November - 18

TNPSC BITS

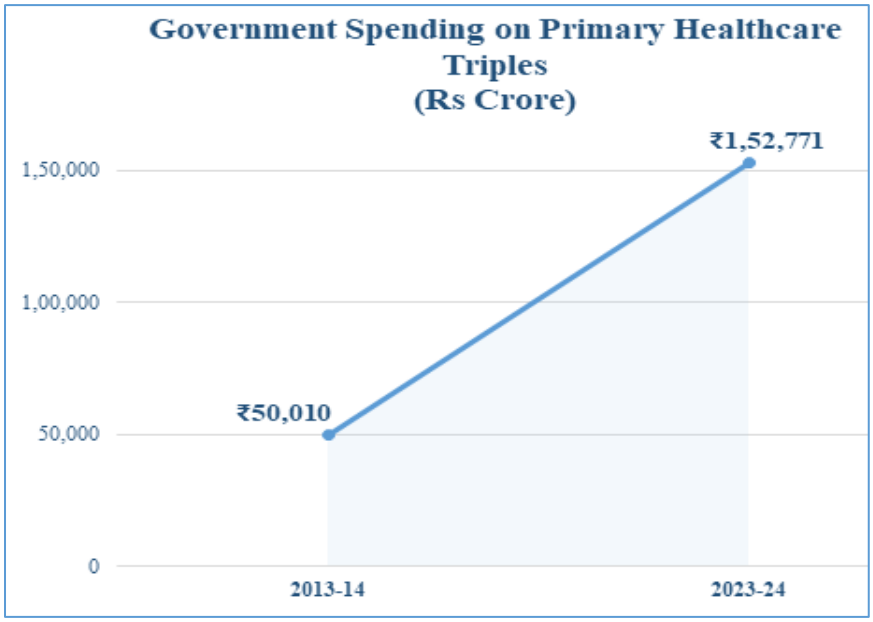
- Prime Minister dedicated India's largest underground Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage cavern, with a capacity of 80,000 metric tonnes, to the nation at Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- India and Malaysia will conduct the 6th edition of their joint military exercise Harimau Shakti from 18 to 30 November 2026.
- India's first Road Safety Research and Training Centre is being established at Saswad in Pune district, Maharashtra.
- Anuj Shrivatri, a 22-year-old chess player from Katni, Madhya Pradesh, became India's 100th Chess Grandmaster (GM) and the first Grandmaster from Madhya Pradesh.
  - He secured the title by winning the 7th ASEAN Plus Individual Open Chess Championship – Governor Henry S. Oaminal Cup in the Philippines.
- World Usability Day 2026 is celebrated on the second Thursday of November (November 12) annually to promote usability, accessibility and human-centred design in technology and products.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Designing a Sustainable Future with Ethical AI."

NATIONAL NEWS

National Health Accounts 2023–24

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates 2023–24, showing increased government healthcare spending and a decline in household healthcare expenditure.
- Government Health Expenditure increased more than threefold from ₹1.30 lakh crore (2013–14) to ₹4.14 lakh crore (2023–24).
- Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) declined from 64.2% to 42.7% of Total Health Expenditure.
- Per capita Government Health Expenditure increased from ₹1,042 to ₹2,959 during the same period.
- Government expenditure on primary healthcare reached ₹1.53 lakh crore in 2023–24.
- Social Security Expenditure on Health increased from 6% to 11% of Total Health Expenditure.

- The estimates are prepared by the National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat (NHATS) under the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC).



Stand-Up India Extension



- The Union Cabinet approved a five-year extension of the Stand-Up India Scheme until 31 March 2031, targeting 2.5 lakh additional entrepreneurs from women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

- The Cabinet approved a Credit Guarantee Corpus of ₹4,111 crore to support lending under the scheme.
- Launched in April 2016, the scheme has so far facilitated loans to more than 2.75 lakh women, SC and ST entrepreneurs.
- It provides loans of above ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore, covering up to 85% of the project cost, for setting up new (greenfield) enterprises in manufacturing, services, trading and activities allied to agriculture.
- The scheme provides 85% credit guarantee coverage on the loan amount, with a standard guarantee fee of 0.50%.

