

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 22 July, 2025



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## Rajasthan

### Rajasthan ranks first in PM Kusum Yojana

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Rajasthan is the leading state in India to produce the maximum solar energy through effective implementation of 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan' (PM Kusum Yojana) at the ground level.



#### ➔ Main Point

- Under the PM Kusum Yojana, 684 decentralized solar power plants of a total capacity of 1,305 MW have been installed in Rajasthan so far. Out of these, 592 plants of 1,190 MW capacity have been developed within the last one year.
- Rajasthan is the leading state in the country in Component-A. Rajasthan alone has 457 MW plants in Component-A. Whereas in Component-C, Rajasthan is at third place after Gujarat and Maharashtra.

- Under this scheme, electricity is being supplied to more than 1,70,000 farmers of the state for farming.
- The target of this scheme is to install plants of 12 thousand MW capacity in the state.

## ❖ Facts for Prelims:

### PM KUSUM:

- ◆ **Launch:** March, 2019
- ◆ **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- ◆ **Objective:** To ensure energy security for farmers and to fulfil India's commitment to increase the share of installed capacity of electric power from non-fossil based sources to 40 per cent by 2030.

### Three components of the scheme:

#### 1. Component-A:

- ◆ To install 10,000 MW of solar capacity through installation of individual plants with capacity ranging from 500 kilowatts (kW) to 2 MW.
- ◆ To install solar power plants within five kilometres of notified sub-stations to avoid high cost and losses of transmission lines.
- ◆ The power generated is purchased by the local Discom (Distribution Company) at a pre-determined tariff determined by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC).
- ◆ **Note:** Component-A in Rajasthan was initially being implemented by Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL), which was transferred to Rajasthan Discoms on July 23, 2024 as per the instructions of the Energy Department of Rajasthan Government.

## 2. Component-B:

- ◆ Installation of 20 lakh standalone solar powered agricultural pumps.
- ◆ Under this component, provision has been made for the installation of standalone solar powered agricultural pumps ranging from 3 to 10 horsepower (HP), in which maximum subsidy is payable for pumps up to 7.5 horsepower.
- ◆ Farmers who do not have agricultural electricity connection for irrigation and who depend on diesel based pump sets are eligible to install solar energy pump system under this scheme.
- ◆ The share of farmers under this scheme is 40 percent. The remaining 60 percent is given by the Government of India and the Government of Rajasthan equally at 30-30 percent.
- ◆ Out of 40 percent, the farmer can take a loan of up to 30 percent from the bank and the remaining 10 percent will have to be given by the farmers.
- ◆ Component-B of the scheme is being implemented through the Department of Horticulture.

## 3. Component-C (Feeder Level Solarization)

- ◆ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issued guidelines on December 4, 2020 for the implementation of feeder level solarization under component C of PM-KUSUM scheme, which includes the capacity of grid-connected solar power plants that can be installed through CAPEX mode or RESCO mode to meet the annual power requirement of one or more separate agricultural feeders.
- ◆ The Ministry has approved a target to solarize 4,00,000 pump sets.

## Oran land in Rajasthan

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Jitendra Rai Goyal Committee constituted by the state government after the order of the Supreme Court has sought details of the land named Oran, Malvan, Devrai, Rakhbani, Devghat, Mandir Van, Dev Van, Bagh, Rundh etc. from the officials of all the districts to protect the Oran land.

### ➔ Main Point

- Centuries ago, the villagers had protected the Oran land in the name of folk deities like Majisa, Jamboji, Jogmaya, Bhomiyaji, Pabuji, Harduji, Ramdevji, Mamaji etc.
- These Orans have been considered a symbol of cultural faith and environmental balance, but with time, incidents of encroachment on these sacred places have increased; such as illegal mining, illegal construction and encroachment.
- In view of this serious situation, the matter reached the Supreme Court, from where clear instructions were issued to protect the Oran lands.

