



October - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The DRDO conducted the maiden live jump of the indigenous Advanced High-Altitude Parachute (AHAP) at Nyoma, Ladakh.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh laid the foundation stone for the ₹1 lakh-crore Global Horticulture Hub at Madanapalle, Annamayya district.
 - The project, also called Rayalaseema Rising, will cover 10 districts through 201 clusters across 303 mandals and 5,869 villages.
- ❖ Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit has been appointed as the 29th Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and will take charge on 31 October 2026, succeeding Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh.
- ❖ IIT Madras Team AgniRath secured third place in the Sasol Solar Challenge 2026 in South Africa with its solar-powered vehicle Aagneya, becoming the first Indian team to participate in the competition and win a trophy.
- ❖ Ahmedabad-based spacetechnology startup Satleo Labs launched TAPAS-1 (Thermal Access Platform for Analytics & Solutions-1), India's first commercial private thermal-imaging payload, aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket under the Transporter-18 rideshare mission.
 - TAPAS-1 is a 1.5-kg modular CubeSat payload designed to measure Earth's surface temperatures using thermal infrared radiation.
- ❖ The G7 announced a coordinated release of 100 million barrels of oil and diesel through the International Energy Agency (IEA) to ease rising global energy prices.
 - The G7 includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States; the European Union is also represented.
- ❖ World Mental Health Day was observed on 10 October 2026 to involve people with lived experience of mental health conditions in shaping mental health policies, services and decisions.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Thelunganur Archaeological Excavation

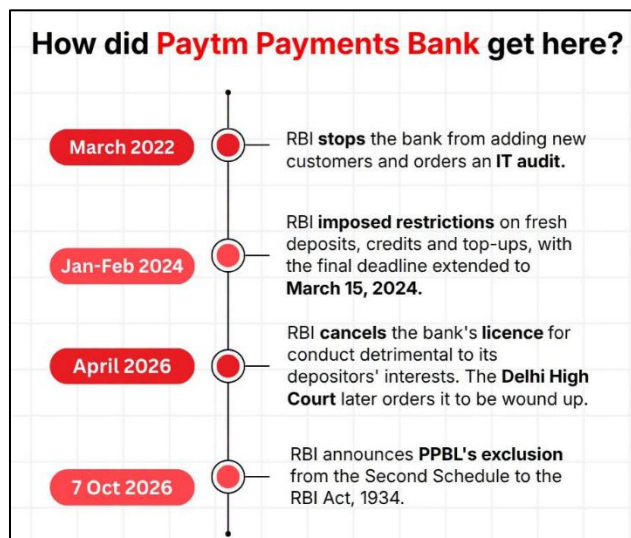
- ❖ Complete skeletal remains of two Iron Age individuals were discovered at Thelunganur, near Mettur Dam in Salem district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The excavation was conducted by the Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology.

- ❖ Archaeologists found a 1.9-metre iron spear, arrowheads, axes, swords, daggers, knives and iron nails.
- ❖ An intact black-and-red ware bowl had five graffiti symbols arranged from left to right, which may provide clues about early writing.
- ❖ Thelunganur and Mangadu sites date to 1600 BCE–1200 BCE, and a sword from Thelunganur was dated to around 1200 BCE.

-  An intact black-&-red ware bowl unearthed at Thelunganur, in the Mettur dam's water spread area near Salem, bears 5 graffiti symbols arranged from left to right, **the longest such sequence recorded in TN. It may offer clues to a writing system over 3,200 years old.**
-  The site, dated to 1600–1200 BCE, may reveal links between TN's Iron Age communities & the Indus Valley Civilisation. Another bowl has the same 5 symbols in a different order. **Graffiti marks found at several TN sites share about 90% similarities with symbols from Indus Valley sites.**
-  TN archaeology team also found a **1.9-metre iron spear, arrowheads, axes, daggers & a possible ancient steel sword, along with the skeletal remains of two individuals. 4 burial types were found at the site, indicating its evolution from the Early to Late Iron Age.**

