

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

30-09-2026

UN Declaration on Sea-Level Rise

 Down To Earth

UN adopts first declaration on sea level rise, backs continued statehood of island nations

The UN has adopted its first declaration on sea level rise, affirming that island nations will not automatically lose statehood if their...



Why in News

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted its first declaration on **sea-level rise** during a high-level plenary meeting on **24 September 2026**.

Legal and Maritime Dimensions

- The declaration establishes a common international position on the **legal and practical challenges of rising sea levels**.
- It affirms that **sea-level rise does not automatically terminate the statehood** of countries whose territories become submerged.
- Such states can retain their **sovereignty, rights, responsibilities and UN membership** despite territorial submergence.
- It calls for stability of **maritime zones established under UNCLOS** despite physical changes to coastlines.
- This is particularly significant for **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** because maritime zones determine rights over ocean resources and activities.

Climate and Human Security

- Global mean sea level reached a **record high in 2024**, with the rate of rise increasing from **2.1 mm/year during 1993–2002 to 4.7 mm/year during 2015–2024**.
- Around **770 million people** live less than five metres above the high-tide line.
- The declaration calls for **multi-hazard early warning systems** and climate-risk assessments in planning and decision-making.

Adaptation and International Cooperation

- It urges greater **financial, technical and policy support** for developing countries, particularly **SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**.
- It promotes **nature-based solutions**, including protection and restoration of **mangroves, kelp forests and seagrass meadows**.
- Sea-level projections are to be incorporated into the planning, construction and maintenance of **critical coastal infrastructure**.

Dengue Early Warning System

TH The Hindu

Scientists at IAV, Keralam develop dengue early warning system to forecast trends

IAV's Dengue Early Warning System forecasts weekly dengue trends by merging epidemiological and climate data to help proactive public health...



Why in News

- Scientists in **Kerala** developed a **Dengue Early Warning System (DEWS)** using **machine learning, six years of disease data and weather variables** to forecast district-level dengue trends.

Disease and Transmission

- **Dengue** is a mosquito-borne viral infection caused by the **Dengue virus (DENV)**.
- It is transmitted primarily through the bite of infected **Aedes mosquitoes**.
- Dengue is prevalent mainly in **tropical and subtropical regions**, particularly urban and semi-urban areas.
- Transmission commonly increases during and after **rainy seasons**.

Epidemiological Features

- Around **400 million dengue infections** are estimated globally each year, with about **96 million** resulting in illness.
- A person can be infected with dengue **multiple times** during their lifetime.
- Common symptoms include **high fever, headache, body aches, nausea and rash**.

Severe Disease

- Severe dengue can cause **blood-vessel leakage, reduced platelet count, internal bleeding, shock and organ failure**.
- The risk of severe disease can be higher during a **second dengue infection**.
- There is **no specific medicine that cures dengue**, and treatment primarily involves **supportive care, fluids, rest and symptom management**.

Eurasian Whimbrel

TH The Hindu

Six years on, ringed Eurasian whimbrel resighted on Keralam coast; marked Tibetan sand-plover also recorded

Marked shorebirds sighted on the Keralam coast reveal long migratory journeys, stopovers, and connections between breeding and wintering...



Why in News

- The **Eurasian whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus)** was recently sighted at **Kadalundi-Vallikkunnu Community Reserve, Kerala**.

Habitat and Migration

- It is a **wading bird** belonging to the family **Scolopacidae**.
- It winters mainly along **coasts, coastal wetlands, mangroves, marshes and large rivers**.
- Its range extends across **North America, South America, Asia, Africa and Europe**.
- It breeds in the **subarctic regions of Siberia and Alaska** before migrating southwards to wintering grounds.



Identification and Feeding

- The species has a **long, decurved bill with a kink**, dark eye-stripes and mottled brown upperparts.
- It is generally solitary during nesting but becomes **gregarious outside the breeding season**.
- It feeds by probing soft mud for **small invertebrates** and picking small crabs and similar prey from the surface.

Conservation Status

- The **Eurasian whimbrel** is classified as **Least Concern (LC)** under the **IUCN Red List**.

PRAMAAN Certificate



News On AIR

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav awards maiden PRAMAAN certificates to APFDC

Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav today bestowed maiden PRAMAAN certificates to Andhra Pradesh Forest...



Why in News

- India's first **PRAMAAN certificates** were recently issued under the **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)**.

Certification Framework

- **PRAMAAN** stands for **Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry And Natural forestry resources**.

- It was launched by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** as a national framework for certifying forests, wood and non-timber forest products.
- Forest Management certification follows **Indian Forest Management Standards** derived from the **National Working Plan Code 2023**.

Certification Categories

- **Forest Management (FM) Certification** covers recorded forest areas and forest plantations.
- **Trees Outside Forests (TOF) Management Certification** covers agroforestry systems and private plantations.
- **Chain of Custody (CoC) Management Certification** ensures traceability of timber and non-timber forest products from source to customer.

Accreditation and Significance

- Certification is audited by bodies accredited by the **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)** under the **Quality Council of India (QCI)**.
- The framework is benchmarked against international frameworks to facilitate recognition among domestic and global buyers and regulators.

