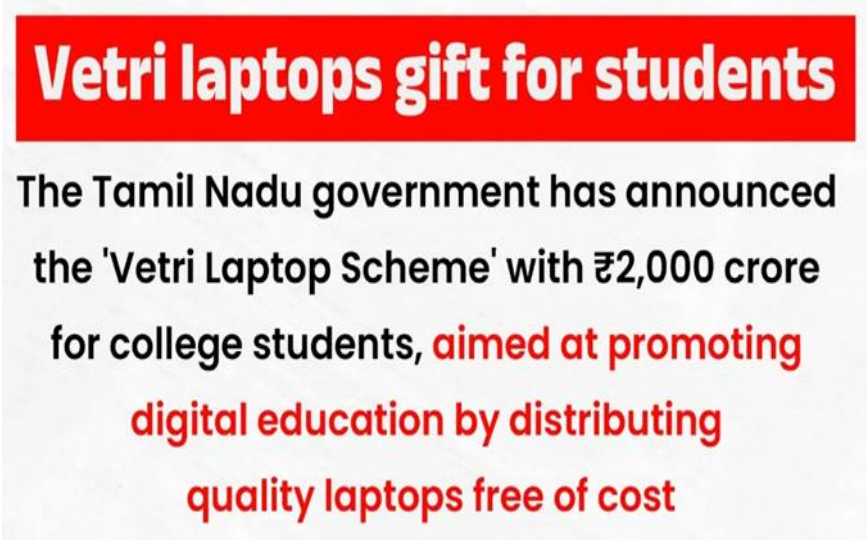
November - 11

TNPSC BITS

- Nirmala Lakshman won the Sharjah Award for Best International Non-Fiction Book, for her book The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community.
- The fifth edition of the India–US bilateral tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, Tiger Triumph 2026, commenced at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Visakhapatnam.
- A documentary titled Mothers of Courage won the 2026 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) Action Award in the Creativity category.
- The International Day of Radiology (IDoR) is celebrated every year on November 8, marking Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen's discovery of X-rays in 1895 and highlighting the importance of medical imaging in healthcare.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Upholding Patient Safety".
- World Urbanism Day, also known as World Town Planning Day, is observed every year on November 8 to highlight the importance of urban planning in creating healthy and livable communities.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Vetri Laptop Scheme – Tamil Nadu



- Tamil Nadu sanctioned ₹2,000 crore on November 7, 2026, to implement the Vetri Laptop Scheme for college students.

- First- and second-year undergraduate and diploma students in government and government-aided colleges are eligible in 2026–27.
- Third- and fourth-year professional course students who missed the 2025–26 scheme are also eligible.
- The Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) will procure laptops and ensure quality control.
- Engineering students will receive laptops with Intel Core i5 processors or equivalent specifications.

Tamil Nadu Vetri Veedu Scheme 2026

Vetri Veedu scheme: Government sanctions Rs 3,500 cr to build 70,000 houses

The Tamil Nadu government has allocated Rs 3,500 crore for the construction of 70,000 houses in rural areas during 2026-27 under the first phase of its 'Vetri Veedu' scheme. Under the scheme, beneficiaries will receive Rs 5 lakh each to construct houses measuring 360 to 500 sq ft, with a kitchen and reinforced cement concrete (RCC) roofing. The beneficiaries will have to undertake the construction themselves.

