SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

02-11-2026

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR DAIRY DEVELOPMENT (NPDD)

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Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh to Visit Gangtok and Mangan Districts of Sikkim on 2–3 November 2026

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Why in News?

- A microbiology laboratory for the **Sikkim Milk Union** is scheduled to be inaugurated under NPDD.

Scheme Profile

- **NPDD is a Central Sector Scheme** implemented by the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)** under the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.
- Launched in **2014**, it was restructured in **July 2021** for implementation during **2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- It aims to improve milk quality and strengthen organised procurement, processing, value addition and marketing.

Major Components

- **Component A:** Strengthens milk testing infrastructure and primary chilling facilities for dairy cooperatives, SHGs, Milk Producer Companies and FPOs.
- **Component B:** Improves organised market access, dairy processing and marketing infrastructure and the capacity of producer-owned institutions.

Significance

- The scheme strengthens dairy cooperatives, reduces milk spoilage and improves farmers' access to organised markets.

SHEY PHOKSUNDO LAKE: NEPAL

Business Today

Nepal's missing Indian tourists rescued after being stranded near Shey-Phoksundo Lake amid heavy snowfall

The tourists were travelling from Ward Nos. 4 and 8 of Dolpo Buddha Rural Municipality towards Shey-Phoksundo Lake when they got stranded.



Why in News?

- Six Indian tourists went missing while trekking to **Shey Phoksundo Lake** following heavy snowfall in Nepal.

Geographical Characteristics

- It is an **alpine freshwater oligotrophic lake** in Nepal's **Dolpa district**, located at **3,611 metres** altitude.
- Spread over approximately **4.94 sq. km**, it has a maximum depth of **145 metres** and a distinctive **Y-shaped appearance**.
- Formed around **30,000-40,000 years ago**, it is a **landslide-dammed lake**.

Environmental Significance

- Its outlet forms the **Suligad (Phoksundo) Waterfall**, approximately **167 metres high**.
- Designated a **Ramsar Site in 2007**, it lies within **Shey Phoksundo National Park**.

Cultural Significance

- The region is traditionally inhabited by the **Dolpo people**, who practise **Bon religion** and Tibetan Buddhism.
- **Ringmo village**, at the southern end, contains stupas and the Ringmo Bon Gompa.
- **Bon** is an ancient Tibetan spiritual tradition that predates Buddhism in the region.

LIBERALISED REMITTANCE SCHEME (LRS)

The Indian Express

LRS remittances cross $20 billion in first eight months of 2026



Outward remittances from India under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) have crossed $20 billion during...

Why in News?

- Outward remittances under RBI's **Liberalised Remittance Scheme** crossed **USD 20 billion during the first eight months of 2026**.

Regulatory Framework

- Introduced on **4 February 2004**, LRS operates under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999** and is regulated by the **RBI**.
- Resident individuals, including minors, can remit up to **USD 250,000 per financial year (April-March)**.
- There is no restriction on the frequency or number of permissible transactions within the annual limit.

Permitted Transactions

- Permitted uses include **overseas education, medical treatment, private visits (excluding Nepal and Bhutan)** and maintenance of relatives abroad.
- Capital account transactions include opening foreign currency accounts, purchasing overseas property and undertaking **Overseas Direct Investment (ODI)** and **Overseas Portfolio Investment (OPI)**.
- Loans to eligible NRI relatives under the **Companies Act, 2013** are also permitted.

Restrictions

- Remittances for lottery tickets, prohibited items and overseas foreign-exchange trading are prohibited.
- Purchase of Indian companies' **Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs)** in overseas secondary markets is not permitted.
- Remittances to terrorism-linked entities and countries identified as non-cooperative jurisdictions by the **FATF** are restricted.

GELEPHU MINDFULNESS CITY (GMC): BHUTAN

The Hindu

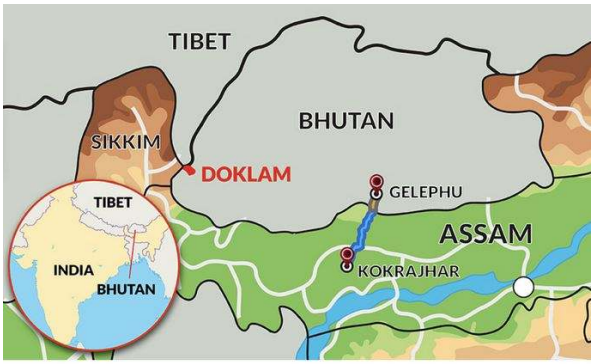
India-linked Buddha relics to be enshrined in 108 chortens in Bhutan

Bhutan to enshrine India-origin Buddha relics in 108 chortens along Mau Chhu River, launching Gelephu Mindfulness City's spiritual-economic...



Why in News?

- Bhutan's King dedicated one of 108 newly constructed Buddhist stupas to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recognition of India's support for the **Gelephu Mindfulness City project**.



