November - 26

TNPSC BITS

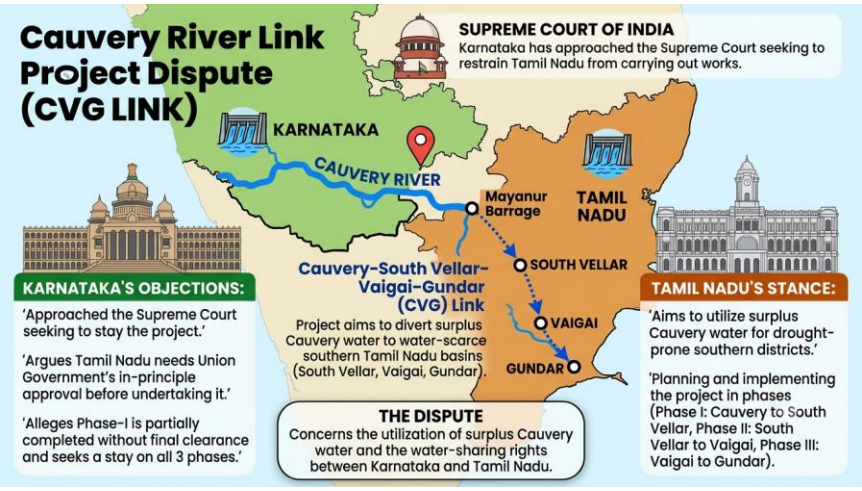
- The Union Ministry of Culture launched 'Sanskriti', an AI-based search engine and chatbot that provides information from around 65 websites operated by the ministry and its institutions.
- The Dark Brand Bushbrown (Mycalesis mineus) butterfly was newly documented at the Tropical Butterfly Conservatory (TBC) in Trichy, increasing its recorded butterfly species count from 131 to 132.
- Two Tamil Nadu schools won the inaugural I CAN Earthshot Challenge 2026, organised as part of The Earthshot Prize 2026.
    - Kaligi Ranganathan Montford Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Chennai, won the 'Protect and Restore Nature' category, while SSATN Panchayat Union Middle School, Thiruvarur, won the 'Build a Waste-Free World' category.
- Pedro Alliana was sworn in as the President of Paraguay following the impeachment of former President Santiago Peña.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched the electronic ATA Carnet (eATA Carnet) system, becoming the first country outside Europe to adopt the digital customs system.
    - An ATA Carnet, known as the Passport for Goods, allows eligible goods to be temporarily imported into participating countries without customs duties or taxes, provided they are re-exported.
- A union minister virtually inaugurated Cosmoserve Space's Base 1 facility in Hyderabad to develop technologies for removing the space debris and servicing the satellites.
- ISRO successfully conducted a ground static test of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) third stage (PS3) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- World Fisheries Day is observed annually on 21 November to recognise the contribution of fisheries to food security, nutrition and livelihoods.
    - The theme for the year 2026 is "Empowering People for Change: Advancing Decent Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture, particularly for Youth and Women."
- World COPD Day is observed annually on 18 November to promote the early diagnosis and timely treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

- The theme for the year 2026 is "Early Diagnosis and Management for a Better Life."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Cauvery River Link Project Dispute

- Karnataka has approached the Supreme Court seeking to restrain Tamil Nadu from carrying out works under the Cauvery–South Vellar–Vaigai–Gundar Link Project (CVG Link).
- The project aims to divert surplus Cauvery water towards the South Vellar, Vaigai and Gundar river basins in Tamil Nadu.
- Karnataka argued that Tamil Nadu needs the Union government's in-principle approval before undertaking the project.
- Karnataka alleged that Tamil Nadu had already completed some Phase-I works and sought a stay on all three phases.
- The dispute concerns the utilisation of surplus Cauvery water and the water-sharing rights of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.



Thirupparankundram Deepam Case

- The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court passed a John Doe order (a court order against unidentified or unnamed persons) restraining the public from calling for violation of the Supreme Court's order on lighting the Karthigai Deepam at Thirupparankundram hill.
- The Supreme Court permitted the lighting of the lamp on a newly identified Deepathoon (stone pillar) on November 20, 2026, as a one-time arrangement.

- The High Court directed the Madurai District Collector and other officials to comply with the Supreme Court's order under Article 144 of the Constitution.
- It clarified that devotees could perform Girivalam and gather at permitted viewpoints, but could not climb the hill.
- The case involved prohibitory orders issued by the Madurai Collector under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).



