



October - 24

TNPSC BITS

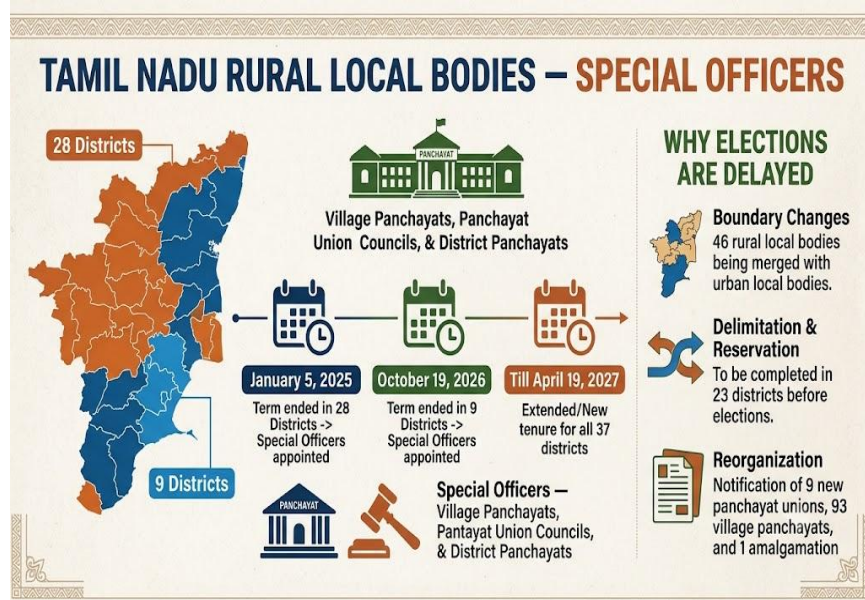
- ❖ Jindal Steel Limited won the 2026 Steelie Award for “Excellence in People” for its Dakshata Engineering Safety: One Duty Position at a Time programme.
 - The Dakshata programme uses role-specific safety training, competency assessment and reassessment before employees are deployed.
- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) won Global Finance magazine’s “World’s Best Consumer Bank 2026” award for the second consecutive year, recognising its digital innovation, service excellence and financial inclusion.
- ❖ BHASHINI’s Shrutlekh platform enabled real-time English-Spanish translation at an National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) capacity-building programme in Mussoorie, showcasing voice-first multilingual Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.
- ❖ U.S. President Donald Trump renewed his call to rename New Mexico as “New America”.
 - Trump first proposed the name change in September 2026, but state officials rejected the proposal.
- ❖ Tuticorin International Container Terminal (TICT) at VOC Chidambaranar Port (VOC Port), Tamil Nadu, was declared a green terminal on 22 October 2026 after 100% of its operational equipment was electrified.
 - VOC Port became India’s first major port to be Scope 2 emission-free on 10 August 2026 and holds ISO 50001:2018 certification for energy management.
- ❖ Two new subterranean fish species, Gitchak nakana and Rakthamichthys anchi, were discovered in wells in Goalpara district of Assam.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Rural Local Bodies — Special Officers

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has extended the tenure of special officers administering rural local bodies in 28 districts and appointed special officers in 9 more districts till April 19, 2027.
- ❖ The elected representatives’ terms in 28 districts ended on January 5, 2025, after which special officers were appointed.
- ❖ The terms of elected representatives in the remaining 9 districts ended on October 19, 2026.

- ❖ Elections could not be held because 46 rural local bodies are being merged with urban local bodies, which will change local-body boundaries.
- ❖ Delimitation and reservation must be completed in 23 districts before rural local body elections can be conducted.
- ❖ The government has notified 9 new panchayat unions, 93 new village panchayats and the amalgamation of 1 village panchayat.
- ❖ Special officers will administer village panchayats, panchayat union councils and district panchayats until April 19, 2027.



