

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

03-10-2026

Hemidactylus cairnicola and Hemidactylus koyaorum

 Telangana Today

Telangana gets two new gecko species from Nalgonda, Warangal

Scientists have discovered two new gecko species in Telangana, one in Nalgonda and another in Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary in Warangal.



Why in News

- Scientists recently discovered two new gecko species from **Telangana**, named **Hemidactylus cairnicola** and **Hemidactylus koyaorum**.

Species Characteristics

- **Hemidactylus cairnicola** is associated with traditional **stone cairns** and has heterogeneous granular scales mixed with enlarged keeled scales.
- It grows up to approximately **49 mm**, has distinctive coloration for camouflage among dark rocks, and is primarily **nocturnal**.
- **Hemidactylus koyaorum** was named in honour of the **Koya people**, an indigenous tribal community associated with forests and hills.
- It grows up to approximately **55.6 mm** and has mostly homogeneous scales without keeled scales.
- **H. koyaorum** has grey dorsal coloration with four prominent **white flower-like patterns** surrounded by darker margins.

Geographical Focus

- Both newly described gecko species were discovered in **Telangana**.
- The species exhibit adaptations suited to their respective rocky and dense-ground-cover habitats.

Hebbal Lake

 The New Indian Express

BDA: No harm to Hebbal Lake, 1,072 trees to be shifted

BDA says IIT Bombay study finds elevated corridor and underpass can work together to ease traffic as complementary solutions. Man washing...



Why in News

- The **Bangalore Development Authority (BDA)** is set to begin work on a **2.28-km tunnel project** amid concerns regarding its impact on **Hebbal Lake** and more than 1,000 trees in the lake's tank bed and surroundings.

Geographical and Historical Profile

- **Hebbal Lake** is a **man-made lake** located in northern **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- It covers approximately **150 acres** and is among Bengaluru's oldest and ecologically important urban waterbodies.
- The lake was created by **Kempe Gowda**, founder of Bangalore, in **1537**.
- It was formed by **damming natural valley systems through bund construction**.



Ecological Significance

- Hebbal Lake is a **seasonal lake** that generally dries during summer and regains water during the monsoon.
- It supports several resident and **migratory bird species**, including **Baillon's Crake, Crested Serpent Eagle, River Tern, Spot-billed Pelican, Eurasian Spoonbill, Shoveller, Pintail, Little Grebe and Coot**.
- Restoration measures included the creation of **two artificial islands** to promote a sustainable ecosystem.

Himalayan Tahr

TNIE The New Indian Express

[Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary to restrict human activity to save Himalayan tahr](#)

Food offered by people and waste left in the sanctuary are drawing tahrs away from their natural habitat towards roads and settlements.



Why in News

- The **Kedarnath Wildlife Division** is preparing to restrict human activity in high-altitude meadows and remove rubbish after visitors and local residents were found feeding **Himalayan tahrs**.

Biological Profile

- The **Himalayan Tahr** is a large, wild, goat-like mammal with the scientific name ***Hemitragus jemlahicus***.
- It is mainly found on Himalayan slopes at elevations of approximately **2,500–5,000 metres**.
- It occurs across **southern Tibet, northern India, western Bhutan and Nepal**.
- In India, its distribution includes **Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim**.

Distinctive Adaptations

- Himalayan tahrs are **sexually dimorphic**, with females being smaller and having smaller horns.
- Male horns can grow up to approximately **46 cm** and curve backwards.
- Their dense, woolly, reddish-to-dark-brown double coat provides insulation against the harsh Himalayan climate.
- They are **gregarious animals** and may form separate male and female herds containing up to about **80 individuals**.

Conservation Status

- The species is classified as **Near Threatened** on the **IUCN Red List**.

Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary**, also called the **Kedarnath Musk Deer Sanctuary**, lies in **Rudraprayag and Chamoli districts of Uttarakhand**.
- It was established in **1972** and covers approximately **975.20 sq km**.
- The sanctuary lies in the **West Himalayan Zone of the Palearctic realm** and encompasses the upper catchments of the **Alaknanda and Mandakini Rivers**.
- Its altitude ranges from approximately **1,160 to 7,068 metres**, with **temperate, sub-alpine and alpine vegetation**.

Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme

 News On AIR

Government extends RoDTEP scheme upto 31st December 2026

The government has extended the continuation of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme up to 31st December...



Why in News

- The **Department of Commerce** recently extended the continuation of the **RoDTEP Scheme** up to **31 December 2026**.

Policy Framework

- **RoDTEP** was introduced through an amendment to the **Foreign Trade Policy 2015–20** and became effective for exports from **1 January 2021**.
- It aims to remit embedded **Central, State and local duties, taxes and levies** that are not otherwise credited, reimbursed or refunded.

- The scheme replaced the **Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS)** and is designed to remain compliant with **WTO norms**.
- It is implemented through an **end-to-end digital platform** to improve transparency and efficiency.

Coverage and Eligibility

- **Manufacturer exporters and merchant exporters** are eligible under the scheme.
- **Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units and Export Oriented Units (EOUs)** are also covered.
- Exported products must have **India as their country of origin** to qualify for benefits.
- Goods exported through **courier and e-commerce platforms** are also covered, while **re-exported products are not eligible**.

Institutional Framework

- The scheme is administered by the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**.



Dnipro River

Why in News

- Russian drone strikes recently damaged key bridges across the **Dnipro River** in Kyiv.

Geographical Profile

- The **Dnipro (Dnieper) River** is a major **transboundary river of Europe** and the longest river in **Ukraine**.
- It is described in the source as the **fourth-longest river in Europe**, after the **Volga, Danube and Ural**.
- It originates in Russia's **Valday Hills**, approximately 240 km west of Moscow.
- The river flows through **Russia, Belarus and Ukraine** before entering the **Black Sea**.

- Its mouth forms the **Dnieper Liman**, a swampy delta on a long inlet of the Black Sea.

Economic and Strategic Significance

- The Dnipro historically divided Ukraine into its **right-bank and left-bank** regions.
- It is an important **navigable waterway** for Ukraine and is connected to other European waterways through the **Dnieper–Bug Canal**.
- Major urban centres along its course include **Smolensk, Dorogobuzh, Mogilev, Kyiv, Cherkasy, Dnipro and Zaporizhia**.



Hydrological Facts

- The river has numerous tributaries, including the **Sozh, Desna, Trubizh, Bilozerka, Drut, Berezina and Prypiat**.
- Its total length is approximately **2,200 km**, with stretches flowing through **Russia, Belarus and Ukraine**.

RELIEF Scheme

DD News

Govt launches 'RELIEF' Scheme to support exporters amid West Asia logistics disruptions

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry said the RELIEF initiative is a time-bound and targeted measure aimed at mitigating the impact of rising...



Why in News

- The government has extended the operational timeline of a component of the **RELIEF Scheme** to strengthen insurance protection for Indian exporters facing elevated freight, insurance and war-related risks.

Institutional Framework

- **RELIEF** stands for **Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation**.
- The scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** under the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)**.



- The **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)** is the nodal implementing agency.

Risk Mitigation Measures

- Exporters with existing **ECGC insurance** can receive up to **100% risk coverage** for eligible consignments shipped between **14 February and 15 March 2026** without additional cost.
- Shipments planned between **16 March and 15 June 2026** can receive up to **95% risk coverage** with government support.
- Eligible **MSMEs without ECGC cover** can receive partial reimbursement of up to **50% of increased freight and insurance costs**, subject to a ceiling of **₹50 lakh per exporter**.

Geographical Coverage

- The scheme covers shipments involving countries including the **UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Israel and Yemen**.
- It specifically addresses higher **logistics costs, insurance premiums and war-related risks** affecting export consignments moving to or through the **Gulf region**.

