SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

28-10-2026

National Startup Awards 6.0



Why in News

- The **DPIIT**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, launched the **6th National Startup Awards (NSA 6.0)**.

Institutional Framework

- Launched in **2019** under the **Startup India initiative**, the awards recognise innovation, scalability, sustainability and socio-economic impact.



Categories and Coverage

- NSA 6.0 covers **20 sectoral categories** and **three special categories**, encouraging startups from States, UTs and **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**.
- The **12 new sectors** include biomanufacturing, defence, rural livelihoods, semiconductors, future mobility, the blue economy, space technology, telecommunications and tourism.
- Special categories include **Women-Led Startups**, **North-Eastern Region Startups** and **Student Innovator/Aspiring Entrepreneur**.

Rewards and Support

- Winners in the 20 sectoral and two startup-focused special categories are eligible for **₹25 lakh per category**.
- The student award has a **₹25 lakh prize pool across four sub-categories**.
- Support includes **mentorship, investor engagement, market access and industry partnerships**.

Orange Oakleaf Butterfly: Chhattisgarh's State Butterfly

Why in News



- The **Orange Oakleaf (*Kallima inachus*)** won a public online poll to become Chhattisgarh's first official state butterfly.

Distribution and Habitat

- It belongs to the family **Nymphalidae** and occurs across **Tropical Asia, from India to Japan**.
- It inhabits subtropical and temperate forests, generally at elevations of **500–2,000 metres**.

Distinctive Adaptations

- Its folded wings resemble a **dry leaf**, providing camouflage, while open wings reveal orange, black and blue colours.
- It feeds mainly on **rotting fruits and tree sap** and also exhibits **mud-puddling** to obtain minerals.

Ecological Significance

- It contributes to **pollination** and indicates suitable forest habitats.
- Dense vegetation and leaf litter are important for its survival.

Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026

News On AIR

PM Modi will inaugurate ESTIC 2026 today at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave ESTIC 2026 today at Bharat Mandapam in...



Why in News

- The Prime Minister inaugurated **ESTIC 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, highlighting scientific self-reliance and **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

Organisation and Objectives

- **ESTIC** brings together ministries, researchers, innovators, industries and international experts.
- It is organised by **CSIR** under the guidance of the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser**.

Theme and Focus Areas

- Theme: **"Creative Minds, Catalysing Science, Empowering Technologies."**
- Its **12 thematic areas** include advanced manufacturing, energy technologies, synthetic biology, quantum communications, semiconductors, AI, robotics, healthcare, agricultural technology and space science.
- Activities include technical sessions, exhibitions, technology showcases and expert discussions.

Collaboration

- The **Global Connect Networking Event** is expected to bring together **300+ invited participants** from academia, research and industry.
- The conclave promotes **industry–academia–government collaboration** and indigenous technological development.

Neoterpnosia mawphlangensis: New Cicada Species

The Meghalayan Express

Cicada found in Mawphlang in 2023 turns out to be new species

Researchers, along with local guide Wanshaibor Wahlang, first detected the cicada by its calls in May 2023, after which the species was...



Why in News

- Researchers described the new cicada species ***Neoterpnosia mawphlangensis*** from **Mawphlang Hills, Meghalaya**.

Distribution and Habitat

- It was recorded in the **East Khasi Hills** at elevations of **1,378–1,605 metres**.
- It inhabits semi-evergreen and subtropical pine forest environments and is camouflaged among moss.

Distinctive Features

- It is distinguished by male reproductive structures and markings on its transparent wings.
- Male cicadas produce species-specific sounds using abdominal organs called **tymbals** to attract females.

Life Cycle

- Females lay eggs in tree branches or stems; emerging nymphs enter the soil and feed on plant sap.
- Mature nymphs emerge, attach themselves to vegetation and undergo **moulting** to become adults.
- Annual cicadas generally live **four to six weeks as adults**, while some periodical cicadas have **13- or 17-year nymphal periods**.

UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport

News On AIR

India to bring further amendments to National Anti | Akashvani News

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya has said that India will bring further amendments to the National Anti-Doping...



Why in News

- India was re-elected **Vice-Chair** of UNESCO's International Convention against Doping in Sport, with related governance meetings held in New Delhi.

Treaty Framework

- The **UNESCO multilateral treaty** aims to prevent and eliminate doping in sport.
- It was adopted on **19 October 2005** and entered into force on **1 February 2007**.
- India ratified it on **7 November 2007**.
- The source reports **192 States Parties**.
- The **Conference of Parties (COP)** is the supreme governing body and ordinarily meets biennially.

Implementation Mechanisms

- The Convention promotes harmonised anti-doping laws and recognises the role of the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** and the **World Anti-Doping Code**.
- Support includes technical guidance, funding, training and capacity-building.
- The **Anti-Doping Fund** supports awareness and implementation activities.

Significance

- It strengthens international cooperation to promote **clean sport, fair competition and sports integrity**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Kittur Fort: Freedom Park Project

The Hindu

Freedom Park will come up in Kittur Fort, says CM Shivakumar

CM Shivakumar pledges ₹40 crore for the Kittur Channamma Freedom Park and ₹520 crore for Channavrushabhendra Irrigation, plus regional...



Why in News

- Karnataka announced a **₹40 crore Kittur Channamma Freedom Park** project at **Kittur Fort, Belagavi district**.