**Status of Oran land in Rajasthan (as per Oran land survey completed in the year 2024) :**

Sr. No.	District	Oran Land (in hectares)
1	Jaisalmer	2,02,130
2	Barmer	83,000
3	Phalodi	31,000
4	Balotra	18,301
5	Bikaner	13,000





## ❖ Facts for Prelims:

### Jitendra Rai Goyal Committee:

- ◆ The Supreme Court (SC) approved the formation of a high-level committee headed by Jitendra Rai Goyal for the conservation of Dev Van Oran in Rajasthan.
- ◆ The petition for conservation of Dev Van Oran was heard by a bench of Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine Masih.



## News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Rajasthan's first snake park in Kota</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Rajasthan's first snake park has been built in Kota at a cost of Rs 7.42 crore.</li><li>♦ 29 species of Indian and foreign snakes like Indian Cobra, Russell's Viper, Indian Python, Ball Python and Milk Snake etc. will be preserved in this park, so that tourists can see the diverse world of snakes closely.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Survey of butterflies for the first time in Sariska Sanctuary</b></p> 

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- ♦ On July 19 and 20, 2025, butterflies were counted for the first time in Sariska National Park, Alwar with the aim of developing a comprehensive understanding of wildlife and ecosystem.
- ♦ This data will form the basis of biodiversity conservation in the coming years and will prove useful in the research work of researchers.

### Role of butterflies in the environment:

- ♦ **Pollination:** Butterflies carry pollen from one flower to another while sucking nectar from flowers, which makes the reproduction of plants possible.
- ♦ **Bio-indicator:** Butterflies indicate the quality of the environment and biodiversity. Where there are more butterflies, that area is more healthy and biologically rich.

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## National

### Resignation of the Vice-President of India

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned from his post due to health reasons.



#### ➔ Main Point

- He is the third Vice President of India who has resigned from his post before the completion of his term. Before him, V.V. Giri (July, 1969) and R. Venkataraman (July, 1987) had resigned from their posts.
- He is the first Vice President of India against whom an impeachment motion was brought in the Rajya Sabha.
- He is the first Vice President of India who resigned from his post due to health reasons.

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## Articles related to the Vice President of India:

- **Article- 63:** There shall be a Vice President in India.
- **Article- 64:** The Vice President shall be the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Article- 65:** In case of emergency, the Vice President shall take over the charge of the President.
- **Article- 66:** Election of Vice President:
  - Election will be done by the members of both the Houses of Parliament by the system of proportional representation.
  - Vice President shall not be a member of Parliament or State Legislature, and shall resign on being elected.
  - **Eligibility:**
    - Must be a citizen of India.
    - Must have completed the age of 35 years.
    - Must be eligible to become a member of Rajya Sabha.
- **Article- 67:** Tenure of office
  - The term of office of Vice President will be 5 years.
  - He can resign by writing to the President.
  - Can be removed by a special resolution passed by Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha (14 days prior notice required).
  - Even after completion of the term, he can continue in office till the successor assumes office.

- **Article- 68:** Election in case of vacancy
  - Election to fill the vacancy caused due to expiry of the term of office of Vice President shall be completed before the expiry of the term.
  - In case of a casual vacancy, an early election will be held and the new Vice President will serve a full term of 5 years.
- **Article 69:** Oath/Affirmation: The Vice President shall take oath before the President or an officer appointed by him before assuming office.
- **Article 70:** Other contingencies: The Parliament may provide for the discharge of the functions of the President in any other contingency.
- **Article 71:** Disputes relating to election: All doubts relating to the election of the President or the Vice President shall be resolved only by the Supreme Court.

## 'Ro-Ro' ferry service started on Mandovi river

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Goa government has launched the country's first Ro-Ro (Roll-on/Roll-off) ferry service on the Mandovi river.



### ➔ Main Point

- This service ensures fast, safe and convenient water transport between Chorao Island and Ribandar.
- Two modern ferries – 'Gangotri' and 'Dwarka' will be operated under this project.

