



September - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Alexander Zverev (Germany) and Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) won the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the 2026 US Open in New York.
 - Zverev defeated Ben Shelton (USA) to win his first US Open title, while Rybakina defeated Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) to win her first US Open title and third Grand Slam title.
- ❖ India set a Guinness World Record for the world's longest steel slag road, measuring 1.85 km, at Raigarh, Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ A new DRDO weapon and missile testing range is proposed at Junput, Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal.
 - Junput will become the third major DRDO testing hub, after the Chandipur facilities and the proposed testing centre in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ World First Aid Day is observed on the second Saturday of September every year; in 2026, it was observed on 12 September to raise awareness about the importance of first aid in saving lives during emergencies.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "First Aid in Migration Contexts."
- ❖ World EV Day is observed every year on 9 September to promote electric mobility and sustainable transport.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Switching Electric: Driving Down the Cost of Motoring."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

BRICS Summit - Rameswaram Temple

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed BRICS leaders against the backdrop of Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, during the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.
- ❖ Ramanathaswamy Temple is one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites and is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- ❖ It is the only southern Jyotirlinga among the 12 Jyotirlinga shrines in India; the other 11 are located in northern and central parts of India.
- ❖ Rameswaram is an important pilgrimage centre for both Shaivites and Vaishnavites, and the Kasi-Rameswaram Yatra traditionally begins at Kasi and ends at Rameswaram.

- ❖ The temple's 126-foot-high, nine-tiered eastern Rajagopuram was completed between 1897 and 1904 by the family of a Devakottai zamindar.
- ❖ According to the Tamil Nadu government, the historic shrine was under the care of a monk until the 10th century A.D.; later, the Sethupathi rulers of Ramanathapuram contributed to its construction and expansion.

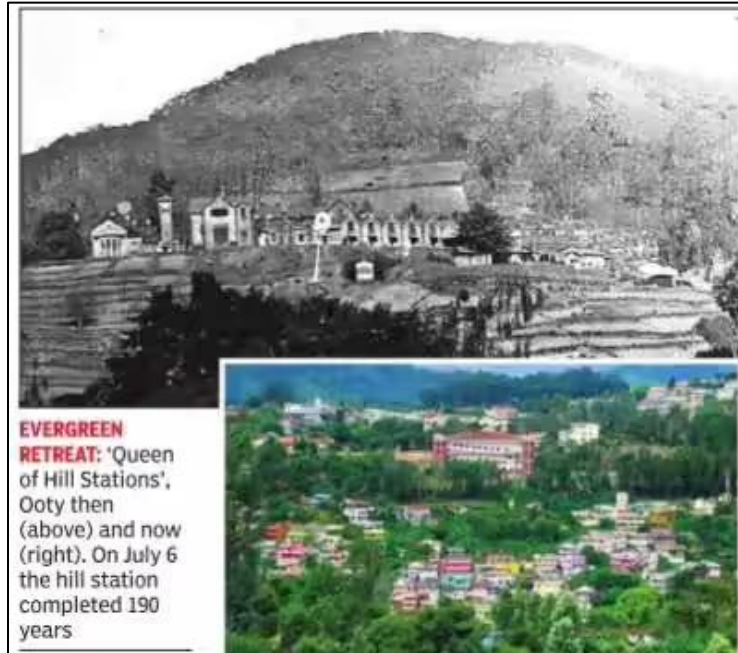
BRICS Summit 2026: Rameswaram's Ramanathaswamy Temple forms stunning backdrop as PM Modi welcomes world leaders



Birth of British Hill Stations

- ❖ Sir Thomas Munro's visit to Ootacamund (Ooty) on 29 September 1826 helped lead to the formation of the first hill station of the British Raj in the Nilgiri Hills.
- ❖ Munro was the Governor of the Madras Presidency from 1820 to 1827 and visited Ooty at the invitation of John Sullivan, Collector of Coimbatore.
- ❖ During the visit, Munro reached the summit of Doddabetta, the highest peak in the Nilgiri Hills, and recorded the landscape and Kurinji flowers of the region.
- ❖ He later recommended to the East India Company that the Nilgiris be developed as a hill station, partly as a place where sick British officials and soldiers could recover instead of travelling to Europe.
- ❖ The Madras Government accepted his recommendation on 6 July 1827, the same day Munro died of cholera in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Munro's visit also helped bring the postal system to the Nilgiris at an early stage.

- ❖ Munro introduced the Ryotwari system in the Madras Presidency, which dealt directly with cultivators instead of Zamindars and middlemen.
- ❖ He also helped shape the modern district administration and initiated a major statistical survey of indigenous education in the Madras Presidency in 1822.



NATIONAL NEWS

Green Hydrogen Hubs in India



- ❖ A World Resources Institute (WRI) India study identified Gujarat as India's most resource-ready state for developing green hydrogen hubs.

