

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

20-10-2026

Agri Welfare Portal

TH The Hindu

[Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches upgraded agri welfare portal](#)

Upgraded agri welfare portal launched as a single-window gateway for farmers to access schemes, apply online, and get reliable agri...



Why in News

- The Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister launched the upgraded **Agri Welfare Portal**.

Inclusion and Outreach

- **Rural and Accessible Use:** The portal suits basic smartphones and weak internet, with **screen-reader support** and simpler navigation for users with disabilities.
- **Wider Network: Farmer Producer Organisations, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies,** scientists, researchers and start-ups are to be brought onto it.
- **Assistance:** A training campaign through **Krishi Vigyan Kendras** is planned to help farmers use the portal.

Governance Dimensions

- **Transparency:** Direct applications and **DBT** promote greater transparency and fewer intermediaries.
- **Reliable Information:** Farmers can access authentic data on weather, scientific farming practices, seed and fertiliser availability, and prices.

Farmer-Centric Features

- **Scheme Access:** It brings **PM-KISAN, AgriStack** and **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** into a common interface.
- **Online Services:** It provides online eligibility checks and direct application facilities.
- **Farm Information:** It gives updates on weather, farming practices, seeds, fertilisers and market prices.
- **Financial Assistance:** Aid is transferred through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.

Swavlamban 2026

DD News

Indian Navy to Showcase Indigenous Defence Technologies and Innovations at 'Swavlamban' 2026

The Indian Navy will organise the fifth edition of its flagship Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar, 'Swavlamban' 2026,...



Why in News

- The Indian Navy's fifth **Swavlamban** seminar will build on the national effort to connect technological talent with maritime requirements.

Strategic Significance

- **Focus:** The fifth edition will focus on converting **indigenous technological innovations** into operational capabilities for the Navy.
- **Collaboration:** It aims to strengthen ties between the armed forces and India's domestic innovation ecosystem.
- **Discussions:** The programme includes defence innovation, self-reliance, **funding opportunities** and **commercialisation** of technologies.

Event Profile

- **Nature:** It is the fifth edition of the **Indian Navy's** flagship **Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar**.
- **Venue:** The seminar is held at the **Manekshaw Centre** in **New Delhi**.
- **Duration:** It is a **two-day** event.
- **Support:** It is supported by the **Government of India**, **Ministry of Defence**, **Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers** and **Defence Innovation Organisation**.
- **Participants:** It brings together innovators, industry partners, startups, **MSMEs**, academia, investors and the Defence Forces.

Technology Showcase

- **Surveillance and Counter-UAS:** The exhibition will showcase **maritime surveillance** and **counter-unmanned aircraft systems (counter-UAS)**.
- **Emerging Technologies:** It will feature **artificial intelligence** and **quantum technologies**.

- **Safety Systems:** It includes **NBCD** (nuclear, biological, chemical and damage control) and systems improving operational efficiency.

Bud Rot Disease

DH Deccan Herald

Coconut growers in Tiptur taluk worried as bud rot disease threatens trees

In some areas, symptoms of mite infestation are also becoming more prevalent.



Why in News

- Coconut growers of **Tiptur taluk, Tumakuru district, Karnataka** are worried as trees affected by **Bud Rot Disease** lose their crowns.

Environmental Triggers

- **Season:** The incidence is severe during the **monsoon** when relative humidity is high.
- **Dry Weather:** With dry weather, infection reduces and the fungus remains dormant in the leaf base.
- **Terrain:** The disease is often seen on **river banks** subject to flooding.

Management

- **Early Action:** The disease is fatal if unchecked before bud damage, so rotted tissue is cleaned out and **Bordeaux paste** is applied.
- **Prevention:** Neighbouring palms receive **prophylactic crown sprays** before and during the wet season.

- **Spread Pattern:** It is normally observed sporadically in widely scattered palms.

Disease Profile

- **Nature:** It is a fatal disease of the coconut palm marked by rotting of the **terminal bud** and surrounding tissues.
- **Susceptibility:** It affects palms of all ages, but **young palms** are most vulnerable.
- **Causal Agent:** It is caused by the fungus-like pathogen **Phytophthora palmivora**, which attacks the growing point.

Symptomatology

- **Early Seedling Sign:** In seedlings, the earliest symptom is yellowing of one or two younger leaves.

- **Leaf Base:** Basal tissues of the leaf rot quickly and can be easily pulled out from the crown.
- **Late Seedling Stage:** The spindle withers and drops, and the crown rots into a foul-smelling slimy mass.
- **Final Outcome:** The entire crown falls down and the palm dies once the growing point is attacked.
- **Adult Palms:** The first symptom is a pale spear that breaks at the base and hangs down, with drooping of successive leaves.
- **Meristem Damage:** Rotting progresses downwards to the **meristem**, though retained nuts may still mature.

Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)

The New Indian Express

[Cybercrime unit flags fake welfare scheme ads using deepfake videos of PM Modi, Sitharaman](#)

Fraudulent Facebook and Instagram ads promise financial aid and rewards before tricking victims into paying fake fees or approving UPI...

