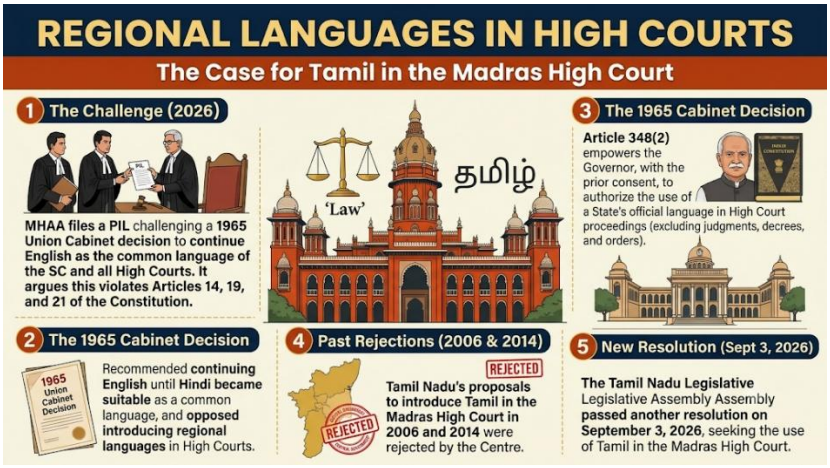
November - 05

TNPSC BITS

- The Los Angeles 2028 (LA28) Organising Committee unveiled "Stars Align" as the official slogan of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, held in Los Angeles, California, USA.
- NASA astronaut Anil Menon completed his fourth spacewalk at the International Space Station (ISS), alongside Canadian astronaut Joshua Kutryk.
- Mayon Volcano in Albay, the Philippines, erupted, sending an ash plume 3,000 metres above its summit.
- Researchers discovered a new fungal species, Mollisia sokpayensia, from the rhizome (underground stem) of a medicinal plant called Panax sokpayensis growing in the Sikkim region of the Himalayas.
- World Jellyfish Day is observed every year on 3 November to highlight the ecological importance of jellyfish and their role in marine ecosystems.
    - Jellyfish are ancient marine invertebrates belonging to the phylum Cnidaria, which also includes corals and sea anemones.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Regional Languages in High Courts



- The Madras High Court Advocates Association (MHAA) has filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the 1965 Union Cabinet decision to continue English as the common language of the Supreme Court and all High Courts.

- The 1965 decision recommended continuing English until Hindi became suitable as a common language and opposed the introduction of regional languages in High Courts.
- MHAA argued that the decision violates Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution.
- Article 348(2) empowers the Governor, with the President's prior consent, to authorise the use of a State's official language in High Court proceedings, except for judgments, decrees and orders.
- Tamil Nadu's proposals in 2006 and 2014 to introduce Tamil in the Madras High Court were rejected by the Centre.
- The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed another resolution on 3 September 2026 seeking the use of Tamil in the Madras High Court.

Tamil Nadu Coastal Ferry Project

TN plans coastal ferry service linking Chennai, Mamallapuram, Puducherry

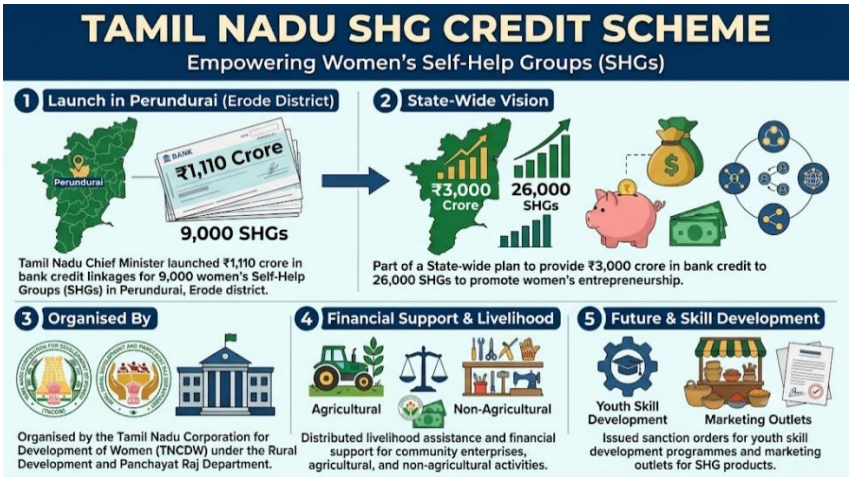
Tamil Nadu is looking to expand passenger ferry connectivity across the Bay of Bengal, with the Tamil Nadu Maritime Board (TNMB) inviting private operators to run services on two routes linking Chennai, Mamallapuram and Puducherry, and increasing ferry services in Nagapattinam-Kankesanthurai, Sri Lanka, in a move aimed at boosting coastal tourism and cross-border passenger traffic.

- The Tamil Nadu Maritime Board (TNMB) has invited expressions of interest (EOI) from ferry operators to operate passenger services connecting Chennai, Mamallapuram and Puducherry.
- The proposed coastal ferry route will cover 80 nautical miles, starting from Dr Ambedkar Dock at Chennai Port and ending at Puducherry Port.
- Mamallapuram, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, does not currently have ferry berthing infrastructure.

- TNMB has also proposed a multi-operator model for the Nagapattinam–Kankesanthurai (Jaffna) ferry service between India and Sri Lanka.
- The ferry service was relaunched in October 2023 after nearly four decades, recording over 66,000 passenger movements since its revival.

