October - 26

TNPSC BITS

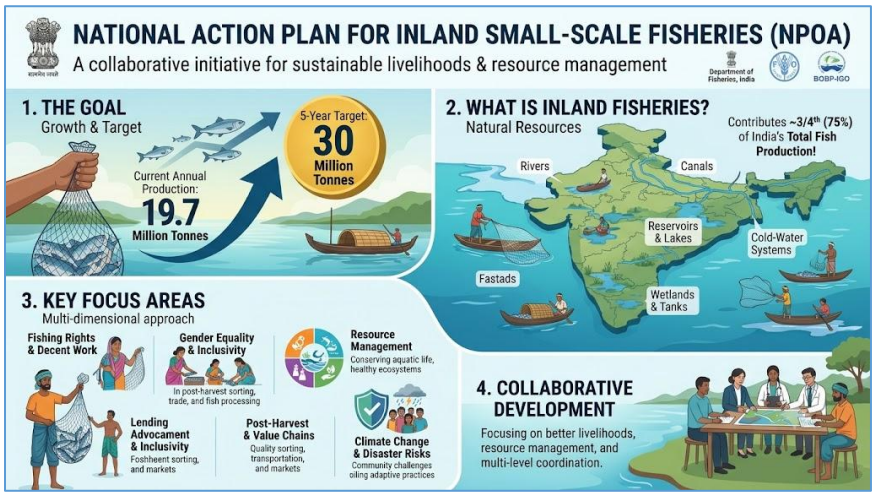
- The Wiikwemkoong First Nation community in Ontario, Canada, has installed a small data centre to preserve its cultural heritage, store Anishinaabe language recordings, corporate documents, residents health data and security camera footage, and maintain control over its information.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed making Advanced Emergency Braking Systems (AEBS) mandatory in all new car models from October 1, 2030.
- Indian Railways achieved a record-breaking 22.5% increase in coal loading from October 1 to 18, 2026, compared to the same timeframe in 2025.
- President Droupadi Murmu released a ₹200 commemorative coin honouring Sindhi spiritual leader Mata Sahib Hasi Devi Ji in Raipur on her 200th birth anniversary.
  - Mata Hasi Devi Ji was the fifth spiritual head of Shadani Darbar, an influential Sindhi religious institution based in Raipur.
- ICAR-CMFRI has launched its first full-fledged open-sea mussel longline farming unit at Vizhinjam, Kerala.
- Greece's Parliament approved a law on 23 October 2026 to restrict social media use by children under 15, with the ban set to begin on 1 January 2027.
- CERT-In is observing October 2026 as National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM), which promotes awareness about cyber security and safe online practices.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Build a Culture of Cyber Hygiene".

NATIONAL NEWS

National Action Plan for Inland Small-Scale Fisheries

- India has entered the development phase of a National Plan of Action (NPOA) for small-scale inland fisheries, focusing on better livelihoods, resource management and coordination.
- The plan is being developed under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) framework by the Department of Fisheries with BOBP-IGO (Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation).
- India has set a target of 30 million tonnes of fish production in the next five years, compared with the current annual production of 19.7 million tonnes.

- Inland fisheries contribute about three-fourths of India's total fish production, covering rivers, canals, reservoirs, lakes, wetlands, tanks and cold-water systems.
- The plan will address fishing rights, resource management, decent work, gender equality, value chains, post-harvest trade, climate change and disaster risks.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Loss and Damage Fund for Nepal



- The United Nations Loss and Damage Fund has earmarked $21.6 million for Nepal to address damage caused by the Bhotekoshi floods in August 2026, marking its first country-specific allocation.

- The August 26 ice-and-rock avalanche triggered debris flow and flooding along the Bhotekoshi-Trishuli-Narayani river system.
- The Bhotekoshi becomes the Trishuli in Nepal, which flows south and joins the Kali Gandaki at Devghat to form the Narayani, which later enters India as the Gandak.
- The flood travelled downstream from Rasuwa through Nuwakot, Dhading and Chitwan, affecting settlements and infrastructure along the river corridors.
- The Fund was established at COP27 in 2022, with its operational mechanism agreed at COP28 in 2023, to support vulnerable developing countries facing climate-related losses.

