SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

08-11-2026

Ease of Vehicle Ownership Index (EVOI), 2026

Motorindia

Andhra Pradesh Tops First Ease of Vehicle Ownership Index; Uttar Pradesh Ranks Last

Andhra Pradesh has topped the first Ease of Vehicle Ownership Index (EVOI), released by IndiaTech.org in partnership with Consumer VOICE.



Why in News

- **Andhra Pradesh** topped the first Ease of Vehicle Ownership Index with a score of **5.91/10**.

Assessment Framework

- **Released by: IndiaTech.org** in partnership with **Consumer VOICE**.
- It ranks **15 States and UTs** on the ease of buying, selling and transferring pre-owned vehicles.
- It assesses six pillars: regulatory framework, digital infrastructure, process efficiency, transparency, institutional support, and cost and affordability.
- It uses a **weighted geometric mean** based on surveys of over **1,000 buyers and sellers**, stakeholder interviews and regulatory reviews.

State-wise Performance

- **Andhra Pradesh:** 1st (5.91), followed by **Kerala (5.74)**.
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Last (2.47), preceded by **Bihar (2.51)** and **West Bengal (2.56)**.
- No state scored above **6.0**.
- The assessed states account for over **85% of India's organised used-car market**.

Safe Harbour

Business Standard

Why India may rethink social media safe harbour over algorithmic influence

The Indian government is examining whether social media platforms should continue to enjoy blanket legal protection for user-generated...



Why in News

- India is considering changes to **safe harbour protections** for social media platforms, potentially increasing their liability for user-generated content.

Legal Framework

- **Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000** provides conditional legal immunity to online intermediaries for third-party content.

- It distinguishes between content creators and platforms that merely host or transmit content.
- Intermediaries must comply with due diligence requirements under the **IT Rules, 2021**.

Conditions and Judicial Interpretation

- Safe harbour protection is **not unconditional** and may be withdrawn for non-compliance with statutory obligations.
- In **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)**, the Supreme Court held that takedown obligations based on actual knowledge generally arise through court orders or government notifications, not merely private complaints.
- The provision seeks to balance **digital innovation, intermediary accountability and freedom of expression**.

Physical AI

The Indian Express

Why 'physical AI' marks the next frontier in industrial applications



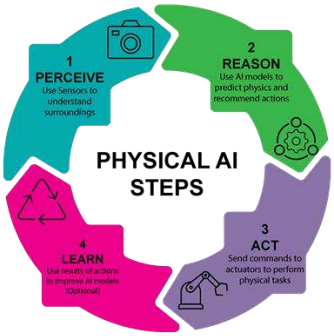
Physical AI combines AI models, sensors and robotics to enable machines to perceive, reason and act in the real world, transforming energy,...

Why in News

- **Physical AI** is emerging as a major industrial technology, particularly in manufacturing and logistics.

Concept and Working

- Physical AI refers to AI systems that interact with and perform actions in the **physical world**.
- It combines AI models with **sensors, actuators and control systems**.
- It works through perception, interpretation, planning, execution and real-time feedback.
- Technologies such as **cameras, LiDAR and machine telemetry** help machines understand their surroundings.



Applications

- **Manufacturing:** Robots performing picking, placing and assembly operations.
- **Logistics:** Autonomous forklifts navigating warehouses.
- **Robotics:** Humanoid robots performing multi-step tasks in changing environments.
- It extends generative AI through spatial understanding and physical-world interaction.

Mudh-Nyoma Airbase

The Times of India

World's highest IL-76 landing, Nyoma makes mark as India's key airbase on the LAC



An Indian Air Force IL-76MD heavy-lift transport has landed at the Mudh-Nyoma airbase in eastern Ladakh, in what is being described as the.

Why in News

- An **IL-76 heavy-lift transport aircraft** of the Indian Air Force successfully landed at Nyoma airbase in eastern Ladakh.



Geographical and Strategic Location

- Officially known as **Mudh-Nyoma Advanced Landing Ground (ALG)**, it is located near Nyoma village in **Leh district, Ladakh**, on the banks of the Indus River.
- It is situated at approximately **13,700 feet** and around **30–40 km from the LAC**.
- It is the **fourth air force base in Ladakh**, after Leh, Kargil and Thoise.

Development and Infrastructure

- Originally constructed in **1962**, it was reactivated by the IAF in **2009**.
- Its upgradation was initiated in **2021** by **BRO's Project Himank** following the 2020 India-China border standoff.
- It includes a **2.7-km runway**, air traffic control complex, hangars and blast pens.
- It supports fighter aircraft, helicopters and transport aircraft, including strategic airlifters such as **C-17 and IL-76**.

