

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

29-09-2026

Indian Peafowl

The Assam Tribune

Indian peafowl recorded for first time at Assam's Orang National Park

The sighting was established when wildlife photographer Nejib Ahmed & cinematographer Chandan Saikia spotted and successfully photographed...



Why in News

- **Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam**, recorded the **Indian peafowl (Pavo cristatus)** for the first time, adding it to the protected area's biodiversity record.

Taxonomy and Distribution

- The **Indian peafowl** belongs to the **pheasant group** of birds.
- **Peacock** refers to the male, **peahen** to the female, while **peafowl** refers collectively to both.
- It is distributed across the **Indian subcontinent** and the drier lowland areas of **Sri Lanka**.
- It inhabits **moist and dry deciduous forests, montane forests, cultivated areas and human settlements**.

Distinctive Features

- The male has a brightly coloured body, a blue crest and a long train containing prominent **eyes**spots.
- The train consists of elongated **upper-tail covert feathers**, which are raised during courtship displays.
- The female lacks the train and generally has **duller brown plumage with a greenish lower neck**.
- Indian peafowl are **omnivorous**, feeding on seeds, grains, fruits, insects, reptiles and small animals.



Conservation and Cultural Significance

- The **Indian peafowl is the National Bird of India** and has significant cultural and historical associations.
- It is classified as **Least Concern (LC)** under the **IUCN Red List**.

Swell Waves

 News On AIR

INCOIS Issues Red Alert for Kerala Coast Over High Waves and Swell Surge Phenomenon



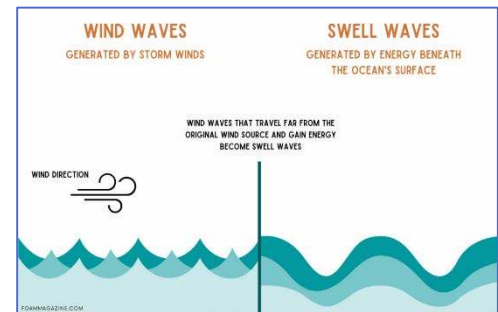
Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has issued a Red Alert across all coastal districts in Kerala,...

Why in News

- **INCOIS** issued a **Red Alert** across coastal districts of Kerala over dangerous sea conditions associated with potential **swell waves**.

Oceanographic Characteristics

- **Swell waves** are long-wavelength surface gravity waves that travel away from their place of origin.
- In India, they are also known as **Kallakkadal waves**, a term commonly used by Kerala fishermen.
- Unlike locally generated wind waves, swells can travel **thousands of kilometres** from distant storm systems.
- Their wavelengths generally remain below **150 metres**, although extreme storms can generate swells exceeding **700 metres**.



Formation and Behaviour

- Swells are generally generated by **distant windstorms, hurricanes or prolonged gale-force winds**.
- Energy transferred from the atmosphere to the ocean generates powerful waves that subsequently propagate away from the storm.
- Swells have a narrower range of **frequencies and directions** than locally generated wind waves.
- Their direction of propagation may differ from the direction of local winds.

Early Warning System

- The **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** launched the **Swell Surge Forecast System in 2020**.
- The system provides warnings of swell-related conditions up to **seven days in advance**.

National Digital Tourism Stack



Flights, Hotels, Homestays On One Network: What Is India's New Digital Tourism Stack

India has launched a new digital network to connect flights, hotels, homestays, local experiences and other tourism services. The National...



Why in News

- The **Ministry of Tourism** launched the **National Digital Tourism Stack** and **National Mission for Alternative Destinations – Dekho Apna Desh Campaign 2.0** on **World Tourism Day 2026**.

Digital Public Infrastructure

- The **National Digital Tourism Stack** is an **open digital public infrastructure** designed to make tourism offerings more discoverable, accessible and trustworthy.
- It is being developed with the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** and support from the **International Centre for DPI Innovation and Advancement (ICDIA)**.
- It will support **verified identities, supplier credentials, search and discovery, payments, ratings and grievance redressal**.
- The initiative involves the **Ministry, States, Union Territories and tourism industry**, with phased implementation and a pilot planned for **January 2027**.

Data-Driven Governance

Tourism

- A national **tourism monitoring dashboard/framework** will track **tourist footfall, carrying capacity and visitor feedback**.
- The approach aims to support **destination management, tourism diversification and local economic opportunities**.

National Mission for Alternative Destinations

- The mission seeks to distribute tourism demand towards **lesser-known, tourism-ready destinations** under **Dekho Apna Desh Campaign 2.0**.
- States and UTs will nominate destinations having distinctive attractions, adequate infrastructure and accommodation capacity.
- The four pilot themes are **mountain alternatives, coastal and waterfront alternatives, heritage and cultural destinations, and regional pilgrimage alternatives**.