### RoRo (Roll-on/Roll-off):

- RoRo (Roll-on/Roll-off) is a water transport system in which passengers can board the ferry with their vehicles.
- Passengers do not need to get off the vehicle.
- This system is extremely useful in areas where road network is limited.



## SBI: World's Best Consumer Bank

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Global Finance Magazine declared State Bank of India (SBI) as the World's Best Consumer Bank for the year 2025.



### ➔ Main Point

- Global Finance Magazine will present this award to SBI Chairman CS Shetty at the annual event titled 'World's Best Banks' during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meeting in Washington DC on October 18, 2025.
- This honor will be given for SBI's exceptional focus on customer service and its impressive progress in digital transformation.

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## Other Important Points:

### State Bank of India (SBI):

- It is a statutory body.
- It is a public sector bank and is the largest bank in India and the 43rd largest bank in the world.
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai.
- **Innovations of State Bank of India (SBI) :** Har Ghar Lakhpati Yojana and SBI Patrons Yojana, YONO (You Only Need One) App, SBI Anywhere, SBI InTouch, SBI Pay, SBI Youth for India Fellowship, SBI Gram Seva, SBI Green Marathon, SBI Bal Kalyan Kosh etc.

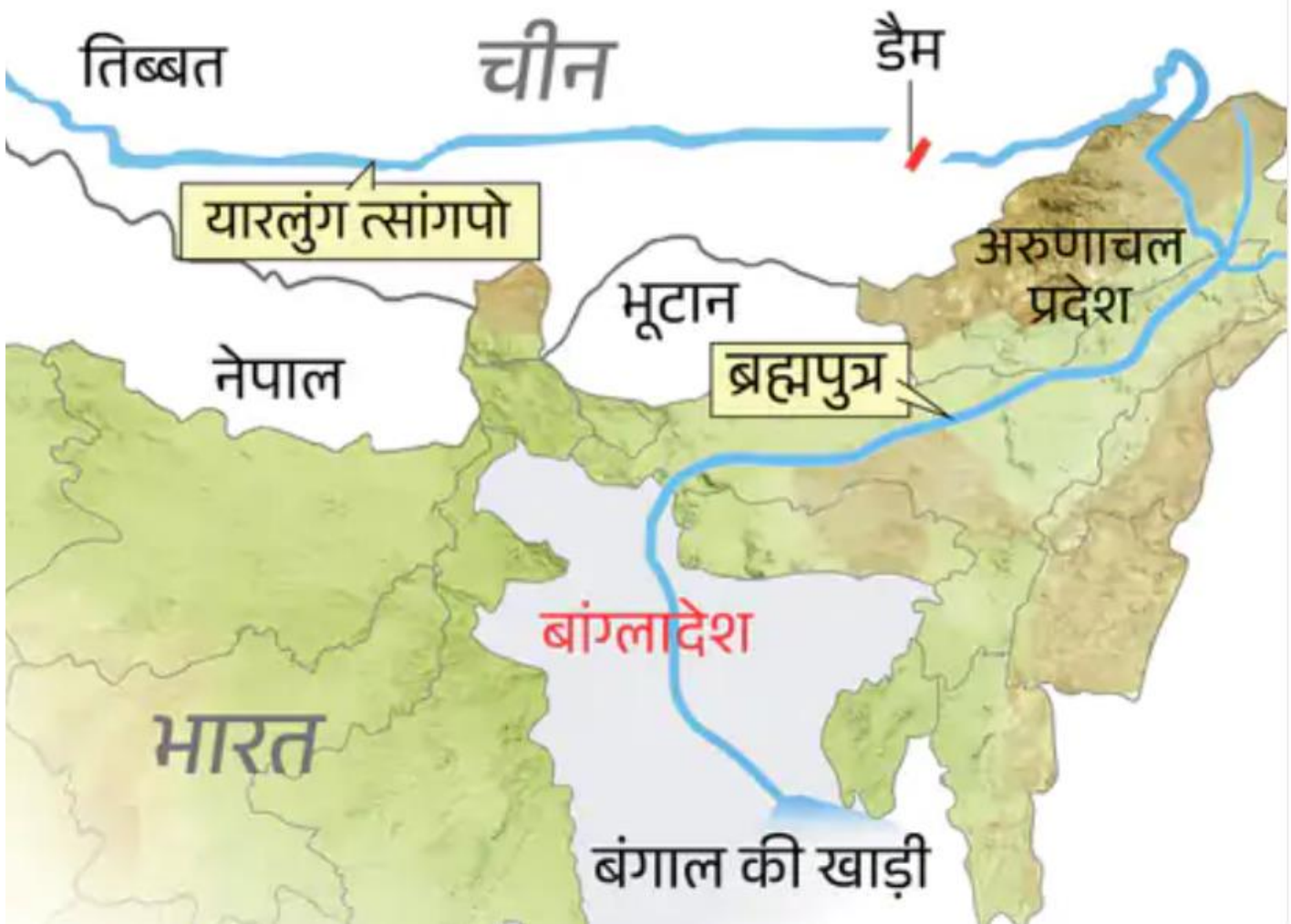


## International

### Three Gorges Dam

#### ➡ Why in News?

- Recently, China started building the world's largest hydropower dam on the Brahmaputra River (Yarlung Tsangpo in China) in Tibet.



#### ➡ Main Point

- According to an AFP report, this dam project was approved by Beijing in December 2024. This dam is being built in Nyingchi city bordering Arunachal Pradesh. Its total cost is said to be around \$ 167.8 billion (about Rs 12 lakh crore).

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- Both India and Bangladesh have expressed deep concern about this. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu had described this dam as a water bomb for India.
- This dam is being built on the other side of a huge gorge in the Himalayas, where the river takes a U-turn near the Indian border (Arunachal Pradesh).