NATIONAL NEWS

Agrivoltaics World Conference 2026

- ❖ India is hosting the 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference 2026 in New Delhi, marking the first time the conference is held in the Global South.
- ❖ Agrivoltaics (AgriPV) combines agriculture and solar photovoltaic power generation on the same land, allowing farming and solar energy production together.
- ❖ The conference theme is “Powering the Global South”, focusing on crop productivity, policies, financing and farmer-centred models for clean energy and food production.
- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is hosting the conference.

- ❖ The AgriPV Policy Handbook, India Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA) Decision-Making Tool and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Book of Abstracts were launched at the conference.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bangladesh Measles Outbreak

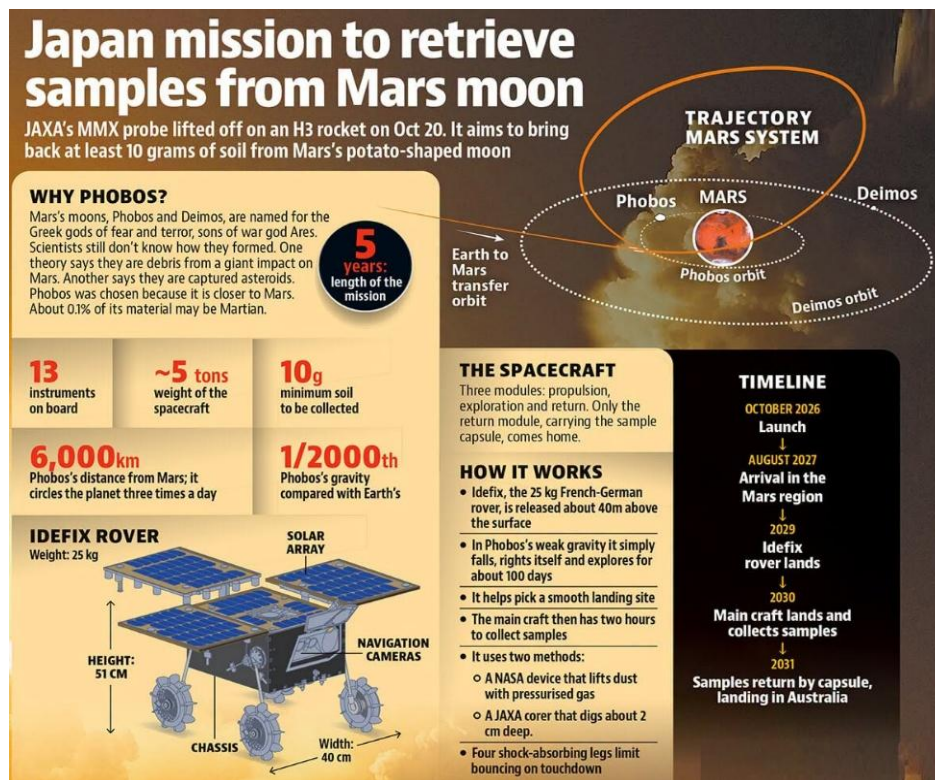
- Bangladesh is battling what the World Health Organization calls the world's worst measles outbreak this year.
- From mid-March to October 9, the country reported 202,000 suspected cases, including 22,000 laboratory-confirmed cases.
- WHO reported 1,147 deaths, with 94% of reported fatalities among children under five.

- ❖ Bangladesh is facing the world's worst measles outbreak in 2026, with over 2.02 lakh suspected cases and 1,147 deaths reported since mid-March.