Mandar Instrument

 News On AIR

Jharkhand's traditional musical instrument Mandar gets Geographical Indication tag

The traditional musical instrument Mandar, deeply rooted in the folk culture and tribal life of Jharkhand, has received official recognition...



Why in News

- The traditional **Mandar** musical instrument of Jharkhand has received official recognition through a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.

Physical Characteristics

- **Mandar** is a traditional **double-headed percussion instrument** associated with the folk and tribal culture of Jharkhand.
- It has a hollow, **cylindrical red-clay body** that slightly bulges in the middle.
- Its two openings are covered with leather, with the **right opening smaller than the left**.

Distinctive Features

- The leather coverings are secured with **braided cords**, while a special coating called **Kiran** is applied to the smaller opening.
- The instrument is traditionally carried with a rope over the shoulder and played rhythmically.

Cultural Significance

- Mandar is used during **festivals, crop celebrations, religious rituals and cultural events**.
- It has been used by both **tribal and non-tribal communities** in dance and song performances.

Didymocarpus nautiyalii



The Sentinel - of this Land, for its People

Botanists discover new plant species in Arunachal's Shi-Yomi

New plant species discovered in Arunachal's Shi-Yomi; only 19 flowering individuals of *Didymocarpus nautiyalii* recorded.



Why in News

- Botanists discovered the new plant species **Didymocarpus nautiyalii** in **Shi-Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh**, highlighting the botanical diversity of the Eastern Himalaya.

Taxonomic and Ecological Profile

- **D. nautiyalii** belongs to the flowering-plant family **Gesneriaceae**.
- It grows on **moist rock surfaces**, roadside walls and areas near waterfalls in **subtropical evergreen forests** above **1,000 metres**.
- The herb grows to about **8 cm** and has leathery leaves with **bluish-purple flowers**.

Conservation Status

- Researchers have assessed **D. nautiyalii** as **Data Deficient (DD)** under the **IUCN Red List criteria**.

Distinctive Features

- It differs from **Didymocarpus albiflorus** through its shorter stem, very short or absent leaf stalks, leathery leaf blades, smaller calyx, shorter bluish-purple corolla and hairless ovary.

International Whaling Commission

Why in News

- India reaffirmed its commitment to **whale and cetacean conservation** at the

70th meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC-70) in Hobart, Australia.



India Reaffirms Commitment to Conservation of Whales and Other Cetaceans at IWC-70 in Hobart, Australia

India today underlined the need for conservation of whales and other cetaceans at the 70th meeting of the International Whaling Commission...



Legal and Institutional Basis

- The **International Whaling Commission (IWC)** is an intergovernmental organisation established under the **1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling**.
- It regulates whaling and promotes conservation of whale populations.
- The IWC currently has **88 contracting governments**, including countries that do not hunt whales.

Whaling Regulations

- A global **moratorium on commercial whaling** was adopted in **1986** because of overexploitation of whale stocks.
- **Article VIII** permits contracting governments to issue special permits for taking whales for scientific research.
- The IWC also regulates **aboriginal subsistence whaling** for specified indigenous communities and whale stocks.

Conservation Developments

- The IWC has designated **Indian Ocean and Southern Ocean sanctuaries** where commercial whaling is prohibited.
- The **2018 Florianópolis Declaration** called for permanent protection of whales and restoration of whale populations to pre-large-scale-whaling levels.
- **Japan announced its withdrawal from the IWC in December 2018**, with its withdrawal taking effect in 2019.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Italy
	News On AIR India, Italy agree to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in tourism during 2nd India Akashvani News India and Italy agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in tourism during the 2nd India-Italy Joint Working Group (JWG) on...  Why in News ➤ The 2nd India–Italy Joint Working Group on Tourism was recently held to strengthen bilateral cooperation in tourism. Geographical Setting ➤ Italy is located in South-Central Europe on the Apennine Peninsula, with Rome as its capital. ➤ It shares land borders with France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia. ➤ Vatican City and San Marino are two sovereign enclaves located within Italy.

	Physical Geography ➤ The Alps run along Italy's northern border, while the Apennine Mountains extend along the peninsula. ➤ The Po is Italy's longest river, while the Adige is another major river. ➤ Italy has a predominantly Mediterranean climate along its coastal regions. Maritime and Volcanic Features ➤ Italy is bordered by the Adriatic Sea, Sea of Sicily, Ionian Sea, Ligurian Sea and Tyrrhenian Sea. ➤ Major active volcanoes include Mount Etna in Sicily and Stromboli in the Aeolian Islands. ➤ Important natural resources include natural gas, crude oil, coal, zinc, potash, pumice and feldspar.
Environment	Galaxy Frog  India Today <u>This Indian frog carries the galaxy with it: Rare amphibian seen in Western Ghats</u> It looks like someone painted stars across its black back. Meet Melanobatrachus indicus, one of India's most elusive frogs.  Why in News ➤ The rarely sighted Galaxy Frog returned to attention after new images from Tamil Nadu highlighted its distinctive galaxy-like markings. Taxonomy and Distribution ➤ The Galaxy Frog is a small nocturnal amphibian belonging to the family Microhylidae and subfamily Melanobatrachinae. ➤ Its scientific name is Melanobatrachus indicus, and it is the sole member of its genus. ➤ It is endemic to the southern Western Ghats, with records from Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Habitat and Identification ➤ It inhabits wet evergreen and other moist forests, generally at 1,000–1,500 metres elevation. ➤ It is typically found beneath leaf litter, rotten logs and rocks. ➤ Its body is 2–3.5 cm long, dark in colour and covered with tiny bluish-white spots, with scarlet-orange coloration underneath.