- According to China's state-run news agency Xinhua, the project will include five cascade hydropower stations.
- This dam will generate more than 300 billion units (kWh) of electricity in a year. This electricity can meet the needs of 30 crore people.

**Other important points:**

**Brahmaputra river system :**



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- **Origin** : Originates from the Chemayungdung Glacier in southwestern Tibet, near the Konggyu Tso Lake, at an altitude of 5,300 m in the southwestern part of the Tibetan Plateau.
- **Length** : With a length of over 2,900 km, the Brahmaputra is one of the longest rivers in Asia.
- The Brahmaputra flows through four countries – Tibet (China), Bhutan, India and Bangladesh covering a distance of 2,900 km before entering the Bay of Bengal.

## Synonyms :

- **Tibet** – Tsangpo.
- **China** – Yarlung Zangbo.
- **Assam Valley** – Dihang or Siang, south of Sadiya: Brahmaputra.
- **Bangladesh** – Jamuna River and eventually joins with the Ganges to form the vast Sundarbans delta.
- **Majuli and Umananda**: The world's largest (Majuli) and smallest (Umananda) river islands are located in the Brahmaputra River in the state of Assam.

## Major tributaries:

Left side tributaries	Right side tributaries
Lhasa River	Kameng River
Nyang River	Manas River
Parlung Zangbo River	Beki River
Dhanshri River	Raidak River
	Jaldhaka River
Kolong River	Teesta River
Lohit River	Subansiri River

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- **Flow into India:** Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, West Bengal and Sikkim.
- **Cities located on the banks of Brahmaputra River:** Dibrugarh, Pasighat, Neemati, Tezpur and Guwahati.
- **Hydroelectric Projects:** Subansiri, Upper Lohit, Kameng (Arunachal Pradesh), Rangit Hydroelectric Project, Teesta Hydroelectric Project (Sikkim), Kopili Hydroelectric Project (Assam), New Umtru Hydroelectric Project (Meghalaya), Doyang Hydroelectric Project (Nagaland), Loktak Hydroelectric Project, Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Project (Manipur), Tuibai Hydroelectric Project, Tuirial Hydroelectric Project and Dhaleswari Hydroelectric Project (Mizoram).

