November - 27

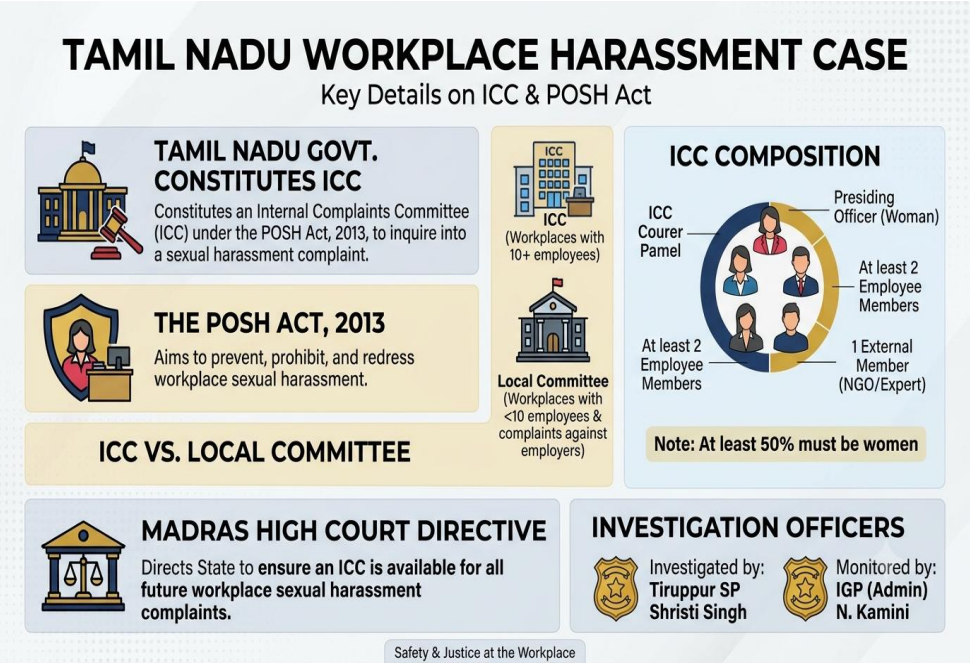
TNPSC BITS

- A White-tailed Eagle was spotted at Pallikaranai Marshland in Chennai on November 22, 2026, marking its first documented sighting in Tamil Nadu and South India.
- Mozambican freedom fighter and women's rights advocate Graça Machel received the 2025 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development in New Delhi.
- A rare Willow Warbler was spotted at Kenjar grasslands near Mangaluru, marking Karnataka's first confirmed record and the fifth confirmed sighting in India.
- The Researchers have discovered Liocheles similipalensis, a new scorpion species belonging to the family Hormuridae, marking the first confirmed record of the genus Liocheles in Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve.
  - The discovery increases the globally recognised species count of the genus Liocheles from six to seven and marks the fourth species of this genus described from India.
- A rare Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros calf was born at Chester Zoo in the United Kingdom.
  - The Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros (Rhinoceros unicornis) is classified as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- INS Sahyadri of the Indian Navy and HMCS Regina of the Royal Canadian Navy conducted a bilateral naval engagement, featuring cross-deck helicopter landings, vertical replenishment and PASSEX (Passage Exercise) to strengthen maritime cooperation and interoperability.
- The Yacht Club of Hyderabad (YCH) became the first Indian organisation to win the 2026 World Sailing 11th Hour Racing Impact Award in Qingdao, China.
- A 6,000-foot-long Kasavu textile was displayed at Kanakakunnu Palace, Thiruvananthapuram, under the Balaramapuram Kasavu Project; Kasavu is Kerala's traditional white or off-white cotton handloom fabric with a golden border, commonly used in sarees and mundus.
  - Balaramapuram, in Thiruvananthapuram district, is a centuries-old handloom-weaving centre associated with the Travancore royal family.
- World Philosophy Day is celebrated annually on the third Thursday of November (November 19, 2026) to promote philosophical thinking, critical reasoning and mutual understanding.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Living the Earth Together".

- World Television Day is observed annually on 21 November to recognise television's role in communication, information sharing and globalisation.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

