

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

31-08-2026

Larak Island

TH The Hindu

West Asia conflict updates: UAE says dealt with drone coming from Iran over its waters

Follow The Hindu's updates on West Asia conflict as U.S. forces strike IRGC rocket launchers on Larak Island. Get latest news on Iran's...



Why in News: Iran recently retaliated with ballistic missiles at U.S. bases in Jordan following the Larak Island strike.

Geographical and Strategic Significance

- **Larak Island** is a small island in the **Strait of Hormuz**, south of Hormuz Island.
- It lies approximately **45 km southeast of Bandar Abbas** and **18 km southeast of the eastern end of Qeshm Island**.
- The island covers about **49 sq km** and derives strategic importance from its proximity to a major maritime **choke point**.
- The **Strait of Hormuz** connects the oil-rich **Persian Gulf** with the **Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea**.



Strait of Hormuz: Important Facts

- The strait lies between **Iran** to the north and the **UAE and Oman's Musandam** region to the south.
- The **Persian Gulf** lies to its west, while the **Gulf of Oman** lies to its east.
- Important islands in the strait include **Hengam, Hormuz and Qishm**.



Integrated Fertilizer Management System

Why in News: The **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** announced a new phase

PIB

Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS) Enters a New Phase of Data-Driven Fertilizer Management

Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS) Enters a New Phase of Data-Driven Fertilizer Management. iFMS Integration with Meri...



of the **Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS)** through digital initiatives.

Institutional and Digital Architecture

- **iFMS** is India's digital platform for managing fertilizer distribution and is developed and technically supported by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** for the **Department of Fertilizers**.
- It provides online services covering **dealer registration, stock tracking, dealer search, MIS and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) reports**.
- The platform integrates fertilizer **production, imports, movement, stock availability, retail sale and subsidy processing**.



Scale and Governance Significance

- The system covers more than **14 crore Aadhaar-linked fertilizer buyers** and over **2.5 lakh retailers**.
- New dashboards enable officials to monitor production, imports, dispatches, movement, stocks and retail sales at **national, State, district and retailer levels**.
- Data-based monitoring can help identify **unusual trends and emerging fertilizer-supply situations** at an early stage.

Hanging Glaciers

 The Indian Express

UPSC Key: 'Talking' cars, Himalayas' hanging glacier threat, and Indus Waters Treaty

How is knowing about the Himalayas' hanging glaciers relevant to the UPSC exam?
What significance do topics such as the Semicon 2.0...



Why in News: A study published in **Nature** identified as many as **219 hanging glaciers** in the **Alaknanda basin of the Garhwal Himalayas**.

