



October - 03

TNPSC BITS

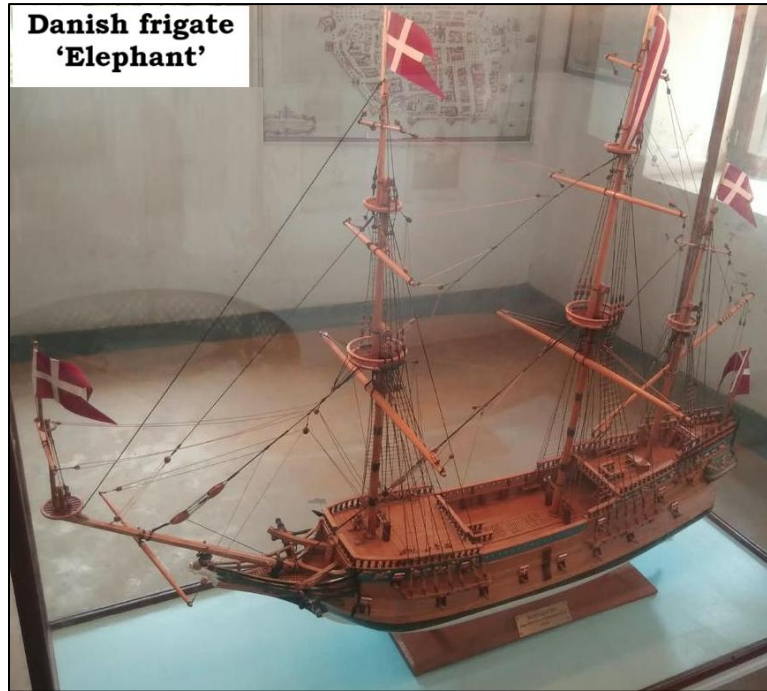
- ❖ India's first dual-fuel Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) train was flagged off from Sabarmati Railway Station, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ❖ Iran completed track-laying on the Chabahar-Zahedan railway in September 2026, connecting Chabahar Port with Iran's national rail network.
 - The corridor links the Gulf of Oman with Afghanistan, Central Asia and eastern Russia, while bypassing Pakistan; Chabahar is Iran's only oceanic port, and Zahedan is the capital of Sistan and Baluchestan province.
- ❖ India and Kazakhstan are conducting the 9th edition of KAZIND-2026 in Oskemen, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ India retained the Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy at the 46th Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, after finishing as the best overall nation.
- ❖ The Central Government approved a ₹87 crore project to develop India's first world-class geological museum at Bhedaghat-Lamhetaghat, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Trinidad and Tobago is set to become the first Caribbean country to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
 - UPI is currently operational in 11 foreign countries, including Bhutan, Nepal, Singapore, UAE, France, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Qatar, Cambodia, Greece and Maldives.
- ❖ India's first steel bridge for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project was launched at Dive-Anjur village in Bhiwandi, Thane district, Maharashtra.
- ❖ 11-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan became the youngest-ever Woman Grandmaster (WGM) after earning her third WGM norm at the 2026 Women's Chess Olympiad held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tranquebar Maritime Heritage

- ❖ A model of the Danish frigate 'Elephant', which landed at Tharangambadi, Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil Nadu, in 1620, was donated to the Tranquebar Maritime Museum.
- ❖ Elephant was part of a fleet of 2 warships and 3 merchant ships sent to establish trade links with South Asia.

- ❖ The expedition was commanded by Admiral Ove Gedde and reached Tharangambadi on 13 September 1620.
- ❖ Gedde later signed a treaty with the Naik of Thanjavur and began constructing Fort Dansborg at Tharangambadi.
- ❖ The ship model was built by the Koge Maritime Model Builders' Guild in Denmark.
- ❖ The model was donated by the Danish Tranquebar Association to the Tranquebar Maritime Museum, Tharangambadi.



NATIONAL NEWS

Aquaculture Insurance Initiative

- ❖ The government is promoting aquaculture insurance under PM-MKSSY (Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana) with a 40% premium incentive.
- ❖ India recorded its highest-ever fish production of 19.8 million tonnes in 2024–25, becoming the world's second-largest fish-producing country with about 8% of global production.
- ❖ Aquaculture contributes over 74% of India's total fish output and includes carp, shrimp, prawn, cage and marine farming.
- ❖ India has about 14.1 lakh hectares of brackish-water area, but only around 17% has been developed for aquaculture.

- ❖ India has about 1.95 lakh km of rivers and canals, 31.5 lakh hectares of reservoirs and 22.1 lakh hectares of ponds and tanks.

PM-MKSSY
AQUACULTURE INSURANCE
Secure Your Aquaculture. Protect Your Future.

