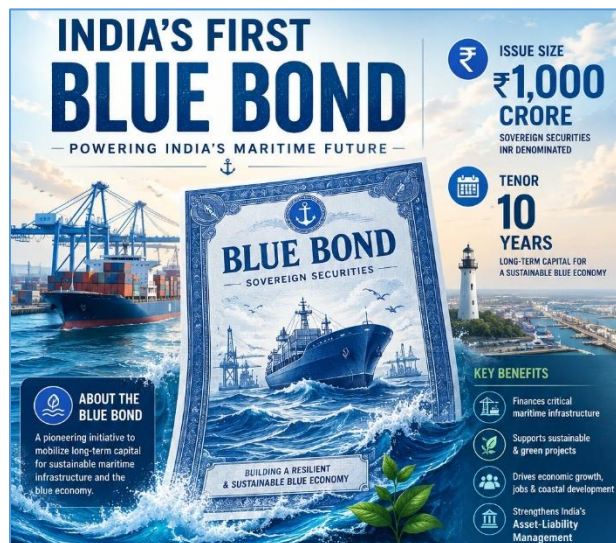


October - 06

NATIONAL NEWS

Blue Bond for Maritime Growth

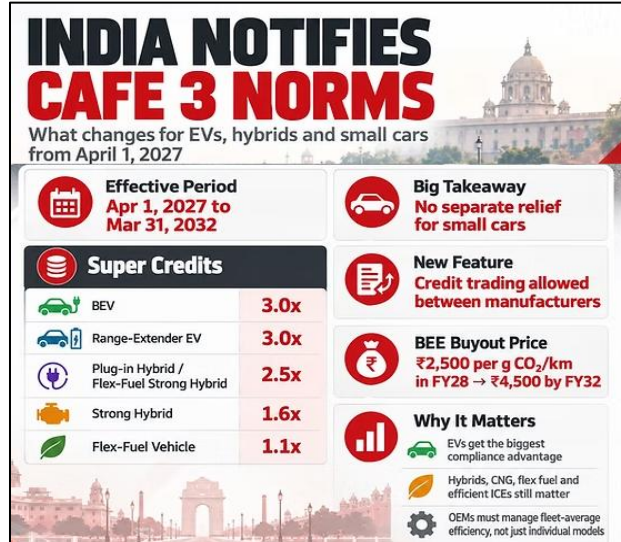
- ❖ Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) is set to issue India's first-ever blue bond to fund sustainable maritime infrastructure and ocean economy projects.
- ❖ SMFCL, India's first maritime sector-specific Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), plans to raise ₹600 crore through 10-year debt securities.
- ❖ Blue bonds are specialised debt instruments used to finance the sustainable protection and use of oceans and water ecosystems.
- ❖ The funds will support maritime lending, greenfield port projects and coastal road development.
- ❖ Seychelles issued the world's first sovereign blue bond in 2018, while Belize used a debt-for-ocean swap in 2021 for marine conservation.



CAFE-III Norms

- ❖ The Centre has notified the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE)-III norms for passenger vehicles, which will apply from April 1, 2027 to March 31, 2032.
- ❖ The fuel-efficiency target will become stricter, improving from 3.996 litres per 100 km in 2027–28 to 3.3273 litres per 100 km in 2031–32.
- ❖ Each Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) will count as 3 vehicles, while plug-in hybrids, strong hybrids and flex-fuel vehicles will receive additional credits.

- ❖ The norms provide incentives for hybrids, flex-fuel vehicles, biofuels and fuel-saving technologies such as regenerative braking and tyre-pressure monitoring.
- ❖ Carbon Neutrality Factors will reduce declared carbon dioxide emissions for vehicles using ethanol-blended petrol, compressed biogas and biofuels.



INDIA NOTIFIES CAFE 3 NORMS
What changes for EVs, hybrids and small cars from April 1, 2027

Super Credits	
BEV	3.0x
Range-Extender EV	3.0x
Plug-in Hybrid / Flex-Fuel Strong Hybrid	2.5x
Strong Hybrid	1.6x
Flex-Fuel Vehicle	1.1x

Effective Period
Apr 1, 2027 to Mar 31, 2032

Big Takeaway
No separate relief for small cars

New Feature
Credit trading allowed between manufacturers

BEE Buyout Price
₹2,500 per g CO₂/km in FY28 → ₹4,500 by FY32

Why It Matters
EVs get the biggest compliance advantage
Hybrids, CNG, flex fuel and efficient ICES still matter
OEMs must manage fleet-average efficiency, not just individual models

Green Energy Corridor Phase-III



Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III): Expansion of India's Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS) integrated with

50 GWh BESS

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) scheme with an outlay of ₹1.86 lakh crore to strengthen India's intra-state power transmission network.
- ❖ GEC-III aims to evacuate up to 135 Gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy by Financial Year (FY) 2032–33.
- ❖ It will include 50 Gigawatt-hour (GWh) of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to manage fluctuations in solar and wind power.
- ❖ State Transmission Utilities (STUs) will implement the scheme, with greenfield projects using Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB).

