

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

05-09-2026

Sukhna Lake

 Hindustan Times

Artisans find a new marketplace at Chandigarh's Sukhna Lake | Hindustan Times

Artisans will now have access to Sukhna Lake as a new marketplace to showcase and sell their products directly to tourists and local...



Why in News

The **MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Ludhiana**, and the **Chandigarh Tourism Department** launched a three-day pilot market-access initiative at **Sukhna Lake**.

Geographical Setting

- **Sukhna Lake** is an **artificial lake** in **Chandigarh** located at the foothills of the **Shivalik Hills**.
- It was created in **1958** by damming the **Sukhna Choe**, a seasonal stream originating in the Shivalik Hills.

Environmental Concerns

- The lake initially covered about **230 hectares**, but its area declined to approximately **154 hectares by 2007** because of **siltation**.
- Its water level declined from about **5 metres in 1958 to 2 metres by 2004**.
- **Soil erosion** from the approximately **4,200-hectare catchment area** has accelerated sedimentation in the lake and streambeds.

Other Significance

- Sukhna Lake has the **longest channel for rowing and yachting events in Asia**.

Ecological Significance

- Sukhna Lake has been declared a **National Wetland** by the Government of India.
- During winter, it attracts migratory birds including **Siberian ducks, storks and cranes**.
- Around **30 resident and migratory bird species** are reported from the lake.
- The lake is also part of the **Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Stegodyphus sarasinorum

Why in News

Indian researchers produced the first comprehensive **molecular and functional profile of the**

 The Hindu

Indian researchers map colonial spider's venom gland, uncover molecules with potential for future cancer and antimicrobial drug research

A team of Indian researchers has produced the first comprehensive molecular and functional profile of the venom gland of Stegodyphus...



venom gland of *Stegodyphus sarasinorum*.

Taxonomic and Geographic Profile

- *Stegodyphus sarasinorum* is a **colonial spider species** also known as the **Indian cooperative spider** or **Indian social spider**.
- It is distributed across the **Indian subcontinent**.
- It inhabits **semi-arid areas of central and southern India**.

Social Behaviour

- The species lives in **permanent colonies** and constructs **communal silk nests**.
- Colony composition is predominantly **female**.
- It cooperatively captures, hunts and consumes prey.

Distinctive Features

- It is among the relatively small number of **permanently social spider species** known globally.
- These **nocturnal spiders** feed communally.
- **Sexual dimorphism** occurs, with males being smaller and darker than females.

Agentic AI Skilling Program

PIB

NIELIT and Intel India Organized National Leadership Dialogue and Launched Agentic AI Skilling Programs for Preparing India's Workforce for the Agentic AI Era

NIELIT and Intel India Organized National Leadership Dialogue and Launched Agentic AI Skilling Programs for Preparing India's Workforce for...



Why in News

The **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** and **Intel India** launched two **Agentic AI skilling programmes**.

Two Training Programmes

- **Agentic AI for Everyone** introduces learners to **workflow automation, AI agents and multi-agent systems**.
- It provides hands-on exposure to designing and governing AI-powered workflows through **no-code platforms**.
- **Engineering Agentic AI Systems** focuses on designing, building and deploying **AI-powered agentic systems**.
- It covers **agent architecture, tool integration, orchestration, memory and deployment** through no-code/low-code platforms and code-based frameworks.

Meaning of Agentic AI

- **Agentic AI** refers to AI systems capable of **autonomous decision-making and action**.

- Unlike conventional AI that primarily responds to commands or analyses data, agentic AI can **set goals, plan and execute tasks with minimal human intervention**.

Core Components

- **Perception** involves collecting information from sensors, databases and user interfaces.
- **Reasoning** uses an **LLM** to analyse information, understand context and formulate solutions.
- **Planning** involves setting goals, breaking them into steps and determining how to achieve them.
- **Action** enables the system to perform tasks, make decisions or interact with other systems.
- **Reflection** allows the system to evaluate outcomes and modify future actions based on feedback.