Ease of Vehicle Ownership Index



- The Ease of Vehicle Ownership Index (EVOI) 2026 was released by Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Harsh Malhotra.
- The index was prepared by IndiaTech.org and Consumer VOICE and covered 15 states representing over 85% of India's organised used-car market.
- Andhra Pradesh ranked first, followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Karnataka; Uttar Pradesh ranked last.
- The index assessed six factors, including ownership transfer rules, digital services, procedural efficiency, fee transparency, consumer protection and actual transfer costs.

- Under Section 50 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, ownership transfer is regulated; Rule 55 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, prescribes the procedure.

Cabinet Decisions 2026



- The Union Cabinet, approved the development of the Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum at the historic North and South Blocks in New Delhi, at an estimated cost of ₹3,230 crore.
- The museum will be developed by the Ministry of Culture by converting the historic buildings into a cultural institution showcasing India's civilisation, heritage and history.
- The Cabinet also approved a ₹62,370 crore Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the Rabi season 2026–27 (October 2026 to March 2027); the Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) price will remain ₹1,350 per 50-kg bag.
- Credit guarantee support under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) and Stand-Up India scheme was extended until 31 March 2031, with allocations of ₹5,000 crore and ₹4,111 crore, respectively.
- The extended Stand-Up India scheme aims to support 2.5 lakh additional entrepreneurs from women, Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities over five years.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ASEAN Summit 2026

- The 49th ASEAN Summit began in Manila, Philippines, with discussions on regional security, maritime disputes and economic cooperation.
- Theme: “Navigating Our Future, Together”.

- ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, through the Bangkok Declaration.
- Its five founding members were Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- The first ASEAN Summit was held in Bali, Indonesia, in 1976.
- The summit focused on the South China Sea Code of Conduct, the Myanmar crisis and regional security.
- The Philippines handed over the ASEAN Chairmanship to Singapore for 2027.



San Francisco Declaration on AI Supply Chains



- Ten countries, including India and the United States, signed the San Francisco Declaration on the Secure Foundations of Enduring Prosperity in San Francisco, USA.
- The declaration aims to protect Artificial Intelligence (AI) supply chains through international cooperation.

- The ten signatories are the United States, Australia, India, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Qatar, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.
- It identifies critical technologies and supply chains, including semiconductors, critical minerals, energy infrastructure and advanced manufacturing.
- It proposes five working groups covering innovation policies, Super Intelligence (SI), supply-chain cooperation, security and resilience.
- Pax Silica is a US-led initiative launched in December 2025 to secure supplies of silicon and other minerals required for semiconductor production and advanced technology industries.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New Frog Species in Arunachal Pradesh



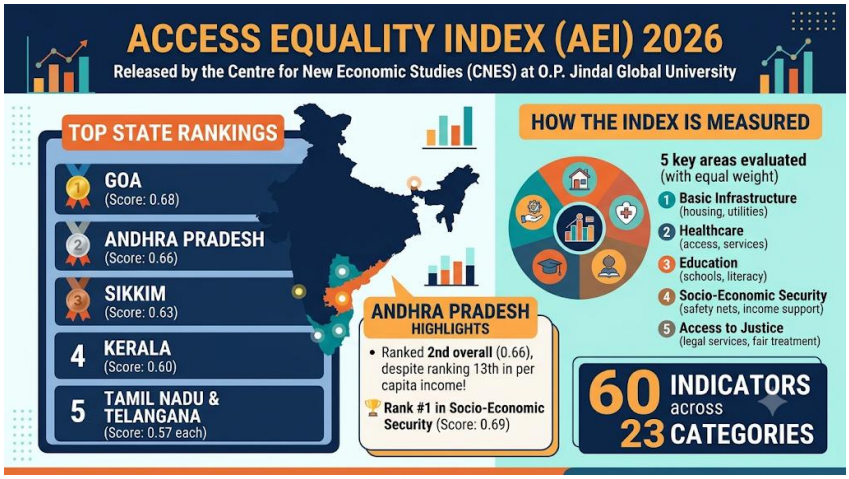
- Indian and American scientists discovered five new species of diminutive horned frogs in Arunachal Pradesh.
- All five species belong to the genus Jingophrys, commonly known as diminutive horned frogs.
- Jingophrys tanogogo is India's first known snail-eating frog and the first reported snail-eating species in the frog family Megophryidae.
- Jingophrys taniitatii was named after the Tanii tribe of the Ziro Valley.
- Jingophrys siangensis was named after the Siang region.