- ❖ The scheme will strengthen the grid, reduce renewable-energy curtailment and support India's expansion of non-fossil fuel energy capacity.

Aadhaar Digital Governance Initiatives

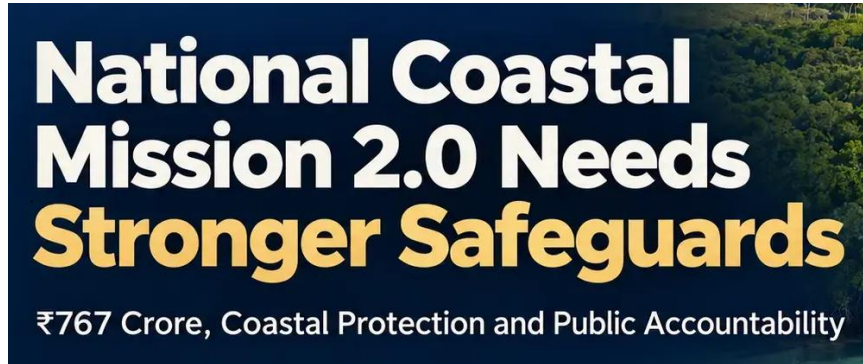
- ❖ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched five digital identity initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad in Kolkata on 29 September 2026, marking the 17th Aadhaar Day.
- ❖ Face Authentication for Electronic Public Distribution System (ePDS) was launched jointly by UIDAI, the Department of Food and Public Distribution, and the National Informatics Centre.
- ❖ SWIK Portal 2.0 and the Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) Framework were introduced to support Aadhaar authentication for eligible entities with low-volume requirements.
- ❖ A Token Management System was launched for residents visiting UIDAI offices, while its revamped website now supports 13 languages.
- ❖ Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identity number issued by UIDAI, which functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).



National Coastal Mission 2.0

- ❖ The National Coastal Mission (NCM) 2.0 implementation guidelines were launched in New Delhi by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.
- ❖ NCM 2.0 is a Central Sector Scheme with an approved outlay of ₹767 crore, to be implemented up to 2030–31.
- ❖ It covers India's coastal regions across 9 coastal States and 4 Union Territories.

- ❖ Its main objectives are to strengthen coastal resilience and sustainability and support the blue economy.
- ❖ The mission includes coastal ecosystem restoration, pollution control, biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism and vulnerability assessment.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BIMSTEC Counter-Terrorism Meeting 2026



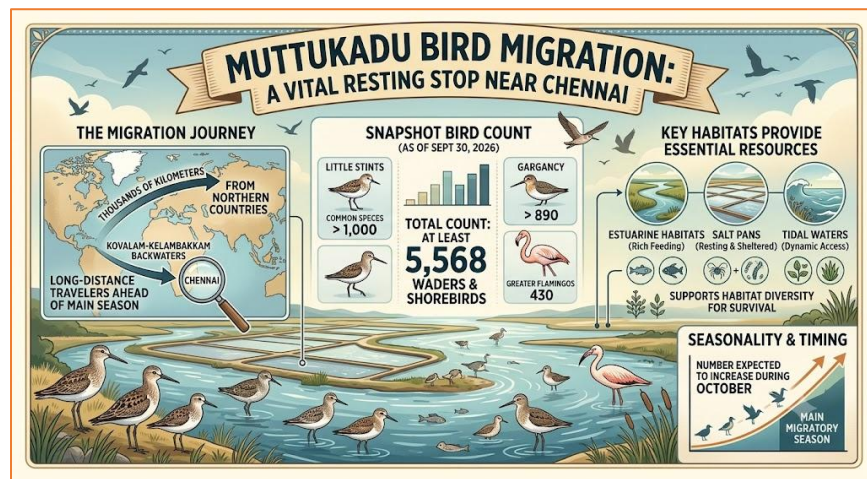
- ❖ The 11th BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) was held in New Delhi, with India as host.
- ❖ BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was established in 1997 and connects South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ It has 7 members – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

- ❖ The grouping promotes cooperation in areas including security, trade, connectivity, technology, environment and public health.
- ❖ The meeting focused on cooperation against terrorism, human trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering and other transnational crimes.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Muttukadu Bird Migration

- ❖ Thousands of migratory waders and shorebirds have arrived in the Muttukadu-Nemmeli estuarine habitats near Chennai ahead of the annual migration season.
- ❖ The birds travel thousands of kilometres from northern countries through the Kovalam-Kelambakkam backwaters.
- ❖ At least 5,568 waders and shorebirds were counted in the estuary as of September 30, 2026.
- ❖ The count included over 1,000 Little Stints, 430 Greater Flamingos and more than 890 Garganeys.
- ❖ The estuary, salt pans and tidal waters provide important habitat for these migratory birds.
- ❖ The number of birds is expected to increase during October, the main migratory season.

