SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

03-11-2026

Chidambaram Sabanayagar Temple: Madras HC Forms Management Board



Why in News?

- The **Madras High Court** appointed a five-member Board of Management for the temple over alleged maladministration by the hereditary **Podhu Dikshitars**.

Historical and Religious Significance

- Located in **Chidambaram, Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu**, it is also called **Thillai Nataraja Temple** and **Great Chidambaram Temple**.
- It is dedicated to **Lord Shiva as Nataraja**, representing his cosmic dance.
- A Shiva shrine existed here before the **7th century AD**.
- The **Chola dynasty** developed the temple during the 10th century, and **Parantaka I** established its golden roof.

Architectural Features



- Spread over **40 acres**, the temple has **four prakarams, nine gopurams** and five principal Sabhas:
  - **Kanaka Sabha:** Golden Hall.
  - **Chit Sabha:** Hall of Consciousness.
  - **Nritta Sabha:** Hall of Dance.
  - **Deva Sabha:** Hall of Deities.
  - **Raja Sabha:** Royal Hall.
- Its walls depict all **108 Karanas** described in the **Natya Shastra** of Bharata Muni, forming the foundation of classical dance movements.
- The sanctum's roof is adorned with gold plates.

Administration and Cultural Importance

- **Podhu Dikshitars**, a hereditary priest community, traditionally administer the temple; the **Supreme Court entrusted its management to them in 2014**.
- Important contributors included the **Cholas, Vijayanagara rulers, Madurai Nayakas and Maharaja of Pudukkottai**.
- The temple's 108 Karanas are associated with **Bharatanatyam**.

Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary: First Documented Tiger Sighting by Tourists

The Times of India

First on-camera tiger sighting by tourists recorded at Radhanagari-Dajipur sanctuary

First tourist-recorded tiger sighting in Radhanagari-Dajipur Wildlife Sanctuary: male Bengal tiger STR-T10 "Ranoji" spotted on safari after...



Why in News?

- Tourists photographed a male **Bengal tiger** in **Maharashtra's Radhanagari-Dajipur Wildlife Sanctuary**, marking its first officially documented tourist-captured sighting.

Geographical and Ecological Features

- Located in **Kolhapur district, Maharashtra**, in the southern **Sahyadri hills of the Western Ghats**.
- Declared a sanctuary in **1958**, it was Maharashtra's first wildlife sanctuary.
- Spread over **350 sq. km**, it is also called **Dajipur Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Bison Sanctuary**.
- It was primarily established for conserving the **Indian Bison (Gaur)**.

Biodiversity Profile

- **Flora:** Tropical evergreen forests containing Ain, Anjani, Amba, Awala, Hirda, Jambul and Kinjal.
- **Mammals:** Gaur, tiger, leopard, sloth bear, barking deer, mouse deer, sambar and wild dog.
- **Birds:** Nilgiri wood-pigeon, Ceylon frogmouth, yellow-browed bulbul, Malabar grey hornbill, great pied hornbill and Malabar whistling thrush.
- It is designated an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** by **BirdLife International**.

River Systems and Conservation

- Rivers include **Bhogavati, Kallamma, Dudhganga, Dirba and Tulshi**, which ultimately join the **Krishna River**.
- **Radhanagari Dam**, situated on the Bhogavati River, supports the forest ecosystem.
- The sanctuary contributes to biodiversity conservation in the **Western Ghats**, a global biodiversity hotspot.

Project 28A: ₹53,866 Crore Deal for Eight Next Generation Corvettes

Why in News?

- The **Ministry of Defence** signed contracts worth **₹53,866.50 crore** for eight Next Generation Corvettes (NGCs) for the Indian Navy.

Livemint

Why India inked ₹53,866 crore deal for 8 new warships: How next-generation corvettes will boost Navy's capabilities



India has signed ₹53866 crore contracts with GRSE, Goa Shipyard to build eight next-generation corvettes for the Navy.

Indigenous Shipbuilding Initiative

- **GRSE, Kolkata**, will construct five corvettes, while **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** will construct three.
- It is the first project involving ships **indigenously designed by the Indian Navy** and built by competitively selected **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)**.
- A **corvette** is a small, fast and heavily armed warship ranked below a frigate.

Operational and Technical Capabilities

- NGCs will undertake **anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship attacks, anti-missile defence, escort duties and maritime interdiction operations**.
- Specifications: **127 metres length, 17.6 metres width, 4,950 tonnes deadweight tonnage** and maximum speed of **26 knots**.
- Each ship will accommodate **11 officers and 139 sailors** and operate for **14 days without replenishment**.
- Propulsion will use **CODAG-CC (Combined Diesel and Gas turbine with Cross-Connect gearbox)** and two **Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP)**.

