

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

16-10-2026

Hornbill Festival

 DD India

Nagaland gears up for 27th edition of iconic Hornbill Festival

Nagaland has begun preparations for the 27th edition of the iconic Hornbill Festival, one of the state's biggest cultural events,...



Why in News?

Nagaland began preparations for the **27th edition** of the **Hornbill Festival**, an annual celebration of the state's diverse tribal heritage.

Cultural Significance and Historical Background

- The **Hornbill Festival** was first organised in **2000** to promote **inter-tribal interaction** and preserve Nagaland's cultural heritage.
- It is popularly known as the **"Festival of Festivals"** because it showcases the traditions of multiple **Naga tribes**.
- The festival is named after the **hornbill bird**, which holds an important place in Naga socio-cultural life.

Geographical and Institutional Details

- The festival is held at **Naga Heritage Village, Kisama**, approximately **12 km** from **Kohima, Nagaland**.
- It is organised by the **Tourism and Art & Culture Departments** of the **Government of Nagaland**.
- The event has expanded from an initial **three-day** programme to a **ten-day** celebration.

Tourism and Heritage Promotion

- The festival coincides with **Nagaland Statehood Day** on **1 December**.
- It promotes **tribal traditions, cultural performances, crafts, and inter-community interaction**.
- It also supports **cultural tourism** and provides a platform for showcasing Nagaland's traditional and contemporary heritage.

World Health Summit 2026

Why in News?

The **2026 World Health Summit**, held in **Berlin**, hosted the first public candidate conversation in the **WHO Director-General** election process on **11 October 2026**.

BusinessMole

[World Health Summit 2026 in Berlin Unveils Bold Initiatives to Tackle Global Health Challenges](#)

World Health Summit 2026 Fosters Global Health Innovations and Funding Commitments – World Health Summit 2026 attracts over 4000 participants from 130...



Institutional Framework and Global Role

- The **World Health Summit (WHS)** is an annual, international, multi-stakeholder forum on global health, established in **2009**.
- It is organised by **WHS Foundation GmbH**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin**.
- The summit is held annually in **Berlin, Germany**, and also conducts regional meetings and activities throughout the year.
- It is distinct from the **World Health Assembly (WHA)**, the decision-making body of the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

Theme and Key Priorities

- The theme of WHS 2026 was **"From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health"**.
- Major areas include **pandemic preparedness**, **digital health integration**, **climate change impacts**, and **healthcare equity**.
- The summit seeks to promote **evidence-based dialogue**, **cross-sectoral collaboration**, and **resilient health systems**.

JWALA Missile

The Hindu

Economics of interception: Jwala missile's cost challenge

Analysis of Jwala's cost-effective drone interceptor and India's private-sector push to deliver affordable, scalable counter-UAS solutions.



Why in News?

JWALA-MK1, described as India's **first private-sector micro-missile**, is set for trials following successful **solid rocket motor** tests, strengthening indigenous **counter-drone capabilities**.

Indigenous Development and Defence Integration

- **JWALA-MK1** is being developed by **IG Defence**, an Indian private-sector defence technology company.
- It is a **short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM)** designed as a **hard-kill interceptor** to physically destroy hostile drones and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- The missile operates within the broader **GRID Defend ecosystem**, an **AI-enabled battle-management network** integrating sensors, command structures, and weapons.

Technical Specifications

- The missile uses a **dual-pulse solid rocket motor** and **fin-based control**.
- Its stated **engagement range** is **2–5 km**, with an **altitude range** of **50–5,000 metres**.
- Its stated **circular error probable (CEP)** is less than **2 metres** at maximum range.
- It carries a **0.5–1.5 kg pre-fragmented high-explosive payload** equipped with a **proximity fuze**.



Strategic and Operational Significance

- JWALA is intended to provide a **cost-effective counter-drone solution** compared with conventional air-defence missiles.
- Its design is intended to support operations under **electronic warfare** and **anti-jamming** conditions.
- The project reflects the growing role of **private-sector participation** and **indigenous defence technology** in India's defence ecosystem.

India's First Red List Assessment of Ecosystems Project

TH The Hindu

[Why Keralam has launched India's first ecosystem Red List assessment](#)

Kerala launches India's first Red List Assessment of Ecosystems to create an official Risk Register and Ecosystem Atlas guiding...



Why in News?

The **Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB)** launched India's **first state-level Red List Assessment of Ecosystems (RLE)** project to evaluate ecosystem vulnerability across **Kerala**.

Institutional Framework and Implementation

- The project is sanctioned and funded by the **Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB)**.
- It is being implemented by the **Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)** in collaboration with **MES Asmabi College**.
- The project is scheduled to run for **two years** and covers all **14 districts** of **Kerala**.

Assessment Methodology and Geographical Coverage

- The project uses the **IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) framework** to assess ecosystem health and the risk of **ecosystem collapse**.
- It examines ecosystems ranging from **high-altitude mountain summits** and **forests** to **rivers, midlands**, and **vulnerable coastal stretches**.
- The assessment aims to identify threats arising from **climate change** and **human activities**.

