SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

05-11-2026

Gomarda Wildlife Sanctuary – Reintroduction of Blackbucks

The Indian Express

Knowledge Nugget | Blackbucks set to return to Gomarda, Chattisgarh: Why the species matters

Chhattisgarh plans to reintroduce blackbucks in Gomarda Wildlife Sanctuary. Explore blackbuck features, conservation, translocation.



Why in News

- Chhattisgarh plans to reintroduce **50 blackbucks** into Gomarda Wildlife Sanctuary after a gap of more than five decades.



Location and Features

- It is located in **Sarangarh Tehsil, Raigarh district, Chhattisgarh**.
- It was notified in **1975** and covers approximately **278 sq. km**.
- The **Laat and Manai rivers** flow through its core area and provide water during dry summers.
- Its terrain is gently undulating, with boulders and rocky areas.

Flora and Fauna

- The sanctuary has **Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests**, open grasslands and bamboo patches.
- Major vegetation includes **Sal, Bija, Tendu and bamboo**.
- Important fauna includes tiger, leopard, wild buffalo, sambar, chinkara, gaur, sloth bear, dhole and barking deer.
- Important birds include jungle fowl, hill myna, green pigeon, quail and storks.

Blackbuck – Key Facts

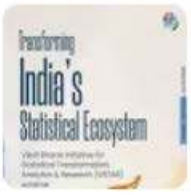
- **Scientific Name:** *Antilope cervicapra*; it belongs to the fa mily **Bovidae** and is the sole living member of genus *Antilope*.
- It is native to the Indian subcontinent, with approximately **90% of its population in India**.
- It inhabits open grasslands, scrublands, bushlands and dry thorn habitats.
- Males have dark coats and spiral horns, while females are generally lighter and usually hornless.
- It is a fast runner with excellent eyesight and generally lives in herds of **5–50 animals**.
- It is the state animal of **Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh**.
- **IUCN Status:** Least Concern.

VISTAR Scheme – Modernisation of India's Statistical System

News On AIR

Cabinet approves over Rs 4,371-crore VISTAR scheme to modernise India's statistical system

Cabinet today approved the 'Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research, VISTAR Scheme for 2026-27 to...



Why in News

- The Union Cabinet approved the **Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research (VISTAR)** Scheme.

Objective and Duration



- VISTAR aims to develop a **dynamic, real-time and future-ready official statistical system**.
- It focuses on timely data generation, greater data granularity, interoperability and AI-ready datasets.
- **Duration:** FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31.

Three Major Components

- **Comprehensive Statistical Operations and Ecosystem Strengthening:** MoSPI plans to conduct **59 surveys** during the 16th Finance Commission cycle, compared with 43 major surveys previously, while integrating digitalisation, AI and machine learning.
- It also proposes new indicators, including the **Headline Index of Services Production** and the **Index of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises**.
- **Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS):** The Centre will provide funds to States and UTs through a deliverable-linked framework to improve statistical capacity and generate granular district-level data.
- It will support district and **million-plus city estimates** through surveys such as the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), and Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE)**, along with State/District Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and State-level Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- **Economic Census:** MoSPI will conduct the **8th Economic Census** with States and UTs to collect information on non-farm establishments and workers up to gram panchayat and ward levels.

Viability Gap Funding Scheme for Grid-Scale Energy Storage

The Hindu

Union Cabinet approves ₹14,500 crore VGF scheme to develop large scale energy storage in India

The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹14,500 crore Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for the development of grid-scale energy storage systems...



Why in News

- The Union Cabinet approved a **₹14,500 crore Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme** to support the development of **92 GWh** of grid-scale energy storage capacity.

Objectives and Capacity

- The scheme aims to strengthen India's domestic energy storage ecosystem, reduce import dependence and support renewable energy integration.
- The proposed capacity includes:
  - **60 GWh:** Hydro Pumped Storage Plants (PSP).
  - **30 GWh:** Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).
  - **2 GWh:** Alternative energy storage technologies.
- **Duration:** FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31.

Significance

- It will improve the financial viability of energy storage projects and support reliable, affordable and round-the-clock electricity.
- It will encourage domestic battery manufacturing, reduce dependence on imported components and strengthen energy security.