Tamil Nadu SHG Credit Scheme

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched ₹1,110 crore in bank credit linkages for 9,000 women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Perundurai, Erode district.
- The initiative is part of a State-wide plan to provide ₹3,000 crore in bank credit to 26,000 SHGs to promote women's entrepreneurship.
- The programme was organised by the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) under the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
- Livelihood assistance and financial support for community enterprises, agricultural and non-agricultural activities were also distributed.
- Sanction orders were issued for youth skill development programmes and marketing outlets for SHG products.



Tamil Nadu Battery Energy Storage Systems Policy 2026

- The Tamil Nadu government released a three-year Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Policy 2026, targeting the deployment of 2.5 gigawatts (GW)/10 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of storage capacity.
- New solar or solar-hybrid renewable energy projects of 1 MW and above must install BESS capacity of at least 10% of their installed capacity from 1 April 2027.
- Existing solar and wind projects of 1 MW and above will be encouraged to install BESS for renewable energy integration, peak management and grid support.

- Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited will act as the State Nodal Agency and operate a single-window system for BESS projects.
- Tamil Nadu has an installed renewable energy capacity of 29.8 GW, including 14.5 GW of solar and 11.6 GW of wind power.



TN unveils battery storage policy, mandates storage capacity in new renewable energy projects

Tamil Nadu has unveiled its Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Policy 2026, targeting the creation of 10,000 MW of battery storage capacity by 2029, while making battery storage mandatory for new solar and wind energy projects with a capacity of 1 MW and above. The policy also provides a 10-year waiver of wheeling and transmission charges to attract investments in battery storage projects.

NATIONAL NEWS

VAYU Vision of Indian Air Force

- Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumed office as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of the Indian Air Force (IAF), succeeding Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, and outlined the 'VAYU' vision.
- VAYU Vision aims to strengthen and modernise the IAF through four pillars: Vigilance and Readiness, Aatmanirbharta (Self-Reliance), Yukti (Ingenuity) and Unity of Effort.
- Vigilance and Readiness focuses on operational preparedness and restoring the IAF's authorised fighter squadron strength of 42.
- Aatmanirbharta promotes indigenous defence technologies, including Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1/Mk1A, Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), weapons and sensors.
- Yukti focuses on innovation through Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled command systems, counter-drone defence, advanced maintenance and near-space operations.
- Unity of Effort aims to strengthen joint operational planning and coordination among the Army, Navy, Air Force and national agencies.

- The VAYU vision aligns with the JAI vision – Jointness, Aatmanirbharta and Innovation – to improve India's integrated defence capabilities.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Predator-Prey Interaction in Himalayas



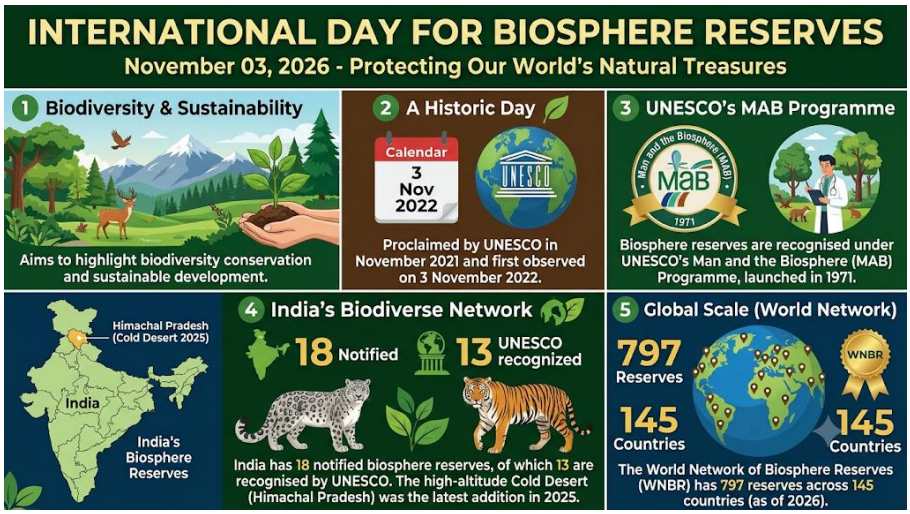
- Researchers from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) documented the first verified photographic evidence of an Asiatic black bear (Ursus thibetanus) preying on an endangered red panda (Ailurus fulgens) in Singalila National Park, West Bengal.
- The Asiatic black bear, also known as the Himalayan black bear or Moon bear.
- It is found in the Himalayan foothills and forest regions of Southeast Asia, China and the Russian Far East.

- The Asiatic black bear is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and the Red panda is classified as Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List.
- Singalila National Park is located on the Singalila Ridge in Darjeeling district, West Bengal, in the Eastern Himalayas.
- It covers an area of 78.6 sq. km and shares its western boundary with Nepal.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for Biosphere Reserves 2026 - November 03

- The day aims to highlight biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
- It was proclaimed by UNESCO in November 2021 and first observed on 3 November 2022.
- Biosphere reserves are recognised under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, launched in 1971.
- India has 18 notified biosphere reserves, of which 13 are recognised by UNESCO. Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve (Himachal Pradesh) was the latest addition in 2025.
- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) has 797 reserves across 145 countries (as of 2026).



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