



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 09-10-2025

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Manjeera River

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography

Context

- Two youths from Kukatpally were dramatically rescued after being **swept away by the swollen Manjeera River**.

About Manjeera River

- **Tributary of: Godavari River**
- **States covered:** Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Telangana

Course and Origin

- **Origin:** Balaghat Range, near **Ahmednagar district**, Maharashtra
 - **Altitude:** ~823 metres (2,700 ft)
- **Flow Path:**
 - Flows eastward through **Bidar (Karnataka) → Sangareddy, Medak, and Nizamabad (Telangana)**
- **Confluence:** Joins **Godavari River** near **Basara**, Nizamabad district, Telangana
- **Total Length:** 724 km
- **Catchment Area:** 30,844 sq. km
- **Border Role:** Forms a natural boundary between **Maharashtra (west)** and **Telangana (east)** in its final stretch

Major Tributaries

- **Left-bank:** Haldi (Haridra), Lendi
- **Right-bank:** Nalla, Manyad, Terna, Tawarja, Gharni

Key Irrigation & Water Supply Projects

1. **Singur Dam / Singur Reservoir (Medak, Telangana)**
 - Supplies drinking water to **Hyderabad** and surrounding regions.
2. **Nizam Sagar Project (Kamareddy district, Telangana)**
 - One of the **oldest irrigation projects** on the Manjeera; commissioned in 1923.
3. **Manjeera Barrage** – Important for **water regulation and distribution** to Medak and Sangareddy areas.

[Know more](#)



PM-SETU Scheme

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions

Context

- During the **Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh** held at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, the **Prime Minister** launched the **PM-SETU Scheme** — *Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs*.
- This marks a major national initiative to **revamp India's skilling ecosystem** through modernization of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

About the PM-SETU Scheme

Full Name:

- **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)**

Type:

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**

Total Investment:

- **₹ 60,000 crore**

Objective:

- To **transform 1,000 Government ITIs** across India into **modern, industry-aligned centres** for skill development, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Key Features

1. Hub-and-Spoke Model

- **200 Hub ITIs** → Advanced centres with innovation, incubation, and production facilities.
- **800 Spoke ITIs** → Linked institutions for outreach, access, and local training delivery.
- This model ensures **regional balance** and **industry linkage** in skilling.

2. Modernization & Industry Alignment

- Introduction of **new demand-driven courses** in collaboration with industry partners.
- **Revamping existing curricula** to align with emerging technologies (AI, robotics, renewable energy, EV maintenance, etc.).
- **Skill ecosystem** linked to employment and entrepreneurship outcomes.

3. Institutional Mechanism

- Formation of **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** with **credible Anchor Industry Partners**.
- Each SPV will manage its cluster and ensure **outcome-based training** and employability.

4. Course Pathways

- Creation of **multiple entry-exit pathways**:
 - Long-term diplomas
 - Short-term vocational courses
 - Executive programs for upskilling and re-skilling

5. Centres of Excellence (CoEs)

Five **National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs)** will be strengthened as CoEs with **global partnerships**:

- **Bhubaneswar (Odisha)**
- **Chennai (Tamil Nadu)**
- **Hyderabad (Telangana)**
- **Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)**
- **Ludhiana (Punjab)**

6. Global Co-Financing

- Supported by the **World Bank** and **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.
- The **first phase** focuses on **Patna** and **Darbhanga ITIs** (Bihar), serving as pilot institutions.

Expected Outcomes

- **Industry-ready youth workforce** aligned with 21st-century skills.
- **Employment generation** through local and global placement networks.
- **Enhanced innovation ecosystem** within ITIs.
- **Integration of skill development with higher education pathways**.
- **Boost to MSMEs and local manufacturing** through incubation and production units.

Ortolan Bunting

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

Context

- A rare European bird, the *Ortolan Bunting* (*Emberiza hortulana*), was recently spotted at **Baruipur**, on the southern periphery of Kolkata, West Bengal.

- This is significant because **it marks only the second recorded sighting** of the species in Bengal.



About Ortolan Bunting

- **Scientific Name:** *Emberiza hortulana*
- **Type:** Small Palearctic migratory songbird.
- **Distribution:** Found across most of Europe and parts of Asia — from the **Atlantic coast to Mongolia**, and northwards up to the **Arctic Circle**.

Habitat

- Prefers **open, cultivated or uncultivated areas** with sparse vegetation.
- Occurs up to **2500 metres** in altitude.
- **Avoids forested regions**, even during migration.
- **Oceanic climates** are unsuitable for it.