Geomorphological Characteristics

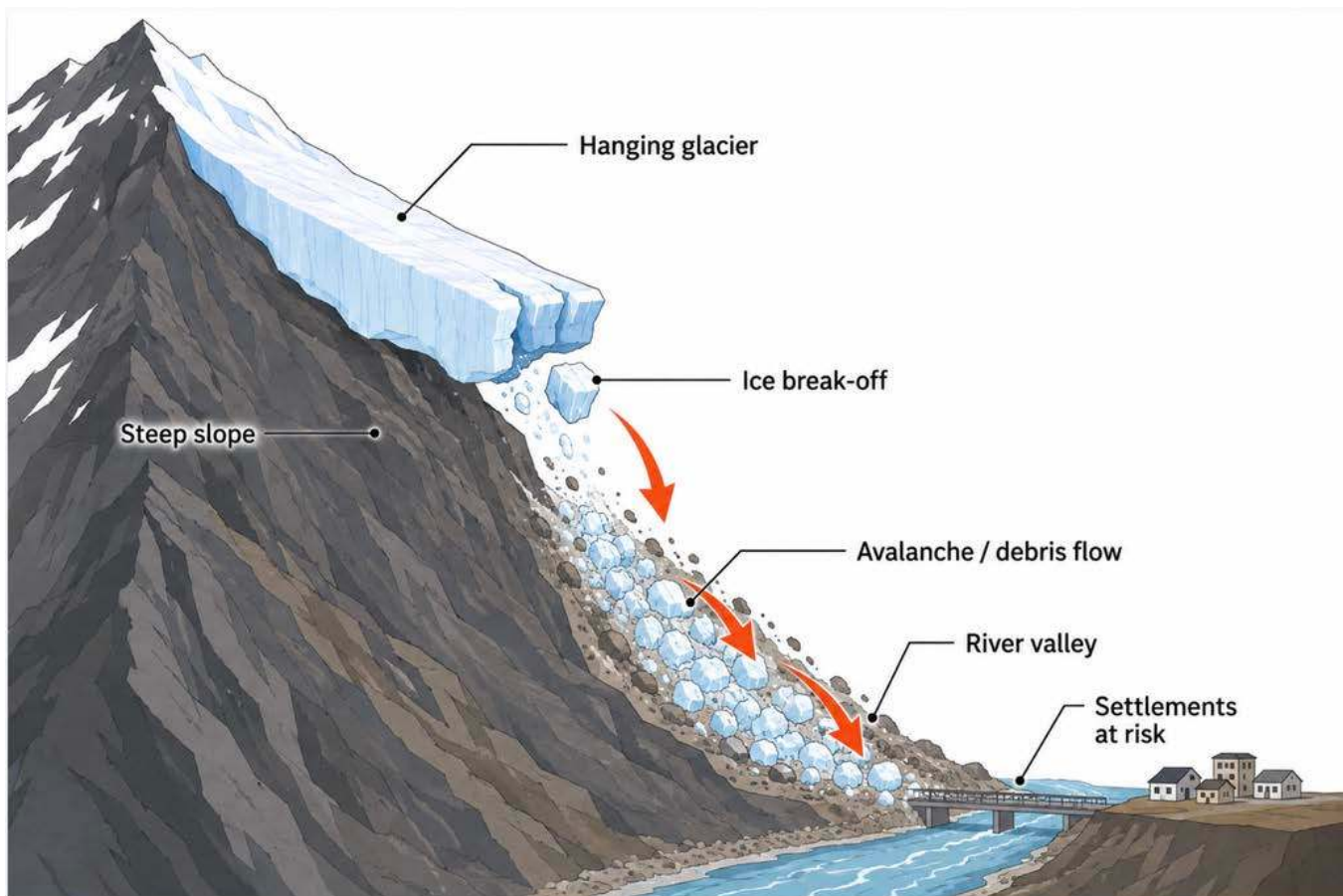
- **Hanging glaciers** are ice masses perched on steep slopes that can detach and trigger large avalanches.
- They commonly form when a major valley glacier **retreats and thins**, leaving tributary glaciers high above the reduced central glacier surface.
- When the glacier system completely disappears, the resulting high-level valleys are termed **hanging valleys**.

Hazard and Climate Linkages

- Break-offs from hanging glaciers can generate **avalanches** and secondary hazards such as **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**.
- High-altitude alpine glaciers are highly sensitive to **climate variability and warming**.
- The **Himalaya** has experienced warming above the global average over the past two decades, contributing to accelerated glacier retreat.

Classification

- The two types mentioned are **cold hanging glaciers** and **temperate hanging glaciers**.



Kamlang Tiger Reserve

Why in News: The **Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)**, the **Serenity Trust** and the **Department of Environment,**

Northeast Today

[Arunachal: Frontline Staff Of Kamlang Tiger Reserve Get Field Gear Boost To Strengthen Anti-Poaching Operations](#)

In a move to strengthen wildlife protection in one of Arunachal Pradesh's most sensitive habitats, essential field gear was provided to...



Forest and Climate Change provided field equipment to frontline personnel of Kamlang Tiger Reserve.

Geographical Setting

- **Kamlang Tiger Reserve** is located in **Arunachal Pradesh**, close to the **Myanmar border**.
- It forms part of the **Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot**.
- The reserve is named after the **Kamlang River**, which flows through it and joins the **Brahmaputra**.
- It lies between **Namdapha National Park** to the south and the **Lang River** to the north.

