# SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 30-10-2026

## Ayushman Vay Vandana Initiative

DD India

**Ayushman Vay Vandana completes two years, records 23.46 lakh hospital admissions worth ₹5,668 crore**

The Ayushman Vay Vandana initiative, which provides health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above irrespective of their...



**Why in News:** The initiative completed two years, recording **23.46 lakh authorised hospital admissions worth ₹5,668.80 crore**.

### Overview and Objectives

- Launched in **2024**, it extends **Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** benefits to senior citizens.
- It aims to improve healthcare access and reduce the financial burden of hospitalisation.
- Implemented by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It targets approximately **6 crore senior citizens from 4.5 crore families**.

### Key Features

- All citizens aged **70 years and above** are eligible for health coverage of up to **₹5 lakh per family annually** for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation.
- Senior citizens from families already covered under AB PM-JAY receive an **additional top-up cover of up to ₹5 lakh**, exclusively for themselves.
- This additional coverage is separate from the existing family cover available to members below 70 years.

## Sankosh River

TT Telegraph India

**Bhutan GLOF impact: Dead fish float in Sankosh river in Alipurduar's Kumargram block**

Some of the dead fish recovered from the Sankosh river in Alipurduar's Kumargram on Saturday after Thursday night's GLOF in Bhutan.



**Why in News:** Following a glacial lake outburst in Bhutan, over 10,000 people were moved to shelters in West Bengal's Alipurduar district, and the Sankosh river system was placed on red alert.

## Origin and Course

- A major **transboundary river of Bhutan and India**, it is an important north-bank tributary of the Brahmaputra.
- It is known as **Puna Tsang Chu** in Bhutan.
- It originates in northern Bhutan and is formed by the confluence of the **Phochu** and **Mochu rivers**.
- It flows through Bhutan, enters India, passes through Assam's Dhubri district and joins the Brahmaputra at **Gauripur**.
- Its lower course forms part of the boundary between Assam and West Bengal.

## Key Geographical Features

- Total length: **321 km**, including 214 km in Bhutan and 107 km in India.
- It flows through narrow gorges and steep gradients in its upper course before entering flatter terrain in India.
- It is fed by Himalayan glacial melt and snow.

# Surangams




**Why in News:** Kerala plans to rejuvenate traditional underground water tunnels, known as ***Surangams***, in eight gram panchayats of Kasaragod district.

## Meaning and Distribution

- **Surangams**, also called **tunnel wells**, are traditional water-harvesting structures found mainly in Kasaragod (Kerala) and parts of Dakshina Kannada (Karnataka).
- They are also known as Surangas, Thurangams or Thorappu.
- Their origins are unclear, but they are often compared with Persia's **Qanat system**, associated with the ancient Silk Route.

## Construction and Working

- Horizontal tunnels are dug through **laterite hillocks**, allowing groundwater to seep into them.
- Water flows through the tunnels by gravity and is collected in a storage pit, without pumps or electric motors.
- Typical dimensions: 0.45–0.70 m width and 1.8–2 m height; tunnel length ranges from **3 m to 300 m**.

- Long tunnels have air shafts to maintain atmospheric pressure.
- They are constructed in areas with lateritic and weathered rock formations.

**Significance**

- Traditional workers used knowledge of slopes, soil, catchment areas, flora and fauna to identify water sources.
- More than **5,000** **Surangams** exist in Kasaragod district.
- The system supports sustainable water supply for households and agriculture.

## National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

News On AIR

Amit Shah Calls for 25-Year Roadmap for National Cooperative Development Corporation



Union Minister for Cooperation Amit Shah today said, cooperation is an effective means of connecting small farmers, livestock rearers,...

**Why in News:** The 93rd meeting of NCDC's General Council was held at its headquarters in New Delhi.

**Overview and Objectives**

- NCDC is a **statutory organisation established in 1963** under the Ministry of Cooperation.
- It promotes and strengthens farmer cooperatives to improve production, productivity and post-harvest infrastructure.

