November - 23

TNPSC BITS

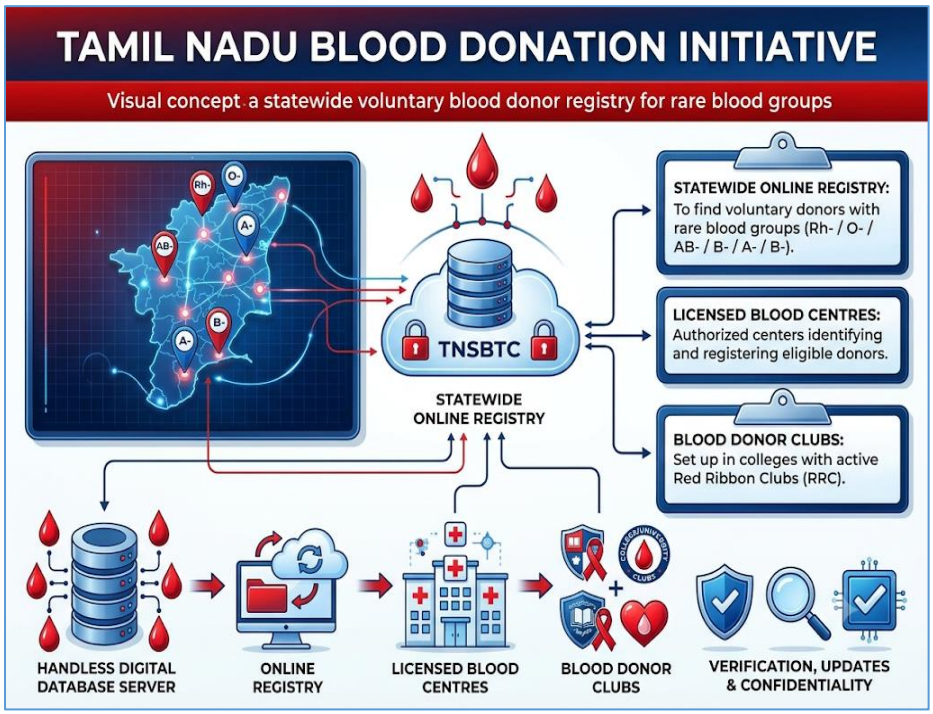
- The Tamil Nadu government-initiated plans to develop an Olympic City on 124.31 acres at Semmancheri, Chennai, along the Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR), and Sports Centres of Excellence across five locations.
  - The five locations are Chennai, Tiruvannamalai, Coimbatore, Nagapattinam and Paramakudi, covering a total of 64.5 acres.
- Ladghar, Guhagar and Shrivardhan beaches in Maharashtra received the International Blue Flag award for the 2026–27 season, marking the State's first recognition under the programme.
  - Ladghar and Guhagar beaches are in Ratnagiri district, while Shrivardhan beach is in Raigad district.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) reduced India's main visa categories from 13 to 9 and sub-categories from 49 to 23, with the revised system expected to be implemented by the end of 2026.
- India's imports of Russian fossil fuels reached a record €6.4 billion in October 2026, according to an analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).
  - India was the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels after China, with crude oil accounting for 91% (€5.8 billion) of its imports.
- The World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence is observed annually on 18 November to raise awareness, prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse, protect children's rights, and support the healing and recovery of victims and survivors.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Ethical media reporting on sexual violence against children".

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Blood Donation Initiative

- The Tamil Nadu government approved the establishment of a Statewide online registry of voluntary donors with rare blood groups under the Tamil Nadu State Blood Transfusion Council (TNSBTC).
- The registry will maintain and regularly update a Statewide database of voluntary donors with rare blood groups to ensure timely availability of compatible blood during emergencies.

- All licensed blood centres in Tamil Nadu will identify eligible donors and facilitate their registration with their consent.
- The TNSBTC will oversee donor registration, verification, updating and confidentiality of the database.
- The government also approved the establishment of Blood Donor Clubs in colleges having functional Red Ribbon Clubs (RRCs).

