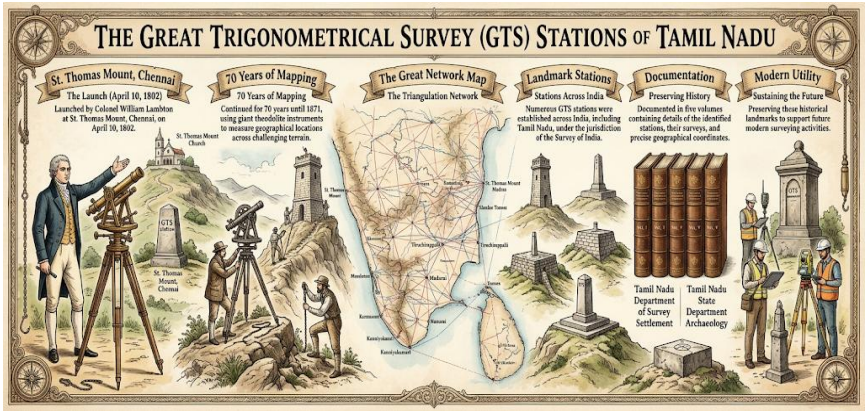
November - 15

TNPSC BITS

- Exercise Malabar 2026 began in Japan with the participation of India, Australia, Japan and the United States.
- India and Myanmar conducted their first bilateral Tri-Services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise, RAHAT MITRA, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The 15th edition of the bilateral naval exercise Naseem Al Bahr was conducted between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman in Oman.
- British author M. John Harrison won the 2026 Booker Prize for Fiction for his science fiction novel The End of Everything.
- The Coalition of the Willing conducted its first major multinational military exercise, KOALICJA 26.2, in Poland, with around 2,800 troops from 11 countries to prepare for post-war security support to Ukraine.
- World Kindness Day is observed annually on November 13 to promote kindness and compassion among people.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Great Trigonometrical Survey Stations



- The Tamil Nadu Department of Survey and Settlement and the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology have documented the Great Trigonometrical Survey (GTS) stations in the State and published the details in five volumes.
- The Great Trigonometrical Survey was launched by Colonel William Lambton at St. Thomas Mount, Chennai, on April 10, 1802, during British rule.

- The survey continued for 70 years, until 1871, using theodolite instruments to measure geographical locations.
- Several GTS stations were established across India, including Tamil Nadu, and they are under the jurisdiction of the Survey of India.
- The five volumes contain details of the identified stations, their surveys and geographical coordinates.
- The documentation aims to preserve these historical stations and support future modern surveying activities in Tamil Nadu.

Madras High Court on OBC Status

Madras HC admits plea against inclusion of Christian communities in BC, MBC lists

The Madras High Court Bench in Madurai has admitted a petition challenging the inclusion of several Christian communities and converts to Christianity in Tamil Nadu's Other Backwards Classes (OBC) list, observing that serious questions have been raised over the constitutional validity of their classification in the absence of adequate empirical data establishing their social and educational backwardness.

- The Madras High Court questioned the constitutional validity of including certain Christian communities and converts in Tamil Nadu's Backward Classes (BC) and Most Backward Classes (MBC) reservation lists.
- The court stated that inclusion or continuation in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list must be supported by evidence of social and educational backwardness.
- The case concerns the inclusion of Christian Nadar, Christian Shanar and Christian Gramani communities and certain Christian converts from fishing communities.
- The petitioner challenged these inclusions, arguing that they could affect reservation opportunities for other backward communities.

- The case involves Article 16(1), which guarantees equality of opportunity in public employment, and Article 16(4), which provides for reservation for inadequately represented backward classes.

