



Delhi govt. to declare rabies notifiable disease

The Hindu: 05/01/2026 - Page 2



Gandhinagar typhoid surge due to water pipeline leak

The Hindu : 05/01/2026- Page 3

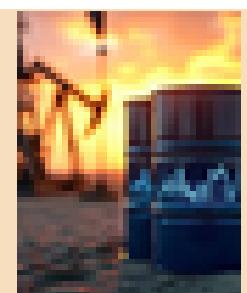
Earth is made of space stuff, studies of asteroid Bennu hints

The Hindu: 04/01/2026- Page 11



OPEC+ keeps oil output steady amid turmoil

The Indian Express: 05/01/2026- Page 13



U.S. Captures Maduro After Strikes in Venezuela

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were captured on Saturday following U.S. military strikes on Caracas, marking one of the most direct foreign interventions against a sitting head of state in recent decades. U.S. authorities stated that Mr. Maduro faces multiple charges related to alleged narcotics trafficking, and confirmed that he was transferred aboard a U.S. naval vessel for further legal proceedings.



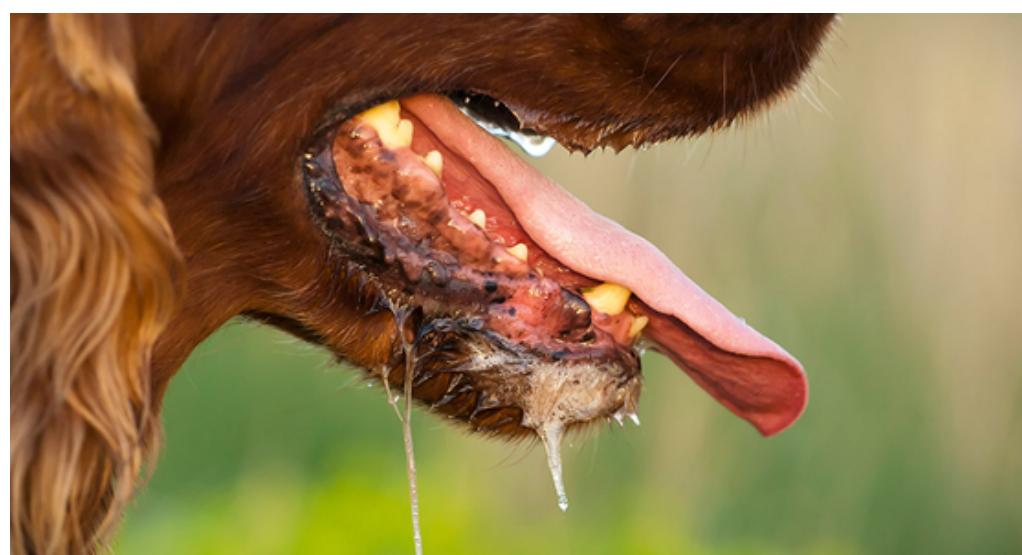
The operation has drawn international attention not only for its scale, but also for its implications for established norms of territorial integrity and political sovereignty enshrined in the United Nations Charter. While Washington has justified the action on security and legal grounds, the intervention bypassed multilateral mechanisms, raising concerns about the role and relevance of international institutions in managing inter-state disputes.

Strategically, the episode reflects renewed U.S. focus on Latin America amid shifting global alignments. Venezuela, which possesses one of the world's largest proven oil reserves and maintains close ties with Russia and China, has long remained outside the U.S. strategic orbit. Recent U.S. policy documents have emphasised the Western Hemisphere as a core area of strategic interest, echoing the historical Monroe Doctrine's emphasis on limiting external influence in the region.

The intervention also comes at a time when China's economic footprint in Latin America has expanded significantly through trade, infrastructure investment, and energy cooperation, including in Venezuela's oil sector. Analysts note that great-power competition, rather than isolated security concerns, increasingly shapes geopolitical actions in the region.