Tourism Products and Community Participation

- Selected destinations will be developed into **bookable tourism products and themed itineraries** integrating accommodation, transport, food and local experiences.
- **Artisans, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), guides, food vendors and cultural groups** will be linked with tourism opportunities.
- Coordinated promotion will involve **States, UTs and industry partners**.

Bhima River

TH The Hindu

Minister orders action over industrial effluent discharge into Bhima river in Yadgir district

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Ramalinga Reddy directed officials to immediately inspect the industries concerned in the...



Why in News

- The **Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB)** was directed to act against industries allegedly discharging **untreated industrial effluents** into the **Bhima River** in the Kadechur-Badiyal industrial area.

Geographical Course

- The **Bhima River** is a perennial river and the **largest tributary of the Krishna River**.
- It originates near **Bhimashankar Temple** in the **Bhimashankar Hills of Maharashtra**.
- It flows through **Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana** before joining the **Krishna River in Raichur district, Karnataka**.
- Its total length is about **861 km**, including approximately **450 km in Maharashtra**.



Drainage and Tributaries

- The Bhima basin is bounded by the **Western Ghats to the west, Balaghat Range to the north and Mahadeo Hills to the south**.
- Major right-bank tributaries include **Indrayani, Mula, Mutha and Pavana**.
- Major left-bank tributaries include **Sina and Nira**.
- The river flows through a well-entrenched valley with heavily populated banks and is vulnerable to **monsoon flooding**.

Cultural and Historical Significance

- The Bhima basin has evidence of habitation since **prehistoric times** and was associated with the **Satavahanas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas and Yadavas**.
- **Pandharpur**, an important pilgrimage centre, lies on the **right bank** of the river.
- At Pandharpur, the Bhima is also known as **Chandrabhaga** because of its moon-like curvature.
- **Bhimashankar Temple**, near the river's source, is one of India's **12 Jyotirlinga shrines**.

Mega Ports under Indian Ports Act, 2025

THE Hindu

Kandla, JNPA, Mundra, Paradip notified as mega ports

The Centre has notified Deendayal (Kandla), Jawaharlal Nehru (Nhava Sheva), Paradip and Mundra ports as mega ports under the Indian Ports...



Why in News

The Central Government notified Deendayal, JNPA, Paradip and Mundra Ports as Mega Ports under Section 73 of the Indian Ports Act, 2025.

Geographical Distribution

1. **Deendayal Port (Kandla)** is located in **Gujarat** and serves Gujarat and the northern and western hinterland.
2. **Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPA)** is located at **Nhava Sheva, Maharashtra**, and is a major container port serving the Mumbai region.
3. **Paradip Port** is located in **Odisha** and handles significant **bulk and industrial cargo**.
4. **Mundra Port** is located in **Gujarat** and has extensive **cargo-handling and multimodal logistics infrastructure**.

Legal and Institutional Framework

- The classification has been made under **Section 73 of the Indian Ports Act, 2025**.
- The Central Government had earlier notified the **criteria for Mega Port classification** under **Section 73(1)**.
- **Mundra** is significant because it is a **non-major port**, whereas Deendayal, JNPA and Paradip are major ports.
- India has **12 major ports** and **more than 200 non-major ports**.

Maritime and Economic Significance

- Mega Ports are intended to strengthen **high-capacity, efficient and globally competitive maritime infrastructure**.

- These ports serve as important nodes in India's **international trade, logistics and supply-chain network**.
- The initiative supports India's objective of improving **maritime connectivity, logistics efficiency and global trade integration**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Dakhla Oasis TOI The Times of India <u>Archaeologists have discovered a 1,700-year-old Roman-era pyramid tomb in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis; the small</u> A rare pyramid-shaped tomb dating to the Roman period has been uncovered at Bir Al-Shaghala in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis, revealing a striking...  Why in News ➤ A rare pyramid-shaped Roman-period tomb was recently uncovered at Bir Al-Shaghala in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis. Geographical and Historical Significance ➤ Dakhla Oasis is located west of the Nile River in Egypt's Western Desert, between Cairo and Luxor. ➤ Human settlement in the oasis dates back around 12,000 years, beginning with nomadic hunter-gatherers. ➤ Its ancient routes connected Egypt, the Sahara and Libya, making it a major North African crossroads. Archaeological and Cultural Features ➤ Thousands of petroglyphs depict animals, people, hunting scenes and symbols from different settlement periods. ➤ The oasis was connected to the outside world by the Great Desert Loop, a road constructed in the 1980s.
Environment	Begonia rajvikramanii TH The Hindu <u>Keralam researchers discover a new species of genus Begonia in Western Ghats</u> Researchers discover Begonia rajvikramanii, a new Western Ghats species from Rosemala, Kerala, named after JNTBGRI's R. Raj Vikraman.  Why in News ➤ Researchers identified a new Begonia species from Kollam district, Kerala, and named it Begonia rajvikramanii.