Key Features

- Capacity will be allocated through **tariff-based competitive bidding**.
- Public and private sector electricity distribution companies will be eligible for VGF support for BESS and hydro PSP projects.
- Alternative storage technology projects may be implemented by public and private sector entities.
- BESS projects will have a minimum **40% Domestic Content Requirement (DCR)**.

Network Anubhav Platform – TRAI

Why in News

- The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** launched the Network

DD India

TRAI launches Network Anubhav platform to map network performance, offer online DND services

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Wednesday launched Network Anubhav, a geospatial and analytical platform that allows...



Anubhav Platform to help consumers assess network quality and access Do Not Disturb services.

About the Platform

- It is a **geospatial dashboard** that displays location-specific telecom network test results through a web interface.
- It combines consumer-generated test data with TRAI's independent drive-test results.
- Consumer data is sourced from TRAI's **MySpeed and MyCall apps**.

Key Features

- It enables consumers to compare network performance across locations and helps telecom operators identify areas requiring improvement.
- It provides information on network parameters, including median speeds and speed indicators based on 80% of mobile broadband tests and 90% of fixed broadband tests.
- It provides web access to **Do Not Disturb (DND)** services for registering preferences, filing complaints against unsolicited commercial communications and tracking complaint status.

Prakasam Barrage – Krishna River

The Times of India

Cyclone Murasu swells Krishna River, Prakasam Barrage releases surplus water

Cyclone Murasu rain swells Krishna River; Prakasam Barrage releases 71000 cusecs surplus as NTR district monitors floods and prepares for...



Why in News

- All **70 gates** of the Prakasam Barrage were opened following heavy rainfall associated with Cyclone Murasu in the Krishna basin.

Location and Construction

- Prakasam Barrage is a regulator and road bridge located at the southern entrance of **Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh**, across the **Krishna River**.
- It was constructed between **1954 and 1957** and inaugurated on **24 December 1957**.
- It replaced the old Krishna Anicut, constructed by **Sir Arthur Cotton between 1852 and 1855**, which suffered a major breach during the 1952 floods.
- It is named after **Tanguturi Prakasam**, the first Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Functions and Features

- It supports irrigation of nearly **one million hectares** in the Krishna Delta.

- It also supplies water to the **Buckingham Canal** and contributes to flood management.
- **Bhavani Island** is situated in the backwaters of the barrage.

India VIX – The Market's Fear Index

Moneycontrol.com

Midcap, smallcap stocks plunge up to 18% despite Sensex, Nifty gains; India VIX jumps 9%, market breadth...

Stock market today: Indian midcap and smallcap stocks witnessed heavy selling on Friday even as benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty defied a...

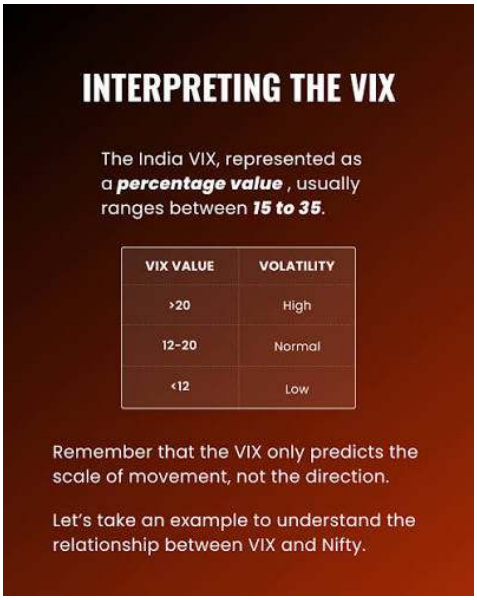


Why in News

- India VIX remained around 15 points despite a continued rise in stock markets, indicating persistent investor uncertainty.

About India VIX

- **India Volatility Index (India VIX)** measures the market's expectation of volatility over the next **30 days**.
- It was introduced by the **National Stock Exchange (NSE) in 2003** and is also known as the **Fear Index**.
- Unlike NIFTY, which tracks equity market performance, India VIX measures expected market volatility.



