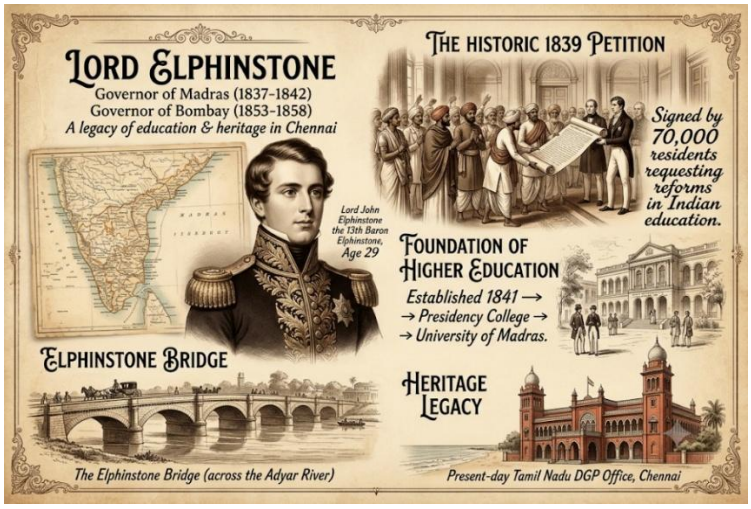
November - 20

TNPSC BITS

- The Indian Navy's Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) Srishti was launched at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa.
- SpaceX successfully caught its Starship spacecraft using mechanical robotic arms at its Starbase launch pad in Texas, USA, during its 15th test flight, marking the first-ever successful catch of a spaceship.
- Pakistan secured Geographical Indication (GI) recognition for Basmati rice in Türkiye.
- British academic Edmund Richardson won the 2026 Baillie Gifford Prize for Nonfiction for his book Alexander: God, King, Man at a ceremony in London.
- Indian badminton player Tanvi Patri reached the women's singles final at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal, becoming the first Indian woman to achieve this feat.
- International Students Day is observed annually on 17 November to commemorate the sacrifices of Czech students under Nazi persecution in 1939 and promote students' rights, educational equality, freedom and international unity.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Lord Elphinstone – Former Governor of Madras



- Lord Elphinstone, the former Governor of Madras, is remembered for his contribution to educational development and heritage in Chennai.

- Lord Elphinstone became Governor of Madras at the age of 29 and served from 1837 to 1842.
- In 1839, he received a petition signed by 70,000 residents of Madras, requesting reforms in Indian education.
- The petition led to the establishment of a high school in 1841, which eventually developed into Presidency College and the University of Madras.
- The Elphinstone Bridge across the Adyar River and the present Tamil Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) office are among his legacies in Chennai.
- He later served as Governor of Bombay from 1853 to 1858.

NATIONAL NEWS

Credit Guarantee for Micro Units

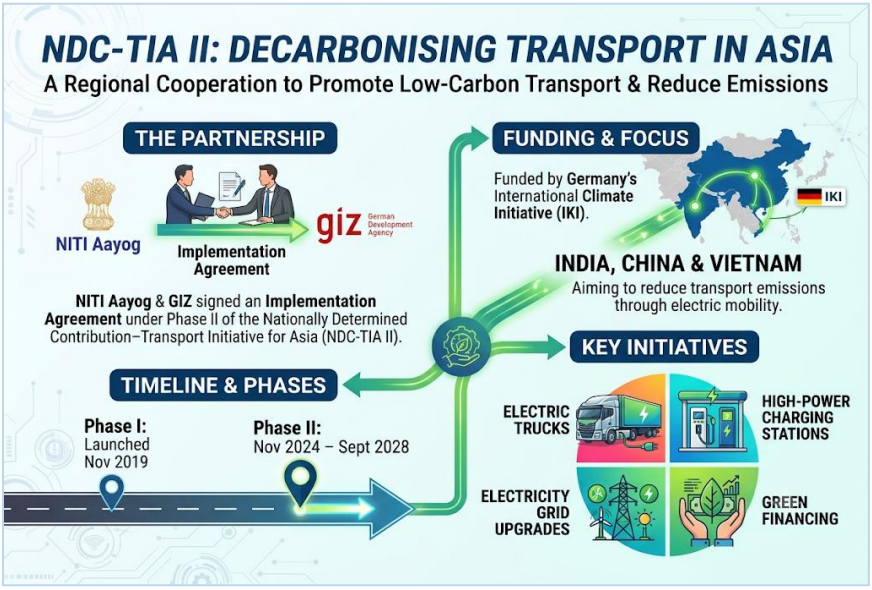
- The Union Cabinet extended the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) until 31 March 2031 and approved a ₹5,000-crore corpus.
- The extension is expected to facilitate ₹12.6 lakh crore in loans under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) over five years.
- Launched in January 2016, CGFMU provides credit guarantee coverage to lending institutions for eligible collateral-free loans.
- The scheme will cover PMMY loans up to ₹20 lakh, Jan Dhan overdrafts up to ₹10,000 and eligible Self-Help Group (SHG) loans.
- The annual guarantee fee has been reduced from 1% to 0.75%.