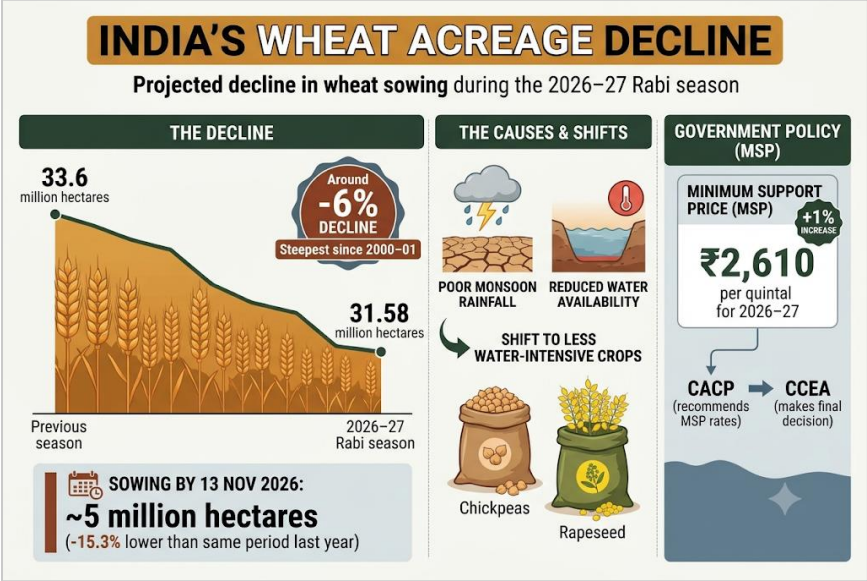


NATIONAL NEWS

Wheat Acreage Decline

- India's wheat-sown area in the 2026–27 Rabi season is expected to decline by around 6% from the previous season's record level.
- Wheat acreage is projected to fall from 33.6 million hectares to 31.58 million hectares, the steepest decline since 2000–01.
- By 13 November 2026, wheat had been sown on around 5 million hectares, 15.3% lower than the same period last year.
- Poor monsoon rainfall reduced water availability, prompting some farmers to shift to less water-intensive crops such as chickpeas and rapeseed.
- The government raised wheat's Minimum Support Price (MSP) by 1% to ₹2,610 per quintal for the 2026–27 marketing season.

- The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends MSP rates, while the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) makes the final decision.



Seafarers' Safety Initiative

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Seafarers' Safety Initiative during the 21st East Asia Summit (EAS) in Manila, Philippines.
- ASEAN–India Maritime Plan - India proposed a long-term bilateral maritime framework covering Coast Guard cooperation, maritime domain awareness, disaster management, and sea connectivity.
- Cybersecurity & Crime - PM Modi proposed hosting an EAS Cyber Crime Conference at India's National Forensic Science University to combat cross-border online fraud and digital threats.
- India announced plans to organize an EAS Maritime Heritage Festival at Lothal and establish an EAS network of university heads at Nalanda University.
- The East Asia Summit took place on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Manila.
- India is the world's second-largest supplier of maritime labor with over 320,000 seafarers, trailing only the Philippines.
- The East Asia Summit is the premier forum in the Asia-Pacific region to deal with issues relating to security and defence.
- Since its inception in 2005, it has played a significant role in the strategic, geopolitical and economic evolution of East Asia.

- Apart from the 11 ASEAN member states, the East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Russia.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Gulf Military Cooperation



- The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states approved an advanced headquarters for their Unified Military Command in Kuwait.

- The GCC was established on 25 May 1981 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), to promote economic, political, security and military cooperation among Gulf countries.
- Its six members are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with its headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- The new military headquarters will operate under the existing Unified Military Command based in Riyadh and aims to strengthen joint military cooperation and collective security.
- The decision was announced after the 23rd GCC Joint Defence Council meeting in Manama, Bahrain.
- The Peninsula Shield Force is the GCC's joint military force, comprising military personnel and support elements from its six member states.

ECONOMY NEWS

World's Fifth-Largest Listed Exchange Operator - NSE



- The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) became the world's fifth-largest publicly listed stock exchange operator by market capitalisation on 20 November 2026, overtaking Nasdaq and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX).

