



October - 09

TNPSC BITS

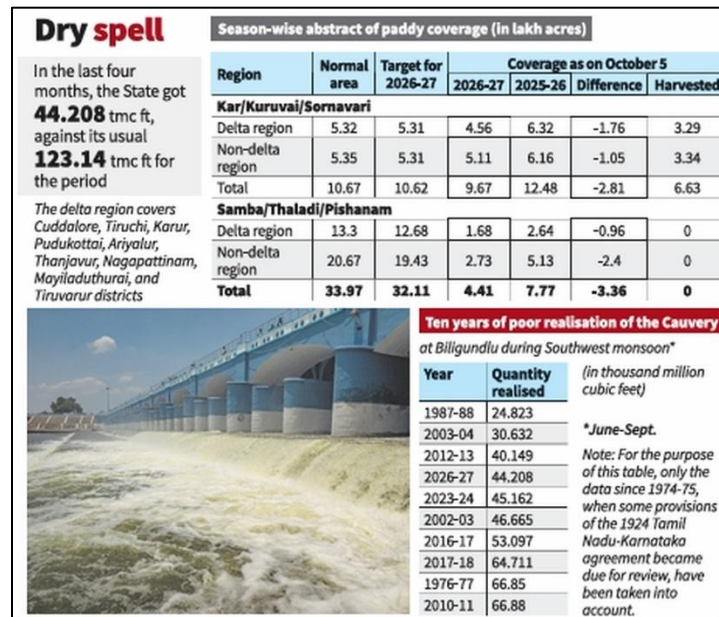
- ❖ The third edition of India-UAE joint military exercise Mountain Guardian 2026 at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ British author and former politician Jeffrey Archer died aged 86 in the UK.
- ❖ A rare two-headed wolf snake was rescued from Agaswani village, Dhanpur taluka, Dahod district, Gujarat; the condition is called bicephaly, a developmental abnormality, and wolf snakes of the genus Lycodon and family Colubridae are non-venomous.
 - It was reported as the first recorded two-headed snake in Gujarat and the fifth reported case in India.
- ❖ France test-fired its new M51.3 nuclear-capable ballistic missile for the first time from a nuclear-powered submarine.
 - The M51.3 is a submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missile (SLBM) developed by France and built by ArianeGroup.
- ❖ Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discoveries on non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis.
 - Their work focuses on chemical processes that produce chiral compounds, which have non-superimposable mirror-image forms called enantiomers.
- ❖ The University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) received a Letter of Intent (LoI) from the University Grants Commission (UGC) to establish a degree-granting campus in Hyderabad.
 - The proposed campus would be the first foreign university campus in Telangana and the first in India by a public American university.
- ❖ World Cotton Day is observed every year on 7 October to recognise the importance of cotton and its contribution to livelihoods, trade and economic development.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership.”

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Cauvery Water Shortage in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded its lowest Cauvery water realisation in 14 years during the southwest monsoon (June–September) in 2026.

- ❖ The State received only 44.208 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) against the usual 123.14 tmc ft, a shortfall of nearly 79 tmc ft.
- ❖ Mettur Dam had 36.639 tmc ft of storage as of October 2026, with about 10 tmc ft reserved for drinking water, environmental flows and dead storage.
- ❖ Cauvery delta paddy coverage fell to 1.68 lakh acres by October 5, compared with 2.64 lakh acres during the same period in 2025–26.
- ❖ Cuddalore and Tiruvarur together accounted for about 72% of the current delta paddy coverage.



Madras High Court on Right to Travel

MADRAS HIGH COURT ON THE RIGHT TO TRAVEL

BANK LOAN DEFAULT CANNOT PREVENT TRAVEL ABROAD
If there is no criminal charge

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT UNDER ARTICLE 21

LOAN DEFAULT ≠ TRAVEL BAN
A person cannot be forced to stay in India just for being a defaulter, provided there is no fraud or criminal case.

