

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

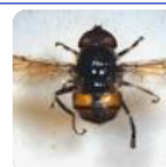
05-06-2026

New Hoverfly Species

TT Telegraph India

[Zoological Survey of India scientists discover two new hoverfly species in Bengal after over a century](#)

Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered two new species of hoverflies, named *Eristalinus sapphirinus* and...



Why in News

- Researchers from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** discovered two new hoverfly species, ***Eristalinus sapphirinus*** and ***Eristalinus brunettii***, from the **Gangetic Plains of West Bengal**.

Taxonomic Significance

- The discovery increases the known diversity of the ***Eristalinus*** genus in India.
- It is the first major taxonomic addition to this genus since **1923**.
- ***Eristalinus sapphirinus*** is named after its sapphire-blue metallic colour.
- ***Eristalinus brunettii*** honours entomologist **Enrico Adelelmo Brunetti** for his contributions to Indian Diptera studies.

Ecological Importance

- Adult hoverflies serve as important pollinators of wild and cultivated plants.
- Larvae, known as **rat-tailed maggots**, decompose organic matter in aquatic habitats.
- They contribute to nutrient recycling and ecosystem maintenance.

Key Features of Hoverflies

- Hoverflies belong to **Order: Diptera** and **Family: Syrphidae**.
- They are also called **flower flies** or **drone flies**.

- They possess only **one pair of wings**, unlike bees and wasps.
- They have short antennae, bulbous eyes and black-yellow body markings.
- Most species measure about **4–10 mm** in length.
- They are harmless insects and lack stingers.

Pennar River

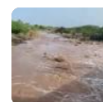
Why in News

- The **Pennar River** has drawn attention due to low water flow despite surplus water conditions in several Andhra Pradesh rivers.

Deccan Chronicle

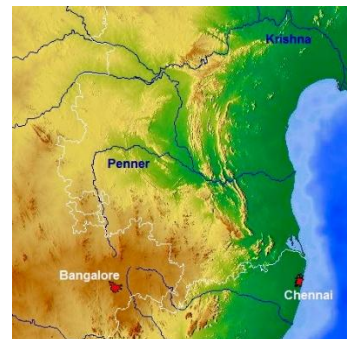
[Rare Event of Pennar River Flowing Ahead of SW Monsoon Onset](#)

Irrigation officials say they have never seen the irrigation tank overflowing in the past few decades. The tank is just short of one and a...



Geographical Profile

- The river is also known as **Penna**, **Pinakini**, or **Penneru**.
- It originates from the **Nandi Hills**, Karnataka.
- It flows through **Karnataka** and **Andhra Pradesh** before draining into the **Bay of Bengal** near **Nellore**.
- The river has a total length of approximately **597 km**.



Hydrological Characteristics

- The basin lies in the **rain-shadow region** of the Eastern Ghats.
- It is a seasonal river with significant flow variations.
- The river traverses the **Deccan Plateau** and parts of the **Eastern Ghats**.

Tributaries and Importance

- Major tributaries include **Chitravati**, **Papagni**, **Cheyyeru**, and **Kunderu** rivers.
- The river is crucial for irrigation in the drought-prone **Rayalaseema region**.
- Important projects include **Somasila**, **Mylavaram**, and **Gandikota** irrigation projects.

Virupaksha Temple

TOI The Times of India

ASI removes additional walls inside Hampi's Virupaksha Temple gopuram

ASI removed added walls inside Hampi's Virupaksha Temple gopuram, restoring the mantapa and making a Shiva idol visible to devotees;...



Why in News

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** removed unauthorized walls inside the main gopuram of the temple complex.

Historical Importance

- The temple is dedicated to **Lord Virupaksha**, a form of **Lord Shiva**.
- It is located at **Hampi, Karnataka**, on the southern bank of the **Tungabhadra River**.
- It forms part of the **UNESCO World Heritage Site** of Hampi.
- It has remained continuously functional since the **7th century CE**.

Evolution and Patronage

- The shrine was expanded during the **Chalukya** and **Hoysala** periods.
- Major development occurred under the **Vijayanagara Empire**.
- **Deva Raya II** and **Krishnadevaraya** significantly contributed to its expansion.