Conservation and Governance Implications

- The initiative shifts conservation from **isolated species protection** towards **landscape-wide ecosystem management**.
- Its **spatial data** will support **evidence-based planning**, **sustainable infrastructure development**, and **targeted conservation**.
- The project can help state authorities prioritise ecosystems according to their **vulnerability** and **risk of collapse**.

Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026

 News On AIR

Indian Army's Assam Regiment wins Gold Medal at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026 in Wales

Indian Army's Assam Regiment troops have won the Gold Medal at the Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026, held in Wales, United Kingdom.



Why in News?

The Indian Army's **Assam Regiment** won a **Gold Medal** at **Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026**, held in **Wales, United Kingdom**.

Nature and Institutional Framework

- **Exercise Cambrian Patrol** is the **British Army's** premier military patrolling exercise, popularly known as the **"Olympics of Military Patrolling"**.

- It is hosted annually in **Wales, United Kingdom**, by **Headquarters 160th (Welsh) Brigade**.
- The exercise has been conducted for over **60 years** and is the British Army's principal **All Arms Patrol Exercise**.

Operational Format and Assessment

- The exercise generally takes place over **9–10 days** in **October** and involves demanding, mission-focused scenarios.
- It comprises **eight phases**, each lasting **48 hours**.
- Patrols cover approximately **60 km**, with an average ascent and descent exceeding **1,000 metres**.
- Each participant carries equipment weighing no more than **32 kg**.
- Performance is assessed using the **Battlecraft Syllabus (BCS)**, **Individual Training Requirement (ITR)**, **robustness**, and **leadership**.

International Participation and Indian Achievement

- The exercise is open to regular and reserve personnel from all **three** British armed services, as well as military units from other countries.
- It is primarily an **assessed military exercise** rather than a conventional competition.
- The **Assam Regiment** was among **10 teams** awarded **gold medals** out of more than **100** participating teams in **2026**.
- The exercise tests **patrolling skills**, **leadership**, **endurance**, and **operational effectiveness** under demanding field conditions.

Weather Information Network and Data System (WINDS)

THE Hindu

Land shortage cripples Agriculture Ministry's weather network rollout

Public-private WINDS project stalls as land shortages and rooftop-installation disputes delay 96% of sensors in India's weather network.



Why in News?

Implementation of the **Weather Information Network and Data System (WINDS)** is progressing slowly due to a **shortage of land** for installing **automatic rain gauges** and **weather stations**.

Institutional Framework and Implementation

- WINDS is a national initiative under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** to strengthen India's **agricultural weather-data infrastructure**.
- It is implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** through the **Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC)**.
- The programme aims to establish a nationwide network of **weather sensors** to provide **hyperlocal weather information**.

Technological Architecture and Data Integration

- WINDS uses **Automatic Weather Stations (AWS)** and **Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs)** to collect weather data at the **Block** and **Gram Panchayat** levels.
- It integrates information from the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, **State Governments**, and public and private technical organisations.
- The collected information is consolidated through a **unified national-level WINDS portal**.

Agricultural and Governance Implications

- WINDS supports **weather-based agricultural decisions** by providing farmers and administrators with localised meteorological information.
- Its data primarily helps calculate **crop insurance** estimates and payouts under **PMFBY**.
- The programme aims to reduce **information gaps** and improve decision-making at the **grassroots level**.
- **Land availability constraints** are a key implementation challenge because they delay the installation of weather-monitoring infrastructure.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Masaya Volcano Why in News? Satellite measurements of Masaya Volcano in Nicaragua indicate that magma may be entering one reservoir while another drains, potentially improving volcanic hazard monitoring. Geographical and Geological Characteristics
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WION

Double trouble brews under Mouth of Hell volcano as magma chambers start filling up

Two reservoirs could be filling up with magma inside the Masaya Volcano in Nicaragua. Satellite images show that the ground at the site of...



- **Masaya Volcano** is an active **basaltic, shield-like caldera volcano** in **Nicaragua, Central America**.
- It forms part of the **Central American Volcanic Arc**, created by the subduction of the **Cocos Plate** beneath the **Caribbean Plate**.
- The caldera contains multiple **collapse craters** and **cinder cones**, while the active **Santiago crater** formed during **1850–1853**.

Volcanic Activity and Associated Hazards

- Masaya is known for its **persistent lava lake** and high rates of **volcanic gas emissions**.
- Its activity generally ranges from **Strombolian** to **Vulcanian**, involving ash emissions, lava fountains, and occasional lava flows.
- The volcano emits substantial quantities of **sulphur dioxide (SO₂)**, which can affect air quality and human health.
- In **1981**, sulphur dioxide emissions from **Santiago crater** were reported at approximately **500,000 tonnes per year**.