LOOK OUT CIRCULAR (LOC) IS NOT 'LAW'
A bank's request for an LOC cannot restrict this fundamental right.

- ❖ The Madras High Court held that a bank loan default cannot by itself prevent a person from travelling abroad if there is no criminal charge against the person.

- ❖ The Court stated that the right to travel abroad is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ It observed that a bank's request to issue a Look Out Circular (LOC) cannot be treated as "law" for restricting this fundamental right.
- ❖ The case involved a guarantor for a loan who wanted to travel abroad to earn money and repay the debt.
- ❖ The Court noted that when there is no fraud or criminal case, merely being a loan defaulter cannot force a person to remain in India.

Expansion of TN Gold Ring Scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has widened the eligibility for the Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Scheme, which provides a 1-gram gold ring to babies born in government hospitals.
- ❖ The earlier rule required the mother to be a permanent resident of Tamil Nadu; the revised rule allows women who moved outside the State after marriage to qualify.
- ❖ Under the revised rule, both maternal grandparents must be permanent residents of Tamil Nadu, and families must submit supporting documents.
- ❖ The revised conditions apply to babies born in government hospitals from June 22, 2026.
- ❖ The scheme was launched by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on September 28, 2026.



NATIONAL NEWS

Integrated Transport Authority

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of the Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA) as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for integrated transport and logistics planning.



- ❖ ITLA will act as the national apex institution for transport planning, research, project appraisal, monitoring, policy support and data analytics.
- ❖ It will prepare a National Transport Master Plan with a planning horizon of 10 years or more, covering roads, railways, ports, shipping, aviation, inland waterways and urban mobility.
- ❖ ITLA will technically appraise and monitor major Government of India infrastructure projects costing ₹500 crore or more.
- ❖ It will create a National Transport Data Repository (NTDR) using data from GSTN e-way bills, FASTag, Vahan, GPS and urban traffic systems.

One authority for connected transport



Cabinet approves setting up the
**Integrated Transport & Logistics
Authority (ITLA)**

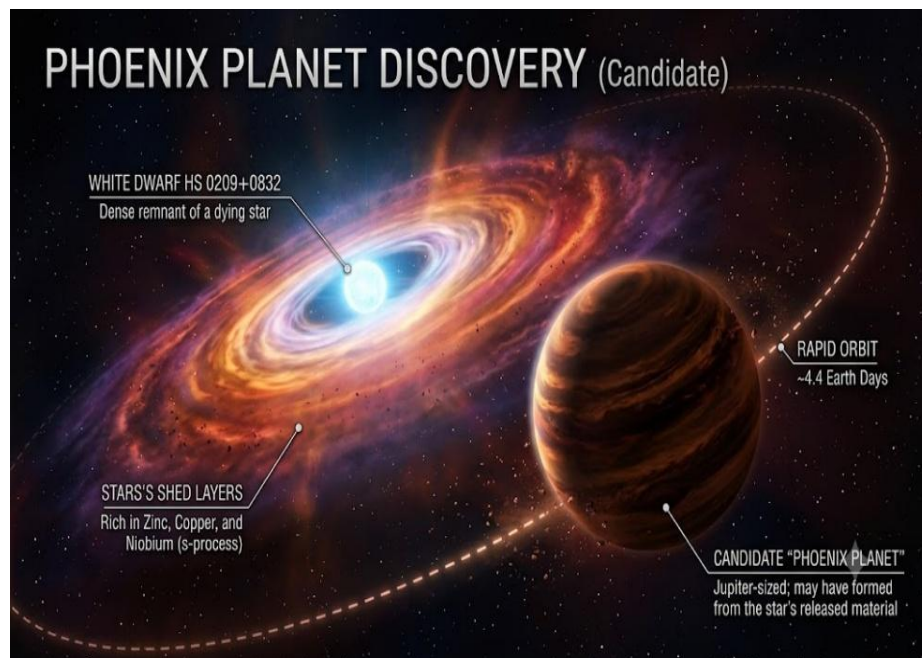
A national apex institution to strengthen coordination across India's transport and logistics sectors.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Phoenix Planet Discovery

- ❖ Astronomers identified a candidate second-generation planet orbiting the white dwarf HS 0209+0832.