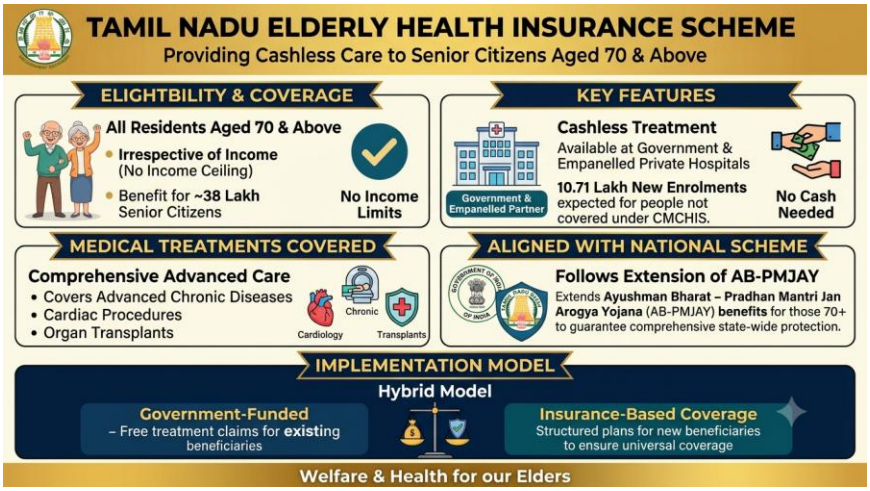
Tamil Nadu Workplace Harassment Case



- The Tamil Nadu government constituted an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to inquire into a sexual harassment complaint.
- The committee was constituted under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act).
- The POSH Act aims to prevent and prohibit workplace sexual harassment and provide a mechanism for its redressal.
- It provides for an ICC at workplaces with 10 or more employees; workplaces with fewer than 10 employees and complaints against the employer are handled by the Local Committee at the district level.
- The ICC must include a woman Presiding Officer, at least two employee members and one external member; at least half of its members must be women.
- The Madras High Court directed the State to ensure that an ICC is available for future workplace sexual harassment complaints as well.
- The court directed Tiruppur Superintendent of Police (SP) Shristi Singh to investigate the case and Inspector General of Police (Administration) N. Kamini to monitor the investigation.

Tamil Nadu Elderly Health Insurance Scheme

- Tamil Nadu approved a health insurance scheme providing coverage to all residents aged 70 and above, irrespective of income.
- The Chief Minister's Elderly Health Insurance Scheme aims to provide cashless treatment to nearly 38 lakh senior citizens at government and empanelled hospitals.
- It covers advanced treatment for chronic diseases, cardiac procedures and organ transplants.
- The scheme follows the Centre's extension of Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PM-JAY) benefits to all people aged 70 and above, regardless of income.
- The state expects around 10.71 lakh people not covered under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) to enrol.
- The scheme will follow a hybrid model, combining government-funded treatment claims for existing beneficiaries and insurance-based coverage for new beneficiaries.



NATIONAL NEWS

Swachh Shauchalay – Garimamay Bhavishya Campaign 2026

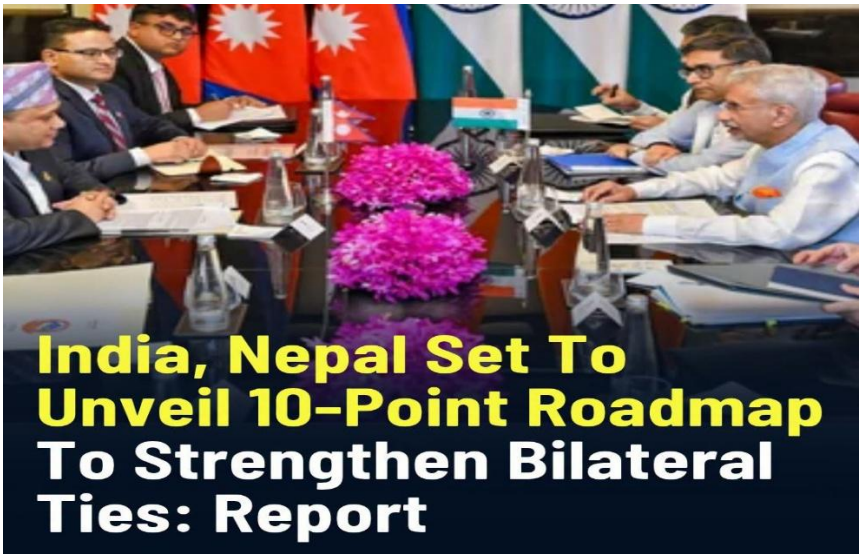
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Swachh Shauchalay – Garimamay Bhavishya (SSGB) campaign on World Toilet Day (19 November 2026).
- The nationwide campaign is implemented under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) to improve rural household, community and institutional toilets.
- It focuses on toilet repairs, conversion of single-pit toilets into twin-pit systems, soak pit installation and safe faecal sludge management.