Weapons and Surveillance Systems

- Proposed weapons include **Medium Range Anti-Ship Missiles, MRSAM and 324 mm torpedo tubes**.
- Gun systems include **76 mm OTO Melara Super Rapid Gun Mount, AK-630 CIWS and 12.7 mm stabilised remote-controlled guns**.
- Sensors include **EOIRST** and **MFSTAR radar**.
- The ships will also have **helicopter-operating capabilities**.

Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union: Prasar Bharati Wins Two Honours at ABU Prizes 2026

DD News

Prasar Bharati Bags Two ABU Honours, Showcases WAVES OTT

Prasar Bharati has received two major recognitions at the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Prizes 2026, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Why in News?

- **Prasar Bharati** received two recognitions at the **Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Prizes 2026**, held in Colombo.

Institutional Profile

- Established in **1964**, ABU is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation promoting broadcasting and media cooperation across the Asia-Pacific.
- It connects approximately **224 organisations across 66 countries**.
- **Headquarters:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Institutional Structure

- **General Assembly:** Supreme body comprising Full, Additional Full and Associate members.
- **Administrative Council:** Functions as the board of directors and comprises **18 Full and Additional Full members**.
- Members are elected for **three-year terms**, and the council meets **twice annually** to review policies, finances and sectoral issues.

Bupleurum oslaense: New Himalayan Plant Species Discovered in Uttarakhand

Research Matters

Botanists discover critically endangered plant species in Uttarakhand



Botanists from the Botanical Survey of India have discovered and described a brand-new plant species, named Bupleurum oslaense,...

Why in News?

- The **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** discovered a new Himalayan plant species, **Bupleurum oslaense**, assessed as Critically Endangered.

Geographical and Taxonomic Features

- Discovered at approximately **2,550 metres** in **Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary, Uttarakhand**.
- Belongs to the family **Apiaceae** and occurs in temperate forests of the **Western Himalayas**.
- It shares genetic and structural similarities with **Bupleurum petiolulatum**, a species native to China.

Morphological Features

- Grows up to **80 cm** and has narrow lower leaves and broader upper leaves with **red-tinged margins**.
- Its flower clusters (umbellules) contain **10–20 flowers**, with **3–5 larger bracts**.

Conservation Significance

- Categorised as **Critically Endangered (CR)** under the **IUCN Red List assessment**.
- Its discovery highlights the biodiversity importance of the **Western Himalayas**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Mayon Volcano Eruption in the Philippines

Why in News?

- **Mayon Volcano** in the Philippines recently experienced a moderately explosive eruption, producing an ash column and forcing thousands to evacuate.

Geographical and Tectonic Location



- Located in **Albay province, Luzon Island, Philippines**, it is a **stratovolcano (composite volcano)**.
- It forms part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire** and lies near the **Philippine Trench**, where the Philippine Sea Plate subducts beneath the Philippine Mobile Belt.
- It rises **2,462 metres above Albay Gulf** and is famous for its symmetrical conical shape.

Volcanic Characteristics and Eruptions

- Its base circumference is approximately **130 km**, and its summit crater measures around **250 metres** across.
- More than **30 eruptions** have been recorded since 1616.
- Eruptions include **Strombolian activity, lava flows, pyroclastic flows and mudflows (lahars)**.
- The **1814 eruption** killed over **1,200 people**, while the **1993 eruption** caused 79 deaths.

Environmental and Regional Significance

- It is the centre of **Mayon Volcano National Park**.

	➢ UNESCO designated the surrounding region a **Biosphere Reserve in 2016**. ➢ Its lower slopes support extensive **abaca plantations**. ➢ Eruptions primarily occur through the central conduit and can generate lava flows along the volcano's flanks.
Environment	**Asiatic Black Bear**

The Times of India

Changing hibernation patterns affecting bears' diet in Himalayas?

Camera trap in Singalila National Park captures first verified photo of an Asiatic black bear preying on an endangered red panda,...



Why in News?

➢ The **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** documented the first verified photographic evidence of an **Asiatic black bear (Ursus thibetanus)** preying on an endangered **red panda (Ailurus fulgens)**.

