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TNPSC BITS

- Lionel Messi won the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports, becoming the first footballer to win the award as a solo laureate.
- Indian cueist Pankaj Advani won his 29th career world title at the WBL World Billiards Championships in Great Wyrley, England.
- Indian physicist Ashoke Sen won the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal, becoming the first Indian physicist to receive the honour.
- The Indian Army is receiving indigenous Nagastra-2 anti-tank loitering munitions from Solar Defence and Aerospace Ltd. (SDAL), Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Scientists from Kobe University found fresh magma accumulating beneath the Kikai Caldera, a mostly submerged supervolcano south of Kyushu Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan.
  - Kikai's eruption around 7,300 years ago was the largest known volcanic eruption of the Holocene.
- Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 is observed from October 26 to November 1 to promote integrity, transparency and corruption-free administration.
  - The theme for Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 is "Probity for Prosperity".
- Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2026 is observed from 24–31 October to raise awareness about Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and promote the ability to critically evaluate, understand and use information responsibly.
  - The theme for Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2026 is "We All Play a Part – Media and Information Literacy for the People."

ECONOMY NEWS

Revision of Leverage Framework

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised its capital adequacy framework to align with Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) standards, with new leverage ratio rules effective from 1 April 2027.
- The minimum leverage ratio is set at 4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) and 3.5% for other banks.
- The leverage ratio measures a bank's core capital against total exposure, without considering the riskiness of assets.

- Banks must maintain the minimum ratio at all times, with exposure including on-balance-sheet assets, derivatives and off-balance-sheet commitments.
- The framework acts as a backstop to risk-weighted capital requirements and aims to strengthen banks' balance-sheet resilience.
- The RBI rejected banks' request for additional time to implement the revised framework.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Greater Flamingos - Veeranam Lake



- 18 Greater Flamingos were sighted at Veeranam Lake in Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu, an unusual occurrence for this inland freshwater lake.

- Greater Flamingo (Phoenicopterus roseus) is listed as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List.
- They are usually associated with coastal wetlands, mudflats, lagoons and shallow water bodies.
- Low rainfall, reduced Cauvery flows and food scarcity in coastal mudflats may have altered their usual migration pattern.
- The species usually migrates from the Gulf of Kutch towards the east coast during winter.

Two New Ophiorrhiza Species

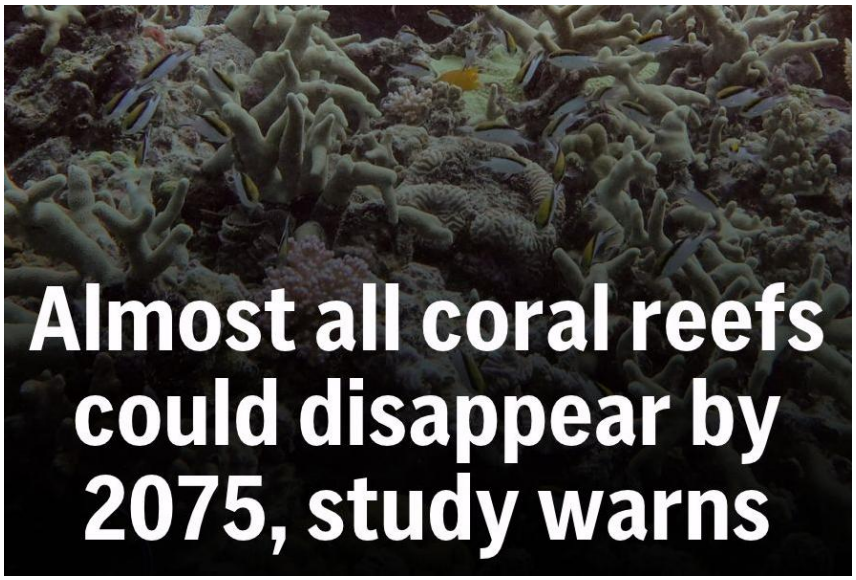
- Researchers identified two new plant species, Ophiorrhiza shidiensis and Ophiorrhiza pemae, in Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Both species belong to the Rubiaceae family, also called the coffee, madder or bedstraw family.
- They were found in Vijoynagar within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.
- O. shidiensis is named after "Shidi", the Lisu (Yobin) name for Gandhigram.
- O. pemae honours Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu.



Global Coral Reef Decline

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released its first global assessment of coral reef ecosystems, finding that 96% of assessed shallow-water coral reef ecosystems are Critically Endangered.