Calculation and Interpretation

- It is derived from the order book of **NIFTY options contracts** using the **Black-Scholes model**.
- Its calculation considers strike price, market price, time to expiry, risk-free interest rate and expected volatility.
- A higher VIX indicates greater expected volatility and uncertainty, while a lower VIX indicates relatively stable market expectations.

Significance

- It helps investors assess market risk, manage portfolios and make decisions in options trading.
- India VIX generally exhibits a **negative correlation with NIFTY**: rising volatility is often associated with falling market confidence.
- However, it measures expected volatility, not the direction of future stock prices.

Golden Jackal – Conservation Initiative in Tamil Nadu

The Hindu

Tamil Nadu takes baby steps towards conservation of Bengal fox, golden jackal

Tamil Nadu approves ₹1.3 crore for Bengal fox and golden jackal conservation, outlining threats, habitats, and long-term protection plans.



Why in News

- Tamil Nadu is undertaking conservation measures for the golden jackal, including a proposed **student ambassadors scheme**.

Habitat and Distribution

- The golden jackal, also called the **common jackal or reed wolf**, is a medium-sized wolf-like canid.
- It occurs across North and East Africa, Southeastern Europe and South Asia, extending to Burma.
- In India, it is widely distributed from the Himalayan foothills to the Western Ghats.
- It commonly inhabits valleys, riverbanks, canals, lakes and seashores.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern.
- **CITES:** Appendix III.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I, as stated in the supplied source.

Behaviour and Diet

- It is **generally nocturnal** in human-inhabited areas but may be partly diurnal elsewhere.
- It shelters in burrows, rock crevices and abandoned animal dens.
- It is **monogamous** and generally lives in mated pairs.
- It is an **omnivore** and an opportunistic feeder.

Other Important News of the day

Environment

Disporum kamakhasiense – New Flowering Plant

The Times of India

New Flowering Plant Species Discovered in Assam and Meghalaya

New flowering plant Disporum kamakhasiense discovered in Assam and Meghalaya; found at three sites, with habitat threats prompting calls for...



Why in News

- A new flowering plant species, *Disporum kamakhasiense*, has been discovered in the forests of **Assam and Meghalaya**.

Habitat and Distribution

- It has been recorded at **Garbhanga Reserve Forest (Assam), Laisong in Dima Hasao district and Barapani (Meghalaya)**.
- It grows in semi-evergreen forests at elevations of approximately **200–1,100 metres**, particularly on cliffs beneath bamboo forests.
- Its name refers to **Kamrupa**, the ancient name for Assam, and the **Khasi Hills** of Meghalaya.

Characteristics

- It is a perennial herb belonging to the family **Colchicaceae**.
- The plant can grow up to **180 cm**, compared with around 100 cm for its close relative *Disporum calcaratum*.
- It has branched stems, glossy dark-green leaves with **seven prominent parallel veins**, and white star-shaped flowers with straight spurs.
- It flowers during **June–July** and is expected to bear fruit during **July–August**.
- Its distinguishing features include longer flower stalks and shorter, thicker stamens.

Defence

INS Brahmaputra – Court-Martial Proceedings

The Hindu

Two Navy officers face court martial over 2024 INS Brahmaputra mishap



The Indian Navy has initiated court martial proceedings against two officers for alleged negligence that led to the partial capsizing of...

Why in News

- The Indian Navy initiated court-martial proceedings against two officers over alleged negligence linked to the partial capsizing of **INS Brahmaputra** at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, in July 2024.

About INS Brahmaputra

- **INS Brahmaputra (F31)** is the first indigenously built guided-missile frigate of the **Brahmaputra class**.
- It was built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata**, and commissioned on **14 April 2000**.
- It performs coastal and offshore patrolling, sea-route monitoring, maritime diplomacy, counter-terrorism and anti-piracy operations.