ECONOMY NEWS

NDEX and FINNDEX



- The National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) is preparing to enter the equity-index segment with two new indices, NDEX and FINNDEX.
- NDEX will track 20 large and actively traded companies, while FINNDEX will track 15 financial-sector companies, excluding insurance companies.
- Both indices will use four factors for stock selection and weighting: free-float market capitalisation (30%), average daily traded value (30%), beta (20%) and volatility (20%).
- NSE Indices will calculate and maintain the two indices using prices from the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

- NCDEX plans to launch the indices in Q1 of FY 2027–28 (April–June 2027), followed by possible mutual funds, Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs), futures and options.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Amur Falcon Migration - Manipur



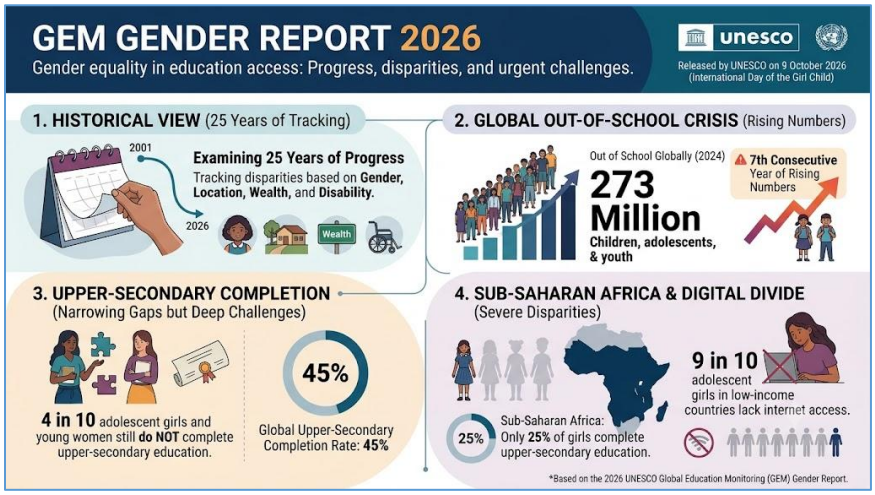
- Two satellite-tagged Amur falcons returned to Manipur after a nearly 20,000-km round-trip migration across 23 countries.
- Apapang and Alang completed a nearly 6,000-km non-stop flight between northeast India and Somalia, including about 3,000 km over the Arabian Sea.
- The Amur falcon (Falco amurensis) breeds in northeastern China and the Russian Far East and winters in southern Africa.
- It is classified as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List.
- Manipur and Nagaland are important stopover areas where the birds feed mainly on insects such as termites and ants to build energy for long flights.

REPORTS AND INDICES

GEM Gender Report 2026

- UNESCO released the 2026 GEM (Global Education Monitoring) Gender Report on Education Access on 9 October 2026, coinciding with the International Day of the Girl Child.

- The report examines gender equality in education access and tracks disparities based on gender, location, wealth and disability over the past 25 years.
- In 2024, around 273 million children, adolescents and youth were out of school globally, with the number rising for the seventh consecutive year.
- Gender gaps in enrolment have narrowed, but 4 in 10 adolescent girls and young women still do not complete upper-secondary education; the global completion rate is only 45%.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 25% of girls complete upper-secondary education, while 9 in 10 adolescent girls in low-income countries lack internet access.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2026



- The European Parliament awarded the 2026 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its officials on 22 October 2026.
- The ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court, established under the Rome Statute, which was adopted in 1998; the Court began functioning in 2002.
- It prosecutes individuals for four major crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. International Criminal Court
- The ICC is based in The Hague, Netherlands, and currently has 125 States Parties to the Rome Statute.
- India is not a State Party to the Rome Statute, so it is not a member of the ICC.
- The Sakharov Prize is awarded by the European Parliament to honour individuals or organisations defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.

