



October - 18

TNPSC BITS

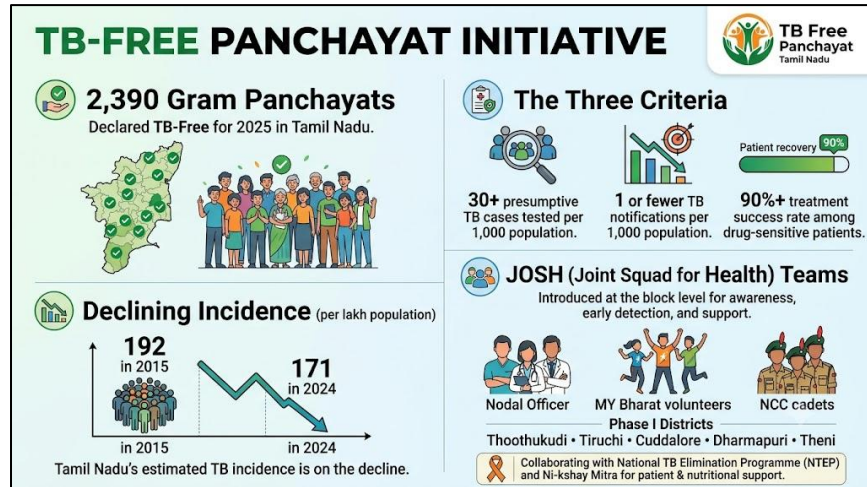
- ❖ India's renewable electricity generation crossed 100 billion units (BU) in a quarter for the first time in Q2 of Financial Year 2026-27, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated Periyar Arivulagam, a library and science centre, at Gandhipuram, Coimbatore.
- ❖ The Digital India BHASHINI Division and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, developed text-to-speech models for the Sourashtra language spoken by the Sourashtra community in Tamil Nadu.
 - Sourashtra is a minority Indo-Aryan language spoken predominantly by the Sourashtra community in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ INS Samarthak is India's first indigenous multi-purpose vessel, commissioned at Karwar, Karnataka.
- ❖ INS Mangrol, the Indian Navy's third Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, was commissioned at Mumbai's Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

TB-Free Panchayat Initiative

- ❖ A total of 2,390 Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu were declared tuberculosis (TB)-free for 2025 under the TB Free Panchayat initiative.
- ❖ The criteria include testing 30 or more presumptive TB cases per 1,000 population, a TB notification rate of one or fewer per 1,000 population, and a treatment success rate of 90% or more among notified drug-sensitive TB patients.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's estimated TB incidence declined from 192 per lakh population in 2015 to 171 per lakh in 2024.
- ❖ JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Teams, also called TB Mukta Bharat Teams, were introduced at the block level to promote awareness, early detection, screening, treatment adherence and patient support.
- ❖ Each JOSH Team comprises a Class-I Nodal Officer, five MY Bharat volunteers and five National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, Thoothukudi, Tiruchi, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri and Theni were selected for Phase I implementation. The initiative works with the National TB

Elimination Programme (NTEP) and the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative to support patients, including nutritional assistance.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-Costa Rica Diplomatic Relations



- ❖ India operationalised its resident diplomatic mission in San José, the capital of Costa Rica; the Ministry of External Affairs announced it.

- ❖ Earlier, India managed relations with Costa Rica through its mission in Panama and an honorary consular presence in San José.
- ❖ The mission aims to strengthen bilateral relations, trade, investment and cooperation in pharmaceuticals and Information Technology (IT).
- ❖ Costa Rica is located in Central America, bordered by Nicaragua to the north and Panama to the south-east, with the Caribbean Sea to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west.
- ❖ The move supports India's Focus Latin America and the Caribbean (Focus LAC) initiative to expand engagement with the region and improve consular assistance to Indian nationals.

