died.

Geographical Profile

- **Corbett Tiger Reserve** is located in the **foothills of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand**.
- It covers the **Bhabar and lower Shivalik regions** and has an undulating terrain with several valleys.
- The **Ramganga, Pallaen and Sonanadi** rivers flow through its valleys.

Historical and Ecological Importance

- Established as **Hailey National Park in 1936**, it is India's **first national park** and the first to come under **Project Tiger**.
- Its vegetation includes **North Indian tropical moist deciduous** and **tropical dry deciduous forests**, along with grasslands and riparian vegetation.
- Local grasslands known as **'Chaur'** developed from abandoned settlements or past clearings.
- Important flora includes **Sal, Sheesham and Kanju**, while major fauna includes **tiger, elephant, leopard, sambar, hog deer and spotted deer**.

PM SVANidhi Scheme



PIB

<https://www.pib.gov.in> > PressReleaseDetail

PM SVANidhi Completes One Year of Restructuring

2 days ago — During the **first-year** post restructuring, 21.86 lakh loans have been disbursed to 10.56 lakh new beneficiaries, amounting to ₹6,294 crore. [Read more](#)

Why in News

- In the last 12 months, **21.86 lakh loans worth ₹6,294 crore** were disbursed to street vendors under the **PM SVANidhi Scheme**, according to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Scheme Architecture

- Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** was launched in **June 2020** as a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- It supports street vendors through **affordable working capital, financial inclusion and social protection**.
- Implementation involves the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**.

Financial Support

- Vendors receive **collateral-free loans of ₹15,000, ₹25,000 and ₹50,000** through three progressive tranches, along with interest subsidy and credit-guarantee support.
- Vendors who successfully repay the second tranche can obtain **UPI-linked RuPay Credit Cards** with limits up to **₹30,000**.
- Cashback incentives of up to **₹1,600** are provided for eligible digital retail and wholesale transactions.

Social Protection and Capacity Building

- SVANidhi se Samriddhi (SSS)** undertakes socio-economic profiling of beneficiaries and their families to connect them with **eight selected Central welfare schemes**.
- Vendors receive training in **financial literacy, digital literacy, food safety and hygiene**, including collaboration with **FSSAI**.



National Disaster Response Force

F. Firstpost

Nepal flash flood: No adverse impact yet in UP & Bihar, 20 teams deployed on ground, says NDRF

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on Thursday said that the flash flood in Nepal has not had any adverse impact on Uttar Pradesh...



Why in News

- **NDRF teams** have been deployed in **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh** to respond to possible flood situations.

Legal and Institutional Framework

- The **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** was established under **Section 44 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- Its objective is to provide **specialised responses to natural and man-made disasters**.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** is its parent ministry, while the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** is its controlling authority.

Organisation and Composition

- Established in **2006 with eight battalions**, the NDRF has expanded to **16 battalions**.
- It functions as an independent disaster-response agency but draws personnel from various **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**.
- Its personnel are drawn from forces including **BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB and Assam Rifles**.
- The force is headed by a **Director General (DG), NDRF**.

Disaster-Response Role

- NDRF is a **multi-skilled specialist force** capable of responding to floods, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides, building collapses, train accidents and road accidents.
- It also undertakes disaster-response operations under **multilateral and bilateral international arrangements**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Canada
	Why in News • India and Canada formally launched their inaugural Economic and Financial Dialogue in Toronto.

Geographical Profile

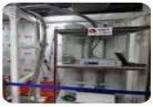


- **Canada** is located in **North America** and is the **second-largest country in the world by area**, after Russia.
- Its capital is **Ottawa**, and it shares its longest international land boundary with the **United States**.
- Canada is bounded by the **Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean**.

Physical Geography

- Major mountain systems include the **Rocky Mountains, St. Elias Mountains and Laurentian Mountains**.
- Major rivers include the **Mackenzie, Yukon and Saint Lawrence**.
- The **Great Lakes—Superior, Michigan, Huron, Ontario and Erie** form a natural boundary between Canada and the United States, with **Lake Michigan lying entirely within the US**.
- Canada's major mineral resources include **iron ore, nickel, zinc, copper, gold, uranium, rare earth elements, potash and diamonds**.
- Canada has **seven climatic regions/zones**, including **Arctic, Subarctic, Prairie, Great Lakes and Cordilleran**, along with eastern and western coastal zones.
- Canada follows a **constitutional monarchy**.

