



October - 16

TNPSC BITS

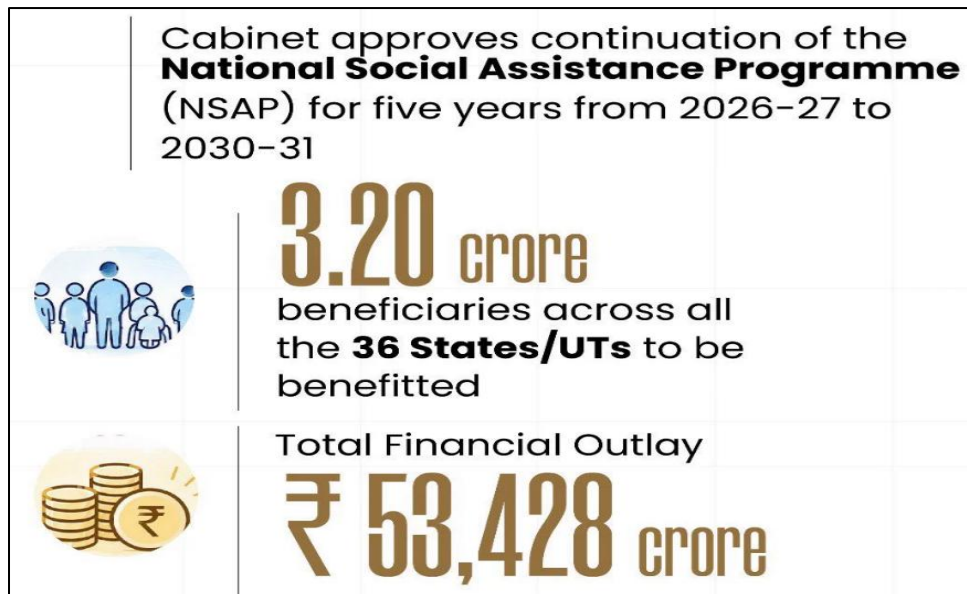
- ❖ Bathukamma, Telangana's nine-day floral festival celebrated from 10–18 October 2026, honours nature, womanhood and Telangana's cultural identity through the worship of Goddess Gauri.
- ❖ The Indian Navy received two indigenous TROUT remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROVs), developed by Kerala-based EyeROV.
 - TROUT is India's first military-grade underwater ROV, designed for naval missions such as inspection, reconnaissance, search and recovery, and target identification.
- ❖ The 9th edition of the IBSAMAR Exercise 2026, involving India, Brazil and South Africa, is being hosted by South Africa.
- ❖ The Indian Army launched 'Bharat Rice' for defence personnel and signed a MoU with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to strengthen military logistics.
 - The initiative aims to improve ration quality, ensure timely supplies to forward areas and strengthen the Army's operational readiness.
- ❖ World Standards Day is observed annually on 14 October to recognise the importance of international standards in safety, global trade and sustainable development.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Shared Vision for a Better World: Spotlight on Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)."
- ❖ Global Handwashing Day is observed annually on 15 October to promote handwashing and improve public health.
 - The 2026 campaign theme is "Be a Handwashing Hero."

NATIONAL NEWS

National Social Assistance Programme Extension

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for five years, from 2026–27 to 2030–31, with an outlay of ₹53,428 crore.
- ❖ NSAP was launched in 1995 to provide social assistance to vulnerable groups, including elderly people, widows and persons with disabilities.
- ❖ NSAP has been renamed Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana.

- ❖ Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) has been renamed Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana, which provides pension assistance to eligible elderly people from poor households.
- ❖ Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) has been renamed Pradhan Mantri Vidhawa Pension Yojana, which provides pension assistance to eligible widows from poor households.
- ❖ Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) has been renamed Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana, which provides pension assistance to eligible persons with disabilities.
- ❖ The National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) has been renamed Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana.
- ❖ Monthly disability pension assistance increased from ₹300 to ₹375 for beneficiaries aged 0–79 years and from ₹500 to ₹625 for those aged 80 years and above.
- ❖ The benchmark disability eligibility requirement was reduced from 80% to 40%, and eligibility was extended to include persons with disabilities from birth.
- ❖ Pension assistance for elderly people and widows remains unchanged.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting 2026

- ❖ The first Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Home Ministers' Meeting concluded in New Delhi with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2026.