ECONOMY NEWS

GST Standing Committee: Five Permanent State Members

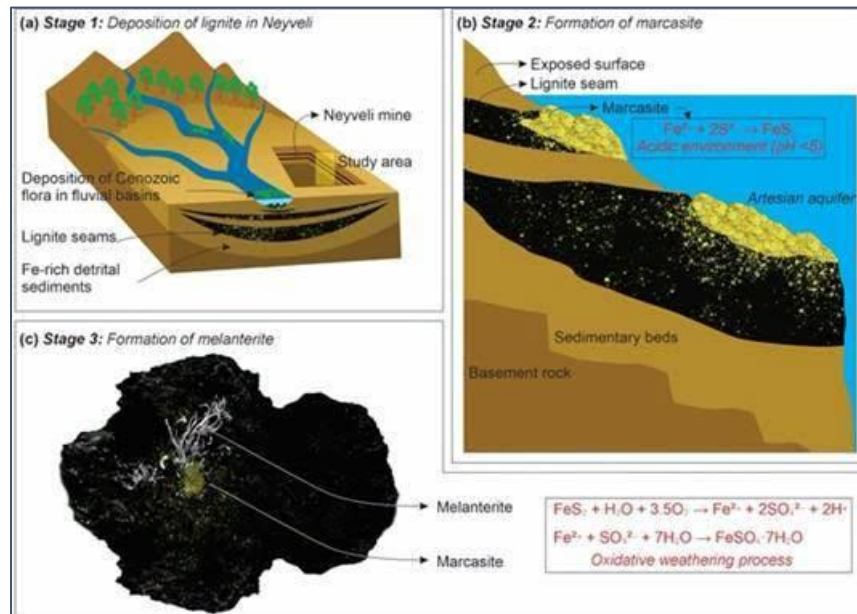


- ❖ Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu will be permanent members of a new Goods and Services Tax (GST) Standing Committee.
- ❖ The committee will include 12 states: five large, four medium and three small; other seats will rotate every two years.
- ❖ The Centre will work with the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) to expand the tax base using data analytics and technology.

- ❖ India has around 1.7 crore registered GST taxpayers; Business-to-Consumer (B2C) e-invoicing may be introduced from 1 April 2027.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Mars-Like Geological Sites in Tamil Nadu and Chile



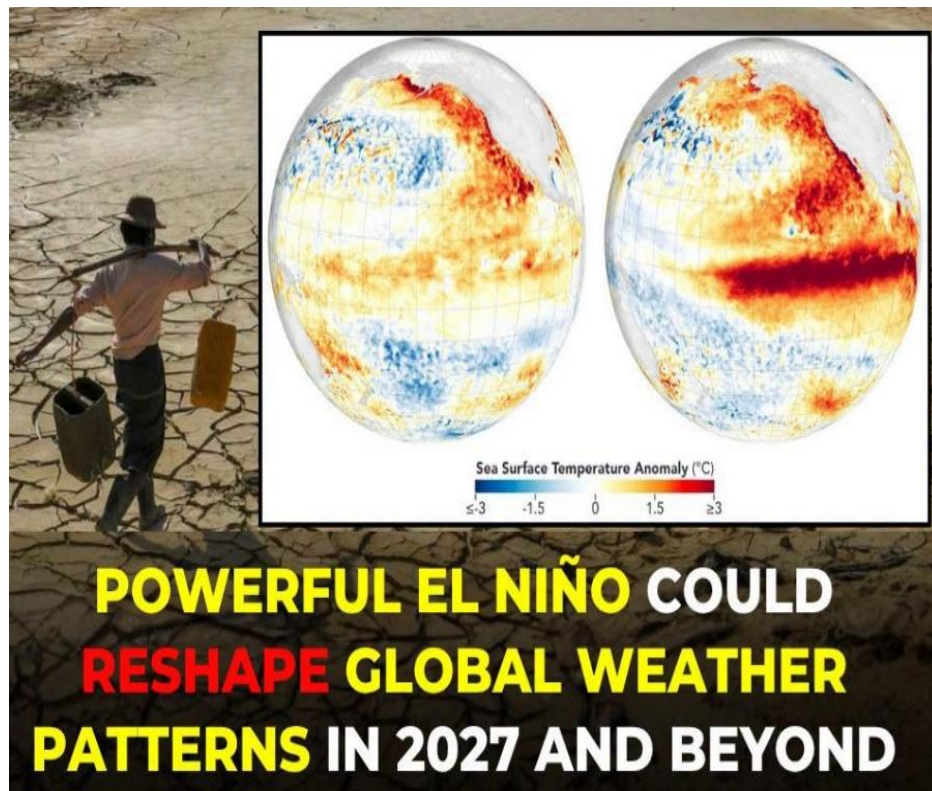
- ❖ Indian scientists from the University of Kerala identified terrestrial sites in Tamil Nadu and Chile that resemble the geological and chemical environments of Mars.
- ❖ Melanterite was identified in Neyveli, Tamil Nadu, while gypsum was identified in the Tiruchirappalli Badlands, Tamil Nadu, and the Atacama Desert, Chile.
- ❖ Both are hydrous sulphate minerals that help scientists understand water-rock interactions and the history of water on Mars.
- ❖ Melanterite forms through the oxidation of marcasite, a sulphide mineral associated with lignite in Neyveli; researchers observed its formation within 23 days under atmospheric exposure.
- ❖ Gypsum records past water activity and may preserve biosignatures, or potential evidence of past life.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Super El Niño 2026

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warned that El Niño could become one of the strongest events since 1950, peaking around December 2026.