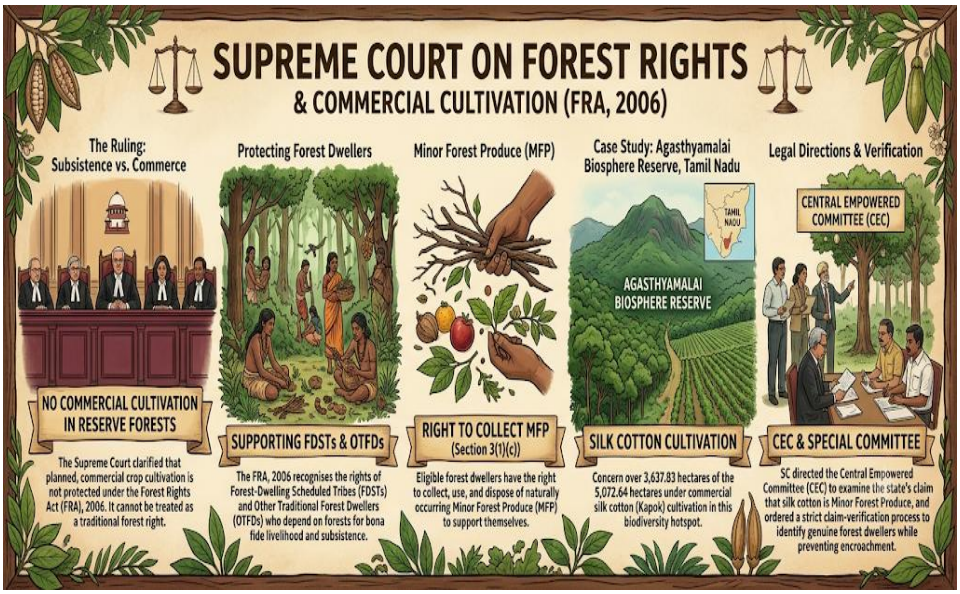
Blue Flag Certification 2026–27



- Three more beaches in Tamil Nadu have received the international Blue Flag certification for the 2026–27 season.
- The newly certified beaches are Silver Beach (Cuddalore), Kameswaram Beach (Nagapattinam) and Ariyaman Beach (Ramanathapuram).
- Kovalam Beach in Chengalpattu district retained its Blue Flag status for the sixth consecutive year.
- The certification is awarded by the Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) based on 33 criteria, including cleanliness, safety, water quality and environmental management.
- The initiative is implemented under the Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission (TN-Shore), with the Department of Environment and Climate Change coordinating the programme.
- With these additions, Tamil Nadu has four Blue Flag-certified beaches.

NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court on Forest Rights



- The Supreme Court clarified that commercial crop cultivation inside reserve forests is not protected under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
- The Act recognises the rights of Forest-Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) who depend on forests for their livelihood.
- Under Section 3(1)(c), eligible forest dwellers have the right to collect, use and dispose of Minor Forest Produce (MFP).
- The case concerns silk cotton cultivation in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu.
- Around 3,637.83 hectares of the 5,072.64 hectares of forest land are under silk cotton cultivation.
- The Supreme Court directed the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to examine the Tamil Nadu government's claim that silk cotton is a Minor Forest Produce.
- The Court observed that planned commercial cultivation cannot be treated as a forest right under the FRA, 2006.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

USA's Withdrawal from Human Rights Review

- The United States is set to become the first country to skip its scheduled human rights review by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

- The US withdrew from the UNHRC in 2025, citing alleged anti-US and anti-Israel bias.
- The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) examines the human rights records of all 193 UN member states once every four to five years.
- The UNHRC was established by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006, replacing the Commission on Human Rights; its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The UNHRC has 47 member states elected by the UN General Assembly for three-year terms; members cannot be immediately re-elected after two consecutive terms.
- India served as a UNHRC member during 2019–2021 and 2022–2024.



Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2026



- The 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) concluded on 4 November 2026 in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.
- The summit was held under the theme “Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth”.

- Around US$500 million in new commitments was mobilised for renewable energy, youth skills development, trade and economic growth.
- The discussions focused on climate resilience, sustainable development, innovation, equality, trade and investment.
- The Commonwealth Trade Portal was launched to provide information on products, services and trade opportunities across member countries, particularly benefiting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Tiger Conservation in Odisha



- A Royal Bengal Tiger, locally called "Mahabala Bagha," was recently spotted by tourists in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha, and later hunted a Sambar deer.
- The Royal Bengal Tiger (Panthera tigris) is classified as Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List.
- Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Bargarh district, Odisha, near Hirakud Reservoir.
- The tiger entered through the Dechuan–Lakhanpur forest area, and its origin is being examined by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- The sanctuary covers around 900 sq. km, including a core area of about 500 sq. km, and its proposal for recognition as a tiger reserve has received Central approval.

COP31 Climate Finance Work Programme

- COP31 adopted a standalone Climate Finance Work Programme (CFWP) in Antalya, Türkiye.
- The programme provides a platform to discuss Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement, which requires developed countries to provide climate finance to developing countries.
- The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), agreed at COP29 in 2024, aims to mobilise at least $300 billion annually by 2035 from developed countries and scale up global climate finance to $1.3 trillion annually.
- Developing countries need around $305 billion annually by 2035 for climate adaptation, but received only $28.2–31.7 billion in international public adaptation finance in 2024.
- Proposals for separate discussions on tripling adaptation finance and climate-related trade measures were dropped; India had supported discussions on adaptation finance.

