



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Tiger Orchids

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The **Tiger Orchids (*Grammatophyllum speciosum*)** are in bloom at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI)**, Palode.

The plant was listed by the **Guinness Book of World Records** as the world's tallest orchid.

Important Facts about the plant include:

- **Native Distribution:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea
- **Native Habitat:** Terrestrial (Primary Rainforest, Freshwater Swamp Forest, Riverine)
- **Preferred Climate Zone:** Tropical, Sub-Tropical / Monsoonal
- **CITES Protection:** True (Appendix II)
- **Growth Form:** Its stem is 3 m or longer, and up to 5 cm thick. It is also the largest orchid species in the world.

Read More: [Rare Orchids in India](#)

Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary

Recently, **violence erupted in Assam's Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary**, resulting in the death of a woman and injuries to six others, including forest guards.

Important Facts about the Wildlife Sanctuary include:

- **About:** It is a part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori ecosystem.
- **Location:** South bank of the [Brahmaputra River](#).
- **Fauna:** This sanctuary is home to the [Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros](#), [tiger](#), [leopard](#), [wild buffalo](#), [hog deer](#), [wild pig](#), and [elephants](#).
 - The bird list includes the [Bengal Florican](#) (highly endangered), Black-necked Stork, Mallard, Open billed Stork, Teal, and Whistling Duck among others.
 - Due to several [wetlands](#) it is an **ideal breeding place for several species of migratory birds during the winter season**.
- **Flora:** The grassland is also rich in various kinds of medicinal herbs and plants.

Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve

The **forest department has identified 12 illegal, unauthorised or unrecognised resorts in Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR)**, Megamalai division in Theni.

Important Facts about the Wildlife Sanctuary include:

- **About:** It was established in 2021.
 - It is the fifth Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu and 51st tiger reserve in India.
 - It **provides protection to Megamalai, the Vaigai's primary catchment**, in turn helping water levels to rise in the river.
- **Fauna:** Animals seen here are [Bengal tiger](#), [elephants](#), [gaur](#), Indian giant squirrel, [leopard](#), [Nilgiri Tahrs](#), etc.
- **Flora:** It has a mix of tropical evergreen forests and semi-evergreen forests, dry deciduous forests and moist mixed deciduous forests, grassland.
- **Other four Tiger reserves of Tamil Nadu:**
 - [Anamalai tiger reserve](#)
 - [Kalakkad - Mundanthurai tiger reserve](#)
 - [Mudumalai tiger reserve](#)
 - [Sathyamangalam tiger reserve](#)

Read More: [Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve & Vaigai River](#)

Tankai Method

The [Ministry of Culture](#) and the **Indian Navy** sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to revive the **“ancient, stitched shipbuilding method (Tankai method)**. The Indian Navy will oversee the implementation and execution of the entire project.

- The **'stitched shipbuilding method'** is a traditional boat building technique that involves **sewing the planks of a boat together with cord or wire** instead of using nails or screws.
- This method is still used in some parts of the world for building small boats. It is a 2000-year-old technique of shipbuilding known as the 'stitched shipbuilding method'.
- The stitched ship holds significant cultural value in India, given its historical importance and the [preservation of traditional craftsmanship](#).
- These ships offered flexibility and durability, making them **less susceptible to damage from shoals and sandbars**.

Read more: [Global Hub for Green Ship Building by 2030](#)