

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

11-10-2026

Vertical Launch Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)

Indianmasterminds

How India's VL-SRSAM Missile Programme Aims To Stop Deadly Sea-Skimming Threats

The Indian Navy's indigenous VL-SRSAM missile programme advances towards further trials. Discover how DRDO's system targets sea-skimming...



Why in News: The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** is advancing the indigenous **VL-SRSAM system** to strengthen the Indian Navy's ship-based air defence.

Development and Operational Purpose

- **Developer:** DRDO has developed the missile for the Indian Navy.
- **Classification:** It is an indigenously developed short-range surface-to-air missile.
- **Primary target:** It is designed to intercept aerial threats, particularly **sea-skimming missiles and drones** that fly close to the ocean surface.
- **Vertical launch:** The missile is launched vertically from canister-based systems and then turns towards its target, providing 360-degree engagement coverage.

Strategic Significance

- The system enhances naval protection against anti-ship missiles, drones and other aerial threats.
- Indigenous development supports defence self-reliance and strengthens the survivability of Indian warships.

Technical Specifications

- **Dimensions:** The missile is approximately 3.93 metres long, with a diameter of 178 mm and a wingspan of 508 mm.
- **Propulsion:** It uses a **solid-propellant rocket motor**.
- **Maximum speed:** Its stated top speed is approximately Mach 4.
- **Operational range:** The supplied specifications indicate a range of up to 80 km and an engagement altitude of up to 16 km.
- **Radar system:** A **Multi-Function Radar (MFR)** using **Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA)** technology detects and prioritises threats.

- **Terminal guidance:** An indigenous **radio-frequency (RF) seeker** guides the missile during the final phase of interception.

Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve

TMIE The New Indian Express

Nanda Devi reserve sees near doubling of landslide zones, new glacial lake amid climate change

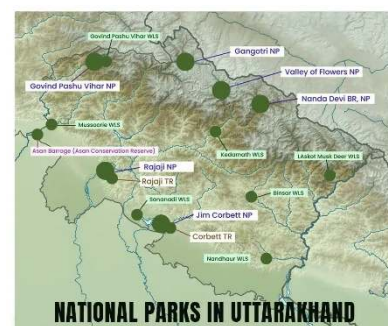
The 2026 Nanda Devi monitoring campaign used field surveys, satellite imagery and drone data to assess ecological and landscape changes in...



Why in News: The *Nanda Devi Biosphere Decadal Monitoring Campaign 2026* reported that landslide-prone zones in the core area have nearly doubled over the past decade.

Geographical and Ecological Significance

- **Location:** The reserve is located in the **Western Himalayas of Uttarakhand** and is recognised under UNESCO's **Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme**.
- **World Heritage Sites:** It includes **Nanda Devi National Park** and **Valley of Flowers National Park**.
- **Elevation:** The landscape ranges from approximately **1,800 metres to over 7,800 metres**.
- **Glaciers and Rivers:** Important glaciers include **Uttari Rishi, Dakshini Rishi, Trisul and Ramani**; the **Rishi Ganga** joins the Dhauliganga, a tributary of the Alaknanda.



Biodiversity and Conservation

- **Vegetation:** The reserve contains **Bugyals (alpine meadows), temperate forests and sub-alpine vegetation**, including oak, deodar, blue pine and rhododendron.
- **Fauna:** Important species include the **snow leopard, Himalayan musk deer, Himalayan tahr and bharal (blue sheep)**.
- **Environmental Concern:** Increasing landslide-prone areas highlight the vulnerability of Himalayan ecosystems to geological hazards.

Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)

Why in News: The scheme completed its first year of district-level agricultural interventions.

www.pib.gov.in

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana Completes One Year

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana Completes One Year. Gaya-Bihar, Nagaur-Rajasthan and Umaria- Madhya Pradesh, Recognised as...



Scheme Design and Objectives

- **Launch and Duration:** Launched in **2025**, it is a six-year initiative beginning in **2025–26**.
- **Coverage:** It targets **100 Aspirational Agricultural Districts** and integrates **36 schemes from 11 departments**.
- **Selection Criteria:** Districts were selected based on **low productivity, low cropping intensity and low agricultural credit disbursement**, alongside other agricultural indicators.
- **Objectives:** It promotes agricultural productivity, **crop diversification, sustainable practices, irrigation, post-harvest storage and agricultural credit**.



Implementation Mechanism

- **District Level:** The committee headed by the **District Collector/DM** prepares and implements the District Action Plan.
- **State Level:** The committee headed by the **Chief Secretary** reviews and monitors district plans.
- **National Level:** The **National Executive Committee**, headed by the Union Agriculture Minister, and the **National Monitoring Committee**, headed by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, oversee implementation.

