

7.Short News

1. Delhi Declaration 2026

Adopted unanimously by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and 42 Election Management Bodies (EMBs) at the International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026.

Nature- A global consensus to strengthen democratic election management.

Review Mechanism- EMBs will meet again in December 2026 at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), New Delhi, to review progress.

Five Pillars

1.Purity of Electoral Rolls- Ensuring accurate and inclusive voter registration.

2.Conduct of Elections- Enhancing transparency and professionalism.

3.Research & Publications- Promoting shared knowledge.

4.Use of Technology- Responsible adoption of digital tools.

5.Training & Capacity Building- Expanding skills and exchanges via IIIDEM.

2. Lambadas Tribe

A petition in the Supreme Court challenges their inclusion in Telangana's Scheduled Tribes (ST) list.

Identity- Also known as Sugalis or Banjaras; a major ST community in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Origin- Believed to be from the Marwar region of Rajasthan.

Culture

Type- Traditionally nomadic/trading community.

Language- Speak "Gor Boli" (Lambadi dialect).

Art- Known for distinct dress, rich embroidery, and traditional music by Dappans.

3. Europe's New Space Phone Line (Nno3)

Inaugurated by the European Space Agency (ESA) at the New Norcia Ground Station in Western Australia.

Function- A deep-space communication antenna described as a "permanent space phone line".

Network- Part of Estrack, ESA's global network of ground stations tracking 20+ missions.

Features

Cryogenic Cooling- Cooled to -263 °C to detect weak signals.

AI Integration- First ESA antenna to use AI for noise filtering and tracking.

Significance- Provides 24/7 global coverage and can support missions from ISRO, NASA, and JAXA.

4. Hemileccinum Indicum (New Mushroom Species)

Discovery- A new mushroom species found in the Indian Himalayas (Bageshwar district, Uttarakhand).

First Record- First time the genus *Hemileccinum* has been documented in India.

Appearance

Bolete Type- Has pores instead of gills under the cap.

Color- Wrinkled violet-brown cap (fades to leathery brown) with a pastel yellow pore surface.

Distinctive Feature- Tiny intricate pits on its spores (unlike smooth-spored relatives).

Ecology- It is ectomycorrhizal, forming a symbiotic partnership with Oak trees.

5. SAARG Committee (NPS Review)

Full Form- Committee for Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance.

Formed By- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

Chair- Shri Narayan Ramachandran.

Objective- To modernize the National Pension System (NPS) investment framework.

Tasks- Review investment guidelines for government and non-government sectors. Benchmark against global pension systems. Examine asset allocation, new asset classes, and risk management.

Timeline- 9 months to submit the report.

6. Bacillus Subtilis (State Microbe)

Officially declared as the 'State Microbe' of Kerala.

Nature- A probiotic ("good" bacteria) found in the human gut and soil.

Characteristics- Spore-forming, rod-shaped, Gram-positive bacteria. Can survive harsh conditions (UV, heat) by forming endospores. Produces antibiotics (e.g., polymyxin, subtilin).

Uses- Used as a fungicide on plants. Protects crops from insects. Model organism for scientific study.

7. Chattergala Pass

BRO conducted a rescue and restoration operation here under Project Sampark.

Location- Situated at 10,500 ft in the Jammu region (J&K).

Connectivity- Connects Bani (Kathua district) to Bhaderwah (Doda district).

Geography- Located in the Chamba-Doda ranges of the Greater Himalayas.

Wildlife- Home to Himalayan monals, ibex, and musk deer.

8. Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC)

Showcased animals during the Republic Day Parade.

Role- Specialised Indian Army Corps responsible for breeding, training, and treating army animals (horses, mules, dogs).

Motto- 'Pashu Seva Asmakam Dharma' (Service to animals is our duty).

History- One of the oldest branches, tracing roots to the Stud Department (1779) in Bengal. Established as RVC in 1960.

Headquarters- Meerut.

9. Mir Alam Tank

Workers rescued from the lake by disaster management teams.

Location- Historic reservoir in Hyderabad, Telangana (south of Musi river).

History- Built between 1804-1806 by Mir Alam Bahadur (Prime Minister of Hyderabad). Funded by treasure seized after defeating Tipu Sultan.

Architecture- Designed by a French engineer; features 21 semi-circular arches.

Significance- Was the primary drinking water source for Hyderabad before the Osman Sagar era.

10. Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary

Tripura received funds for its modernization.

Location- Tripura (25 km from Agartala).

Components- Includes the Clouded Leopard National Park.

Flora- Moist deciduous forest (Sal, Chamal, Bamboo).

Fauna- Famous for primates like Spectacled Monkey, Phayre's Langur, and the revived Crab-eating Mongoose.

11. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

Indian Navy's training squadron visited Indonesia (an IONS member).

About IONS

Launched- Conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008.

Goal- Increase maritime cooperation among littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

Members- 25 Member Nations (geographically grouped into South Asian, West Asian, East African, and SE Asian/Australian littorals).

Observers- 8 countries including China and Russia.

12. Pygmy Hog

Vanishing from grasslands; urgent need for conservation.

Status-IUCN- Critically Endangered., Wildlife Protection Act- Schedule I.

Unique Traits- Smallest wild pig in the world. Builds its own roofed nest (rare for mammals). Indicator species for grassland health.

Habitat- Currently survives *only* in Manas and Orang National Parks (Assam).