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## Science and Technology

### AK-203 Rifle

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the first AK-203 rifles made in Amethi were handed over to the Indian Army.



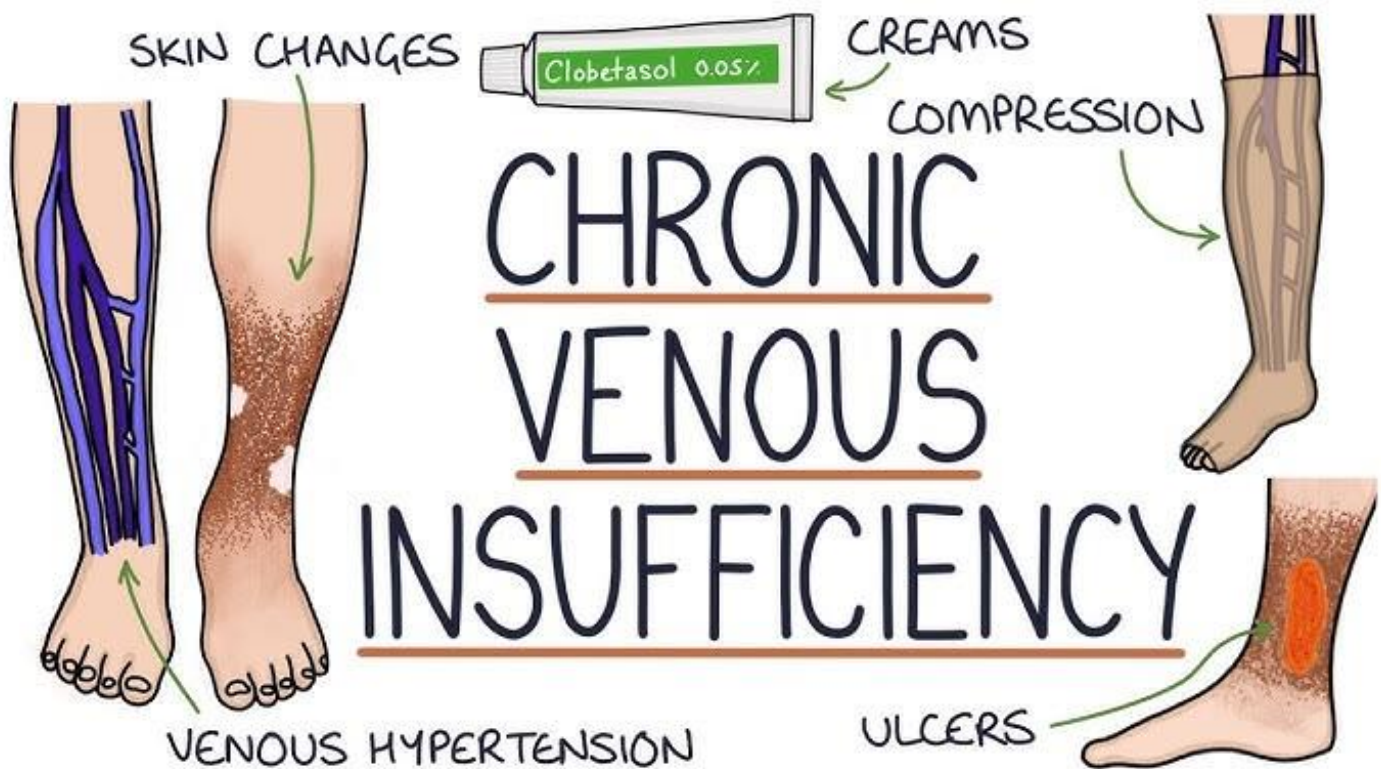
#### ➔ Main Point

- Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), an Indo-Russian joint venture company, has manufactured the AK-203 rifles.
- AK-203 is the latest version of the famous Kalashnikov rifle series.
- It has been designed and manufactured to suit the requirements of the Indian Army.
- This rifle is used in sensitive areas like LoC (Line of Control) and LAC (Line of Actual Control).