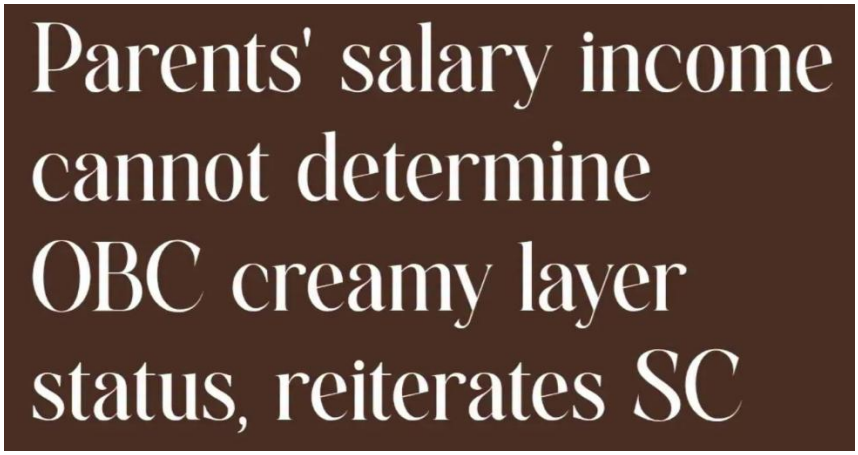
- Tamil Nadu allocated ₹3,500 crore to construct 70,000 rural houses during 2026–27 under the first phase of the Vetri Veedu Scheme.
- Each eligible family will receive ₹5 lakh to construct a 360–500 sq. ft. permanent concrete house with Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) roofing.
- The assistance will be paid in four instalments based on construction progress, with an additional ₹12,000 for toilet construction.
- Families with an annual income above ₹2.5 lakh and those who have already received government housing benefits are not eligible.
- 40% of the allocation is reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST); widows, destitute women, transgender persons and ex-servicemen receive priority.

- Beneficiaries can obtain bank loans up to ₹1 lakh with a 3% interest subsidy for regular repayment, subject to scheme conditions.

NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court on OBC Creamy Layer

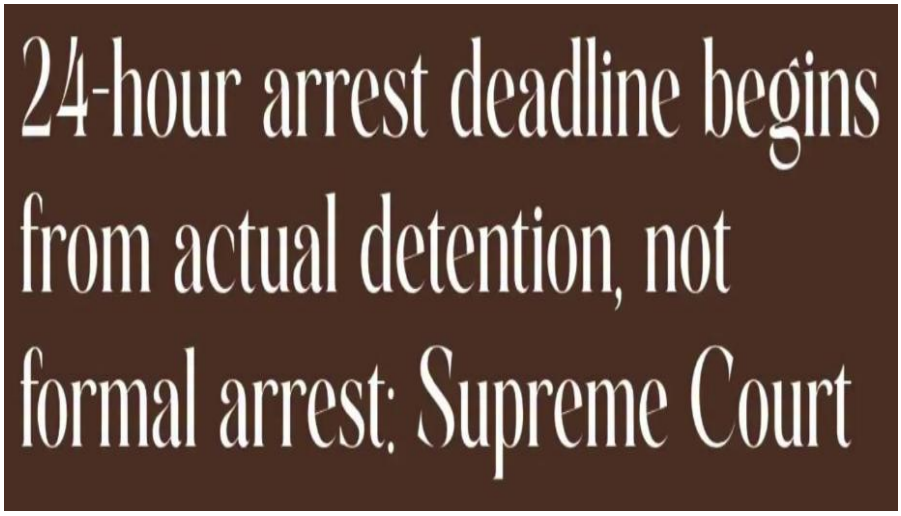
- The Supreme Court reaffirmed that parental income alone cannot determine the creamy layer status of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and extended the Centre's implementation deadline by eight weeks.
- The 1993 Office Memorandum (OM) excluded salary and agricultural income from the income test, while a 2004 Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) clarification included salary income from private and public sector jobs.
- The Court ruled that the creamy layer status must be assessed using the 1993 OM as interpreted in its March 11, 2026 judgment.
- The ruling applies to the candidates and intervenors who were parties to the original cases; it does not reopen completed selections, appointments or seniority.
- For the Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2025, the Court directed that the revised interpretation must govern the allocation of services to selected OBC candidates.
- The Court stated that similarly placed candidates with pending cases may seek consideration on their individual merits.



Supreme Court on 24-Hour Arrest Rule

- The Supreme Court ruled that the 24-hour limit for producing an arrested person before a Magistrate begins from the time of actual detention.
- Under Article 22(2), a detained person must be produced before a Magistrate within 24 hours, excluding necessary travel time.

- Actual physical restraint of a person's liberty starts the 24-hour period; the later formal arrest time cannot be used to delay the deadline.
- Magistrates must record the actual date and time of detention and can order immediate release if the detention exceeds the constitutional limit.
- The ruling arose from a case involving four people detained under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Tripura; the Supreme Court ordered their release.
- The Court directed the judgment to be circulated to State and Union Territory police chiefs, High Court Registrar Generals and State Judicial Academies.