- NSE's market capitalisation reached approximately $59.3 billion, compared to around $57.7 billion each for Nasdaq and HKEX.
- The top four exchange operators were CME Group, Intercontinental Exchange, Deutsche Börse and London Stock Exchange Group.
- NSE was incorporated in 1992, recognised by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in April 1993 and commenced operations in 1994.
- It was the first stock exchange in India to introduce electronic, screen-based trading.
- NSE launched the NIFTY 50 index in 1996, representing 50 large and liquid companies across different sectors.
- NSE ranked as the world's largest derivatives exchange by trading volume in 2025, according to the Futures Industry Association (FIA).

Sovereign Gold Bond Redemption



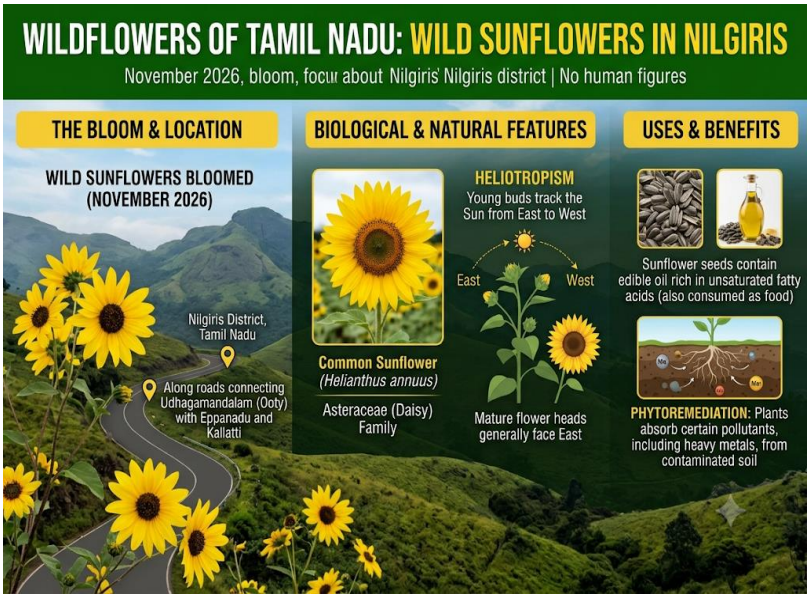
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fixed the premature redemption price of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) 2020–21 Series II at ₹13,345 per gram, effective 19 November 2026.
- The bonds were originally issued on 19 May 2020 at ₹4,590 per gram for offline subscribers and ₹4,540 for online subscribers.
- Investors gained approximately 191% through offline subscriptions and 194% through online subscriptions, excluding interest income.
- SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold and offer an annual interest rate of 2.5%, payable semi-annually.

- Premature redemption is allowed after five years from the date of issue, on an interest payment date.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Wildflowers of Tamil Nadu

- Wild sunflowers bloomed in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris district in November 2026, attracting visitors.
- The flowers were prominent along roads connecting Udhagamandalam (Ooty) with Eppanadu and Kallatti.
- The common sunflower is scientifically known as Helianthus annuus and belongs to the Asteraceae (daisy) family.
- Young sunflower buds track the Sun from east to west through a process called heliotropism; mature flower heads generally face east.
- Sunflower seeds contain edible oil rich in unsaturated fatty acids and are also consumed as food.
- Sunflowers are used in phytoremediation, a process in which plants absorb certain pollutants, including heavy metals, from contaminated soil.