Decarbonising Transport in Asia – NDC TIA II

- NITI Aayog and the German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) signed an Implementation Agreement under Phase II of the Nationally Determined Contribution–Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA II).

- NDC-TIA II is a regional cooperation programme funded by Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI) to promote low-carbon transport in Asia.
- It focuses on India, China and Vietnam and aims to reduce transport emissions through electric mobility.
- Phase I was launched in November 2019, while Phase II began in November 2024 and will continue until September 2028.
- The initiative promotes electric trucks, high-power charging stations, electricity grid upgrades and green financing.



Sustainable Aviation Fuel Policy of India



- India proposed a three-pillar Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Policy to promote domestic production and reduce aviation emissions.
- The three pillars are coordination, domestic production through public-private partnerships, and a National SAF Registry to track fuel transactions and verify emission reductions.

- A proposed National Council will monitor implementation, while the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will manage the national registry.
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) received approval to commercially supply SAF from its Panipat refinery in Haryana, which can produce about 35,000 tonnes annually using used cooking oil.
- India's SAF blending targets for international flights are 1% in 2027, 2% in 2028 and nearly 5% by 2030.

50 Years of Maritime Reconnaissance



- The Indian Navy marked 50 years of its Long-Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) operations.
- It is commemorating five decades of airborne surveillance and maritime security missions across the Indian Ocean Region.
- They have also supported anti-piracy operations and search and rescue missions, contributing to maritime domain awareness and the protection of India's maritime interests.
- The Indian Navy informed that the milestone coincides with the Golden Jubilee of Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 312, known as the 'Albatross', which was commissioned on November 18, 1976.
- The establishment of the Navy's dedicated long-range maritime reconnaissance capability followed the 1971 war.
- It underscored the need for shore-based maritime patrol aircraft operating in coordination with ships and helicopters.

- Accordingly, INAS 312 was commissioned at INS Hansa in Goa with five Lockheed Super Constellation aircraft transferred from the Indian Air Force.
- Over the years, the Navy progressively strengthened its maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities through the induction of advanced aircraft.
- A major technological leap came in 2013 with the induction of the Boeing P-8I aircraft at INS Rajali in Arakkonam.
- Equipped with advanced sensors and mission systems, the aircraft enhanced the Navy's capabilities in wide-area intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, anti-submarine warfare and maritime strike operations.

Maritime Flag Rules 2026



- India has introduced a new set of rules governing the flags flown by Indian ships at sea.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued a fresh notification, superseding the February 9, 1961 order.
- The new rules have been notified under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.
- Under the revised rules, Indian merchant vessels registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, will fly the Red Ensign.
- The flag will be red, with the Indian National Flag placed in the upper canton, the area closest to the flagstaff.

- Its length will be one and a half times its width, in accordance with the Flag Code of India, 2002.
- Government-owned vessels, meanwhile, will fly the Blue Ensign, irrespective of whether they are registered under the Merchant Shipping Act.
- These ships will carry the badge of the department, authority or organisation that owns them.
- The exemption applies to ships belonging to the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard, which are operating exclusively for the Defence Ministry.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BIMSTEC Health Ministers Meeting 2026