Delhi to Declare Rabies a Notifiable Disease



The Delhi government has decided to declare rabies a notifiable disease as part of a broader effort to strengthen disease surveillance, ensure timely reporting, and prevent human deaths. Officials stated that the overarching objective of the initiative is to achieve zero human fatalities due to rabies in the national capital.

As a first step, all government and private medical facilities will be required to promptly report suspected, probable, and confirmed cases of human rabies to the health authorities. The move is expected to improve early detection and enable faster public health responses.

Rabies, though almost invariably fatal once clinical symptoms appear, is entirely preventable through timely administration of rabies immunoglobulin and vaccines. Ensuring the availability and quality of these vaccines at designated healthcare facilities forms a key component of the government's action plan.

The Delhi government is also coordinating with multiple stakeholders to develop a practical State Action Plan for rabies elimination. The strategy includes extending vaccination coverage to animals, recognising the zoonotic nature of the disease.

Officials believe that mandatory reporting, assured access to medicines, and improved coordination among concerned departments could significantly reduce rabies-related deaths and strengthen the city's public health response.

Water-borne Diseases Reported in Cities, Raising Concerns Over Urban Pipelines

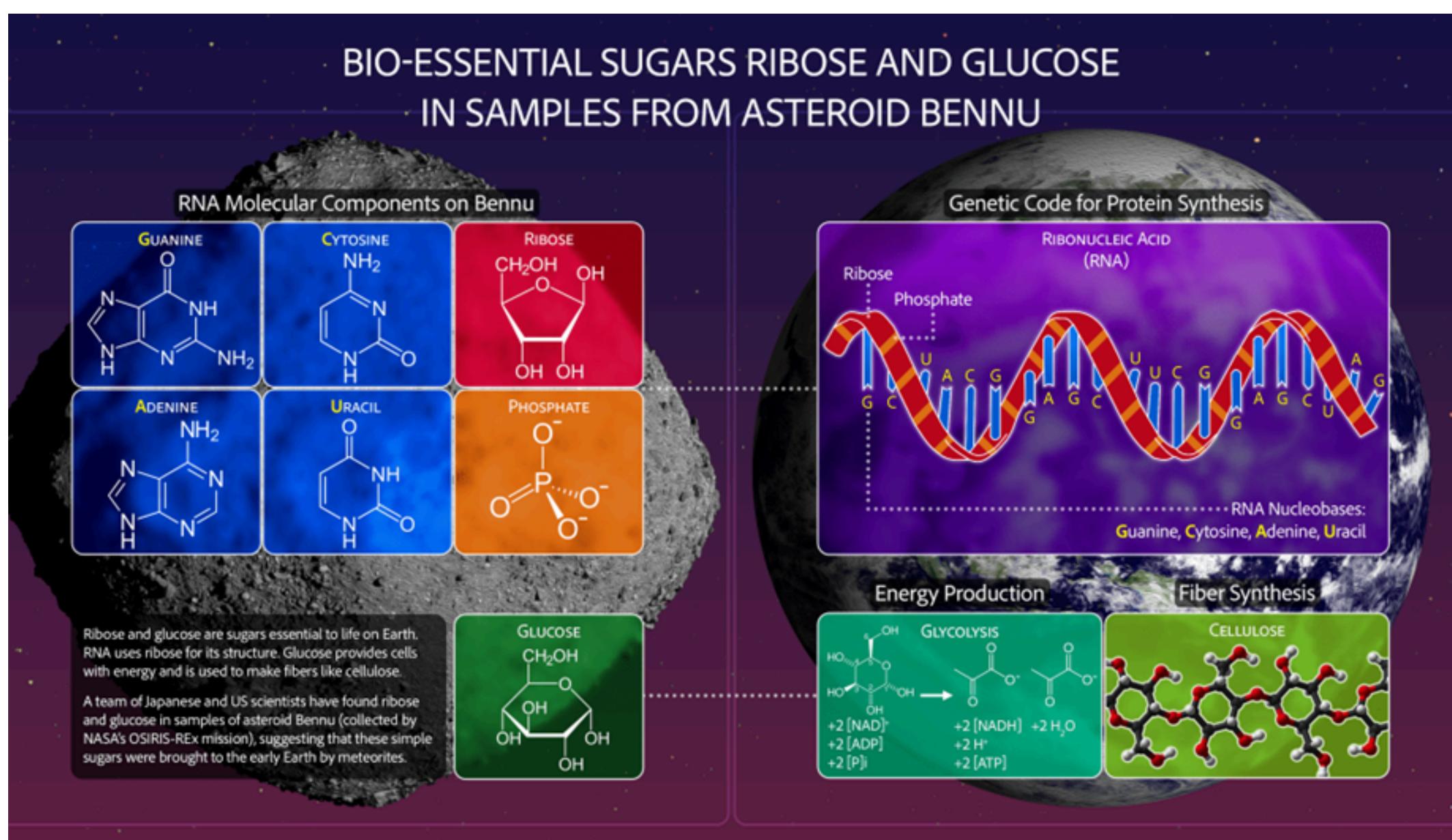
A surge in water-borne illnesses reported from multiple cities has raised serious concerns over the safety of urban drinking water systems, after contaminated supply led to mass hospitalisations and deaths in Indore last week.