Architectural Features

- The temple exemplifies **Dravidian architecture** with grand gopurams and pillared halls.
- The eastern gopuram is **160 feet high** and has **nine tiers**.
- The complex contains a sanctum, courtyards, antechambers and a famous **100-pillared hall**.

Scientific Significance

- The temple demonstrates the **pinhole camera effect** through an inverted image of the tower.
- Its design reflects principles associated with **Rectilinear Light Theory**.

Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Initiative (JSJB)

 The Indian Express

1.5 crore artificial groundwater recharge, storage works under JSJB initiative: Minister C R Patil

Creation of over 1.5 crore artificial groundwater recharge and storage works have been reported across the country under the Centre's Jal...



Why in News

- **Bidar district (Karnataka)** received the **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Award** under **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain**.

Objectives

- It promotes **rainwater harvesting**, **aquifer recharge**, and **borewell recharge**.
- It aims to conserve every drop of water through community participation.
- It encourages involvement of industries, NGOs and local communities.

Governance and Environmental Benefits

- It enhances groundwater recharge and water availability.
- It strengthens climate resilience against floods and droughts.
- It improves water quality through natural filtration processes.
- It promotes decentralized water resource management.

Institutional Framework

- The initiative was launched in **2024**.
- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** is the nodal ministry.
- It follows a **whole-of-government** and **whole-of-society** approach.

Navachar Mantra Initiative

DD News

Centre Launches 'Navachar Mantra' to Support Grassroots Innovators, Applications Open Till July 5

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on Wednesday launched 'Navachar Mantra', a national initiative aimed at...



Why in News

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** launched the **Navachar Mantra Initiative**.

Institutional Architecture

- The initiative is implemented by **NIESBUD**.
- **FITT, IIT Delhi** serves as the Technical Knowledge Partner.
- It focuses on grassroots innovators and early-stage entrepreneurs.

Sectoral Focus

- Priority sectors include **AgriTech, HealthTech, EdTech, Skilling, Climate & Sustainability, Rural Commerce, and MSME Enablement**.

Inclusion and Capacity Building

- It targets innovators from **Tier-2, Tier-3 cities, and aspirational districts**.
- Participants receive mentorship and visibility opportunities.
- Innovators gain access to policymakers, investors, and industry experts.


Viksit Vibrant Village Program (VVVP)

Why in News

- **MY Bharat** launched the first phase of **Viksit Vibrant Village Program 2026**.

PIB

[MY Bharat Launches Viksit Vibrant Village Program 2026 to Strengthen Youth Engagement in Border Villages of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Ladakh](#)



MY Bharat Launches Viksit Vibrant Village Program 2026 to Strengthen Youth Engagement in Border Villages of Himachal Pradesh,...

Implementation Framework

- The programme is implemented with the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**.
- It is a youth-led initiative for border area development.

Operational Features

- A total of **500 MY Bharat volunteers** will participate.
- The programme covers border villages in **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh**.
- Volunteers were selected through a nationwide online quiz.

Strategic and Social Relevance

- It promotes national integration and grassroots engagement.
- Participants interact with local communities, PRIs, administrators and security forces.
- It enhances awareness of border-region development and strategic significance.

Nation First Challenge

- The campaign promotes **Swadeshi products** and **natural farming**.
- It encourages public transport use and fuel conservation.
- It advocates support for local tourism and sustainable lifestyles.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	South Africa
	Why in News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India and South Africa agreed to strengthen cooperation in Artificial Intelligence and Digital Infrastructure.

Political Geography



- South Africa is the southernmost country of Africa.
- It shares borders with **Namibia**, **Botswana**, **Zimbabwe**, **Mozambique**, **Eswatini**, and surrounds **Lesotho**.
- It has coastlines along both the **Atlantic Ocean** and **Indian Ocean**.

Capital Cities

- **Pretoria** serves as the Executive Capital.
- **Cape Town** serves as the Legislative Capital.
- **Bloemfontein** serves as the Judicial Capital.

Physical Features

- The **Drakensberg** is the highest mountain range in Southern Africa.

- **Mafadi Peak (11,320 ft)** is the country's highest point.
- Major rivers include the **Limpopo** and **Orange** rivers.

Economic Resources

- South Africa possesses large reserves of **gold, manganese, chromium, platinum-group metals,** and aluminium.

