



September - 20

TNPSC BITS

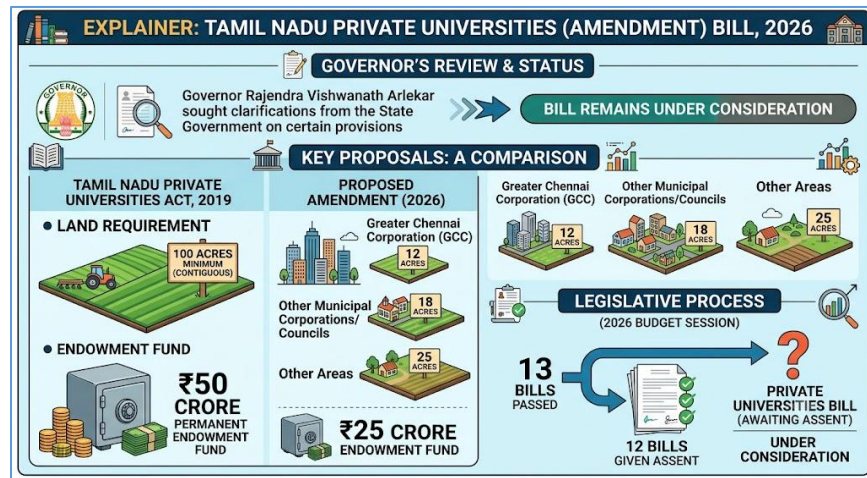
- ❖ Kerala will introduce a mandatory Hazard Perception Test (HPT) for driving licence applicants, for the first time in India, using 10 one-minute videos based on international standards to test their ability to identify road hazards and take timely action.
- ❖ ICAR-CIBA (Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture) has introduced a deboning technology to improve the marketability and consumer acceptance of milkfish.
- ❖ Tata Sons Board has reappointed N. Chandrasekaran as Executive Chairman for another five-year term, from February 2027 to February 2032.
- ❖ Chennai-born scientist Sethuraman Panchanathan has been named the 2026 recipient of the IEEE Robert Bosch Bueche Award, becoming the first Indian-American to receive the honour.
 - The Bueche Award recognises outstanding contributions to technology and public policy.
- ❖ Nobel Prize-winning economist Michael Kremer was appointed World Bank Group Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics on September 16, 2026.
 - Kremer shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences with Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo for using experiments to study poverty.
- ❖ Four mountaineers from Munnar became the first group from Kerala to summit Ramjak, a 6,318-metre peak in Himachal Pradesh.
 - Ramjak is located in the remote Lahaul region of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ CSIR-NIScPR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research) is using SARAL AI, an Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) initiative, to convert research papers into short videos for wider dissemination of scientific knowledge using artificial intelligence (AI).

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Private Universities Amendment Bill, 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar sought clarifications from the State government on certain provisions of the Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Bill remains under his consideration.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019 required at least 100 acres of contiguous land and a ₹50 crore permanent endowment fund to establish a private university.
- ❖ The amendment proposes reducing the land requirement to 12 acres in Greater Chennai Corporation, 18 acres in other municipal corporations/municipal councils, and 25 acres in other areas, while reducing the endowment requirement to ₹25 crore.
- ❖ The 2026 Budget Session passed 13 Bills; the Governor has given assent to the other 12 Bills, while the Private Universities Bill has not yet received assent.



