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TNPSC BITS

- Telangana laid the foundation stone for a ₹4.26-crore project to develop the protected Buddhist site at Nelakondapalli, Khammam district, as an international heritage and tourism destination.
  - The Nelakondapalli stupa dates to the 3rd century and is recognised as one of India's largest Buddhist stupas.
- The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) won the award for best passenger service and satisfaction for the Delhi–Meerut Namo Bharat corridor at the 19th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Expo 2026 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- The 11th edition of the India–Indonesia joint Special Forces exercise GARUDA SHAKTI commenced at Banyuwangi, Indonesia.
- Chhattisgarh selected the Orange Oakleaf (Kallima inachus) as its state butterfly through a public online poll.
- India's indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system, developed by the DRDO's Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL), entered Setting to Work Phase-2 (STW-2) for Energy Module testing.
- Reliance Jio Platforms made its stock market debut on 28 October 2026, following India's largest-ever Initial Public Offering (IPO) worth $3.2 billion.
  - Jio shares rose by 27% on the listing day, giving the company a valuation of around $137 billion and making it India's second-most valuable listed company.

NATIONAL NEWS

Index of Services Production (ISP) – August 2026

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the Sub-Sectoral Trial Index of Services Production (ISP) for August 2026, with the new base year 2024–25.
- The index covers 19 service sub-sectors and measures changes in their production levels.
- Retail Trade recorded the highest growth (19.9%), followed by Repair Services (17.6%) and Real Estate (17.6%) compared with August 2025.
- Air Transport recorded the highest decline (-9.6%), followed by Arts, Entertainment and Recreation Services (-4.7%).

- The indices for Railways, Banking and Insurance are based on provisional monthly data and will be revised annually.

S. No.	Broad Sub -Sector	ISP August, 2026	Growth in August, 2026 over August, 2025
1	Wholesale Trade	122.9	10.2
2	Retail Trade	139.2	19.9
3	Repair Services	130.7	17.6
4	Accommodation and food	145.3	11.9
5	Railway Transport	105.6	3.7

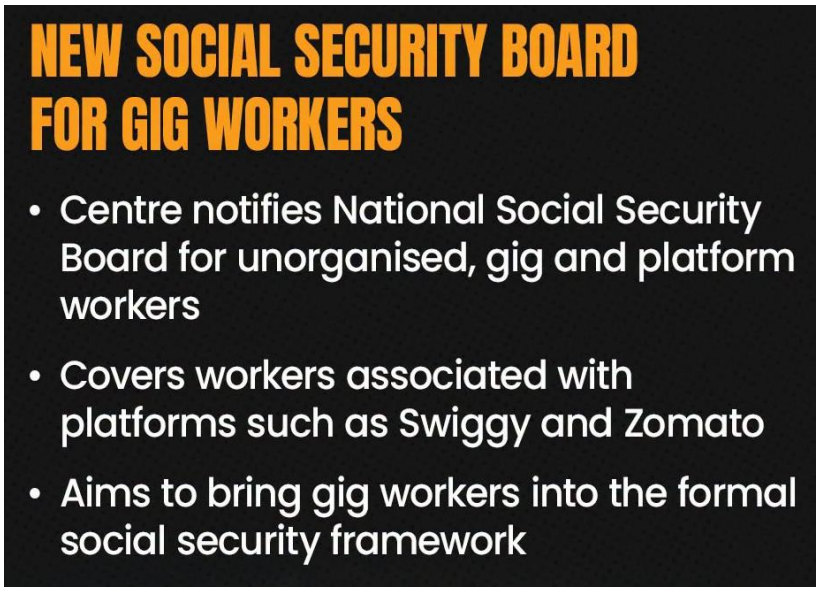
Green Hydrogen Commitments 2026



- India secured over 5.5 lakh Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) of green hydrogen offtake commitments by October 2026 through 23 agreements, including 18 new agreements signed in 2026.

- Green Hydrogen Offtake Agreements are long-term contracts in which buyers commit to purchasing specified quantities of green hydrogen or its derivatives, such as green ammonia and green methanol.
- Indian companies secured 23 agreements covering 5,55,610 MTPA, representing approximately 11% of India's 2030 green hydrogen production target.
- Over 70% of the contracted volumes are intended for exports, with major international partners including Japan, Germany and South Korea.
- These agreements are expected to attract over ₹90,000 crore in investments and support India's green hydrogen production and export infrastructure.
- Under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Programme, supply arrangements cover 6.7 lakh MTPA of green ammonia for 11 fertiliser units and 30,000 MTPA of green hydrogen for refineries.

Gig Workers Social Security Board



- The Ministry of Labour and Employment notified the constitution of the National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers and Gig and Platform Workers.
- The Board was constituted under the Code on Social Security, 2020, to strengthen social security for unorganised, gig and platform workers.
- It is headed by the Union Minister of Labour and Employment and includes representatives from Central and State Governments, aggregators, employers, trade unions, civil society and workers' organisations.
- Gig workers earn through work arrangements outside the traditional employer–employee relationship, while platform workers provide services through online platforms connecting them with customers.

