SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

06-11-2026

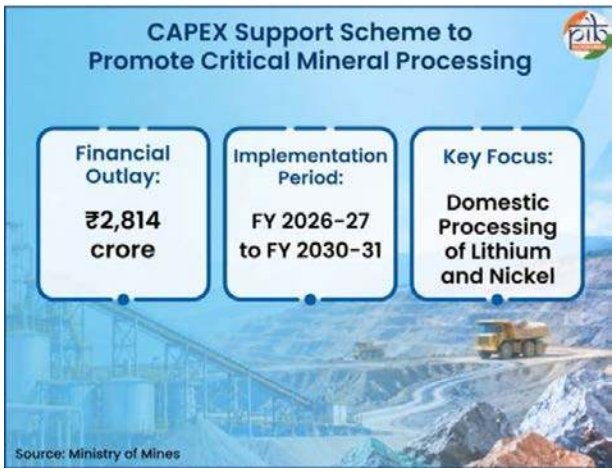
CAPEX Support Scheme for Critical Mineral Processing



Why in News

- The Union Cabinet approved the **₹2,814 crore CAPEX Support Scheme** to promote domestic processing of lithium and nickel.

Objectives and Duration



- The scheme provides capital expenditure support for establishing domestic critical mineral processing facilities.
- It aims to develop high-purity lithium and nickel processing capacity and strengthen India's critical mineral value chain.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Mines.
- **Duration:** FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31 (five years).

Financial Support and Capacity

- The scheme provides a **30% capital subsidy** for setting up four processing plants.
- It covers two lithium plants with a minimum capacity of **30 kt each** and two nickel plants with a minimum capacity of **50 kt each**.
- Maximum support is capped at **₹500 crore per lithium beneficiary** and **₹900 crore per nickel beneficiary**.
- Lithium plants will process ores and concentrates, excluding brines, into battery-grade products; nickel plants will produce Class-1 nickel or battery-grade nickel sulphate, with cobalt recovery.

Selection Mechanism

- Beneficiaries will be selected through technical qualification followed by financial bidding.
- Two beneficiaries will be selected for each mineral based on the least-cost criterion.

- Incentives will be released in **three milestone-linked tranches**.

INS Amini – Indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Ship

News On AIR

Indigenous anti Submarine 'Amini' inducted into Indian Navy to strengthen coastal surveillance

'Amini', one of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, has been delivered to the Indian Navy. These ships are one of the largest...



Why in News

- The Indian Navy inducted **INS Amini**, the fifth of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), to strengthen coastal defence and underwater surveillance.

Class and Construction

- INS Amini belongs to the **Arnala class** and is being built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**.
- The Arnala class is intended to replace the Abhay-class anti-submarine warfare corvettes.

Operational Role

- It is designed for coastal operations, subsurface surveillance, search-and-attack missions and coordinated anti-submarine warfare.
- It can coordinate with naval aircraft during anti-submarine missions.

Technical Features

- It is approximately **77.6 metres long**, with a displacement of **900 tonnes**.
- Marine diesel engines coupled with waterjets provide manoeuvrability.
- It has a maximum speed of **25 knots** and an endurance of approximately **1,800 nautical miles**.
- Its weapons and systems include an advanced Combat Management System, lightweight torpedoes, anti-submarine warfare rockets and an indigenous **30 mm naval surface gun**.

Malabar Tree Toad – Karnataka's State Amphibian

Why in News

- Karnataka declared the **Malabar Tree Toad** (Malenadina Mara Gantikappe)

The New Indian Express

Karnataka has its own amphibian, Malabar Tree Toad, first in country

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, Kumar Pushkar said the orders have been officially signed. Though the decision to declare...



as its state amphibian, becoming the **first Indian State to declare a state amphibian**.

Habitat and Distribution

- It is endemic to India's **Western Ghats** and is the only species of the monotypic genus *Pedostibes*.
- It inhabits streams, trees and tree cavities in evergreen and moist deciduous forests.
- It occurs at elevations ranging from **50 metres to over 1,000 metres**.
- It was first discovered in **1876** and rediscovered in **1980** at Silent Valley National Park, Kerala, after more than a century without sightings.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule II.

Distinctive Features

- It is India's only arboreal toad, with the ability to climb and live in trees.
- It descends to water pools along stream edges for breeding.
- Its breeding cycle occurs during **March–June**, before the onset of the monsoon.

Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund – Support for MSMEs

ANI News

SRI Fund attracts nearly Rs 48,000 crore in private capital, supports 824 MSMEs



The Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund has leveraged nearly Rs 48000 crore in private investment and supported 824 MSMEs, as per a statement by...