Strategic Significance

- It strengthens military logistics, troop deployment and supply operations along the **India-China border**.
- It enhances India's strategic mobility and operational preparedness in eastern Ladakh.

Booker Prize, 2026

BBC

Author M John Harrison wins Booker Prize 2026, becoming oldest ever winner aged 81

Author M John Harrison wins the Booker Prize 2026, becoming the oldest ever winner aged 81. The judges praise Harrison's The End of...



Why in News

- According to the supplied source, UK author **M. John Harrison** won the Booker Prize 2026 for *The End of Everything*.

Institutional Background

- Established in the **United Kingdom in 1969**, it recognises outstanding novels originally written in English.
- It is open to authors of any nationality, subject to publication eligibility.
- Eligible novels must be published in the **UK or Ireland** by a registered publisher during the award year.

Award and Indian Laureates

- **Prize Money:** £50,000 for the winner and £2,500 for each shortlisted author.
- **Indian and Indian-origin winners:**
  - **V.S. Naipaul:** *In a Free State*.
  - **Salman Rushdie:** *Midnight's Children*.
  - **Arundhati Roy:** *The God of Small Things*.
  - **Kiran Desai:** *The Inheritance of Loss* (2006).
  - **Aravind Adiga:** *The White Tiger* (2008).

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Paraguay

Reuters

Paraguay widens ueno bank probe with fresh charge against ex-president Peña

Paraguay prosecutors on Friday added criminal association to the charges facing impeached President Santiago Peña, expanding a probe into...



Why in News

- Paraguay was in the news following a reported political development involving President **Santiago Peña**.

Geographical Location

- Paraguay is a **landlocked country in central South America**.
- **Neighbours:** Bolivia (north and northwest), Brazil (east and northeast) and Argentina (south and west).
- The **Tropic of Capricorn** passes through it.
- **Capital:** Asunción, located on the Paraguay River.

Physical Features



- The **Paraguay River** divides the country into:
  - **Región Oriental:** Eastern region.
  - **Región Occidental (Chaco Boreal):** Western region.
- **Major Rivers:** Paraguay, Paraná and Pilcomayo.
- **Lakes:** Ypoá and Vera.
- **Highest Mountain:** Cerro Pero.
- **Climate:** Subtropical to temperate, with rainy summers and dry winters.
- **Natural Resources:** Timber, iron ore, clay, manganese, limestone and gypsum.

Environment

Begonia siangensis

NE NOW

Arunachal: New Begonia species discovered in Upper Siang

Researchers discover Begonia siangensis, a new flowering plant species in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Siang district.

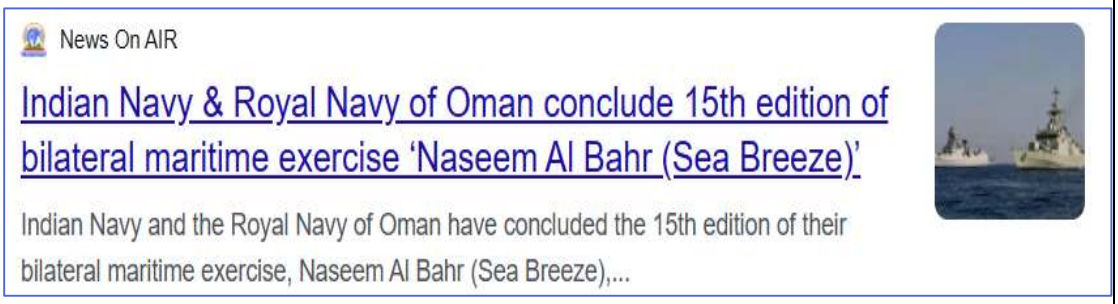


Why in News

- A new wild flowering plant species, **Begonia siangensis**, was discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.

Geographical Distribution

- It was discovered in the **Siang River basin, Upper Siang district**, between Bomdo and Jengging.
- It grows at an elevation of approximately **600 metres**.