Environment

Valley of Flowers National Park

 Outlook Traveller

Valley of Flowers National Park Opens For 2026 Season In Uttarakhand



If a trek to the Valley of Flowers is on your travel list this year, the wait is over. The [Valley of Flowers National Park in Uttarakhand's](#)

Why in News

- The **Valley of Flowers National Park** in Uttarakhand has been reopened for tourists.

Location and Status

- It is located in **Chamoli district, Uttarakhand**.
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- It forms one of the two core zones of the **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve**.



Geographical Importance

- It lies in a transition zone between the **Zaskar Range** and the **Great Himalayas**.
- The valley remains snow-covered during winter.
- It is renowned for extensive alpine meadows.

Biodiversity

- More than **600 species of flowering plants** occur in the park.
- Important flowers include orchids, poppies, primulas, daisies and anemones.
- Sub-alpine forests contain **birch** and **rhododendron** species.

Faunal Diversity

- Species include **Snow Leopard, Himalayan Weasel, Red Fox, Black Bear, Flying Squirrel,** and **Gray Langur.**

Crotalaria phulei

 The Times of India

New Botanical Find In Umred Named After Savitribai Phule

Nagpur: In a discovery that bridges science, biodiversity conservation, and social history, Indian botanists have identified a previously...



Why in News

- Botanists discovered a new flowering plant species, **Crotalaria phulei**, in Maharashtra.

Discovery and Classification



- The species was discovered in the **Khairi-Umred forest** near **Nagpur**.
- It belongs to the **Fabaceae** family.
- It is named after **Savitribai Phule**, India's first woman teacher and social reformer.

Botanical Features

- It is an undershrub growing up to **1.5 metres** tall.
- Young branches possess silvery silky hairs.
- It bears bright yellow flowers measuring **3.4–3.5 cm**.
- The seeds are mottled creamy-olive in colour.

Conservation Status

- The species flowers from **November to January**.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been assigned the IUCN Data Deficient (DD) category. • It closely resembles Crotalaria juncea (Sunhemp).
Defence	<div style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 5px;">Hellfire Missile</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 70%;"> <p><small> The Times of India</small></p> <p>The missile that stopped a Iran-bound tanker: Why the 'Hellfire' remains a US military mainstay</p> <p><small>The AGM-114 Hellfire missile has come under attention after United States military released footage of a precision strike on...</small></p> </div> <div style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div> </div> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United States recently used a Hellfire missile during operations linked to Iran. <p>Technical Profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGM-114 Hellfire is a short-range, air-to-ground, subsonic tactical missile. • It was developed by Lockheed Martin (USA) and entered service in 1984. • It was originally designed as an anti-tank missile. <p>Operational Capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can engage tanks, bunkers, radar systems and small naval vessels. • It is deployable from helicopters, drones, fighter aircraft and ground launchers. • It can also engage helicopters and slow-moving aircraft. <p>Key Specifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range: 7–11 km. • Speed: Up to Mach 1.3. • Weight: 45–48.5 kg. • Guidance systems include Laser, Radar, and Imaging Infrared (IIR).

- Warheads include **HEAT, Fragmentation, and Thermobaric** variants.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh Amends Semiconductor Policy 2024

ET Manufacturing

[UP Cabinet approves amendments to Semiconductor Policy 2024](#)

Electronics Manufacturing Sector: The Uttar Pradesh Government has introduced significant amendments to its Semiconductor Policy 2024 to...



Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** has amended the **UP Semiconductor Policy-2024** to accelerate semiconductor investments, particularly the **₹3,706-crore India Chip Project**.

Policy Reforms

- The state will now release its incentives after the investor deploys initial capital, without waiting for central assistance.
- The amendment aligns with the guidelines of the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**.
- The revised framework aims to improve liquidity and reduce project delays.

Investment and Industrial Impact

- The policy unlocks an investment of over **₹3,706 crore** by **India Chip Private Limited**.
- The project will establish **ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging)** and **OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test)** facilities.
- It is expected to strengthen Uttar Pradesh's electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

Employment and Governance Dimensions

- The project is projected to generate around **3,780 direct and indirect jobs**.
- The state has already issued **Letters of Comfort (LoC)** to companies such as **India Chip** and **Tarq Semiconductors**.
- Investors must operate manufacturing units for at least **three years after commercial production** begins.