



October - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The FASTag Annual Pass crossed one crore issued passes on 28 September 2026 and is available only for private, non-commercial vehicles with a valid FASTag, activated through the Rajmargyatra app or NHAI website.
 - The pass was launched on 15 August 2025 by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- ❖ Mandar, a traditional folk percussion instrument of Jharkhand, received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.
 - Mandar has a cylindrical red-clay body with leather-covered openings of different sizes on both ends and is used in Jharkhand's tribal and folk music.
- ❖ Researchers identified *Pygoscelis kerguelensis* as a new gentoo penguin species from the Kerguelen Islands in the southern Indian Ocean, making it the first new penguin species recognised in over 100 years.
- ❖ Jawahar Dweep Marine Oil Terminal in Mumbai, also known as Butcher Island, was declared India's first plastic-free oil terminal.
- ❖ Ladakh sent its first consignment of 15,000 A-grade Liliium stems from KBR Airport, Leh, grown in Choglamsar's 10,600-ft (3,265-m) flower field, described as the world's highest-altitude flower field with over 25 lakh Liliiums, to major Indian markets.
- ❖ Wildlife Week is celebrated annually in India to promote awareness and protection of wildlife and their habitats, and was first started in 1952.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Connecting Habitats and Thriving Wildlife."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

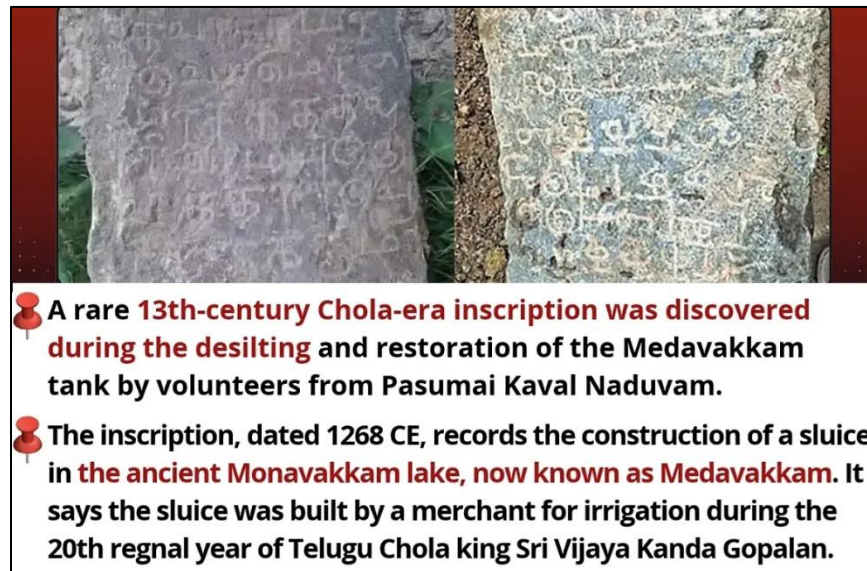
Vettri Payanam Scheme – Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the expanded Vettri Payanam scheme on 2 October 2026 at Koyambedu, Chennai, extending no-fare bus travel for women and transgender persons.
- ❖ The scheme expands the earlier Magalir Vidiyal Payanam scheme, which was introduced in May 2021.
- ❖ The expansion covers Express, Limited Stop Service (LSS), Deluxe, Mofussil Ordinary and Ghat Ordinary buses beyond 40 km, in addition to previously covered ordinary services.

- ❖ State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) buses are excluded from the expanded scheme.
- ❖ The scheme covers about 12,692 government buses, accounting for nearly 69% of the scheduled buses operated by seven State Transport Undertakings.
- ❖ Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETM) systems were integrated to record free journeys; trial runs were conducted on 27 September 2026.