Institutional Framework

- The programmes were launched by **NIELIT under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** in collaboration with **Intel India**.
- The initiative seeks to expand access to **industry-aligned Agentic AI learning** and build a future-ready AI talent ecosystem.

Gollala Gudi Temple

News On AIR

ASI notifies Gollala Gudi Temple as monument of national importance for its exquisite carvings

The Archaeological Survey of India has notified Gollala Gudi Temple at Palampet in the Mulugu district of Telangana as a monument of...



Why in News

The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** notified the **Gollala Gudi Temple** at Palampet, Telangana, as a **monument of national importance**.

Historical Context

- The temple is located at **Palampet in Mulugu district, Telangana**, and is dedicated to **Lord Shiva**.
- It belongs to the **Kakatiya era** and is located near the **UNESCO-listed Ramappa Temple**, also known as the **Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple**.
- The **Kakatiya dynasty** ruled much of the eastern Deccan between the **12th and 14th centuries**.



- Its territory covered present-day **Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**, along with parts of **eastern Karnataka, northern Tamil Nadu and southern Odisha**.

Architectural Characteristics

- Gollala Gudi represents the **Deccan architectural and stone-craft tradition** of the Kakatiya period.
- Like Ramappa Temple, it was constructed using **precisely interlocked dry masonry without binding mortar**.
- It is a **Trikutalaya**, meaning a temple having **three sanctums**.
- The central sanctum contains a **Shiva lingam**.

Sculptural Features

- The temple contains a **mandapa**, three **garbhagrihas**, antechambers and a carved parapet.
- Its entablature and doorways contain carved **hamsas** and **jali (lattice work)**.
- Two detached shrines feature figures of **dvarapalas**, or door guardians.
- Sculptures of **Vishnu, Lakshmi, Ganesha and Mahishasuramardini** occur on the temple walls.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



FAO Food Price Index Rises 1.9% in August on Supply Concerns

FAO Food Price Index rises 1.9% in August to 133.3 points as weather risks, trade disruptions and geopolitical tensions push up global food...



Why in News

The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** reported that global food prices rose in **August** to their highest level since late **2022**, amid adverse weather and disruptions caused by the **Black Sea conflict**.

Institutional Profile

- The **FAO** is a specialised agency of the **United Nations** that leads international efforts to combat hunger.
- It was established in **October 1945** and is described as the **oldest permanent specialised agency of the UN**.
- Its mandate includes improving **nutrition**, increasing agricultural productivity and raising living standards in rural populations.
- Its headquarters is located in **Rome, Italy**.

Membership and Funding

- FAO currently has **195 members**, comprising **194 countries and the European Union**.
- **India is a founding member** of the FAO.
- The organisation receives funding from its **member countries**.

Major Functions

- FAO coordinates governmental and technical efforts concerning **agriculture, forestry, fisheries, land and water resources**.
- It acts as a **forum for negotiating international agreements** between developing and developed countries.
- It also provides **technical knowledge and information** for development.

Important FAO Reports

- **The State of the World's Forests (SOFO)** focuses on global forest conditions and developments.
- **The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)** covers fisheries and aquaculture.
- **The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)** examines agricultural commodity markets.
- **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)** deals with global food security and nutrition.

ICC Approves India as New Host of Women's Champions Trophy 2027

 ThePrint

India to stage inaugural Women's Champions Trophy 2027 after Sri Lanka dropped as host

Dubai, Sep 2 (PTI) The International Cricket Council on Wednesday moved the inaugural Women's Champions Trophy to India from Sri Lanka and...



Why in News

- **ICC** approved **India** as the host of the inaugural **Women's Champions Trophy 2027**, replacing Sri Lanka due to governance issues.

Tournament Details

- The tournament will be held from **14–28 February 2027** in **Mumbai and Vadodara**.
- Six teams—**Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka**—qualified through **ICC Women's T20I Team Rankings**.
- India had also hosted the **Women's ODI World Cup 2025**, which was won by India.