In Indore, more than 100 people were hospitalised after consuming contaminated water supplied to residential areas. Six deaths have been officially reported, while nearly 9,000 residents were screened for symptoms during emergency surveillance drives. Health authorities attributed the outbreak to contamination in the water distribution network, triggering immediate chlorination measures and restrictions on water usage in affected zones.

The incident has drawn particular attention given Indore's repeated ranking as India's cleanest city, underscoring that sanitation indicators do not automatically translate into safe drinking water infrastructure. Experts have cautioned that ageing pipelines, leakages, and cross-contamination with sewage lines remain critical but often overlooked risks in urban water supply systems.

A similar rise in suspected typhoid cases was reported in Gandhinagar, where nearly 100 cases were detected over the past week. While several patients have been discharged, many continue to receive treatment. Local administrations have established round-the-clock outpatient services and distributed oral rehydration solution packets, while investigations are underway to identify breaches in the pipeline network.

Sugars found in asteroid samples strengthen clues on life's origins



Scientists studying samples returned by NASA's OSIRIS-REx mission from the asteroid Bennu have identified sugars essential for biological processes on Earth, including ribose and glucose. The findings add to growing evidence that the chemical building blocks of life were widely present across the early solar system.

The research team, led by Yoshihiro Furukawa of Tohoku University, detected ribose—a five-carbon sugar central to the structure of RNA—and glucose, marking the first time a six-carbon sugar has been identified in an extraterrestrial sample. Earlier analyses of Bennu material had already revealed amino acids, nucleobases, and carboxylic acids.

Ribose plays a crucial role in RNA, a molecule essential for storing genetic information and driving chemical reactions in living cells. Notably, the samples did not contain deoxyribose, the sugar found in DNA. Scientists suggest this pattern indicates that ribose-based molecules may have been more common than DNA-related chemistry in the early solar system.

The findings lend support to the "RNA world" hypothesis, which proposes that the earliest forms of life relied on RNA before the evolution of DNA and proteins. Together, the Bennu samples strengthen the idea that the ingredients necessary for life may have formed in space and later reached planets like Earth.

OPEC+ meets amid rising tensions among oil-producing nations

Global oil markets are navigating a phase of heightened uncertainty despite recent efforts by major producers to stabilise supply. In 2025, crude oil prices declined by over 18 per cent—the sharpest annual fall since 2020—largely due to oversupply and subdued demand. Against this backdrop, eight members of the OPEC+ grouping, accounting for nearly half of global oil production, reaffirmed their commitment to raise output by around 2.9 million barrels per day in an effort to regain market share.

The reaffirmation comes amid widening geopolitical strains among key energy-producing regions. Political instability in Venezuela, disruptions to Russian exports due to sanctions, internal unrest in Iran, and tensions within the Gulf region have collectively added to uncertainty in the global energy landscape. While the recent OPEC+ meeting deliberately avoided political deliberations, market participants remain sensitive to how such developments may affect future supply dynamics.