## Chronic venous insufficiency disease

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, US President Donald Trump has been diagnosed with a disease called Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI).



### ➔ Main Point

- CVI is a condition in which the veins of the legs get damaged.
- This prevents the blood from flowing smoothly towards the heart.
- The valves present in the veins help in moving blood upwards.
- When these valves get damaged, the blood starts accumulating downwards.
- The accumulated blood creates more pressure in the veins.

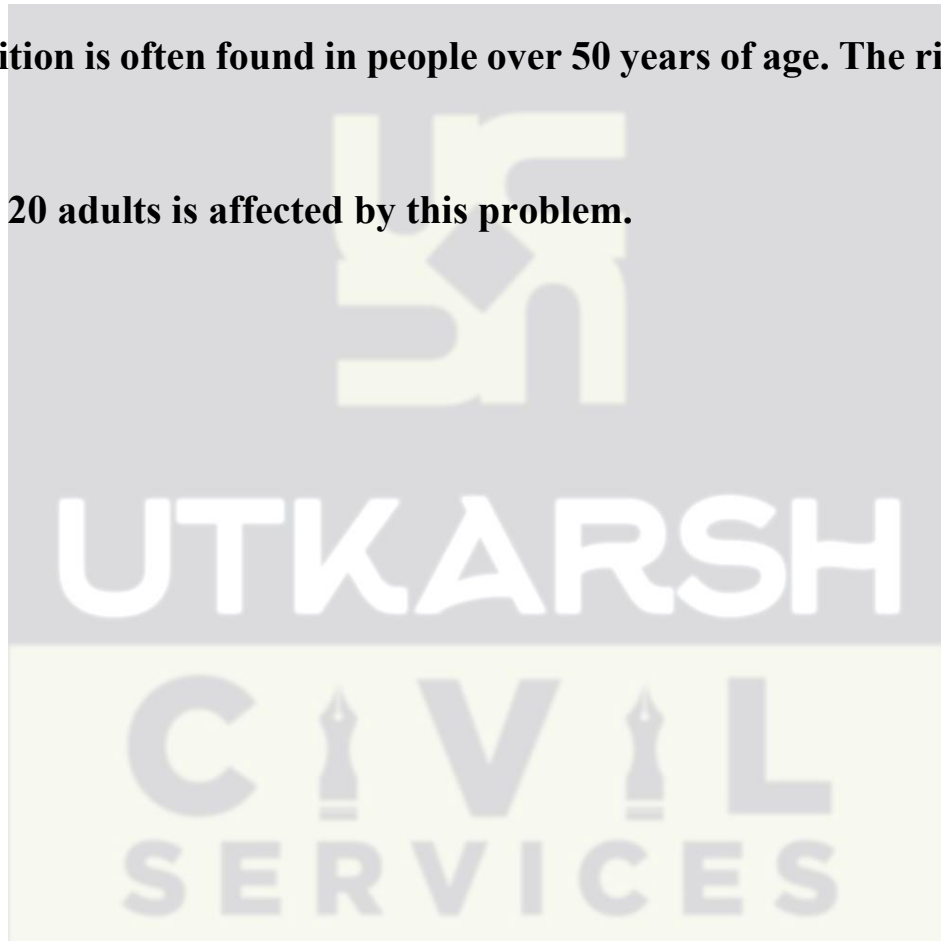


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- This problem can affect three types of veins in the body:
  - **Deep veins** – deep and large veins inside the muscles.
  - **Superficial veins** – veins close to the skin.
  - **Perforating veins** – veins connecting deep and superficial veins.
- This condition is often found in people over 50 years of age. The risk increases with age.
- 1 in every 20 adults is affected by this problem.