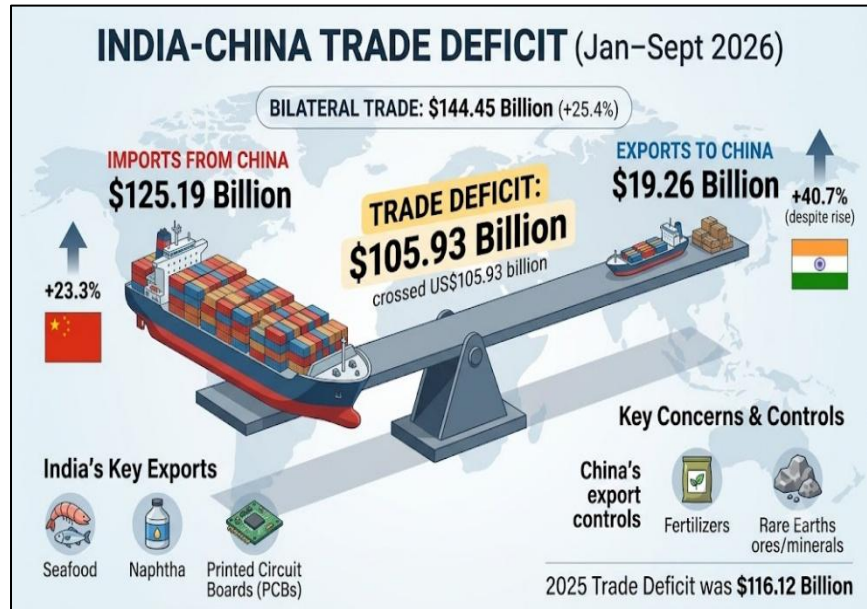
- ❖ BIMSTEC has seven members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- ❖ The declaration strengthens cooperation against terrorism, terror financing, money laundering, cyber fraud, human trafficking and drug trafficking.
- ❖ It calls for stronger intelligence-sharing, victim rescue and rehabilitation, and legal cooperation, including extradition.
- ❖ It supports security training and cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG).



ECONOMY NEWS

India-China Trade Deficit 2026

- ❖ India's trade deficit with China crossed US\$105.93 billion during January–September 2026, despite a 40.7% rise in Indian exports.
- ❖ Bilateral trade between India and China increased by 25.4% to US\$144.45 billion during January–September 2026.
- ❖ India's exports to China reached US\$19.26 billion, while imports from China rose by 23.3% to US\$125.19 billion.
- ❖ India's major exports to China include seafood products, naphtha and printed circuit boards.
- ❖ China's export controls on products such as fertilisers and rare earths have also raised concerns for India.
- ❖ India's trade deficit with China was US\$116.12 billion in 2025.



India's Coir Exports 2025–26



- ❖ India's coir exports reached ₹6,614.40 crore in 2025–26, an increase of 305.70% since 2014–15.
- ❖ Coir is a natural fibre extracted from the outer husk of coconuts.
- ❖ India is the world's largest producer and exporter of coir, accounting for about two-thirds of global production.

- ❖ The coir industry has a turnover of around ₹16,000 crore and contributes nearly 1% to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- ❖ Major export products include coir pith, fibre, yarn and tufted mats; major destinations include the United States, China, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.
- ❖ India has over 21,000 registered coir units, providing direct and indirect employment to more than 7 lakh workers, around 80% of whom are women.
- ❖ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implements the Coir Vikas Yojana (CVY) to support artisans, skill training, technology development and domestic and international marketing.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

