



September - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has approved India's first dedicated Quantum and Artificial Intelligence (AI) University campus in Amaravati, to be developed by the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT).
- ❖ Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) handed over ICGS Ajit to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) for coastal surveillance, fisheries protection and anti-smuggling operations.
- ❖ NASA astronaut Anil Menon and ESA astronaut Sophie Adenot installed a new Ku-band antenna on the International Space Station (ISS) for high-speed communication with ground stations.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh approved AM AI Factory's ₹31,387-crore, 512-megawatt green Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centre at Amanam village in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched Jago, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot that provides information on tribal welfare schemes, policies, programmes and guidelines.
- ❖ Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched India's first non-GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed at Musunuru in Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh.
 - The indigenous hybrid was developed for high-expansion popcorn production in association with Gourmet Popcornica.
- ❖ The Indian Navy received 'Samarthak', its first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at Kattupalli, near Chennai.

NATIONAL NEWS

National Mortuary Standards

- ❖ India has finalised its first uniform national standards for mortuary and post-mortem infrastructure.
- ❖ The standards were issued under the Clinical Establishments Act through the National Council for Clinical Establishments, functioning under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).
- ❖ Mortuaries must be on the ground floor, away from hospital waste areas, with separate entry points for body movement.
- ❖ Cold storage must maintain 4°C–8°C, with a minimum capacity of four bodies and unique serial numbers for identification.

- ❖ Medico-legal case bodies must be stored separately from non-medico-legal remains.



Indian Standard Time Rules



- ❖ The Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, making Indian Standard Time (IST), UTC+5:30, the mandatory time reference for legal, administrative, commercial and official purposes in India.

- ❖ CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPLI), New Delhi maintains UTC(NPLI), the national time scale used for official IST.
- ❖ Official IST will be disseminated through Regional Reference Standards Laboratories and NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).
- ❖ Telecom, digital payments and power-grid systems must synchronise with IST using Network Time Protocol (NTP) and Precision Time Protocol (PTP).
- ❖ The rules will come into force 180 days after Gazette publication, around March 2027, with penalties for non-compliance under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Africa Health Workforce Plan 2035



- ❖ African health ministers adopted the Africa Health Workforce Agenda 2026–2035 to add at least 3 million health workers by 2035.
- ❖ The plan aims to halve the projected health-worker shortage through better planning, training, employment and retention.
- ❖ Africa had 5.72 million health workers in 2024, while at least 943,000 trained health professionals were unemployed.
- ❖ The plan follows a “Plan, Train and Retain” approach, focusing on workforce planning, quality education, job creation and better working conditions.

- ❖ By 2035, it aims to increase health-professional density from 27 to 47 per 10,000 people and reduce the average unemployment rate from 27% to 13%.
- ❖ The agenda was adopted at the 76th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa in Addis Ababa.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Rare Migratory Duck - Mergellus albellus

- ❖ The rare migratory Smew (Mergellus albellus) was sighted for the first time at Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.
- ❖ The Smew is a small diving duck belonging to the family Anatidae.
- ❖ It breeds in northern Eurasia and migrates south to ice-free water bodies during winter.
- ❖ It is listed as Least Concern on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- ❖ Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Nagaon district.