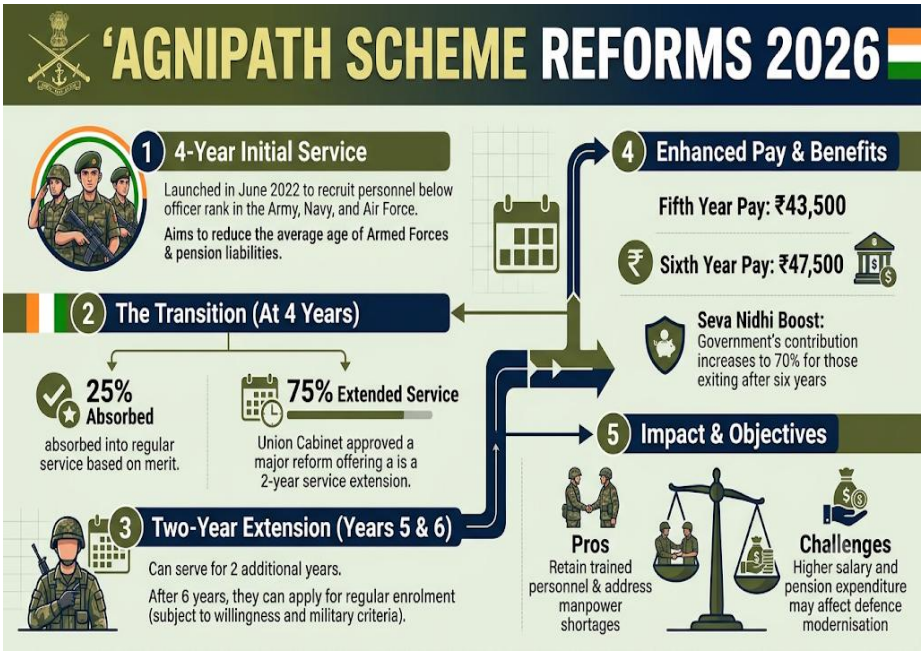
Data Centre Investment in India



- According to a report by CRISIL Ratings released, India's data centre capacity is expected to increase five-fold to around 7.5 gigawatts (GW) by March 2030.
- The sector is expected to attract investments of more than ₹3 lakh crore over the next four financial years, driven by Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI), cloud computing and digitalisation.

- Around three-fourths of the upcoming capacity of approximately 6 GW is expected to be concentrated in Visakhapatnam, Mumbai and Hyderabad; existing data centres operate at about 90% utilisation.
- India has a cost advantage, with development costs around 20% lower and rental rates 30–35% lower than in several competing Asia-Pacific markets.
- Nearly half of the upcoming capacity is already committed under long-term contracts, and contract periods have increased from 10–12 years to 15–20 years.

Agnipath Scheme Reforms 2026



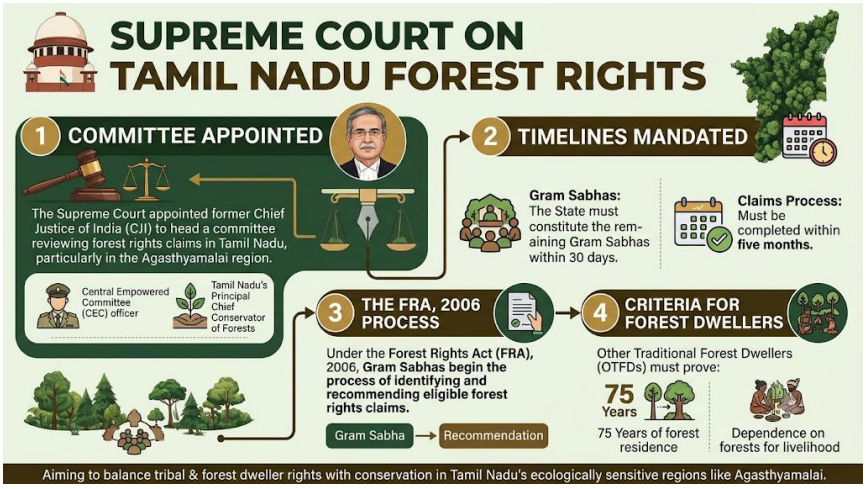
- The Union Cabinet approved major reforms to the Agnipath Scheme, offering a two-year service extension to the 75% of Agniveers not initially selected for regular service.
- Under the revised process, 25% of Agniveers will be absorbed into regular service after four years on merit, while the remaining 75% can serve for two additional years.
- After six years, they can apply for regular enrolment, subject to willingness and military selection criteria; extended-service pay will be ₹43,500 in the fifth year and ₹47,500 in the sixth year.
- The government's contribution to the Seva Nidhi package will increase to 70% for those exiting after six years.
- The reforms aim to retain trained personnel and address manpower shortages; however, higher salary and pension expenditure may affect defence modernisation.