- ❖ The planet is called a “phoenix planet” because it may have formed from material released by the dying star.
- ❖ The white dwarf’s atmosphere contains zinc, copper and niobium at levels more than 1,000 times higher than the Sun, linked to the s-process (slow neutron-capture process).
- ❖ The candidate is estimated to be Jupiter-sized and has an orbital period of about 4.4 Earth days.
- ❖ A white dwarf is the dense remnant of a star that has exhausted its nuclear fuel and shed its outer layers.



REPORTS AND INDICES

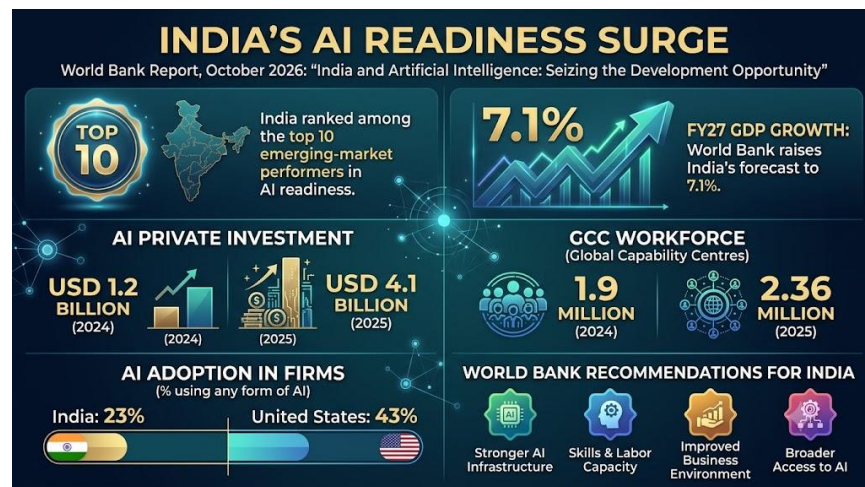
Living Planet Index 2026

- ❖ The WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Living Planet Report 2026 found a 73% decline in the average population sizes of monitored vertebrates between 1970 and 2022.
- ❖ The Living Planet Index (LPI), produced by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), tracks 35,803 population trends of 5,790 vertebrate species.
- ❖ The highest decline was recorded in freshwater ecosystems (85%), followed by terrestrial (69%) and marine ecosystems (59%).
- ❖ Major drivers include habitat loss, overexploitation, climate change, invasive species, pollution and disease.

- ❖ Global wild tiger numbers increased from about 3,200 in 2010 to 5,700 in 2025.



World Bank AI Report



- ❖ A World Bank report placed India among the top 10 emerging-market performers in AI (Artificial Intelligence) readiness.
- ❖ The report, released in October 2026, is titled "India and Artificial Intelligence: Seizing the Development Opportunity". India's private investment in AI increased from USD 1.2 billion in 2024 to USD 4.1 billion in 2025.



- ❖ About 23% of Indian firms reported using some form of AI, compared with about 43% in the United States.
- ❖ The number of professionals working in Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India increased from 1.9 million in 2024 to 2.36 million in 2025.
- ❖ The World Bank raised India's FY27 economic growth forecast to 7.1% and recommended stronger AI infrastructure, skills, business environment and access.