Ujani Dam

TOI The Times of India

[DNA study involving Ujani dam finds seven different groups of freshwater garfish currently classified as](#)

DNA study of freshwater garfish in Maharashtra's Ujani reservoir found seven distinct genetic groups within *Xenentodon cancila*,...



Why in News

- A community-driven project in **Solapur and Pune, Maharashtra**, seeks to remove invasive fish species from the **Ujani Dam catchment** and reintroduce native varieties.

Geographical and Structural Profile

- **Ujani Dam**, also called **Bhima Dam** or **Bhima Irrigation Project**, is located near **Ujjani village in Solapur district, Maharashtra**.
- It is built across the **Bhima River**, a tributary of the **Krishna River**.
- It is the **terminal dam on the Bhima River** and the largest dam in the **Bhima Valley**.
- The structure is an **earth-fill cum masonry gravity dam**.

Engineering and Utility

- The dam was constructed between **1977 and 1980** primarily for **irrigation and hydroelectric power generation**.

- It has a total length of approximately **2,534 metres** and a height of **63 metres**.
- The central spillway portion is approximately **602 metres** long and is founded on **basaltic rock formations**.
- Its power generation capacity is approximately **12 MW**.

Environmental Concerns

- The Ujani reservoir faces significant **water pollution**, with pollutants entering from Pune and other settlements located along the Bhima River and its tributaries.
- The recent initiative focuses on controlling **invasive fish species** and restoring native aquatic biodiversity.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Netherlands

DH Deccan Herald

'Dutch expertise in tech & India's agri market': India, Netherlands natural partners in agriculture, says Silvio Erkens



Indo-Dutch agriculture: Silvio Erkens highlights how Dutch drought-resistant seeds, smart drip irrigation and technology can help Indian...

Why in News

- The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently held bilateral discussions with the Netherlands' Minister for **Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature**.

Geographical Profile

- The **Netherlands** is located in **Northwestern Europe** and borders **Germany** to the east and **Belgium** to the south.
- It is bounded by the **North Sea** to the north and west.
- **Amsterdam** is the capital city.

Physical Geography

- The country has a **temperate climate**, characterised by relatively mild winters, cool summers and rainfall throughout the year.



	➤ Its major geographical regions include the Lowlands, Veluwe and Utrecht Hill Ridge, and Limburg Hills. ➤ Vaalserberg, at approximately 1,058 feet, is the country's highest point. Water Resources and Economy ➤ IJsselmeer is the largest freshwater lake mentioned in the source. ➤ Major rivers include the Rhine, Meuse (Maas) and Scheldt. ➤ The Netherlands possesses significant natural gas resources, along with resources such as zinc and magnesium.
Person in News	Neeru Dhanda – Asian Games Shooting Gold  News On AIR <u>Neeru Dhanda becomes first Indian shooter to win Asian Games gold in women's trap</u> In the Asian Games 2026, Neeru Dhanda has made history by becoming the first Indian shooter to win a gold medal in the women's trap...  Why in News ➤ Indian shooter Neeru Dhanda won the women's individual trap gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, becoming the first Indian woman to achieve this feat. Historic Sporting Achievement ➤ Neeru Dhanda became the first Indian woman to win an individual Asian Games gold medal in women's trap. ➤ She scored 28 hits in the final, establishing a new Asian record by surpassing the previous mark of 24. ➤ She had earlier helped India win silver in the women's trap team event along with Aashima Ahlawat and Manisha Keer. Performance and International Milestones ➤ Dhanda topped the individual qualification round with 118/125. ➤ Earlier in 2026, she became the first Indian woman to win an individual ISSF World Cup gold in women's trap at Lonato, Italy. ➤ The Indian women's trap team scored 328 points in the team event and finished behind China and ahead of Kuwait. Background and Institutional Linkage ➤ Neeru Dhanda is from Jind, Haryana, and was inspired to take up shooting by her cousin Lakshay Sheoran. ➤ She serves as a Naib Subedar in the Corps of Military Police.

