



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 03-10-2025

GS-1

1. Ichamati River

GS-2

2. Exercise Drone Kavach
3. National Pulses Mission

GS-3

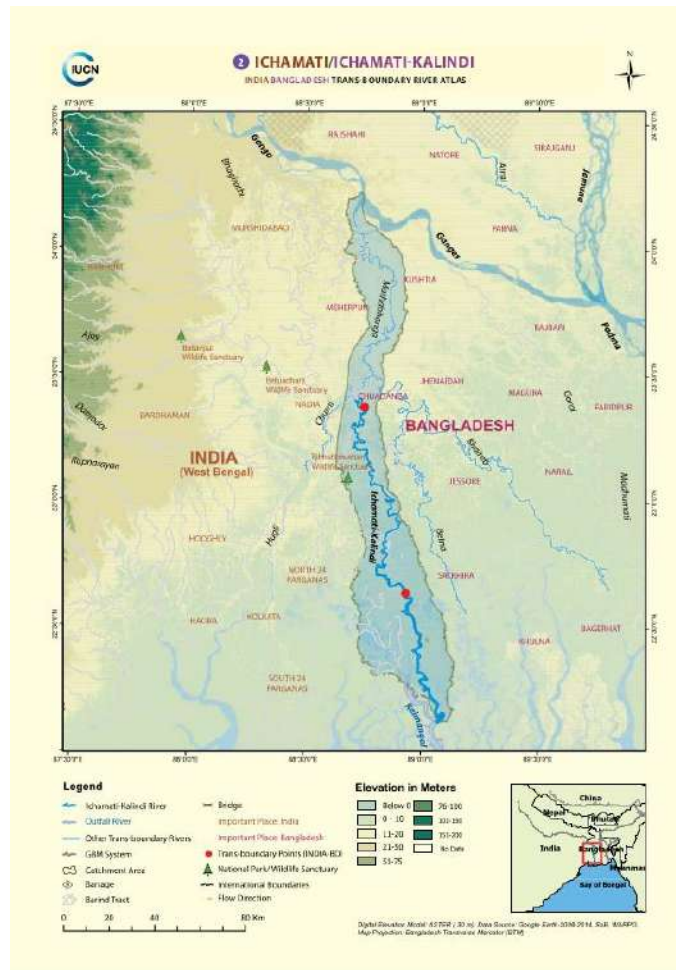
4. Syphilis
5. Yellow-tailed Ashy Skimmer

Ichamati River

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography- Rivers

Context

- As the Durga Puja immersions commenced on the Ichamati river, a heightened security presence was initiated on the India–Bangladesh border.



About Ichamati River

- **Type:** Trans-boundary river flowing through India and Bangladesh.
- **Boundary Role:** Forms part of the India–Bangladesh international border.
- **Origin:** One of the bifurcations of the Mathabhanga River (a distributary of the Padma), at Mahjdia village, Nadia district, West Bengal.
- **Course in India:** Flows through Nadia and North 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal.

- **Course in Bangladesh:** Enters Satkhira and Khulna districts.
- **Length:** Around 216 km before joining the Kalindi River at Hasnabad (North 24 Parganas) and eventually outfalling into the Bay of Bengal near Moore Island.
- **Special Feature:** Forms a large oxbow lake complex in North 24 Parganas near Bangaon.
- **Issues:**
 - Siltation leading to thin flow in the dry season.
 - Monsoon floods due to blocked channels.

Exercise Drone Kavach

Syllabus: GS-2; International Relations

Context

- The **Spear Corps** under the **Eastern Command of the Indian Army** recently conducted **Exercise Drone Kavach** in the forward areas of **Eastern Arunachal Pradesh**.



About Exercise Drone Kavach

- **Conducted by:** Indian Army's **Spear Corps**, Eastern Command.
- **Location:** Forward areas of **Eastern Arunachal Pradesh**.

Objectives

- To showcase the Army's **combat readiness for next-generation drone warfare**.
- To validate **state-of-the-art drone technologies** in real-time battlefield scenarios.
- To rehearse **tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs)** for:
 - **Target acquisition**
 - **Counter-drone measures** (active & passive)
 - **Target neutralisation** with assured success

Participation

- Along with the Army, personnel from **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** deployed in forward areas also took part.

Key Features

- Conducted **tactical manoeuvres and simulated combat situations** to validate preparedness for **multi-domain, technology-infused battlefield scenarios**.
- Tested **newly raised structures at unit level** to develop **TTPs in line with overall operational philosophy**.