REPORTS AND INDICES

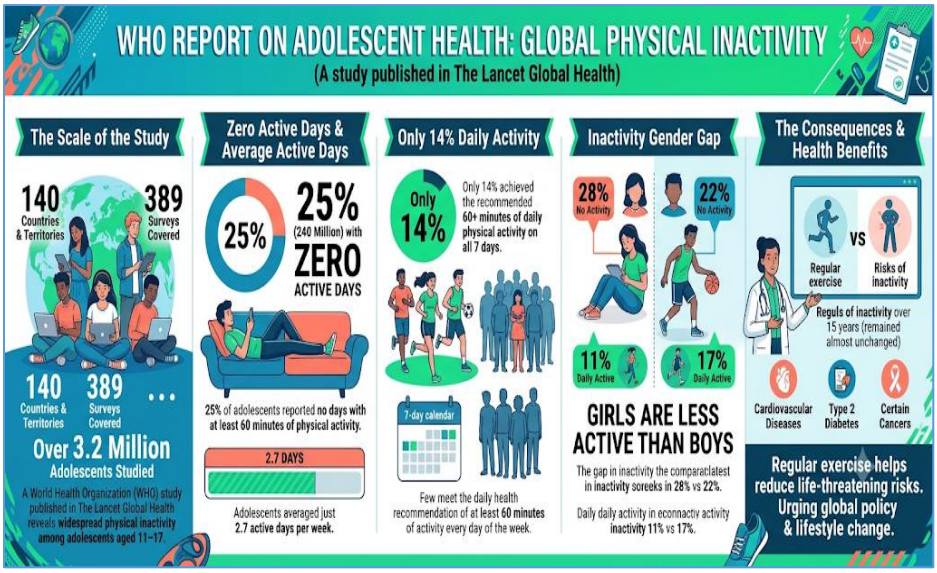
Global Innovation Index 2026

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) released the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026, ranking 139 economies based on their innovation performance.

- Switzerland ranked 1st for the 16th consecutive year, followed by Sweden (2nd) and the United States (3rd); China ranked 10th.
- India ranked 38th and remained a leading innovation overperformer for the 16th consecutive year, performing above expectations for its level of development.
- India led Central and Southern Asia and ranked 25th in innovation outputs and 49th in innovation inputs.
- Bengaluru ranked 25th among the world's top 100 innovation clusters; India was among the leading destinations for greenfield research and development (R&D) and high-technology foreign direct investment (FDI).



WHO Report on Adolescent Health

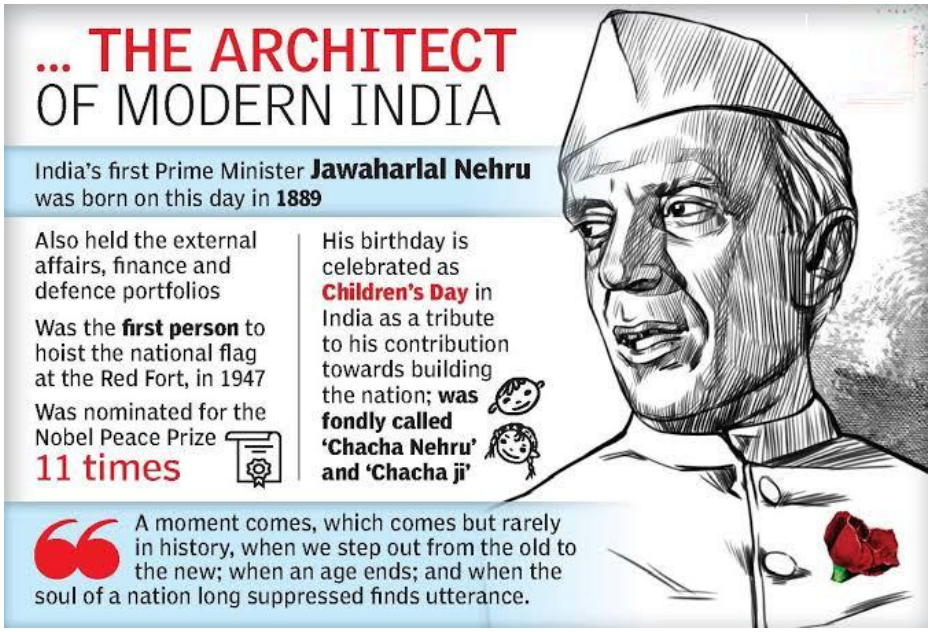


- A World Health Organization (WHO) study published in The Lancet Global Health reported widespread physical inactivity among adolescents.

- The study covered over 3.2 million adolescents aged 11–17 years across 140 countries and territories, using 389 surveys.
- Around 25% (240 million) reported no days with at least 60 minutes of physical activity; adolescents averaged 2.7 active days per week.
- Only 14% achieved at least 60 minutes of physical activity on all seven days of the previous week.
- Inactivity was higher among girls (28%) than boys (22%); daily activity levels were 11% among girls and 17% among boys.
- Global physical activity levels remained almost unchanged over 15 years; regular exercise helps reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes and certain cancers.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Children's Day 2026 - November 14



- It marks the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, who was born on November 14, 1889, in Allahabad (present-day Prayagraj), Uttar Pradesh.
- He was India's first Prime Minister and served from August 15, 1947, to May 27, 1964.
- He studied at Harrow School and Trinity College, Cambridge, in England, and later studied law at Inner Temple, London.

- He participated in the Indian freedom movement, worked with Mahatma Gandhi and presided over the 1929 Lahore session of the Indian National Congress, which adopted Purna Swaraj as its goal.
- He promoted scientific development, higher education, industrialisation and the policy of Non-Alignment in India's foreign affairs.
- He received the Bharat Ratna in 1955 and was popularly known as Chacha Nehru because of his affection for children.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★