**Major Functions**

- **Provides assistance** for agricultural processing, storage, cold chains, marketing and supply of seeds, fertilisers and other inputs.
- **Offers financial assistance** through its own schemes and various Government of India schemes.
- **Supports income-generating cooperatives** in dairy, livestock, handloom, sericulture and other non-farm sectors.

**Important NCDC Initiatives**

- **Yuva Sahakar:** Encourages newly formed cooperatives with innovative ideas.
- **Ayushman Sahakar:** Supports cooperative initiatives in hospitals, healthcare, medical and nursing education, health insurance and AYUSH.
- **Nandini Sahakar:** Promotes women's entrepreneurship through women's cooperatives.

- **Dairy Sahakar:** Provides financial assistance for cooperative dairy businesses, including ESG-linked activities.
- **Swayam Sahakar:** Provides financial assistance to agricultural credit cooperatives for loans to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

## Gangetic River Dolphin

The New Indian Express

### UNEP honors India's Ganges Dolphin recovery and job creation program

India has also launched its Comprehensive Action Plan for 2022–2047, developed to guide long-term dolphin conservation.



**Why in News:** A UNEP report recognised India's Ganges River dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) species recovery programme.

### Distribution and Features

- A freshwater mammal and one of the few river dolphin species in the world.
- Also known as the **Blind Dolphin, Ganges Susu, Hihu and South Asian River Dolphin**.
- Found in the **Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems** of Nepal, India and Bangladesh.
- Recognised as India's **National Aquatic Animal**.
- It has a long, thin snout, rounded belly and stocky body. Its eyes lack lenses, earning it the name **"blind dolphin"**.
- It uses a highly developed **bio-sonar system** to locate prey in murky water and feeds mainly on freshwater fish and invertebrates.
- It must surface to breathe every **30–120 seconds**; its breathing sound gives it the name 'Susu'.

### Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered.
- **CITES:** Appendix I.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I.

### India's First Comprehensive River Dolphin Survey

- **Conducted by:** Wildlife Institute of India (WII) under Project Dolphin (2021–2023).
- **Total Population:** 6,327 dolphins (6,324 Gangetic and 3 Indus dolphins).
- **Basin-wise:** Ganga - 5,689; Brahmaputra - 635; Beas – 3.
- **State-wise:** UP - 2,397; Bihar - 2,220; West Bengal - 815; Assam - 635; Jharkhand - 162.
- **Highest-density hotspot:** Manihari–Rajmahal stretch (2.75 dolphins/km).
- **Low-density coldspot:** Narora–Kanpur stretch (0.1 dolphins/km).

## Sakurajima Volcano

Reuters Connect

Licensable video: Japan: Sakurajima Volcano Blasts Huge Ash Plume Into Sky, Stunning Man Filming From Kagoshima

Kagoshima, Japan - October 27, 2026 Japan's Sakurajima volcano blasted a thick plume of ash into a clear blue sky on Tuesday, October 27,...



**Why in News:** Japan's Sakurajima volcano recently released a thick plume of volcanic ash.

### Location and Geological Setting

- Located at the southern tip of **Kyushu Island**, near Kagoshima city in southern Japan.
- Situated in **Kagoshima Bay (Kinkowan Bay)**, on the southern edge of the Aira Caldera.
- It is one of Japan's most active volcanoes and lies along a **convergent plate boundary**.
- It is an **andesitic stratovolcano**, with high gas content and viscous magma.
- Elevation: approximately **1,117 metres**; circumference: around 50 km.

### Structure and Eruptions

- It has two principal peaks:
  - **Kitadake:** Older and currently inactive northern peak.
  - **Minamidake**: Younger and currently active southern peak.
- The volcano began forming around **13,000 years ago**.
- It was originally an island but became connected to mainland Japan after the major **1914 eruption**, which deposited volcanic material.
- Since 1955, it has reportedly erupted around **100–200 times annually**.
- Most eruptions are **Strombolian in nature** and mainly affect the summit.

