

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

08-08-2026

World Tribal Day 2026

TH The Hindu

World Tribal Day celebrated in Erode

Ahead of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, also known as World Tribal Day, observed on August 9, a two-day cultural...



Why in News

- A two-day cultural festival highlighting indigenous heritage was organised at **Vellalar College for Women, Erode, Tamil Nadu**, ahead of **World Tribal Day**.

International Background

- World Tribal Day**, officially the **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**, is observed annually on **9 August**.
- The **UN General Assembly** designated 9 August in **December 1994**.
- The date commemorates the first meeting of the **UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations** in Geneva in 1982.

2026 Theme

- The **2026 theme** is **"Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being."**
- The observance focuses on recognition of indigenous peoples' rights, heritage and contributions.

Key Global Facts

- Indigenous peoples constitute **less than 6% of the global population** but account for at least **15% of the extremely poor**.
- They safeguard about **28% of Earth's surface**, including around **11% of global forests**.
- Indigenous territories contain a major share of the world's remaining **biodiversity**.

Slender-billed Vulture

Why in News

TH The Hindu

Assam records world's first-ever release of captive-bred slender-billed vultures

Guwahati. Advertisement. Advertisement. Five slender-billed vultures bred in captivity at the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)'s...



- Five captive-bred slender-billed vultures were released into the wild from the BNHS conservation facility in Assam.

Species Profile

- Scientific name: *Gyps tenuirostris*.
- It is an Old World vulture native to the sub-Himalayan region.
- Its habitat includes wetlands, wooded areas and open countryside.

Distribution & Ecology

- In India, it occurs from the Gangetic Plain to Himachal Pradesh, potentially southwards to northern Odisha, and eastwards through Assam.
- Its wider range includes Bangladesh, southern Nepal, Myanmar and Cambodia.
- It feeds primarily on carrion and often forms large groups around carcasses.

Threats & Conservation

- Major population decline has been linked to exposure to diclofenac and other NSAIDs through livestock carcasses.
- IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered.
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR)

 Department of Science & Technology (DST)

India develops critical equipment for International Mega Science project FAIR

The first of three units of beam catcher equipment, an integral part of the beam line (the path leading from particle generator to the...



Why in News

- The first of three **beam catcher** units for the FAIR beamline has reached the project site in **Darmstadt, Germany**.

Scientific Facility

- **FAIR** is a large multipurpose **particle accelerator facility** being constructed at **Darmstadt, Germany**.
- It is being developed through cooperation among **international partners**.
- FAIR is designed to accelerate and study **ions and antiprotons**.

India's Participation

- India's contribution is jointly funded on a **50:50 basis** by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**.
- **Bose Institute, Kolkata** is India's shareholder in **FAIR GmbH** and the nodal Indian institution for programme implementation.
- India became one of the **founding members in 2010**.

Beam Catcher Technology

- The beam catcher is an important component of the **Super-FRS (Super Fragment Separator)** used to produce radioactive beams.
- It absorbs remnants of primary heavy-ion beams with energies of **0.4–1.5 GeV/nucleon**.
- The equipment was designed by **CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur**, under the supervision of Bose Institute.

National Gopal Ratna Award 2026



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Invitation of nominations for National Gopal Ratna Award

1 day ago — **NGRA 2026 will be conferred to winners up to 1st ,2nd, 3rd ranks and one Special Award for North Eastern Region (NER)/Himalayan States**

Why in News

- The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying** invited nominations for the **National Gopal Ratna Award 2026**.

Institutional Framework

- The National Gopal Ratna Awards are among India's highest honours in the **livestock and dairy sector**.
- They were established in **2021** under the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)**.
- RGM** was launched in **December 2014** to scientifically conserve and develop **indigenous bovine breeds**.



Award Categories

- The awards recognise **dairy farmers**, **Dairy Cooperative Societies/Milk Producer Companies/Dairy FPOs**, and **Artificial Insemination Technicians (AITs)**.
- A **Special Award for the North Eastern Region and Himalayan States/UTs** promotes dairy development in these areas.