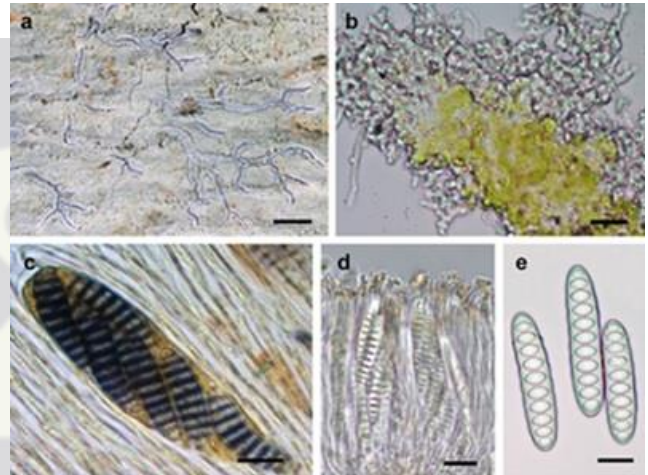


## Environment and Ecology

### New lichen species from Western Ghats: *Allographa effusosoredica*

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, a new lichen species named 'Allographa effusosoredica' was discovered in the Western Ghats of India.



#### ➔ Main Point

- The discovery has been made by scientists from MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, Pune.
- The discovery brings forth a new layer of symbiotic evolution.
- Lichens are an example of symbiotic relationship between fungi and photosynthetic organisms (such as green algae or cyanobacteria).
- Lichens help in soil formation.
- They act as indicators of air pollution.
- They contribute to maintaining the stability of bio-chains.
- The discovery is centered on the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a global biodiversity hotspot.

## Important Days

### National Flag Adoption Day

#### ➔ Why in News?

- National Flag Adoption Day is celebrated every year on 22 July.



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## ➡ Main Point

- On this day in the year 1947, the Constituent Assembly adopted the tricolor as the Indian national flag.
- The Indian tricolor flag is rectangular made in the ratio of 3:2, in which there is Ashok Chakra with 24 spokes between three horizontal colors, which is a symbol of justice and religion.

### Historical development of the Indian flag:

- **Year 1906:** The first tricolor was hoisted in Kolkata – red, yellow, green.
- **Year 1907:** Bhikaji Cama hoisted the flag in Paris – 'Vande Mataram', sun-moon symbol.
- **Year 1917:** New flag proposed by Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- **Year 1921:** Pingali Venkaiah made the flag with spinning wheel on the suggestion of Gandhiji.
- **1931:** Congress formally adopted the tricolour flag with the spinning wheel.
- **22 July 1947:** The Constituent Assembly approved the same flag, but the Ashoka Chakra was included in place of the spinning wheel.

### Flag proposal in the Constituent Assembly:

- Pandit Nehru proposed the flag of independent India.
- This proposal was passed unanimously.
- He said that this flag is not a symbol of any particular religion, but of the whole of India.



