



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

MAP OF THE DAY 09-03-26

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Kamaraj IAS Academy

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MAP OF THE DAY BHARAT

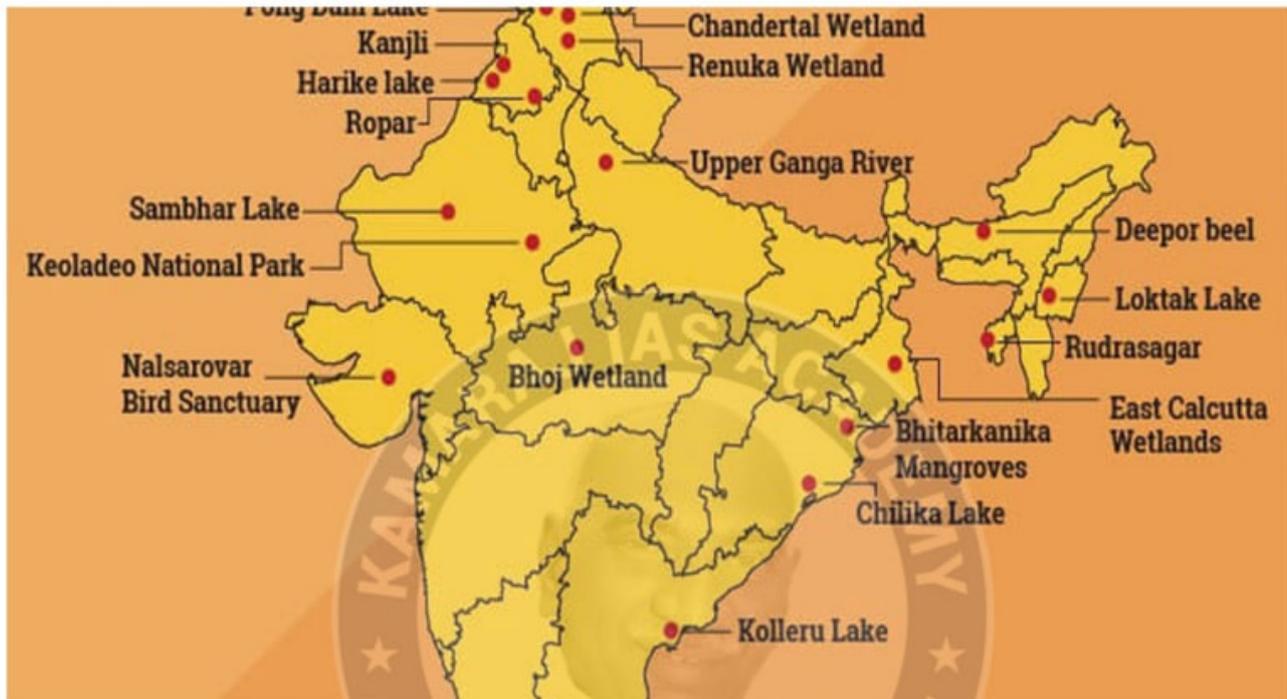
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Monday, 09 March 2026



Chandra Taal

- ❖ **Chandra Taal** is a high-altitude **Himalayan lake** located in the Chandra Valley of Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh, India.
- ❖ The lake lies close to the **source region of the Chandra River**, which later joins the Bhaga River to form the Chenab.
- ❖ **Chandra Taal** is situated at an elevation of about **4,300 metres (14,100 feet)** above sea level in the Trans-Himalayan region.
- ❖ The name **Chandra Taal** literally means "**Moon Lake**", derived from its natural crescent-shaped shoreline.
- ❖ The lake lies on the **Samudra Tapu Plateau**, an elevated **Himalayan plateau** overlooking the Chandra River valley.
- ❖ **Kunzum La Pass** at an altitude of about **4,551 metres** separates the Lahaul Valley from the Spiti Valley near the lake.
- ❖ Although commonly linked **with Spiti Valley**, the lake geographically belongs to the **Chandra River watershed** in Lahaul.
- ❖ The surrounding region is protected under the **Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary**, established to conserve alpine biodiversity.
- ❖ **Chandra Taal Lake** covers an approximate length of **1 km** and is known for its clear blue glacial water.
- ❖ The lake is accessible by **road from Batal village**, which lies roughly **14 km away** on the Manali-Kaza route.
- ❖ Trekkers can also reach the lake from **Kunzum Pass** through a **3-4 km trekking trail** across alpine terrain.
- ❖ The lake generally remains accessible from **late May to early October**, when the **snow cover melts**.
- ❖ During winter months, the entire **Chandra Taal region** remains buried under **heavy snowfall and sub-zero temperatures**.
- ❖ **High-altitude trekkers** frequently include the lake in the **Hampta Pass and Spiti trekking circuits**.
- ❖ The lake lies within the **cold desert ecosystem** of the **Trans-Himalayan landscape**.
- ❖ Meadows around **Chandra Taal Lake** bloom with **hundreds of alpine wildflower** species during spring and early summer.
- ❖ Wildlife recorded near the **Chandratal Sanctuary** includes the **snow leopard, Himalayan ibex, and red fox**.
- ❖ The lake region also provides seasonal grazing grounds for **shepherd communities** and their **large sheep herds**.