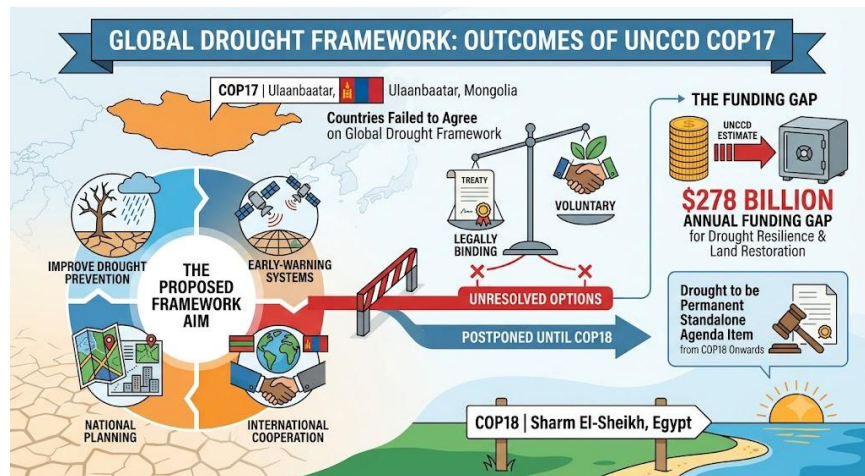


**Rare Migratory Smeu Spotted
in Assam's Laokhowa Wildlife
Sanctuary for the First Time**

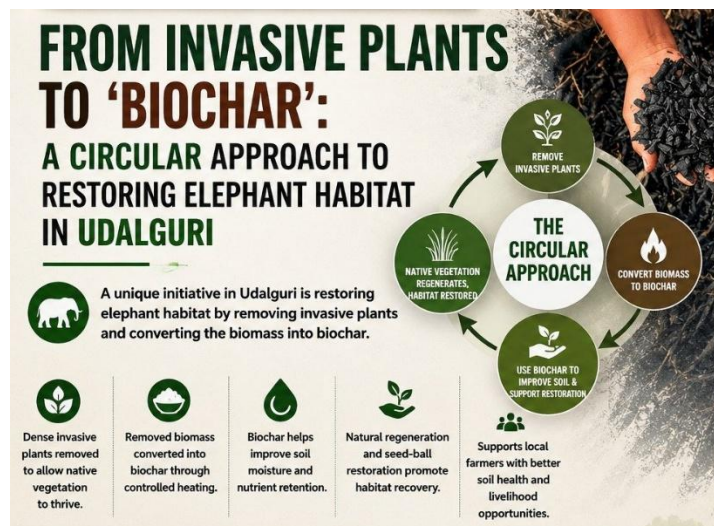
Global Drought Framework

- ❖ Countries failed to agree on a global drought framework at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

- ❖ The proposed framework aimed to improve drought prevention, early-warning systems, national planning and international cooperation.
- ❖ Both legally binding and voluntary options remained unresolved and were postponed until COP18.
- ❖ The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) estimated an annual drought resilience and land restoration funding gap of \$278 billion.
- ❖ Countries agreed to make drought a permanent standalone agenda item from COP18 onwards.
- ❖ COP18 will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.



Elephant Habitat Restoration in Assam



- ❖ A two-hectare area in Khalingduar Reserve Forest, Udalguri district, Assam, has been selected for elephant habitat restoration using biochar made from invasive plants.

- ❖ The project is supported by the International Elephant Foundation (IEF) to restore degraded habitats and increase native vegetation.
- ❖ Invasive plants such as Lantana camara, Chromolaena odorata and Mikania micrantha will be used to produce biochar through controlled heating with limited oxygen.
- ❖ The biochar will help improve soil quality and support the regeneration of native vegetation, strengthening elephant habitats.
- ❖ The project follows a circular approach by converting invasive plant biomass into a useful soil amendment.
- ❖ Improved food availability in forests may help reduce human-elephant conflict by reducing elephants' dependence on agricultural fields.

16 New Indigenous Animal Breeds

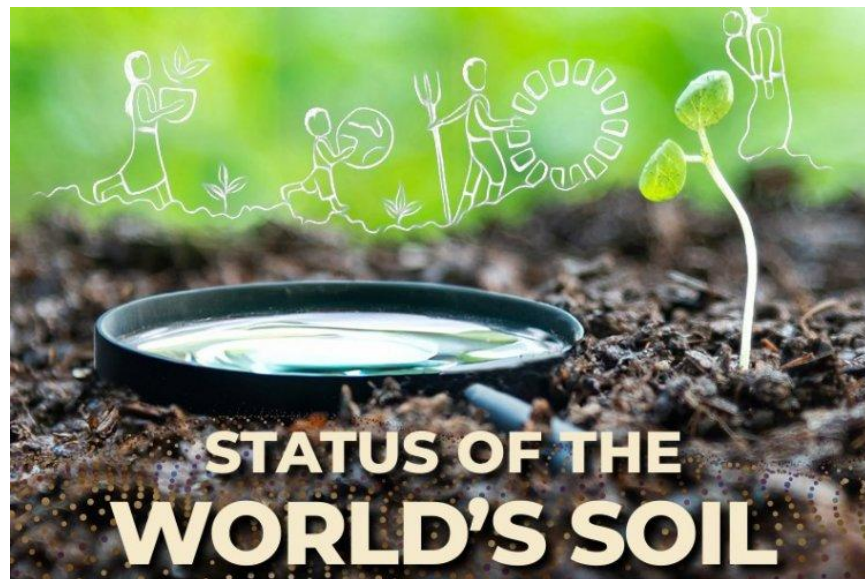


- ❖ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has officially registered 16 new indigenous breeds of livestock and dogs.
- ❖ The registration was approved at the 14th meeting of the Breed Registration Committee (BRC), taking India's total registered animal breeds to 262.
- ❖ The 16 breeds belong to 9 animal species and are found across 13 States and 1 Union Territory (Jammu & Kashmir).
- ❖ The new breeds include Koppal, Mahakaushali, Periyar and Umarda cattle; Gomanchali buffalo; Battisi and Totapuri goats; and Asomi, Kow Debar, Madgyal and Seemanchali sheep.