- ❖ Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that mainly spreads through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- ❖ The outbreak has been linked to declining immunisation coverage, unregistered children, health-worker shortages and weak health-data systems.
- ❖ About 94% of the reported deaths in Bangladesh were among children below five years, while around 22,000 cases were laboratory-confirmed.
- ❖ Measles vaccination coverage fell to 90% for the first dose and 86% for the second dose in 2025, below the 95% coverage generally needed to prevent outbreaks.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Mars Moons Exploration Mission



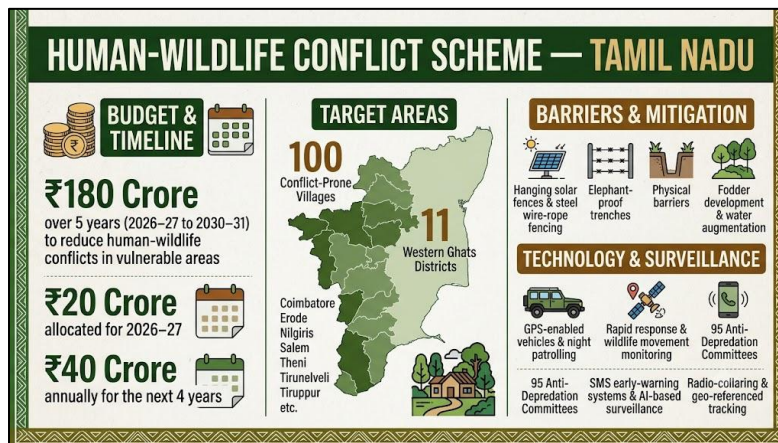
- ❖ Japan's Martian Moons Exploration (MMX) mission launched to study Mars and its two moons (Phobos and Deimos).
- ❖ The mission will become the first to land on a Martian moon and collect samples for return to Earth.
- ❖ MMX will target Phobos, the larger and closer moon of Mars, to collect rocks and surface material.

- ❖ The samples could provide information about the origin and evolution of Mars and its moons and the early history of the Solar System.
- ❖ The mission is led by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Human-Wildlife Conflict Scheme - Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu will spend ₹180 crore over five years (2026–27 to 2030–31) to reduce human-wildlife conflicts in vulnerable areas.
- ❖ The scheme will cover 100 conflict-prone villages across 11 Western Ghats districts, including Coimbatore, Erode, Nilgiris, Salem, Theni, Tirunelveli and Tiruppur.
- ❖ ₹20 crore is allocated for 2026–27, followed by ₹40 crore annually for the next four years.
- ❖ Measures include hanging solar fences, steel wire-rope fencing, elephant-proof trenches, physical barriers, fodder development and water augmentation.
- ❖ GPS-enabled vehicles, night patrolling, surveillance, rapid response and wildlife movement monitoring will be strengthened.
- ❖ 95 Anti-Depredation Committees, village-level SMS early-warning systems, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based surveillance, radio-collaring and geo-referenced tracking will support community-based conflict mitigation.



Blue Tiger Butterfly Migration

- ❖ Millions of blue tiger and dark blue tiger butterflies are migrating from the Eastern Ghats towards the Western Ghats with the onset of the North-East monsoon.

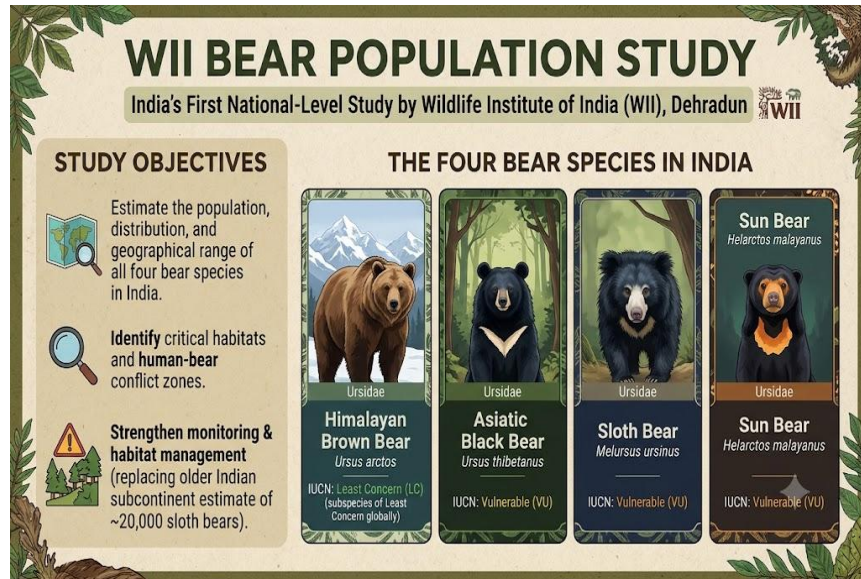
- ❖ The migrating butterflies include blue tiger (Tirumala limniace), dark blue tiger, common crow and double-banded crow butterflies, with large numbers recorded across Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- ❖ They migrate towards the Western Ghats to escape heavy North-East monsoon rains and reach forests with suitable host plants, where they feed, mate and lay eggs.
- ❖ The next generations remain in Western Ghats forests during the following months and fly back towards the Eastern Ghats around May, ahead of the South-West monsoon.
- ❖ Large congregations have been recorded in places such as Coimbatore, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Madurai, Silent Valley and Parambikulam, with citizen groups helping document the migration.



