



October - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A juvenile European bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*), belonging to the Meropidae family and Coraciiformes order, was recorded for the first time in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ France witnessed violent protests and looting on 17–19 October 2026 over the rising cost of living and fuel prices, leading to 2,513 people being taken into custody and curfews in parts of Paris and other cities.
 - Italy also witnessed riots and looting in Milan, where at least 270 demonstrators were detained.
- ❖ Aditya-L1 generated Doppler velocity images of the solar corona using its Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), helping scientists study solar plasma movement and the direction of Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).
 - The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) developed the software to process VELC data; CMEs are huge clouds of hot plasma ejected from the Sun that can disturb near-Earth space.
- ❖ The ISRO completed Crew Module–Service Module (CM–SM) separation tests at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, to verify the safe separation of the two modules before Earth re-entry during the Gaganyaan mission.
 - Gaganyaan is India's first human spaceflight mission, which aims to send Indian astronauts into low Earth orbit and bring them safely back to Earth.
- ❖ World Trauma Day is observed annually on 17 October to raise awareness about traumatic injuries, their prevention and the importance of timely medical care.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Building a Safer Future with Trauma Care”.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Vetri 150 Scheme – Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government sanctioned the Vetri 150 scheme on 20 October 2026 to provide additional employment to vulnerable rural households.
- ❖ The scheme extends guaranteed employment from 125 to 150 days per financial year for eligible households under the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G).
- ❖ The State government sanctioned ₹100 crore for 2026–27 to implement the scheme.

- ❖ Eligible households include women-headed and single-woman households, households with persons with disabilities, Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) households, and eligible forest-dweller households.
- ❖ The additional 25 days are provided after completing the initial 125 days of employment under VB-G RAM G.
- ❖ The Union and State governments share VB-G RAM G funding in a 60:40 ratio.

TN govt sanctions Rs 100 Cr for Vetri 150 scheme, extends rural job guarantee to 150 days for vulnerable households

The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned Rs 100 crore for its Vetri 150 scheme, providing an additional 25 days of wage employment to specified vulnerable rural households that complete the 125-day entitlement under the Centre's VB-G RAM G scheme. The Rs 100-crore allocation has been made from the Revised Budget Estimate for 2026-27.

NATIONAL NEWS

LAHDC Amendment Regulation 2026

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu promulgated the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC) (Amendment) Regulation, 2026, paving the way for hill council elections in all eight districts of Ladakh.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the amendments on 14 October 2026.
- ❖ The regulation changes the number of constituencies in each council from 26 to a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 24.
- ❖ It provides for the nomination of four members from women and unrepresented communities to improve participation in local governance.
- ❖ Ladakh became a Union Territory in 2019 after its separation from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir; previously, it had two hill councils in Leh and Kargil.

- ❖ The newly created Sankoo district is also included in the plan for establishing hill councils across all eight districts.



Green Diwali Campaign 2026



- ❖ WWF-India EIACP Programme Centre launched its nationwide Green Diwali Campaign on 20 October 2026, which runs until 8 November 2026.
- ❖ The campaign is supported by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and encourages people to celebrate Diwali with less pollution and waste.
- ❖ It focuses especially on the 130 cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

- ❖ The campaign promotes avoiding firecrackers and single-use plastic, using traditional diyas and energy-efficient lights, segregating waste, and choosing local products.
- ❖ It aligns with Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), which promotes environmentally friendly lifestyles.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ASEAN and Export Growth



- ❖ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) emerged as the fastest-growing regional destination for India's exports during April–August 2026, with a 56% increase driven mainly by petroleum product shipments.
- ❖ India's petroleum product exports to ASEAN rose 2.4 times to over US\$6.1 billion, with Singapore accounting for nearly three-fourths of these exports.
- ❖ Exports of computer hardware to ASEAN increased 20-fold to US\$1.4 billion, while electric machinery exports rose 82% to US\$1.6 billion.
- ❖ India's exports to the European Union (EU) grew at the slowest pace, as petroleum product exports fell 21% to US\$4.6 billion.
- ❖ India's exports to Spain rose 54% to US\$3.5 billion, while petroleum product exports to Italy increased from US\$4 million to US\$659 million.
- ❖ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, through the Bangkok Declaration.

