November - 25

TNPSC BITS

- Manisha Bhanwala became India's first woman wrestling world champion by winning gold in the 59 kg freestyle category at the World Wrestling Championships held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Sabir Hossain, an innovator from Purba Bardhaman district, West Bengal, won the top prize in the Health and Biomedical category at Slingshot 2026 in Singapore for developing StopBleed, a powder that controls severe bleeding within 60 seconds.
- More than 15,000 artistes performed the Karbi folk dance Nimso Kerung at KASA Stadium in Diphu, Assam, setting a Guinness World Record for the largest folk dance performance.
    - Nimso Kerung is a traditional Karbi folk dance usually performed during the Karbi Chomangkan Festival, which honours deceased family members.
- Wayanad in Kerala will host India's first Mountain Ecology Congress, titled Processual Mountains 2026, from 10 to 12 December 2026 at Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Pookode.
    - The congress aims to bring together researchers, policymakers and indigenous communities to discuss mountain conservation and governance.
- The Earthshot Prize 2026 was won by Bhutan, Mahindra Last Mile Mobility (India), Niue Ocean Wide Trust, PFAS-Free France and Ørsted (Denmark).
- Cambridge Dictionary named 'Human' as its Word of the Year 2026.
- World Children's Day is observed annually on 20 November to promote children's rights, welfare and empowerment.
    - The theme for the year 2026 is "My Day. My Rights. My Future."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Supreme Court Review Petition on Karthigai Deepam

- The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department filed a review petition in the Supreme Court challenging its interim order permitting a one-time limited arrangement for lighting the Karthigai Deepam at the Deepathoon.
- The Supreme Court clarified that the permission was a one-time arrangement and would not set a legal precedent or recognise any permanent legal right.

- A review petition is an exceptional legal remedy used to reconsider a court's decision in limited circumstances.
- A review petition cannot be used as an appeal or simply to re-argue a case on its merits.
- The petitioner must establish an apparent error on the face of the court's record or show that the decision involved a factual mistake, ignored binding judicial precedents or violated a statutory provision.
- A review petition against a Supreme Court judgment is generally placed before the same Bench that delivered the original decision.
- Such petitions are usually examined in chambers through a circulation process without an oral hearing.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Shenzhen Declaration

- The United States, China and Russia issued the four-point Shenzhen Declaration after their first-ever trilateral summit during the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in China.

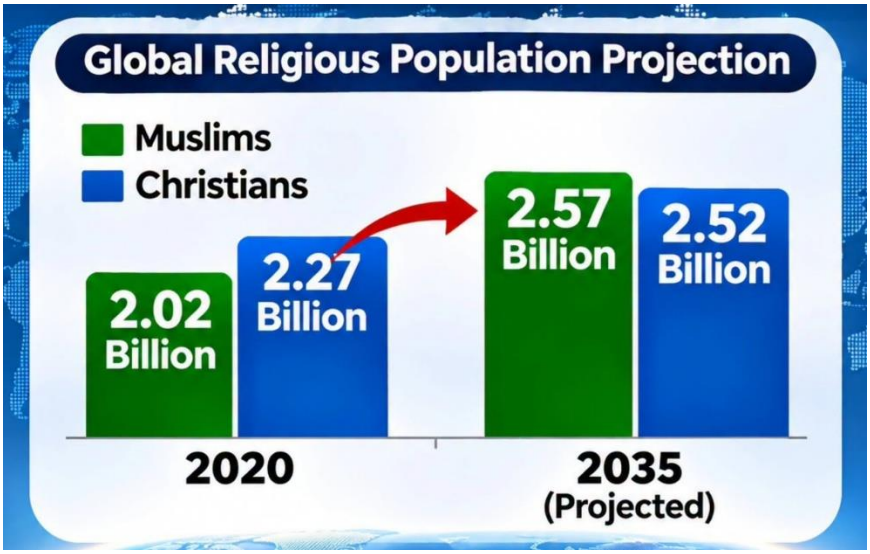
- It is a non-binding joint political statement aimed at promoting global peace and strategic stability.
- The three countries agreed to reduce nuclear risks and prevent nuclear weapons proliferation.
- They pledged to maintain stable global energy supplies, including refined petroleum products.
- The three permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) agreed to work towards United Nations reforms.
- The declaration emphasises state consent, sovereign immunity and respect for international law.
- It followed the expiry of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) between the United States and Russia on 5 February 2026.