For India, which continues to rely heavily on imported crude oil, these developments underscore persistent energy security concerns. Although the current situation in Venezuela has not yet translated into immediate price pressures for India—especially given reduced trade following U.S. sanctions since 2019—prolonged instability among producer nations could influence prices, inflation trends, and external balances over time.

The evolving situation highlights the strategic importance of diversified energy sourcing, stable diplomatic engagement with producer regions, and a calibrated transition towards alternative energy sources. In an increasingly uncertain global environment, energy security is likely to remain a critical determinant of economic resilience and foreign policy choices.



"Right now, oil markets are being driven less by supply-demand fundamentals and more by political uncertainty,"

— Jorge Leon, former OPEC official.

PRELIMS CORNER :

1) Consider the following pairs :

River Flows into

- 1. Mekong : Andaman Sea**
- 2. Thames : Irish Sea**
- 3. Volga : Caspian Sea**
- 4. Zambezi : Indian Ocean**

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2 only**
- b) 3 only**
- c) 3 and 4 only**
- d) 1, 2 and 4 only**

2) What was the reason for Mahatma Gandhi to organise a satyagraha on behalf of the peasants of Kheda?

- 1. The Administration did not suspend the land revenue collection in spite of a drought.**
- 2. The Administration proposed to introduce Permanent Settlement in Gujarat.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only**
- (b) 2 only**
- (c) Both 1 and 2**
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2**

Case Study

Murshidabad district in West Bengal has long reported one of the highest incidences of child marriage in the country. According to the National Family Health Survey-5, 55.4% of women aged 20–24 in the district were married before the age of 18.

In recent years, however, sustained intervention at the grassroots level has begun to reverse this trend. Focused action by panchayat institutions, combined with increasing awareness and resolve among adolescent girls, has produced visible outcomes. Of the district's 254 gram panchayats, seven have now been identified as child-marriage-free.

In 2025, the district administration formally recognised this shift by honouring 18 girls as 'Kanyashree Yodhas' for resisting and reporting attempts at child marriage. Officials attribute the progress to regular monitoring, community engagement, and timely legal action against violations.



Prelims Corner: Explanations

1) option c is the correct answer.

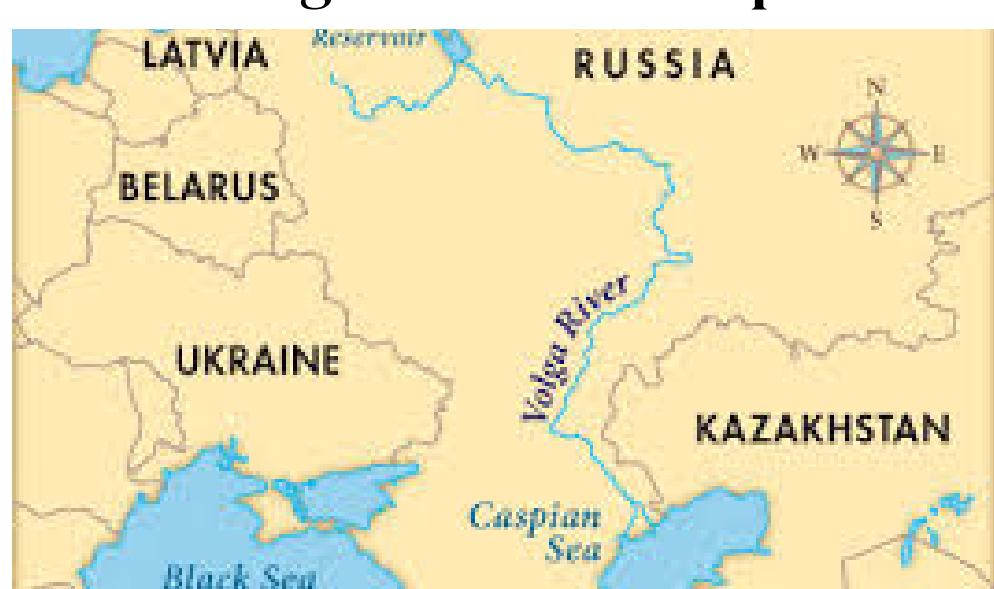
The River Mekong flows into South China Sea.



