

## Current Affairs of the Day

### *Kushinagar is now the hub of the Buddhist tourist circuit*

1. Prime Minister inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport in Uttar Pradesh, which will help connect key Buddhist pilgrimage sites. Kushinagar is an important Buddhist pilgrim destination and is believed to be the final resting place of the Gautam Buddha.



2. Prime Minister participated in an event marking the Buddhist Abhidhamma Day at the Mahaparinirvana Temple in Kushinagar.
3. The Abhidhamma Day marks the end of a three-month rainy retreat – Varshavaas or Vassa- for the Buddhist Monks and Nuns during which time they stay at one place in vihara and monastery and pray
4. Welcoming the delegation of Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister recalled the connections between India and Sri Lanka and talked about emperor Ashoka's son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra taking the message of Buddhism to Sri Lanka.
5. He also remarked that it is believed that on this day, 'Arhat Mahinda' came back and told his father that Sri Lanka had accepted the Buddha's message with so much energy.



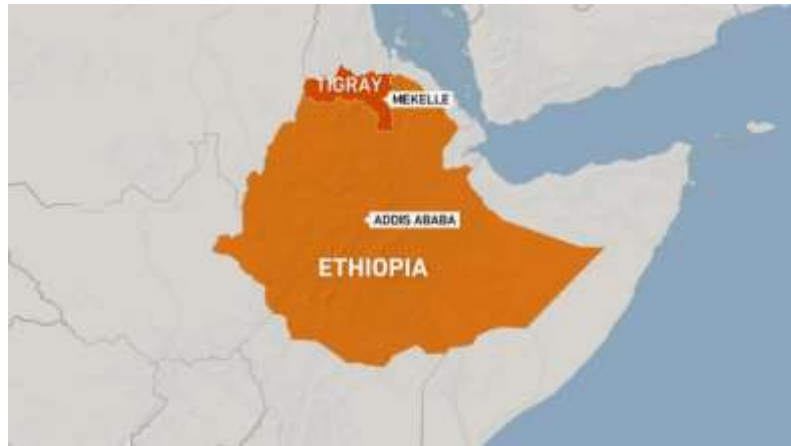
21.10.2021 Thursday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

## New airstrikes hit Tigray

1. New airstrikes hit the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region.
2. The war in Africa's second-most populous country has ground on for nearly a year between Ethiopian and allied forces and the Tigray ones who long dominated the national government before a falling-out with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner.



## Hangul population increases marginally in the latest census

1. The Hangul population has registered a marginal increase in the Kashmir Valley. It is now 261, compared to 237 in 2019.
2. Livestock grazing and constant habitat fragmentation, due to the Kashmir conflict, are the main reasons for their declining numbers.

## KASHMIR STAG

Scientific name: *Cervus elaphus hanglu*  
Common name: Hangul

CONSERVATION STATUS: CRITICALLY ENDANGERED



 <p>POPULATION 239 (2018 census)</p>	 <p>Dachigam National Park near Srinagar, Kashmir</p>	 <p>Habitat Destruction Skewed male-female ratio of 15.5:100</p>
---	---	---

[WWW.INDIASENDANGERED.COM](http://WWW.INDIASENDANGERED.COM)

3. Constant and regular population monitoring is the only way researchers, scientists and conservationists can get a general idea about a species that is otherwise hard to locate or observe all year long.





21.10.2021 Thursday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

4. The small upward trend began in 2015 when the Hangul population was 186 and then rose to 197 in 2017.

### Hangul: Kashmir Stag

1. The state animal of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir, the hangul was first identified by researcher Alferd Wagner in 1844. The species is believed to have travelled all the way from Bukhara in Central Asia to Kashmir. "The name hangul comes from the preferred food of the deer, which is the Indian horse chestnut (also known as 'Han Doon' locally).
2. It also eats a wide variety of grass, herbs, shrubs and foliage. In the 1900s, the hangul was found in abundance in northern Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Pakistan. Now its range is restricted to the Dachigam National Park near Srinagar.
3. Hangul shed their horns around March and move to higher altitudes. Their horns regrow around August and they return to lower altitudes by September-October.
4. Hangul generally prefers to live in groups of 2-18, but adult males become intolerant of each other during the rutting season. After about eight months, a single fawn (in rare cases, twins) is born to the female. The female hangul will take care of the fawn till it reaches maturity at 16 months.

### The fall of the hangul population

1. In the 1900s, around 3,000 to 5,000 hangul could be found in Kashmir, from Karen in the Kishenganga catchments to Dorusa in Lolab Valley, and the catchments in Bandipora, Tulail, Baltal, Aru, Tral and Kishtwar. Incessant hunting resulted in a decline in their numbers.
2. This led the then Maharaja of Kashmir to create game reserves such as Dachigam where locals were restricted from hunting.
3. After independence, the creation of sanctuaries and national parks further reduced the threat of hunting. Livestock grazing and constant habitat fragmentation, due to the Kashmir conflict, however, emerged as new threats.
4. A more recent cause for their declining numbers is the skewed fawn to female and male to female ratios. The 2019 census data showed that there were 7.5 fawns per 100 females and 15.5 males per 100 females.



## MAINS DAWP

Q. "The role of violent acts of defiance was diminished by overplaying the impact of the non-violent movement during the freedom struggle". Critically discuss the argument.

## MCQ

Q. The state animal of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir the Hangul (Kashmir Stag) is most likely to be found in

- Jim Corbett National Park
- Hemis National Park
- Dachigam National Park
- Valley of Flowers National Park