Chola-Era Inscription in Medavakkam



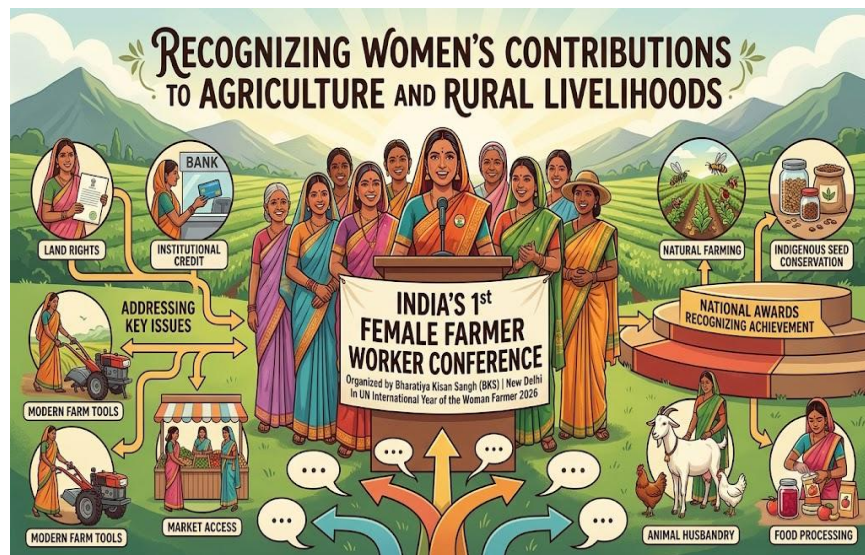
- ❖ A 13th-century Chola-era stone inscription was discovered during the restoration and desilting of Nalla Thanneer Kulam in Medavakkam, Chennai.
- ❖ The inscription dates to 1268 CE, during the rule of Telugu Chola king Vijaya Ganda Gopalan, who ruled from Kancheepuram.

- ❖ It records the construction of a sluice in the ancient Monapakkam lake by a merchant from Monappakkam.
- ❖ Monapakkam later became known as Modavakkam, indicating the historical evolution of the locality's name.
- ❖ The inscription shows that ancient waterbodies around present-day Chennai were developed for agricultural and drinking-water needs.
- ❖ Nalla Thanneer Kulam was reportedly a drinking-water source for local residents until about three decades ago.

NATIONAL NEWS

First Female Farmer Worker Conference

- ❖ India's first Female Farmer Worker Conference was held in New Delhi to recognise women's contributions to agriculture and rural livelihoods.
- ❖ The conference was organised by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) during the United Nations (UN) International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026.
- ❖ It focused on recognising women as farmers and addressing issues such as land rights, institutional credit, farm tools and market access.
- ❖ National awards were given to women farmers for achievements in natural farming, indigenous seed conservation, animal husbandry and food processing.



PRAGATI-50 Initiative

- ❖ PRAGATI-50 was launched on 29 September 2026 in New Delhi to develop 50 model cities across 24 states under Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0.

- ❖ PRAGATI-50 aims to improve urban cleanliness, solid waste management, used water management, sanitation and citizen participation through Key Performance Indicator (KPI)-based monitoring.
- ❖ The selected cities include capitals, cultural centres, pilgrimage towns, tourism hubs and economic centres, serving as clean role models for other urban local bodies.
- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) will implement the initiative, with review meetings chaired by the Union Minister every two months.
- ❖ Six selected cities from Uttar Pradesh are Agra, Ayodhya, Lucknow, Mathura-Vrindavan, Prayagraj and Varanasi.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Akash Air Defence System Exports

- ❖ India exported the Akash Air Defence System to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan as of 1 October 2026.
- ❖ Akash is an indigenous short- to medium-range surface-to-air missile system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ It is produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- ❖ Armenia was the first foreign customer for the Akash system.
- ❖ The system can engage fighter aircraft, cruise missiles, guided munitions and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