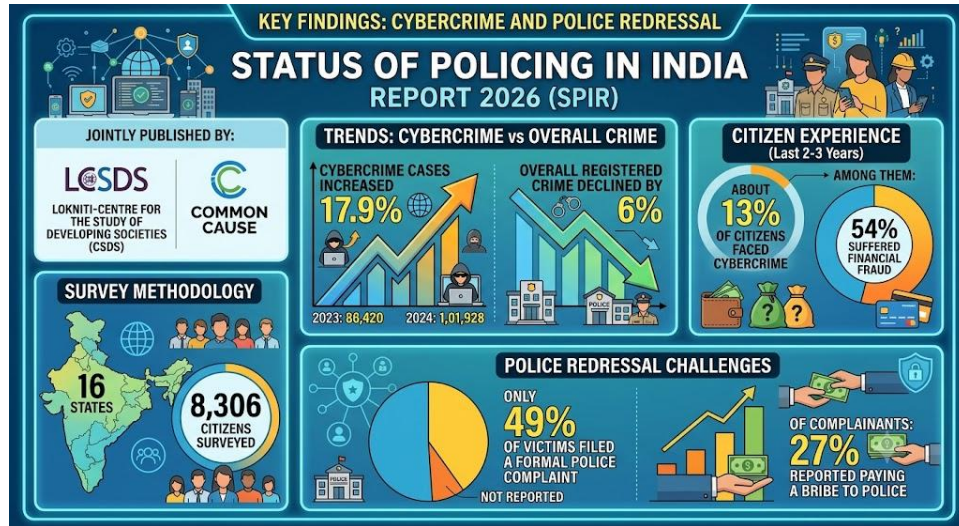


REPORTS AND INDICES

Status of Policing in India Report 2026 (SPIR)

- ❖ The Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2026 was released based on a survey of 8,306 citizens across 16 States, focusing on cybercrime and police redressal.

- ❖ The report was jointly published by Lokniti–Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and Common Cause.
- ❖ Cybercrime cases increased 17.9%, from 86,420 in 2023 to 1,01,928 in 2024, while overall registered crime declined by 6%.
- ❖ About 13% of surveyed citizens faced cybercrime in the last 2–3 years; among them, 54% suffered financial fraud.
- ❖ Only 49% of victims filed a formal police complaint, while 27% of complainants reported paying a bribe to the police.



SPORTS NEWS

Asian Games 2026

- ❖ The 20th Asian Games 2026, held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ India finished 4th with 85 medals — 24 gold, 29 silver and 32 bronzes.
- ❖ China topped the medal table with 341 medals, followed by Japan (250) and Republic of Korea (143).
- ❖ Vithya Ramraj (Athletics) won gold, silver and bronze, becoming the first Tamil Nadu sportsperson to win three medals at a single Asian Games.
- ❖ G. Kamalini (Cricket) won gold in women's T20; Vishal T.K. (Athletics) won silver in mixed 4×400m relay and bronze in men's 4×400m relay.
- ❖ Abhay Singh (Squash) won silver and bronze; Joshna Chinappa (Squash) and Velavan Senthilkumar (Squash) won two bronze medals each.
- ❖ Baranica Elangovan (Athletics) won bronze in women's pole vault, while Nethra Kumanan (Sailing) won bronze in women's dinghy.

- ❖ Kumkum Anil Mohod (Archery) won two gold medals — women's team recurve and individual recurve — becoming the first Indian woman to win individual recurve gold at the Asian Games.
- ❖ Neeru Dhanda (Shooting) won two gold and one silver, including individual trap gold that ended India's 48-year wait for an individual trap gold.
- ❖ Neeru Dhanda and Kynan Chenai (Shooting) won gold in mixed team trap, setting a new Asian record and winning India's first Asian Games gold in this event.
- ❖ India won gold in men's and women's hockey, cricket, archery, shooting, boxing and kabaddi.
- ❖ Pranavi Urs became the first Indian woman golfer to win Asian Games gold, while the women's hockey team ended a 44-year wait for gold.

MEDAL STANDINGS					
Rank	ORG				Total
1	 CHN	169	89	83	341
2	 JPN	83	95	91	269
3	 KOR	39	43	68	150
4	 IND	21	27	37	85
5	 UZB	21	25	24	70

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Skytrax Airline Rankings 2026

- ❖ Singapore Airlines was ranked the world's best airline for 2026 in the Skytrax World Airline Awards.
- ❖ Qatar Airways ranked 2nd and Cathay Pacific 3rd in the global ranking.
- ❖ Air India ranked 57th globally, improving from 84th in 2025, and topped the India and South Asia ranking.

- ❖ IndiGo ranked 61st globally, compared with 39th in 2025, and was 2nd among India and South Asia airlines.
- ❖ Singapore Airlines also won awards for Best Airline in Asia and Best First Class Comfort Amenities.



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