Historical Significance

- **Allappa Gowda Sardesai**, the fifth ruler of the Kittur dynasty, constructed the fort during **1660–1691**.
- It is associated with **Rani Chennamma**, who led an armed rebellion against British rule in **1824**, decades before the Revolt of 1857.

Architecture and Heritage

- Built using **black basalt**, the fort features **Peshwa-Islamic architectural elements**.
- Structures include a three-storeyed palace, watchtower, water cisterns, temples and palace ruins.

- Its museum houses **weapons, sculptures and historical relics** associated with the rebellion.

Regional Importance

- The proposed project aims to promote **heritage conservation, historical awareness and tourism**.

Environment

Allocaecilius nilgiriensis: New Barklouse Species

Research Matters

Rare new species of barklice insect discovered from the Nilgiri Mountains



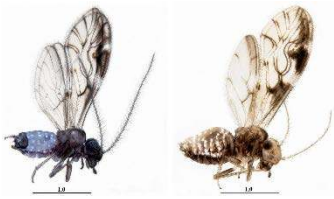
Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India have discovered and described a new insect species, Allocaecilius nilgiriensis, marking only...

Why in News

- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** discovered a new barklouse species, *Allocaecilius nilgiriensis*, in the Nilgiri Hills.

Distribution and Habitat

- It occurs in the **Southern Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu and Kerala**, inhabiting high-altitude **shola forests and evergreen rainforests**.



Biological Features

- It feeds on **mould, fungi, algae, lichens and organic debris** on tree bark.
- Males possess specialised structures on the **hypandrium**, while females have a deeply indented subgenital plate.
- Distinctive brown patches occur on the distal portions of its forewings.

Ecological Significance

- Barklice contribute to **decomposition and nutrient cycling**.
- This is the **second recorded occurrence of the genus *Allocaecilius* in India**, bringing its known global total to **13 species**.

Defence

Exercise Garuda Shakti: India–Indonesia

Why in News

- The **11th edition of Exercise Garuda Shakti** commenced at **Banyuwangi, Indonesia**.

ANI News

India, Indonesia special forces conduct joint live-firing drills during exercise Garuda Shakti



Indian and Indonesian Special Forces have conducted joint live-firing drills in Banyuwangi, Indonesia, as part of the ongoing 11th edition...

Strategic Framework

- It is a bilateral **Special Forces exercise** between India and Indonesia.
- India is represented by troops from the **Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)**.

Training Components

- Training focuses on **jungle warfare and special operations**, including combat marksmanship, obstacle crossing, mountaineering and air-assault operations.
- It includes exchanges on **weapons, equipment, tactics and operational procedures**, followed by a validation exercise.

Defence Significance

- The exercise tests **coordination, endurance and combat readiness** while strengthening India–Indonesia defence cooperation and engagement in the **Indo-Pacific**.

Science and Technology

Macrophages: Immune Cells and Cancer Research



Why in News

- Research has highlighted how ageing-related changes in **macrophages** may influence lung cancer development and progression.

Biological Characteristics

- **Macrophages** are specialised white blood cells that engulf pathogens, dead cells and cellular debris.
- Most develop from **bone-marrow monocytes**, while some tissue-resident macrophages originate from embryonic cells.
- They occur in organs including the **brain, lungs, liver, spleen and lymph nodes**.

Types and Functions

- **M1 macrophages** generally promote inflammation and destroy pathogens, while **M2 macrophages** support tissue repair and wound healing.

	➢ They release **cytokines**, remove damaged cells, support immune activation and maintain tissue homeostasis. **Mechanism and Disease Links** ➢ **Phagocytosis** is the process of engulfing and breaking down pathogens or cellular debris. ➢ Macrophages detect signals through surface receptors and can present **antigens** to activate adaptive immunity. ➢ Dysfunctional macrophage activity is associated with **cancer, cardiovascular diseases, autoimmune disorders and neurodegenerative diseases**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Shram Samvad Programme, Uttar Pradesh


BW BW People

Ministry Of Labour, Uttar Pradesh To Hold Two-Day Programme On Labour Codes In Lucknow

The Labour Ministry and Uttar Pradesh government will hold a two-day Lucknow programme on labour codes, worker welfare and social...

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Labour and Employment** and the **Government of Uttar Pradesh** are organising a two-day **Shram Samvad** programme in **Lucknow on 26–27 October 2026**.

Objectives and Coverage

- The programme aims to improve awareness of the **four Labour Codes**, strengthen labour administration and promote workers' welfare.
- The nationwide **90-day Shram Samvad initiative** covers **316 districts across all 36 States and Union Territories**, focusing on industrial clusters and district-level engagement.

Key Discussion Areas

- Discussions cover **labour reforms, international labour mobility, social security for unorganised and gig workers**, and welfare of **Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW)**.
- **ESIC** and **EPFO** will contribute to discussions on workers' welfare and social protection.

Digital Labour Governance

- **e-Shram Portal** supports registration of unorganised workers, while **Shram Suvidha Portal** facilitates labour compliance.

- **SAMADHAN Portal** supports labour-related grievance resolution, and **Labour Stack** aims to integrate labour information and services.

Four Labour Codes and Schemes

- The four Labour Codes consolidate **29 central labour laws**: **Code on Wages, 2019; Industrial Relations Code, 2020; Code on Social Security, 2020; and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana** promotes employment generation, while **PM-SYM** provides contributory pension benefits to eligible unorganised workers.