GIB Conservation in Rajasthan

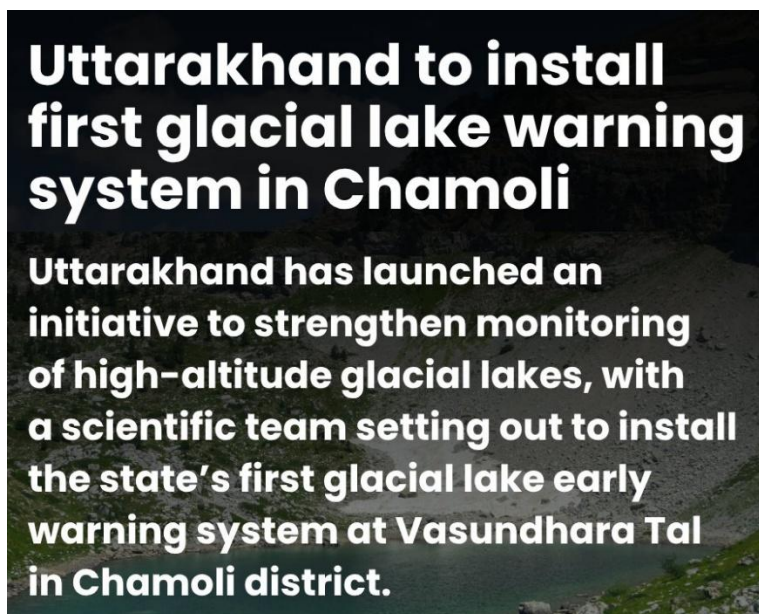
India's Jaisalmer conservation centres now shelter **98 Great Indian Bustards** after **26 chicks hatched this season**, bringing fresh hope for one of the world's rarest and most **endangered bird species**.

- ❖ For the first time, captive-bred Great Indian Bustard (GIB) chicks are set to be released into the wild at Desert National Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The status IUCN Status: Critically Endangered (CR); scientific name: *Ardeotis nigriceps*.
- ❖ Project GIB, launched in 2013, has bred at least 98 GIBs at conservation centres in Sam and Ramdevra, Jaisalmer.
- ❖ The wild population is estimated at only 120–150 birds, with about 130 ± 20 in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Major threats include habitat loss, poaching and collisions with power lines.
- ❖ GIB is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and has a slow reproduction rate, laying eggs once every 1–2 years.

STATE NEWS

First Glacial Lake Early-Warning System - Uttarakhand

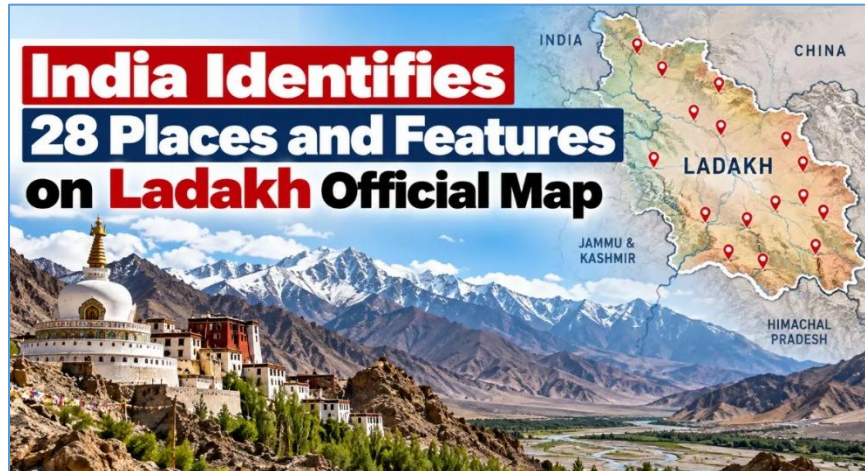
- ❖ Uttarakhand began installing its first Glacial Lake Early-Warning System at Vasundhara Tal in Chamoli district.
- ❖ The system will monitor water level, weather, snow depth, ground movement, subsurface temperature and water flow.
- ❖ A 22-scientist team led by the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology is installing the system with support from the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) identified 344 glacial lakes in Uttarakhand in 2023, of which 13 were classified as high-risk by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- ❖ The system aims to provide early warning against Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).