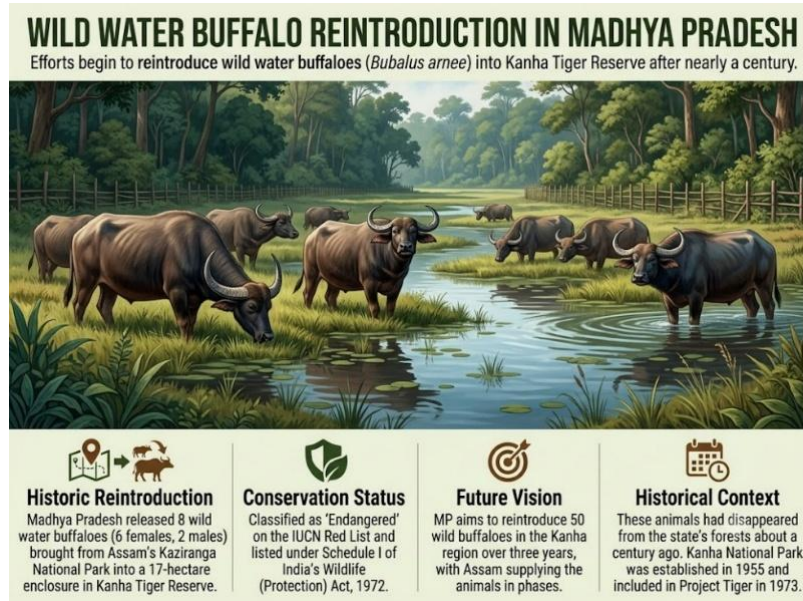
Western Ghats ESA Draft



- ❖ The Union government issued the seventh draft notification on July 27, 2026, proposing to declare 56,825.7 sq km of the Western Ghats across six States as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).
- ❖ The six States are Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the draft proposes bans on new mining, quarrying, sand mining, thermal power projects and red-category industries, along with restrictions on specified large construction projects.
- ❖ The draft does not impose a blanket ban on farming or require the eviction of residents; existing houses can be repaired and renovated.

- ❖ Karnataka rejected the draft in its present form, while Kerala sought to reduce its proposed ESA area from 9,993.7 sq km to 8,590.69 sq km; other States also sought changes.
- ❖ The expert committee's tenure has been extended until July 2027 to examine objections and mapping concerns before the final notification.

Wild Water Buffalo Reintroduction in Madhya Pradesh

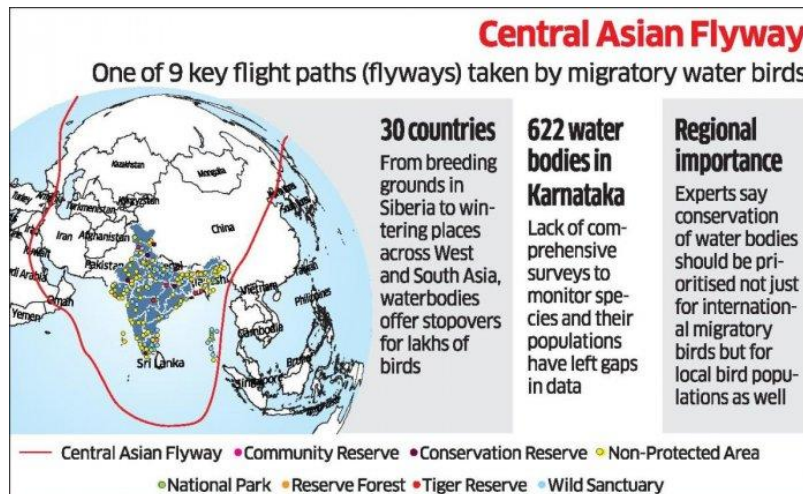


- ❖ Madhya Pradesh released eight wild water buffaloes into a 17-hectare enclosure in Kanha Tiger Reserve to restore the species, which had disappeared from the state's forests about a century ago.
- ❖ The wild water buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*) is classified as Endangered on the International IUCN Red List and is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ The eight buffaloes—six females and two males—were brought from Assam's Kaziranga National Park.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh aims to reintroduce 50 wild buffaloes in the Kanha region over three years, with Assam supplying the animals in phases.
- ❖ Kanha National Park was established in 1955, and Kanha was included in Project Tiger in 1973.

Migratory Bird Conservation Hub

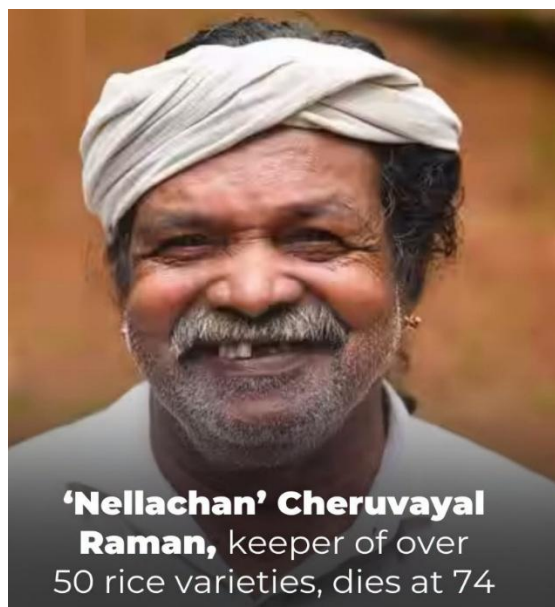
- ❖ The Central Asian Conservation Network (CACN) launched the Central Asian Flyway Digital Hub to support the conservation of migratory birds.

