

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

09-10-2026

Bhavanisagar Dam

The Hindu

Kalingarayan ayacut farmers seek release of water from Bhavanisagar Dam

Farmers protest at Erode Collectorate demanding timely release of Bhavanisagar Dam water into Kalingarayan Canal for crops, citing pending...



Why in News: Farmers in Tamil Nadu recently protested at the Erode Collectorate, demanding the release of water from **Bhavanisagar Dam** into the Kalingarayan Canal.

Geographical Location

- **Bhavanisagar Dam**, also called the **Lower Bhavani Dam**, is located on the **Bhavani River** in Erode district, Tamil Nadu.
- The Bhavani River is a major tributary of the **Cauvery River**.
- The dam forms part of the river system draining the eastern side of the **Western Ghats in the Nilgiris**.

Infrastructure and Historical Background

- Constructed between **1948 and 1955**, the dam is among the **world's largest earthen dams**.
- It is the **second-largest dam in Tamil Nadu**.
- The reservoir supports the **Lower Bhavani Project Canal**.

Water and Energy Management

- The dam supports **irrigation, drinking-water supply, electricity generation and flood control**.
- It also helps regulate downstream flow and sediment movement.

Slaty Egret

Down To Earth

Slaty Egret's behaviour shift signals how ecosystems are changing

Discover how the Slaty Egret's shifting behavior in Botswana's Okavango Delta reveals critical changes in ecosystems and serves as a vital...



Why in News: The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** highlighted behavioural changes in the Slaty Egret as an example of changes occurring in natural ecosystems.

Species Identification

- The **Slaty Egret (*Egretta vinaceigula*)** is a small waterbird with long legs, a long neck and **slaty-grey plumage with a subtle purple tint**.
- It is known for its **foot-ruffling fishing technique**, in which it stirs the water to flush out fish.

Habitat and Distribution

- It is primarily associated with the **Okavango Delta in Botswana** and occurs in south-central Africa.
- Its major populations are found in **Botswana and Zambia**.
- It prefers **seasonal wetlands and floodplains**, often nesting in densely vegetated islands or marshlands away from predators.

Ecological Characteristics

- Its diet mainly comprises **fish, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates**.
- Dependence on wetlands makes it vulnerable to **habitat loss, agricultural expansion and changes in water management**.
- The species is classified as **Vulnerable (VU)** on the **IUCN Red List**.

Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS)

DD News

Assam's Nameri Tiger Reserve gets global recognition for conservation practices

The Nameri Tiger Reserve in Assam has received global recognition for conservation of big cats and protected forest management,...



Why in News: Nameri Tiger Reserve in Assam recently received approved status under Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS).

Institutional Framework

- **CA|TS** is a global framework for assessing the effectiveness of tiger reserve management and protection.
- It was launched at the **First Asian Parks Congress in Japan in 2013**.
- It establishes standards for **wildlife protection, habitat management, community participation and tiger monitoring**.

Assessment Mechanism

- The framework comprises **7 pillars and 17 elements**, covering standards and criteria for managing tiger conservation areas.
- The seven pillars are **Importance and Status, Management, Community, Tourism (optional), Protection, Habitat Management and Tiger Populations**.

- The first five pillars relate to general conservation management, while the last two focus specifically on tiger conservation standards.

Indian Implementation and Coverage

- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** works with the **Global Tiger Forum (GTF)** and **WWF-India** as implementing partners for CA|TS assessment in India.
- The source lists **15 accredited tiger reserves**, including **Kaziranga, Manas, Orang and Nameri** in Assam; **Dudhwa** in Uttar Pradesh; and **Sundarbans** in West Bengal.
- Other listed reserves include **Valmiki, Kanha, Panna, Satpura, Pench, Anamalai, Mudumalai, Parambikulam and Bandipur**.

PRASHAST Portal



Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Organises Nationwide Screening of Inclusive Education Sensitization Module through PRASHAST

Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print and electronic media...



Why in News: The **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)** organised nationwide screening of a 30-minute sensitisation and orientation module on inclusive education through the PRASHAST Portal.