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MAP OF THE DAY WORLD

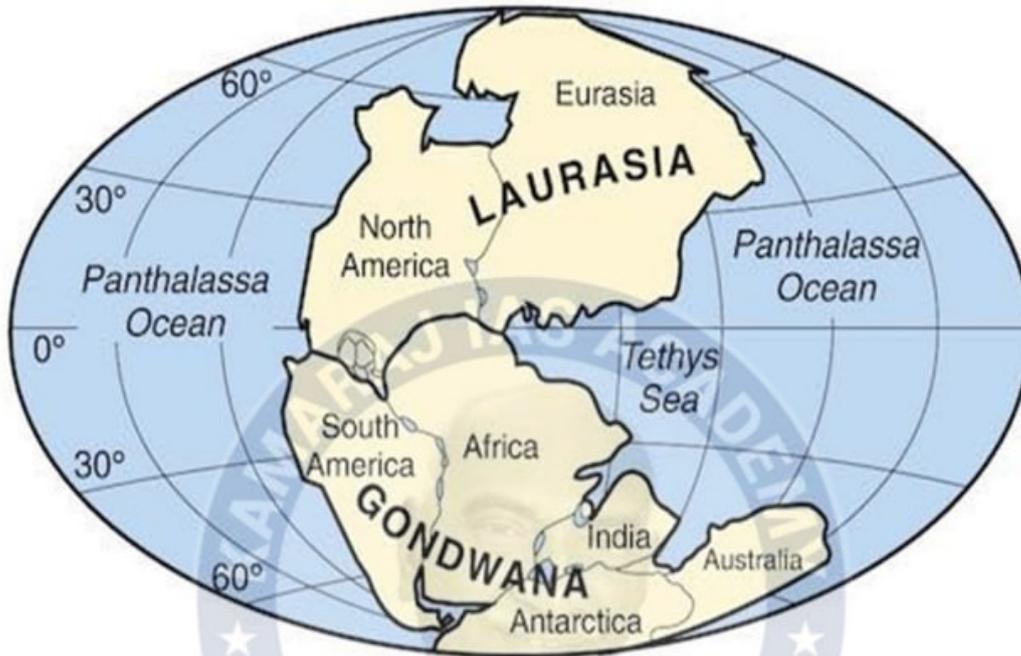
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Gondwana

- ❖ **Gondwana** was a massive southern **supercontinent-like landmass** that once covered a large portion of the Earth's surface.
- ❖ The fragments of **Gondwana** today form nearly **two-thirds of modern continental land**, including South America, Africa, Antarctica, Australia, Zealandia, Arabia, and the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ The assembly of **Gondwana** began roughly **800–650 million years ago (Ma)** through the collision of ancient continental blocks called cratons.
- ❖ The **East African Orogeny** played a major role when **India and Madagascar** collided with the East African continental margin.
- ❖ Later tectonic activity during the **Brasiliano Orogeny** joined **South America** to **Africa**.
- ❖ **Gondwana** was formed around **530 million years ago**.
- ❖ The **Kuunga Orogeny** completed **Gondwana's** formation by linking **Australia and Antarctica** with other southern landmasses.
- ❖ During the **Paleozoic Era**, **Gondwana** became the **largest continental block**, covering nearly 100 million km² (about one-fifth of Earth's surface).
- ❖ In the **Carboniferous Period**, **Gondwana** fused with **Laurasia** to form the global supercontinent **Pangaea**.
- ❖ The **Pangaea Supercontinent** existed from roughly **335 to 175 million years ago** before breaking into northern and southern parts.
- ❖ Separation between **Gondwana and Laurasia** began during the **Triassic Period**, initiating major tectonic activity.
- ❖ Large-scale fragmentation of **Gondwana** started around **180 million years ago** during the Early Jurassic.
- ❖ The breakup produced major oceans such as the **South Atlantic Ocean** when **Africa and South America** drifted apart.
- ❖ The final disintegration occurred in the **Paleogene Period (66–23 Ma)** when Antarctica separated from Australia and South America.
- ❖ This tectonic separation created oceanic gateways including the **Drake Passage** and **Tasmanian Passage**.
- ❖ The term **Gondwana** was introduced in 1885 by Austrian geologist **Eduard Suess**, derived from the Gond tribal region of central India.

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