	➢ It belongs to the **Begonia section Platycentrum** and is named after the Siang River Valley. **Distinctive Features** ➢ It has **pale-pink flowers, creeping stems and dark-green non-variegated leaves**. ➢ The undersides of its leaves have microscopic blister-like bumps. ➢ Its seed chambers have **three nearly equal-sized wings**. ➢ It differs from *Begonia iridescens*, which has blue-iridescent leaves with silvery spots. **Conservation Status** ➢ It has been provisionally designated **Data Deficient (DD)** under IUCN guidelines.
Defence	**Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr**  News On AIR Indian Navy & Royal Navy of Oman conclude 15th edition of bilateral maritime exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr (Sea Breeze)' Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman have concluded the 15th edition of their bilateral maritime exercise, Naseem Al Bahr (Sea Breeze),... **Why in News** ➢ **INS Surat** reached Muscat, Oman, to participate in the **15th edition** of Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr. **Maritime Cooperation** ➢ It is a **bilateral naval exercise between India and Oman**, initiated in **1993**. ➢ Oman was the first **GCC country** to conduct bilateral military exercises with India. ➢ It comprises **harbour and sea phases**, including cross-deck visits and operational interactions. ➢ It enhances naval interoperability, professional exchanges and mutual understanding. ➢ It aligns with India's **MAHASAGAR vision** (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

Science and Technology	Shigellosis

The Hindu

Health officials step up surveillance as Shigella cases rise in Kerala's Malappuram



Eight people have tested positive for Shigella infection in Malappuram district, with five cases linked to a wedding feast at Korakkuthu in...

Why in News

- Cases of **Shigella infection** were confirmed in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala.

Disease Profile and Transmission

- Shigellosis is a highly contagious **bacterial diarrhoeal disease** caused by *Shigella* bacteria.
- **Natural Reservoir:** Humans are the only natural reservoir.
- **Transmission:** Through contaminated food and water, infected faeces, close personal contact and sexual contact.
- Poor sanitation, overcrowding and unsafe drinking water increase outbreak risks.
- Children below **5 years** are particularly vulnerable.

Symptoms and Treatment

- **Incubation Period:** Generally 1–2 days; symptoms usually last around 7 days.
- **Symptoms:** Watery or bloody diarrhoea, fever, abdominal cramps and vomiting.
- Diarrhoea containing mucus or pus is associated with **bacillary dysentery**.
- Most infections resolve without specific treatment, while severe cases may require **antibiotics**.
- Infected individuals may spread the disease even without showing symptoms.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Airtel Nxtra Data Centre in Prayagraj

The Times of India

[Airtel Nxtra to set up Rs 220cr, 10 MW data centre in Prayagraj]

Airtel Nxtra gets UPSIDA LoI for 4.43 acres at Saraswati Hi-Tech City, Prayagraj to build a Rs 220 crore, 10 MW data centre, creating ~300...

Why in News?

- ***Airtel Nxtra Private Limited*** has proposed a 10 MW data centre at Saraswati Hi-Tech City, Prayagraj.

Project Details

- **Investment:** ₹220 crore.
- **Capacity:** 10 MW.
- **Employment:** Around 300 direct and indirect jobs.
- **Approval:** UPSIDA issued the Letter of Intent (LoI) in November 2026.

Significance

- The facility will support **data storage, cloud computing and digital services**.
- It will strengthen Uttar Pradesh's digital infrastructure and attract IT-sector investments.

Kashi-Vindhya City Economic Region

Indian Masterminds

[UP Plans 32 Projects Worth ₹5,000 Crore Across Seven Districts Under Kashi-Vindhya Economic Region]



UP plans 32 projects worth ₹5000 crore across seven districts under the Kashi-Vindhya City Economic Region.

Why in News?

- Uttar Pradesh has proposed **32 development projects worth ₹5,000 crore** across seven districts under the Kashi-Vindhya City Economic Region.

Geographical Coverage and Funding

- **Districts:** Varanasi, Chandauli, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Mirzapur, Bhadohi and Sonbhadra.
- **Funding:** 70% support from the **World Bank** and 30% from the Central Government.
- Varanasi will receive the highest number of projects (seven).

Major Projects

- **Varanasi:** Ganga-side tourism city (1,000 acres), Kashi-themed tourism city (400 acres) and Sarnath City (260 acres).
- **Ramnagar:** Multi-modal logistics hub across 100 acres.
- **Mirzapur:** Integrated industrial area near Chunar (1,000 acres) and 500-acre industrial area with mixed-use township.
- **Sonbhadra:** Proposed 11-GW power plant, cement plant (800–900 acres) and aluminium park (100–150 acres).

Economic Significance

- The region aims to promote tourism, industrialisation, logistics and balanced development across Purvanchal and the Vindhya region.