October - 27

TNPSC BITS

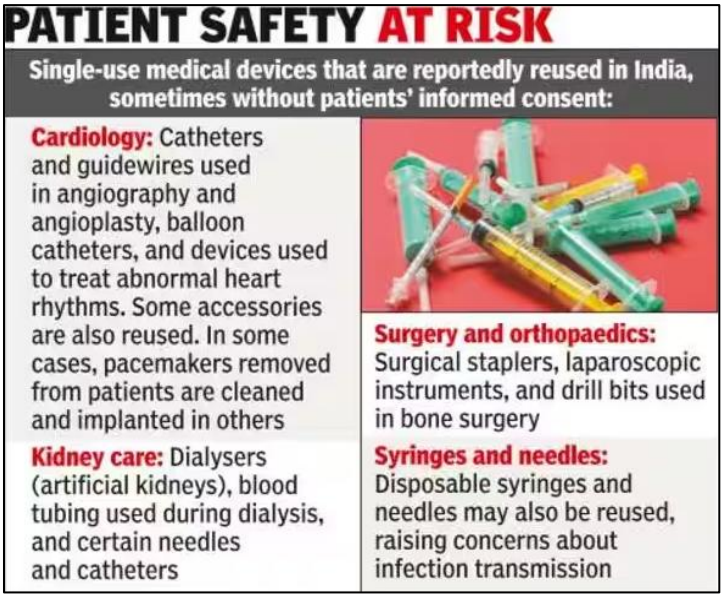
- Alberta held its first-ever referendum on separation, with about 76% voting to remain in Canada and 24% supporting a binding separation vote; the referendum was non-binding.
  - The vote took place amid a separatist movement in Alberta, a major energy-producing province in western Canada.
- Oil India Limited (OIL) has discovered natural gas in the shallow-water Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin, with the Godavari-1 well recording a peak flow of 200,000 Standard Cubic Metres per Day (SCMD).
- India's first Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) estimated 718 snow leopards across the Indian Himalayas, including 477 in Ladakh.
  - The snow leopard (Panthera uncia) is classified as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List.
- The 30th Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) meeting was held in New Delhi to review domestic and global macro-financial developments and emerging risks to India's financial system.
- India has become the 3rd-largest exporter of defence goods to Europe, driven by demand under the "Rearm Europe" initiative.
  - Defence exports reached a record ₹38,424 crore, with India supplying ammunition, artillery shells, small arms and tactical gear.