About ICC

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** was established as the **Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909** and renamed in **1989**.
- Its headquarters is in **Dubai, UAE**, and it is the **global governing body for cricket**.
- It has **108 members**: **12 Full Members** with Test status and **96 Associate Members**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Seychelles Why in News The Vice President of India met a parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Seychelles at Parliament House, New Delhi. Geographical Location ➤ Seychelles is an archipelagic island country in the western Indian Ocean. ➤ It lies northeast of Madagascar and east of mainland Africa. ➤ Comoros and Mauritius lie to its south, while the Maldives lies to its east. Island Groups ➤ Seychelles consists of 115 islands, of which only 8 are permanently inhabited. ➤ Its capital is Victoria. ➤ The country comprises the Mahé group of mountainous granitic islands and another group consisting mainly of coralline islands. Physical Geography ➤ The Mahé group has a narrow coastal strip and a rocky, hilly interior. ➤ Other islands are comparatively flat coral atolls or elevated reefs. ➤ The islands are situated on the submarine Mascarene Plateau. ➤ Morne Seychellois is the highest point of Seychelles. ➤ Seychelles has a tropical oceanic climate with relatively little annual temperature variation. 
Environment	New Species of Pistol Shrimp  ETV Bharat <u>CUSAT Researchers Discover Two New Pistol Shrimp Species In Kochi Backwaters</u> The newly identified species have been named <i>Alpheus vembanadi</i> and <i>Alpheus hari</i>. Why in News Researchers from the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) discovered two new pistol shrimp species, <i>Alpheus vembanadi</i> and <i>Alpheus hari</i>, in the Kochi backwaters of Kerala. 

	Species and Location ➤ Alpheus vembanadi was named after the Vembanad backwaters. ➤ Alpheus hari was named in honour of Dr. M. Harikrishnan, a senior professor at CUSAT. ➤ The specimens were collected from gillnets, a traditional fishing method used in the backwaters. Adaptive Features ➤ Alpheus vembanadi occurs in Kochi backwaters throughout the year and can tolerate salinity levels of up to 31 ppt. ➤ Alpheus hari shows significant salinity tolerance and was found in very low-salinity water. ➤ Laboratory studies indicated that Alpheus hari can also survive in freshwater. Unique Biological Mechanism ➤ The snapper claw rapidly closes to create a cavitation bubble. ➤ Collapse of this bubble produces a loud snapping sound that can stun or kill small prey. ➤ Taxonomic Features • Pistol shrimp, also called snapping shrimp, belong to the crustacean family Alpheidae. • They are commonly associated with reefs and seagrass beds in tropical and temperate regions. • They possess one small pincer and one much larger snapper claw.		
Defence	Rudra Raptors Exercise  ETV Bharat <u>Indian Army Conducts 'Rudra Raptors' Joint Exercise In Rajasthan's Jaisalmer</u> The Indian Army's Konark Corps conducted the 'Rudra Raptors' exercise in Jaisalmer, integrating Apache helicopters and tanks to enhance...  Why in News The Indian Army's Konark Corps conducted the Rudra Raptors exercise in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px; vertical-align: top;"> Operational Setting ➤ The exercise was conducted in the forward areas of the desert sector in Jaisalmer. </td><td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px; vertical-align: top;"> Integrated Combat Elements ➤ The exercise involved Thar Raptors helicopters, including </td></tr> </table>	Operational Setting ➤ The exercise was conducted in the forward areas of the desert sector in Jaisalmer.	Integrated Combat Elements ➤ The exercise involved Thar Raptors helicopters, including
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	➤ Its theme was “One team, one purpose, absolute battlefield dominance.” ➤ It was a high-intensity joint military exercise conducted by the Konark Corps. AH-64E Apache attack helicopters. ➤ Tanks of the Black Mace Brigade participated alongside the attack helicopters. ➤ The Black Mace Brigade is a Rudra all-arms formation under the Konark Corps. Strategic Significance ➤ The exercise demonstrated synergy between aerial and ground combat capabilities. ➤ It validated integrated battle strategies under realistic battlefield conditions. ➤ The Army had earlier validated the Black Mace Brigade during Exercise Akhand Prahar in 2025 as a combined-arms formation comprising armour, mechanised infantry, artillery, air defence and support elements under one headquarters.
Health	Alexander Disease M Medical Dialogues <u>FDA Approves First Drug to Treat Alexander Disease</u> The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Zinvastro (zilganersen) injection for the treatment of Alexander disease in pediatric and...  Why in News The U.S. FDA approved Zinvastro (zilganersen), making it the first approved treatment for Alexander disease in adults and children. Disease Profile ➤ Alexander disease is a rare genetic disorder that progressively damages the nervous system. ➤ It is a type of leukodystrophy, a group of disorders affecting the white matter of the brain. ➤ The disease involves deterioration of myelin, which surrounds and protects nerve cells and facilitates rapid transmission of nerve signals. ➤ Abnormal protein accumulations called Rosenthal fibers occur in the brain.