WII Bear Population Study

- ❖ Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, is preparing India's first national-level study to estimate the population, distribution and geographical range of all four bear species found in India.
- ❖ The four species are Himalayan brown bear, Asiatic black bear, sloth bear and sun bear, which belong to the mammalian family Ursidae.
- ❖ The Himalayan brown bear is a subspecies of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), which is Least Concern (LC) globally, while the other three are Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List.

- ❖ The scientific names are *Ursus arctos* (brown bear), *Ursus thibetanus* (Asiatic black bear), *Melursus ursinus* (sloth bear) and *Helarctos malayanus* (sun bear).
- ❖ The study will help identify critical habitats, human-bear conflict zones and areas needing better monitoring and habitat management; the older estimate of about 20,000 sloth bears refers to the Indian subcontinent.



Contagious Cancer in Catfish



- ❖ Scientists from the University of Vermont reported the fourth known case of naturally transmissible cancer in animals, involving melanoma in brown bullhead catfish (*Ameiurus nebulosus*) from Lake Memphremagog.

- ❖ The cancer cells originated in one fish and spread to other fish, where they formed tumours; about 30% of catfish sampled from the lake since 2013 had melanoma.
- ❖ Genetic analysis showed major differences in mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) between tumour and normal cells, supporting the spread of cancer cells from an outside fish.
- ❖ Researchers suggest the cancer cells may spread through physical contact during spawning or the aquatic environment, entering new fish through the gills, skin or mouth.
- ❖ Earlier transmissible cancers are known in dogs, Tasmanian devils and bivalve molluscs such as clams and mussels.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Emissions Gap Report 2026



- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the Emissions Gap Report 2026.
- ❖ Warning that limiting global warming to 1.5°C without significant overshoot is no longer possible.
- ❖ Global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions slightly declined to 58.4 gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent (GtCO₂e) in 2025, but fossil-fuel CO₂ emissions continued to rise.
- ❖ G20 members, excluding the African Union, accounted for 76% of global emissions, while their emissions excluding land-use sectors increased by 0.7% in 2025.
- ❖ To achieve the lowest possible 1.5°C overshoot, global GHG emissions need to fall by 18% by 2030, 45% by 2035 and 69% by 2040, compared with 2025 levels.

- ❖ Large-scale CO₂ removal from the atmosphere will be required to return global warming to 1.5°C by the end of the century.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Solidarity Day 2026 – October 20

- ❖ The day aims to honour the Armed Forces and remember the 1962 India–China War.
- ❖ On 20 October 1962, China launched attacks against India in NEFA (North-East Frontier Agency), now Arunachal Pradesh, and Ladakh, marking the beginning of the war.
- ❖ The war was fought mainly in the eastern sector (NEFA) and western sector (Ladakh, including Aksai Chin).
- ❖ China announced a unilateral ceasefire on 21 November 1962, ending the major fighting.
- ❖ In 1966, a national committee set up during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure designated 20 October as National Solidarity Day.
- ❖ The day honours the soldiers who sacrificed their lives and promotes national unity, patriotism and solidarity.