- ❖ Renewable energy availability and proximity to hydrogen consumers are the two most important factors for locating green hydrogen hubs, while water availability ranks third.
- ❖ Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, India targets 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of annual green hydrogen production by 2030, with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore.
- ❖ Gujarat ranks first, followed by Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh in the resource scenario; Rajasthan's low water availability is a major constraint.
- ❖ Important potential locations include Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, Mumbai, Paradeep, Chennai, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Kota, Khandwa and Kanpur.

SAF Flight in India



- ❖ Akasa Air and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) operated India's first commercial flight using 1% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blended with conventional aviation turbine fuel.
- ❖ The flight operated from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai, to Manohar International Airport, Goa.
- ❖ India aims to achieve 5% SAF blending by 2030 as part of efforts to reduce aviation-related carbon emissions.
- ❖ SAF is a lower-carbon aviation fuel made from sustainable feedstocks, and its wider use can support India's aviation energy-transition goals.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRICS Summit 2026 – New Delhi Declaration

- ❖ The 18th BRICS Summit was held in New Delhi, with India hosting the summit.
- ❖ India focused its BRICS chairship on four pillars: Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.

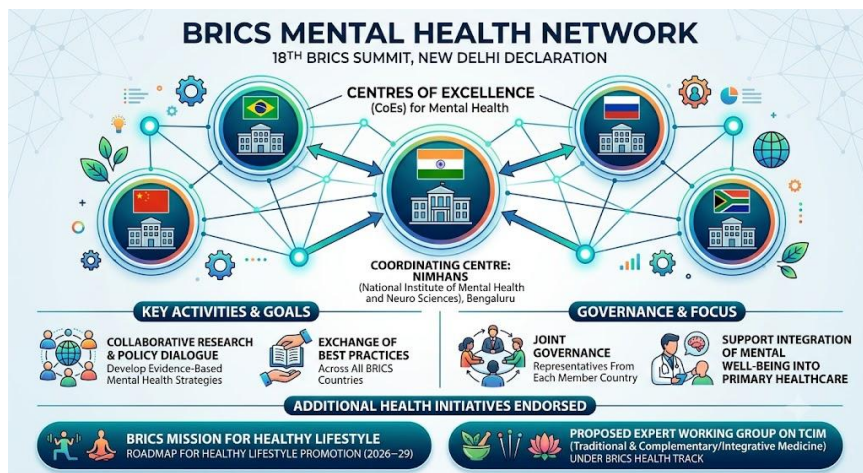
- ❖ The New Delhi Declaration, adopted at the summit, covered cooperation on global development, peace, health, climate, technology and other areas.
- ❖ BRICS leaders expressed concern over the growing risks of nuclear conflict and called for protection of civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.
- ❖ India highlighted BRICS initiatives including an early warning system for infectious diseases, disaster-management early-warning data integration, a logistics supply-chain cooperation framework and a digital agriculture network.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned against the weaponization of technology and critical minerals, stating that such disruptions could affect global supply chains and shared development.



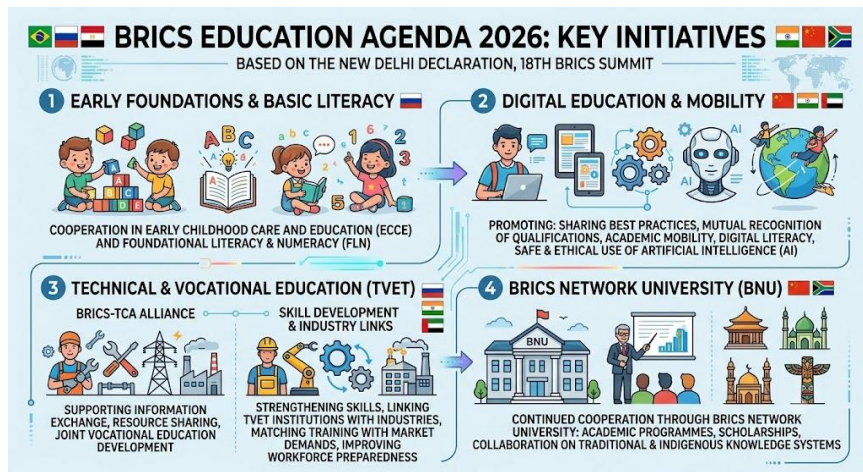
BRICS Mental Health Network

- ❖ The 18th BRICS Summit's New Delhi Declaration supports a network of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) for mental health, with NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences), Bengaluru, as the coordinating centre.
- ❖ The network will promote collaborative research, policy dialogue, exchange of best practices and evidence-based mental health strategies among BRICS countries.
- ❖ Representatives from each BRICS member country will jointly govern the network to support the integration of mental well-being into primary healthcare.
- ❖ The Declaration also endorsed the BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle and the BRICS Roadmap for Healthy Lifestyle Promotion (2026–29).

- ❖ BRICS also proposed an Expert Working Group on TCIM (Traditional and Complementary/Integrative Medicine) under the BRICS Health Track.