Conservation and Hazard Monitoring

- Masaya became **Nicaragua's first national park** in **1979**, officially known as **Masaya Volcano National Park**.
- **Satellite-based measurements** of magma movement can improve understanding of volcanic processes and support **early-warning** and **hazard assessment** systems.

Environment

Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in News?

A recent **camera-trap survey** recorded diverse wildlife, including **bears, leopards, mountain goats**, and **wild boars** in **Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Deccan Chronicle

Camera Traps In Lankamala For Census Reveal Biodiversity In Sanctuary

Camera traps used during the tiger census in Lankamala Wildlife Sanctuary have recorded diverse wildlife, including bears, leopards,....



	Geographical and Ecological Profile ➤ It is located in Andhra Pradesh. ➤ The sanctuary forms part of the catchment of the Pennar River, and the Telugu Ganga Canal flows along its eastern flank before draining into the Pennar. ➤ Its vegetation includes southern tropical dry deciduous forests, southern dry mixed deciduous forests, tropical thorn forests, scrub forests, and tropical dry evergreen forests. Biodiversity and Important Species ➤ Important plant species include red sanders and sandalwood, both valued for their conservation significance. ➤ Its riparian vegetation includes Terminalia, Syzygium, wild mangoes, Anogeissus latifolia, Phoenix, bamboo, and Hardwickia binata. ➤ Recorded fauna include the common toad, bullfrog, common Indian skink, and green vine snake. ➤ The sanctuary is particularly important as a habitat for the rare and endangered Jerdon's courser, a bird of high conservation significance. Conservation Significance ➤ The sanctuary protects dry forest ecosystems, riparian habitats, and threatened species in Andhra Pradesh.
Defence	Varunastra Heavyweight Torpedo  Business Standard <u>Defence Ministry signs ₹4,106 cr deals for IAF satellite, Navy torpedoes</u> Communication satellite contract worth ₹2563 crore; ₹1543 crore deal for torpedoes.  Why in News? The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth ₹4,106 crore for acquiring GSAT-7C communication satellite capability for the Indian Air Force and Varunastra heavyweight torpedoes for the Indian Navy. Indigenous Development and Defence Institutions ➤ Varunastra is a ship-launched, heavyweight, electrically propelled anti-submarine torpedo.

- It was designed and developed by the **Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)** in **Visakhapatnam** under the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- It is designed to engage **quiet submarines** in shallow and deep waters, including environments with intense countermeasures.

Technical Specifications and Guidance

- The torpedo can achieve speeds exceeding **40 knots**, approximately **74 km/h**, and has a stated range of **40 km**.
- It carries a **250 kg high-explosive warhead** and has a maximum operating depth of **600 metres**.
- Its guidance system uses **active-passive acoustic homing**, **wire guidance**, and **GPS/NavIC satellite guidance**.
- **Conformal array transducers** provide a wider detection angle, while **autonomous guidance algorithms** and **low-drift navigation aids** support accurate operation.

Maritime Security and Strategic Significance

- Varunastra strengthens the Indian Navy's **anti-submarine warfare (ASW)** capabilities.
- It is compatible with **ASW ships** equipped to launch heavyweight torpedoes.
- Its ability to operate against **quiet submarines** enhances India's capacity to address underwater threats in contested maritime environments.
- **Indigenous development** supports **defence self-reliance** and the domestic naval technology ecosystem.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel

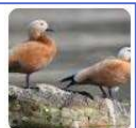
Why in News?

India added **Sukhna Wetland** and **Sauj Jheel** to the **List of Wetlands of International Importance**, taking India's total number of **Ramsar Sites** to **103**.

DD News

[India's Ramsar Site Tally Reaches 103 with Addition of Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel](#)

India's Ramsar site tally has reached 103 with the addition of Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh, announced Union...



Ecological Significance and Geographical Features

- **Sukhna Wetland** is located in **Chandigarh**, at the foothills of the **Outer Himalayas**.
- It is a **peri-urban reservoir** that regulates sediment and water flows from its catchment.
- **Sauj Jheel** is a shallow lake in **Uttar Pradesh**, situated in the **Ganga floodplain** and surrounded by farmland.
- Sauj Jheel is located near **Saman Bird Sanctuary** and supports **ecological connectivity** among wetlands.

Biodiversity and Important Species

- Sukhna Wetland supports resident waterbirds and migratory birds along the **Central Asian Flyway**.
- Its notable fauna include the **Vulnerable common pochard**, **Endangered Pallas's fish eagle**, and **Endangered black pond turtle**.
- Sauj Jheel supports wetland vegetation such as **sacred lotus** and **wild sugarcane**.
- Its notable birds include the **Vulnerable sarus crane** and **greater spotted eagle**.

Conservation and International Framework

- The **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**, adopted in **1971** at **Ramsar, Iran**, provides the international framework for wetland conservation.
- Ramsar designation recognises wetlands for their **ecological importance** and encourages their **wise use** and conservation.
- Wetlands support **flood regulation**, **biodiversity conservation**, **water storage**, and **migratory bird habitats**.