- The other two species are Jingophrys hrdy and Jingophrys wularsoni.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Access Equality Index 2026

- Access Equality Index (AEI) 2026 released by the Centre for New Economic Studies (CNES) at O.P. Jindal Global University.
- Goa topped the index with a score of 0.68, followed by Andhra Pradesh (0.66), Sikkim (0.63), Kerala (0.60), and Tamil Nadu and Telangana (0.57 each).
- Andhra Pradesh ranked 13th in per capita income but secured the second position in the index.
- The index assessed five areas: basic infrastructure, healthcare, education, socio-economic security and access to justice.
- It used 60 indicators across 23 categories, with equal weight given to all five areas.
- Andhra Pradesh ranked first in socio-economic security, with a score of 0.69.



UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report 2026

- UNESCO released the 2026 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, titled Access and Equity: Countdown to 2030, focusing on global progress in education access and equality.
- Around 273 million children and youth were out of school worldwide in 2024, equal to about one in six.
- The number of students enrolled in primary and secondary education reached 1.4 billion in 2024, an increase of 327 million (30%) since 2000.

- Since 2015, the number of out-of-school children and youth has increased by 3%, after falling by 33% between 2000 and 2015.
- Global completion rates increased from 77% to 88% in primary education, 60% to 78% in lower secondary education and 37% to 61% in upper secondary education between 2000 and 2024.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for Tolerance 2026 - November 16

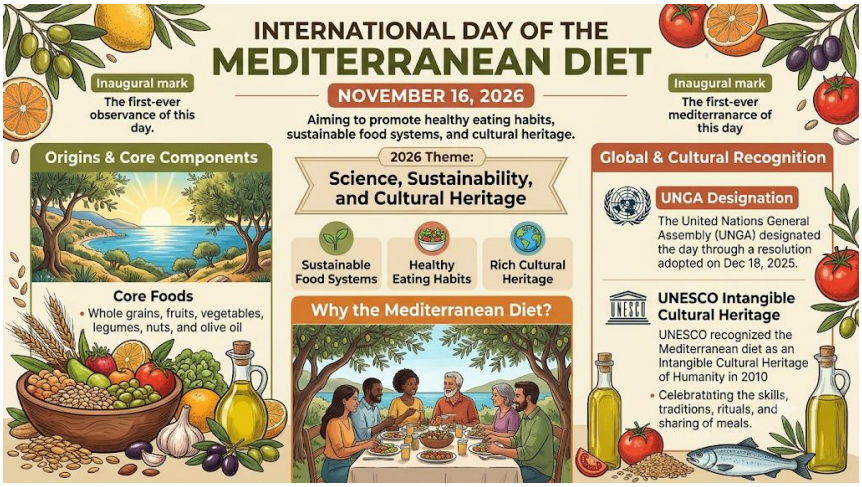


- The day aims to promote mutual respect, cultural understanding and peaceful coexistence.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established the day in 1996 through Resolution.

- On November 16, 1995, UNESCO adopted the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance during its 28th General Conference in Paris, France.
- The United Nations declared 1995 as the United Nations Year for Tolerance.
- UNESCO defines tolerance as respect, acceptance and appreciation of the diversity of world cultures and ways of life.

International Day of the Mediterranean Diet 2026 - November 16

- The day aims to promote healthy eating habits, sustainable food systems and cultural heritage.
- The first-ever International Day of the Mediterranean Diet was observed on November 16, 2026.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Science, Sustainability, and Cultural Heritage."
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated the day through Resolution, adopted on December 18, 2025.
- The Mediterranean diet originated in countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea and includes whole grains, fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts and olive oil.
- UNESCO recognised the Mediterranean diet as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010.



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