November - 21

TNPSC BITS

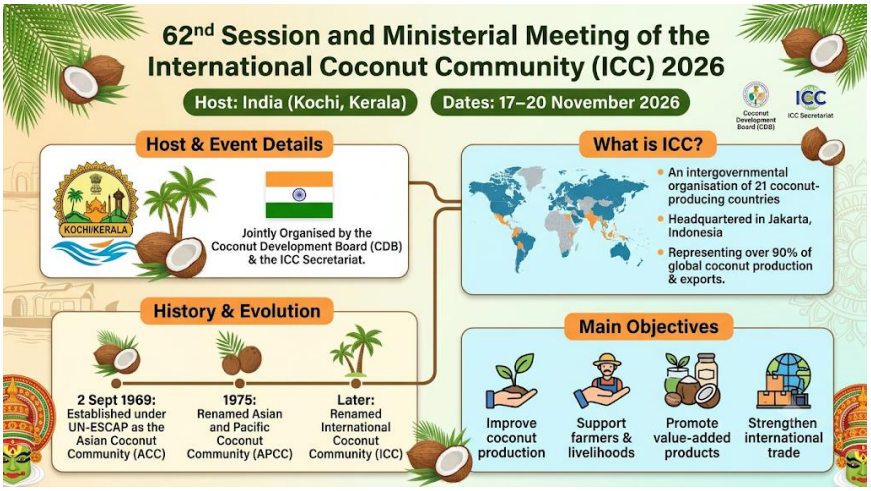
- 15-year-old Rajkumari Lanchenbi Chanu from Manipur won bronze in the women's Changquan combined event at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal, becoming the first Indian to win a wushu medal at the Youth Olympic Games.
- Filipino structural engineer Aldrei Ong won the 2026 James Dyson Global Sustainability Award for developing Sentinel, a sensor that detects hidden structural damage in buildings, especially after earthquakes.
- The Anant Anadi Vadnagar Archaeological Experiential Museum in Gujarat won Germany's Red Dot: Best of the Best Award 2026, becoming the first and only museum in India to receive this award.
- Bibi Fathima Self-Help Group (SHG) and farmer Eshwaragouda Patil from Karnataka received the Plant Genome Saviour Awards 2026 in New Delhi.
  - Bibi Fathima SHG received the Plant Genome Saviour Community Award, with ₹10 lakh, for conserving traditional seeds, while Eshwaragouda Patil revived two traditional millet varieties: Proso Millet (Baragu) and Brown Top Millet (Korale).
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, delivered 'Amini', an Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) to the Indian Navy.
- The DRDO successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed Pralay quasi-ballistic missile from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- National Epilepsy Day is observed on 17 November every year in India to create awareness about epilepsy, its symptoms, treatment and seizure first aid.
  - Epilepsy is a neurological disorder caused by abnormal electrical activity in the brain, resulting in recurrent, unprovoked seizures.