- Launched in June 2022, the Agnipath Scheme recruits personnel below officer rank in the Army, Navy and Air Force for four years, aiming to reduce the average age of the Armed Forces and long-term pension liabilities.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Supreme Court on Tamil Nadu Forest Rights

- The Supreme Court appointed former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Bhushan R. Gavai to head a committee reviewing forest rights claims in Tamil Nadu, particularly in the Agasthyamalai region.
- The committee includes a Central Empowered Committee officer and Tamil Nadu's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.
- The State must constitute the remaining Gram Sabhas within 30 days and complete the claims process within five months.
- Under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, Gram Sabhas begin the process of identifying and recommending eligible forest rights claims.
- Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) must prove 75 years of forest residence and dependence on forests for livelihood.



West Bengal Tiger Conservation Project

- Dooars Rani, a three-year-old tigress relocated from Bihar, was captured near Raimona National Park (Assam) and brought back to Buxa Tiger Reserve.
- Project Tiger was launched in 1973 to protect tigers and their habitats.
- Buxa Tiger Reserve (West Bengal) was established in 1983 under this project.

- Buxa faced a decline in its tiger population due to habitat degradation, forest fragmentation and reduced prey availability.
- The Tiger Augmentation and Recovery Project has been implemented since 2018 with support from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- On October 2, 2026, Dooars Rani (T-138) was relocated from Valmiki Tiger Reserve (Bihar) and released into Buxa Tiger Reserve.
- On October 25, Dooars Rani crossed into Raimona National Park, where forest officials later captured her and returned her to Buxa Tiger Reserve.
- The recovery project focuses on habitat improvement, increasing prey availability and strengthening wildlife protection to restore a stable tiger population.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Legal Services Day 2026 - November 09

- The day aims to create awareness about free legal aid and equal access to justice in India.
- It marks the implementation of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which came into force on November 9, 1995.
- Article 39A of the Indian Constitution provides for equal justice and free legal aid.
- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is the apex statutory body responsible for providing free legal services to eligible people.
- Free legal aid is available to eligible groups, including women, children, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and economically weaker sections.

- Lok Adalats help settle disputes through mutual agreement and reduce the burden on regular courts.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Revolt of 1857 Memorial - Ambala



- The Union Home Minister inaugurated the Martyrs' Memorial of the First War of Independence of 1857 in Ambala, Haryana.
- The Revolt of 1857 began at Meerut on May 10, 1857, and spread to several parts of northern and central India.
- Major causes included British political annexations, economic exploitation, heavy taxation, discrimination against Indian soldiers and interference in Indian social and religious practices.
- The immediate cause was the introduction of Enfield rifle cartridges, which were believed to be greased with cow and pig fat, offending both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.
- Important leaders included Mangal Pandey, Rani Lakshmibai, Bahadur Shah Zafar, Nana Sahib, Tantia Tope and Begum Hazrat Mahal.
- The revolt was suppressed by the British in 1858.

- The Government of India Act, 1858 ended East India Company rule and transferred the administration of India to the British Crown.
- The Ambala memorial, built at a cost of ₹594 crore across 22 acres, honours the people who participated in the 1857 uprising.

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