- ❖ The hub shares information on bird species, important migration sites, conservation projects and educational resources.
- ❖ It includes a Bird Collision Reporting Portal to record bird deaths and injuries caused by infrastructure.
- ❖ A Ringing and Resighting Portal helps record sightings of marked birds and understand their migration routes.
- ❖ The hub provides awareness materials for students, teachers, local communities and birdwatchers.



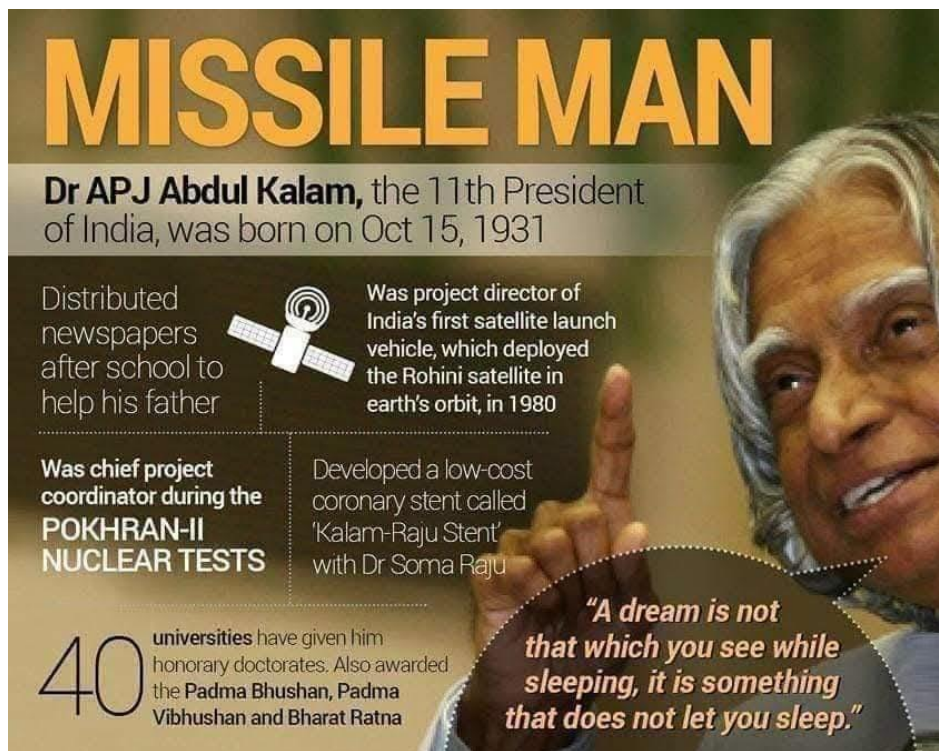
PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Cheruvayal Raman Demise



- ❖ Padma Shri awardee Cheruvayal Raman, known for conserving traditional rice varieties, passed away in Kerala.
- ❖ He belonged to the Kurichya tribal community and was from Kammana village in Wayanad, Kerala.
- ❖ He was popularly known as “Nellachan” (Father of Paddy) and the “Guardian of Native Paddy.”
- ❖ Around 2000, he began collecting and preserving indigenous rice varieties.
- ❖ He received the Padma Shri in 2023 for his contribution to agriculture.
- ❖ He also received the National Plant Genome Saviour Award for conserving traditional plant varieties.
- ❖ He promoted traditional farming practices and the conservation of agricultural biodiversity.

Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary 2026



- ❖ Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary is marked on 15 October to honour his contributions to science, education and youth development.
- ❖ Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931 in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He was the 11th President of India and served from 2002 to 2007.



- ❖ He was popularly known as the “Missile Man of India.”
- ❖ He received the Bharat Ratna, India’s highest civilian award, in 1997.
- ❖ He led the development of India’s first Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3).
- ❖ SLV-3 successfully placed the Rohini satellite into near-Earth orbit in July 1980.
- ❖ He played a leading role in the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).
- ❖ His books include Wings of Fire, India 2020 and Ignited Minds.

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