World Geological Heritage List - Lonar Lake

- Maharashtra's Lonar Lake has been included in the Third 100 World Geological Heritage Sites List, compiled by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

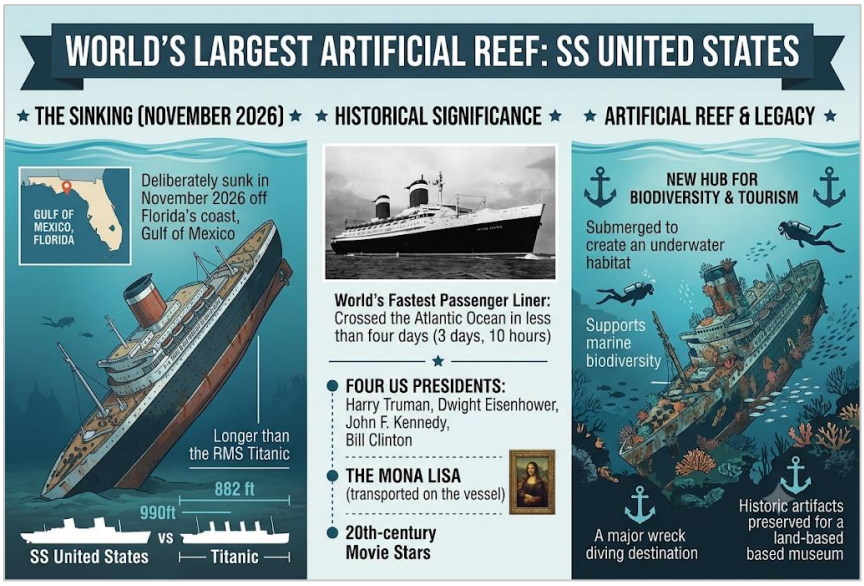
- Lonar Lake is located in Buldhana district of Maharashtra and was formed around 50,000 years ago by a meteorite impact on basaltic rock.
- It is the world's only large saline and alkaline crater lake formed in basaltic terrain.
- It is the second Indian site on the list after Mawmluh Cave in Meghalaya, which was included in 2022.
- Lonar is also a Ramsar Site (2020) and a National Geological Heritage Monument.



World's Largest Artificial Reef

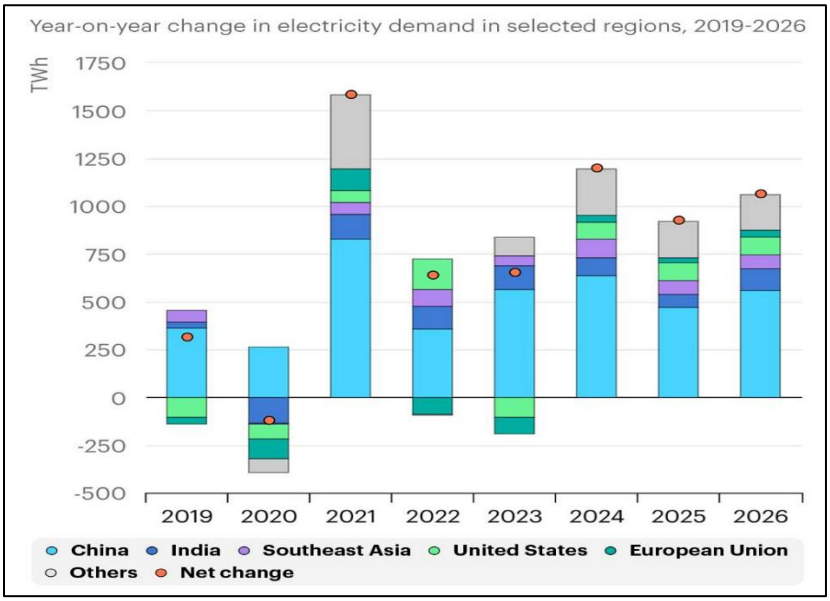
- The historic ocean liner SS United States was deliberately sunk in November 2026 in the Gulf of Mexico off in Florida, to become the world's largest artificial reef.
- The fastest passenger liner in the world crossed the Atlantic Ocean in less than four days.
- The SS United States, launched in 1951 and longer than the RMS Titanic, once transported four presidents, the Mona Lisa and a slate of 20th century movie stars.
- A young Bill Clinton, before he was president, used the ship to cross the Atlantic.

- Former presidents Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and John Kennedy also travelled on the vessel.



REPORTS AND INDICES

World Energy Outlook 2026



- The International Energy Agency (IEA), in its World Energy Outlook 2026, supported the goal of increasing electricity's share of global final energy consumption to 35% by 2035.

