

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

15-06-2026

Zardalu (Jardalu) Mango

The Better India

Why Bihar's GI-Tagged Zardalu Mango Is Sent to the President of India Every Year

Every summer, before it reaches gift boxes or official addresses, Zardalu begins where it has always belonged: in the orchards of Bhagalpur.



Why in News: More than 125 quintals of Bihar's famous Zardalu mangoes are annually sent to top constitutional dignitaries, showcasing the state's agricultural heritage.

Geographical Identity

- Zardalu (Jardalu) is a unique mango variety native to **Bhagalpur, Bihar**.
- It is famous for its **light yellow skin** and distinctive aroma.
- It received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2018**.

Historical Significance

- Cultivation was introduced by Maharaja Rahmat Ali Khan Bahadur of Haveli Kharagpur.
- The first sapling was planted between **1810 and 1820** in **Tagepur village**.

Physical Characteristics

- Fruits generally weigh between **150 and 300 grams**.
- It possesses creamy, tender, juicy and non-fibrous pulp.
- Mature fruits turn **golden-yellow with a reddish tinge**.

Economic and Nutritional Importance

- Harvest season extends from **mid-April to the end of June**.
- The fruit is rich in **fibre and digestive enzymes**.
- It has become a symbol of Bihar's agricultural branding.

Giant's Causeway

The Guardian

Globally significant volcanic event formed Giant's Causeway, scientists find

Geochronologists say basalt columns in Antrim sprang up during volcanic activity over 5.5m years – 8m less than thought.



Why in News: Scientists have revised the estimated formation period of Giant's Causeway, reducing it by around 8 million years.

Geographical Features

- It is located on the **Antrim Plateau of Northern Ireland**.
- It comprises around **40,000 basalt columns** extending over **6 km**.
- The columns mostly exhibit **hexagonal and polygonal shapes**.

Geological Formation

- It was formed during the **Paleogene Period**, around 50–60 million years ago.
- Extensive volcanic activity produced molten basalt lava.
- Rapid cooling and contraction created fractures and columnar structures.

Global Recognition

- It was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1986.
- Its stair-like appearance gave rise to the name **Giant's Causeway**.



Arbitrage Funds

bl. BusinessLine

Arbitrage funds demystified

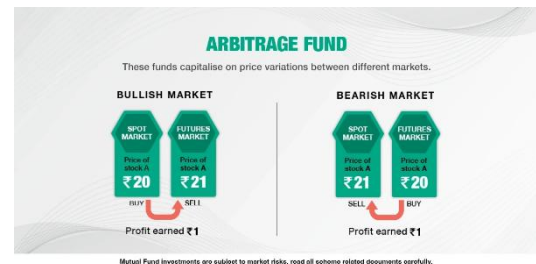
Discover how arbitrage funds can complement passive investments to optimize returns, while minimizing risks compared to traditional active...



Why in News: Arbitrage funds are gaining attention due to opportunities arising from pricing differences in futures markets.

Concept and Working

- Arbitrage funds are **equity-oriented hybrid mutual funds**.
- They profit from temporary price differences in markets.
- Opportunities arise between exchanges or spot and futures markets.



Regulatory Framework

- **SEBI** mandates at least **65% investment in equities and related securities**.
- When opportunities are absent, funds invest in debt and money market instruments.

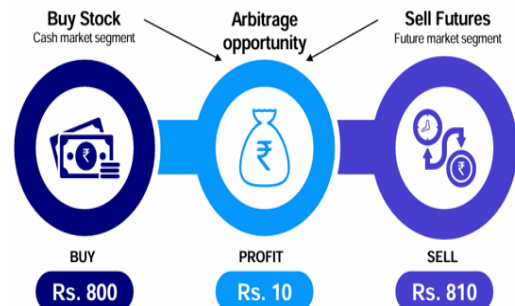
Advantages

- They offer relatively low risk due to hedged positions.
- They provide equity taxation benefits.
- They maintain high liquidity and portfolio diversification.

Limitations

- Returns depend heavily on market volatility.
- They are less suitable for long-term wealth creation.

How do Arbitrage Funds work?



Source: Fundsinia Research, Invesco MF. Note: The above profit will be generated by squaring off corresponding position in cash and future market respectively.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

Why in News: NITI Aayog and La Fondation Dassault Systèmes launched the India-France ATL Bridge initiative.

ddnews.gov.in

[India, France launch ATL Bridge to connect school innovation labs, boost youth innovation](#)

India and France on Sunday launched the India-France ATL Bridge, a landmark initiative aimed at strengthening bilateral innovation...