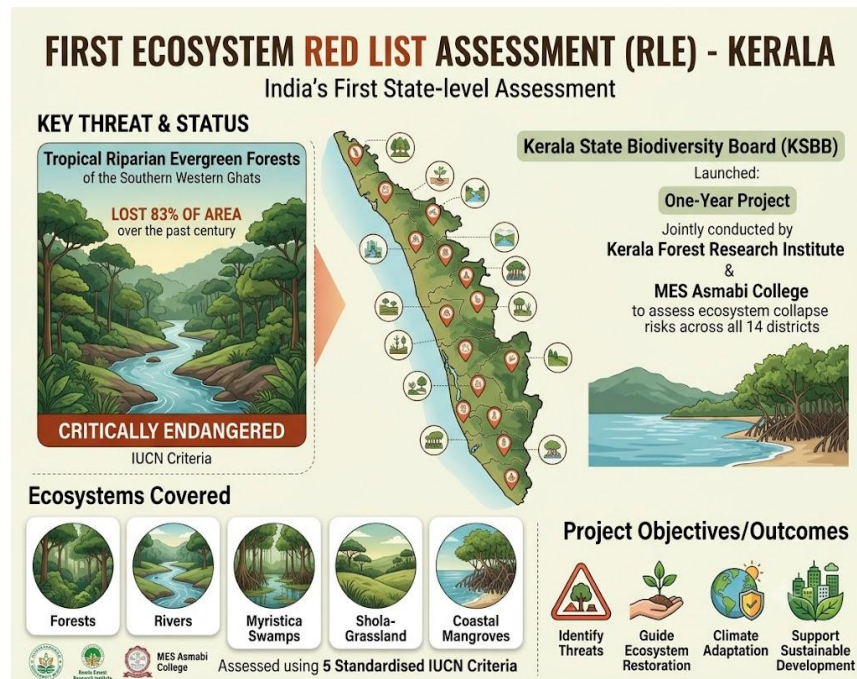
- ❖ Sea surface temperature anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region of the equatorial Pacific Ocean are forecast to reach about +3.7°C above normal.
- ❖ El Niño may cause extreme heat, droughts and altered rainfall patterns, affecting India, Africa, Indonesia and parts of the Americas.
- ❖ Around 2.6 billion people may face unusually high temperatures and 1.3 billion people may be at risk from extreme rainfall through December 2026.
- ❖ WMO forecasts indicate a near-100% likelihood of El Niño persisting through February 2027, with weather impacts potentially continuing into spring.



First Ecosystem Red List Assessment - Kerala

- ❖ Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) launched India's first State-level Red List Assessment of Ecosystems (RLE) project.
- ❖ The one-year project is jointly conducted by Kerala Forest Research Institute and MES Asmabi College to assess ecosystem collapse risks across all 14 districts.
- ❖ Tropical riparian evergreen forests in the southern Western Ghats have lost 83% of their area over the past century and are classified as Critically Endangered under International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria.
- ❖ The assessment covers forests, rivers, Myristica swamps, shola-grassland ecosystems and coastal mangroves using five standardised IUCN criteria.

- ❖ The project will identify threats, guide ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation and support sustainable development.



Ramsar Sites in India



- ❖ Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh were added to the Ramsar list, taking India's total to 103 Ramsar sites.

- ❖ The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty adopted in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, and came into force in 1975.
- ❖ Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance that support biodiversity, water security, flood control, climate regulation and local livelihoods.
- ❖ Sukhna Wetland lies at the foothills of the Outer Himalayas in Chandigarh.
- ❖ Sauj Jheel is located in Mainpuri district, Uttar Pradesh, in the Ganga floodplain.
- ❖ India joined the Ramsar Convention on 1 February 1982.