- The Board recommends welfare schemes to the Central Government, advises on social security matters and monitors the implementation of welfare schemes.
- It also reviews State-level record-keeping and expenditure from the relevant social security fund and account.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US–Japan AMRAAM Assembly Facility Agreement

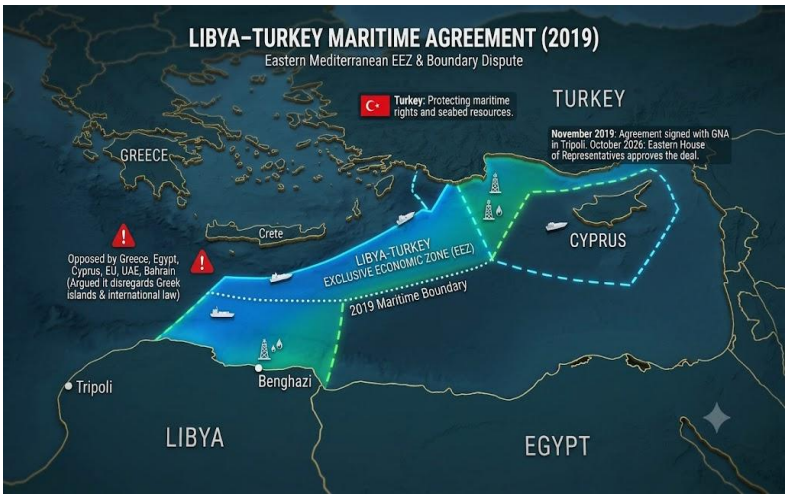
- The United States and Japan agreed to establish a facility in Japan for the final assembly and inspection of AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs).
- The facility is part of Operation Supercharge, a joint initiative to accelerate defence equipment and technology cooperation.
- The agreement aims to strengthen Japan's defence industry, secure missile supplies for both countries and address rising demand amid depleted US missile stocks.
- Both countries also agreed to share technical information to increase the production of Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IIA interceptor missiles.
- AMRAAM uses active radar guidance, inertial navigation at long range and fire-and-forget technology, allowing aircraft to engage multiple targets.



Libya–Turkey Maritime Agreement

- Libya’s eastern-based House of Representatives unanimously approved the 2019 maritime boundary agreement with Turkey on 20 October 2026, reversing its earlier opposition.

- The agreement was signed in November 2019 between Turkey and Libya's then internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA), based in Tripoli.
- The agreement defines a maritime boundary in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, between Crete and Cyprus, to establish an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and enable claims over seabed resources.
- The eastern parliament's approval revoked its 2020 resolutions rejecting the agreement and suspending political relations with Turkey.
- Greece, Egypt, Cyprus, the European Union (EU), Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) opposed the agreement, arguing that it disregards Greek islands and international law.
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan defended the agreement, stating that Turkey was protecting its maritime rights and interests.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

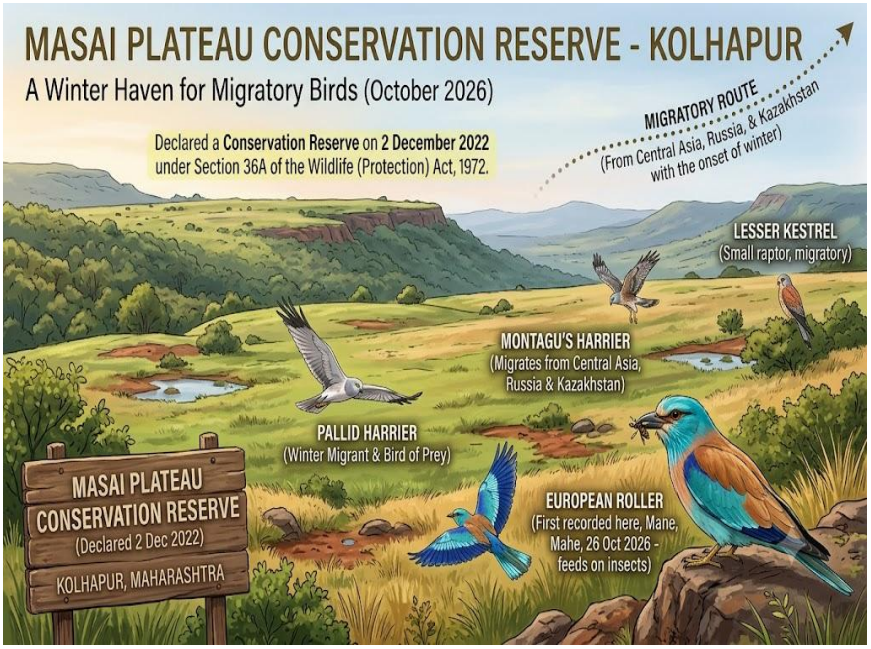
Ganges River Dolphin Recovery Programme

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recognised India's Ganges River Dolphin Recovery Programme as one of the 35 UN World Restoration Flagships in its report Nature's Comeback – Scaling Ecosystem Restoration for People and Planet.
- The report was jointly published by UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- India's Comprehensive Action Plan (2022–2047) focuses on the recovery and conservation of river dolphins and restoration of river ecosystems.
- The Ganges River Dolphin (Platanista gangetica) is classified as Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List.