NATIONAL NEWS

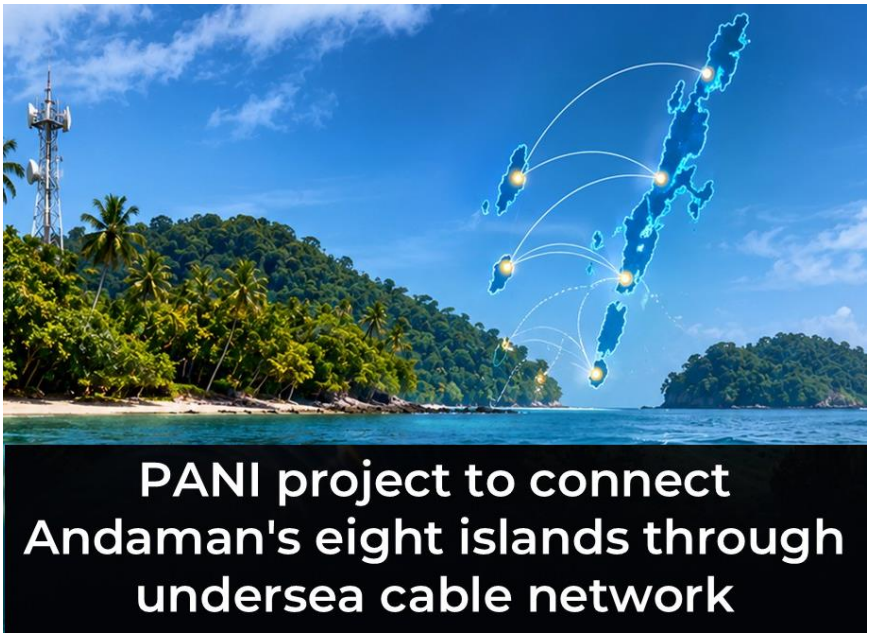
FSSAI Action Against Bisleri

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) sanctioned prosecution against Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd. after a packaged drinking water sample was declared unsafe.
- A water sample from Bisleri's Goa facility was found to contain bromate above the prescribed limit of 10 micrograms per litre; a referral laboratory also detected Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs).
- Bromate can form when ozone used for water disinfection reacts with naturally occurring bromide; the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies it as possibly carcinogenic (Group 2B).
- PAHs are chemical compounds produced by incomplete combustion of coal, oil and wood; some PAHs are carcinogenic.
- The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 regulates packaged drinking water, and Section 59 prescribes penalties for unsafe food.
- In October 2024, FSSAI removed mandatory Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification and classified packaged drinking water and natural mineral water as high-risk food products.

- From January 1, 2026, FSSAI requires regular microbiological and chemical testing, including testing of all prescribed parameters at least once every six months in approved laboratories.



PANI Island Connectivity Project



- The Centre is considering the PANI Project to connect eight Andaman and Nicobar Islands through a submarine optical fibre cable network.
- The proposed cable network will originate from Puri, Odisha, providing an alternative to the existing Chennai–Andaman cable route.
- The eight islands are Diglipur, Mayabunder, Shaheed Dweep, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal, Nancowry and Little Nicobar.
- The project aims to improve internet connectivity and ensure reliable communication during emergencies and disruptions.

- The revised BharatNet Programme aims to provide Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) connectivity to 174 uncovered villages.