Physical and Ecological Features

- The **Lati River** forms its western boundary, while the **Tawe River** borders its eastern side.
- Its landscape includes **tropical forests, grasslands, rivers and hills**.
- The reserve has a **subtropical climate**, with **moist evergreen tropical forests** in foothills and subtropical and temperate forests at higher elevations.

Biodiversity

- Important tree species include **Ammora wallichii**, **Gmelina arborea**, **Terminalia chebula** and **Canarium resiniferum**.
- The reserve supports all four major big cats mentioned in the source: **Snow Leopard**, **Clouded Leopard**, **Leopard** and **Tiger**.
- Other fauna include **Himalayan Palm Civet**, **Leopard Cat**, **Slow Loris** and **Hoolock Gibbon**.

Solar Flare

THE Hindu

New study captures Sun's early warning signs before solar flares

New study reveals early warning signs of solar flares through small energy releases in the Sun's atmosphere, enhancing flare prediction.



Why in News: Scientists have identified small, short-lived brightenings in the Sun's atmosphere that appear hours before major **solar flares** and cluster near the eventual flare location.

Physical Basis and Classification

- A **solar flare** is a powerful explosion on the Sun caused by the sudden release of energy stored in **twisted magnetic fields**, usually above sunspots.
- Flares can last from **several minutes to hours** and heat solar material to millions of degrees.

- They release electromagnetic radiation across the spectrum, from **radio waves to X-rays and gamma rays**.
- Solar flares are classified into **A, B, C, M and X classes** according to intensity.

Flare Classes

- **X-class flares** are the most powerful and can cause widespread **radio blackouts** and prolonged radiation storms in the upper atmosphere.
- **M-class flares** are medium-sized and generally produce brief radio blackouts, particularly affecting Earth's polar regions.
- **C-class flares** are relatively small and usually have limited effects on Earth.
- **B-class and A-class flares** are progressively weaker than C-class flares and generally have little or no noticeable effect on Earth.

Earth and Space Impacts

- Solar-flare radiation can disrupt **satellite communications and radio signals** and can pose risks to astronauts.
- Enhanced solar activity can contribute to **geomagnetic storms**, potentially affecting power grids and producing **auroras at lower latitudes**.

Other Important News of the day

Awards in News

PM Modi Conferred Uzbekistan's Highest Friendship Honour

TH The Hindu

PM Modi conferred with Uzbekistan's prestigious 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' Order

PM Modi receives Uzbekistan's 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' Order, dedicating it to the enduring friendship between India and Uzbekistan.



Why in News: Uzbekistan conferred the **“Oliy Darajali Do’stlik” Order (Order of Highest Friendship)** on **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **Tashkent** on 30 August 2026.

Award and Significance

- The **Oliy Darajali Do’stlik Order** is **Uzbekistan's highest state honour for foreign leaders**.
- The honour recognises PM Modi's contribution to strengthening **India–Uzbekistan friendship and cooperation**.
- It was presented at the **Kuksaroy Presidential Residence, Tashkent**.

Strategic Partnership

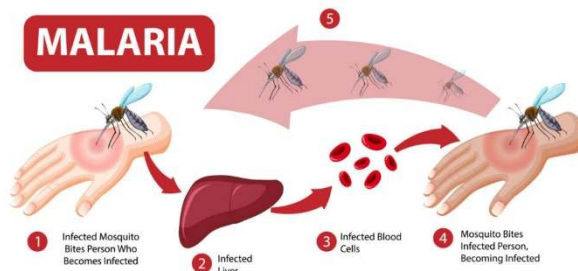
- India and Uzbekistan agreed to elevate bilateral ties to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.