NATIONAL NEWS

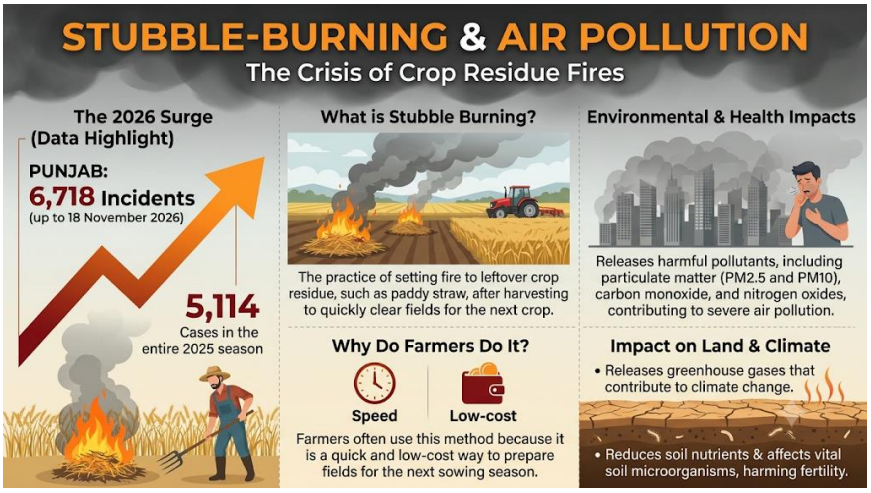
ICC Session 2026

- India is hosting the 62nd Session and Ministerial Meeting of the International Coconut Community (ICC) from 17 to 20 November 2026 in Kochi, Kerala, jointly organised by the Coconut Development Board (CDB) and the ICC Secretariat.

- ICC is an intergovernmental organisation of 21 coconut-producing countries, headquartered in Jakarta, Indonesia, representing over 90% of global coconut production and exports.
- It was established on 2 September 1969 under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) as the Asian Coconut Community (ACC).
- It was renamed the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) in 1975 and later became the International Coconut Community (ICC).
- Its main objectives are to improve coconut production, support farmers, promote value-added products and strengthen international trade.



Stubble-Burning and Air Pollution



- Punjab recorded 6,718 stubble-burning incidents up to 18 November 2026, exceeding the 5,114 cases reported during the entire 2025 season.

- Stubble burning is the practice of setting fire to leftover crop residue, such as paddy straw, after harvesting to clear fields for the next crop.
- Farmers often use this method because it is a quick and low-cost way to prepare fields for the next sowing season.
- It releases harmful pollutants, including particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, contributing to air pollution.
- It also releases greenhouse gases, reduces soil nutrients and affects soil microorganisms.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ASEAN-India Summit 2026



- The Prime Minister of India visited Manila, Philippines, to attend the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit (EAS).
- India highlighted the importance of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) in its Act East Policy and supported a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.
- The ASEAN-India Summit adopted a Joint Statement on Disaster Preparedness and Management 2026 and announced a long-term Maritime Cooperation Plan.
- India announced cooperation in cybersecurity, nuclear energy, space technology, critical minerals, youth exchanges and education.
- At the East Asia Summit, leaders adopted the Manila Declaration, supporting ASEAN centrality, peaceful settlement of disputes, freedom of navigation and regional security.

- ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967 through the Bangkok Declaration by five founding members: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

India–Japan Defence Cooperation

- India and Japan agreed to fast-track defence agreements for the Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN) project during their 2+2 ministerial dialogue in Tokyo on 19 November 2026.
- UNICORN is a stealth naval communications antenna developed by Japan for its Maritime Self-Defense Force vessels.
- It is the first joint defence co-development and co-production initiative between India and Japan.
- India and Japan discussed joint defence manufacturing, maritime security, ship repairs and mine-countermeasure capabilities.
- Japan Air Self-Defense Force fighters participated in the bilateral Veer Guardian 2026 air exercise in India for the first time.
- Japan offered to transfer the design and production rights of its Mogami-class stealth frigates to India for possible joint shipbuilding.



ICJ Ruling on Rohingya Genocide

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) found that Myanmar committed genocide against the Rohingya Muslim minority in northern Rakhine State.
- It was the first time the ICJ held a state responsible for genocide.
- The court found that Myanmar's military carried out mass killings, widespread sexual violence and attacks on children during its 2017 operations.
- At least 700,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh, with the court citing an estimate of at least 10,000 deaths.

- The Gambia filed the case against Myanmar in 2019 under the 1948 Genocide Convention, with support from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
- The ICJ ordered Myanmar to ensure the safe and dignified return of displaced Rohingya, reunite families and provide compensation. Its ruling is final and cannot be appealed.