Why in News

- The Ministry of MSME organised an awareness workshop on the **Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund**, highlighting support for women-led MSMEs.

Financial Structure

- The fund aims to infuse **₹50,000 crore** as equity funding into MSMEs with growth potential.
- It comprises **₹10,000 crore from the Government of India** and **₹40,000 crore through private equity and venture capital funds**.
- The **Ministry of MSME** is the anchor investor.

Implementation Mechanism

- It operates through a **mother fund–daughter fund structure** for equity and quasi-equity investments.

- It is implemented by **NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited (NVCFL)**, a Category II Alternative Investment Fund registered with SEBI.
- Daughter funds provide growth capital to eligible MSMEs.

Objectives and Conditions

- It aims to improve equity financing, support MSME listing on stock exchanges and accelerate business expansion.
- It seeks to help MSMEs become national and international champions and promote indigenous technologies, goods and services.
- Daughter funds must invest at least **five times the capital contribution received from the SRI Fund**, net of fees and expenses, in eligible MSMEs under the MSMED Act, 2006.

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

The Hindu

Private sector participation in nuclear energy: No compromise on safety aspects, says AERB Chairperson

A.K. Balasubrahmanian, Chairperson, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), has sought to allay concerns regarding the entry of private...



Why in News

- **A.K. Balasubrahmanian** the AERB Chairperson reiterated that the entry of private players into India's nuclear energy sector would not involve any compromise on safety standards.

Establishment and Mandate

- The **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** is India's principal regulatory authority for nuclear and radiation safety.
- It was constituted on **15 November 1983** by the President under the powers conferred by the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962**.
    -
- Its regulatory framework also draws authority from rules and notifications under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai.
- Its primary objective is to ensure that nuclear energy and ionising radiation do not pose undue risks to human health and the environment.
- AERB was established on **15 November 1983** by the President of India under the powers conferred by **Section 27 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962**.

- It received statutory recognition under the **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, 2025**.
- Its earlier regulatory framework also derived authority from rules and notifications under the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** and the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Its primary objective is to ensure that nuclear energy and ionising radiation do not pose undue risks to human health and the environment.

Composition and Institutional Structure

- The Board comprises six members:
  - One full-time Chairperson.
  - One ex-officio member.
  - Four part-time members.
- A Secretary assists the Board in its functioning and is separate from the six Board members.
- The AERB Secretariat is headed by the Chairperson and an Executive Director.
- Regional Regulatory Centres are located in **Kolkata, Chennai and New Delhi**.
- Its **Safety Research Institute (SRI)** is located at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

Major Functions of AERB

- Frames nuclear and radiation safety standards.
- Grants regulatory consent at all stages of nuclear facilities.
- Conducts safety inspections and enforces compliance.
- Prescribes radiation exposure and radioactive discharge limits.
- Reviews emergency preparedness, training and safety research.
- Promotes public communication and regulatory coordination.

Prashant Chaudhary Wins 5th Rohini Nayyar Prize


The Hindu

Prashant Chaudhary wins Rohini Nayyar Prize

Dehradun technology educator Prashant Chaudhary has won the fifth Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development.

THE HINDU

Why in News

- **Prashant Chaudhary** received the **5th Rohini Nayyar Prize** for contributions to rural development through technology-based education and coding initiatives.

Key Facts

- The award recognises individuals **below 40 years of age** for contributions to rural development.

- Chaudhary founded the **CodeYogi Foundation**, which uses a smartphone-first learning model in Indian languages to teach coding and application development to rural students.
- The award was presented in **New Delhi**, with **Amitabh Kant** as Chief Guest.
- It was instituted in memory of **Rohini Nayyar**, an economist and former member of the Planning Commission known for her work on rural poverty.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Namika La Pass – Ladakh

India Today

Two Army personnel killed after their truck plunges into 600-foot gorge in Kargil

Two Indian Army personnel were killed after their heavy-duty vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a nearly 600-foot-deep gorge near...



Why in News

- Two Army personnel died after their vehicle plunged into a deep gorge near **Namika La Pass** on the Kargil–Leh highway.

Geographical Location

- Namika La is a high-altitude mountain pass in the **Union Territory of Ladakh**.
- It is situated in the **Zanskar Range of the Himalayas** at approximately **3,700 metres (12,139 feet)**.
- It is also known as the **Pillar of the Sky Pass**.
- It lies on the **Srinagar–Leh Highway (NH-1)**, on the route towards Mulbek Valley.

Important Features

- Namika La and **Fotu La Pass** are two important high mountain passes connecting Kargil and Leh.
- The route features the Maitreya Buddha statue and a nearby gompa, which are tourist attractions.

