October - 29

TNPSC BITS

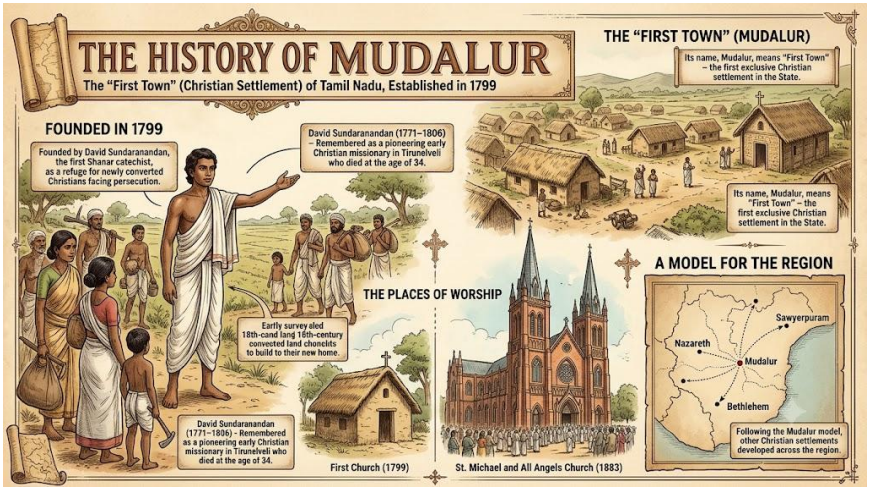
- Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won Brazil's 2026 presidential election, securing a fourth term after defeating Flávio Bolsonaro.
- 11-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan, an Indian-origin English chess player, became the youngest female International Master (IM), breaking a 38-year-old record held by Judit Polgar (Hungary).
- Ahmedabad will host the 2029 Senior World Weightlifting Championships, marking the first time India will host the senior edition, as confirmed by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).
- Kerala approved the launch of Co-Keralam, proposed as India's first cooperative-sector airline, through the Kerala Civil Aviation Development Cooperative Society.
  - It plans to operate from Kochi, connecting Kozhikode, Kannur, Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai.
- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage observed annually on 27 October to raise awareness of the importance of preserving audio visual documents and ensuring their accessibility for future generations.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Your Window to the World".
- International Animation Day is observed annually on 28 October to celebrate animation as an art form and recognise the artists and studios that bring animated stories to life.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "BEYOND BORDERS".

TAMIL NADU NEWS

History of Mudalur

- Mudalur in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu, is known for being the first exclusive Christian settlement in the State, established in 1799.
- Mudalur was founded by David Sundaranandan, the first Shanar catechist in Tirunelveli district.
- It was established as a settlement for newly converted Christians who faced attacks, and its name means "First Town."
- The first church was built in 1799, while the present Church of St. Michael and Other Saints was constructed in 1883.

- Following the Mudalur model, other Christian settlements, including Nazareth, Sawyerpuram and Bethlehem, developed in the region.
- David Sundaranandan died in 1806 at the age of 34 and is remembered as an early Christian missionary in Tirunelveli.



NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court on Judicial Officers Retirement Age

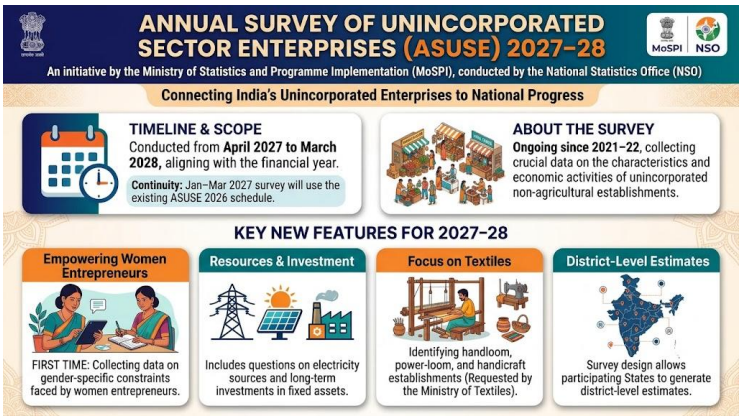


- The Supreme Court stated that 14 States had agreed to increase the retirement age of District Judicial Officers from 60 to 62 years.
- The Supreme Court directed the consenting States to amend service rules, subject to suitability and performance assessment by the concerned High Court.
- Seven States — Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal — were directed to allow eligible officers who retired on or after 31 March 2026 to opt to rejoin judicial service.

- The Court asked other States and Union Territories to reconsider the proposal and stated that financial burden should not be cited as a reason to oppose the increase.
- The retirement age of Supreme Court judges is 65 years, while that of High Court judges is 62 years.

Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2027–28

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced that ASUSE 2027–28 will be conducted from April 2027 to March 2028, aligning the survey with the financial year.
- The survey is conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) to collect data on the characteristics and economic activities of unincorporated non-agricultural establishments; it has been conducted since 2021–22.
- For the first time, it will collect data on gender-specific constraints faced by women entrepreneurs and include questions on electricity sources and investment in fixed assets over a longer period.
- Two questions will identify handloom, power-loom and handicraft establishments, following a request from the Ministry of Textiles.
- The survey design allows participating States to generate district-level estimates; the January–March 2027 survey will use the existing ASUSE 2026 schedule to maintain continuity.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum 2026

- The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum was held in New Delhi under the theme "Fostering Parliaments for People-Centric Development."

- The forum brought together parliamentary representatives from 11 BRICS member countries: Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- India held the 2026 BRICS Chairship under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- The Joint Declaration called for reform of the United Nations (UN) and its Security Council to improve global representation, including that of the Global South.
- It addressed terrorism, climate change, sustainable development, digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI), and reaffirmed the principles of the UN Charter.
- The forum will reconvene in 2027 under China's BRICS Chairship.

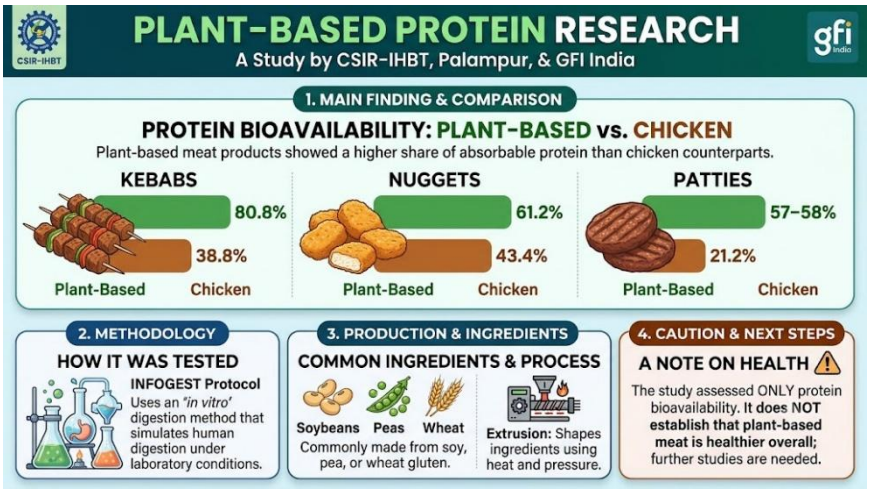


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Plant-Based Protein Research

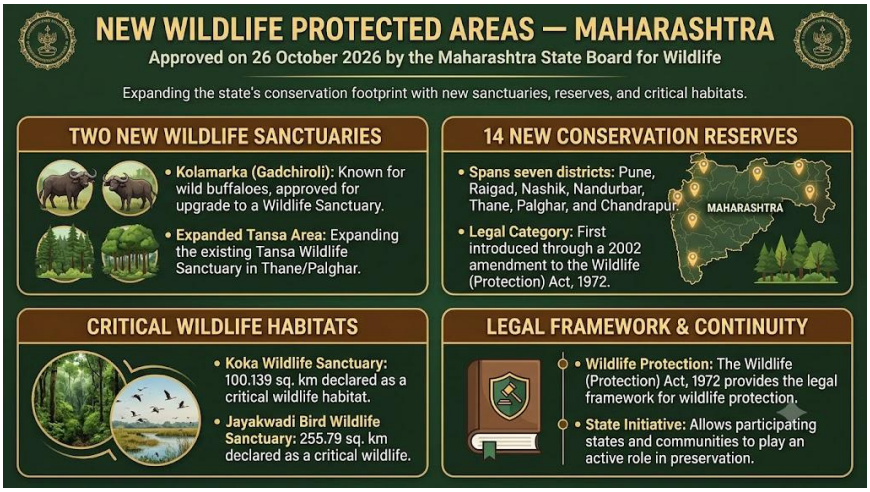
- A study by the CSIR–Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT), Palampur, and the Good Food Institute (GFI) India found that five tested plant-based meat products had a higher share of absorbable protein than their chicken counterparts.
- Protein bioavailability was 80.8% and 86.1% for plant-based kebabs, compared with 38.8% for chicken; plant-based nuggets scored 61.2% versus 43.4%, while patties scored about 57–58% versus 21.2%.
- Researchers used an in vitro digestion method based on INFOGEST, an internationally harmonised protocol that simulates digestion under laboratory conditions.
- Plant-based meat is commonly made from soy, pea or wheat gluten using extrusion, a process that shapes ingredients using heat and pressure.