Ladakh Map Standardisation

- ❖ The Government of India has standardised the names of 28 geographical features in Ladakh on the official Survey of India map.
- ❖ The list includes 11 peaks, 5 mountains, 6 land areas, 2 glaciers, 2 passes, 1 valley, 1 river, 1 lake and 1 other water body.
- ❖ Newly standardised features include Atisha Giri, Kanishka Peak, Zorawar Peak, Shiva Ri, Karun Pir, Drak Karpo and Jolmori.

- ❖ Parpik and Skamri were identified as glaciers, while Chapchinal Pass and Shachmirk Pass were identified as passes.
- ❖ Other features include Shkorga Valley, Yangpa River, Guru Rinpoche Lake and Hot Spring.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

2026 Ig Nobel Prizes

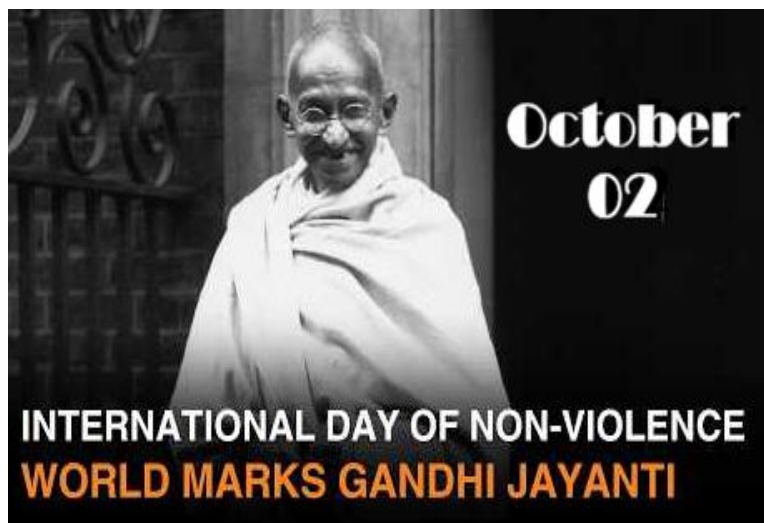


- ❖ The 2026 Ig Nobel Prizes were awarded in Zurich, Switzerland, for unusual scientific research.
- ❖ The Ig Nobel Prizes were started in 1991 by Marc Abrahams as a humorous counterpart to the Nobel Prizes.
- ❖ The Medicine Prize went to Tokuji Unno (posthumously) for studying the aerodynamics of nose-blowing and its effects on health.

- ❖ The Biology Prize went to João Miguel Alves-Nunes and colleagues for studying factors that make venomous snakes bite humans.
- ❖ The Chemistry Prize went to Sanchari Banerjee, Nathan Coussens and colleagues, including researchers from India, for studying the high-energy milk proteins of viviparous cockroaches.
- ❖ Other prizes recognised research in Economics, Physics, Technology, Olfaction, Peace and Soil Science.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Non-Violence 2026 - October 02



- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established the day through a resolution in 2007.
- ❖ The date coincides with Gandhi Jayanti, commemorating Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's birth anniversary.
- ❖ The day promotes peaceful action, dialogue, tolerance and conflict resolution.
- ❖ Gandhi's philosophy of Ahimsa (non-violence) and Satyagraha (non-violent resistance) is associated with the observance.
- ❖ M.K Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869 at Porbandar, Gujarat.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

5 New Sites on UNESCO Tentative List

- ❖ Five new sites were added to India's UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, taking the total to 78 sites.

- ❖ The five additions are Bagh Cave Paintings, Group of Temples of the Chambal Valley, Udaigiri Caves, Ginnorgarh, and Sites of Satyagraha.
- ❖ The first four sites are in Madhya Pradesh, while Sites of Satyagraha is a proposed India–South Africa transnational serial property.
- ❖ Udaigiri Caves contain 20 rock-cut caves, sculptures and inscriptions dating mainly to the Gupta period (late 4th–early 5th century).
- ❖ Bagh Caves are nine rock-cut Buddhist caves on the banks of the Baghni River in western Madhya Pradesh, known for their mural paintings.
- ❖ Sites of Satyagraha includes 9 components—2 in South Africa and 7 in India—tracing the development of Mahatma Gandhi’s Satyagraha.