Environment

Liocheles similipalensis – New Scorpion Species

Why in News

- Researchers discovered a new scorpion

The New Indian Express

New scorpion species discovered in Similipal, 1st Liocheles genus in Odisha

BARIPADA: Researchers have discovered a new species of scorpion in the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), documenting the first occurrence of...



	species, *Liocheles similipalensis*, in **Similipal Tiger Reserve, Odisha**. **Habitat and Distribution** ➢ It was recorded at approximately **1,000 metres** above sea level in tropical moist deciduous forests. ➢ It is **lithophilic**, meaning it prefers rocky habitats, and was found in rock crevices and beneath rocks. ➢ It is currently known only from its type locality in Similipal. ➢ Its discovery marks the **first confirmed record of the genus Liocheles in Odisha**. **Identification and Features** ➢ It belongs to the genus *Liocheles*, identified partly through the presence of setae (small hair-like structures) beneath tarsomere II. ➢ It measures approximately **44–53 mm** in length. ➢ It has a predominantly dark black body with a glossy, iridescent bluish sheen.
Defence	**Exercise Malabar 2026** BW BW Businessworld Quad Navies Begin Malabar 2026 Exercise With Warships, Submarines And Patrol Aircraft India, US, Japan and Australia begin Malabar 2026 naval exercise off Japan, focusing on maritime cooperation and Indo-Pacific security.  **Why in News** ➢ **INS Sahyadri** reached Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, to participate in Exercise Malabar 2026. **Participating Countries** ➢ Exercise Malabar 2026 involves **India, the United States, Japan and Australia**. ➢ It is a multilateral naval exercise aimed at improving maritime cooperation and operational coordination. **Evolution of the Exercise** ➢ It began in **1992** as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the United States. ➢ The first Malabar exercise in the Bay of Bengal was held in **2007**. ➢ Japan joined the exercise in **2015**, making it trilateral.

- Australia joined in **2020**, converting it into a quadrilateral exercise.

Objectives and Phases

- The exercise is conducted annually, alternating between the **Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean**.
- It promotes interoperability, operational coordination and exchange of professional expertise among participating navies.
- **Harbour Phase:** Includes professional interactions and coordinated planning.
- **Sea Phase:** Involves INS Sahyadri and participating naval units of India, the US, Japan and Australia.

Science and Technology

Gaia Mission – Mapping the Milky Way



Why in News

- Indian astronomers used data from the European Space Agency's **Gaia mission** to identify UBC 63 as a double star-cluster system rather than a single cluster.

About Gaia Mission

- Gaia was launched by the **European Space Agency (ESA) in 2013**.
- Its original name was **Global Astrometric Interferometer for Astrophysics**, retired in 2025.
- Its objective was to create a highly precise **three-dimensional map of the Milky Way** through astrometry.
- It operated around the **Sun–Earth Lagrange Point 2 (L2)**, approximately 1.5 million km from Earth.

UBC 63

- UBC 63 is a loosely gravitationally bound **Galactic open cluster** located approximately 4,892 light-years from Earth.
- It was earlier identified as one cluster but has now been found to consist of two distinct star clusters.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0 to Be Held in Varanasi

pib.gov.in

High-Level Meeting at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi reviews preparations for Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0

A high-level meeting to review the preparatory arrangements and inter-agency coordination for Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0 (KTS 5.0) was held at...



Why in News?

A preparatory meeting was held at **BHU, Varanasi**, in November 2026 for the fifth edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 5.0).

Key Points

- **Theme:** "Thirukkural Payilvom – Thirukkural Abhyas Karen", focusing on the teachings of the classical Tamil text **Thirukkural**.
- **Programme:** An eight-day journey comprising four days of travel and four days of visits and activities across **Varanasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya**.
- **Educational Initiative:** Around 50 teachers from Tamil Nadu will teach Thirukkural in Uttar Pradesh schools and colleges.
- **Institutions:** IIT Madras and BHU are the nodal institutions for Tamil Nadu and Kashi, respectively; **Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai**, is the implementing institution.

Previous Editions of KTS

- **KTS 1.0 (2022):** Held at BHU; over 2,500 participants from 12 walks of life.
- **KTS 2.0 (2023):** Held at Namo Ghat; introduced app-based real-time Tamil translation.
- **KTS 3.0 (2025):** Focused on **Sage Agasthyar** and traditional knowledge systems.
- **KTS 4.0 (2025–26):** Theme "Let us Learn Tamil"; included Tamil lessons for Varanasi students and a study tour of Tamil Nadu for 300 college students.