Project Seabird



Why in News: The **Chief of Defence Staff** inaugurated infrastructure under **Project Seabird Phase IIA** at Karwar, Karnataka.

Strategic Infrastructure

- **Location:** The project develops a major Indian naval base at **Karwar on the western coast**.

- **Scale:** It covers approximately **11,000 acres** and includes a deep-sea harbour and ship-lift facilities.
- **Phase I:** The first phase was commissioned in **2005**.
- **Phase II:** Development began in **2011** and is divided into **Phases IIA and IIB**.

Maritime Significance

- **Planned Capacity:** The completed base is expected to accommodate approximately **32 warships and 23 submarines**, along with aircraft hangars.
- **Strategic Objective:** It strengthens naval logistics, surveillance and operational capabilities in the **Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean Region**.
- **Long-Term Vision:** It is planned to become the **largest naval base in the Eastern Hemisphere**.

Red-Headed Vulture

The New Indian Express

Rare red-headed vulture spotted at 2,650 metres in Uttarakhand's Munsiyari

The species was once common across the Indian subcontinent, but its numbers have fallen sharply over recent decades. Red-headed vulture...

Why in News: A rare red-headed vulture was sighted at approximately **2,650 metres** in **Munsiyari, Uttarakhand**.

Identification and Ecology

- **Scientific Name:** *Sarcogyps calvus*, also called the **Asian king vulture or Indian black vulture**.
- **Distribution:** It occurs mainly in **South Asia**, with scattered populations in Southeast Asia.
- **Habitat:** It inhabits open country, deciduous forests, foothills, river valleys and mountainous regions.
- **Diet:** It is a **scavenger** that feeds mainly on animal carcasses.
- **Breeding:** Its breeding season generally occurs between **November and January**.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Status:** **Critically Endangered**.
- **Legal Protection:** Listed under **Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**, according to the source.
- **Major Threat:** Its population declined sharply due to **diclofenac poisoning** from veterinary use.

INS Shreyas

Why in News: Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) launched INS Shreyas for the Indian Navy.

The Economic Times

GRSE launches third of four next-generation patrol vessels for Navy

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers launched the third next-generation offshore patrol vessel named 'Shreyas' for the Indian Navy.



Design and Specifications

- **Category:** It is the **third of four Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs)**.
- **Dimensions:** The vessel measures approximately **113 metres long and 14.6 metres wide**.
- **Speed:** It is designed to achieve speeds of up to **23 knots**.
- **Endurance:** Its stated endurance is approximately **8,500 nautical miles**.



Operational Significance

- **Missions:** NGOPVs support **maritime surveillance, coastal and offshore asset protection, maritime interdiction, mine warfare and special operations**.
- **Indigenous Manufacturing:** The vessel is being built by **GRSE**, a defence public sector undertaking.
- **Strategic Value:** It strengthens India's maritime domain awareness and offshore infrastructure protection.

Bathukamma Festival

The Hindu

Kavitha revives Telangana agitation days at OU Arts College

Kavitha revives Telangana agitation at Osmania University Arts College during Bathukamma, urges funds, youth-powered reform, and inclusive...



Why in News: Telangana's floral festival, **Bathukamma**, began with **Engilipula Bathukamma**.

Cultural Significance

- **Region:** It is a floral festival celebrated primarily by the **women of Telangana**.
- **Meaning:** Bathukamma means **"Mother Goddess Come Alive"**.
- **Historical Linkage:** The festival is associated with regional folklore and traditions linked to the **Kakatiya dynasty**.
- **State Recognition:** It is recognised as the **State Festival of Telangana**.

Rituals and Timing

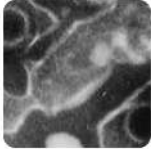
- **Season:** It is generally celebrated during **September–October**.

- **Duration:** The festival is observed over **nine days** and culminates in **Saddula Bathukamma**, also called Pedda Bathukamma.
- **Related Festival: Boddemma** is a separate seven-day festival associated with the regional festive cycle.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Panama Why in News: A preliminary-magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck Panama, causing structural damage. Geographical Features ➤ Location: Panama is situated on the Isthmus of Panama in Central America. ➤ Borders: It shares land boundaries with Costa Rica and Colombia. ➤ Water Bodies: The Caribbean Sea lies to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the south. ➤ Capital: Panama City. ➤ Physical Features: The Cordillera Central crosses the country, while the Tuira River is its longest river. ➤ Lake: Lake Gatun plays an important role in the Panama Canal's operation. Strategic Significance ➤ Panama Canal: It provides a major maritime connection between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, reducing shipping distances. ➤ Resources: Important mineral resources include gold, copper, manganese and iron.
Environment	Central Asian Flyway Digital Hub  Down To Earth  <u>Coming together for migratory bird conservation across the Central Asian Flyway</u> Discover the Central Asian Flyway Digital Hub, a groundbreaking platform uniting conservationists, researchers, and birdwatchers to protect... Why in News: The Central Asian Conservation Network (CACN) launched the Digital Hub to strengthen migratory bird conservation.