Why in News

- The **I4C** warned of rising financial fraud using manipulated videos of the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Chief Ministers to promote fake welfare schemes.

Institutional Profile

- **Nodal Body:** It is established under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** as the national nodal point against cybercrime.
- **Dedication:** It was dedicated to the nation on **10 January 2020**.
- **Headquarters:** Its headquarters is in **New Delhi**.

Major Initiatives

- **CFCFRMS:** The **Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System** enables near-real-time reporting and blocks fund siphoning.
- **Helpline:** The national toll-free helpline **1930** assists citizens in lodging online cyber complaints.
- **CyberDost:** The social media handle **CyberDost** provides cyber safety tips at regular intervals.
- **Volunteers Programme:** The **Cyber Crime Volunteers Program** brings together citizens on a single platform to fight cybercrime.

- **Pratibimb:** The **Pratibimb** platform maps locations of criminals and crime infrastructure for jurisdictional officers.
- **Samanvaya Portal:** It is a web-based **Joint Cybercrime Investigation Facilitation System** for data sharing, crime mapping and coordination across States and UTs.

I4C versus CERT-In

- **I4C Role:** The I4C is an MHA body focused on cybercrime against citizens and the policing response.
- **CERT-In Parent:** CERT-In functions under the **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)**.
- **Legal Basis:** CERT-In is anchored in **Section 70B of the IT Act, 2000**.
- **Mandate:** CERT-In handles cybersecurity incident response and network protection, not crime against persons.

Components

- **Core Units:** These include **National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit (TAU)**, **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP)** and **National Cybercrime Training Centre (NCTC)**.
- **Other Units:** Others are the National Cybercrime Research and Innovation Centre, Joint Cyber Crime Coordination Team platform, Ecosystem Management Unit and Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem.

International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)

DD News

[India to host 61st International Committee of Legal Metrology meeting in New Delhi from October 26](#)

India will host the 61st Meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML) for the first time in New Delhi from October 26 to...

Why in News

- India will host the **61st Meeting** of the **International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML)**, organised by the **Department of Consumer Affairs** with the **OIML**.

Membership and India's Role

- **Members:** It has **63 Member States** (voting) and **66 Corresponding Members** (non-voting).

- **India's Entry:** India became an OIML member in **1956** and signed the **Metre Convention** the same year.
- **Certificates:** India can issue internationally accepted **OIML Certificates**, a facility available to **13 countries**.
- **Market Access:** An **OIML Pattern Approval certificate** is mandatory to sell a weight or measure in the international market.
- **Hosting:** India will host the CIML meeting, organised by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Governance Structure

- **CIML:** The **CIML** is the principal decision-making body guiding OIML's technical and administrative activities.
- **OIML Conference:** It meets every **four years** to set policy, vote on the budget and confirm CIML decisions.

Organisational Profile

- **Nature:** It is an intergovernmental organisation and an international standard-setting body.
- **Establishment:** It was established in **1955** to promote global harmonisation of legal metrology procedures.
- **Headquarters:** Its headquarters is in **Paris**.
- **Mandate:** It promotes harmonisation of **legal metrology** across member countries.

Functions

- **Standards:** It develops international recommendations for measuring instruments used in trade, industry, healthcare, safety and environmental protection.
- **Harmonisation:** It harmonises regulations on clinical thermometers, alcohol breath analysers, radar speed instruments, ship tanks and petrol dispensing units.
- **Model Regulations:** It develops model regulations and documents for legal metrology authorities and industry.

Rajmargyatra Application

DD News

NHAI Launches Toll Plaza Feedback Feature on Rajmargyatra App to Enhance User Experience

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced a 'Toll Plaza Feedback' feature on the Rajmargyatra mobile app,...



Why in News

- The **NHAI** introduced a **Toll Plaza Feedback** feature on the **Rajmargyatra** app to let users rate toll plazas and suggest improvements.

Grievance and Safety

- **Complaints:** Users can report highway issues with geo-tagged photos or videos.
- **Time-bound Redressal:** Complaints are handled in a time-bound manner with system-generated escalations for delays.
- **Tracking:** Users can track the status of their grievances for transparency.
- **Helpline:** The app offers 24x7 emergency support through the **1033** National Highway Helpline.
- **Safe Driving:** It gives over-speeding notifications and voice assistance to encourage responsible driving.

Overview

- **Nature:** It is a citizen-centric unified mobile app developed by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**.
- **Languages:** It is available in English, Hindi and over **13** other regional languages.
- **New Feature:** The **Toll Plaza Feedback** feature lets users rate experience, report concerns and suggest improvements.

Information and Route Planning

- **Highway Information:** It gives real-time weather, notifications and details of nearby toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals and hotels.
- **EnRoute Planner:** The revamped **EnRoute** planner shows National, State and private toll plazas with cost estimates and Annual Pass savings.

Payments and Passes

- **FASTag Services:** It integrates with bank portals for **FASTag** recharge, monthly passes and related banking services.