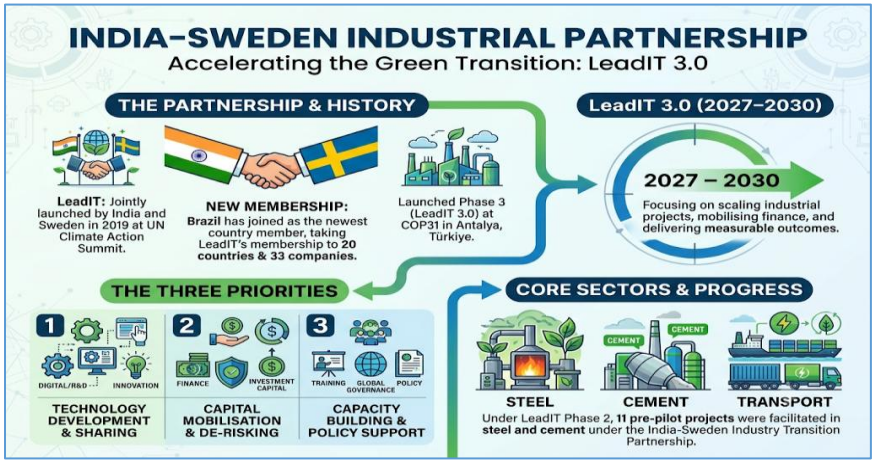


- The first Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Health Ministers' Meeting was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- The meeting adopted a Joint Ministerial Statement and the Revised Plan of Action on Public Health (2026–2030).
- The revised plan focuses on disease surveillance, pandemic preparedness, antimicrobial resistance, digital health, traditional medicine and the One Health approach.

- Member countries agreed to explore a BIMSTEC Digital Health Framework covering telemedicine, electronic health records and artificial intelligence in healthcare.
- India will establish the BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence in Traditional Medicine at the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- India announced support for 100 additional ambulances worth approximately USD 5.28 million and 50 Health ATMs for Sri Lanka.

India-Sweden Industrial Partnership

- India and Sweden launched the third phase of the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT 3.0) at the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye.
- LeadIT was launched by India and Sweden in 2019; Brazil joined as its newest country member, taking membership to 20 countries and 33 companies.
- LeadIT 3.0 will run from 2027 to 2030, focusing on scaling industrial projects, mobilising finance and delivering measurable outcomes.
- Its three priorities are technology development, capital mobilisation and de-risking, and capacity building with policy support.
- Steel, cement and transport will remain its core sectors, with a focus on low-carbon industrial transition.
- Under LeadIT Phase 2, 11 pre-pilot projects were facilitated in steel and cement under the India-Sweden Industry Transition Partnership.



International Solar Alliance - Bahamas

- The Commonwealth of The Bahamas became the 116th member country of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) during its 9th Assembly in New Delhi.

- The ISA was jointly launched by India and France in 2015 during the 21st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris.
- The ISA Framework Agreement came into force on 6 December 2017.
- In 2020, the Framework Agreement was amended to allow all United Nations member countries to join the ISA.
- The ISA is an intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana, which promotes solar energy and international cooperation.



ECONOMY NEWS

Export Growth of India

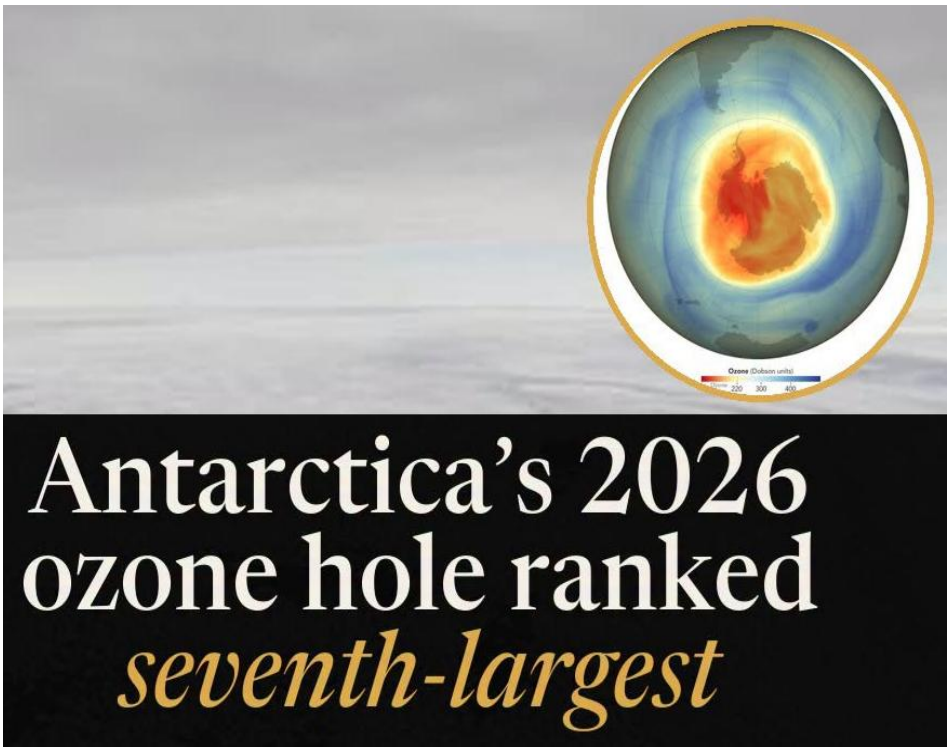


- India's merchandise exports reached a record $49.47 billion in October 2026, registering a 45% increase compared to October 2025.