Institutional and Legal Framework

- **PRASHAST** stands for **Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool** and is designed to identify children with probable disabilities in schools.
- It supports the identification of **21 disability conditions** covered under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016**.
- The initiative aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020** and the objective of inclusive education.

Screening and Referral Process

- **Part I** involves preliminary screening by regular teachers, while **Part II** validates observations through special educators or counsellors.




A seamless upgrade for efficient screening checklist of 21 disabilities among school students

- Simplified Access and Management:** Login via #MeriPehchaan with role-based approvals
- Enhanced Efficiency:** Easy student data management & multi-class assignment through bulk upload
- Stay Connected and Informed:** Stay updated with notifications & quick data overview with real time updates
- Improved Security and Accessibility:** Safe teacher data transfer, prevent unauthorised access
- Multi-Platform accessibility:** Android, iOS & web (will be live soon)

education.gov.in | @EduMinOfIndia



- Teachers are expected to observe students for **1–2 months** across classrooms, playgrounds, extracurricular activities and social interactions.
- Children requiring further assessment may be referred to competent authorities for detailed evaluation and disability certification.

Governance and Educational Outcomes

- The portal is designed for **regular teachers, special educators, counsellors and school heads**.
- It serves as an **initial screening and referral mechanism**, not a substitute for formal disability assessment and certification.
- The initiative seeks to strengthen **equitable access, early identification and educational support** for children with special needs.

Gomti River

TOI The Times of India

Gomti recedes after 2 weeks, but long haul ahead for flood-hit families

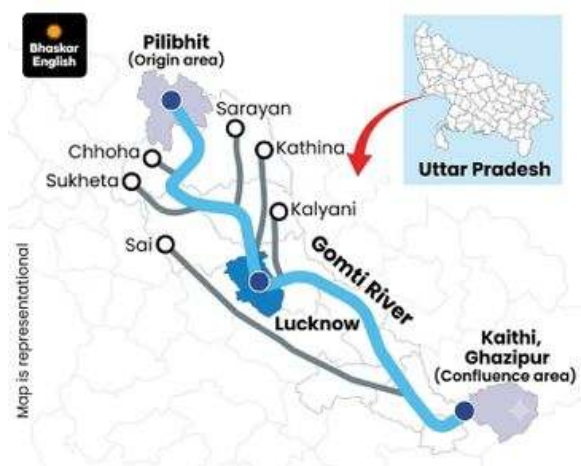
Gomti river recedes in Lucknow after 2 weeks of flooding, but water remains trapped in colonies; 40000 affected as relief, boats,...



Why in News: Rising water levels in the **Gomti River** recently triggered a flood-like situation in parts of **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.

Geographical Course

- The **Gomti**, also known as **Gumti** or **Gomati**, is a tributary of the **Ganga River** and flows entirely within Uttar Pradesh.
- It originates at **Gomath Tal (Fulhar Jheel)** near Madho Tanda in Pilibhit district, within the **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve**.
- The river flows for approximately **940 km** before joining the Ganga near **Saidpur/Kaithi in Ghazipur district**.



Drainage and Geomorphology

- Major tributaries include the **Sai, Chowka, Kathina and Saryu rivers**.
- Important cities along its course include **Lakhimpur Kheri, Lucknow, Sultanpur and Jaunpur**.
- The Gomti basin contains thick **Quaternary alluvial sediments**, including sand, silt, clay, gravel and kankar nodules.

- **Younger alluvium** occurs mainly in present-day floodplains, whereas **older alluvium** occupies elevated areas, including doab regions.

Hydrological and Environmental Concerns

- The Gomti is a **perennial river** with relatively sluggish flow during much of the year and substantially increased runoff during the monsoon.
- Heavy monsoon rainfall can raise water levels and increase the risk of **urban flooding**.
- The river faces significant **pollution pressures**, making water-quality management and wastewater treatment important governance priorities.

National SC-ST Hub Scheme



National SC-ST Hub: Powering Inclusive Entrepreneurship

The National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) is advancing inclusive entrepreneurship by enabling SC/ST enterprises to build capabilities and access wider...