- Globally, restoration efforts cover 252 million hectares across 149 countries and have created over 1 million green jobs.
- Restoring 15% of global priority areas could store 30% of historical carbon dioxide emissions and help prevent 60% of species extinctions.
- China has the largest terrestrial restoration area, covering 127.4 million hectares.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognised India's Ganges River dolphin recovery programme in its latest report, strengthening conservation efforts under the Comprehensive Action Plan for 2022-2047. The initiative features among 35 UN World Restoration Flagships, highlighting large-scale ecosystem restoration and green job creation.

Masai Plateau Conservation Reserve



- Migratory birds, including the Pallid Harrier and European Roller, arrived at Maharashtra's Masai Plateau in Kolhapur district with the onset of winter in October 2026.

- Other birds sighted include the Montagu's Harrier and Lesser Kestrel, which migrate from regions such as Central Asia, Russia and Kazakhstan.
- The Pallid Harrier and Montagu's Harrier are birds of prey, while the European Roller mainly feeds on insects.
- The European Roller was recorded for the first time in the hilly areas of Mahe in Karveer taluka on 26 October 2026.
- Masai Plateau was declared a Conservation Reserve on 2 December 2022 under Section 36A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

REPORTS AND INDICES

UN Report on Nature Restoration



- The United Nations (UN) released the report "Nature's Comeback – Scaling Ecosystem Restoration for People and Planet".
- Only 252 million hectares (25%) of the 1 billion hectares committed globally have been documented as under ecosystem restoration; countries must triple their efforts to meet 2030 targets.
- The report assesses progress under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), which aims to restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030.
- Terrestrial ecosystems account for 92% of documented restoration, followed by freshwater ecosystems (4%) and marine and coastal ecosystems (2%).
- Asia leads with 185 million hectares under restoration, including 127.4 million hectares in China.

- Around 63% of remaining freshwater wetlands and 60–66% of marine and coastal ecosystems are degraded; documented restoration activities do not necessarily mean that ecosystems have recovered.

SPORTS NEWS

World Boxing U19 Championships 2026

- India won four medals at the World Boxing U19 Championships 2026, held in Budva, Montenegro.
- India won 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals among 474 participating athletes.
- Aditya won gold in the men's 55 kg category by defeating Russia's Islam Magomedov (4–1).
- Megha Sheokand won silver in the women's 80 kg category.
- Harshika won bronze in the women's 65 kg category, while Prachi Tokas won bronze in the women's 80+ kg category.

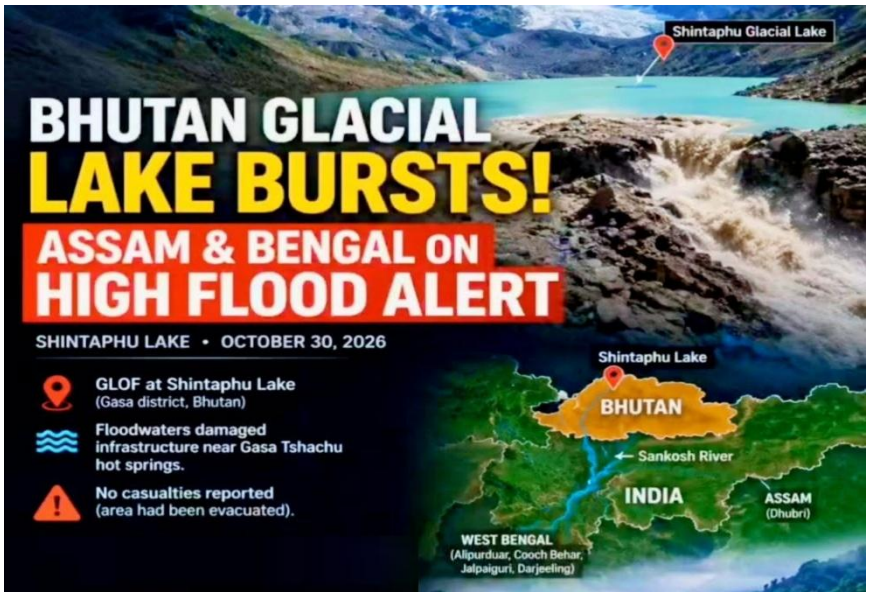


MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) - Bhutan

- A Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) occurred from Shintaphu lake in the northwestern Gasa district of Bhutan.
- The lake is located in the Laya area of Gasa district, and the flood affected the Mochhu River.

- A GLOF is the sudden release of a large volume of water from a glacial lake due to the failure or breaching of its natural dam.
- Glacial lakes form through the accumulation of glacier meltwater and may be held by moraines, ice, bedrock or other natural barriers.
- Major triggers include glacier melting, moraine dam failure, avalanches, earthquakes and heavy rainfall.



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