

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

07-08-2026

Dhabaleswar Temple

 News On AIR

President Droupadi Murmu offers prayers at Dhabaleswar Temple in Odisha

President Droupadi Murmu today offered prayers at the Dhabaleswar Temple near Berhampur, marking the final engagement of her three-day visit...



Why in News: The President recently offered prayers at the **Dhabaleswar Temple** in Odisha during the final engagement of her three-day visit to the state.

Historical and Geographical Context

- **Dhabaleswar Temple** is a Hindu temple dedicated to **Lord Shiva**, located on an island in the **Mahanadi River** near **Cuttack, Odisha**.
- The temple is among the **oldest temples of Odisha**, with origins dating to the **10th–11th centuries**.
- Its construction is associated with the **Somavamshi dynasty** and **King Yayati Keshari**.
- The present-day temple was constructed by King Bir Kishore of Khurda around 1232 AD.



Architectural Characteristics

- The temple follows the **Kalinga style of temple architecture**.
- The main structure is built of **sandstone**, follows a **square plan**, and has a pyramidal roof.
- Several smaller shrines dedicated to different deities surround the principal shrine.

- The temple has **three main chambers**, with the central chamber housing the Shiva idol.
- Its entrance, known as **Jagamohan**, contains intricate carvings of animals, birds and mythological figures.

Distinctive Features

- A **marble-covered raised platform** surrounds the temple structure.
- The walls contain multiple sculptures depicting different deities.
- Its distinctive **two-tiered roof covered with terracotta tiles** is an important architectural feature.

Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science



Pib.gov.in

<https://www.pib.gov.in> > PressReleasePage

Status of the Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science ...

2 days ago — The scheme supports the establishment of **Science Cities, Science Centres, Innovation Hubs, and Digital Planetariums** in various regions. The list ... [Read more](#)

Why in News: The Union Minister for Culture and Tourism informed the **Rajya Sabha** about the **Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS)**.

Institutional Framework

- **SPoCS** is a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Culture** aimed at promoting scientific temper and awareness.
- The **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)**, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, is the **nodal agency**.
- The scheme supports **Science Cities, Science Centres, Innovation Hubs and Digital Planetariums** across India.

Coverage and Targeting

- **Category-III Science Centres/Digital Planetariums** are established in areas having a population of **less than 5 lakh**.
- As of **July 2025, 27 Science Centres** had been established under SPoCS.

Scientific Temper and Education

- The scheme promotes **scientific temper**, particularly among the general public and students.
- Science institutions provide **hands-on exhibits, innovation hubs, digital planetariums and outreach programmes**.
- Digital planetariums help popularise **astronomy, space science and related fields** through informal science education.

Adyar River

THE HINDU

Minister Anand inspects areas along the Adyar river

Minister Anand inspects Adyar river areas, prioritizing cleaning efforts and addressing residents' needs for basic amenities.



Why in News: The Tamil Nadu government recently inspected areas along the Adyar River with emphasis on river cleaning and provision of basic amenities to residents.

Geographical Profile

- The **Adyar River** flows through **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**, and is one of the three rivers flowing through the city.
- It originates near **Chembarambakkam Lake** in **Kanchipuram district**.
- The river ultimately drains into the **Bay of Bengal** through the **Adyar Estuary**.
- Its total length is approximately **42.5 km**.



Hydrological Characteristics

- Adyar Creek forms a backwater near the river mouth due to sandbar formation.

- The creek acts as a natural channel carrying **tidal water** back into the sea.

Ecological Significance

- The approximately **300-acre Adyar Estuary** supports diverse **bird species and marine life**.
- The estuary was declared a **protected wildlife reserve in 1987**.

National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme



NMMSS Scholarship 2026-27 Registration Begins: Know Eligibility, Benefits, Last Date

The NMMSS Scholarship 2026-27 application process has started on NSP. Eligible Class 9 students can apply online till August 31.



Why in News: The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education invited fresh and renewal applications for **NMMSS** for the **2026–27 academic year**.

Scheme Architecture

- **NMMSS** is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched in **2008**.
- It aims to reduce school dropout after **Class VIII** by supporting meritorious students from **economically weaker sections**.
- Applications are processed through the **National Scholarship Portal (NSP)**.