NATIONAL NEWS

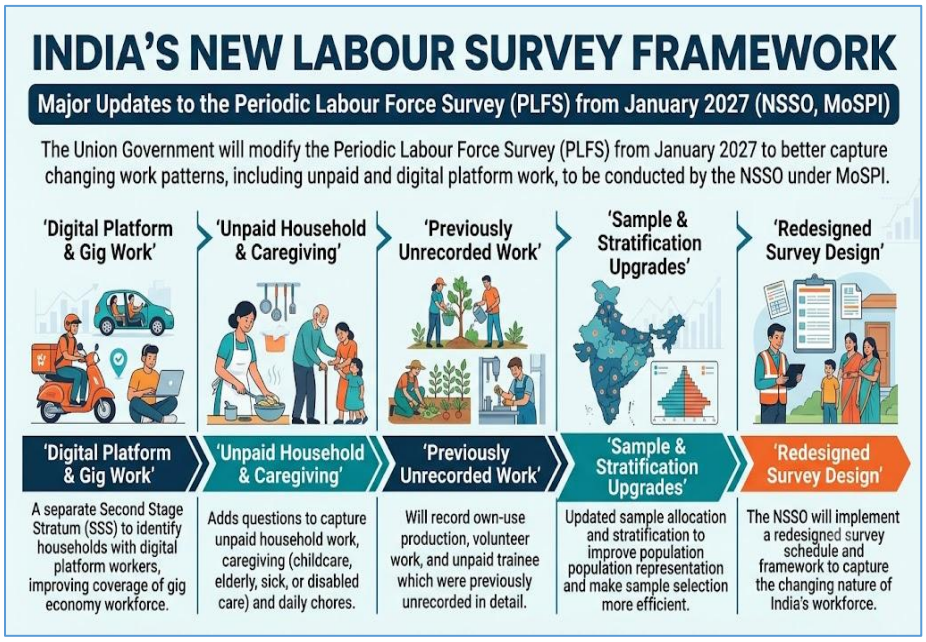
Ban on Medical Device Reuse

- The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) directed public and private hospitals to stop reusing single-use medical devices and disposable surgical items.
- Reusing such devices may cause cross-infection, device malfunction and reduced performance, especially in critical care.
- The directive covers devices used in cardiology, nephrology, oncology, neurosurgery and cardiothoracic and vascular surgery (CTVS).
- Devices labelled for single use must follow the original equipment manufacturer's instructions.
- State health authorities and drug controllers were asked to inspect, monitor and take action against violations.

- The practice may violate provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; Medical Devices Rules, 2017; and Clinical Establishments Act, 2010.



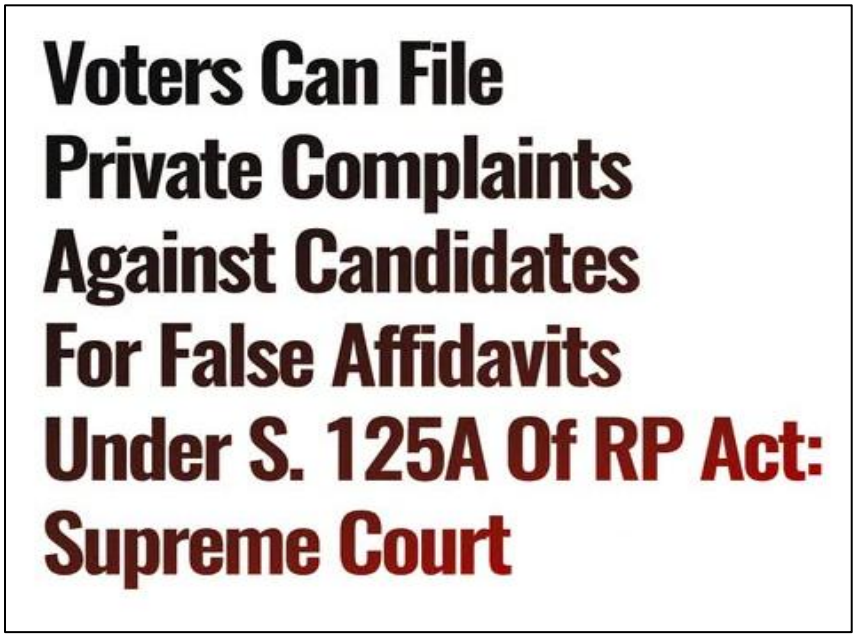
New Labour Survey Framework



- The Union government will modify the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) from January 2027 to better capture digital platform work, unpaid household and caregiving work, volunteer work and trainee work.
- The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will change the survey design and schedule.

- A separate Second Stage Stratum (SSS) will identify households having at least one digital platform worker, improving coverage of gig workers.
- The survey will add questions on unpaid household and caregiving work, including cooking, cleaning, childcare and caring for elderly, sick or disabled persons.
- It will also record own-use production, volunteer work and unpaid trainee work, which were not separately captured earlier in the PLFS.
- The sample allocation and stratification will also be updated to improve population representation and make sample selection more efficient.

SC on Candidate Disclosures



- The Supreme Court held that ordinary voters can file criminal complaints against election candidates for giving false information or concealing information in nomination affidavits.
- Candidates must disclose details such as assets, educational qualifications and criminal antecedents while filing nominations.
- Under Section 125-A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, giving false information or concealing information is an offence punishable with up to 6 months' imprisonment, fine, or both.
- The Court held that a complaint under Section 125-A can be filed by a private person and is not limited to public servants or competent authorities.
- Section 125-A was inserted in 2002 to strengthen transparency in elections and provide voters with accurate information about candidates.

