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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) launched the Silver Refinery Scheme to certify and hallmark silver bullion and coins in three purity grades: 999.9, 999.5 and 999.0 parts per thousand, ensuring their purity and authenticity.
- ❖ India ranked third globally in cumulative contracted clean hydrogen volumes, with binding contracts for 3 lakh tonnes of clean hydrogen per annum and green ammonia export agreements exceeding 10 lakh tonnes per annum, according to the Bloomberg New Economy Forum's India Transition Factbook 2026.
- ❖ The 10th National Convention of Agrivision was held at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)–National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), Pusa, New Delhi, to connect students, scientists, entrepreneurs and farmers and promote agricultural education, research, technology and entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Greater Chennai Corporation organised Pink Pulse 2026, an online breast cancer awareness programme, in collaboration with the Department of Radiation Oncology at Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital, Chennai.
- ❖ India inaugurated its largest integrated phenol and acetone plant in Haldia, West Bengal, developed by Adperma Private Limited, and it is the first phenol manufacturing facility on India's eastern coast.
- ❖ The 17-member Indian Coast Guard (ICG) team scaled Mount Mukut (7,045 m) in the Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand, near the India–Tibet border.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented India at the 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
 - The meeting focused on trade, economy, investment, connectivity, innovation and cultural-humanitarian exchanges among member states.
- ❖ The fifth edition of the India–Australia joint military exercise AUSTRAHIND began in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ❖ India crossed 300 gigawatts (GW) of installed electricity generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, adding over 55 GW during 2025–26.
 - India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030, with solar and wind energy as major contributors.
- ❖ Bengaluru-born astronomer Dr. Ramya Anche was selected as the Principal Investigator of NASA's \$20 million PUFFINS space telescope mission.
 - PUFFINS stands for Polarimetry in the Ultraviolet to Find Features in Interstellar dust and is a small satellite mission carrying a 10-inch ultraviolet space telescope in low Earth orbit.

- ❖ Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), was elected Chair of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO).
 - IOCINDIO, a UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) sub-commission, was formally launched in May 2025 to strengthen regional cooperation in Indian Ocean research and marine science.
- ❖ IG Defence is developing JWALA-MK1, an indigenous short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) that uses a hard-kill method to destroy hostile drones, and successfully tested its two solid rocket motors.
- ❖ World Osteoporosis Day is observed annually on October 20 to raise awareness about osteoporosis, early detection and bone health.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Build, Protect, Strengthen Your Bones for Life."

NATIONAL NEWS

KAUMARACON-2026



- ❖ The Vice-President inaugurated the 3rd International Conference on Kaumarabhritya, KAUMARACON-2026, organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).
- ❖ Theme: "Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya."
- ❖ Kaumarabhritya is the branch of Ayurveda concerned with child healthcare, nutrition, growth, development and disease prevention.
- ❖ The AYUSH Start-up Portal, AIIA-iCAINE website, AyuDIVA, Vamana App and Panchakarma Assessment App were launched.

- ❖ Panchakarma means “five actions” in Sanskrit and is an Ayurvedic treatment system aimed at removing toxins and balancing Vata, Pitta and Kapha.

Biofortified Purple Potato - Kufri Jamunia

- ❖ India developed Kufri Jamunia, a biofortified purple potato variety, to address hidden hunger.
- ❖ It was developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Potato Research Institute (ICAR-CPRI) and released in 2024.
- ❖ It contains 42.75 mg of vitamin C, 3.22 mg of iron and 2.28 mg of zinc per 100 g.
- ❖ It contains anthocyanins, natural pigments with antioxidant properties.
- ❖ It helps address hidden hunger by improving the intake of essential vitamins and minerals through everyday food.
- ❖ It is suitable for cultivation in the North Indian plains, including Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

**ICAR-CPRI-developed Kufri
Jamunia (Purple Potato)
offers enhanced
nutritional benefits**



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

CBD COP17 – Global Biodiversity Summit

- ❖ The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) began in Yerevan, Armenia.
- ❖ The conference aims to review global progress in implementing the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), adopted in 2022.

- ❖ The framework has 23 targets for 2030, including conserving 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030, known as the "30 by 30" target.
- ❖ COP17 will focus on accelerating biodiversity conservation, restoring ecosystems, improving monitoring and mobilising funds to protect nature.
- ❖ Countries aim to mobilise at least US\$200 billion annually by 2030 from all sources for biodiversity, including US\$30 billion annually in international biodiversity finance.



Leopard Immunocontraception – Maharashtra

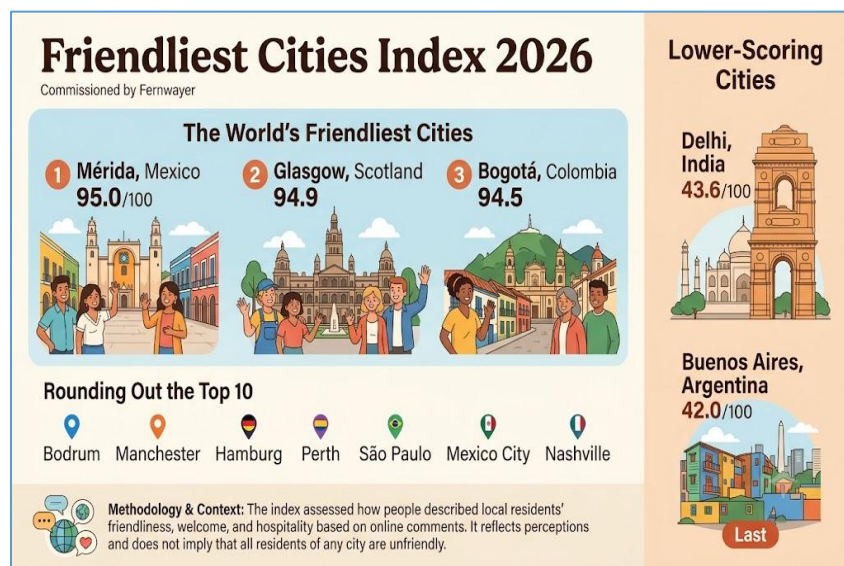


- ❖ The Junnar forest division in Pune district, Maharashtra, launched India's first scientific study to control leopard reproduction using immunocontraception, and two female leopards have received the vaccine and been released into the wild.
- ❖ Immunocontraception is a non-lethal method that uses a vaccine to temporarily prevent pregnancy without permanently affecting fertility.
- ❖ The study was approved by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

- ❖ The pilot project aims to assess the safety and effectiveness of immunocontraception in reducing human–leopard conflict in high-density areas.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Mumbai, will help analyse blood samples to monitor hormonal changes and the vaccine’s long-term effects.
- ❖ Between 2000 and 2025, leopard attacks killed 56 people in the Junnar forest division.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Friendliest Cities Index 2026



- ❖ The Friendliest Cities Index 2026, commissioned by travel platform Fernwayer, ranked Mérida in Mexico as the world’s friendliest city, while Delhi was among the 10 lowest-scoring cities.
- ❖ Mérida ranked first with 95 out of 100, followed by Glasgow in Scotland (94.9) and Bogotá in Colombia (94.5).
- ❖ The top 10 also included Bodrum, Manchester, Hamburg, Perth, São Paulo, Mexico City and Nashville.
- ❖ Delhi scored 43.6 out of 100, while Buenos Aires in Argentina ranked last with 42.0.
- ❖ The index assessed how people described local residents’ friendliness, welcome and hospitality; its findings reflect online comments and do not prove that all residents of a city are unfriendly.