## NCRTC Bags UMI 2026 Award for Best Passenger Services

NDTV

Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor Wins UMI 2026 Award For Best Passenger Services And Satisfaction

The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Namo Bharat corridor holds the distinction of being India's first operational Regional Rapid Transit System...



### Why in News

- The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** received the award for **Best Passenger Services and Satisfaction** for the Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat corridor at the **19th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Expo 2026**, held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

## Key Achievements

- The award was presented by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** to NCRTC Managing Director **Shalabh Goel**.
- NCRTC also received first prize in the **Best Exhibitor category** for the second consecutive year.

## Namo Bharat Corridor

- The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor is **India's first operational Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor**.
- **Length:** Approximately 82 km.
- It shares infrastructure with the **23-km Meerut Metro corridor**.
- Namo Bharat services were first launched in **October 2023** and are being introduced in phases.
- The trains can operate at speeds of up to **160 kmph**.
- The corridor aims to provide faster and more frequent connectivity between Delhi and major urban centres of the National Capital Region.

# Telangana to Host Raksha Expo 2026




## Why in News

- Telangana is set to host **Raksha Expo 2026**, described as India's first defence and aerospace expo organised by a state government.

## Key Features and Objectives

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** was invited to inaugurate the main expo.
- The programme will feature exhibitions, live technology demonstrations, drone shows and a planned air show on **9 December**.
- It aims to promote domestic manufacturing, technological innovation and investment in defence, aerospace, space and internal security sectors.

## Telangana's Aerospace Sector and Vision

- Telangana's aerospace manufacturing network has produced **400 Apache helicopter fuselages**.
- It serves as the global single source for the empennages of **C-130J Super Hercules** aircraft.
- The expo is linked to the state's **Telangana Rising 2047 vision**.
- The state aims to become a major economic and manufacturing hub and achieve a **$1 trillion economy by 2034**.

### India's Defence Production

- Defence production reached **₹1.78 lakh crore in 2025–26**.
- Defence exports reached **₹38,424 crore**.

## Other Important News of the day

### Places in News

### Mexico

**Why in News:** India and Mexico signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) to begin negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement.

**Location and Boundaries**



- Located in southern **North America**.
- Shares land borders with the **United States** in the north and Guatemala and Belize in the southeast.
- Bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the south and west, and the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea to the east.
- Capital: **Mexico City**.

**Major Geographical Features**

- Part of the **Circum-Pacific Ring of Fire** characterised by active volcanism and frequent earthquakes.
- **Major peninsulas:** **Baja California and Yucatán**.
- **Major rivers:** Rio Grande and Colorado (shared with the USA).
- **Important lakes:** Lake Chapala and Lake Cuitzeo.
- **Major mountain range:** **Sierra Madre**.
- **Important natural resources** include petroleum, natural gas, silver, copper, gold, lead, zinc and antimony.

## Environment

## Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

DH Deccan Herald

Eight poachers arrested from Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

Wildlife sanctuary: Eight poachers were arrested after opening fire at forest personnel in the Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary,...



**Why in News:** Karnataka Forest Department personnel arrested eight alleged poachers inside the sanctuary.

**Location and Significance**

- Located in **Karnataka**, it borders the Ranipuram and Kottencheri hills in Kerala's Kasaragod district.
- It is named after **Talacauvery**, the source of the Cauvery River, which originates from **Brahmagiri Peak** within the sanctuary.
- The term *Tala* means head, referring to the river's source.

**Vegetation and Biodiversity**

- Vegetation includes **Tropical Evergreen Forests, Tropical Semi-evergreen Forests and grasslands**.
- Important flora includes ***Michelia champaca*** (Champak), *Mesua* (Ironwood), *Diospyros* (Ebony), *Toona ciliata* (Indian Mahogany) and *Calophyllum angustifolium* (Poon Spar).
- Major fauna includes Asian Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, Wild Dog, Gaur and Sloth Bear.