Exclusions and Selection

- Students of **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)**, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and residential schools are not eligible.
- Each **State and Union Territory conducts its own selection test** at the Class VIII stage.
- Reservation is provided according to **State Government norms**.

Eligibility Criteria

- **One lakh fresh scholarships** are awarded annually to eligible students entering **Class IX**, with renewal through Classes **X–XII**.

- Annual parental income from all sources must not exceed ₹3.5 lakh.
- Students must secure at least 55% marks or equivalent grade in Class VII, with a 5% relaxation for SC/ST students.
- Eligible students must study as regular students in Government, Government-aided or local-body schools.

Renewal Conditions

- Scholarship continuation requires at least 60% marks in Class X, with a 5% relaxation for SC/ST students.
- Renewal also requires clear promotion from Class IX to X and Class XI to XII in the first attempt.

GOBARdhan Scheme

 Pib.gov.in

GOBARdhan: Fuelling Clean Energy and Rural Growth

India currently meets nearly 50 per cent of its natural gas requirement through imports, making energy security a strategic priority.

GOBARdhan, India's Nation's Natia is an outlay of ₹23,731 crore. The dth into clean energy, rural pros promotes CBG production by ens onectivity and improved access l with in domestic CBG productio r boost to farmers, rural entrepris sion of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Why in News: The Union Cabinet recently approved the GOBARdhan

Cabinet Approves ₹23,731-Crore GOBARdhan Scheme

to Scale Up Compressed Biogas Production

Landmark national scheme to convert India's organic wealth into clean energy, rural prosperity and economic growth

 **Outlay of ₹23,731 crore (FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36)**

 **Assured offtake, stable pricing, capital assistance, pipeline connectivity and credit support**

 **Aims for nearly ten-fold growth in domestic CBG production**

 **Transforms agricultural residue, cattle dung, municipal waste into clean fuel and organic manure**

 **Boost to farmers, rural entrepreneurs and private investment**

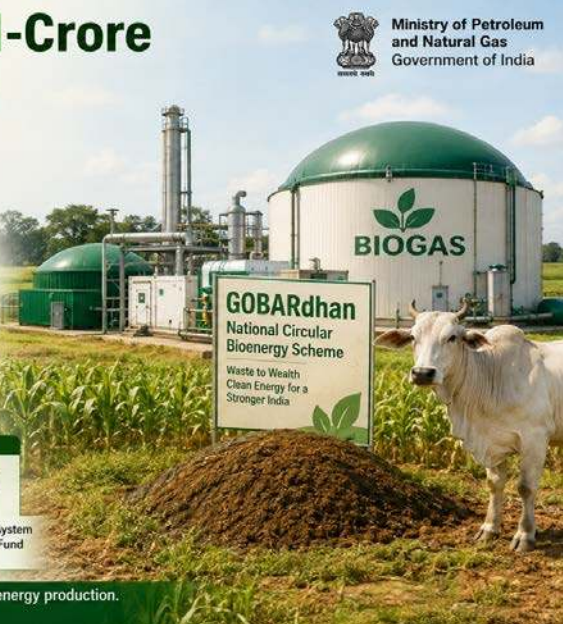
 **Supports waste-to-wealth, Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat**

SIX GROWTH ENGINES UNDER GOBARdhan

					
1. Assured CBG Offtake	2. Stable CBG Pricing Framework	3. Capital Assistance	4. Development of Pipeline Infrastructure	5. Credit Guarantee Support	6. CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund

 **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**
Government of India

India's waste will fuel India's growth. India's villages will become centres of clean energy production. India's farmers will become partners in the nation's energy security.



Scheme, aimed at creating a nationwide waste-to-energy ecosystem based on organic resources.

Strategic Energy Transition

- **GOBARdhan** stands for **Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan** and is a **National Circular Bioenergy Scheme**.
- It seeks to increase domestic **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** production nearly **ten-fold**.
- The scheme will operate from **FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36**.
- Its nodal ministry is the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.

CBG Market Framework

- City Gas Distribution entities will face a CBG blending obligation of **3% in FY27, 4% in FY28 and 5% from FY29 onwards** in CNG and PNG segments.
- A stable administered CBG price of **₹2,110 per MMBTU** is proposed under the pricing framework.