- It promotes toilet maintenance, handwashing, personal hygiene and four-way waste segregation, with special attention to women, children and persons with disabilities.
- It includes digital monitoring and sanitation audits, with pending Swachh Seva Aankalan assessments to be completed by 30 November 2026.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

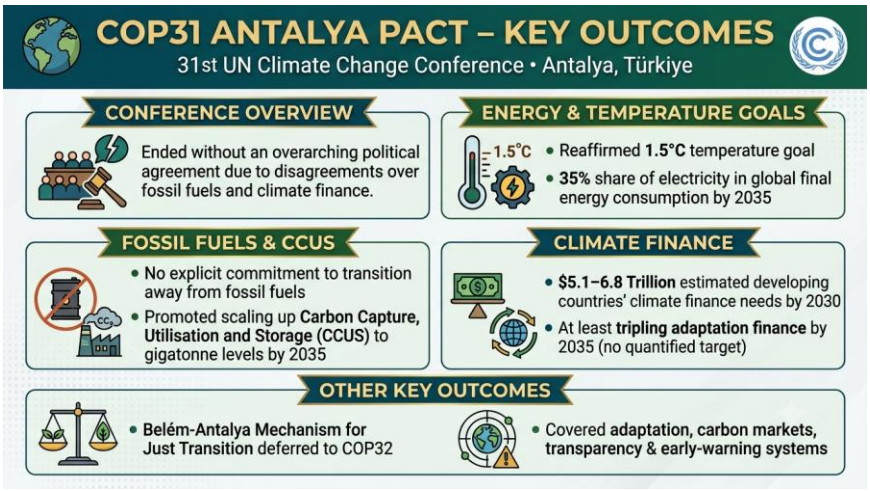
India–Nepal Strategic Partnership



- During Nepalese Prime Minister Balendra Shah's visit to India, both countries signed eight MoUs and announced a 10-pillar Joint Vision.

- India announced a ₹15,000 crore development assistance package, including ₹3,500 crore in grants and an ₹11,500 crore Line of Credit (LoC) for energy projects.
- The MoUs cover space technology, forensic science, police training, Ayurveda, healthcare, urban development, livestock and fisheries.
- Key projects include the 669-megawatt Lower Arun Hydropower Project, Dharchula–Darchula bridge and cross-border petroleum infrastructure.
- Both countries agreed to strengthen digital payments, artificial intelligence, healthcare and agricultural cooperation and review the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship through mutual consent.

COP31 Antalya Pact – Key Outcomes



- The 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) ended in Antalya, Türkiye, without an overarching political agreement due to disagreements over fossil fuels and climate finance.
- The Antalya Pact reaffirmed the 1.5°C temperature goal and set an ambition to increase electricity's share of global final energy consumption to 35% by 2035.
- The agreement did not include an explicit commitment to transition away from fossil fuels; it also promoted scaling up Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) to gigatonne levels by 2035.
- It estimated developing countries' climate finance needs at $5.1–6.8 trillion by 2030 and called for at least tripling adaptation finance by 2035, without setting a quantified target.
- The proposed Belém-Antalya Mechanism for Just Transition was deferred to COP32 for further decisions; other outcomes covered adaptation, carbon markets, transparency and early-warning systems.

ECONOMY NEWS

India's Seed Export Growth

- India's total seed exports registered 30% growth in 2025–26, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- India's seed exports increased from approximately ₹2,023 crore in 2024–25 to over ₹3,000 crore in 2025–26.
- The government has proposed establishing five Centres of Excellence to strengthen seed treatment, seed health and export capabilities.
- The Ministry proposed preparing a Seed Export Promotion Policy based on a cluster approach.
- India currently accounts for less than 2% of global seed trade, while the seed industry aims to increase its share to 10%.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

India's Space Sector Expansion

- Bengaluru-based GalaxEye and Bellatrix Aerospace signed a multi-year contract for supplying in-space propulsion systems for GalaxEye's next 30 satellites.
- It is described as the largest business-to-business (B2B) order placed by one Indian private space company with another since the space sector opened to private players in 2020.
- GalaxEye is developing the world's first OptoSAR satellite constellation, which combines optical and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imaging to capture images through clouds, smoke and darkness.
- Bellatrix Aerospace develops electric and green propulsion systems that help satellites move and maintain their positions in orbit.

- GalaxEye's Mission Drishti, launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 on 3 May 2026, became the world's first OptoSAR satellite in orbit; contact was later lost after a geomagnetic storm.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Vantara–Madagascar Wildlife Pact



- Vantara and Madagascar's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development signed a non-exclusive 10-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for wildlife conservation and animal welfare.
- Vantara is operated by the Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre Society in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

- The agreement covers the rescue, rehabilitation, veterinary care and safe return of Malagasy animals seized abroad.
- Vantara may support a National Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in Madagascar for conservation, research and training.
- Around 90% of Madagascar's lemur species are threatened with extinction, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

IMPORTANT DAYS

Constitution Day 2026 - November 26



- 26 November marks the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.
- The Constitution came into force on 26 January 1950, making India a Republic.
- Before being declared Constitution Day in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 26 November was observed as National Law Day from 1979 following a Supreme Court Bar Association resolution led by Dr. L. M. Singhvi.
- The initial draft was prepared by Constitutional Adviser B. N. Rau in February 1948, and the Drafting Committee was chaired by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.
- The Constituent Assembly considered over 2,000 amendments; the Constitution was handwritten in English and Hindi, with artwork by Nandalal Bose.
- The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, added the words Socialist and Secular to the Preamble; Fundamental Duties are included in Part IVA.

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