Habitat and Distribution

➢ A medium-sized Asian bear adapted to an **arboreal lifestyle**, inhabiting broadleaved and coniferous forests.
➢ Found in **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Japan and South Korea**.
➢ In India, it occurs across the **eastern and western Himalayas**, generally at elevations of **2,600–11,400 feet**.

Physical Features and Behaviour

➢ Its black fur has a distinctive **V-shaped white or beige chest marking**.
➢ It is an **omnivore**, feeding on berries, cherries, acorns, insects, squirrels and frogs.
➢ It is an excellent climber and swimmer and generally hibernates from **late November to March**.

Threats and Conservation Status

➢ Major threats include **deforestation, habitat fragmentation and poaching** for body parts used in traditional medicine.
➢ **IUCN:** Vulnerable (VU).
➢ **CITES:** Appendix I.
➢ **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule II.

Defence	**Exercise Tiger Triumph 2026** DD India India-US tri-service exercise Tiger Triumph 2026 opens in Visakhapatnam The fifth edition of Tiger Triumph, the India–US bilateral tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise,...  **Why in News?** ➢ India and the United States commenced the **fifth edition of Exercise Tiger Triumph 2026** at **Visakhapatnam**. **Nature and Objectives** ➢ It is a bilateral **tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise**. ➢ It aims to improve **defence cooperation, operational interoperability and joint disaster-response capabilities**. ➢ It reflects growing convergence in **India-US strategic maritime interests**. **Participation and Significance** ➢ Indian participants include the **Army, Navy, Air Force and Special Forces** from all three services. ➢ The **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** is participating for the first time in this edition. ➢ The exercise strengthens military-civilian coordination during regional crises and natural disasters.
Science and Technology	**Teghaza 001** The Times of India In 2022, an 800-gram pink rock was found in the Sahara Desert; NASA-funded researchers have now confirmed A rock that spent more than four billion years preserving clues about Mars' early history was found lying in the Sahara Desert, looking like...  **Why in News?** ➢ **Teghaza 001**, a rose-coloured meteorite discovered in the **Sahara Desert (2022)**, has been identified as one of the oldest Martian meteorites found on Earth.

	Scientific Significance ➢ It weighs approximately **800 grams** and is named after the **Teghaza salt plain in Mali**. ➢ Among approximately **435 known Martian meteorites**, it is one of the three oldest, alongside **ALH84001 and Black Beauty**. ➢ It dates back over **4.1 billion years**, when zircon crystallised from molten Martian magma. ➢ Its unique composition and texture distinguish it from other known meteorite groups. **Evidence of Ancient Water on Mars** ➢ Chemical markers indicate contact with **liquid water** during its formation and evolution. ➢ It provides evidence of ancient Mars having a wet environment potentially suitable for the emergence of life. **Basic Astronomical Concepts** ➢ **Meteoroids:** Solid rocky or metallic materials orbiting the Sun. ➢ **Meteors:** Luminous phenomena produced when meteoroids enter an atmosphere and burn. ➢ **Meteorites:** Meteoroid fragments that survive atmospheric passage and reach the surface.

Uttar Pradesh in News

NAMASTE Scheme: Support for Safai Mitras

ThePrint

NAMASTE scheme: MoS Verma distributes PPE kits, Ayushman cards to Safai Mitras in UP

New Delhi, Oct 27 (PTI) Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment B L Verma on Tuesday distributed personal protective...

Why in News

➢ Union Minister of State **B. L. Verma** distributed PPE kits and Ayushman Cards to Safai Mitras in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, under the **NAMASTE Scheme**.

Recent Progress

➢ **National Level:**
- 90,194 Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) have been verified.
- 88,222 workers have received PPE kits.

- 80,180 workers have been covered under health insurance through Ayushman Cards.

- **Moradabad:**
  - 307 Sewer and Septic Tank Workers have been profiled and provided PPE kits.
  - 1,190 waste pickers have been validated through the profiling process.

About NAMASTE Scheme

- **Full Form:** National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem.
- It aims to ensure the **safety, dignity and social security of sanitation workers** while promoting mechanised sanitation.
- It was initially approved for **FY 2023–24 to FY 2025–26** and continues to be implemented in FY 2026–27.
- **Implementing Ministries:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Implementing Agency:** National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC), under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Key Objectives

- Eliminate fatalities during sanitation work.
- Eliminate direct contact with human faecal matter during sewer and septic tank cleaning.
- Promote mechanised cleaning with appropriate safety equipment and trained workers.
- Strengthen **Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs)**.
- Empower sanitation workers through **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** and entrepreneurship opportunities.