- Merchandise imports rose by 16% to $89.35 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of $39.88 billion.
- Petroleum products exports rose by 140% to $8.89 billion, while electronic goods exports increased by 62% to $6.64 billion.
- Goods exports to the United States increased by 39.3% to $8.72 billion compared to October 2025.
- Total exports of goods and services reached an estimated record $89.99 billion in October 2026.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Antarctic Ozone Hole 2026



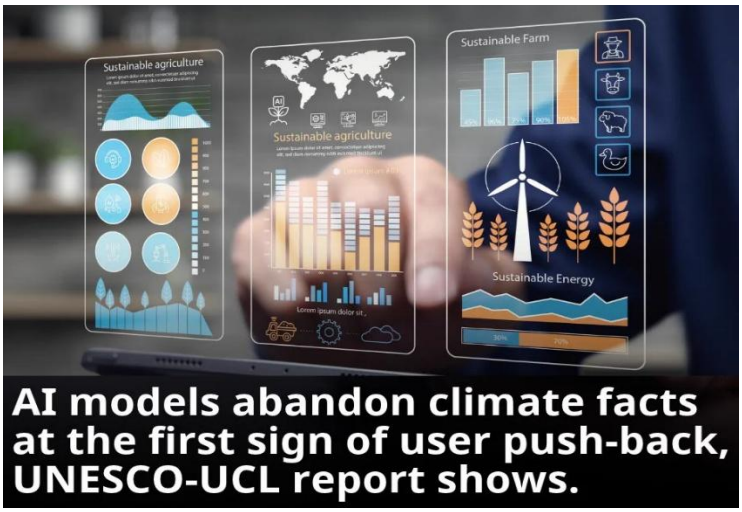
- The 2026 Antarctic ozone hole was ranked the seventh largest in 48 years of monitoring by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- The Antarctic ozone hole is a seasonal thinning of the ozone layer over Antarctica, mainly occurring during the Southern Hemisphere spring (August–November).
- It forms due to ozone-depleting substances such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which release chlorine that destroys ozone molecules in the stratosphere.

- An unusually powerful polar vortex and extreme weather contributed to its large size.
- The 1987 Montreal Protocol has helped reduce ozone-depleting substances and supports long-term ozone-layer recovery.

REPORTS AND INDICES

UNESCO-UCL Report on AI and Climate Information

- A UNESCO-University College London (UCL) report released on 16 November 2026 found that AI models often abandon established climate facts when challenged by users.
- Researchers tested up to 33 AI models across nine climate datasets, 13 languages and 656 climate policy questions.
- AI accuracy dropped by 31–35 percentage points under sustained user pressure, with about 80% of concessions occurring after the first disagreement.
- Models achieved 94.5% accuracy on individual climate policy effects but only 33.8% on interactions between policies.
- Average accuracy was 88.6% in English, compared with 83.6% in Bengali and Hindi, 81.4% in Urdu and 78.3% in Swahili.

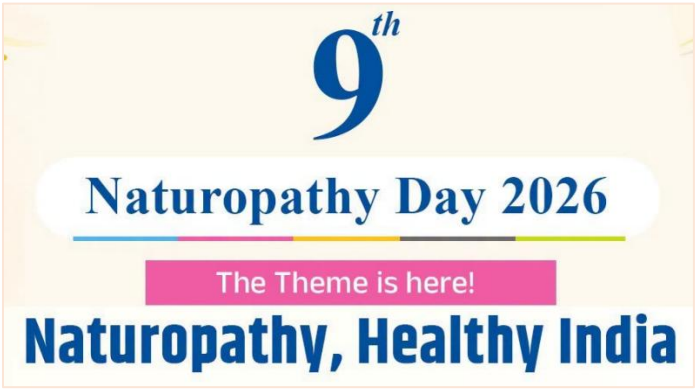


IMPORTANT DAYS

Naturopathy Day 2026 - November 18

- The day aims to promote natural healthcare practices and healthy living.

- The day commemorates Mahatma Gandhi becoming Lifetime Chairman of the All India Nature Cure Foundation Trust on 18 November 1945.
- The Ministry of AYUSH has celebrated Naturopathy Day annually since 2018.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Prakritik Chikitsa, Swasth Bharat" ("Naturopathy, Healthy India").
- The 9th celebration was held at the Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy (CRIYN) in Nagamangala, Karnataka.
- Naturopathy is based on the Panchabhuta concept, comprising Earth, Water, Air, Fire and Ether (Space).



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