Defence	FP-7 Missile  Defense News  <u>Ukraine deploys FP-7 tactical ballistic missile in combat for first time, Zelenskyy says</u> Ukraine has deployed its FP-7 tactical ballistic missile in combat for the first time, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday. Why in News ➤ Ukraine has reportedly deployed its FP-7 tactical ballistic missile in combat for the first time. Defence Technology ➤ The FP-7, nicknamed Pelican, is a ground-launched tactical ballistic missile developed by Ukrainian defence company Fire Point. ➤ It is designed primarily for shorter-range strikes against logistics hubs, air-defence sites and drone bases. ➤ The missile uses a solid-fuel rocket motor and has a reported range of around 200 km. ➤ It has a reported speed of approximately 1,500 m/s, a 150-kg payload and a maximum flight duration of about 250 seconds. ➤ Its reported Circular Error Probability (CEP) is approximately 14 metres. Strategic Linkages ➤ The FP-7 is reportedly being reworked for use in air-defence systems. ➤ It forms part of Freyja, described in the source as Europe's first common anti-ballistic system project.
Science and Technology	TAPAS-1  The Indian Express  <u>Riding Elon Musk's Falcon 9 to space, how a Made-in-Gujarat satellite will help India</u> Ahmedabad-based space technology startup Satleo Labs has developed India's first private thermal payload for commercial use. Why in News ➤ India's first dedicated commercial CubeSat-category thermal-imaging payload, TAPAS-1, was recently deployed into orbit by SpaceX's Falcon 9.

	Technology and Key Features ➤ TAPAS stands for Thermal Access Platform for Analytics & Solutions and was developed by Ahmedabad-based startup Satleo Labs. ➤ It uses Long-Wave Infrared (LWIR) sensing to detect heat and temperature variations that are not visible in conventional optical imagery. ➤ The payload was placed in an orbit approximately 500 km above Earth and weighs 1.5 kg. ➤ CubeSat-category payloads belong to the class of cubical nanosatellites that typically measure 10 cm × 10 cm × 10 cm. Applications ➤ Agriculture: TAPAS-1 can monitor agricultural stress and water stress. ➤ Disaster Management: Its thermal imagery can assist in detecting and monitoring events such as forest fires. ➤ Urban Planning: Real-time temperature mapping can help authorities address urban heat stress.
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Uttar Pradesh in News

Aligarh Lock Museum

 The Times of India

Aligarh to get 'India's first' lock museum; Rs 10cr released for Rs 37cr project

Agra: Aligarh is set to get what officials described as India's first lock museum, with UP govt approving the nearly Rs 37 crore project and...



Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** has approved a nearly **₹37 crore** project for an **India's first lock museum** in **Aligarh** and released around **₹10 crore** as the first instalment.

Industrial and Cultural Significance

- The museum will showcase the evolution of **locking systems from the Vedic era to modern digital and cyber-locking technologies**.

- It will document Aligarh's transition from traditional lock-making to **modern manufacturing**.
- The facility is intended to function as both a **tourist attraction and an industrial showcase** for local manufacturers.

Aligarh and ODOP

- **Locks and hardware** are designated as Aligarh's product under Uttar Pradesh's **One District One Product (ODOP)** programme.
- The sector supports a network of **manufacturers, artisans and traders** and supplies both domestic and international markets.
- The organised lock industry in Aligarh dates back more than a century, with **Johnson & Co.** established in **1870** and beginning small-scale production in **1890**.

Project Components

- The museum will contain galleries covering the **history and development of locking systems** and different types of traditional and modern locks.
- Planned facilities include **souvenir shops, children's play area, cafeterias, auditorium, workshops and function halls**.
- **Jewar Airport and upcoming expressway projects** are expected to improve connectivity for tourists and industrial visitors.