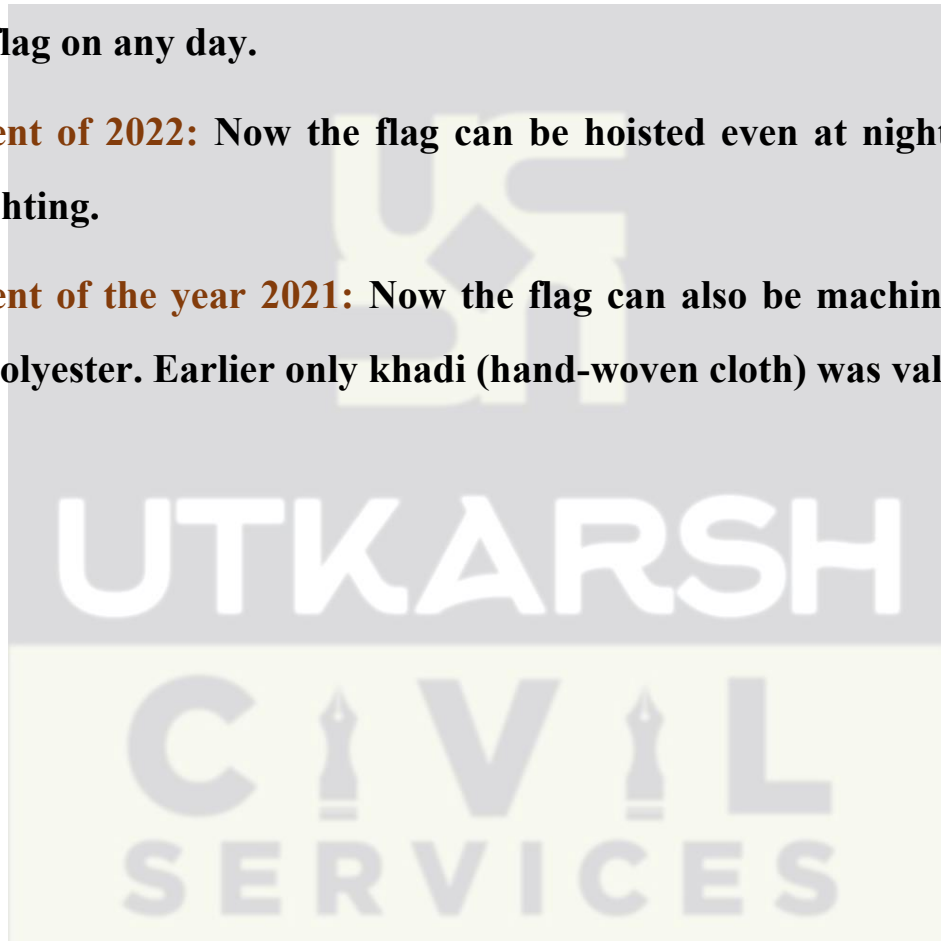
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## Legal provisions related to the flag:

- **Prevention of Insults to National Pride Act, 1971:** Insulting the flag can result in 3 years of imprisonment, fine or both.
- **Indian Flag Code, 2002:** Effective from 26 January 2002, citizens can now hoist the flag on any day.
- **Amendment of 2022:** Now the flag can be hoisted even at night, if there is proper lighting.
- **Amendment of the year 2021:** Now the flag can also be machine-made and made of polyester. Earlier only khadi (hand-woven cloth) was valid.



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## Awards

### World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize 2025 Champion Prize

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, one-of-a-kind mobile application 'Meri Panchayat' was awarded the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize 2025 Champion Award in the Action Line category under Cultural Diversity and Identity, Linguistic Diversity and Local Content.



#### ➔ Main Point

- The award was presented during the WSIS+20 High Level Event 2025 organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland under the WSIS initiative.
- Organised jointly by ITU and the Swiss Confederation.
- Co-organised by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD.
- As a WSIS Prize 2025 Champion Project, Meri Panchayat symbolizes the global excellence of India's digital governance model.

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## Other important points:

### 'Meri Panchayat' App:

- It is a transformational digital governance initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and National Informatics Centre (NIC) that caters to the needs of 80 crore rural residents, officials and stakeholders of Panchayati Raj.
- It promotes transparency, accountability and public participation in panchayat activities.
- The app integrates various portals like e-Gram Swaraj, GPDP, MNREGA and others, giving citizens easy access to information about Gram Panchayat works and initiatives.
- The app also provides access to Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP), project tracking, weather forecast at Gram Panchayat level, social audit tools, fund utilisation data and grievance redressal with geo-tagged and geo-fenced features.
- Supporting more than 12 Indian languages, the app ensures inclusivity through its multilingual interface.