The River Thames flows into North Sea.



The River Volga flows into Caspian Sea.



The River Zambezi flows into Indian Ocean.



2) option a is the correct answer.

The Kheda Satyagraha (1918): Mahatma Gandhi organized the Kheda Satyagraha in Gujarat in 1918 to support the peasants who were facing extreme hardship due to a drought that had resulted in crop failure. Despite the peasants' inability to pay, the British administration refused to suspend land revenue collection. Gandhi led a non-violent protest demanding the suspension of revenue collection until the situation improved.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

The Kheda Satyagraha was not related to the introduction of the Permanent Settlement in Gujarat. The Permanent Settlement system was introduced in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa in 1793 by Lord Cornwallis and was unrelated to the issues faced by Kheda peasants in 1918.

Civil Service Institute Pala
GLORIOUS 37 YEARS 375 SUCCESS STORIES | Pioneers in IAS/IAS Coaching
Arupuram, Pala, Kottayam District, Kerala - 686574, Mobile No: 9539310100, 8281447770

Full-Time Prelims-cum-Mains Course 2026-27
Admission Started

Four-Months BRIDGE COURSE
375 YEARS OF LEGACY * 375 SUCCESS STORIES * 375 EXCELLENCE
SHAPING LEADERS SHAPING INDIA
SCIENTIA ET CIVITAS EMICEMUS

No Extra Fees well begun is half done **JOIN NOW !!**
Admission Continues

Model Exams
Answer key discussions
Current affairs classes
NCERT revision classes
Newspaper reading sessions
Mentorship
Library

95393 81100 | www.civilservicepala.org

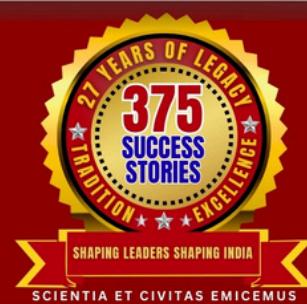
For Details Scan the QR



GOVERNMENT JOB VACANCIES



JOB ALERTS
#104
DATED:
05-01-2026



Prepare Your
Competitive Exams
Join!



More details



+91 95393 81100



www.civilservicepala.com

IOCL Apprenticeship 2026

- **Eligibility:** 10th / 12th / ITI / Diploma / Graduate
- **Selection:** No Exam (Merit Based)
- **Last Date:** 12 January 2026

No. of
Vacancies
501

Indian Navy 10+2 (B.Tech) Entry 2026

- **Eligibility:** 12th Pass (PCM)
- **Entry:** Permanent Commission
- **Last Date:** 19 January 2026

No. of
Vacancies
44

DRDO SSPL Apprentice Recruitment 2026

- **Eligibility:** ITI / Diploma / Degree
- **Selection:** Written / Interview
- **Last Date:** 15 January 2026

No. of
Vacancies
33

Indian Army SSC (Tech) Entry 2026

- **Eligibility:** Engineering Degree (B.E/B.Tech) Final Year Eligible
- **Salary:** ₹56,100 (Training Stipend)
- **Last Date:** 04 Feb (Women) / 05 Feb (Men)

No. of
Vacancies
30+

CSIR NML MTS Recruitment 2026

- **Eligibility:** 10th Pass Pass OR ITI
- **Salary:** ₹36,000/- PM (Approx)
- **Last Date:** 06 February 2026

No. of
Vacancies
22

IOCL Apprenticeship 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) ➔ Download Notification

Indian Navy 10+2 (B.Tech) Cadet Entry Scheme 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) ➔ Download Notification Here

DRDO SSPL Apprentice Recruitment 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) ➔ Download Notification

Indian Army SSC (Tech) Entry 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) ➔ Download Female Notification

[Download Male Notification](#)

CSIR NML MTS Recruitment 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) ➔ Download Notification Here



**"The only way to do great work is to
love what you do."**
Steve Jobs