- The Court also held that Section 195 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) does not prevent private citizens from filing complaints under Section 125-A.

National Urban Conclave 2026



- The National Urban Conclave 2026 concluded in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, with recommendations to strengthen urban governance, planning and service delivery towards Viksit Bharat 2047.
- Recommendations included stronger Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), better municipal finances, integrated planning and outcome-based service delivery.
- New initiatives included the Used Water Marketplace under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) Portal and Municipal Finance Data Hub.
- 18 Street Food Hubs were launched under Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) for circular use of treated used water.
- CPWD Nirman and CPWDway digital platforms were launched for project monitoring and capacity building.

SAMHiTA Project

- India and Sri Lanka launched the SAMHiTA (South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive) Project at Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo, to preserve shared Buddhist heritage.
- The project aims to digitise ancient manuscripts and preserve their historical, religious and cultural knowledge.
- Gangaramaya Temple became the first Sri Lankan institution to partner with the project.
- A team is digitising 100 ancient manuscripts, with the work expected to be completed by November 2026.
- The project is undertaken by the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi, with grant assistance from the Government of India.



Delhi-NCR Pollution Analysis - AATAL

- The Central Government inaugurated the Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL) for Delhi-NCR to improve air pollution forecasting and source analysis.
- AATAL is described as the world's first facility dedicated to air pollution analysis for the Delhi-NCR region.
- It analyses PM2.5, metals, toxic elements, atmospheric gases and aerosols.
- The facility was established under Mission Mausam and is integrated with IITM's AIRWISE (Air Quality Warning and Integrated Decision Support System for Emissions).

- AIRWISE combines air-quality forecasts, observations and source-apportionment data to support targeted pollution-control measures.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

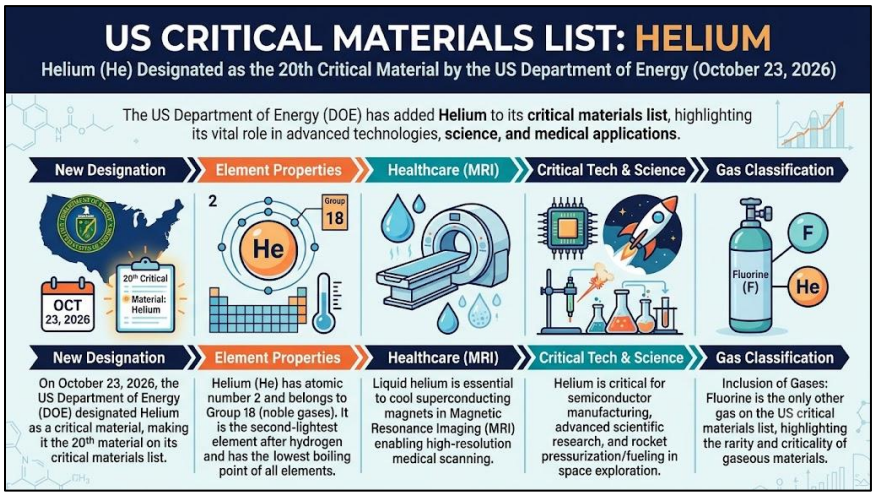
Ukraine in NATO Procurement Partnership



- Ukraine joined the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) Security Cooperation Support Partnership (SCSP), gaining access to NATO procurement contracts and defence tenders.
- Ukraine became the first and only non-NATO country with a separate SCSP partnership with NSPA.
- The partnership does not make Ukraine a NATO member.
- The North Atlantic Council approved direct NSPA contracts with Ukrainian industry in April 2026.
- NSPA has mobilised about €400 million through the Ukraine Comprehensive Assistance Package (CAP) Trust Fund.