Technical Features

- It has a displacement of approximately **5,300 tonnes**, a length of 125 metres and a width of 14.4 metres.
- It is powered by two steam turbines generating 30,000 hp and can achieve speeds exceeding **27 knots**.
- Its weapons include guns, anti-aircraft systems, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, and torpedo launchers.
- It is equipped with maritime warfare sensors and can operate **Sea King and Chetak helicopters**.
- Its crew comprises approximately **40 officers and 330 sailors**.

Science and Technology

Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory – Re-entry into Earth's Atmosphere

NASA Science (.gov)

NASA's Swift Observatory Re-Entered Atmosphere

NASA's Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory re-entered Earth's atmosphere Wednesday, almost 22 years after launch. At launch, Swift was a...



Why in News

- NASA reported that the **Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory**, after approximately 22 years in orbit, re-entered Earth's atmosphere and burned up over Indonesia.

About the Observatory

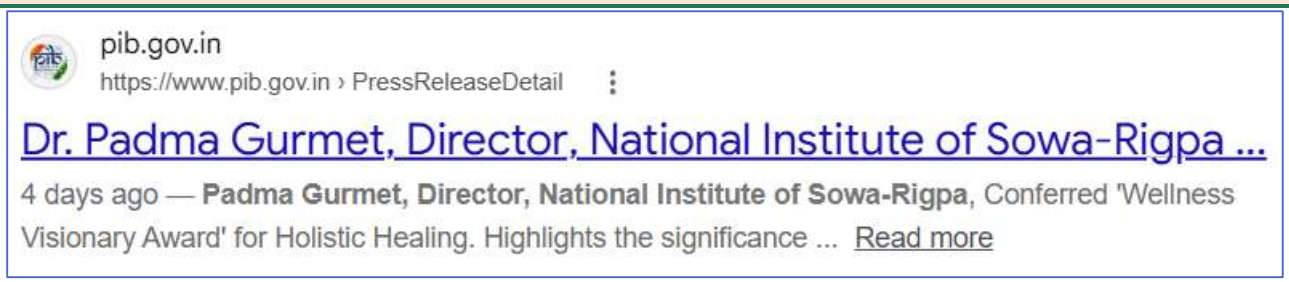
- It was launched by **NASA in 2004** aboard a Delta 7320 rocket into low-Earth orbit.
- It is part of NASA's **Medium Explorer (MIDEX) programme**.
- Its primary objective was to study **Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs)**, among the most powerful explosions in the universe.

Objectives

- It aimed to determine the origin and evolution of gamma-ray bursts.
- It sought to classify GRBs, identify new types and use them to study the early universe.
- It also aimed to conduct a sensitive hard X-ray survey of the sky.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Dr. Padma Gurmet Receives 'Wellness Visionary Award'


pib.gov.in
https://www.pib.gov.in › PressReleaseDetail
Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director, National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa ...
4 days ago — **Padma Gurmet, Director, National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa**, Conferred 'Wellness Visionary Award' for Holistic Healing. Highlights the significance ... Read more

Why in News?

Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director of the **National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR), Leh**, received the **Wellness Visionary Award for Holistic Healing** from CSJMU, Kanpur, during the 3rd International Conference on Wellness (30 October–1 November 2026).

Key Points

- **Sowa-Rigpa – Science of Healing**
  - It is an ancient Himalayan medical system practised in **Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim**, as well as neighbouring countries.
  - It follows a holistic approach linking body, mind and environment.
- **Fundamental Principles**
  - It is based on five elements: **Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Space**.
  - Health depends on the balance of three humours:
    - **Lung:** Wind and movement.
    - **Tripa:** Bile and heat.
    - **Beken:** Phlegm and bodily stability.
  - Balance is maintained through diet, lifestyle, medicines and therapies.
- **National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR)**
  - Located in **Leh, Ladakh**, under the **Ministry of AYUSH**.
  - Promotes, preserves and researches Sowa-Rigpa through documentation, education and training.
- **3rd International Conference on Wellness**
  - Held at **CSJMU, Kanpur**, and inaugurated by **Satish Mahana**, Speaker of the UP Legislative Assembly.
- **Legal Framework**
  - Sowa-Rigpa is among the traditional systems of medicine recognised under India's AYUSH framework.
  - The **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020** provides its statutory regulatory framework.