APEC Summit 2026

- The 2026 APEC Summit—officially the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting—is taking place in Shenzhen, China.
- This marks China's third time hosting APEC (after Shanghai in 2001 and Beijing in 2014)
- Theme: "Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together".
- Core Pillars: Openness (supporting free trade, supply chain resilience, and regional economic integration), innovation (artificial intelligence, digital economy, and connectivity), and cooperation.
- Business leaders at the CEO Summit also released the "Shenzhen Initiative".

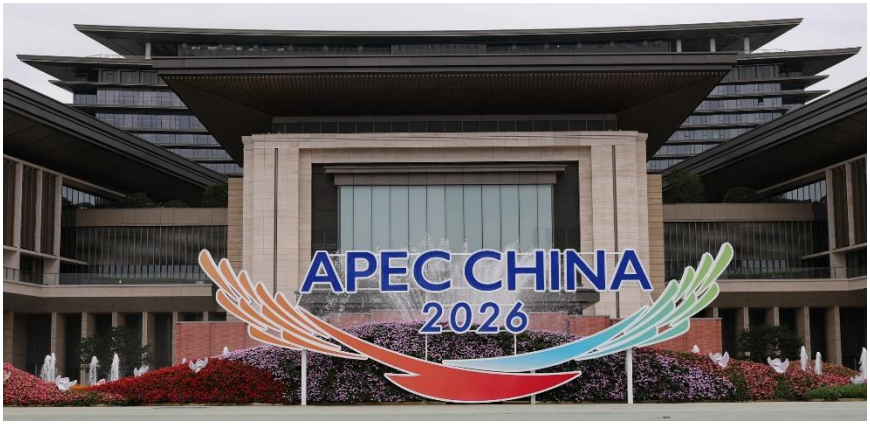
Shenzhen "G3" summit

- Chinese President Xi Jinping, US President Donald Trump, and Russian President Vladimir Putin are holding their first-ever formal trilateral meeting.
- China refers it to a "G2" with the U.S. or a "G3" with the two countries and Russia.

APEC

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is an inter-governmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim which promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

- India is not a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).
- APEC traditionally focuses on Pacific Rim economies, while India's coastline spans the Indian Ocean (though its strategic "Act East Policy" heavily links it to the region).
- APEC has not admitted any new members since 1998, keeping the total at 21 economies.



QUAD summit 2026 – Manila Summit 2026

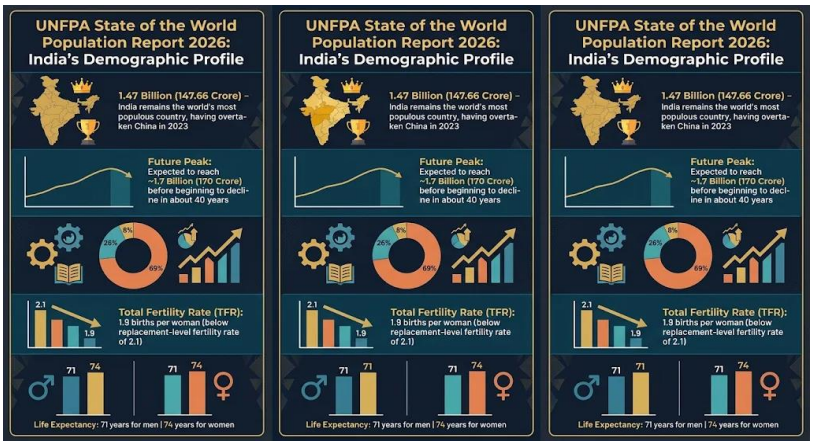
- The 2026 Quad Leaders' Summit took place in Manila, Philippines, on the sidelines of the ASEAN-related summits.
- It was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.S. President Donald Trump, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.
- It marked nearly a decade since the revival of the Quad and the 10th anniversary of the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, first articulated by the late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2016.
- It is the first Quad Leaders' Summit hosted by a non-member country by Philippines.
- Maritime Surveillance Exercise (2027): Leaders announced a maritime surveillance collaboration in 2027 featuring P-8 and P-3C patrol aircraft flying together in a Quad maritime exercise for the first time.
- This will be the first such exercise involving these aircraft in a Quad context and is aimed at making the region's seas safer.
- Quad Business Leaders' Forum: India announced Mumbai will host the inaugural forum in early 2027 to boost private-sector ties and commercial partnerships.
- AI Accelerator: The group affirmed the AI Accelerator (previously announced by foreign ministers in Atlanta) to support trusted AI deployment, access, and technical assistance across the Indo-Pacific.

- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, sometimes referred to as the Quad, is a grouping of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States.



REPORTS AND INDICES

UNFPA Population Report 2026



- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) released its State of the World Population Report 2026, estimating India's population at 1.47 billion (147.66 crore).
- India remains the world's most populous country, having overtaken China in 2023.
- India's population is expected to reach around 1.7 billion (170 crore) before beginning to decline in about 40 years.
- More than one in four Indians (26%) are aged 10–24 years, creating a significant youth dividend.

- Around 69% of India's population is in the working-age group of 15–64 years, while 8% are aged 65 and above.
- India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is 1.9 births per woman, below the replacement-level fertility rate of 2.1.
- India's life expectancy is 71 years for men and 74 years for women.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2026 – November 18/24

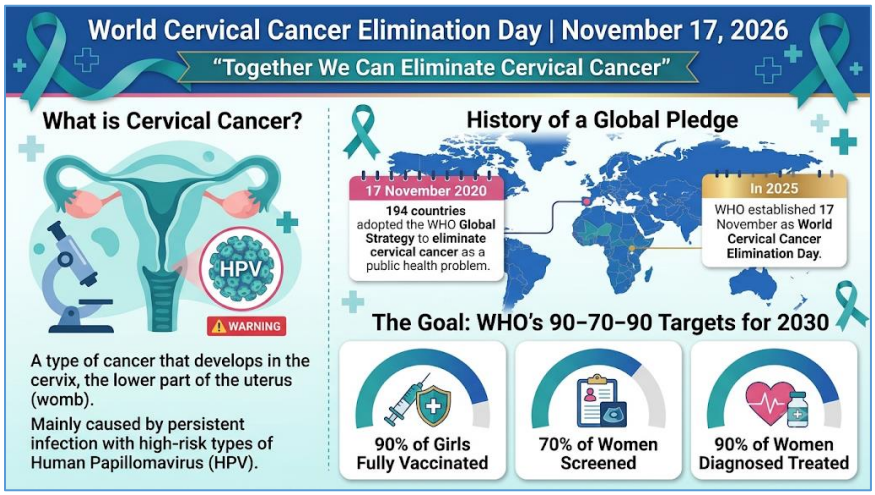
- The World Health Organization (WHO) observes World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week.
- The 2026 theme is "One Health, One Action: Prevent AMR Now".
- AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to medicines used to treat infections.
- It makes infections harder to treat and reduces the effectiveness of antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitic medicines.
- The campaign promotes a One Health approach, recognising the connection between human, animal, plant and environmental health.
- The Global Action Plan on AMR 2026–2036 aims to reduce deaths caused by bacterial AMR, control antimicrobial use and minimise environmental pollution.



World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day 2026 – November 17

- Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that develops in the cervix, the lower part of the uterus (womb) that connects to the vagina.
- It is mainly caused by persistent infection with high-risk types of Human Papillomavirus (HPV).
- The 2026 campaign theme is "Together We Can Eliminate Cervical Cancer".

- On 17 November 2020, 194 countries adopted the WHO Global Strategy to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem.
- In 2025, WHO established 17 November as World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day.
- The WHO's 90–70–90 targets for 2030 aim for 90% of girls to be fully vaccinated against HPV, 70% of women to be screened and 90% of women diagnosed with cervical disease to receive treatment.



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