Physical Features

- **Size:** 16–17 cm (6.3–6.7 inches); **Wingspan:** ~25 cm (10 inches).
- **Male:** Greenish-grey head, yellow throat, distinctive yellow eye-ring and moustache, brown streaked back and rump.
- **Female & Juvenile:** Smaller, duller, with spotted belly.
- **Beak:** Conical, adapted for **seed-cracking** — typical of buntings.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** *Least Concern (LC)*
- However, populations have **declined in parts of Europe** due to habitat loss and illegal hunting (especially in France).

Significance

- The recent sighting in Bengal indicates **rare migratory movement** and possible **range expansion or drift** of Palearctic species into the Indian subcontinent, making it ecologically noteworthy.

Chlorophytum vanapushpam

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

Context

- Researchers have discovered a new plant species of the genus *Chlorophytum* during a field exploration in **Vagamon hills**, Idukki district, Kerala.



About the Species

- **Scientific Name:** *Chlorophytum vanapushpam*
- **Family:** Asparagaceae
- **Type:** Perennial herb
- **Genus Relation:** Close relative of *Chlorophytum borivilianum* (commonly known as Safed Musli)

Habitat & Distribution

- **Location:** Rocky hills of **Vagamon** and **Neymakkad** in the **Western Ghats**, Idukki district, Kerala
- **Altitude Range:** 700 m – 2124 m
- **Region Significance:** Western Ghats are considered the **centre of origin** of the *Chlorophytum* genus.
- **Number of Species in the Region:** 18 (many with medicinal value)

Distinctive Features

- **Flowers:** White, small clusters
- **Leaves:** Slender
- **Height:** Up to 90 cm
- **Seeds:** 4–5 mm across
- **Flowering & Fruiting:** September – December
- **Unique Trait:** Unlike *C. borivilianum*, *C. vanapushpam* **lacks tubers**.

Significance

- The discovery highlights the **biodiversity richness** of the Western Ghats.
- The genus *Chlorophytum* includes several species with **medicinal and nutraceutical importance**, e.g., *C. borivilianum* (Safed Musli), used in Ayurveda.

Etymology

- The name “**vanapushpam**” combines Malayalam words:
 - *Vanam* = Forest
 - *Pushpam* = Flower
 - Meaning “**Forest Flower.**”

Coral Triangle

Syllabus: GS-3; Environmental & Ecology

Context

- The **Philippines** is preparing to host **Southeast Asia's first coral larvae cryobank**, an initiative that will preserve coral larvae using cryogenic technology.



More to know

- This project connects research institutions from the **Philippines, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand**, forming a **network of coral cryobanks** across the **Coral Triangle** region.
- The effort aims to safeguard coral biodiversity and support reef restoration in the face of rising ocean temperatures and coral bleaching.

About the Coral Triangle

- **Nickname:** Often called the *"Amazon of the Seas"* for its extraordinary marine biodiversity.
- **Area Covered:** Spans over **10 million square kilometres** of ocean area.
- **Countries Included:**
 - **Indonesia**
 - **Malaysia**

- Papua New Guinea
- Singapore
- The Philippines
- Timor-Leste
- Solomon Islands

Ecological Significance

- Home to **~75% of the world's coral species**.
- Contains **~33% of global reef fish species**.
- Encompasses **vast mangrove forests** and **6 of the 7 known marine turtle species**.
- Supports **food security and livelihoods** for more than **120 million people** in the region.

Threats

- **Rising carbon emissions** → coral bleaching and ocean acidification.
- **Destructive fishing practices** → damage to coral reefs and marine ecosystems.
- **Pollution** (air, water, and soil) → degradation of coastal habitats.
- **Climate change impacts** → increased sea temperatures and extreme weather events leading to coral mortality.

About Corals

- **Nature:** Corals are **marine animals** (not plants) that are **sessile**—they attach permanently to the ocean floor.
- **Structure:** Each coral is a **polyp**, and many polyps form a **colony**.
- **Symbiosis:** Corals live in a **mutualistic relationship** with **zooxanthellae** (single-celled algae).
 - **Algae's role:** Provide food and nutrients to the coral through **photosynthesis**.
 - **Coral's role:** Offer the algae shelter and compounds necessary for photosynthesis.
- **Feeding:** Corals also capture plankton and small particles using their **tentacle-like structures**.