Why in News: As of **31 July 2026**, the National SC-ST Hub Scheme had assisted **1,90,414 beneficiaries** and trained **54,499 candidates** since its inception.

Institutional Framework and Objectives

- The **National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) Scheme** was launched in **October 2016** as a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**.
- It is implemented by the **National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC)** to strengthen entrepreneurship among **Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST)** communities.
- It aims to improve the capacity of SC/ST-owned enterprises and increase their participation in public procurement.



Financial and Enterprise Support

- The scheme provides support for **plant and machinery, training, market linkages, exhibitions, credit facilitation, Udyam registration and GeM onboarding**.
- Its **Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS)** provides eligible new and existing SC/ST-owned micro and small enterprises with a **25% capital subsidy, capped at ₹25 lakh**, for eligible plant, machinery and equipment financed through institutional credit.

- The scheme promotes participation in the **4% public procurement target for SC/ST-owned micro and small enterprises**, alongside vendor-development and mentoring support.

Economic and Governance Significance

- The scheme facilitates connections between SC/ST entrepreneurs and **Central and State Government departments, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other government agencies**.
- It supports capacity building through **skill-development programmes, industry associations and vendor-development initiatives**.

Snow Leopard



Why in News: India's first **high-altitude snow leopard wildlife safari** was launched in the cold-desert region of **Ladakh**.

Biological Characteristics

- The **Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*)** is a large wild cat known as the **"Ghost of the Mountains"** because of its elusive nature and camouflage.
- It inhabits rocky, shrub-dominated and grassy mountain environments, generally at elevations of **500–5,800 metres**.
- Its thick insulating fur, broad paws, small rounded ears and large nasal cavities help it survive in cold, high-altitude environments.

Geographical Distribution

- The species occurs across the high mountains of **Central and South Asia**, including the **Himalayas, Hindu Kush, Tibetan Plateau and Altai Mountains**.
- In India, it is found across the **Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan regions**.
- India is estimated to host **500–700 snow leopards**, according to the provided source.
- The snow leopard is the **state animal of Himachal Pradesh**.

Conservation Status and Protection

- The snow leopard is classified as **Vulnerable (VU)** on the **IUCN Red List**.
- Its high-altitude habitats are vulnerable to pressures such as habitat degradation, disturbance and changes in prey availability.
- Wildlife tourism initiatives in Ladakh can support conservation awareness and local livelihoods if managed to minimise disturbance to the species.

India Mobile Congress (IMC), 2026

News On AIR

PM Modi inaugurates IMC 2026; says 5G connectivity reaches every district

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi.



Why in News: Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC)** on **8 October 2026** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**, highlighting India's telecom progress, digital governance, technological self-reliance and the need for a global framework to address cyber fraud and deepfakes.

Institutional Framework and Key Features

- The **India Mobile Congress (IMC)** is organised jointly by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)**.
- The **10th edition** was held from **7 to 10 October 2026** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**.
- IMC has emerged as a platform for showcasing developments in **telecommunications, digital technologies and technological innovation**.

Digital Governance and Citizen Benefits

- The **Digital India campaign** has placed mobile phones at the centre of efforts to reduce the **digital divide** and democratise access to technology.
- Mobile connectivity has reduced citizens' **travel, waiting time and costs**, improving access to public services and convenience.
- The Prime Minister described these benefits as technology's **"Citizen Dividend"**, highlighting the role of digital connectivity in good governance.

Telecom Expansion and Digital Economy

- India launched **5G services in 2022** from the India Mobile Congress platform.
- India's 5G network has expanded to more than **5.5 lakh base stations**, reaching **every district of the country**, according to the announcement.
- More than **50 crore people** participate in India's gaming ecosystem, with mobile connectivity supporting **e-sports, digital content creation and online entrepreneurship**, including in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Technological Self-Reliance and Emerging Challenges

- India aims to transition from a **consumer of technology to a creator of technology**, with greater domestic ownership of products, designs, technology and **intellectual property (IP)**.
- The **Telecommunications Act, 2023**, regulatory reforms and the **PM GatiShakti platform** were highlighted as important enablers of telecom and infrastructure development.