- ❖ They also include Braj donkey, Kashmiri horse/pony, Nagal pig, Sikkimese yak and Kombai dog of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ ICAR-NBAGR (National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources), based in Karnal, Haryana, is the nodal institute for registering livestock and poultry breeds in India.

REPORTS AND INDICES

World Soil Resources Report 2026

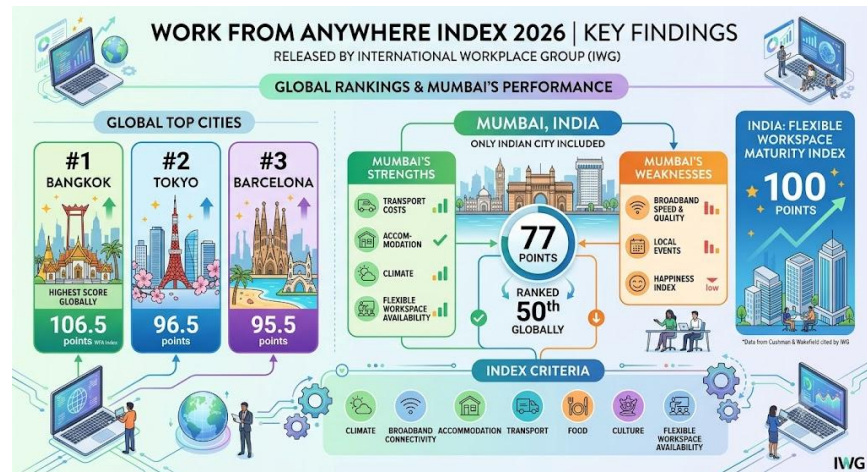


- ❖ The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)'s Status of the World's Soil Resources 2026 report shows that soil degradation is worsening globally, with South Asia, especially India, facing severe degradation.
- ❖ More than half of the regional assessments reported low or very low adoption of sustainable soil practices; 58% showed worsening conditions since 2015, while only about 10% showed improvement.
- ❖ Soil erosion was identified as the biggest problem, with 81% of assessments rating erosion management as poor or very poor and 65% reporting deterioration.
- ❖ In India, about 30–37% of land is estimated to be degraded, while around 83 million hectares are affected by water erosion; India loses about 4.8–5.3 billion tonnes of soil annually.
- ❖ India, Bangladesh and Pakistan have unsustainably high nitrogen surpluses, and Indian crops absorb only 30–45% of applied nitrogen, compared with the global average of 59%.

- ❖ The report highlights misdirected agricultural subsidies, especially those favouring nitrogenous urea, and calls for better coordination of policies on agriculture, land, climate and biodiversity.

Work From Anywhere Index 2026

- ❖ Mumbai was the only Indian city included in the Work From Anywhere Index 2026, released by the International Workplace Group (IWG), with 77 points.
- ❖ Mumbai ranked 50th globally and performed well in transport costs, accommodation, climate and flexible workspace availability.
- ❖ It scored lower in broadband speed and quality, local events and the happiness index.
- ❖ Bangkok ranked first with 106.5 points, followed by Tokyo (96.5) and Barcelona (95.5).
- ❖ The index considers climate, broadband connectivity, accommodation, transport, food, culture and flexible workspace availability.
- ❖ India scored 100 points in the flexible workspace maturity index, according to data cited from Cushman & Wakefield.



SPORTS NEWS

World Humanoid Robot Games 2026

- ❖ China's humanoid robot Tiangong Ultra ran 100 metres in 9.39 seconds, faster than Usain Bolt's 9.58-second men's world record.
- ❖ It was developed by the Beijing Humanoid Robot Innovation Centre and won its preliminary heat at the World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing.

- ❖ Another humanoid robot, Lightning, built by smartphone company Honour, completed the race in 9.47 seconds.
- ❖ Tiangong Ultra improved from 21.50 seconds in 2025 to 9.39 seconds in 2026 and had also won the world's first humanoid half-marathon in 2025.
- ❖ The games featured 51 events, including football, dancing and industrial tasks, with 2,056 robots from 666 teams across 16 countries.



**Chinese humanoid robot runs
100m in 9.39 seconds, beating Usain
Bolt's 9.58-second world record**

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Small Industry Day 2026 - August 30

- ❖ The day aims to recognise the contribution of small industries to India's economic and industrial development.
- ❖ It was formally recognised in 2000 after the Government introduced a comprehensive policy package for small-scale industries.
- ❖ From April 1, 2025, a small enterprise can have investment up to ₹25 crore and annual turnover up to ₹100 crore.
- ❖ MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) contribute 31.1% of India's GDP, 35.4% of manufacturing output and 48.58% of exports.

- ❖ Government support includes TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System), Udyam Registration, credit guarantees, public procurement support and the CHAMPIONS portal.