- **Annual Pass:** Users can buy, view and renew the **Annual Pass** from one portal.
- **Pass Tracking:** A dashboard tracks remaining toll trips and validity of the pass.
- **Eligible Plazas:** Users can find all toll plazas eligible for the Annual Pass.

Osteoporosis

NDTV

Osteoporosis Is Showing Up Earlier Than Ever: Expert On How Young Adults Can Prevent It

Osteoporosis is commonly associated with ageing and postmenopausal women, but bone-health concerns are increasingly being noticed among...

Why in News

- Osteoporosis, commonly linked with ageing and postmenopausal women, is increasingly noticed as a bone-health concern among younger adults.

Bone Remodelling Mechanism

- **Living Tissue:** Bones are living tissue, with old bone broken down and replaced by new bone.
- **Imbalance:** Osteoporosis develops when more bone is broken down than replaced, causing loss of bone mass.

Disease Profile

- **Nature:** It is a disease in which bones become weak and likely to fracture.
- **Meaning:** The term means “**porous bone**”, as holes in the bone’s honeycomb structure become larger.
- **Structural Change:** Bones lose density or mass and show abnormal tissue structure.
- **Common Fracture Sites:** Fractures occur most often in the **hip**, **vertebrae** of the spine and **wrist**.

Clinical Signs

- **Silent Disease:** It is called a **silent disease** as it usually causes no symptoms until a fracture occurs.
- **Back Pain:** Back pain may occur in the presence of a **vertebral compression fracture**.

- **Height Loss:** Height is lost gradually over time.
- **Posture:** A stooped posture may develop in later stages.
- **Fragility Fracture:** A low-impact bone fracture may occur from minor impacts.

Risk Factors

- **Demographics:** Risk is higher in females, people above **50 years** and those of white or Asian descent.
- **Family History:** A family history, especially a parent's hip fracture, raises the risk.
- **Body Weight:** Low body weight increases susceptibility.
- **Hormones:** Low sex hormones (low oestrogen in women, low testosterone in men) are a risk factor.
- **Thyroid:** Excess thyroid hormone (**hyperthyroidism**) raises the risk.
- **Medication:** Chronic use of certain medicines such as **steroids** raises the risk.

Treatment

- **Lifestyle:** Treatment may involve lifestyle changes in diet and exercise routine.
- **Supplements:** **Calcium** and **vitamin D** supplements are used.
- **Medicines:** Medicines are used to strengthen bones.

Other Important News of the day

Defence

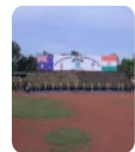
Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026



News On AIR

[Joint military exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 between India and Australia commences in Thiruvananthapuram](#)

The fifth joint Military exercise of India and Australia, AUSTRAHIND 2026, commenced at Thiruvananthapuram. The fourth edition was held at...



Why in News

- The **5th edition** of **Exercise AUSTRAHIND** commenced at the **Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.

Exercise Profile

- **Nature:** It is an annual joint military exercise between **India** and **Australia**.

	➤ Theme: The theme is Joint Sub-Conventional Operations in Island and Coastal Environment under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate. Training Focus ➤ Aim: It enhances interoperability, jointmanship and operational coordination in island and coastal terrain. ➤ Operations: Training covers coordinated coastal operations, surveillance and reconnaissance. ➤ Protection and Relief: It covers protection of vital installations and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). Participation ➤ Indian Contingent: The Indian Army contingent comprises the Garhwal Rifles and personnel from other arms and services. ➤ First-time Observers: An observer delegation from New Zealand participates for the first time. Strategic Significance ➤ Indo-Pacific: It strengthens military cooperation and trust and reinforces commitment to peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.
Science and Technology	Homoporus Tridentata  Inshorts New microwasp discovered in Kashmir Tap to know more Ins An international team of ecologists from the University of Kashmir, SKUAST-K, and other u discovered a new parasitoid micro-wasp... Why in News ➤ Entomologists have announced the discovery of a previously unknown parasitoid wasp species, Homoporus tridentata.

Taxonomic Identity

➤ **Discovery:** It is a newly discovered **parasitoid wasp** species.

➤ **Genus:** It belongs to the genus **Homoporus**.

➤ **Naming:** Its name derives from the Latin-based description of its **three-toothed clypeal margin**.



Ecological Significance

➤ **Natural Enemies:** Wasps of genus **Homoporus** are natural parasitoids of larvae and pupae of agricultural and forestry pests.

➤ **Parasitoid Concept:** A parasitoid is an insect whose larva develops on a host and eventually kills it, aiding biological pest control.

Morphological Features

➤ **Colouration:** The male has a brilliant **metallic green** head and thorax with **copper-brown** eyes and ocelli.

➤ **Clypeus:** The **clypeus** (a shield on the front of the face) carries three teeth, the middle one being longer.

➤ **Lateral Teeth:** The two lateral teeth are noticeably stouter than the middle tooth.

➤ **Mandibles:** It has asymmetrical (**heterodont**) mandibles with **four teeth** on the right jaw and **three** on the left.