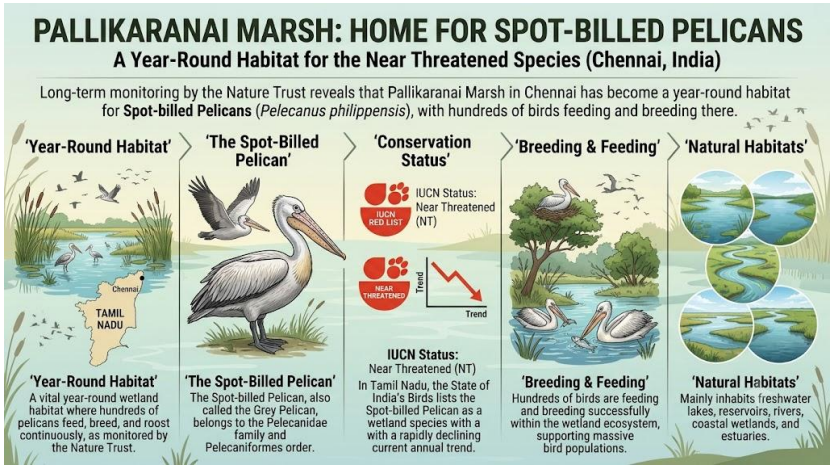
US Critical Materials List - Helium

- The US Department of Energy designated helium as a critical material, making it the 20th material on its critical materials list.
- Helium (He) has atomic number 2 and belongs to Group 18 (noble gases).
- It is the second-lightest element after hydrogen and has the lowest boiling point of all elements.
- Liquid helium is used to cool superconducting magnets in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) systems.
- Helium is also important for semiconductors, scientific research and space exploration.
- Fluorine is the only other gas on the US critical materials list.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

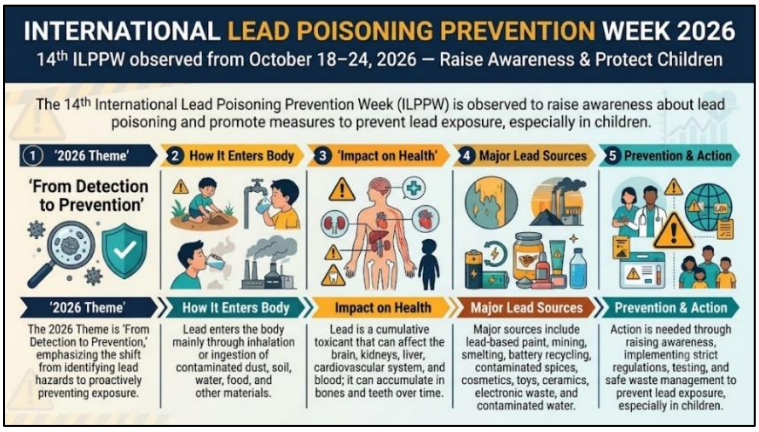
Pallikaranai Marsh - Spot-billed Pelicans



- Pallikaranai Marsh in Chennai has become a year-round habitat for Spot-billed Pelicans, according to long-term monitoring by the Nature Trust.
- The Spot-billed Pelican (Pelecanus philippensis) is classified as Near Threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List.
- In Tamil Nadu, the State of India's Birds lists the Spot-billed Pelican as a wetland species with a rapidly declining current annual trend.
- The Spot-billed Pelican is also called the Grey Pelican and belongs to the family Pelecanidae and order Pelecaniformes.
- It mainly inhabits freshwater lakes, reservoirs, rivers, coastal wetlands and estuaries.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2026 – October 18/24



- The 14th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) is observed to raise awareness about lead poisoning and promote measures to prevent lead exposure, especially in children.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "From Detection to Prevention."
- Lead poisoning occurs when lead enters the body mainly through inhalation or ingestion of contaminated dust, soil, water, food and other materials.
- Lead is a cumulative toxicant that can affect the brain, kidneys, liver, cardiovascular system and blood; it can accumulate in bones and teeth over time.
- Major sources include lead-based paint, mining, smelting, battery recycling, contaminated spices, cosmetics, toys, ceramics, electronic waste and contaminated water.

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