DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 06-11-2025

GS-1

1. **Bhivani Island**

GS-3

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3. **Enshittification**
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Bhivani Island

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography- Mapping

Context

- Back-to-back floods at the **Prakasam Barrage** across the **Krishna River** have once again forced the **closure of Bhavani Island** and the **suspension of boat operations**, severely impacting tourism revenue in the region.

About Bhivani Island

- Located near **Vijayawada** on the **Krishna River** in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Spread over an area of **133 acres**, it is **one of the largest river islands in India**.
- The island features **dense forest cover, serene ponds, and rolling meadows**.
- Initially known for its **natural beauty and rich biodiversity**, it has now evolved into a **popular tourist destination** with modern facilities and water-based recreational activities.

Key Facts about the Krishna River

- A **major river of south-central India** and **one of the longest rivers** in the country (**~1,400 km**).
- **Origin:** Rises near **Mahabaleshwar** in the **Western Ghats** (Maharashtra).
    - The **Krishnabai Temple** in Mahabaleshwar marks its source.

- **Course:** Flows through **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Mouth:** Empties into the **Bay of Bengal** at **Hamsaladeevi**, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Basin Area:** ~**258,948 sq. km** (≈8% of India's total geographical area).
  - **Second-largest river basin** in peninsular India (after the **Godavari**).
- **Boundaries:**
  - **North:** Balaghat Range
  - **South & East:** Eastern Ghats
  - **West:** Western Ghats
- **Major Tributaries:**
  - **Ghataprabha**, **Malaprabha**, **Bhima**, **Tungabhadra**, and **Musi**
- **Major Dams:**
  - **Lal Bahadur Shastri (Almatti) Dam**, **Nagarjuna Sagar**, **Srisailam Dam**, **Dhom Dam**, **Narayanpur Dam**, and **Jurala Dam**

National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)

Syllabus: GS-3; Agriculture; GS-2; Government policies and Interventions

Context

- The **National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)**, launched in **2021**, continues to advance India's **"Sweet Revolution"**, aimed at boosting honey production, pollination services, and rural incomes.
- The mission has been **extended till 2025–26**, reaffirming its role in supporting sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods through **scientific beekeeping**.

About NBHM

- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Launched by:** Government of India in 2021
- **Implementing Agency:** *National Bee Board (NBB)*
- **Funding:** ₹500 crore for 3 years (2020–21 to 2022–23), extended up to **2025–26**

Mini Missions

1. **MM-I:**
   - Focus: *Production & productivity enhancement* through pollination and scientific beekeeping.
2. **MM-II:**
   - Focus: *Post-harvest management* — processing, storage, marketing, value addition, branding.
3. **MM-III:**
   - Focus: *Research & technology* tailored for regional and agro-climatic variations.

Objectives

- **Income & Employment:** Generate rural livelihoods through beekeeping.
- **Infrastructure:** Develop honey processing and marketing facilities.
- **Quality Control:** Establish **state-of-the-art testing labs** at regional and district levels.
- **Traceability:** Implement **blockchain-based traceability systems** for honey purity and origin.
- **Skill Development:** Train beekeepers in modern technologies and management.
- **Institutional Support:** Strengthen **SHGs, FPOs, and cooperatives** in the beekeeping sector.

Significance

- Promotes **crop productivity** through **pollination services**.
- Supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat** by enhancing **value-added rural enterprises**.
- Encourages **scientific and sustainable beekeeping** across India.

Enshittification

Syllabus: GS-3; Science & Technology

Context

- The now-viral term *"enshittification"* has gained attention as internet users increasingly feel that many digital platforms and services are *getting worse* over time, mainly due to corporate decisions prioritizing profit over user experience.

About Enshittification

- **Meaning:**
  An **informal term** used to describe the *progressive degradation* of online platforms and digital services, often caused by **profit-driven** or **monopolistic** behavior.
- **Origin:**
  Coined in **2022** by **Cory Doctorow**, a Canada-born author, tech journalist, and digital rights activist.
- **Concept:**
  Describes how online platforms initially prioritize users, then exploit them to benefit business customers (like advertisers), and finally exploit both to maximize profits — leading to the platform's decline.
- **Symptoms / Examples:**
  - Increase in intrusive **advertisements**.
  - **Self-preferencing** by tech giants (e.g., promoting their own products in search results).
  - **Paywalls** or formerly free features becoming paid.
  - **Algorithmic bias** and reduced transparency.
  - Replacement of **genuine content/products** with low-quality alternatives.