Asiatic Lion Conservation – Gujarat

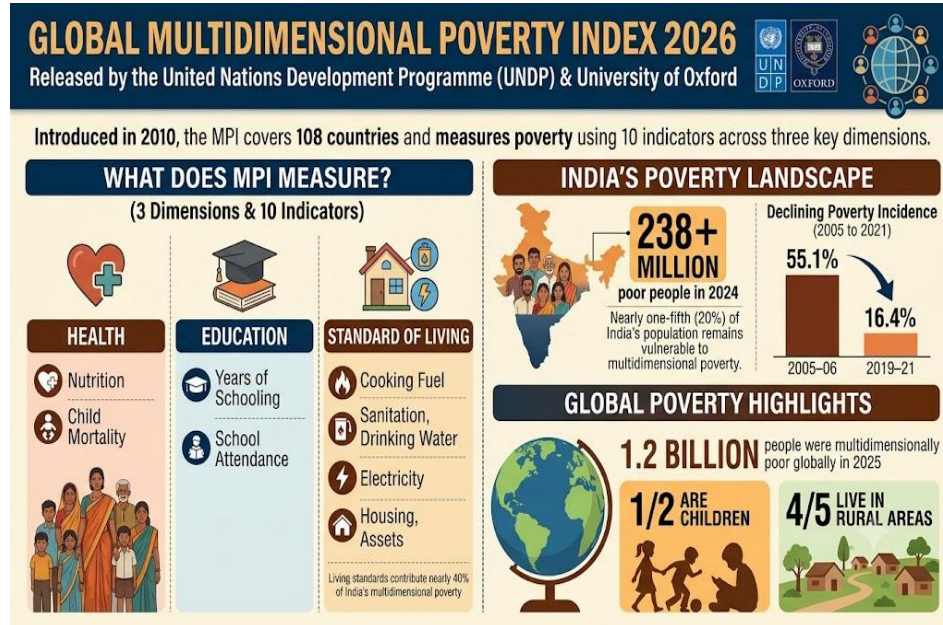


- ❖ Gujarat's Barda Wildlife Sanctuary has become an important second habitat for Asiatic lions after their return following around 144 years.
- ❖ Barda is located in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, across Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka districts; it covers approximately 192.31 sq. km and was declared a sanctuary in 1979.
- ❖ According to the 2025 population estimate cited in the report, Barda has 17 lions: 6 adults and 11 cubs; the reintroduction began with a male lion dispersing from Gir in January 2023, followed by the relocation of five females.
- ❖ Project Lion was launched by the Government of India in 2020.

- ❖ Barda supports habitat expansion beyond Gir, reducing dependence on a single core area; prey-base improvement and prevention of human–lion conflict are important for long-term conservation.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2026



- ❖ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the University of Oxford released the latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
- ❖ Introduced in 2010, the MPI covers 108 countries and measures poverty using 10 indicators across health, education and standard of living.
- ❖ India had over 238 million multidimensionally poor people in 2024, while nearly one-fifth of its population remained vulnerable to multidimensional poverty.
- ❖ India's multidimensional poverty incidence declined from 55.1% in 2005–06 to 16.4% in 2019–21; living standards contribute nearly 40% of its multidimensional poverty.
- ❖ Globally, 1.2 billion people were multidimensionally poor in 2025; half were children and over four-fifths lived in rural areas.

Henley Passport Index 2026

- ❖ India ranked 84th in the October 2026 Henley Passport Index, sharing the position with Algeria and Mauritania.

- ❖ Indian passport holders can access 55 destinations without obtaining a visa in advance, compared with 57 in October 2025.
- ❖ The index compares 199 passports across 227 travel destinations using data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ❖ Singapore ranked first, with access to 193 destinations without a prior visa.
- ❖ Japan, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates shared second place, with access to 188 destinations each.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Sloth Day 2026 - October 17

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about sloths, their habitat and conservation.
- ❖ there are 6 living species, divided into two-toed and three-toed sloths.
- ❖ Sloths are found mainly in the tropical forests of Central and South America and The Pygmy Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus pygmaeus*), found only on Isla Escudo de Veraguas, Panama, is listed as Critically Endangered (CR) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ❖ The Maned Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus torquatus*) is Vulnerable (VU), while the other four species are listed as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List.

- ❖ The day was established in 2010 by AIUNAU (a Colombian wildlife conservation organisation).
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Sloths Wild and Free".