ECONOMY NEWS

RBI Banking Regulation Update

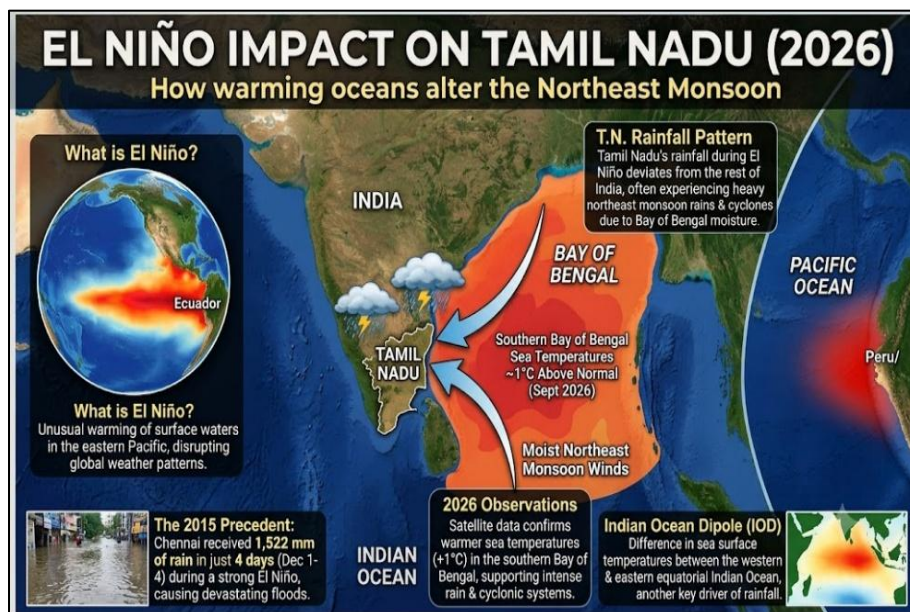


- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) removed Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934, following the cancellation of its banking licence.

- ❖ In April 2026, the RBI cancelled PPBL's banking licence for non-compliance with regulations and concerns over the interests of depositors.
- ❖ The Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 contains the list of scheduled banks that meet specified eligibility requirements.
- ❖ In March 2022, the RBI barred PPBL from onboarding new customers due to supervisory concerns.
- ❖ In January and February 2024, the RBI imposed further restrictions, including stopping additional deposits, credits and top-ups in customer accounts and wallets.
- ❖ The Delhi High Court subsequently ordered the winding up of PPBL.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

El Niño Impact on Tamil Nadu



- ❖ Tamil Nadu may experience heavy rainfall and cyclones differently from the rest of India during the expected strong El Niño conditions in 2026.
- ❖ El Niño is the unusual warming of surface waters in the Pacific Ocean near Peru and Ecuador, which affects global weather patterns.
- ❖ Unlike much of India, Tamil Nadu may receive heavy northeast monsoon rainfall due to moist winds from the Bay of Bengal and warmer sea temperatures.
- ❖ During the 2015 El Niño, Chennai recorded 1,522 mm of rainfall in four days (December 1–4), causing devastating floods.

- ❖ The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is another climate phenomenon involving differences in sea surface temperatures between the western and eastern equatorial Indian Ocean.
- ❖ Satellite observations showed that sea temperatures in the southern Bay of Bengal were about 1°C above normal in September 2026, which may support intense rainfall and cyclonic systems.

Carbon Credits and Climate Integrity



- ❖ At least 130 civil society organisations urged the United Nations (UN) carbon market body to suspend carbon credits issued for a cookstove project in Myanmar, the first project approved under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement to receive credits in February 2026.
- ❖ Article 6.4 establishes a UN-supervised mechanism for generating carbon credits through emissions-reduction projects, which can be transferred between countries under specified rules.
- ❖ The project, managed by South Korea's Climate Change Center (CCC), distributes fuel-efficient cookstoves intended to reduce firewood consumption and carbon emissions.
- ❖ Earlier analyses estimated that the project may have received 14 times more credits than justified under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and seven times more under Article 6.4.

- ❖ The organisations raised concerns about independent verification, human rights safeguards, women's participation and the possibility of financial benefits reaching Myanmar's military authorities.