Financial and Infrastructure Support

- Eligible greenfield CBG projects can receive capital assistance of up to **₹2 crore per TPD** of installed CBG capacity.
- Support covers key value-chain assets including **feedstock aggregation and organic manure processing**.
- Brownfield projects undertaking capacity expansion can also receive support.

Circular Bioeconomy and MSME Support

- A dedicated **Credit Guarantee mechanism** is intended to improve institutional credit access for eligible MSME-based CBG projects.
- The **CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund** will support district-level implementation and local value-chain development.
- The scheme links **waste management, renewable energy, rural economy and circular bioeconomy** objectives.

- The scheme supports **cluster-based and standalone pipeline infrastructure** connecting CBG plants with trunk pipelines and CGD networks.

Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project

Pib.gov.in

Major Settlement Benefitting 210 Workers at Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project Through Conciliation Efforts of RLC(C), Jammu

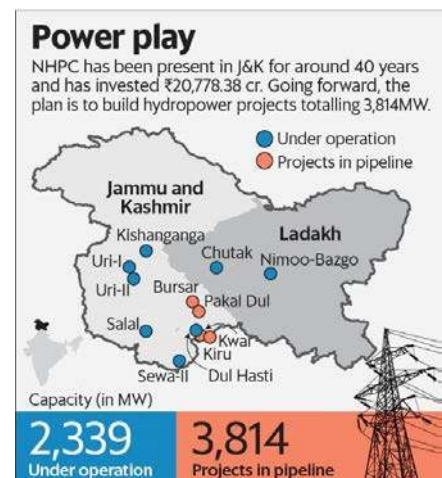
A significant industrial dispute involving workers engaged by L&T Construction through Sub-contractors at the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric...



Why in News: An industrial dispute involving workers engaged in the **Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project** in Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir, was recently resolved amicably.

Project Profile

- **Pakal Dul HEP** is a **1 GW run-of-the-river hydroelectric project** under construction in **Kishtwar district, Jammu & Kashmir**.
- It is being constructed on the **Marusudar River**, a tributary of the **Chenab River**.
- The project includes a **167-metre-high concrete-face rockfill dam** and an **underground powerhouse**.



Power Generation

- The underground powerhouse will contain **four 250 MW Francis turbine units**.
- The turbines will operate at a **net head of 397.3 m**.
- The project is expected to generate approximately **3,330 million units of electricity annually**.

Institutional Structure

- The project is being developed by **Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Ltd. (CVPPL)**.

- CVPPL is a joint venture involving **NHPC**, **Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd. (JKSPDC)** and **PTC India**.
- The shareholding is 49% JKSPDC, 49% NHPC and 2% PTC India.

Benefits to Jammu & Kashmir

- J&K will receive **12% free power** from the project during its first ten years of operation.
- **Water usage charges** will also be waived for J&K during this period.
- J&K will have the **first right to purchase** power allocated to NHPC and PTC India.

Other Important News of the day

Persons in News

Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth



Video | Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth Becomes India's First Woman Fighter Combat Leader

Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth has just become the first woman to graduate from the Indian Air Force's (IAF) elite "Top Gun" school.



Why in News: Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth became the first Indian woman pilot to complete the Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course on 6 August 2026 at TACDE, Gwalior.

Fighter Combat Leader Course

- The FCL course is a **20-week advanced training programme** for IAF fighter pilots.
- It is conducted at **Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE), Gwalior**.
- Only about **1% of selected pilots** reportedly complete the course.



	• Graduates are trained to lead complex air combat missions. Bhawana Kanth: Key Milestones • She was commissioned in June 2016 as part of India's first batch of women fighter pilots, along with Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh. • In May 2019, she became the first Indian woman fighter pilot qualified for daytime combat missions. • She initially flew the MiG-21 Bison and later transitioned to the Su-30MKI. Awards and Recognition • She received the • Nari Shakti Puraskar on 8 March 2020. • In 2021, she became the first female fighter pilot to participate in the IAF Republic Day parade tableau.
Environment	Himalayan Serow Why in News: The Himalayan serow was recently recorded in Himachal Pradesh's Dalhousie forest division after nearly two decades. Taxonomy and Distribution • It is scientifically identified as Capricornis sumatraensis thar and is a subspecies of the mainland serow. • It is restricted to the Himalayan region and occurs in the eastern, central and western Himalayas. • It generally occurs at elevations of about 2,000–4,000 metres. • It is not typically found in the Trans-Himalayan region.