	Botanical and Geographical Features ➤ Begonia rajvikramanii is a perennial flowering plant belonging to the family Begoniaceae. ➤ It was discovered in the Western Ghats of Kollam district, Kerala. ➤ The species grows in wet habitats, particularly rocky cliffs and road-cut walls at around 200–350 metres elevation. Taxonomic Context ➤ The genus Begonia has around 2,200 accepted species distributed mainly across tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Asia and America. ➤ Flowering and fruiting of B. rajvikramanii occur between August and April. Conservation Status ➤ The observed population contains approximately 200 mature individuals spread over less than 5 sq. km. ➤ It has been assessed as Data Deficient (DD) pending a comprehensive future assessment.
Defence	Exercise KAZIND  News On AIR India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND Akashvani News The Opening Ceremony of the India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2026 was conducted in Kazakhstan today.  Why in News ➤ A 60-member Indian Armed Forces contingent departed for Oskemen, Kazakhstan, to participate in the 9th edition of Exercise KAZIND. Bilateral Defence Cooperation ➤ KAZIND is a joint military exercise conducted between India and Kazakhstan. ➤ The Indian contingent is drawn mainly from a battalion of the Garhwal Rifles, along with personnel from other arms, services and the Indian Air Force. ➤ The exercise strengthens military-to-military cooperation between the two countries.

	Operational Focus ➤ KAZIND-2026 focuses on joint counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain. ➤ Training includes joint planning, air mobility, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Counter-UAS capabilities. ➤ Troops will undertake training in raids, search-and-destroy missions, cordon-and-search operations and securing helipads and landing sites. ➤ The exercise also covers Special Heliborne Operations and joint responses to terrorist threats. Strategic Significance ➤ The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and joint operational capability under a United Nations mandate. ➤ It reinforces India-Kazakhstan cooperation on regional peace, stability and collective security.
Science and Technology	Tiangong Space Station  India Today <u>There are 14 astronauts in space today as new crew arrives. Where are they from?</u> Fourteen humans are currently living and working in space, all of them aboard the two permanently occupied space stations in low Earth orbit...  Why in News ➤ Pakistan is set to send its first astronaut into space under a cooperation programme with China, with one of two candidates expected to join a short-duration mission aboard China's Tiangong Space Station as a payload specialist. Structure and Orbit ➤ Tiangong, meaning "Sky Palace," is a Chinese-owned and operated permanently crewed space station in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). ➤ It represents the third and final step of China's Manned Space Program. ➤ Its first module, Tianhe, was launched in April 2021. ➤ The station consists of the core module Tianhe and two science modules, Wentian and Mengtian.

- The planned **Xuntian** space telescope will share the station's orbit and can dock with it for servicing.

Comparison with ISS

- Tiangong orbits at approximately **340–450 km** altitude, broadly comparable to the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- It has **three major modules**, compared with 16 modules on the ISS, and is substantially lighter.
- Unlike the ISS, Tiangong is operated by **a single country, China**.
- It generally accommodates **three astronauts for six-month stays** and can support six during crew handovers.

Scientific and Strategic Objectives

- The station functions as an **in-orbit laboratory** for long-duration human spaceflight and scientific research.
- Its experiments cover **space life sciences, biotechnology, microgravity fluid physics, combustion, materials science and fundamental physics**.
- China plans to expand the station with **additional modules** in the coming years.
- Tiangong aims to provide a long-term platform for **scientific experiments, technological development and astronaut safety**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS)

 News On AIR

UP International Trade Show 2026 to begin tomorrow in Greater Noida

The fourth edition of the UP International Trade Show (UPITS) will begin tomorrow at the India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida of...



Why in News: **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **fourth Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS)** in **Greater Noida**, aimed at promoting Uttar Pradesh products in domestic and international markets.

Trade and Industrial Promotion

- The **fourth UPITS** seeks to facilitate **trade and production** for producers across Uttar Pradesh.

- The **One District, One Product (ODOP)** initiative supports traditional crafts, youth, small entrepreneurs and small-scale industries.
- Major ODOP products include **Bhadohi carpets, Moradabad brassware, Firozabad glass, Saharanpur woodcraft, Kannauj perfume and Banarasi silk sarees.**
- The **One District, One Cuisine (ODOC)** website was launched to promote regional foods such as **Varanasi's Malaiyo and Tiranga Barfi, Agra's Petha, Mathura's Peda and Meerut's Gajak.**

Defence and Infrastructure

- Uttar Pradesh has **six Defence Corridor nodes** at **Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Lucknow, Agra, Aligarh and Kanpur.**
- India's defence production has reached **₹1.78 lakh crore**, with defence products being exported to **80 countries.**
- **Noida Airport, expressways and other infrastructure projects** were highlighted as key investment-enabling infrastructure.
- **Metro services operate in seven Uttar Pradesh cities**, stated as the highest among Indian States.

Economic Significance

- UPITS provides a platform for **MSMEs, traditional industries and local producers** to access international markets.
- The initiative strengthens **export promotion, local value chains and market linkages** for Uttar Pradesh products.