Bird migratory season 2026

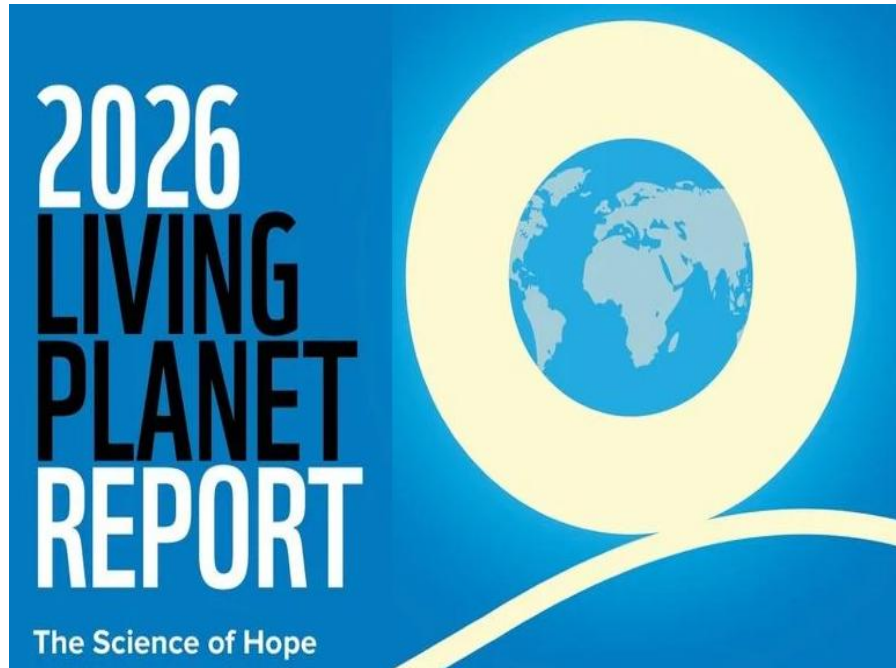


- ❖ A grey-headed lapwing, a long-distance migrant from East Asia, arrived earlier than usual at the Pallikaranai marshland.
- ❖ Terek sandpiper, lesser sand-plover, marsh sandpiper, and black-tailed godwit were also spotted.
- ❖ Several shorebirds were sighted at the Adyar estuary.
- ❖ A surprise this year was the early arrival of a grey-headed lapwing, a long-distance migrant from East Asia.
- ❖ Its arrival has usually been around the first week of October.
- ❖ But this year, it arrived on September 20, almost two weeks earlier than usual.
- ❖ Weather conditions, rainfall, food availability, and conditions along the migration route could have played a role.
- ❖ The Adyar estuary has recorded several shorebirds, including caspian terns, whiskered terns, Eurasian whimbrels, European roller, and common greenshanks.
- ❖ Some of these birds travel thousands of kilometres along routes spanning Northern Europe and Central Asia.
- ❖ Further south, the Nemmeli salt pans have also come alive with bird activity.

- ❖ The Demoiselle crane, a rare visitor around Chennai, is expected this year also.
- ❖ The species was spotted near Nemmeli towards the end of last year's birding season.

REPORTS AND INDICES

WWF Living Planet Report 2026



- ❖ The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) released the Living Planet Report 2026, reporting a 73% decline in the average size of monitored global wildlife populations between 1970 and 2022.
- ❖ The report was prepared with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and analysed 5,790 vertebrate species.
- ❖ Freshwater wildlife populations recorded the highest decline at 85%, followed by terrestrial populations at 69% and marine populations at 59%.
- ❖ India's wildlife conservation gains include 3,682 tigers (2022), 891 Asiatic lions (2025), over 3,300 greater one-horned rhinoceroses and 718 snow leopards.
- ❖ India's first nationwide river dolphin assessment estimated 6,324 Ganges river dolphins across the surveyed river systems between 2021 and 2023, covering 8,507 km across 28 rivers.
- ❖ The common leopard population in India was estimated at 13,874.
- ❖ Monitored wildlife populations in the Asia-Pacific region declined by 49% between 1970 and 2022, based on 4,664 populations from 787 species.

- ❖ Habitat loss and degradation were the most frequently reported threats, followed by overexploitation, climate change, pollution, invasive species and disease.

SPORTS NEWS

New IOA Asian Games Awards

- ❖ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) named archer Kumkum Anil Mohod and wrestler Sujeet Kalkal as the first recipients of two new awards for their performances at the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games held in Japan.
- ❖ The Jaspal Rana Award recognises the best female sportsperson, while the Raja Randhir Singh Award recognises the best male sportsperson at the Asian Games.
- ❖ Kumkum Mohod won three medals, including two gold medals.
- ❖ Sujeet Kalkal won gold in the men's 65 kg freestyle wrestling final.
- ❖ India finished fourth in the Asian Games medal standings, winning 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze medals, for a total of 85 medals.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of the Girl Child 2026 - October 11

- ❖ The day aims to promote girls' rights, empowerment and equal opportunities, and address the challenges they face.

- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “End child marriage and invest in girls’ rights!”
- ❖ The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through Resolution on 19 December 2011.
- ❖ More than 12 million girls are married before reaching adulthood every year.
- ❖ An estimated 68 million child marriages have been prevented over the past 25 years through investments in girls’ education, legal reforms and social protection.