World Food Prize 2026



- The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) showcased India's agricultural research and education at the 2026 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue, held from 20–22 October in Des Moines, Iowa, USA.
- Ameena Nazreen A S won the GYI Award with a US$500 cash prize, recognising Indian youth talent in agriculture and food security.
- NAAS and the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), USA signed an MoU for cooperation in agricultural research, capacity building and knowledge exchange.
- NAAS also highlighted the role of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) publications and India's agricultural research at the international exhibition.

- The 2026 dialogue was organised by the World Food Prize Foundation (WFPF) with the theme "Before Hunger Wins."

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award 2026



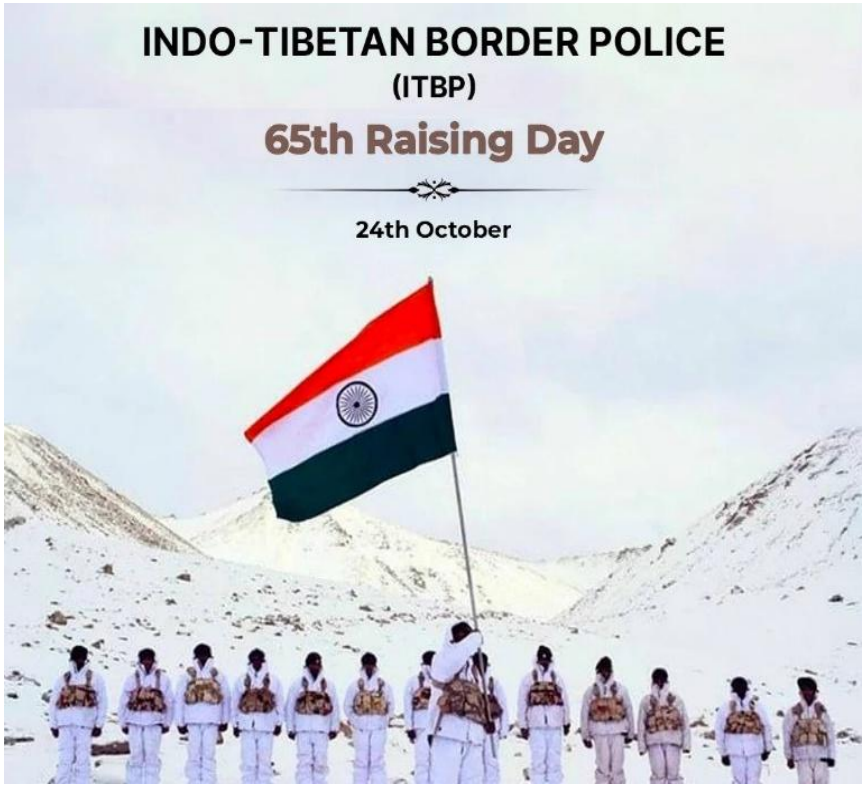
- The Assam Cabinet approved the Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award and selected Usha Mangeshkar as its first recipient.
- The award carries ₹10 lakh and a citation and will be given once every three years for contributions to music, arts or cinema.
- Bhupen Hazarika was born on 8 September 1926 in Sadiya, Assam and worked as a singer, composer, lyricist and filmmaker.
- He was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 2019; 2026 marks his birth centenary.
- Usha Mangeshkar is an Indian playback singer who has sung in several Indian languages.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Raising Day of Indo-Tibetan Border Police 2026 - October 24

- October 24, 2026 marks the 65th Raising Day of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

- ITBP was established on 24 October 1962, after the India-China War, to strengthen security along the Himalayan frontier.
- Under the One Border One Force approach, ITBP was assigned the entire 3,488-km India-China border, from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ITBP is a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, specialising in high-altitude border security; its personnel are known as Himveers.
- Its motto is "Shaurya, Dridhata, Karmanishtha", meaning valour, steadfastness and dedication to duty.



World Polio Day 2026 - October 24

- The day aims to raise awareness about polio prevention, promote vaccination, and support global efforts to eradicate polio.
- The theme for the year is "Together, We End Polio."
- Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by poliovirus, mainly affecting children under five and potentially causing permanent paralysis.
- India was certified polio-free on 27 March 2014 by the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Regional Certification Commission.

- Afghanistan and Pakistan remain the two countries where wild poliovirus is endemic.



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