November - 19

TNPSC BITS

- Indian scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) identified a new deep-sea shark species in the Indian Ocean, named Indian Bramble Shark (Echinorhinus roinee).
  - It was earlier misclassified as identical to its Atlantic Ocean counterpart but has now been recognised as a distinct species.
- A Water Rail (Rallus aquaticus) was spotted at TS Chanakya wetlands near Palm Beach Road, Nerul, Navi Mumbai, after nearly eight years.
  - The species is classified as Least Concern (LC) on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- SpaceX launched the 15th test flight of its Starship spacecraft from Starbase, Texas, United States, aiming to achieve its first round trip to orbit and back to its launch site.
- Researchers from the Mumbai-based Thackeray Wildlife Foundation discovered a new plant species named Begonia siangensis in the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is observed annually on the third Sunday of November (16 November 2026) to remember those who lost their lives in road accidents, honour their families and promote road safety.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is “Remember. Support. Act.”
- The United Nations observes 15 November every year as the International Day against Transnational Organized Crime to raise awareness and promote global cooperation in preventing and combating transnational organized crime.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is “Follow the Money. Stop Organized Fraud.”

TAMIL NADU NEWS

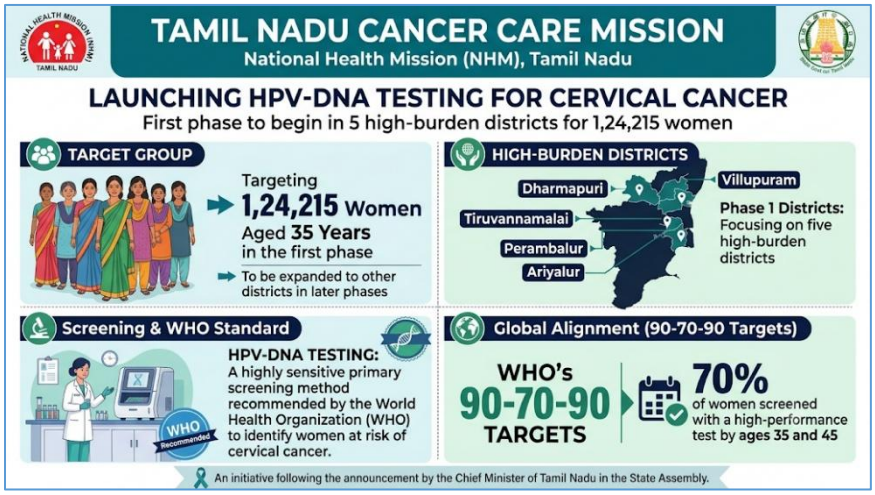
Annan Seer Marriage Assistance Scheme

- The Tamil Nadu government issued detailed guidelines for the Annan Seer scheme, which provides eligible brides with an eight-gram gold coin and a silk saree at the time of marriage.
- The scheme was launched on 5 October 2026.
- The State government has allocated ₹812 crore for the implementation of the scheme.

- The bride's annual family income should not exceed ₹2.5 lakh, and her name must be included in the ration card.
- Families owning personal four-wheelers, exceeding specified land or electricity consumption limits, paying income tax or professional tax, and certain government employees and pensioners are excluded.
- Applications can be submitted online through the Tamil Nadu e-Seva portal or e-Seva centres, from 60 days before marriage until the wedding date.



Tamil Nadu Cancer Care Mission

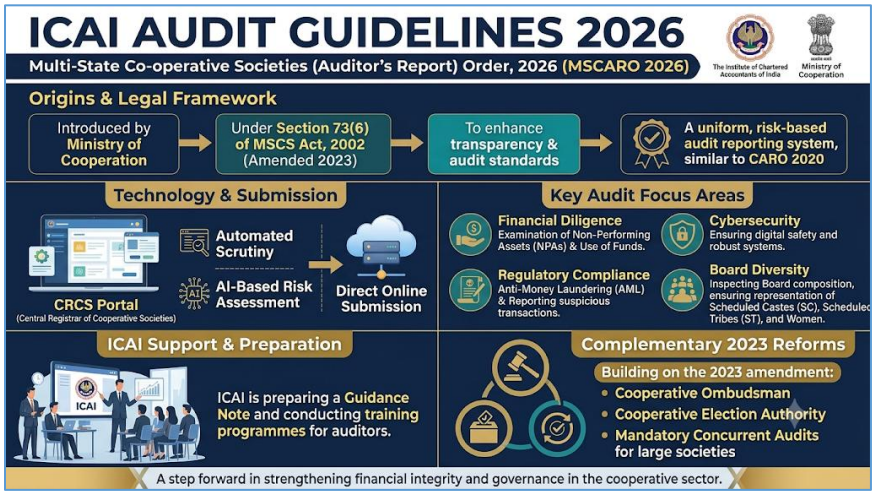


- Tamil Nadu is set to introduce HPV-DNA testing for cervical cancer in five high-burden districts in the first phase.
- The first phase will cover Dharmapuri, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Perambalur and Ariyalur, targeting 1,24,215 women.