NATIONAL NEWS

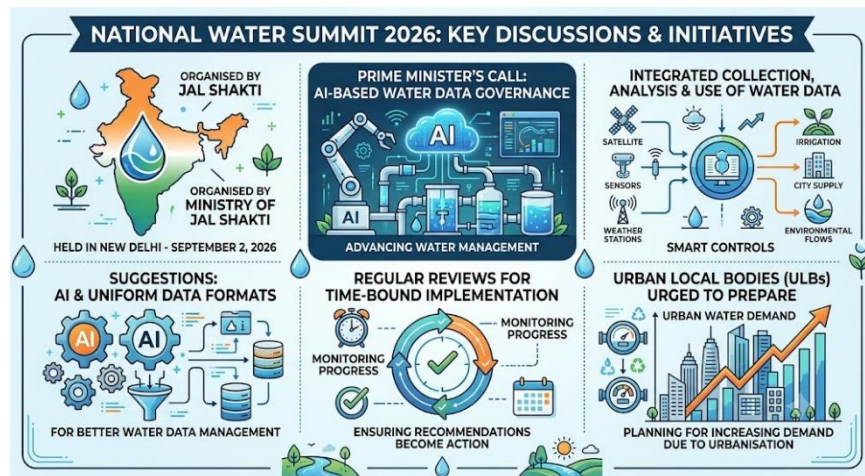
New Climate Governance Platforms

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched the India Net Zero Portal and National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) Dashboard on 16 September 2026 in Mumbai, on World Ozone Day.
- ❖ The India Net Zero Portal allows Indian entities to voluntarily register their Net Zero commitments and report progress; Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions are encouraged, while Scope 3 reporting is voluntary.
- ❖ The NAPCC Dashboard provides a unified platform to monitor the implementation and progress of India's 8 National Missions under NAPCC, launched in 2008.
- ❖ India has set a target to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2070.
- ❖ The 8 missions include National Solar Mission, National Water Mission, National Mission for a Green India, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture and four other climate missions.

- ❖ World Ozone Day is observed annually on 16 September, marking the adoption of the Montreal Protocol (1987).



National Water Summit 2026



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based water data governance at the National Departmental Summit on Water on 2 September 2026.
- ❖ The summit was held in New Delhi and organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ The summit discussed integrated collection, analysis and use of water data.
- ❖ AI and uniform data formats were suggested for better water data management.
- ❖ Regular reviews were suggested for time-bound implementation of the summit recommendations.

- ❖ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were urged to prepare for increasing water demand due to urbanisation.

Surakshit Sagar Campaign

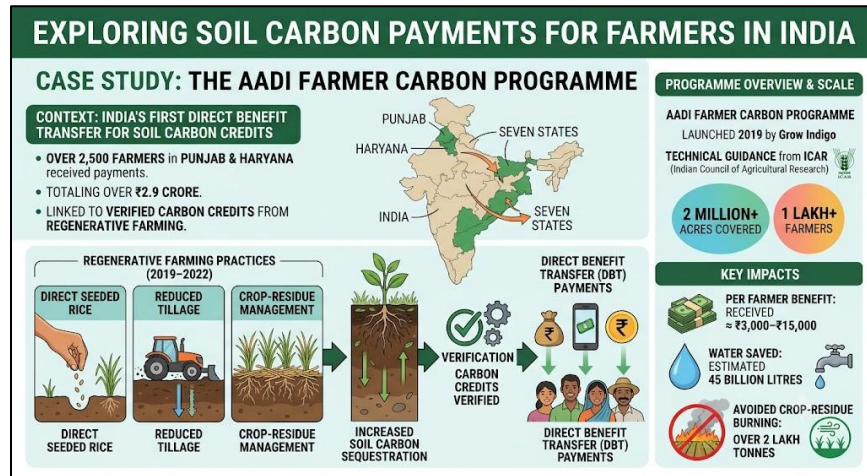
- ❖ The 5th edition of Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar (SSSS) 2026 was launched on 1 September 2026 for marine litter removal and coastal conservation.
- ❖ The week-long campaign will be held from 12 to 19 September 2026, ending on International Coastal Cleanup Day.
- ❖ The campaign covers India's 11,098-km coastline and includes clean-up drives at more than 100 beaches.
- ❖ It is implemented under the Ministry of Earth Sciences' PRITHVI scheme for shoreline erosion and seawater quality monitoring.
- ❖ The 2026 edition introduced the first national Ocean Olympiad for youth.
- ❖ The initiative began in 2022.



Soil Carbon Payments for Farmers

- ❖ India began its first direct benefit transfer payments for soil carbon credits to over 2,500 farmers in Punjab and Haryana.
- ❖ The payments totalled over ₹2.9 crore and were linked to verified carbon credits from regenerative farming.
- ❖ Farmers used Direct Seeded Rice, reduced tillage and crop-residue management during 2019–2022.
- ❖ The Aadi farmer carbon programme was launched in 2019 by Grow Indigo with technical guidance from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

- ❖ The programme covers over 2 million acres and 1 lakh+ farmers across seven states.
- ❖ Farmers received about ₹3,000–₹15,000, while the programme also saved an estimated 45 billion litres of water and avoided over 2 lakh tonnes of crop-residue burning.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

World Circular Economy Forum 2026



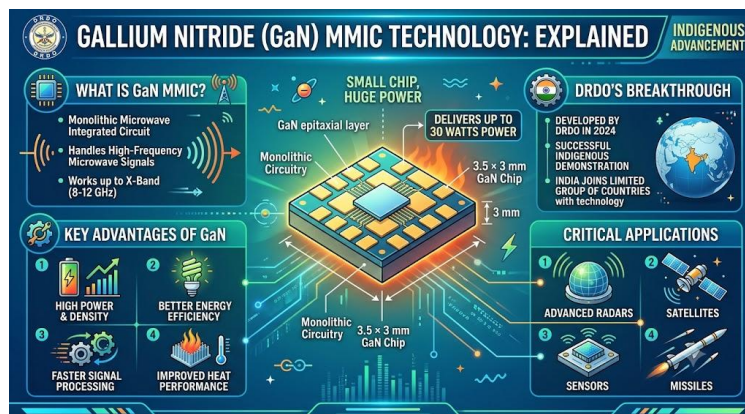
- ❖ The 10th World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026 was held from 15–18 September 2026 at Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, marking the first WCEF in South Asia.
- ❖ The theme was “Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity.”
- ❖ The forum was launched in 2017 and focuses on reuse, repair, remanufacturing, recycling and resource efficiency.