- The study assessed only protein bioavailability; researchers cautioned that the findings do not establish that plant-based meat is healthier, and further studies are needed.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New Wildlife Protected Areas - Maharashtra

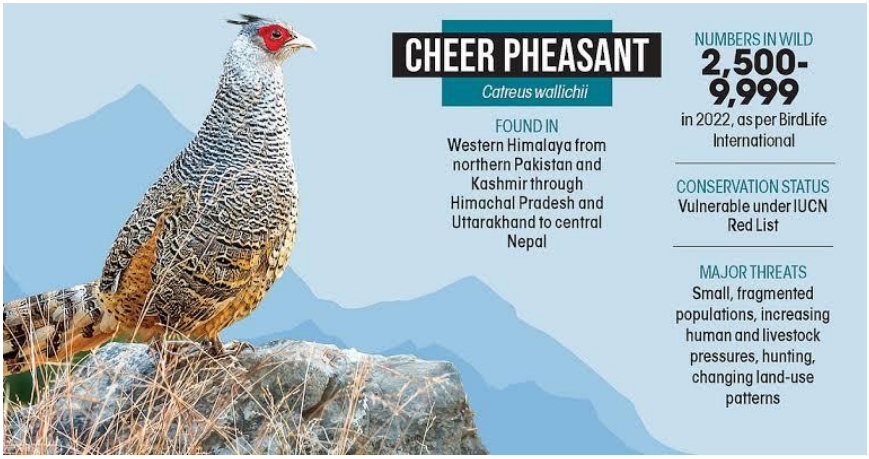


- The Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife approved proposals on 26 October 2026 to declare two wildlife sanctuaries and 14 conservation reserves across the state.
- The two sanctuary proposals cover Kolamarka Conservation Reserve in Gadchiroli, known for wild buffaloes, and an expanded area adjoining Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The 14 proposed conservation reserves span seven districts: Pune, Raigad, Nashik, Nandurbar, Thane, Palghar and Chandrapur.

- The Board approved proposals to declare 100.139 sq. km in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary and 255.79 sq. km in Jayakwadi Bird Wildlife Sanctuary as critical wildlife habitats.
- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides the legal framework for wildlife protection; the conservation-reserve category was introduced through a 2002 amendment.

Cheer Pheasant Conservation in Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh recorded a 100% survival rate among reintroduced Cheer Pheasants in 2024–25, compared with 11.11% in 2019–20.
- During Wildlife Week in October 2026, 12 captive-bred Cheer Pheasants were soft-released at Moi Jubbar near Koti in Shimla district, becoming the programme's third release site after Seri and Shilli-Mehli.
- Cheer Pheasant (Catreus wallichii), locally called Chir Tittar, is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The Khadiyun Cheer Pheasant Breeding Centre is located at Chail in Solan district.
- Habitat degradation due to forest fires, grazing and fodder collection threatens the species

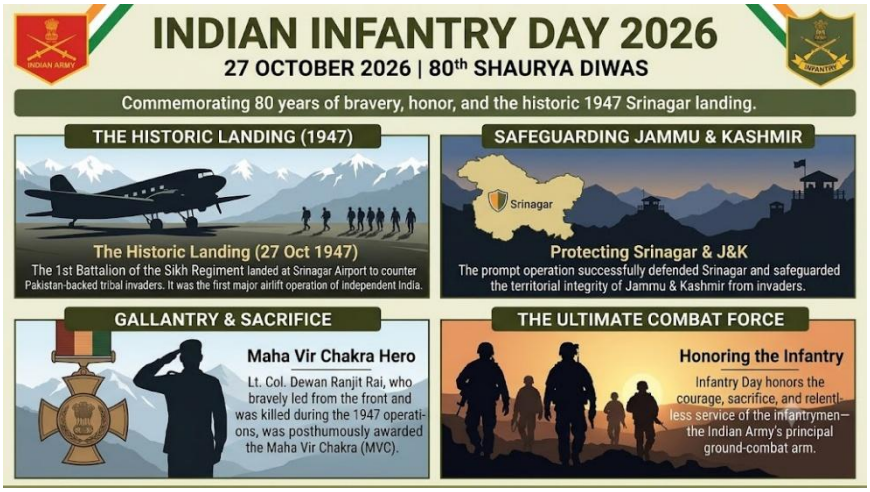


IMPORTANT DAYS

Indian Infantry Day 2026 – 27 October

- The Indian Army observed the 80th Infantry Day (Shaurya Diwas) on 27 October 2026 to commemorate the historic landing of Indian Army troops at Srinagar Airport in 1947.

- On 27 October 1947, the 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment landed at Srinagar Airport to counter Pakistan-backed tribal invaders in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The operation helped protect Srinagar and safeguard the territorial integrity of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Lieutenant Colonel Dewan Ranjit Rai, who was killed during the 1947 operations, was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra (MVC).
- The day honours the courage, sacrifice and service of infantry soldiers, the Indian Army's principal ground-combat arm.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Cyclone Arnab

- Cyclone Arnab completed landfall along the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts as a very severe cyclonic storm.
- A cyclone is a large rotating weather system around a low-pressure centre; in the Northern Hemisphere, winds rotate anticlockwise.
- Tropical cyclones form over warm ocean waters and can cause strong winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges and flooding.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifies North Indian Ocean cyclones based on maximum sustained wind speed as,
  - Cyclonic Storm (62–88 km/h),
  - Severe Cyclonic Storm (89–117 km/h),
  - Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (118–166 km/h),
  - Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm (167–221 km/h) and
  - Super Cyclonic Storm (222 km/h or more).

- Bangladesh proposed the name “Arnab” under the North Indian Ocean cyclone-naming system coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
- The list contains 169 names contributed by 13 countries.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★