



7. Shortnews

Sangita Kalanidhi Award

Context- Renowned veena player Jayanthi Kumaresh has been selected for the Sangita Kalanidhi at the 100th conference of the The Music Academy, Chennai.

- Bharatanatyam dancer Narendra G will receive the Nritya Kalanidhi award.

About the Sangita Kalanidhi Award

1. Sangita Kalanidhi is considered the highest honour in Carnatic classical music, awarded annually for exceptional contribution to the field.
2. Origin- Considered the highest accolade in the field of Carnatic music, it came into existence in 1942.
 1. Carnatic classical music originated in South India from ancient Hindu devotional traditions during the 12th–17th centuries.
 2. It is characterised by kriti compositions, raga–tala system, improvisation, and emphasis on vocal performance with instruments like veena and mridangam
3. Institution- The award is presented by The Music Academy, Chennai, an institution that emerged from the 1927 All India Congress Session in Madras, promoting classical arts.
4. Award Components- The honour includes a gold medal and a “birudu patra” (citation) and recognition at the Academy’s annual December Music Conference.
5. Selection and Criteria- The award recognises eminent Carnatic musicians, scholars, or composers for lifetime contributions to performance, scholarship, and propagation of classical music.
6. Role in Music Tradition- Recipients traditionally preside over the academic sessions of the annual conference, contributing lectures and discussions on Carnatic music traditions.

About Jayanthi Kumaresh

1. Jayanthi Kumaresh is a leading Saraswati veena exponent from the renowned Lalgudi musical lineage, trained under maestros such as S. Balachander.
2. Musical Contributions- She has played a key role in reviving the popularity of the veena, presenting it globally through concerts, collaborations, and innovative compositions.
3. Collaborations and Recognition- Kumaresh has collaborated with legendary musicians, including Zakir Hussain, expanding Carnatic music’s reach across classical and fusion platforms.
4. Role in Carnatic Music- Through performances, teaching, and research, she has helped modernise veena presentation while preserving traditional Carnatic aesthetics.

About the Veena

1. The Veena is an ancient plucked string instrument central to Carnatic Music, known for its rich tone and ability to produce intricate melodic ornamentations.
2. Origin and Early History- The Veena traces its origins to the Vedic period (around 1500 BCE), evolving from early harp-like instruments mentioned in ancient Sanskrit texts and temple traditions.
3. Structure and Playing Technique- The Saraswati Veena features a wooden resonator, long neck, 24 frets, four melody strings and three drone strings, played horizontally while seated cross-legged.
4. Evolution of the Modern Form- The modern Thanjavur Veena design with fixed frets developed during the 17th-century rule of Raghunatha Nayak in Tamil Nadu.



5. Cultural and Religious Significance- The Veena is closely associated with Saraswati, symbolising wisdom, music, and artistic learning in Indian cultural traditions.

Trisulfide Metathesis Reaction

Context- Scientists at Flinders University discovered a new trisulfide metathesis reaction, where sulfur chains exchange partners spontaneously at room temperature without heat, light, or catalysts.

About Trisulfide Metathesis Reaction

1. The trisulfide metathesis reaction is a newly discovered chemical process where molecules containing three sulfur atoms ($R-S-S-S-R$) exchange molecular fragments rapidly under mild conditions.
2. Mechanism of the Reaction
 1. Sulfur Chain Exchange- Two trisulfide molecules exchange attached molecular groups, forming new molecular combinations through a partner-swapping process known as metathesis.
 2. Occurs Under Mild Conditions-Unlike typical sulfur reactions requiring heat, light, or catalysts, this reaction occurs spontaneously at room temperature in certain solvents such as dimethylformamide.
 3. Rapid and Reversible Process- The reaction reaches equilibrium within seconds, and the bond exchange remains fully reversible, enabling repeated molecular rearrangements.
3. Significance of the Discover-
 1. New Pathways in Drug Development- Scientists used the reaction to modify anti-tumor compounds such as calicheamicin, demonstrating potential applications in pharmaceutical design.
 2. Development of Recyclable Materials- The reaction enabled creation of novel plastics linked by trisulfide bonds, which can be easily broken down and recycled into original components.
 3. Advances in Materials and Molecular Chemistry- Fast and controllable sulfur exchange may help design self-rearranging molecules, smart polymers, and responsive materials for biotechnology and advanced manufacturing.

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)

Context- An outbreak of Herpes Simplex Virus infected 92 inmates and caused seven deaths at Jalpaiguri Central Correctional Home, West Bengal.

About Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)

1. Herpes Simplex Virus is a common viral infection belonging to the Herpesviridae family.
2. Two Main Types-
 1. HSV-1- Mainly causes oral herpes (cold sores around the mouth).
 2. HSV-2- Mainly causes genital herpes.
3. Mode of Transmission- Spreads through direct skin-to-skin contact, sexual contact, or contact with infected bodily fluids.
4. Symptoms- Can cause painful blisters or sores, itching, fever, and swollen lymph nodes; many infections may remain asymptomatic.
5. Latency- The virus can remain dormant in nerve cells and reactivate periodically, causing recurrent outbreaks.



6. Complications- In severe cases, it may lead to conditions such as Encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), which can be life-threatening.
7. Treatment- No permanent cure; antiviral medicines can reduce symptoms and prevent frequent outbreaks.
8. Prevention- Includes avoiding direct contact with active sores, practicing safe sex, and maintaining good hygiene.

Sujal Gaon ID

Context- Sujal Gaon ID was launched by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to digitally map rural drinking water supply schemes across India.

About the Sujal Gaon ID

1. Sujal Gaon ID is a scheme-based unique digital identifier assigned to every rural piped water supply scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
2. Objective- It aims to create a comprehensive digital database for monitoring and managing rural drinking water infrastructure.
3. Digital Integration- The ID is integrated with the Sujalam Bharat digital architecture to enable source-to-tap mapping of rural water supply systems.
4. Coverage- Around 1.64 lakh Sujal Gaon IDs have been generated across 31 States and Union Territories linked to 67,000 Sujalam Bharat IDs.
5. Governance Impact- The system enhances transparency, accountability, and real-time monitoring of rural water supply services.
6. Funding Condition- Creation of Sujal Gaon IDs is a mandatory requirement for States/UTs to receive central funds under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.
7. The initiative supports digital governance and efficient service delivery aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Sujalam Bharat

1. Sujalam Bharat is a national digital architecture for rural drinking water supply systems developed under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
2. Objective- It aims to digitally map and monitor the entire rural water supply chain from source to tap across villages in India.
3. Digital Integration- The platform integrates infrastructure data, service area data, and scheme information through unique identifiers like Sujal Gaon ID.
4. Monitoring Function- It enables real-time tracking, transparency, and evidence-based decision-making in rural water supply management.
5. JJM 2.0- Sujalam Bharat serves as the digital backbone for monitoring and governance under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

Pritzker Architecture Prize 2026

Context- Recently, the annual Pritzker Architecture Prize has been awarded to Chile's Smiljan Radić.

About the Pritzker Architecture Prize

1. Establishment- Established in 1979 by Jay A. Pritzker and Cindy Pritzker.
2. Administered By- Awarded by the Hyatt Foundation.
3. Purpose- Honours a living architect whose work demonstrates exceptional talent, vision, and contribution to humanity through architecture.



4. Significance- Widely regarded as the “Nobel Prize of Architecture.”
5. Indian Winner- Balkrishna Doshi became the first Indian recipient in 2018.

Oscars 2026

Context- The 98th edition of the Academy Awards (Oscars) was held at the in Los Angeles, celebrating global achievements in cinema and filmmaking.

About the Winners of Oscars 2026

1. Host- The ceremony was hosted by comedian Conan O'Brien.
2. Best Picture- One Battle After Another won the Best Picture award and emerged as the most awarded film of the ceremony.
3. Best Director- Paul Thomas Anderson won the Best Director award for One Battle After Another.
4. Best Actor- Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor for his role in Sinners.
5. Best Actress- Jessie Buckley won Best Actress for her performance in Hamnet.
6. International Feature Film- Sentimental Value won the Best International Feature Film category.
7. Animated Feature- KPop Demon Hunters won the Best Animated Feature Film award.
8. Official Entry from India- The film Homebound, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, was India's official submission for Best International Feature Film but failed to secure a final nomination.
9. Indian-American filmmaker Geeta Gandbhir received two Oscar nominations in documentary categories, making history with simultaneous nominations in the same year.
10. Her films The Perfect Neighbor (Best Documentary Feature) and The Devil Is Busy (Best Documentary Short) were nominated but did not win.

About Academy Awards (Oscars)

1. The Academy Awards, popularly known as the Oscars, are the most prestigious awards recognizing excellence in the global film industry.
2. Organising Body- The awards are presented annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).
3. Establishment- The Oscars were first presented in 1929, making them one of the oldest entertainment awards in the world.
4. Venue- The ceremony is usually held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, United States.
5. Purpose- The awards honour outstanding achievements in filmmaking across categories such as acting, directing, screenwriting, music, and technical fields.