	Institutional and Conservation Framework ➤ Objective: The platform promotes knowledge-sharing about migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway. ➤ Information Base: It consolidates information on bird species, important flyway sites, conservation projects and educational resources. Digital Monitoring Features ➤ Bird Collision Reporting Portal: It records bird deaths and injuries caused by infrastructure. ➤ Ringling and Resighting Portal: It documents marked-bird sightings to help track migration routes. ➤ Public Participation: Educational resources support awareness among students, teachers, communities and birdwatchers.
Defence	Mangrol: Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft  News On AIR <u>Indian Navy commissions third anti-submarine warfare craft INS Mangrol in Mumbai</u> The Indian Navy commissioned INS Mangrol, the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited...  Why in News: The Indian Navy is set to commission Mangrol, the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited. Design and Operational Role ➤ Builder: Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, built the vessel. ➤ Naming: The ship is named after Mangrol, a coastal town and fishing harbour in Gujarat's Junagadh district. ➤ Primary role: It is designed to detect and counter submarine threats in coastal and shallow waters. ➤ Additional roles: It can undertake underwater surveillance, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and mine-warfare-related tasks. Armament and Technical Features ➤ Sonar: The vessel is equipped with the Abhay hull-mounted sonar. ➤ Weapons: Its systems include lightweight torpedoes and an indigenous anti-submarine rocket launcher.

	➤ Torpedo defence: The ship carries the Maareech Advanced Torpedo Decoy System. ➤ Propulsion: It uses three diesel engines with waterjet propulsion, enabling high manoeuvrability in shallow waters. ➤ Operational integration: It can operate alongside maritime patrol aircraft, helicopters and other warships. Strategic Significance ➤ The vessel strengthens the Navy's ability to protect ports, harbours and coastal approaches. ➤ Its induction supports indigenous shipbuilding and enhances India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities in littoral waters.
Science and Technology	Epstein–Barr Virus (EBV) THE The Hindu All you need to know about: Epstein-Barr virus Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) is among the most widespread of human viruses. More than 90% of adults are estimated to have been infected during...  Why in News: The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) highlighted the cancer burden associated with EBV in 2024. Virology and Transmission ➤ Scientific Identity: EBV, also called human herpesvirus 4 (HHV-4), belongs to the Herpesviridae family. ➤ Transmission: It spreads mainly through saliva, including kissing and sharing utensils or drinks. ➤ Latency: The virus can remain dormant in the body after initial infection. Health Implications ➤ Symptoms: Infection may cause fever, sore throat, swollen lymph nodes and fatigue, although many cases are asymptomatic. ➤ Carcinogenicity: IARC classifies EBV as a Group 1 carcinogen. ➤ Associated Diseases: EBV is linked to Burkitt lymphoma and certain stomach cancers and has also been studied for its association with multiple sclerosis. ➤ Treatment: There is no specific curative treatment; management generally includes rest and adequate hydration.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Shinzo Abe Memorial Corridor Inaugurated in Varanasi

TH The Hindu

Abe Memorial Corridor honoring Shinzo Abe, India-Japan ties inaugurated in Varanasi

The 'Abe Memorial Corridor,' dedicated to the memories of India-Japan friendship and cultural ties, was inaugurated at the Rudraksh...



Why in News: Akie Abe, wife of former Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe**, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** jointly inaugurated the **Shinzo Abe Memorial Corridor** at the Rudraksh Convention Centre in Varanasi.

India-Japan Relations and Cultural Linkages

- **Memorial Corridor:** It commemorates former Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** and his contribution to India-Japan relations.
- **Varanasi Visit:** Shinzo Abe visited Varanasi with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **December 2015** and participated in the **Ganga Aarti**.
- **Diplomatic Anniversary:** India and Japan established diplomatic relations in **1952**, and **2027 marks 75 years** of diplomatic ties.

Strategic and Infrastructure Cooperation

- **Rudraksh Convention Centre:** Developed with **Japanese assistance**, it was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **2021**.
- **Major Projects:** India-Japan cooperation includes the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor** and metro projects.
- **Japan City Project:** A proposed **500-acre Japan City** is being developed near **Jewar Airport in Uttar Pradesh**.

Awards and Diplomatic Significance

- **Padma Vibhushan:** Shinzo Abe received the **Padma Vibhushan in 2021** for his contribution to India-Japan relations.
- **Strategic Partnership:** The memorial highlights bilateral cooperation in infrastructure, culture, investment and diplomacy.