BRICS Education Agenda 2026

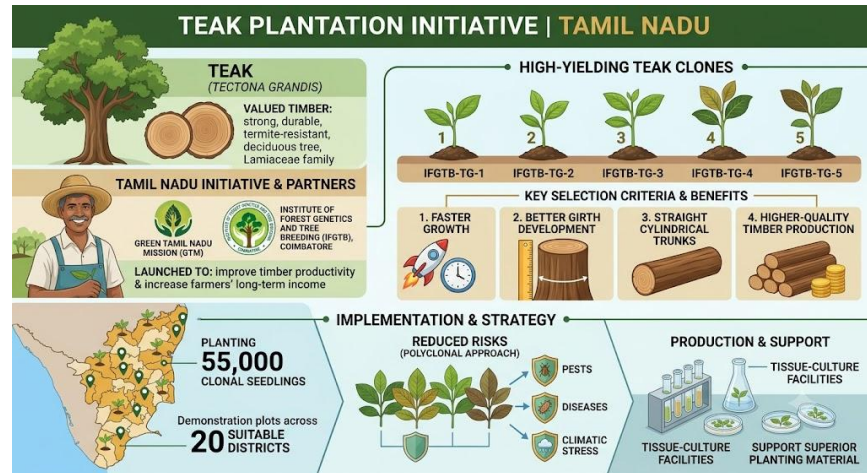


- ❖ The New Delhi Declaration at the 18th BRICS Summit called for cooperation in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN).
- ❖ BRICS countries will promote sharing of best practices, mutual recognition of qualifications, academic mobility, digital literacy and safe, ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education.
- ❖ The BRICS Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Cooperation Alliance (BRICS-TCA) will support information exchange, resource sharing and joint development of vocational education.
- ❖ BRICS countries will strengthen skill development and link TVET institutions with industries to match training with changing market demands and improve workforce preparedness.

- ❖ Cooperation will continue through the BRICS Network University, including academic programmes, scholarships and collaboration on traditional and indigenous knowledge systems.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Teak Plantation Initiative



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has launched five high-yielding teak clones to improve timber productivity and increase farmers' long-term income.
- ❖ Teak (*Tectona grandis*) is a large deciduous tree of the Lamiaceae family, valued for its strong, durable and termite-resistant timber.
- ❖ The Green Tamil Nadu Mission (GTN), with the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, is promoting clones IFGTB-TG-1 to IFGTB-TG-5.
- ❖ These clones were selected for faster growth, better girth development, straight cylindrical trunks and higher-quality timber production.
- ❖ Around 55,000 clonal teak seedlings will be planted in demonstration plots across 20 districts suitable for teak cultivation.
- ❖ A polyclonal approach will be used to reduce risks from pests, diseases and climatic stress, while tissue-culture facilities will support production of superior planting material.

Pygmy Hog Conservation Mission - Assam

- ❖ The population of the endangered pygmy hog (*Porcula salvania*) in Assam has increased from 6 in 1996 to 194 through a captive breeding programme.

- ❖ The pygmy hog is the world's smallest and rarest wild pig; the IUCN Red List classifies it as Critically Endangered (CR).
- ❖ The Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP) began after six pygmy hogs were captured from Manas National Park, Assam, in 1996.
- ❖ Conservationists began reintroducing pygmy hogs into the wild in 2008; they are now found in Manas, Orang, Sonai-Rupai and Bornadi protected areas.
- ❖ The programme aims to increase the population to 300 by 2040, with the Assam Forest Department, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, IUCN Wild Pig Specialist Group, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and other organisations involved.



POSITIVE HEADLINE OF THE DAY

ASSAM'S PYGMY HOG POPULATION SURGES FROM 6 TO 194, WITH TARGET OF 300 BY 2040

CONSERVATION TODAY. A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

6
PYGY HOGS
The conservation and breeding programme began with just six pygmy hogs collected from Manas National Park.

194
PYGY HOGS TODAY
Through years of dedicated effort, the population has now recovered to 194 — a remarkable story of conservation and patience.

300
BY 2040
Our goal is to take the population to 300 by 2040, along with stronger protection and restoration of grassland habitats.

SMALL SPECIES. BIG POSSIBILITIES.

**PROTECT
RESTORE
THRIVE**

“The recovery of the pygmy hog from just six animals to 194 is a remarkable story of conservation, patience and decades of dedicated effort.”

ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for South-South Cooperation 2026 - September 11



September 12

United Nations Day
for
South-South Cooperation

September 12 is a day to celebrate solidarity, self-reliance, and strong partnerships among developing countries of the **Global South**.

- ❖ The day aims to promote cooperation and knowledge-sharing among developing countries.



- ❖ The 2026 observance marked the launch of the Global Alliance for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, a voluntary United Nations (UN)-facilitated platform convened by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).
- ❖ South-South Cooperation enables developing countries to exchange knowledge, technology, skills, resources and successful development solutions.
- ❖ Triangular Cooperation brings together developing countries with developed countries or international organisations to provide additional technical, financial or institutional support.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Solidarity Rising: Global Alliance for Inclusive and Innovative Development.”

