



October - 01

TNPSC BITS

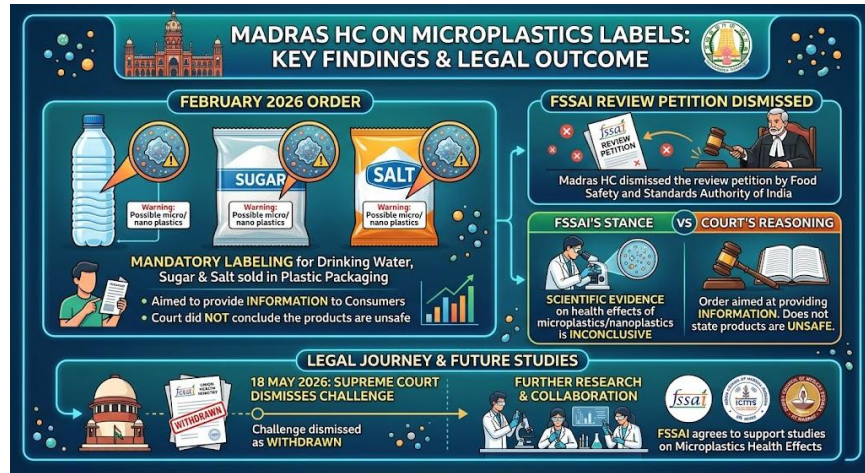
- ❖ Stanford University mathematician Sarah Peluse was named the 2026 SASTRA-Ramanujan Award recipient; the award was instituted in 2005 by SASTRA (Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy) for mathematicians aged 32 years and below.
- ❖ Google's Project Suncatcher will test artificial intelligence (AI) computing in space, with its first prototype satellite planned for launch on 1 October 2026.
- ❖ Mizoram launched its first 'Pluck & Pay' festival in Khawzawl district at Tualte and Chawngtlai villages to promote rural tourism and support local farmers.
- ❖ India will host the UCI Road World Championships for the first time in 2032, with Pune, Maharashtra selected as the host city.
- ❖ The Global Automotive Research Centre (GARC), Oragadam, Chennai, is upgrading its automotive testing facilities with ₹221.13 crore under the PM E-DRIVE (Prime Minister Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement) Scheme.
 - GARC functions under the National Automotive Board (NAB) of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and is an authorised vehicle-testing agency under Rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR).
- ❖ Vithya Ramraj set a new national record in women's 400m hurdles with 54.75 seconds, breaking P. T. Usha's 42-year-old record of 55.42 seconds set in 1984, with her timing ranking 33rd on the 2026 world list.
- ❖ Neeru Dhanda became the first Indian shooter to win an individual Asian Games gold in women's trap at the 2026 Asian Games held in Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ The foundation stone was laid for India's first port-based e-methanol production facility at Deendayal Port, Kandla, Gujarat.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Madras HC on Microplastics Labels

- ❖ Madras High Court dismissed the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) review petition.
- ❖ The court's February 2026 order required drinking water, sugar and salt sold in plastic packaging to carry a warning about possible micro/nano plastics.
- ❖ The court said the order did not conclude that these products are unsafe, but aimed to provide information to consumers.

- ❖ FSSAI said scientific evidence on the health effects of microplastics and nanoplastics remains inconclusive.
- ❖ The Supreme Court had dismissed the challenge by FSSAI and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as withdrawn on 18 May 2026.
- ❖ FSSAI agreed to support further studies by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and IIT Madras.