Significance:

- Strengthens **border security preparedness** in Arunachal Pradesh (sensitive China border).
- Enhances **jointness** between Army and ITBP.
- Prepares forces for **future warfare involving drones and counter-drone systems**.

National Pulses Mission

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions, GS-3; Agriculture

Context

- The Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development recently announced that the Cabinet has approved the 'National Pulses Mission' and simultaneously increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for rabi crops.



About National Pulses Mission

- The "Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses" is a six-year central scheme aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in pulses production, with a financial outlay of ₹11,440 crore.
- It will be implemented during the period 2025-26 to 2030-31.

National Pulses Mission Features

- Target to increase pulses production to **350 lakh tonnes by 2030-32** from **242 lakh tonnes in 2023-24**.
- Expand area under pulses cultivation to **310 lakh hectares** from **242 lakh hectares**.
- Yield improvement target: **1,130 kg/ha** from the present **881 kg/ha**.
- Implementation through a **cluster-based approach** across **416 focused districts**.
- About **1,000 new packaging and processing units** will be set up, with a **maximum subsidy of ₹25 lakh** for each.
- Emphasis on **high-yield, pest-resistant, climate-resilient varieties**.
- **Multi-location trials** in major pulse-growing states to ensure regional suitability.
- Distribution of **126 lakh quintals of certified seeds** to cover **370 lakh hectares** by 2030-31.
- States to prepare **five-year rolling seed production plans** with breeder seed production supervised by ICAR.
- Foundation and certified seed production tracked through the **SATHI (Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory) portal**.

- **88 lakh seed kits** to be distributed free of cost to support expansion by **35 lakh hectares**, especially in **rice fallow areas** and for **intercropping/crop diversification**.
- Focus crops: **tur, urad, and masur**.
- Assured procurement of **tur, urad, and masur** under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** of PM-AASHA.
- **NAFED and NCCF** to undertake **100% procurement** in participating states for the next four years for farmers registered with these agencies.

Syphilis

Syllabus: GS-3: General Science – diseases.

Context:

- Recent U.S. government data (2024) shows overall adult sexually transmitted disease (STD) rates declining, but **syphilis in newborns (congenital syphilis)** is still rising.

About Syphilis

- **Type:** Preventable and curable **bacterial STI**.
- **Causative agent:** *Treponema pallidum* (a spirochete bacterium).
- **Course:** Can remain latent for years; may reactivate if untreated.
- **Impact if untreated:** Can damage **heart, brain, or other organs**; life-threatening in severe cases.

Transmission

- Through **sexual contact** (touch with sore/rash).
- **Mother-to-child** during pregnancy/childbirth (congenital syphilis).
- Rarely via **breastfeeding**.

Symptoms

- **Primary stage:** Painless sore (genitals, rectum, mouth).
- **Secondary stage:** Non-itchy rash (often hands and feet), swollen lymph nodes.
- **Latent stage:** No symptoms, may last years.
- **Tertiary stage:** Severe organ damage (heart, brain, nervous system).
- In **pregnancy:** untreated/late/incorrect treatment → **50-80% adverse birth outcomes** (miscarriage, stillbirth, prematurity).

Treatment

- **Antibiotics** – Penicillin (most common).
- Highly effective in **early stages**.

Yellow-tailed Ashy Skimmer

Syllabus: GS-3: Biodiversity - Insects

Context:

- Recorded for the **first time in Delhi** during a dragonfly survey at **Yamuna Biodiversity Park**.

About Yellow-tailed Ashy Skimmer

- **Scientific Name:** *Potamarcha congener*
- **Family:** Libellulidae (dragonflies).
- **Common Names:** Common chaser, Swampwatcher.
- **Genus:** *Potamarcha* (only 2 species – *P. congener* and *P. puella*).



Distribution

- Widespread in **South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania**.
- Countries: India, Indonesia, China, Australia, Vietnam, etc.

Key Features

- **Size:** Medium.
- **Coloration:**
 - Body bluish-black near head.
 - Tail yellow with black markings.
 - Face: Yellowish-green → dark brown.
 - Eyes: Reddish-brown (top), bluish-grey (bottom).
- **Sexual Dimorphism:**
 - **Males:** Bluish powder-like coating on thorax & upper abdomen.
 - **Females:** Yellow-black striped sides; black abdomen with dull orange marks.
- **Special Ability:** Can fly backward, rare among insects.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** *Least Concern*.