Geographical and Administrative Profile

- Envisioned by Bhutan's King **Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**, GMC is located in southern Bhutan, bordering **Assam**.
- It covers approximately **4,046 sq. km (10% of Bhutan)** and was established through a **Royal Charter in February 2024**.
- It is a highly autonomous **Special Administrative Region (SAR)** with separate executive and legislative powers and an independent judiciary.

Urban Planning

- The masterplan envisages a low-to-mid-rise city built around **inhabitable bridges** integrating transport, cultural, educational and recreational facilities.
- Proposed infrastructure includes an international airport, university, healthcare centre, hydroponic greenhouse and hydroelectric dam.
- It will have **11 ribbon-like neighbourhoods** incorporating 35 rivers and streams.

Environmental and Strategic Significance

- Paddy fields will help manage floods and function as **biodiversity corridors**.
- The city will include a **national park and wildlife sanctuary**.

- The project combines sustainable urbanisation, economic development and cultural preservation, with significance for **India-Bhutan connectivity**.

OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE

Down To Earth

Odisha begins seven-month fishing ban to protect Olive Ridley turtles



The seasonal restrictions, alongside US curbs on Indian wild-caught shrimp exports, add to the economic pressures facing the state's fishing...

Why in News?

- Odisha imposed a seven-month fishing and mechanised boat restriction in designated coastal stretches to protect **Olive Ridley sea turtles** during breeding.

Biological and Ecological Features

- The Olive Ridley is the world's **smallest and most abundant sea turtle** and is named after its olive-green carapace.
- It is famous for mass nesting called **Arribada**, when thousands of females gather on the same beach to lay eggs.
- It is omnivorous, prefers the open ocean and migrates thousands of kilometres between feeding and breeding grounds.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN:** Vulnerable.
- **CITES:** Appendix I.
- **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I.
- Seasonal fishing restrictions help reduce accidental capture and disturbance during nesting.

Geographical Distribution

- It occurs in the warm waters of the **Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans**.
- **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, Odisha**, is the world's largest sea-turtle rookery.

TAWANG MONASTERY: ARUNACHAL PRADESH

www.pib.gov.in

Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha Arrive at Tawang Monastery; Exposition Marks a Significant Moment in Arunachal Pradesh's Buddhist Heritage



Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha Arrive at Tawang Monastery; Exposition Marks a Significant Moment in Arunachal Pradesh's Buddhist Heritage...

Why in News?

- Sacred relics of Lord Buddha received a traditional religious reception at **Gaden Namgyal Lhatse (Tawang Monastery)**.

Historical and Geographical Profile



- Located in the **eastern Himalayas of Arunachal Pradesh**, it was founded in the **17th century by Merak Lama Lodre Gyatso**.
- Also known as **Gaden Namgyal Lhatse**, meaning the divine paradise of complete victory, it is **India's largest monastery** and an important centre of Mahayana Buddhism.
- **Architectural Features**
- Its main assembly hall, **Dukhang**, is a three-storeyed structure containing the temple and **Labrang (Abbot's establishment)**.
- It features murals of Buddhist divinities and saints and a large gilded statue of Lord Buddha flanked by **Maudgalyayana and Sariputra**.

Religious Significance

- The monastery's principal deity is **Goddess Sri Devi (Palden Lhamo)**.
- A sacred Thangka of the deity, preserved in a silver casket, was gifted to Merak Lama by the **Fifth Dalai Lama**.
- It is an important centre of **Himalayan Buddhist heritage and Monpa cultural traditions**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

WESTERN SAHARA

Why in News?

- The UN Security Council failed to renew the mandate of the **United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)**, potentially ending its 35-year-old mission.

Geographical Profile



- Western Sahara is a sparsely populated **desert region in Northwest Africa**, forming part of the **Maghreb region**.
- It borders **Morocco (north), Algeria (northeast) and Mauritania (east and south)**, with the **Atlantic Ocean** along its western coast.
- It is rich in **phosphates and other minerals** and has a significant fishing industry.

MINURSO: Institutional Mandate

- Established in **1991**, MINURSO supports settlement proposals and monitors the ceasefire between **Morocco and Frente Polisario**.
- Its headquarters is at **Laayoune**, the main city of Western Sahara.
- Its functions include monitoring developments, investigating incidents and reporting on regional stability.

Strategic Significance

- Its **phosphate reserves, Atlantic coastline and fisheries** make it economically and strategically important.
- The unresolved territorial dispute remains a major issue in North African regional stability.

Environment

EXOSTOMA NASIBARBATUM: NEW CATFISH SPECIES

ThePrint

Why Manipur's newly discovered catfish is built differently

New Delhi: A fish living in a mountain stream faces a problem that many freshwater species do not: the current can be strong enough to sweep...

Why in News?

- Scientists discovered a new glyptosternine catfish species, **Exostoma nasibarbatum**, in Manipur.

Geographical and Ecological Profile

- It was discovered in **Bupal stream**, a tributary of the **Dujang River**, in the **Chindwin River system** near the Myanmar border.
- It inhabits fast-flowing streams with boulders and rocky substrates.