- Under the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 (NZE) Scenario, electricity's share is projected to rise from 23% in 2025 to 35% by 2035.
- Faster electrification could reduce global household energy bills by 5% and create 15.6 million additional net jobs by 2035.
- Current policies are insufficient, with electricity's share projected to reach only 29% under the Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS) and 28% under the Current Policies Scenario (CPS).
- Annual investment in electrification needs to increase to around $800 billion by 2035, nearly three times the average investment of the previous five years.
- The voluntary 35-by-35 pledge is being promoted by the COP31 Presidency; India has not endorsed it, citing climate equity and the need for financial support.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Heritage Week 2026 – November 19/25

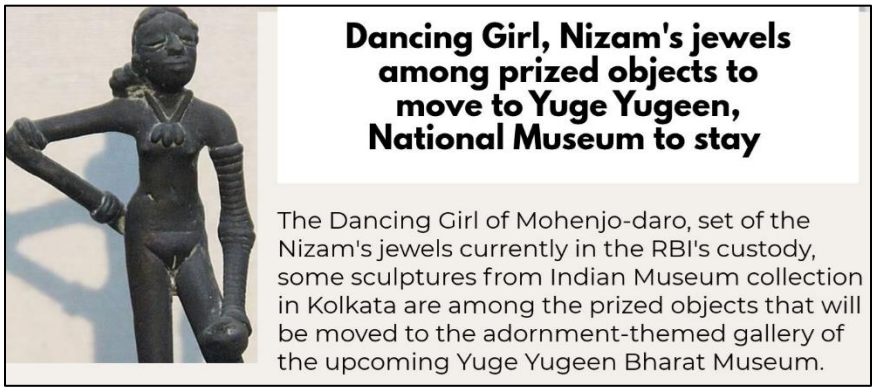


- The observance aims to create awareness about the preservation and conservation of India's cultural and natural heritage.
- India celebrates World Heritage Week as part of its commitment to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972.
- The convention was adopted on 16 November 1972 in Paris, France, and came into force on 17 December 1975.
- India became a signatory to the convention on 14 November 1977.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), established in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham, is the nodal agency for World Heritage-related matters in India.

- ASI functions under the Ministry of Culture and is responsible for the conservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments.
- As of 2026, India has 45 UNESCO World Heritage properties: 37 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed.
- India ranks sixth globally and second in the Asia-Pacific region in terms of the number of UNESCO World Heritage properties.
- India's first four World Heritage inscriptions in 1983 were Agra Fort, Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves and the Taj Mahal.
- The Sun Temple, Konark (Odisha) was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1984.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Relocation of the 'Dancing Girl'



- The Dancing Girl from Mohenjodaro, a 4500-year-old artefact, the Nizam's Jewels, the Taxila Jewellery collection, and the Gandhara collection are to be displayed in the first gallery at the 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat' museum in the national capital, New Delhi.
- The 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat' Museum is envisaged as a landmark civilizational exhibit of the continuity, diversity and richness of India's civilizational heritage.
- It is being developed by the Ministry of Culture.
- It has been established at the North and South Block buildings, following the relocation of Government offices.
- The North Block earlier housed the home ministry, the finance ministry and other central government offices, while the South Block housed the Defence ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs, which have been moved to the newly-built Kartavya Bhawans near the India Gate complex.

- The new capital of Delhi was designed and built from 1912 to 1931 by Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens, along with Sir Herbert Baker, and the two imposing buildings — North Block and South Block — along with the Rashtrapati Bhavan (earlier, Viceroy's House) form the centrepiece of the Raisina Hill complex.
- The Government has said that it would have the largest display area of any museum in the world.
- The Dancing Girl of Mohenjo-daro is a 10.5 cm tall prehistoric bronze sculpture from the Indus Valley Civilization, dating to around c. 2300–1750 BCE.
- Excavated in 1926 by archaeologist Ernest Mackay, it is housed in the National Museum, New Delhi.
- It was made using the lost-wax casting method also known as Cire Perdue, showing advanced prehistoric metalworking.
- Nizam's Jewels are a famous collection of precious jewelry that belonged to the Nizams of Hyderabad.

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