World's largest religion by 2035

- Islam is projected to become the world's largest religion by 2035, overtaking Christianity.
- Islam will be reaching an estimated 2.57 billion Muslims compared with 2.52 billion Christians
- It was according to a Pew Research Center demographic report.

- Higher birth rates—rather than religious conversion—are the primary reason for the faster growth.
- Between 2020 and 2025, fertility rates averaged 3.1 children per Muslim woman, compared with 2.5 per Christian woman and 1.6 among all other women combined.
- Pakistan is projected to overtake Indonesia as the country with the largest Muslim population by 2070.
- The United States, within 40 years, will no longer have a Christian majority.
- Most of the world's population growth is expected to occur in Africa, particularly south of the Sahara Desert.
- The sub-Saharan Africa is projected to become home to over half of the world's Christians by 2070.
- Congo will surpass the United States as the country with the most Christians.

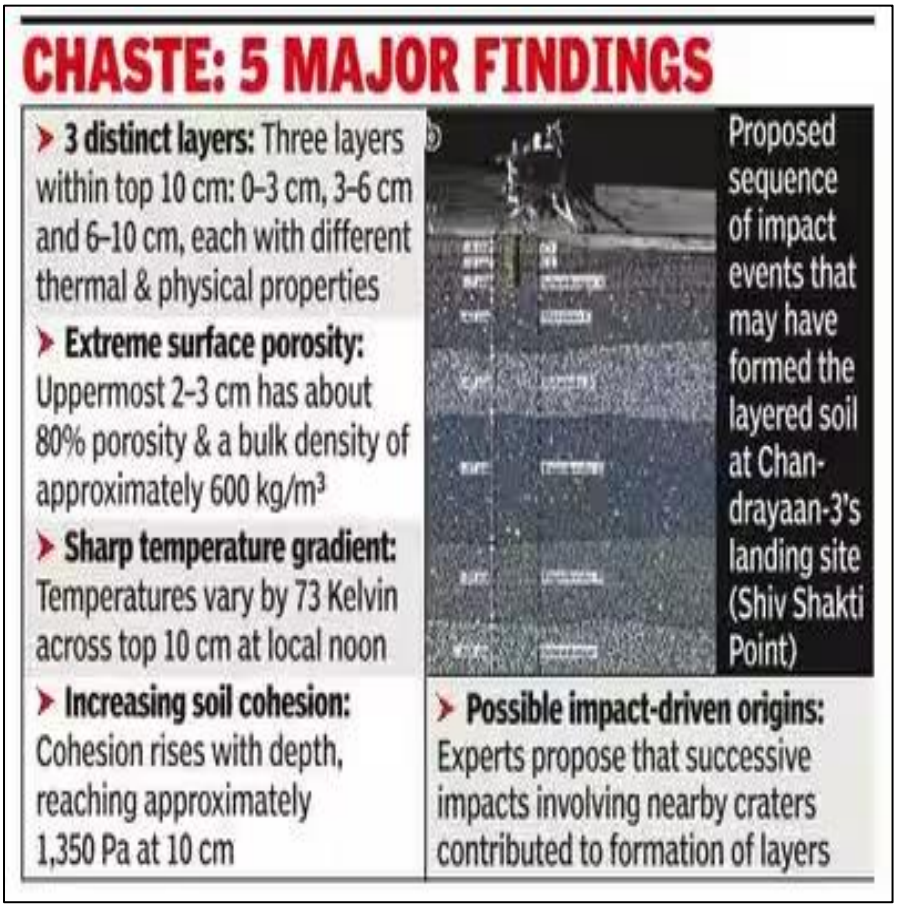


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

ChaSTE Experiment Findings

- A study published on 17 November 2026 revealed three distinct layers in the top 10 cm of lunar soil at Shiv Shakti Point, based on data collected by Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.
- The Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) aboard Vikram identified three layers with different physical and thermal properties.
- The upper layer (0–3 cm) is highly porous, with about 80% porosity, while the middle layer (3–6 cm) has higher thermal conductivity.

- The lower layer (6–10 cm) is denser, with bulk density reaching around 1,500 kg/m³.
- ChaSTE measured temperature and heat conductivity beneath the lunar surface, providing an in-situ thermal profile of lunar soil at a south-polar landing site.