- The programme is implemented under the Tamil Nadu Cancer Care Mission through the National Health Mission (NHM), Tamil Nadu, following an announcement by the Chief Minister in the State Assembly.
- The testing will initially cover women aged 35 years and will be expanded to other districts in phases.
- HPV-DNA testing is a highly sensitive primary screening method recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) to identify women at risk of cervical cancer.
- WHO's 90–70–90 targets include screening 70% of women with a high-performance test by ages 35 and 45.

NATIONAL NEWS

ICAI Audit Guidelines 2026



- The Ministry of Cooperation introduced the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Auditor's Report) Order (MSCARO), 2026, to improve audit standards in multi-state cooperative societies.
- MSCARO 2026 was introduced under Section 73(6) of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002, as amended in 2023.
- It establishes a uniform, risk-based audit reporting system, similar to the Companies (Auditor's Report) Order (CARO), 2020.
- Audit reports will be submitted through the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) portal for automated scrutiny and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based risk assessment.

- Audits will examine Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), use of funds, cybersecurity, Anti-Money Laundering (AML) compliance and reporting of suspicious transactions.
- Audits will also examine the composition of cooperative society boards, including representation of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and women.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is preparing a Guidance Note and conducting training programmes for auditors.
- The reforms complement the 2023 amendment, which introduced the Cooperative Ombudsman and Cooperative Election Authority and made concurrent audits mandatory for large societies.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

East Asia Summit 2026

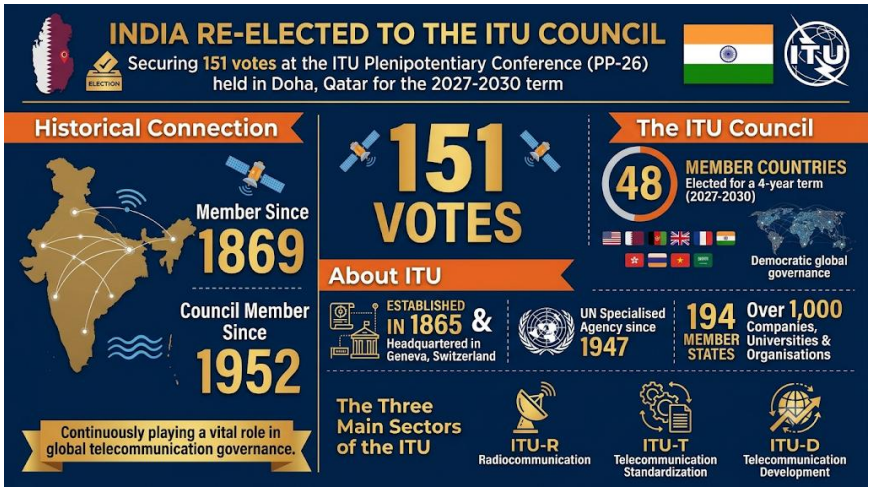


- The 21st East Asia Summit (EAS) was held in Manila, the Philippines.
- The summit called for a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific, with emphasis on dialogue, mutual respect and cooperation for global peace and stability.
- Global conflicts affect food, fuel and fertiliser security; the safety of commercial ships and seafarers in international waters was emphasised.
- India expressed support for the peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia and highlighted the threat of terrorism.
- The Seafarers' Safety Initiative was proposed to promote joint training and emergency response for seafarers.
- The EAS Cyber Crime Conference was proposed at the National Forensic Sciences University to strengthen cooperation against online fraud, cybercrime and cross-border crimes.

- The EAS Maritime Heritage Festival was proposed at Lothal, Gujarat, to celebrate maritime history, trade and cultural exchanges.
- The EAS University Conclave was proposed at Nalanda, Bihar, to promote academic cooperation, research and innovation among EAS countries.

ITU Council Election 2026

- India was re-elected to the Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for the 2027–2030 term, securing 151 votes at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Doha, Qatar.
- The ITU Council has 48 member countries, elected for a four-year term.
- Established in 1865, the ITU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and became a UN specialised agency in 1947.
- The ITU has 194 Member States and over 1,000 companies, universities and other organisations as members.
- The ITU has three main sectors: ITU-R (Radiocommunication), ITU-T (Telecommunication Standardization) and ITU-D (Telecommunication Development).
- India has been an ITU member since 1869 and a member of its Council since 1952.



ASEAN-India Disaster Management Cooperation

- The 23rd ASEAN-India Summit adopted a Joint Statement on Disaster Management in Manila, Philippines.

- The statement focuses on improving early warning systems for earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, cyclones and landslides through satellite and meteorological data sharing and joint preparedness exercises.
- Both sides agreed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and big data analytics for disaster-risk assessment, early warnings and emergency response.
- Coordination will involve the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) and India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- Cooperation will cover disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery under the 2026–2030 Plan of Action.
- The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), signed in 2005 and effective from 2009, is a legally binding regional framework.