NATIONAL NEWS

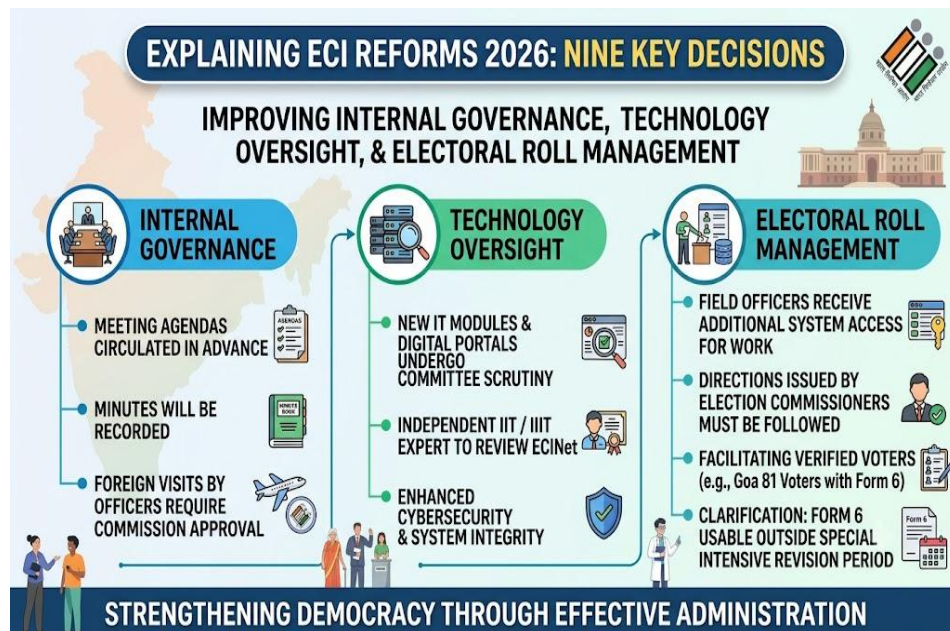
Mega Ports of India



- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways notified four ports as mega ports under the Indian Ports Act, 2025.

- ❖ The four mega ports are Deendayal Port (Kandla), Gujarat; Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Nhava Sheva), Maharashtra; Paradip Port, Odisha; and Mundra Port, Gujarat.
- ❖ A port qualifies as a mega port if it handles 150 million metric tonnes (MMT) of bulk cargo or 7.5 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (MTEUs) of container cargo in a financial year.
- ❖ The mega-port classification does not change a port's existing major or non-major classification.
- ❖ Mundra Port is the only one among the four that was previously classified as a non-major port.
- ❖ The mega-port status is valid for 5 years and is then re-evaluated based on the prescribed cargo threshold.

ECI Reforms 2026



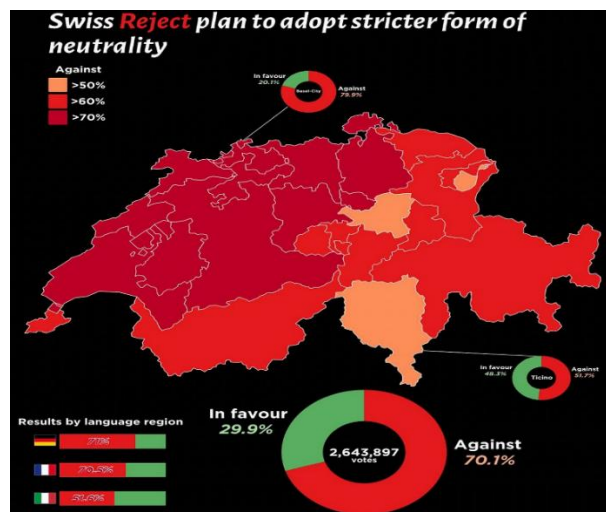
- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced nine decisions to improve internal governance, technology oversight and electoral roll management.
- ❖ Meeting agendas will be circulated in advance, minutes will be recorded, and foreign visits by ECI officers will require Commission approval.
- ❖ New Information Technology (IT) modules and digital portals will undergo committee scrutiny, while an independent Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) or Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) expert will review ECINet.
- ❖ Field officers will receive additional system access for electoral-roll work, and directions issued by Election Commissioners must be followed.

- ❖ In Goa, the ECI directed the Chief Electoral Officer to facilitate inclusion of 81 verified voters who had submitted Form 6.
- ❖ The ECI clarified that Form 6 under the Registration of Electors Rules can be used outside the Special Intensive Revision period.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Switzerland Neutrality Referendum 2026

- ❖ Swiss voters rejected the Neutrality Initiative on 27 September 2026, with 70.15% voting against it.
- ❖ The initiative sought to define Switzerland's neutrality as "perpetual and armed" in the Constitution.
- ❖ It proposed banning military alliances and sanctions against warring states, except when required by the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ All Swiss cantons rejected the initiative, so it failed to secure the required double majority.
- ❖ Switzerland has had neutrality in its Federal Constitution since 1848 and is not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- ❖ The initiative was supported by the Swiss People's Party (SVP) and other groups seeking stricter neutrality rules.