Institutional Profile

- AIM was launched in 2016 under NITI Aayog.
- It promotes innovation and entrepreneurship nationwide.

Core Objectives

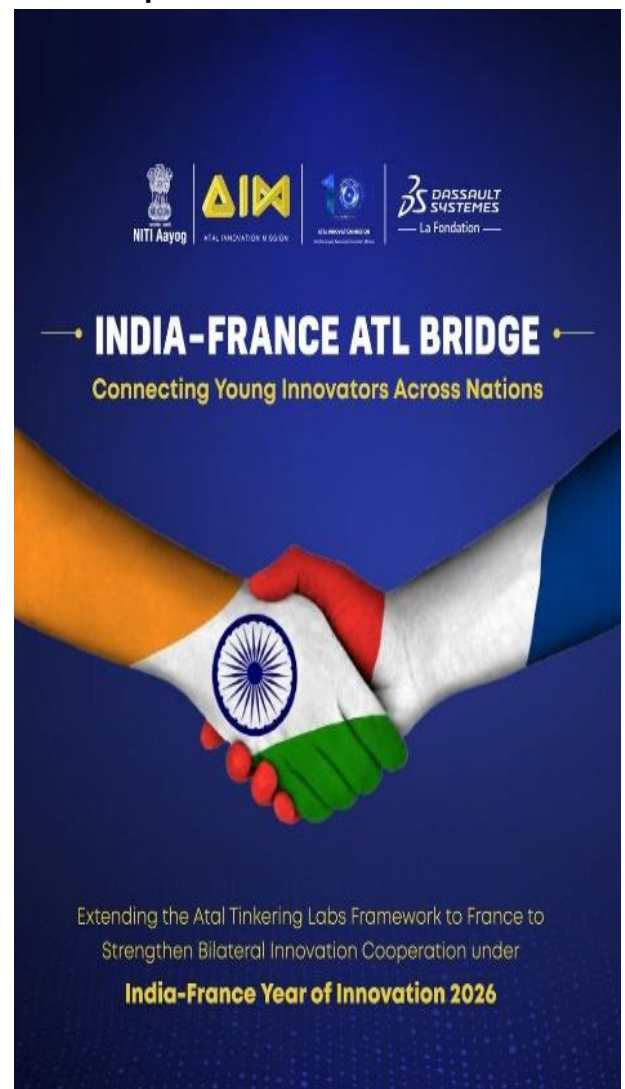
- It encourages creativity and strategic planning.
- It facilitates collaboration among stakeholders.
- It integrates India's technological ecosystem.

Major Initiatives

- Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) promote STEM learning among school students.
- Atal Incubation Centres (AIC) support startups through infrastructure and mentorship.
- Atal Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE) supports MSMEs and startups.

International Significance

- The India-France ATL Bridge deepens bilateral innovation cooperation.



Indrayani River

Hindustan Times

MPCB, fisheries dept inspect Indrayani River following fish kill | Hindustan Times

Samples of the river water and dead fish have been sent for detailed laboratory analysis to determine the exact cause of the incident.



Why in News: Dead fish were recently found floating in the Indrayani River, raising environmental concerns.

River Profile

- It is a river located in **Maharashtra**.
- It is a tributary of the **Bhima River**, which further joins the **Krishna River**.
- It has a total length of **105.3 km**.



Course and Origin

- It originates near **Lonavala** in the **Western Ghats**.
- It flows eastward through **Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad districts**.
- It joins the Bhima River at **Tulapur**.

Religious and Economic Importance

- The sacred towns of **Alandi and Dehu** are situated on its banks.
- Dehu is associated with **Saint Tukaram**.
- Alandi houses the **samadhi of Saint Dnyaneshwar**.
- The river supports irrigation, industries and hydropower generation.

Associated Infrastructure

- **Valvan Dam at Kamshet** is located on the river.

Source: User-provided current affairs compilation.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Armenia

Why in News: Armenia's ruling **Civil Contract Party** recently won parliamentary elections.

Geographical Profile

- Armenia is a landlocked country in the **South Caucasus** region.
- Capital city is **Yerevan**.
- It borders **Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey**.

Physical Features

- The **Lesser Caucasus Mountains** dominate the landscape.
- **Mount Aragats (4090 m)** is the highest peak.
- The climate is highland continental.

Hydrology and Resources

- Major rivers include **Aras, Hrazdan, Arpa and Vorotan**.
- Lake Sevan is the country's largest lake.
- Important minerals include gold, copper and molybdenum.

India Linkage

- India exported the **Akash Surface-to-Air Missile System** to Armenia.