- **Significance:**
  The term has become symbolic of growing global concern over **digital platform accountability**, **antitrust regulation**, and the **ethical governance of technology**.

Dhvani Missile

Syllabus: GS-3; Defence Technology

Context

- India's **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** is on the verge of a **historic milestone** with the upcoming test of **"Dhvani"**, a state-of-the-art **hypersonic missile** that will place India among the world's few hypersonic-capable nations.

About Dhvani Missile

- **Developer:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), India
- **Type: Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV)**
- **Category:** Hypersonic missile (speed > Mach 5)
- **Purpose:** Designed to achieve **extreme speed, long range, and high maneuverability**, capable of hitting **both land and maritime targets** with high precision.

Key Features

- **Speed:** Exceeds **Mach 5–6** (approx. **7,400 km/h**)
- **Range:** Estimated **6,000–10,000 km**

- **Flight Profile:**
  - Launched to **very high altitudes**, then **glides at hypersonic speed**
  - **Unpredictable flight path**, making detection and interception extremely difficult

Design and Technology

- **Configuration:** Blended **wing-body design**, ~**9 m length** and **2.5 m width**
- **Heat Protection: Ultra-high-temperature ceramic composites** withstand **2,000–3,000°C** during reentry
- **Stealth Design:**
  - **Angled surfaces** and **smooth contours** reduce radar cross-section
  - **Stealth-optimized geometry** makes it nearly invisible to enemy radar

Strategic Significance

- Places India in the **elite club** of nations (with the US, Russia, and China) possessing **hypersonic missile capability**
- Enhances India's **deterrence, precision-strike, and strategic reach**
- May **outmatch existing missile defense systems** due to its speed and maneuverability

Types of Missiles

A. Based on Launch Platform

1. **Surface-to-Surface Missile (SSM)** – e.g. Agni series
2. **Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM)** – e.g. Akash, Astra
3. **Air-to-Air Missile (AAM)** – e.g. Astra
4. **Air-to-Surface Missile (ASM)** – e.g. BrahMos-A
5. **Submarine-launched / Ship-launched Missiles (SLBM / SSM)** – e.g. K-15 Sagarika, BrahMos

B. Based on Speed

1. **Subsonic:** < Mach 1 (e.g. Nirbhay)
2. **Supersonic:** Mach 1–5 (e.g. BrahMos)
3. **Hypersonic:** > Mach 5 (e.g. Dhvani, HSTDV)

C. Based on Range

1. **Short-Range Missiles (SRBM):** up to 1,000 km
2. **Medium-Range Missiles (MRBM):** 1,000–3,000 km
3. **Intermediate-Range Missiles (IRBM):** 3,000–5,500 km
4. **Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM):** >5,500 km

D. Based on Propulsion

1. **Solid Fuel Missiles**
2. **Liquid Fuel Missiles**
3. **Hybrid / Dual Propulsion Missiles**
4. **Scramjet-powered (Air-breathing) Missiles** – used in **hypersonic systems** like Dhvani

Amphipods

Syllabus: GS-3; New Species

Context

- Two new species of marine amphipods — *Grandidierella geetanjalae* and *Grandidierella khambhatensis* — have been discovered by researchers from **Chilika Lagoon (Odisha)** and **Gulf of Khambhat (Gujarat)**.

About Amphipods

- **Type:** Small crustaceans related to crabs, lobsters, and shrimp.
- **Habitat:** Found in **marine, freshwater, and terrestrial** environments.

- **Name Meaning:** *Amphipoda* = "different-footed," as their legs differ in structure and function.
- **Diversity:** Over **7,000 known species**, most under the group *Gammaridea.*
- **Size:** Range from **0.1 cm to 34 cm.**
- **Diet:** Mostly **detritivorous** – feed on decaying plants/animals, playing a key role in **nutrient cycling and ecosystem cleaning.**
- **Special Types:**
  - ~750 species live in **caves.**
  - Some are **terrestrial (sandhoppers).**
  - The largest species occur **deep in ocean trenches (up to 7 km deep).**

About the Newly Found Species

Species	Location	Size	Ecological Role
Grandidierella geetanjalae	Chilika Lagoon, Odisha	5.5–6 mm	Detritivore – aids organic matter recycling
Grandidierella khambhatensis	Gulf of Khambhat, Gujarat	5.5–6 mm	Detritivore – contributes to natural cleaning