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| | ➢ It is an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** and supports the Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Asian Fairy-bluebird, Malabar Trogon and Great Hornbill. |
| **Defence** | **INS Srishti** |

DW. Defence Watch

Goa Shipyard launches INS Srishti, strengthening India's indigenous naval shipbuilding

Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) launched INS Srishti (Yard 1283), a Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) built for the Indian Navy,...



**Why in News:** Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) launched INS Srishti, a Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), for the Indian Navy.

**Programme and Indigenous Development**

- INS Srishti (Yard 1283) is the **fourth NGOPV** built by GSL.
- The Navy ordered **11 vessels** under contracts signed on 30 March 2023.
- Seven vessels are being built by GSL and four by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**.
- The programme follows the **Buy (Indian-IDDM)** category, emphasising indigenous design, development and manufacturing.

**Operational Roles**

- Maritime surveillance and protection of offshore assets.
- Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).
- Anti-piracy operations and other multi-mission maritime tasks.

**Key Specifications of NGOPVs**

- Length: approximately **110 metres**; displacement: **3,000 tonnes**.
- Draught: less than 5 metres; maximum speed: **23 knots**.
- Endurance: **8,500 nautical miles** at a cruising speed of 14 knots.
- Can remain at sea for up to **60 days** and accommodate around 20 officers.

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| **Science and Technology** | ***Mollisia sokpayensia*** |

India Today NE

Manipur microbiologist leads discovery of new fungal species in rare Sikkim medicinal plant

A team of microbiologists led by Manipur scientist Dr Laishram Shantikumar Singh has discovered a novel fungal species associated with the...



**Why in News:** Microbiologists discovered a new fungal species named *Mollisia sokpayensia*.

### Discovery and Characteristics

- It is a **fungal endophyte** isolated from the rhizome of *Panax sokpayensis*, a rare medicinal plant of the Sikkim Himalaya.
- Its name is derived from its host plant.
- It was isolated using **Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA)**, a medium commonly used for fungal cultivation.
- It exhibits slow laboratory growth. At 28°C, colonies reached 2–3 cm after six days and around 8 cm after 14 days, changing from brown to blackish-brown.

### Fungal Endophytes

- These microorganisms inhabit the internal tissues of healthy plants without causing visible disease symptoms.
- Unlike epiphytic fungi, they live inside plant tissues.
- They are studied for their potential to produce **bioactive compounds** relevant to medicine, agriculture and biotechnology.

## Uttar Pradesh in News

### Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Approves Cow Purchase Subsidy

The New Indian Express

Uttra Pradesh Cabinet clears cow purchase subsidy, free chicks and cashless healthcare

Under the cow purchase scheme, the subsidy will be limited to two cows. For a cow costing Rs 50000, the government will provide Rs 25000.



### Why in News

- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, approved several proposals relating to livestock development, poultry farming, inland water transport and investment.

### Livestock and Poultry Initiatives

- **Cow Purchase Subsidy:** A subsidy of up to **50%** will be provided for purchasing cows from other states, subject to a maximum of two cows per beneficiary.
  - For a cow costing ₹50,000, the subsidy will be ₹25,000.
- **Free Chick Distribution:** Poor families will receive **100 chicks free of cost** to promote poultry farming and additional livelihood opportunities.
- **State Livestock Mission:** Approved to increase milk production, improve cattle breeds and enhance livestock farmers' income.
- **Cattle Insurance:** The government will bear **85% of the insurance premium**, while farmers will contribute the remaining 15%.

## Other Cabinet Decisions

- **Uttar Pradesh Inland Vessel Rules:** Approved to regulate inland water transport in the state.
  - An **Inland Water Authority** will be established, with the Transport Minister as its chairperson.
- **Investment Proposals:** Investment proposals worth over **₹1,700 crore** from four companies in Gautam Buddha Nagar were cleared under the **Uttar Pradesh Global Capability Centre Policy**.