	- Cooperation covers trade, investment, transport, culture, digital technology, defence and energy. - Both countries moved towards a long-term uranium supply arrangement. International Dimension - India and Uzbekistan emphasised cooperation as partners of the Global South. - The development strengthens India's engagement with Central Asia.
Places in News	Chile Why in News: India and Chile are working towards concluding negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by the end of 2026. Geographical Profile Chile is located in southwestern South America as a long, narrow coastal country between the Andes Mountains and the South Pacific Ocean. - It shares borders with Peru, Bolivia and Argentina, while the Drake Passage lies to its south. - Its capital is Santiago. Physical Geography - Chile has a desert climate in the north, Mediterranean climate in central regions and cool, damp conditions in the south. - The Atacama Desert is located in Chile and is the driest non-polar desert in the world. - The Loa River is a major river of the country. Ojos del Salado is the world's highest active volcano and the second- 

	highest peak in South America, rising to about 6,880 m. Economic and Strategic Significance - Chile lies along the Pacific Ring of Fire. - It is a major global producer of copper and lithium, along with resources such as molybdenum, iron ore, timber, hydropower and precious metals.
Environment	Rove Beetle  The Arunachal Times <u>15 new rove beetle species documented from Arunachal</u> ITANAGAR, 29 Aug: In a landmark scientific achievement, an Indo-German research team has discovered 15 species of Stenus beetles,...  Why in News: An Indo-German research team discovered 15 species of rove beetles in the waterfalls and forests of Arunachal Pradesh. Biological Characteristics - Rove beetles belong to the family Staphylinidae, one of the largest beetle families. - They generally have elongated bodies and shortened elytra, exposing flexible abdominal segments. - Some species raise their abdomen in a scorpion-like defensive posture, although they do not possess a true sting. - They can occur in sub-tropical and cold-tolerant climates and occupy diverse moist environments worldwide.  Ecological Role - Their habitats include leaf litter, soil, bark, fungi, shorelines, dung, carrion, compost and nests of social insects. - Many species prey on insects associated with decaying organic matter. - Rove beetles are beneficial in agriculture and gardening because they can suppress pest populations through biological control. - Some species exhibit wasp or soldier-ant mimicry, while abdominal glands provide chemical defence against predators.

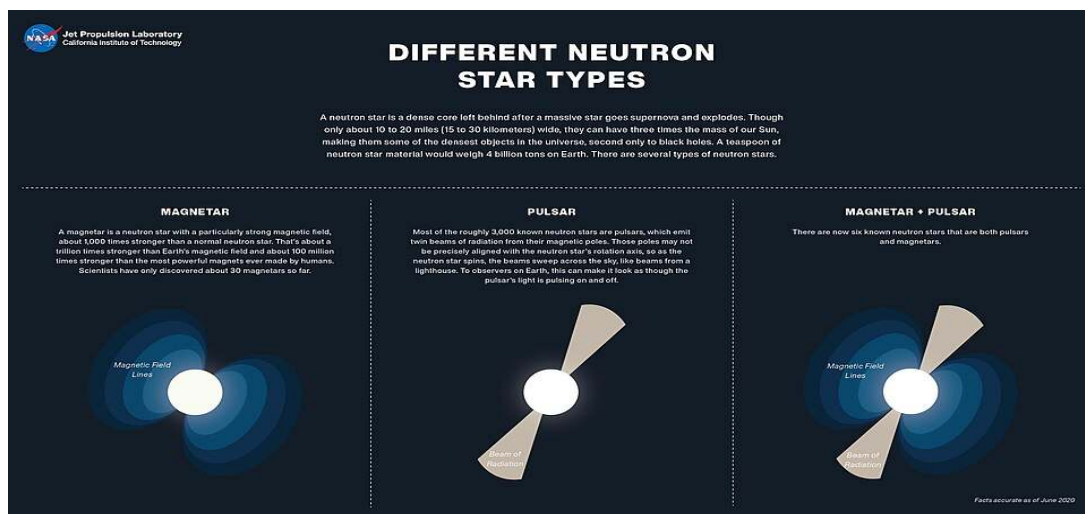
Sports News	in CHESS – R. Praggnanandhaa Wins Grand Chess Tour  News On AIR  R Praggnanandhaa creates history; Becomes 1st Indian to win Grand Chess Tour Akashvani News Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa created history, becoming the first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour after staging a stunning... Why in News: Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) in 2026. Historic Achievement - Praggnanandhaa defeated defending champion Fabiano Caruana of the USA by 15–13. - The final was held in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. - He won US\$200,000 and secured a guaranteed place in the 2027 Grand Chess Tour. Match Highlights - He began the final day 3–9 down after the Classical games. - He won both Rapid games to move ahead 11–9. - He eventually secured the title during the Blitz phase through a required draw by threefold repetition. Grand Chess Tour - The GCT tests players across Classical, Rapid and Blitz formats. - His 2026 achievements also include the Norway Chess title and Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz title. - The victory marks an important milestone for Indian chess internationally.
Health	Malaria  NDTV  India's Malaria Cases Fall Nearly 80% In 10 Years: How It Happened India has made significant progress in its fight against malaria, with malaria cases and deaths declining by nearly 80% between 2015 and... Why in News: According to the Union Health Ministry, India recorded an approximately 80% decline in malaria cases and deaths between 2015 and 2025, while high-burden districts declined from 155 to 33. Disease and Transmission