Prize Structure

- The first, second and third ranks receive **₹5 lakh, ₹3 lakh and ₹2 lakh**, respectively.
- The **NER Special Award** carries a prize of **₹2 lakh**, while the AIT category receives a **certificate of merit and memento**.
- The award is administered by the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying**.

Dhansiri River

Why in News

- The **Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA)** issued an advisory amid the flood situation near the **Dhansiri River** in **Golaghat** district.



Geographical Course

- The Dhansiri is a **transboundary river** between **Nagaland** and **Assam** and an important tributary of the **Brahmaputra**.
- It originates at **Laisang Peak** in **Nagaland**.
- The river eventually joins the Brahmaputra at **Dhansirimukh** in **Assam**.

River Characteristics

- The Dhansiri has a total length of approximately **352 km** and a catchment area of about **1,220 sq km**.

- Major tributaries include **Intaki**, **Bara Monglu**, **Langlong Nadi** and **Amaluma Jan**.
- Its course passes through the **Nagaland–Assam border region**.

Ecological Significance

- The river landscape supports rich **flora and fauna**, with **Dhansiri Reserved Forest** on one side and **Intanki National Park** on the other.
- Its transboundary course makes it relevant to **flood management and inter-state water governance**.

Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary

TH The Hindu

Andhra Pradesh High Court advances hearing on Kambalakonda sanctuary PIL, says activist

Andhra Pradesh High Court advances Kambalakonda sanctuary PIL hearing to August 24, addressing concerns over potential environmental damage.



Why in News

- The **Andhra Pradesh High Court** agreed to advance a PIL concerning protection of **Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary**, **Mudasarlova drinking-water reservoir** and **surrounding natural streams**.

Geographical & Ecological Profile

- Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary is located near **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, across the **Eastern Ghats**.
- It covers more than **70 sq km** and derives its name from the local **Kambalakonda hillock**.
- Its terrain is predominantly **hilly with steep slopes**.

Faunal Diversity

- The **Indian Leopard** is regarded as the **indicator species** of the sanctuary.
- Other fauna include **Indian Jackal**, **Chital**, **Indian Pangolin**, **Indian Muntjac**, **partridges**, **quails**, **Treepie**, **Asian Paradise-flycatcher**, **Chameleon** and **Indian Cobra**.

Vegetation & Flora

- The sanctuary contains **dry evergreen forests**, a threatened forest type reported in India particularly from **Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh**.
- Representative flora includes **Abrus precatorius**, **Grewia tiliaefolia**, **Catunaregam spinosa** and **Tectona grandis**.
- The landscape also supports species such as **Indian screw tree**, **bush plum** and **jungle berry**.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Delft Island
	Why in News - The Sri Lanka Navy rescued 11 Indian fishermen after their trawler ran aground near Delft Island. Geographical Location - Delft Island, also called Neduntheevu, lies in the Palk Strait off northern Sri Lanka. - It is situated south-southwest of the Jaffna Peninsula and is the largest of the region's seven inhabited islands. - The island covers about 50 sq km, with a length of 8 km and maximum width of around 6 km.



	Physical Features - The island is flat and oval-shaped, with shallow surrounding waters and beaches composed largely of coral fragments and sand. - It has no streams, with freshwater mainly obtained from natural depressions and artificial ponds. - Its vegetation includes dry shrubs, semi-arid tropical plants and palm trees. Historical Significance - Delft Island has historical associations with the Chola, Portuguese, Dutch and British periods. - The island contains ruins of a Dutch colonial fort, while its name was given by the Dutch after Delft in the Netherlands.
Environment	Begonia neelamorum Why in News - Researchers discovered a new species, Begonia neelamorum, in Keyi Panyor district, Arunachal Pradesh. Taxonomic & Geographical Profile Begonia neelamorum is a perennial flowering plant belonging to the genus Begonia and family Begoniaceae. - It was found on steep, moist rock walls along the Keyi River at around 1,000 m elevation. 