	Discovery and Conservation ➤ The species was first described from the Anamalai Hills of Tamil Nadu in 1878 and rediscovered in 1997. ➤ The IUCN Red List classifies the Galaxy Frog as Vulnerable.
Defence	UNICORN Naval Antenna System TH The Hindu <u>Japan calls on India to fast-track internal process on UNICORN naval radar agreement</u> Japan urges India to expedite internal processing of the UNICORN naval radar transfer agreement amid Japan-India security collaboration and...  Why in News ➤ Japan has urged India to fast-track official processing of the agreement concerning the UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna) naval system. Technology and Function ➤ UNICORN, also known as NORA-50, is a shipborne integrated antenna system designed to improve warship stealth and situational awareness. ➤ It consolidates multiple antennas within a single enclosed radome, reducing exposed reflective surfaces and the ship's radar cross-section. ➤ It integrates systems including Tactical Data Links, TACAN, IFF, Electronic Support Measures (ESM) and communications. Operational Advantages ➤ The system reduces mutual interference among closely packed antennas and can improve the range of external radio-signal detection. ➤ It also simplifies installation and maintenance while reducing the vessel's overall electronic signature. ➤ UNICORN has been deployed on Japan's Mogami-class frigates. India–Japan Defence Cooperation ➤ India and Japan signed a Memorandum of Implementation (MoI) on 15 November 2024 for co-development of UNICORN masts. ➤ Japan provides design and engineering support, while India undertakes integration, adaptation and co-production through Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

	➤ The arrangement is described as the first military hardware co-development pact between India and Japan.
Science and Technology	Tetrataenium manipurense  NE NOW  <u>New species Tetrataenium manipurense identified by Manipur, Mizoram University botanists</u> Imphal: A team of botanists from Manipur University and Mizoram University has officially identified a local culinary herb and named it... Why in News ➤ Botanists from Manipur University and Mizoram University identified a new plant species and named it Tetrataenium manipurense after Manipur. Botanical and Regional Features ➤ Tetrataenium manipurense is a newly recognised plant species from Manipur. ➤ It is locally known as 'Singjang-kumol' or 'Manshang-nakuppi'. ➤ It is a traditional culinary herb used in Manipuri cuisine. Morphological Characteristics ➤ The plant has long, slender, grass-like green leaflets and a cylindrical rootstock reaching up to 40 cm. ➤ Its 10–20 cm stalks bear small oblong-oval fruits. ➤ Communities traditionally harvest its aerial shoots, flowers and basal leaves for seasoning dishes. Conservation Significance ➤ The species was traditionally traded in local markets as a wild aromatic vegetable. ➤ It is provisionally categorised as Least Concern (LC) under the IUCN Red List criteria.

Uttar Pradesh in News

CISF–IIT Kanpur Cooperation on Cyber and Anti-Drone Security

ANI News

CISF signs two MoUs with IIT Kanpur to strengthen cyber security, anti-drone tech capabilities

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has entered into two institutional partnerships with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur...



Why in News

- The **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** signed two MoUs with **IIT Kanpur** to strengthen **cyber security and drone/anti-drone capabilities** for critical infrastructure protection.

Cyber Security Capacity Building

- The first MoU with **C3iHub**, IIT Kanpur's **Cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub**, provides a **six-week residential training programme** under a **three-year framework**.
- Each batch will train **40 CISF personnel**, with the programme being provided **free of cost**. Training covers **IT and networking, digital forensics, incident response, vulnerability assessment, disaster recovery and business continuity**. Emerging threats involving **AI/ML, deepfakes, IoT, cloud computing and Operational Technology (OT)** will also be addressed.

Critical Infrastructure Protection

- The initiative aims to strengthen CISF preparedness against cyber threats affecting **aviation, power and nuclear infrastructure**.

Drone and Counter-UAS Technology

- The second MoU proposes a **Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Drone and Anti-Drone Technology** at CISF's **Major Police Training and Recruitment Centre (MPRTC), Behror, Rajasthan**.
- The CoE will focus on **UAV operations, counter-drone systems, drone forensics and cyber security of unmanned systems**.
- Research areas include **rogue-drone analysis, Radio Frequency (RF), micro-Doppler detection, integrated Counter-UAS systems and high-altitude drone operations**.
- The collaboration will support **simulators, forensic laboratories, training curricula and specialised technical infrastructure**.