Nayi Chetna 5.0 Campaign

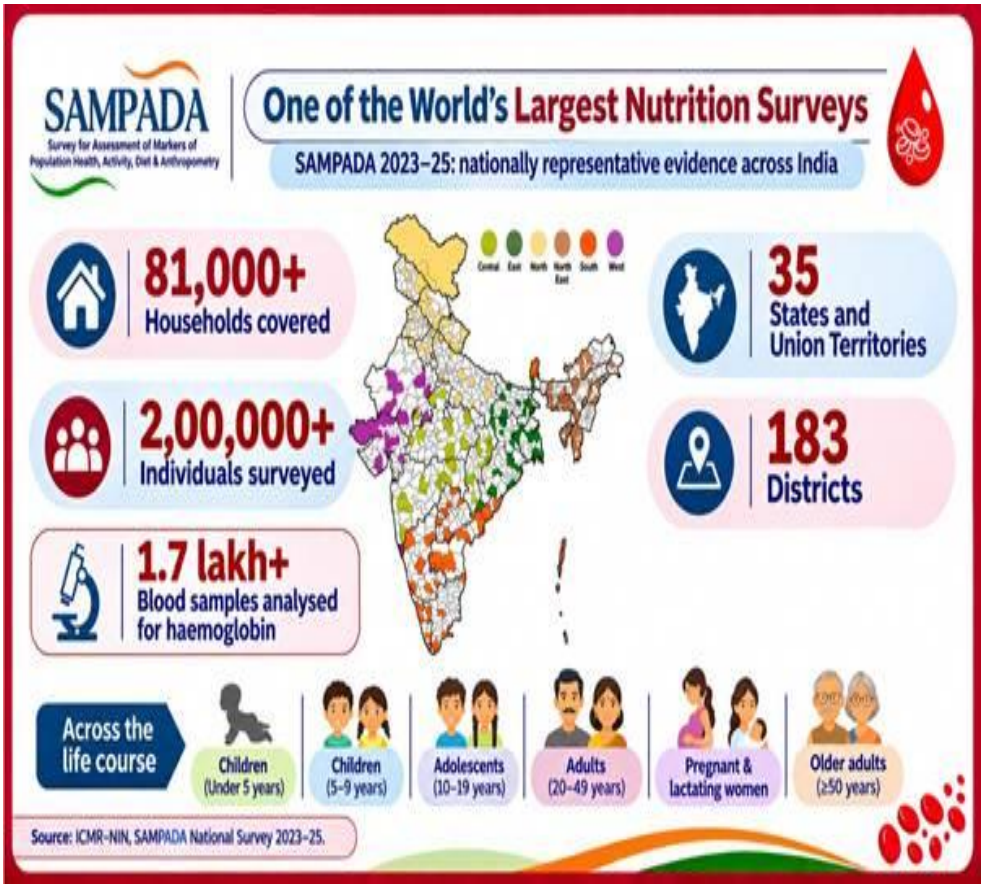
- The Ministry of Rural Development will launch the fifth edition of the Nayi Chetna – Pahal Badlav Ki campaign on 25 November 2026.
- It was launched in 2022 under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- Theme: "From Access to Agency: Empowering Women through Livelihoods and Equal Opportunities for a Viksit Bharat."
- It aims to address gender-based violence, gender inequalities and discriminatory social norms while strengthening women's rights and economic empowerment.
- Its four focus areas are women's economic contribution, control over assets, safe mobility and redistribution of unpaid care work.
- It will be implemented through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Village Organisations (VOs), Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) and Gender Resource Centres (GRCs).



ICMR SAMPADA Survey on Anaemia

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) released the findings of the SAMPADA 2023–2025 survey on anaemia on 23 November 2026.

- The survey covered over 2 lakh individuals across 183 districts in 35 States and Union Territories.
- Anaemia prevalence was 42% among children (12–59 months), 46% among adolescent girls and 56% among women of reproductive age.
- Severe anaemia was below 2% in most age groups, with mild anaemia accounting for the majority of cases.
- Iron deficiency contributed to about half of anaemia cases among women, adolescent girls and children.
- The survey used venous blood sampling and automated analysers to provide evidence for strengthening Anaemia Mukt Bharat (AMB).



JAIMEX 2026

- Exercise JAIMEX 2026 (Japan–India Maritime Exercise) was a bilateral naval exercise held on 13–14 November 2026 between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- Location is at south of Honshu / near Yokosuka, Japan.

- JAIMEX 2026 preceded the fourth India-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministers' Dialogue, also known as the 2+2 Dialogue in Tokyo.
- INS Sahyadri participated in the India-Japan naval exercise JAIMEX 2026.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN Action on Rohingya Genocide Case



- France plans to seek a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting after Myanmar rejected the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling on the 2017 Rohingya genocide case.

- The Gambia filed the genocide case against Myanmar over violence against the Rohingya community in 2017.
- France stated that ICJ judgments are final and binding on the parties involved.
- Article 94(2) of the UN Charter allows a party to approach the UNSC if another party fails to comply with an ICJ judgment.
- The UNSC may recommend or decide measures to enforce the judgment.
- Any substantive resolution requires at least nine votes in favour and no veto from the five permanent members.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Devils Hole Pupfish Population Recovery



The Devils Hole pupfish is one of the rarest fish in the world, with its entire natural population confined to a single 22-by-3.5-meter pool in Death Valley, Nevada. In 2007, the population dropped to just 38 individuals. Following conservation efforts, the spring 2019 count reached 136 fish—the highest spring count since 2003.