	- The species grows to about 10–20 cm and has a single light-green serrated leaf with white flowers. Tribal Linkages - The species was named after the Neelam clan of the Nyishi tribe. - Its Nyishi name is Kobiirhopu Baabra, reflecting the association of local communities with its habitat.
Defence	AIM-260 Joint Advanced Tactical Missile Why in News Australia is poised to become the first international buyer of the US AIM-260 Joint Advanced Tactical Missile (JATM). Defence Technology Profile - AIM-260 is a next-generation Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) being developed by Lockheed Martin. - It is intended primarily for long-range interception of advanced fighters and high-value airborne assets. - The programme has been developed under a top-secret Special Access Program, limiting publicly available technical details. Technical Characteristics - The missile is estimated to be around 4 metres long and may employ dual-pulse or advanced solid-rocket propulsion. - It is expected to use inertial mid-course guidance, two-way datalink and a dual-mode terminal seeker.  AIM-260 Joint Advanced Tactical Missile (JATM) HE dual fragmentation warhead Two-way data link, NS and homing phase seeker Active radar seeker Control fins Source: Lockheed Martin © 2020 Lockheed Martin

	• Its expected range is at least 200 km, with speeds likely exceeding Mach 4. Strategic Significance • The JATM is designed to enhance the ability of fighter aircraft to engage distant and manoeuvring targets before entering conventional visual combat range. • Its development reflects the growing importance of long-range air-to-air warfare and networked missile guidance.
Science and Technology	Everest Engine F Firstpost India enters elite rocket-engine club as Astrobase unveils 800 kN FFSC engine Astrobase Space Technologies has unveiled Everest, an 800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion rocket engine, as India's private space sector...  Why in News • Astrobase Space Technologies, a Bengaluru-based startup, unveiled Everest, an 800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) rocket engine. Technology & Specifications • Everest is described as India's first privately developed high-thrust FFSC engine. • It uses liquid oxygen and liquid methane (methalox) and is designed to produce about 800 kN thrust in vacuum. • The engine is intended for reusable medium-lift launch vehicles, supporting faster turnaround and improved launch economics.

	How FFSC Works • In an FFSC engine, both fuel and oxidiser are partially burned in separate pre-burners to drive their respective turbopumps. • The resulting flows are then directed into the main combustion chamber, enabling very high chamber pressure and efficient operation. • FFSC is considered one of the most advanced forms of rocket propulsion technology. Global Context • SpaceX is currently identified in the source as the only company to have flown an FFSC engine on an orbital rocket. • The development indicates the growing role of Indian private space companies in advanced launch-vehicle propulsion.
Sports	Ashish Yadav Wins Silver at World Athletics U20 Championships 2026 Why in News • Ashish Yadav won silver in the men's javelin throw at the World Athletics U20 Championships 2026 in Eugene, Oregon, with a throw of 74.09 m. Medal Standings • Gold: Jan-Hendrik Heymans (South Africa) – 80.50 m. • Silver: Ashish Yadav (India) – 74.09 m. • Bronze: Addison James (Dominica) – 73.89 m, a national record. • T. Dharanidharan of India finished 6th with 72.35 m. 

	Key Facts - The championship is organised by World Athletics for athletes under 20 years and was formerly called the IAAF World Junior Championships. - In men's javelin, the implement weighs 800 g and measures 2.6–2.7 m. Neeraj Chopra won gold in the event at the 2016 World U20 Championships. - Ashish Yadav became the first Indian silver medallist in men's U20 javelin.
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Uttar Pradesh in News

Centre Releases Funds to Uttar Pradesh for SC/ST Act



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Centre Releases ₹747.17 Crore to Uttar Pradesh ...

3 days ago — **Centre Releases ₹747.17 Crore to Uttar Pradesh** Since 2019-20 for Implementation of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act Over 1.43 Lakh Atrocity ...

Why in News

- The Centre has released **₹747.17 crore** to **Uttar Pradesh** since **2019–20** for implementing the **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**.

Key Provisions

- The Act provides protection against atrocities and enables **stringent punishment** for offenders.
- It provides for **Exclusive Special Courts, Special Public Prosecutors** and **Vigilance & Monitoring Committees**.

Utilisation & Impact

- Funds support **victim compensation, rehabilitation, prosecution, special courts and awareness programmes**.



- Over 1.43 lakh atrocity victims have received relief under the scheme.

Constitutional & Governance Link

- The scheme strengthens social justice, equality and protection of SC/ST rights through Centre–State cooperation.