KEY BENEFITS

- SECURE AQUACULTURE**
Protect your fish/shrimp farm from unforeseen events and losses
- 40% INCENTIVE ON DBT**
Avail 40% incentive on insurance premium through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)
- COVERAGE AGAINST NATURAL & OTHER RISKS**
Covers loss due to flood, cyclone, drought, disease outbreak, water quality issues & other risks
- FINANCIAL SECURITY**
Minimize financial losses and ensure stability of your aquaculture business

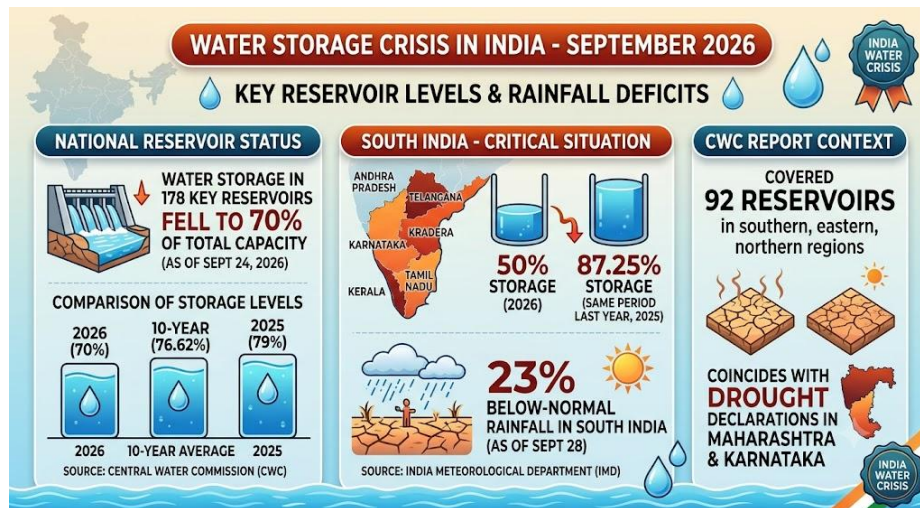
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PM-MKSSY
Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana

Water Storage Crisis in India



- ❖ Water storage in 178 key reservoirs fell to 70% of total capacity by September 24, 2026, according to the Central Water Commission (CWC).
- ❖ The storage level was below the 10-year average of 76.62% and the 2025 level of 79%.
- ❖ South India (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu) had only 50% storage, against 87.25% in the same period last year.



- ❖ South India received 23% below-normal rainfall as of September 28, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ❖ The CWC report covered 92 reservoirs in the southern, eastern and northern regions and coincided with drought declarations in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

OECD India Growth Forecast

- ❖ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) raised India's 2026–27 growth forecast to 7.1%, from 6.3% estimated in June 2026.
- ❖ OECD said strong domestic demand and government policies helped India withstand the impact of the West Asia crisis.
- ❖ It expects India's growth to slow to 6.5% in 2027–28 after 7.1% in 2026–27.
- ❖ S&P Global raised its 2026–27 forecast to 7%, while Fitch Ratings raised it to 6.9% and Moody's Ratings to 7%.
- ❖ The OECD expects growth to slow in the second half of 2026–27 due to reduced purchasing power, followed by gradual recovery in 2027.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has raised India's GDP growth projection for current fiscal by 80 basis points to 7.1% citing resilient domestic demand and government policies that cushioned households and firms from the impact of higher energy prices. In June, it had projected the Indian economy to grow at 6.3% in 2026-27.

Paraquat Dichloride Ban

- ❖ The Central Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has officially banned Paraquat Dichloride, a highly toxic non-selective herbicide.
- ❖ Paraquat is a fast-acting, broad-spectrum contact herbicide used for weed control and crop desiccation.
- ❖ It is highly toxic when ingested and can cause severe lung and kidney damage, including progressive pulmonary fibrosis.

- ❖ The ban was based on expert review of risks to human health, livestock and the environment.
- ❖ The Insecticides Act, 1968 regulates the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides in India.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

FAO Forestry Committee



- ❖ India highlighted its achievements in sustainable forest management and ecological restoration at COFO 28 in Rome, Italy.

- ❖ Committee on Forestry (COFO) is the highest-level global intergovernmental statutory body on forestry under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ COFO has 128 FAO members and meets every two years at FAO headquarters in Rome.
- ❖ Theme of COFO 28: “Forests for food, resilience and prosperity.”
- ❖ India’s forest and tree cover reached 82.74 million hectares, covering 25.17% of its geographical area.
- ❖ India ranks 9th globally in total forest area and 3rd in net annual forest area gain, according to FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025.