- ❖ ASEAN has 11 member countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam and India is not a member of ASEAN.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Tiger Migration in Maharashtra

- ❖ A four-year-old male tiger weighing over 200 kg was recorded by a camera trap in the Brahmgaon forest range of Beed district, Maharashtra, after nearly 100 years.
- ❖ The tiger originated from Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Yavatmal district and left in 2023.
- ❖ It travelled through Chandrapur, Dharashiv, Latur and Ahilyanagar before reaching Beed.
- ❖ The tiger, scientifically known as *Panthera tigris*, is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ Project Tiger was launched in India in 1973 to conserve tigers and manage their habitats.



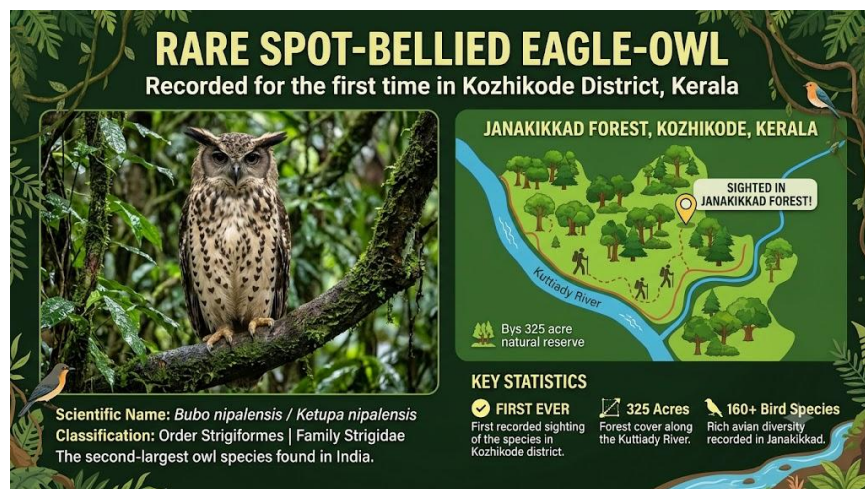
IUCN Red List Assessment in India

- ❖ India has begun assessing 1,211 regularly occurring bird species, including resident and migratory birds, under the IUCN framework.
- ❖ The assessment is being carried out by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), the IUCN SSC Center for Species Survival India-Wildlife Trust of India, and the State of India's Birds initiative.

- ❖ Preliminary assessments of 107 species were completed by 19 October 2026; work on all species is expected by the end of 2026, with final assessments expected by the end of 2027.
- ❖ Preliminary assessments proposed the Great Indian Bustard as Critically Endangered, the Sarus Crane as Vulnerable, and the Marbled Duck as Endangered; these categories are not final.
- ❖ The IUCN Red List was established in 1964.
- ❖ India's National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030 aims to assess more than 11,000 species of plants, animals and fungi by 2030.



Rare Spot-bellied Eagle Owl - Kozhikode

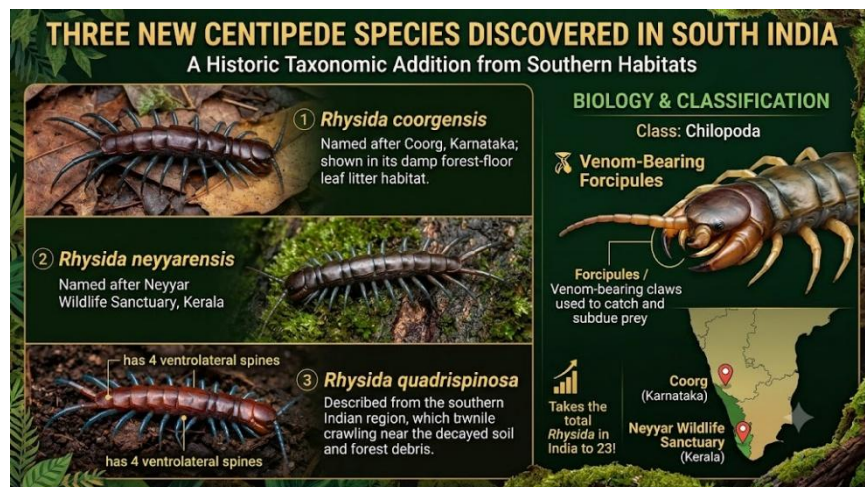


- ❖ A Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl (*Bubo nipalensis* / *Ketupa nipalensis*) was recorded in Janakikkad forest, Kozhikode district, Kerala.