STATE NEWS

West Bengal Renaming Proposal

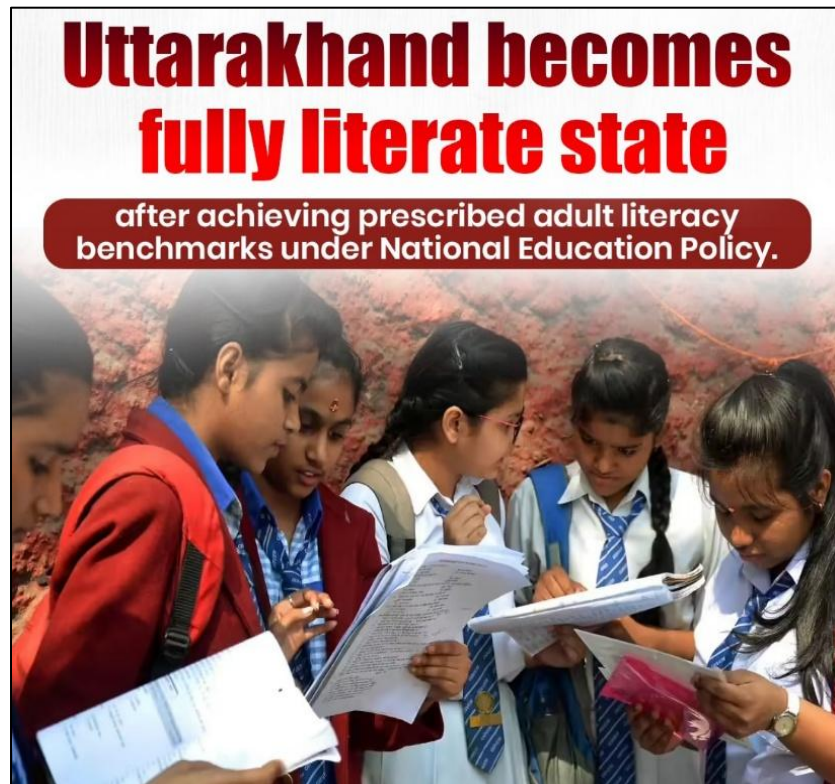
- ❖ West Bengal has proposed renaming the state "Paschim Banga", with a Bill expected to be introduced in the State Assembly.
- ❖ Under Article 3, Parliament can alter the name of an existing state, and such a Bill can be introduced only with the President's recommendation.
- ❖ The President refers the Bill to the concerned State Legislature for its views, but these views are not binding on Parliament.
- ❖ Under Article 4, changes to the First and Fourth Schedules can be made through laws under Article 3 and do not require a constitutional amendment under Article 368.
- ❖ Earlier state name changes include Madras State to Tamil Nadu (1969), Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand (2007) and Orissa to Odisha (2011).

West Bengal BJP president **Samik Bhattacharya** said the state is set to be renamed "**Paschim Banga**", with a legislative Bill to be introduced in the **1st session of the Assembly**. Explaining the proposed move, he said the Bill would link the state's official name with its **historical identity**.

Sixth Fully Literate State - Uttarakhand

- ❖ Uttarakhand has been declared India's 6th fully literate state under the ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) initiative in 2026.

- ❖ A state or Union Territory is considered fully literate after achieving at least 95% functional literacy, while Uttarakhand reported an adult literacy rate of 98.70%.
- ❖ Uttarakhand joins Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Goa and Tripura among states that have crossed the national literacy benchmark.
- ❖ Around 25,000 volunteers supported the programme through surveys, learner registration and adult literacy activities.
- ❖ ULLAS focuses on foundational literacy and numeracy, digital literacy, financial literacy, civic awareness and lifelong learning.



Uttarakhand becomes fully literate state

**after achieving prescribed adult literacy
benchmarks under National Education Policy.**

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Space Week 2026 - October 04/10

- ❖ The day aims to highlight the contribution of space science and technology to human development and promote education, innovation and international cooperation.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Rocket Revolution.”
- ❖ World Space Week was declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1999.

- ❖ It marks Sputnik 1, launched on 4 October 1957, and the Outer Space Treaty, which entered into force on 10 October 1967.
- ❖ India's Gaganyaan programme is planned to conduct its first crewed mission in 2027.



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