- The assessment covers 188,362 sq km of coral reefs across 127 tropical and subtropical ecoregions in more than 80 countries and territories.
- Climate change-induced heat stress is the most dominant threat, causing ocean warming, marine heatwaves and coral bleaching.
- Overfishing, pollution, coastal development and excessive tourism are also major threats; depleted fish populations threaten 63% of coral reef ecosystems.
- Major reefs including the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Triangle, Mesoamerican Barrier Reef and Red Sea reefs are classified as Critically Endangered.
- Coral reefs support about 25% of marine species, and the assessment notes that stronger climate action and targeted conservation could still help prevent further collapse.



STATE NEWS

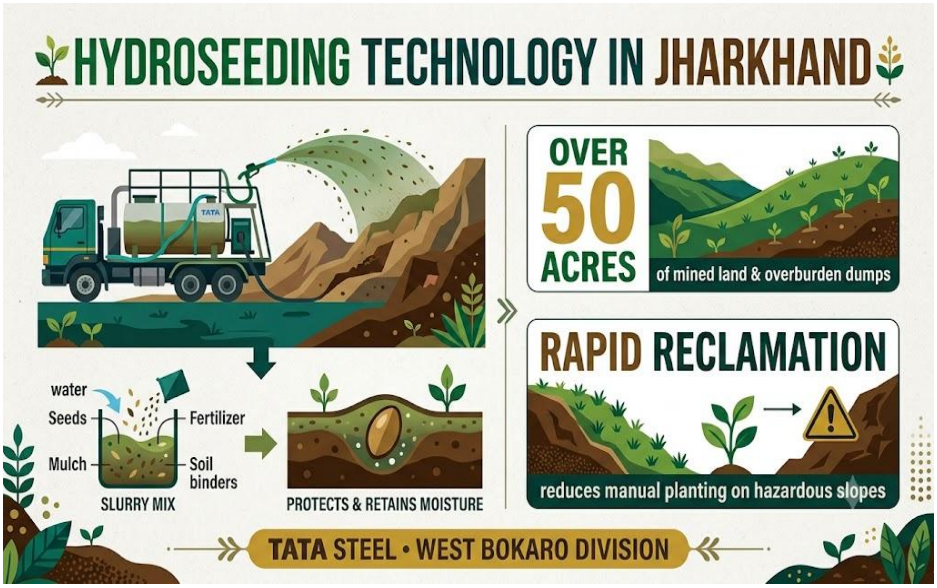
Fully Organic UT - Ladakh

- Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena declared Ladakh India's first 100% organic Union Territory (UT).
- The declaration covers Leh and Kargil districts and followed a phased shift away from synthetic fertilisers and chemical pesticides.
- In July 2026, Ladakh prohibited the procurement, distribution, sale, marketing and use of chemical and synthetic fertilisers for agriculture.
- 207 villages had received organic certification by 27 July 2026.
- Major organic produce includes apricots, sea buckthorn, buckwheat, barley and vegetables.

- The National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) sets India's organic farming standards and is administered by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- Sikkim became India's first fully organic state in 2016.



Hydroseeding Technology in Jharkhand



- Tata Steel introduced hydroseeding technology at its West Bokaro Division in Ramgarh district, Jharkhand, covering over 50 acres of mined land, nurseries and overburden dumps.
- Hydroseeding is a mechanised planting technique that sprays a slurry of seeds, mulch, fertiliser, binders and soil-conditioning agents onto bare land.

- The mulch retains moisture, protects seeds and helps control wind and water-driven soil erosion.
- The technique supports mine-land reclamation, slope stabilisation and restoration of degraded overburden dumps.
- It reduces manual planting on hazardous slopes and enables rapid coverage of large areas.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Ballon d'Or Awards 2026



- Harry Kane won the 2026 Ballon d'Or in London, becoming the first English winner in 25 years.
- Kane plays for Bayern Munich and England and won the award ahead of Kylian Mbappé and Lamine Yamal.
- Alexia Putellas of Spain won the Women's Ballon d'Or for the third time, after victories in 2021 and 2022.
- Lamine Yamal won the Men's Young Talent of the Year award, while Vicky López won the women's award.
- Paris Saint-Germain won Men's Club of the Year, while Barcelona won Women's Club of the Year.

- Kane also won the Men's Striker of the Year award after scoring 73 goals, while Mexico's Charlyn Corral won the women's striker award.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Development Information Day 2026 – October 24

- The day highlights global development challenges and the need for international cooperation.
- The United Nations General Assembly established it in 1972 through a Resolution.
- The day coincides with United Nations Day (24 October) and the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in 1970.
- It aims to improve the dissemination of development-related information and mobilise public opinion, particularly among young people.
- It highlights the role of science, technology and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in economic and social development.



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