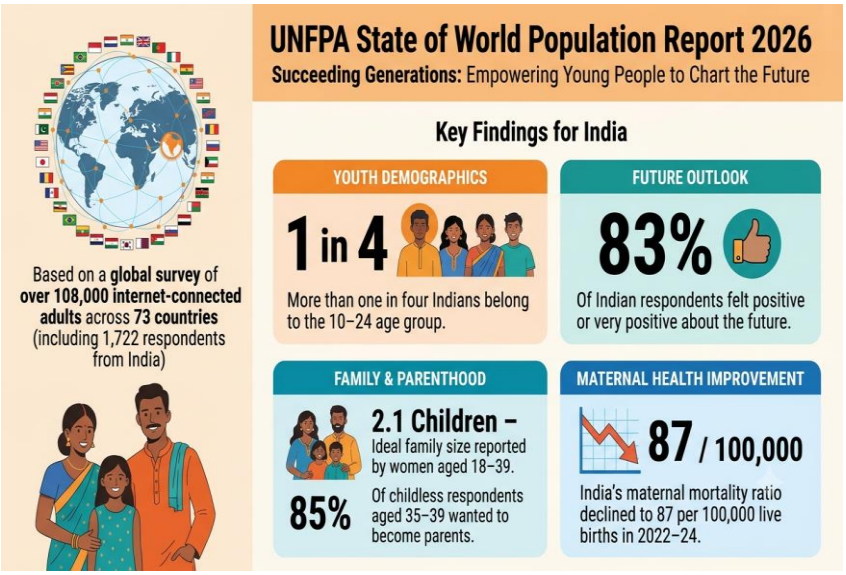
- The population of the endangered Devils Hole pupfish in Nevada, USA, increased to 137 in October 2026, compared with 69 in October 2025.
- Cyprinodon diabolis is found naturally only in Devils Hole, a water-filled limestone cavern in Death Valley National Park, Nevada.
- Its population declined to around 20 fish by March 2025 following earthquakes that damaged its food supply and breeding habitat.
- Between March 2025 and February 2026, scientists released 72 captive-raised pupfish into Devils Hole for recovery.

- It was listed as endangered in 1967 and remains threatened by earthquakes, water-level changes and habitat disturbances.

REPORTS AND INDICES

UNFPA State of World Population Report 2026

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) released its State of World Population Report 2026, titled "Succeeding Generations: Empowering Young People to Chart the Future".
- The report is based on a global survey of over 108,000 internet-connected adults across 73 countries, including 1,722 respondents from India.
- More than one in four Indians belong to the 10–24 age group.
- In India, 83% of respondents felt positive or very positive about the future.
- Women aged 18–39 reported an ideal family size of 2.1 children, while nearly 85% of childless respondents aged 35–39 wanted to become parents.
- India's maternal mortality ratio declined to 87 per 100,000 live births in 2022–24.

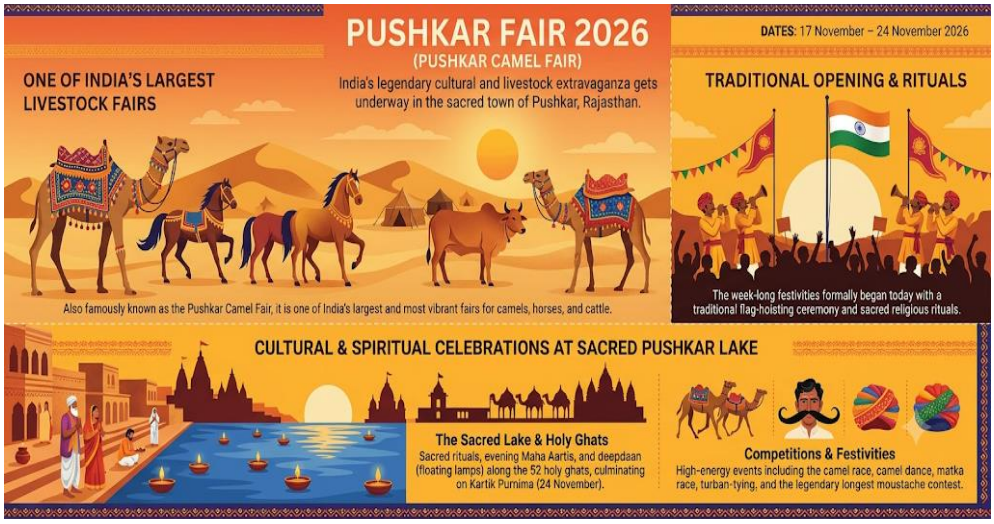


MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Pushkar Fair 2026

- The world-famous Pushkar Fair formally begins today in Rajasthan with a traditional flag-hoisting ceremony and religious rituals.

- During the week-long celebrations, religious ceremonies and cultural programmes will be held along the ghats of the sacred Pushkar Lake.
- The Pushkar Fair is also known as the Pushkar Camel Fair.
- It is one of India's largest camel, horse and cattle fairs.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★