



October - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh approved a nearly ₹37 crore project to set up India's first lock museum in Aligarh, showcasing the development of locks from the Vedic era to modern digital and cyber-locking systems.
- ❖ Ezzahra El Mansouri has been appointed as Morocco's first woman Prime Minister by King Mohammed VI.
- ❖ Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) confirmed a new marine eel species, *Bathymyrus perplexus*, from the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The 2nd ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced at Subic Bay, Philippines, with INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish representing the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The International Space Station (ISS) made a rare solar transit over Chennai, crossing the face of the Sun as seen from Palavakkam, Chennai, for about 1.38 seconds.
 - A solar transit occurs when an object passes directly between an observer and the Sun, briefly appearing as a silhouette against the Sun's disc.
- ❖ *Liolaemus archipensis*, a new lizard species discovered in the Andes of Arequipa, Peru, at above 4,800 metres;
 - *Liolaemus* is a species-rich genus found mainly in South America.
- ❖ World Architecture Day was observed annually on the first Monday of October (October 5/2026), to promote awareness of the role of architecture in society and human settlements.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Housing is a Human Right. Build It."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Madras HC on 'Vettri Payanam' Scheme

- ❖ The Madras High Court dismissed a writ petition challenging the constitutional validity of Tamil Nadu's 'Vettri Payanam' scheme.
- ❖ The scheme offers no-fare travel to 84.32 lakh women daily on 12,695 government buses across Tamil Nadu, from 2 October 2026.
- ❖ The petitioner, argued that free travel only on government buses would violate Article 14 (Right to Equality) by affecting a level playing field in bus transport.

- ❖ The petitioner also cited the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, arguing that collecting fares from passengers was mandatory.
- ❖ The court noted that the petitioner challenged only the Rule 110 announcement in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and the related Information and Public Relations Department release, but not the subsequent Government Order introducing the scheme.



Annan Seer Gold Scheme

**2026-27 தமிழக பட்ஜெட்:
'அண்ணனின் சீர்' திட்டத்தின் கீழ்
பெண்களின் திருமணத்திற்கு 8 கிராம்
தங்க நாணயம் மற்றும் பட்டுப்புடவை
வழங்க ₹812 கோடி நிதி ஒதுக்கீடு
செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது.**

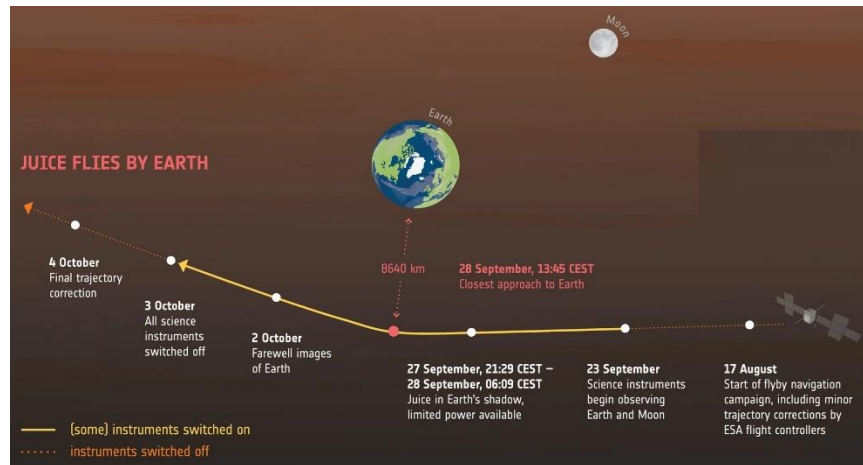
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has launched the “Annan Seer” scheme for eligible brides from low-income families.
- ❖ The scheme provides an 8-gram, 22-carat gold coin and a silk sari to eligible brides.
- ❖ The annual family income limit has been fixed at ₹2.5 lakh.
- ❖ The government has allocated ₹812 crore as the first instalment for the current financial year.
- ❖ The scheme came into effect on 5 October 2026, and gold will be procured through an open tender under the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998.

- ❖ The gold price will be based on the rate published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) on the day of procurement.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Earth Gravity Assist - JUICE

- ❖ The European Space Agency's (ESA) Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) completed its third Earth gravity assist on 28 September 2026.
- ❖ It gained about 12,606 km/h (3.5 km/s) in speed during the flyby.
- ❖ A gravity assist, also called a slingshot manoeuvre, uses a planet's gravity and motion to change a spacecraft's speed and direction while saving fuel.
- ❖ JUICE will study Jupiter and its icy moons, especially Ganymede, the largest moon in the Solar System.
- ❖ The spacecraft is planned to enter Jupiter's orbit in 2031 and Ganymede's orbit in 2034.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Great Indian Bustard Conservation

- ❖ For the first time, two captive-bred male Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) were released into the wild at Desert National Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The release is part of the Bustard Recovery Programme to conserve the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard.
- ❖ The programme is a joint effort of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Rajasthan Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

- ❖ It has technical support from the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) and funding from the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (National CAMPA).
- ❖ The release marks a step towards establishing a captive-breeding and wild-reintroduction programme for the species.