UN Women AI Hub

- ❖ UN Women launched the Digital, Innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hub to place gender equality at the centre of digital transformation.

- ❖ The hub will bring together governments, technology companies, researchers, AI experts and women's rights organisations.
- ❖ It aims to reduce gender bias in AI, address online violence and ensure technology reflects the needs of women and girls.
- ❖ UN Women reported that women hold nearly 20% of AI jobs and only about 10% of senior AI leadership positions.
- ❖ A global analysis of 133 AI systems found that 44% showed gender bias.
- ❖ The hub will support countries in developing gender-responsive digital and AI policies and promote inclusive, sustainable and rights-based technology.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

6th Cycle of Tiger Reserve Evaluation

- ❖ The 6th Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEE-TR 2026) was launched in New Delhi to assess the management of all 58 notified tiger reserves in India.
- ❖ It is organised by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- ❖ MEE assesses planning, resources, management processes, conservation outcomes and community participation, not just tiger numbers.
- ❖ The evaluation follows the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) framework and covers six elements: context, planning, inputs, processes, outputs and outcomes.

- ❖ MEE-TR 2026 introduces a dedicated Solid Waste Management (SWM) criterion and greater use of satellite data and geo-tagged field records.
- ❖ The evaluation also includes local communities and youth, with greater focus on village relocation and Eco-Development Committees (EDCs).



Kazakhstan Horse Reintroduction



- ❖ Two Przewalski's horse foals were born in Kazakhstan's steppe in August 2026, marking the first births there after nearly 200 years.
- ❖ Przewalski's horse is considered the world's last truly wild horse and has never been domesticated.
- ❖ The species disappeared from the wild; the last wild sighting was recorded in the Gobi Desert in 1969.
- ❖ Since 2024, 22 horses have been brought from European zoos to Kazakhstan's Alibi Reintroduction Centre for rewilding.

- ❖ Kazakhstan aims to have 40 Przewalski's horses by 2029, with the long-term goal of establishing a stable free-roaming population.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Lamyamba Hijam Irabot – 75th Death Anniversary

- ❖ Manipur observed the 75th death anniversary of Lamyamba Hijam Irabot on 26 September 2026.
- ❖ Lamyamba Hijam Irabot (1896–1951) was a prominent freedom fighter, social activist and communist leader from Manipur.
- ❖ He worked for the social and political rights of the people of Manipur.
- ❖ From the 1930s, he opposed British rule and raised his voice against social and political inequalities.
- ❖ He played an important role in uniting people from different communities of Manipur.
- ❖ He is remembered for his vision of social equality, unity and justice.
- ❖ He died on 26 September 1951.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Antyodaya Diwas 2026 – September 25

- ❖ The day observed on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- ❖ Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was born on 25 September 1916 and died on 11 February 1968.
- ❖ He was associated with the philosophy of Integral Humanism, which considers the development of the body, mind, intellect and soul as an integrated whole.
- ❖ His Antyodaya idea places the poorest person at the centre of development and links development with a minimum standard of living for all.

- ❖ The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) was launched on 25 September 2014 to provide skill training and employment opportunities to rural youth.
- ❖ Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is another government programme named after him and focuses on the social and economic empowerment of rural households.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Etruscan Civilization – Ancient Tomb Discovery



Archaeologists discover 'tomb of the very highest rank' in 2,700-year-old Etruscan cemetery

- ❖ Archaeologists have uncovered a 2,700-year-old Etruscan tomb at the Polledrara necropolis in Vulci, central Italy, 137 years after archaeologist Stéphane Gsell first identified the burial mound.



- ❖ The Tomb of the Stone Chamber dates to the 7th century BCE, when Vulci was at the peak of its power.
- ❖ The tomb contains gold and bronze objects, weapons, jewellery, chariot parts, clothing, rare shoes and an almost complete banquet set.
- ❖ A bronze tripod from Rhodes shows that Etruscan society had long-distance connections with the wider Mediterranean world.
- ❖ The tomb was linked to the “Gsell tumulus”, which Gsell mapped in 1889 but could not excavate because of limited time and funds.