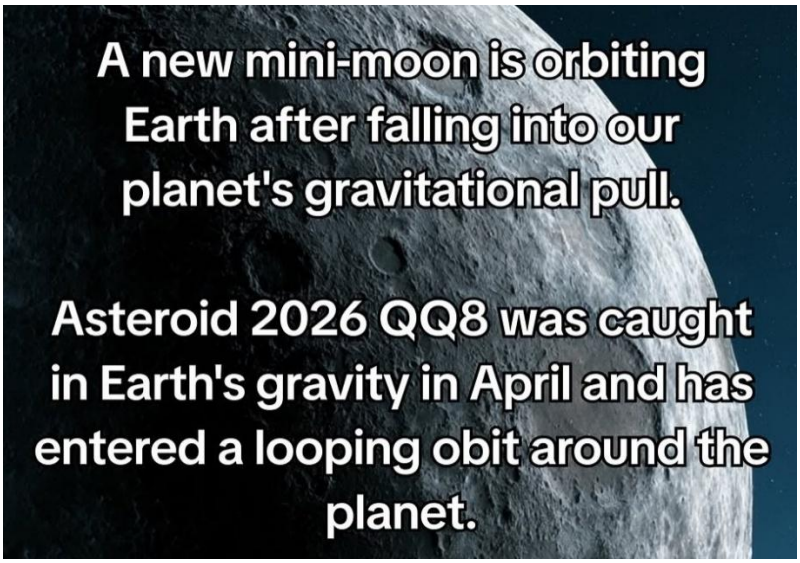


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

New Mini-Moon QQ8

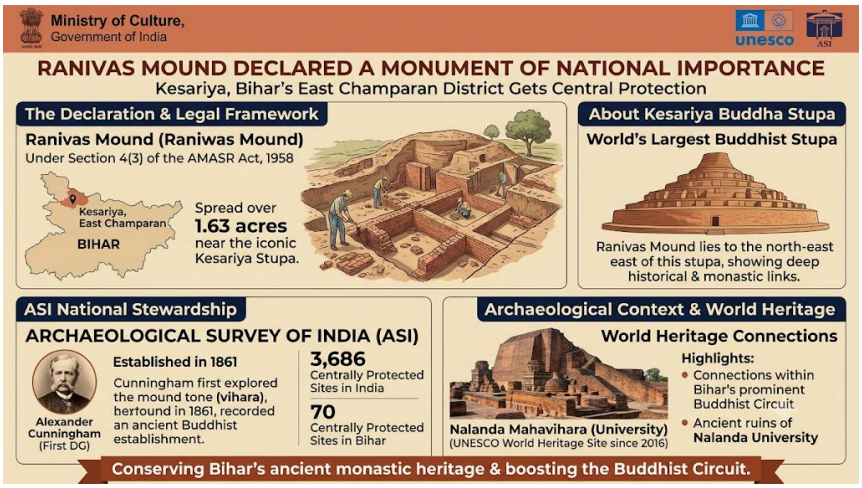
- Earth temporarily captured a small near-Earth asteroid, designated 2026 QQ8, as a mini-moon.
- The asteroid, measuring approximately 1–2 metres, was discovered by Hungarian astronomer Krisztián Sárneczky and is expected to remain near Earth until December 2026 before returning to its independent solar orbit in 2027.
- The Minor Planet Center (MPC) classified it as a natural object, and its closest predicted approach is about 568,000 km from Earth, around 1.5 times the average Earth–Moon distance.

- It poses no impact threat to Earth and would completely burn up in the atmosphere if it entered it.
- A mini-moon is a near-Earth asteroid temporarily captured by Earth's gravity within its Hill sphere, while a quasi-moon orbits the Sun in a path synchronised with Earth's orbit without directly orbiting Earth.
- Previous similar visitors include 2020 CD3, 2020 SO and 2024 PT5.



STATE NEWS

Archaeological Heritage - Ranivas Mound



- The Central Government declared the Ranivas Mound at Kesariya in Bihar's East Champaran district a monument of national importance through a gazette notification.

- The declaration was made under Section 4(3) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protects 3,686 centrally protected sites across India, including 70 sites in Bihar.
- The ASI was established in 1861, with Alexander Cunningham as its first head.
- The ancient ruins of Nalanda University in Bihar are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Press Day 2026 - November 16

- The day marks the establishment of the Press Council of India.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Journalism: Populist or Responsible?"
- The Press Council of India (PCI) began functioning on 16 November 1966 and was reconstituted in 1979 under the Press Council Act, 1978.
- The PCI is a statutory, autonomous and quasi-judicial body headquartered in New Delhi.
- Its main functions are to protect press freedom and maintain the standards of newspapers and news agencies. It can warn, admonish or censure them.
- Press freedom in India is protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and expression.



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