Environment	Spoon-Tailed Duskhawker  The Hindu <u>Spoon-tailed duskhawker: Arunachal find fattens India's dragonfly list</u> Arunachal Pradesh records its first spoon-tailed duskhawker dragonfly, enhancing India's dragonfly species list significantly.  Why in News - Researchers verified the first photographic evidence of the spoon-tailed duskhawker (<i>Gynacantha basiguttata</i>) in Arunachal Pradesh. Taxonomic and Ecological Profile - It is a dragonfly belonging to the Aeshnidae family. - It is commonly found near streams and forest pools, where it patrols or perches. - It feeds on flying insects such as mosquitoes, small flies and gnats, contributing to aquatic food webs.  Distribution and Identification - The species is reported from the Philippines and several parts of Southeast Asia. - Its key features include a black T-shaped mark on the frons, an olive-green thorax without a stripe, and distinctive wing pigmentation. - Its narrow, expanded cerci give the abdominal appendages a characteristic spoon-like appearance.
	SAFE Defence Fund  Reuters <u>Italy asks EU for €8 billion in SAFE defence funds</u> The Italian government has requested €8 billion (\$9.3 billion) from the European Union's SAFE defence funding programme, a source close to...  Why in News Italy has requested €8 billion from the European Union under the SAFE defence funding programme. Institutional and Financial Architecture Security Action for Europe (SAFE) is an EU joint borrowing scheme designed to strengthen European defence capabilities.

	- The regulation establishing SAFE entered into force on 29 May 2025. - The instrument provides up to €150 billion in loans to EU Member States for defence investment. - SAFE financing is demand-driven and is provided through competitively priced, long-maturity loans repayable by beneficiary Member States. Defence Procurement - SAFE aims to facilitate rapid increases in defence investment through common procurement. - It finances urgent, large-scale investments in the European defence technological and industrial base. - Only EU Member States can obtain SAFE loans, while specified partner countries can participate in common procurement. - Eligible participating partners include India, Japan, Canada, Norway, South Korea and the United Kingdom, among others.
Science and Technology	Andhra Pradesh Quantum & AI University THE Hindu India's first dedicated Quantum and AI University campus to come up in Amaravati Amaravati is set to host India's first dedicated Quantum and Artificial Intelligence (AI) University campus, with the Government of Andhra...  Why in News Andhra Pradesh approved India's first dedicated Quantum and AI University campus in Amaravati on 27 August 2026. Institutional Framework - The campus will be developed by NIELIT, a Deemed-to-be University under MeitY. - It will focus on Quantum Computing, AI, VLSI and Semiconductor Fabrication through UG, PG, PhD, diploma and executive programmes. Infrastructure & Funding - The project will cost ₹730.70 crore over five years, with 100% Grant-in-Aid from MeitY. - It will have a 1.25 lakh sq. ft. research and incubation block, Net Zero features and 500-bed residential capacity. Key Facts - Academic programmes will initially begin at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, from September 2026.

	- The project originated from an MoU signed on 20 February 2026 between NIELIT and Andhra Pradesh Government. - The projected five-year intake is 8,250 learners: 1,650 degree students and 6,600 skilling/certification learners.
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Uttar Pradesh in News

Tharu Tribal Museum, Balrampur

 Jagran

बलरामपुर के थारू जनजाति संग्रहालय को मिलेगा अंतरराष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार, पर्यटन को मिलेगी नई दिशा

संवाद सूत्र, बलरामपुर। जिले की समृद्ध थारू जनजातीय संस्कृति और समुदाय आधारित...



Why in News

- Tharu Tribal Museum and Living Heritage Landscape** at **Imalia Kodar, Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh**, has been selected as a **finalist for the ICRT Indian Subcontinent Responsible Tourism Awards 2026**.

Award and Recognition

- The awards are associated with the **International Centre for Responsible Tourism (ICRT)**, with **22 initiatives from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka** selected as finalists.
- The final awards will be announced on **4 September 2026** at **Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Dwarka, New Delhi**.
- The awards recognise **positive impact, innovation, sustainability and replicability** in responsible tourism.



Tharu Heritage

- The museum showcases the **traditional lifestyle, folk art, customs, traditional knowledge and cultural heritage** of the **Tharu community**.
- Its **Living Heritage Landscape** approach treats Tharu culture as a **living heritage** rather than a static museum exhibit.

Responsible Tourism

- The initiative promotes **community-based and sustainable tourism** while protecting **cultural and natural heritage**.
- It encourages **local community participation**, creating livelihood opportunities and markets for **Tharu handicrafts and traditional arts**.