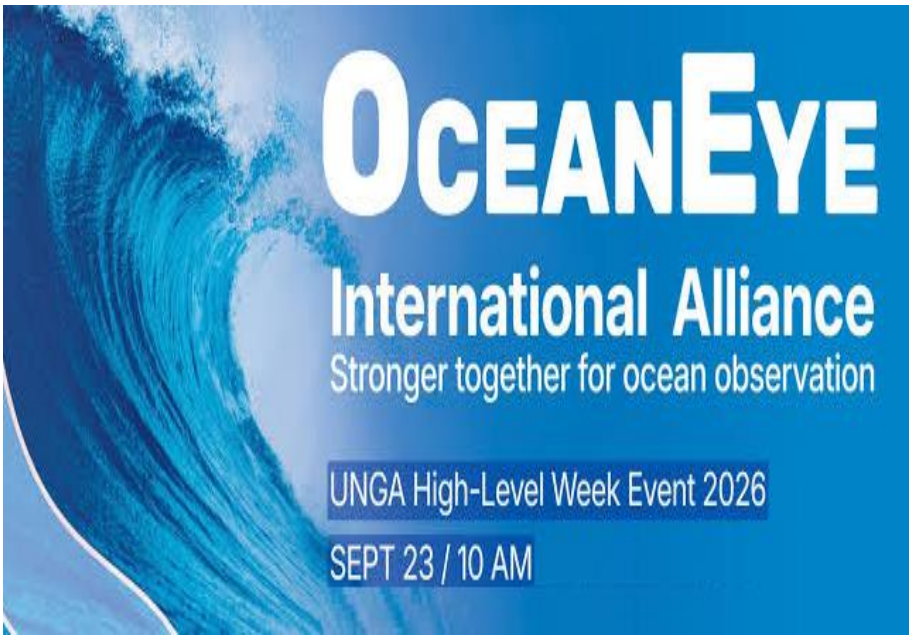


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

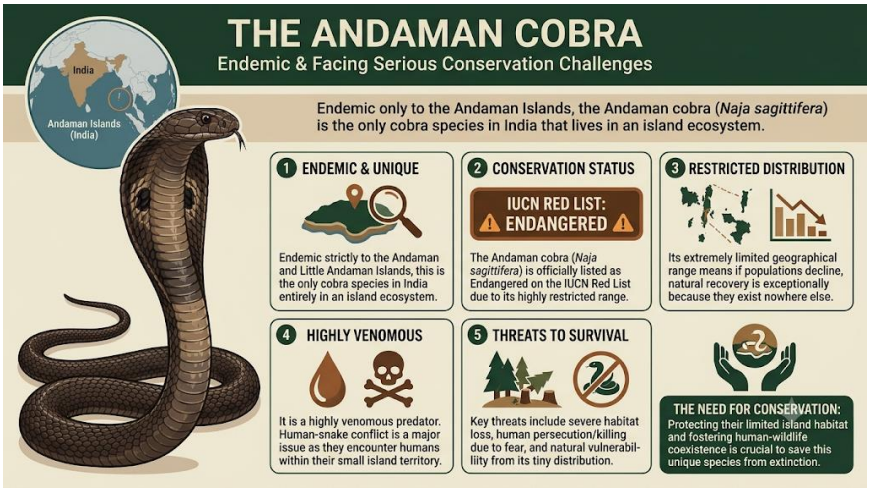
India in Ocean Eye International Alliance

- India joined the Ocean Eye International Alliance for the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and pledged to double its ocean monitoring network across the Indian Ocean on 21 November 2026.
- The Ocean Eye International Alliance is a global collaborative initiative associated with GOOS that aims to strengthen ocean observation, data sharing and marine science for improved understanding of ocean and climate systems.
- The alliance was launched jointly by the European Union and Canada in September 2026 to mobilise long-term financial and technical support for GOOS and strengthen global ocean observation.

- India announced its induction at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye, during Ocean, Seas, Nature and Land Use Day.
- Albania and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) also joined the alliance.