Taxonomic and Morphological Features

- It belongs to genus **Exostoma**, family **Sisoridae** and order **Siluriformes**.
- Adaptations include a flattened head and body, enlarged paired fins with **adhesive striae** and flattened maxillary barbels.
- Its prominent nasal barbel gives it the name *nasibarbatum*, derived from Latin *nasus* (nose) and *barba* (beard).

Scientific Significance

- The genus **Exostoma** has 23 recognised species across Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent, including seven in the **Chindwin-Irrawaddy drainage**.

Defence

PROJECT 18A: NEXT-GENERATION STEALTH DESTROYERS

The Hindu

What is Project 18A, and why is the Navy embarking on building futuristic warships? | Explained

The Indian Navy's next-generation destroyer programme envisages larger, stealthier and more heavily armed warships, designed to meet...



Why in News?

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** accorded in-principle approval to the Indian Navy's **Project 18A**, estimated to cost ₹80,000 crore.

Programme and Institutional Framework

- Project 18A is the Navy's **Next-Generation Destroyer (NGD)** programme and successor to the **Visakhapatnam-class (P-15B)** destroyers.
- It is overseen by the **Warship Design Bureau (WDB)** in collaboration with **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** and **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**.

Technological Capabilities

- The proposed P-18 destroyers will have a displacement exceeding **13,000 tonnes**, against approximately 7,400 tonnes for the Visakhapatnam class.
- They are expected to feature **75% indigenous content**, **Integrated Electric Propulsion (IEP)**, a cruising range of **4,500 nautical miles at 18 knots** and endurance exceeding 45 days.
- Up to **144 Vertical Launch System (VLS) cells** are planned for missiles such as **BrahMos-NG, Barak-8 ER and LR-LACM**.
- Anti-submarine systems will include **Varunastra torpedoes, ASW mortars and towed-array sonar**.
- Other weapons include **30-mm Close-In Weapon Systems (CIWS)**, directed-energy weapons and a **127-mm main gun**.
- The ships may carry **unmanned underwater vehicles and kamikaze drones** for surveillance, mine detection and submarine operations.

Strategic Significance

- Advanced radar systems are expected to track targets up to **500 km**.
- Stealth features include an **X-shaped enclosed mast, radar-absorbent materials, optimised hull and infrared signature suppression (IRSS)**.
- The programme aims to strengthen India's blue-water naval capabilities and counter emerging missile and submarine threats.

Science and Technology

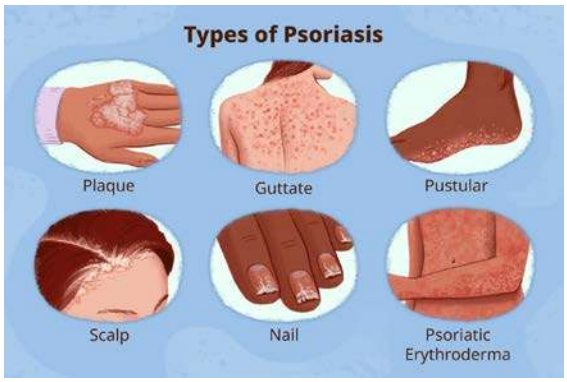
PSORIASIS: CHRONIC AUTOIMMUNE SKIN DISEASE



Why in News?

- A recent study reported increased risks of **cataracts and cataract surgery** among psoriasis patients.

Nature and Causes



- **Psoriasis** is a chronic autoimmune disease in which an overactive immune system accelerates skin-cell production.
- Skin-cell turnover reduces from approximately one month to **3-4 days**, causing cells to accumulate as scaly patches.
- Genetic factors, immune dysfunction and environmental triggers contribute to the disease.

Symptoms and Risk Factors

- It commonly affects the **knees, elbows, trunk and scalp**, causing red patches with silvery-white scales, itching and cracked skin.
- Triggers include stress, **streptococcal infections**, skin injuries, certain medicines and temperature changes.
- Some patients develop **psoriatic arthritis**, characterised by painful, stiff or swollen joints.
- It is **not contagious**, but has a strong hereditary link.

Treatment

- There is no permanent cure; treatment focuses on controlling inflammation and slowing skin-cell production.

	➢ Options include **steroid creams, moisturisers, vitamin D3 ointments and retinoids**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Arvind Limited Textile Plant in Varanasi

Hindustan Times

PM Modi inaugurates ₹150-crore Arvind Limited textile plant in Varanasi | India News

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Arvind Limited's ₹150-crore textile plant in Varanasi, where over 300 women have been recruited for...



Why in News

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the first major manufacturing plant of Ahmedabad-based **Arvind Limited** in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Features

- **Investment:** Approximately ₹150 crore.
- It is the first major manufacturing plant of Arvind Limited in the **Purvanchal region**.
- The facility will manufacture sportswear and undergarments for several major multinational brands.
- It is expected to generate thousands of employment opportunities for local people and residents across Purvanchal.

Significance

- The plant is expected to strengthen the textile and garment manufacturing ecosystem in eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- It can promote local employment, particularly among women.
- The inauguration highlighted the theme **"Your Skill, Your Identity" (Apna Hunar, Apni Pehchan)**.