Other Important News of the day

Places
News

in **Ghana**

Why in News: The Cabinet of **Ghana** recently approved a decision to seek membership of the **BRICS grouping**.

Geographical Location

- **Ghana** is located in **West Africa**, along the **Gulf of Guinea** and the **Atlantic Ocean**.
- It shares land borders with **Côte d'Ivoire** to the west, **Burkina Faso** to the north and **Togo** to the east.
- Its capital is **Accra**, and the **Prime Meridian (0° longitude)** passes through the country.



Physical Geography

- Ghana has a generally **tropical, warm and humid climate**.
- Major upland features include the **Kwahu Plateau** and **Gambaga Scarp**.
- **Mount Afadjato**, **Mount Djebobo** and **Mount Torogbani** are located east of the Volta River near the Togo border.
- The **Volta River basin** dominates its drainage system and includes the **Black Volta**, **White Volta** and **Oti rivers**.

Economic and Strategic Profile

- **Lake Volta**, created by the **Akosombo Dam**, is one of the world's largest artificial lakes.
- **Gold, cocoa and petroleum** are important components of Ghana's economy.
- Its proposed BRICS membership reflects its interest in expanding international economic and diplomatic engagement.

Environment

New Species of Springtails

 The New Indian Express

Two new species of springtails discovered by scientists in Nilgiris

The researchers combined microscopic examination with DNA barcoding to confirm the discoveries. The findings were published in the taxonomic...



Why in News: Scientists discovered two new springtail species, *Folsomia ciega* and *Folsomia unioculata*, in the **Nilgiri Hills of the Western Ghats**, taking the known Indian species of the genus *Folsomia* to 13.

Taxonomic Identification

- Both species belong to the genus **Folsomia** and are tiny, soil-dwelling arthropods commonly called **springtails**.
- *Folsomia ciega* is named after the Spanish word for “blind” and lacks eyes entirely.
- *Folsomia unioculata* means “one-eyed” in Latin and has a single eye on each side of its head.



Morphological Characteristics

- *Folsomia ciega* is pale, elongated and approximately **1 mm** long, with distinctive bristle arrangements and a two-pronged tail structure called a **mucro**.
- *Folsomia unioculata* grows up to **1.3 mm** and differs from related species through its distinctive eye arrangement.
- Springtails belong to **Collembola**, lack wings and generally possess six legs, short antennae and soft bodies.

Ecological Significance

- Springtails are among the world's smallest arthropods, with sizes ranging from around **0.2 mm to 10 mm**, according to the provided source.
- Their body surface may feature **water-repellent, self-cleaning, comb-like hexagonal or rhombic granules**.
- Their discovery adds to knowledge of soil biodiversity in the **Western Ghats**, a globally significant biodiversity region.

Science and Technology

Green Keelback

Deccan Herald

Rare olive-green snake spotted in Karnataka's B R Hills

A rare olive green coloured Green Keelback snake was rescued near Gangawadi village in Biligiri Rangana Betta of Chamarajanagar district and...



Why in News: A Green Keelback snake was recently found near Gangawadi village, on the outskirts of **Biligiri Rangana Betta (BR Hills)** in Yelandur taluk, Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka.

Biological Characteristics

- The **Green Keelback** (*Macropisthodon plumbicolor*) is a **non-venomous, semi-aquatic snake** native to South and Southeast Asia.
- It generally measures **60 cm–1 metre**, although some individuals may reach **1.2 metres**.
- Its green body, lighter underside and **keeled scales** help distinguish it from other snakes.

Geographical Distribution

- It occurs in **India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and parts of Indonesia**.
- It inhabits **ponds, rivers, streams, rice fields, marshes and other vegetated wetlands**.
- Its semi-aquatic nature enables it to hunt both in water and on land.

Ecological and Conservation Significance

- The species is classified as **Least Concern (LC)** on the **IUCN Red List**.
- Its wetland-associated habitat makes it relevant to studies of freshwater ecosystems and wetland biodiversity.