Andaman Cobra

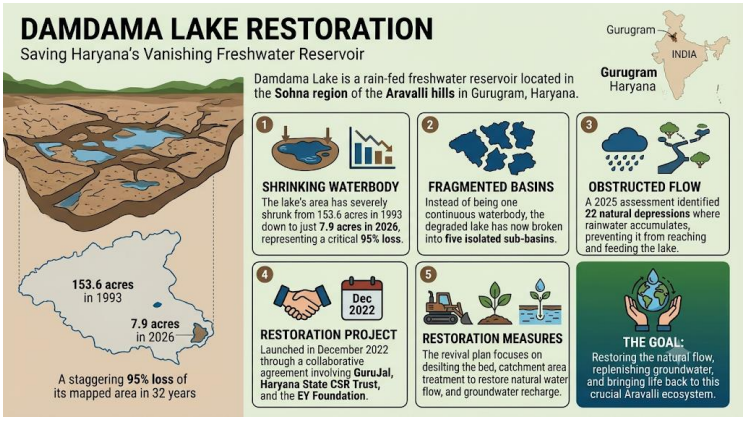


- The Andaman cobra, an endemic and highly venomous snake species, faces conservation challenges due to its restricted island habitat and human-related threats.
- The Andaman cobra (Naja sagittifera) is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

- It is the only cobra species in India that lives in an island ecosystem and is endemic to the Andaman Islands.
- Its restricted geographical distribution and absence of populations elsewhere make recovery difficult if its population declines.
- Habitat loss, human persecution and its limited distribution pose major conservation challenges.

Damdama Lake Restoration

- Damdama Lake in Gurugram, Haryana, has lost 95% of its mapped area in 32 years, shrinking from 153.6 acres in 1993 to 7.9 acres in 2026.
- Damdama Lake is a rain-fed freshwater reservoir located in the Sohna region of the Aravalli hills.
- The lake has broken into five sub-basins, instead of one continuous waterbody.
- A 2025 assessment identified 22 depressions where rainwater collects instead of flowing into the lake.
- The restoration project was launched in December 2022 through an agreement involving GuruJal, Haryana State CSR Trust and EY Foundation.
- The restoration plan also includes desilting, catchment treatment and groundwater recharge measures.



REPORTS AND INDICES

National PM SVANidhi Awards - Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh received seven national awards under the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme at the SVANidhi Samman Awards in New Delhi.

- The awards comprised three State-level awards and four awards for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- Andhra Pradesh ranked 1st in special campaigns, 2nd in loan disbursement and 3rd in overall performance.
- Kadapa Municipal Corporation secured 2nd place in loan disbursement; Ramachandrapuram Municipality ranked 1st and Amalapuram Municipality 2nd in the SVANidhi Se Samriddhi category.
- Vizianagaram Municipal Corporation secured 2nd place in digital transactions.
- PM SVANidhi is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) as its implementation partner.
- It provides street vendors with working-capital loans, a 7% annual interest subsidy for timely repayment and ₹50–₹100 monthly cashback for eligible digital transactions.



STATE NEWS

Patna's Bihar Museum

- Patna's Bihar Museum ranked 9th globally and 1st in Asia on the World's 100 Best Museums 2026 list compiled by Munich-based travel magazine 'Worth a Journey'.
- It is placing ahead of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (10th) and Paris's Musée du Louvre (31st).
- It is the only Indian museum featured in the 2026 top 100 list, evaluated using visitor reviews, data analytics, and expert assessments.

- Mexico City's Museo Nacional de Antropología took 1st place, followed by Madrid's Museo del Prado (2nd) and Denmark's Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (3rd).



RTE income cap in country



- Karnataka has raised the annual parental income limit under the Right to Education (RTE) Act from ₹3.5 lakh to ₹8 lakh, making it the highest RTE income cap in India.
- Under the RTE Act, 2009, introduced by the then United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in 2009, children from weaker and disadvantaged sections got the opportunity to secure admission in private aided and unaided schools.
- Under the Act, it is mandatory for private unaided schools to reserve 25% of their seats for children from economically weaker and disadvantaged sections.

- The government bears the educational fees for these children.
- The income limit is ₹6 lakh in Gujarat and ₹5 lakh in Delhi.

2-child policy for govt staff in MP



- Madhya Pradesh scrapped a 25-year-old rule that made persons with more than two children ineligible for state government jobs.
- The rule was introduced by the Congress government in 2001 as a population control measure.
- Under the amendments, a state government employee can no longer be dismissed for having a third child, while candidates with three children will not be disqualified from government recruitment.
- The present state government has cited falling fertility rates in the state as a reason for repealing the policy.
- Chhattisgarh had scrapped a similar restriction in its government recruitment policy in 2017.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

National Gopal Ratna Award 2026

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying announced the winners of the National Gopal Ratna Award 2026.
- The awards are instituted under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), launched in December 2014 to conserve and develop indigenous bovine breeds.
- Three categories: Best Dairy Farmer, Best Dairy Cooperative Society/Milk Producer Company/Dairy Farmer Producer Organisation and Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT).
- Best Dairy Farmer: 1st – Muralidharan Nair (Kerala); 2nd – Odedra Rajshibhai (Gujarat); 3rd – Madan Mohan Yadav (Haryana).