	Genetic Basis ➤ Most cases are associated with mutations in the GFAP gene, which produces glial fibrillary acidic protein. ➤ Excess abnormal GFAP accumulates and damages the brain's white matter. ➤ In most cases, the mutation is new and not inherited from a parent, although inheritance from an affected parent can occur. Clinical Features ➤ The infantile form, generally beginning before two years of age, may cause megalocephaly, seizures, spasticity, intellectual disability and developmental delay. ➤ Juvenile and adult forms may cause speech abnormalities, swallowing difficulties, seizures and ataxia. ➤ A rare neonatal form may occur within the first month of life and can involve hydrocephalus, seizures and severe developmental impairment. Treatment Significance ➤ There is no complete cure for Alexander disease. ➤ Zanvastro (zilganersen) is first disease-modifying therapy directly targeting the underlying protein accumulation. ➤ The disease is often fatal.
Science and Technology	Astra AI Model  NDTV  OpenAI Launches 'World's Most Intelligent' AI Model GPT-6 Astra Cybersecurity is one of the biggest areas of focus for Astra. OpenAI says the model has reached its Critical cybersecurity capability... Why in News Recently, OpenAI released its newest frontier artificial intelligence model, GPT-6 Astra. Core Capabilities ➤ Astra is designed for end-to-end work rather than merely responding to prompts. ➤ It can operate computers and browsers, fill online forms, update records and organise calendars.

- It can conduct **web research**, draft content in documents and emails, analyse scientific data and generate plots.
- It can also **build websites, install and test software, and troubleshoot screen-visible problems**.

Technical Specifications

- Astra has a **1.05-million-token context window**.
- It supports a maximum output of **128,000 tokens**.
- It is designed to retain the **original objective of a task** even when instructions are changed midway.

AI Safety Significance

- Astra is the **first OpenAI model classified at the critical level for cybersecurity** under the **Preparedness Framework**.
- Its capabilities place it closer to **autonomous AI agents** than conventional prompt-response models.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Rajnath Singh Unveils Statue of Rani Avantibai Lodhi in Lucknow

TOI The Times of India

'Operation Sindoor echoes spirit of Rani Avantibai': Rajnath Singh at statue unveiling in Lucknow

News News: LUCKNOW: Drawing a parallel between the courage displayed by India's women during Operation Sindoor and the legacy of freedom...



Why in News

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** unveiled the statue of **Rani Avantibai Lodhi** in **Lucknow** on **30 August 2026**, commemorating her role in the **First War of Independence of 1857**.

Role in 1857 Revolt

- Rani Avantibai Lodhi took up arms against British rule and encouraged neighbouring rulers to join the resistance.
- At just **27 years of age**, she led resistance against the British during the 1857 uprising.
- In the **Battle of Kheri**, she defeated British forces with support from **farmers and local people**.

Leadership and Sacrifice

- She assumed charge of her kingdom during difficult circumstances and became an example of **administrative leadership and good governance**.



- She rejected British attempts to take over her kingdom and chose **armed resistance**.
- When surrounded by British forces, she **refused to surrender and chose martyrdom**, becoming a symbol of **courage, self-respect and patriotism**.

Historical Significance

- Her legacy highlights the important role of **women leaders in India's freedom struggle**.
- The statue aims to preserve her memory and inspire future generations through her **leadership, courage and supreme sacrifice**.