International Whaling Commission Meeting 2026



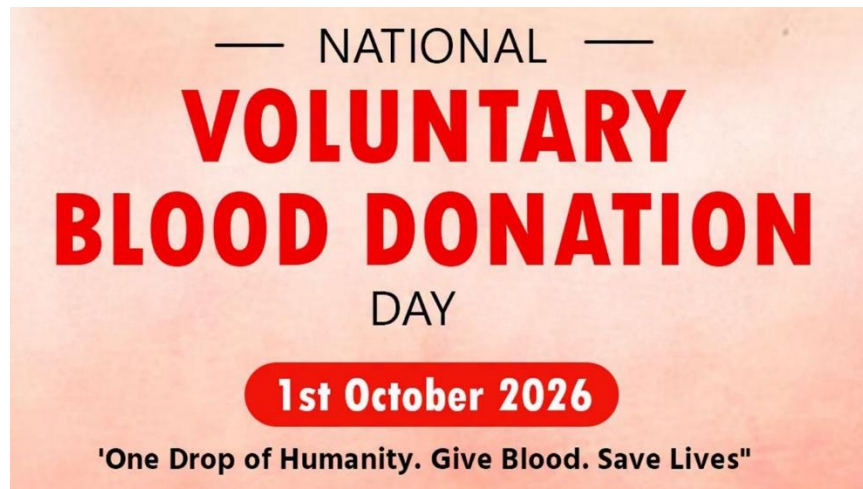
- ❖ India reaffirmed its commitment to science-based cetacean conservation at the 70th meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC-70) in Hobart, Australia.
- ❖ The International Whaling Commission (IWC) was established under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, signed in Washington, D.C., on 2 December 1946.
- ❖ IWC is the global body for the management of whaling and conservation of whales and currently has 89 member governments.
- ❖ India has been an IWC member since 1981 and stressed scientific research, international cooperation and practical conservation measures.
- ❖ Cetaceans in Indian waters receive the highest legal protection under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; India also runs Project Dolphin and has Marine Protected Areas.

- ❖ India has given special conservation attention to the Arabian Sea humpback whale, among 25 species identified for focused conservation efforts.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Voluntary Blood Donation Day 2026 - October 01

- ❖ The day aims to promote regular, voluntary and non-remunerated blood donation.
- ❖ Around 75% of blood collection in India is through voluntary donation.
- ❖ The Nationwide Mega Voluntary Blood Donation Campaign is being held from 17 September to 2 October 2026, with focus on youth participation and public awareness.
- ❖ Haryana, Uttarakhand and Punjab ranked first, second and third among states for blood collection performance in 2025; Mizoram and Sikkim ranked first and second among North-Eastern states.
- ❖ Chandigarh and Delhi ranked first and second among Union Territories.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives."



International Day of Older Persons 2026 - October 01

- ❖ The day aims to highlight issues related to ageing and the rights and well-being of older persons.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) observed the day first in 1990.
- ❖ The number of people aged 60 years or over reached 1.22 billion in 2025 and is projected to reach 2.1 billion by 2050.

- ❖ The Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) aims to improve the lives of older people, their families and communities.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives.”



International Coffee Day 2026 - October 01



- ❖ The day was observed with the International Coffee Organization (ICO) campaign “Coffee is Part of the Solution.”
- ❖ The International Coffee Organization (ICO) says coffee provides income for about 12.5 million farming families worldwide.
- ❖ In India, coffee is mainly grown in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, with cultivation also present in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and the northeastern states.

- ❖ India produced a record 3,63,500 metric tonnes of coffee in 2024–25, including 1,05,700 tonnes of Arabica and 2,57,800 tonnes of Robusta.
- ❖ India exported 3,88,925 tonnes of coffee, including re-exports, to 126 countries during 2024–25.
- ❖ Finland had the highest per-person coffee consumption at about 11.9 kg annually, followed by Norway and Iceland.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Dakhla Archaeological Discovery

- ❖ Archaeologists discovered a 1,700-year-old pyramid-shaped tomb at Bir Al-Shaghala in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis, dating to the late 3rd or early 4th century AD.
- ❖ The mud-brick tomb was built for a married couple and combines Egyptian, Greek and Roman cultural traditions.
- ❖ Its Egyptian-style entrance has 14 steps, hieroglyphic funerary spells, a winged sun disk and two cobras.
- ❖ A 19-line funerary poem in ancient Greek was found on a stone stele inside the tomb.
- ❖ Archaeologists also found pottery, a sandstone offering table, a purification basin and a bronze coin showing Roman Emperor Constantine.
- ❖ Bir Al-Shaghala was part of the necropolis of Mothis, the ancient capital of the Dakhla Oasis during the Ptolemaic and Roman periods.