Pacific Pre-COP31 Climate Summit

- ❖ The Pacific Pre-COP31 climate meeting began in Nadi, Fiji.
- ❖ The meeting is co-hosted by Fiji, Tuvalu and Australia with participants from more than 50 countries.
- ❖ Key priorities include keeping the 1.5°C global warming target within reach, improving climate finance, accelerating the clean-energy transition and protecting oceans.
- ❖ A special Leaders' event is being held in Tuvalu, a low-lying Pacific island nation, to highlight the effects of rising sea levels and climate change.
- ❖ The meeting will help shape negotiations for COP31, which will be held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9–20 November 2026.
- ❖ Fiji is also highlighting the ocean–climate link, including clean shipping, renewable energy, sustainable fisheries and ocean conservation.



Aletsch Glacier Melt in Switzerland

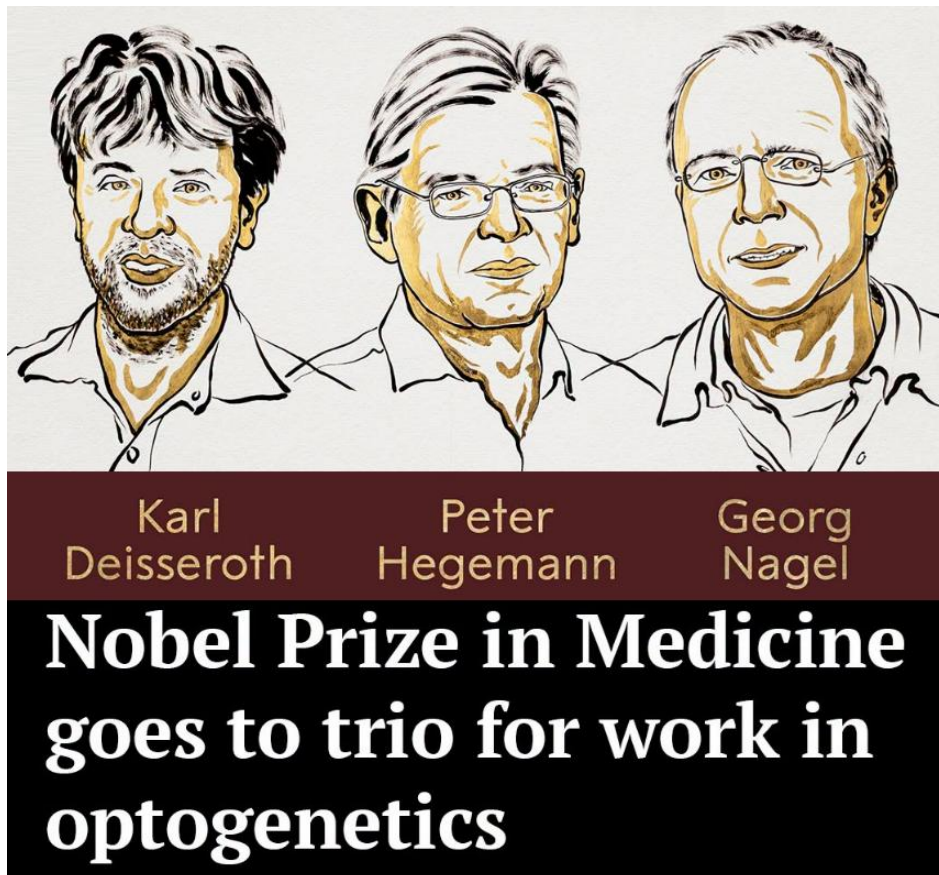


- ❖ Aletsch Glacier, Switzerland's largest glacier, recorded its biggest-ever annual melt in 2026 after a winter with low snowfall and record summer temperatures.
- ❖ Swiss glaciers lost more than 5% of their ice in 2026, according to the Swiss Glacier Monitoring Network (GLAMOS).
- ❖ Over the past five years, Swiss glaciers have lost almost one-fifth of their ice.
- ❖ Swiss glaciers lost about 2.2 trillion litres of water between July and September 2026, over four times the annual drinking-water use of Swiss households.
- ❖ Glacier de Tsanfleuron lost more than 4 metres of average ice thickness during the year.

- ❖ The melting is linked to low winter snowfall and extreme summer heat, showing the impact of rising temperatures on Alpine glaciers.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Nobel Medicine Prize 2026



- ❖ Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel jointly won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries on light-gated ion channels and optogenetics.
- ❖ Hegemann and Nagel discovered channelrhodopsin, a protein that makes cells respond to light.
- ❖ Deisseroth used the technique to control nerve cells with light, including in the brains of living mice.
- ❖ Optogenetics allows scientists to switch selected nerve cells on or off using light, helping study brain functions such as memory and movement.
- ❖ The technique is widely used to study neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease, depression and addiction.

- ❖ The prize is selected by the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Habitat Day 2026 - October 05

- ❖ The day is observed annually on the first Monday of October to focus on adequate shelter and the condition of human settlements.
- ❖ More than 3 billion people lack adequate housing, while over 1.1 billion live in informal settlements.
- ❖ The day also marks the beginning of Urban October, which ends with World Cities Day on 31 October.
- ❖ The United Nations (UN) designated World Habitat Day in 1985 to highlight the basic right to adequate shelter.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Adequate Housing for All.”