- Best Dairy Cooperative Society: 1st – TND 93 Thatchur MPCS (Tamil Nadu); 2nd – Dinka Milk Producers Cooperative Society Ltd (Karnataka); 3rd – Eruthenpathy Ksheerolpadaka Sahakarana Sangam (Kerala).
- Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT): 1st – Subhankar Nandi (West Bengal); 2nd – Rajesh Kumar Mahto (Jharkhand); 3rd – Shaik Shafi (Andhra Pradesh).
- Special Award for NER/Himalayan States: Dairy Farmer – Sagar Singh Rawat (Uttarakhand); Dairy Cooperative – Chak Devia Dairy Cooperative Ltd (Jammu and Kashmir); AIT – Sudhesh Kumar (Uttarakhand).
- First, second and third prizes in the first two categories carry ₹5 lakh, ₹3 lakh and ₹2 lakh, respectively.

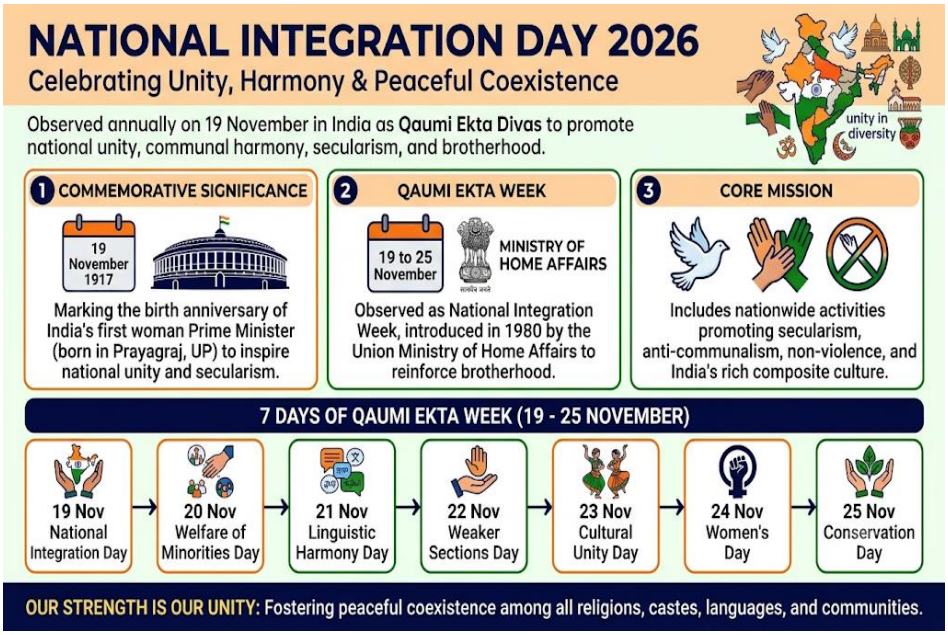


IMPORTANT DAYS

National Integration Day 2026 – November 19

- National Integration Day, also known as Qaumi Ekta Divas, is observed annually on 19 November in India to promote national unity, communal harmony, secularism and peaceful coexistence.
- The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi, India's first woman Prime Minister, who was born on 19 November 1917 in Allahabad (now Prayagraj), Uttar Pradesh.
- The observance is associated with Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary to promote national unity and brotherhood among people belonging to different religions, castes, languages and communities.

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs observes Qaumi Ekta Week (National Integration Week) from 19 to 25 November every year.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs lists 1980 as the year of its introduction.
- The week begins with National Integration Day and includes activities promoting secularism, anti-communalism, non-violence and India's composite culture.
- The seven days have different themes: National Integration Day (19 November), Welfare of Minorities Day (20 November), Linguistic Harmony Day (21 November), Weaker Sections Day (22 November), Cultural Unity Day (23 November), Women's Day (24 November) and Conservation Day (25 November).



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