Ecological Characteristics

- The Himalayan serow is a shy, forest-dwelling mountain ungulate adapted to steep Himalayan terrain.
- It is a herbivore and belongs to a group of serows found exclusively in Asia.



Threats and Conservation

- Major threats include habitat degradation, habitat fragmentation and hunting pressure.
- It is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.
- It is included in CITES Appendix I.
- Under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, it is placed in Schedule I.

Defence

Agni-4 Missile

NDTV

[India Successfully Test-Fires Agni-4 Ballistic Missile From Odisha](#)

"Medium Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni-4' was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha on August 6," the...



Why in News: The Agni-4 missile was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.

Missile Classification

- Agni-4 is an indigenously developed Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM).
- It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- The missile is operated by the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** as part of India's strategic missile arsenal.

Technical Specifications

- Agni-4 has a range of up to **4,000 km**.
- It is a **two-stage, surface-to-surface ballistic missile** powered by **solid-fuel rocket motors**.
- It is launched from a **road-mobile platform**.
- It can carry a payload of up to **1,000 kg**.

Navigation and Accuracy

- The missile uses a **Ring Laser Gyro-based Inertial Navigation System (RINS)** supported by a Micro Navigation System (MINGS).
- Its **Circular Error Probable (CEP)** is stated to be below **100 metres**.
- **CEP** is a measure of the accuracy of a weapon system.

Strategic Role

- Agni-4 is designed to deliver **strategic payloads** and contribute to India's **credible deterrence** capability.



Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

 The Conversation

[Pesticide exposure at work may increase motor neurone disease risk – new study](#)

A new review looked at 1734 people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). But it couldn't separate pesticide from other risk factors,...



Why in News: A review of global evidence reported that occupational exposure to **pesticides** may be associated with a significantly higher risk of **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**.

Disease Profile

- **ALS** is a progressive neurological disorder that damages and eventually destroys **motor neurons** controlling voluntary muscle movement.
- **Upper motor neurons** extend from the brain to the spinal cord, while **lower motor neurons** extend from the spinal cord to muscles.
- Progressive motor-neuron damage prevents normal transmission of signals to muscles.

Clinical Features

- ALS may initially cause **muscle twitching, limb weakness, swallowing difficulties or slurred speech**.
- With progression, it can affect muscles required for movement, speech, eating and breathing.
- ALS is also known as **Lou Gehrig's disease**, named after the baseball player diagnosed with it.

Cause and Treatment

- The exact cause of ALS remains **unknown in most cases**.
- A small proportion of cases are **inherited** from a parent.

- There is currently **no cure that reverses motor-neuron damage**, although treatment can help slow progression and improve quality of life.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh – PMMVY Registration

Jagran

यूपी में मातृ वंदना योजना में बनाया नया कीर्तिमान, योगी सरकार ने हासिल किया लक्ष्य का 102 फीसदी; 4 लाख से ज्यादा महिलाएं पंजीकृत - up achieves 102 pmmvy target registers 4 lakh women

उत्तर प्रदेश ने प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना में लक्ष्य का 102.13 हासिल कर नया...



Why in News: **Uttar Pradesh** achieved **102.13%** of its PMMVY registration target by **31 July 2026** under **FY 2026–27**.

Performance

- Against a target of **3,97,567**, the state registered **4,06,058** beneficiaries.
- The achievement involved **Anganwadi and ASHA workers** through mission-mode registration drives.
- Over **₹86.55 crore** was transferred through **2,61,369** **DBT instalments**.



Benefits under PMMVY

- Beneficiaries receive ₹5,000 for the first child in two instalments.
- **₹6,000** is provided for the **second child if it is a girl**.
- The scheme supports **maternal and child welfare**.

Digital Governance

- Application, verification, approval and payment are conducted **online**.
- **Facial Recognition System (FRS)** is used with **Aadhaar** for beneficiary authentication.
- **Digital monitoring and DBT** facilitate transparent and timely benefit delivery.