	• Malaria is a potentially life-threatening febrile disease caused by Plasmodium parasites. • It is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. • Although malaria is not contagious through ordinary contact, transmission can also occur through infected blood or contaminated needles. Clinical Features • Common symptoms generally appear 10–15 days after infection and include fever, chills and headache. • Severe malaria may cause seizures, breathing difficulty, jaundice, dark urine and death if untreated. • Higher-risk groups include infants, children below five years, pregnant women, travellers and people with HIV/AIDS. Treatment • Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (ACTs) are used for P. falciparum malaria. • Chloroquine is used for P. vivax malaria. • Primaquine is used to prevent relapses in P. vivax and P. ovale infections.
Science and Technology	Magnetars Why in News: The magnetar 1E 1547.0–5408 has provided strong observational evidence that an extremely intense magnetic field can alter how light travels through otherwise empty space. Astrophysical Nature • Magnetars are neutron stars possessing extraordinarily strong magnetic fields. • They form through the core collapse of massive stars during supernova explosions, like other neutron stars. • The magnetar concept was first proposed in 1987 and successfully used to explain Soft Gamma Repeaters (SGRs) in 1992.



Key Characteristics

- Their magnetic fields are estimated to be around **1,000 times stronger than those of typical neutron stars**.
- A magnetar's magnetic field can be **more than one quadrillion times stronger than Earth's magnetic field**.
- Their high-energy electromagnetic radiation is powered by the **decay of their magnetic fields**.



Observable Phenomena

- Magnetars generally show **slow rotation and rapid spin-down**, along with short bursts and outbursts that may last for months.
- They can occasionally release enormous amounts of energy through powerful **flares**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

PM-SETU Industry Conclave

Hindustan Times

PM-SETU industry conclave: Build 'aatmanirbhar' talent pipeline for defence industry: Rajnath | Hindustan Times

Defence minister says India's ambitions in defence manufacturing, aerospace, electronics, drones, robotics, precision engineering would...



Why in News: **MSDE** and the **Uttar Pradesh Government** organised the **PM-SETU Industry Conclave** in **Lucknow** to strengthen industry participation in skill development.

Skill Development Focus

- **PM-SETU** stands for **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs**.



- The scheme focuses on upgrading **Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** and improving the quality and relevance of training.
- It promotes **modern, technology-enabled and industry-aligned training infrastructure**.

Industry Linkages

- The initiative seeks stronger collaboration among **industry, government and skill-development institutions**.
- Training is intended to become more closely aligned with **industry requirements and employment opportunities**.
- It aims to help transform India's **demographic dividend into a productive dividend**.

Emerging Technologies

- Upgraded ITIs can prepare youth for **Industry 4.0**, advanced manufacturing and new-age technologies.
- The initiative can improve the employability of youth by promoting **demand-driven skilling**.