Greater Hog Badger

TH The Hindu

[Kaziranga releases first scientific report on greater hog badger](#)

GUWAHATI The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has released the first scientific assessment report on the greater hog badger...

Why in News: The first scientific assessment report on the Greater Hog Badger has been released by **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve**.

Species Profile

- Scientific name is **Arctonyx collaris**.
- It is a nocturnal, burrowing and omnivorous mammal.
- It is locally known as 'Mati Gahori' in Assam.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I.**

Distribution and Habitat

- It is found across **South, Central and Southeast Asia**.
- In India, it occurs mainly in the northeastern region.
- Habitats include evergreen forests, grasslands, shrublands and mountains.

Ecological Role

- It contributes to **soil aeration and nutrient redistribution**.
- Burrowing behaviour facilitates seed germination and microhabitat formation.
- It performs important ecosystem engineering functions.

Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF)

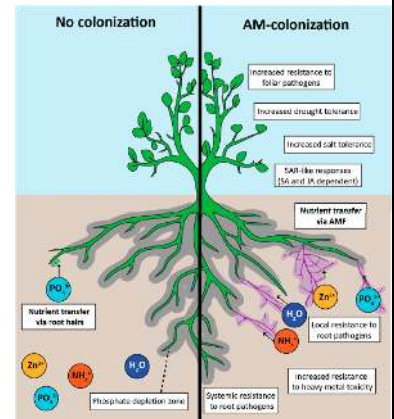
Why in News: A study published in **Science** has produced the first global map of underground AM fungal networks.

Biological Characteristics

- AMF are root-obligate biotrophs belonging to the phylum Glomeromycota.
- They form symbiotic associations with nearly **80% of terrestrial vascular plants**.
- They develop branching structures called **hyphae** for nutrient exchange.

Ecological Importance

- They act as natural **biofertilizers** by supplying nutrients and water.
- They enhance ecosystem productivity and protect plants from pathogens.
- They regulate climate by storing carbon within soils.



Global Distribution and Data

- Grasslands in **South Sudan**, **Tibetan Plateau** and **Banni grasslands of India** contain 40% of global AM networks.
- Their networks store around **300 million tonnes of carbon**.
- They sequester nearly **4 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent annually**.

Prelims Facts

- AMF do not associate with the **Brassicaceae family**.
- **Arbuscules** are the nutrient exchange sites inside plant roots.

Disease

Tetanus

 The Times of India

[Deadly 'lockjaw' disease climbs in the US: Symptoms and prevention you should know](#)

A deadly disease once thought to have been eradicated is resurging in the US. Tetanus, a life-threatening disease, continues to affect...



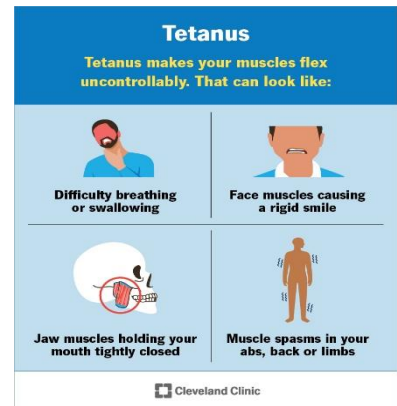
Why in News: Tetanus, once considered largely controlled, is witnessing a resurgence in the United States, highlighting the importance of vaccination coverage globally.

Disease Profile

- **Tetanus (Lockjaw)** is a serious bacterial infection affecting the nervous system.
- It is caused by **Clostridium tetani**, an anaerobic spore-forming bacterium.
- The bacterium usually enters the body through an **open wound**.
- It is **not a communicable disease** and does not spread from person to person.

Pathogenesis and Symptoms

- The bacterium releases a **neurotoxin** that interferes with neurotransmitter release.
- Symptoms usually appear within **3-21 days** after exposure, averaging 8 days.
- **Lockjaw** is the earliest hallmark symptom causing difficulty in opening the mouth.
- Other symptoms include swallowing difficulty, muscle spasms, seizures, fever and sweating.



Complications and Vulnerable Groups

- Newborns and inadequately immunized pregnant women are highly vulnerable.
- Severe cases can cause laryngospasm, pulmonary embolism, aspiration pneumonia, and fractures.
- Respiratory complications may ultimately lead to death.

Prevention and Public Health Significance

- Vaccination is the only effective preventive measure against tetanus.
- Protection generally lasts for 10 years, requiring periodic booster doses.
- Pregnant women are advised to receive Tdap vaccine for neonatal protection.
- Recovery from tetanus does not provide lifelong natural immunity.