- ❖ It was the first recorded sighting of the species in Kozhikode district.
- ❖ The owl belongs to the order Strigiformes and the family Strigidae.
- ❖ It is the second-largest owl species found in India.
- ❖ Janakikkad forest covers about 325 acres along the Kuttiady River and has more than 160 recorded bird species.

Three New Centipede Species in South India

- ❖ Scientists described three new centipede species from southern India: *Rhysida quadrispinosa*, *Rhysida coorgensis* and *Rhysida neyyarensis*.
- ❖ *Rhysida coorgensis* is named after Coorg in Karnataka, while *Rhysida neyyarensis* is named after Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala.
- ❖ The three new species bring the total number of known *Rhysida* species in India to 23.
- ❖ Centipedes belong to the class Chilopoda.
- ❖ Centipedes use venom-bearing appendages called forcipules to catch and subdue prey.



IMPORTANT DAYS

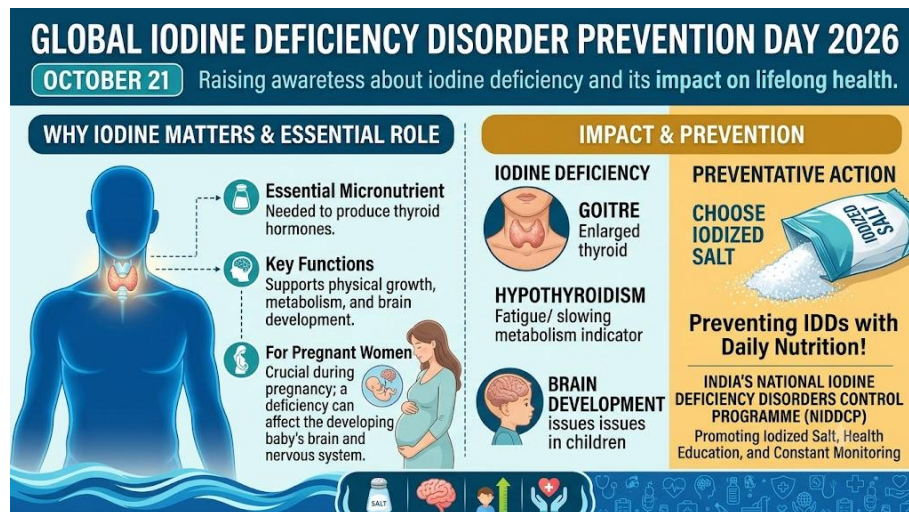
Police Commemoration Day 2026 - October 21

- ❖ The day aims to honour police personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.
- ❖ On 21 October 1959, 10 Indian police personnel were killed in an attack by Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh.

- ❖ The incident occurred during a patrol along the India–China border in the high-altitude region.
- ❖ In January 1960, the annual Conference of Directors General and Inspectors General of Police decided to observe 21 October as Police Commemoration Day.
- ❖ The day is also known as Police Shaheed Diwas or Police Martyrs Day.



Global Iodine Deficiency Disorder Prevention Day 2026 - October 21



- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about iodine deficiency and its effects on health.
- ❖ Iodine is an essential micronutrient needed to produce thyroid hormones, which support growth, metabolism and brain development.
- ❖ Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDs) include goitre, hypothyroidism and problems with brain development in children.
- ❖ India's National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) promotes iodized salt, health education and monitoring of iodine deficiency.

- ❖ Iodine deficiency during pregnancy can affect the developing baby's brain and nervous system.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

70th Dhammachakra Pravartan Day 2026

- ❖ The 70th Dhammachakra Pravartan Day was observed at Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur, Maharashtra, on 20 October 2026.
- ❖ On 14 October 1956, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism along with his followers at Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur, on Ashoka Vijayadashami.
- ❖ The event is remembered as a historic mass conversion to Buddhism and is commemorated annually as Dhammachakra Pravartan Day.
- ❖ Deekshabhoomi, located in Nagpur, Maharashtra, is the memorial site associated with Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism.
- ❖ The observance is associated with the Buddhist principles of equality, liberty, fraternity and human dignity.