- ❖ The 2026 forum was organised by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Sitra and the Government of Gujarat, with the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) as a supporting organisation.
- ❖ Key areas included circular finance, sustainable resources, artificial intelligence (AI), digitalisation, circular supply chains, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), green jobs and sustainable products.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Gallium Nitride MMIC Technology

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated indigenous Gallium Nitride Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit (GaN MMIC) technology.
- ❖ GaN MMIC is a small chip for handling high-frequency microwave signals and works up to the X-band.
- ❖ Gallium Nitride (GaN) offers high power, better energy efficiency, faster signal processing and improved heat performance.
- ❖ A 3.5×3 mm GaN chip can deliver up to 30 watts of power, useful in radars, satellites, sensors and missiles.
- ❖ DRDO developed the technology in 2024, helping India join a limited group of countries with indigenous GaN MMIC technology.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New cat species 'Tilcayo'

- ❖ New cat species 'Tilcayo' identified in Bolivia, first in over a century.

- ❖ Genetic analysis suggested that the Tilcayo lineage separated from other tiger cats about 1.4 million years ago.
- ❖ It is part of a group called tiger cats found across much of South America.
- ❖ It was found in Bolivia's lush Yungas forest, a mountainous region.
- ❖ It measures about 18 inches (46 cm) long and weighs around 3 pounds (1.4 kg), making it smaller than the average domestic cat.
- ❖ Researchers used genetic data to confirm that the cat is a new species, and gave it the scientific name *Leopardus tilcayo*, retaining its local name.
- ❖ Remains of small rodents in scat samples suggest they may form part of its diet, while camera-trap evidence indicates it could be more active at night.
- ❖ Tiger cats are so-called cryptic species, meaning they cannot easily be distinguished merely by appearance.
- ❖ Tiger cats previously had been considered a single species, but genetic studies decades ago suggested the existence of multiple species.
- ❖ The research team also described a new tiger cat subspecies in Peru's Yungas, naming it *Leopardus tigrinus antisuyo* after Antisuyu, the region of the old Inca Empire that included the area it inhabits.
- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature, or IUCN, Red List tracking the status of species currently treats tiger cats as two "vulnerable" species with declining populations.



International Workshop on Tiger Landscapes

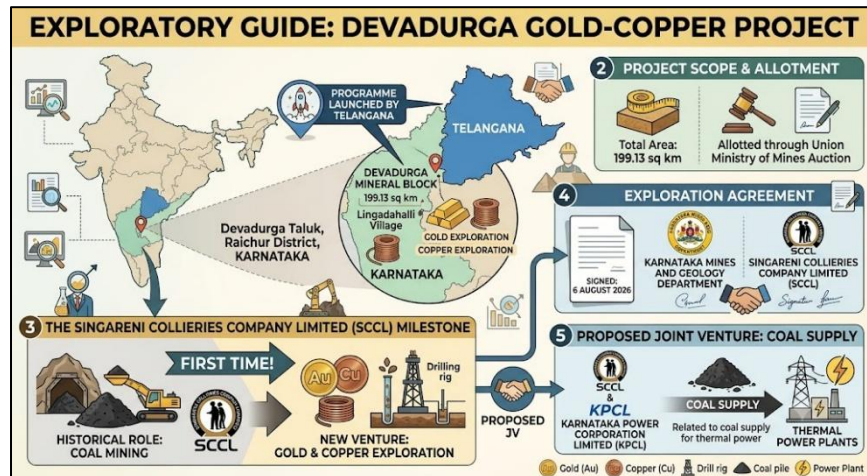
- ❖ An international workshop on Tiger Landscapes was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ❖ The workshop was organised by the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

- ❖ The theme is “Tiger Landscapes: Conservation, Bioeconomy and Ecotourism as Pillars for Livelihood and Income Generation.”
- ❖ An MoU between IBCA and ADB was signed for landscape conservation, capacity building and nature-positive financing.
- ❖ Tiger landscapes support water security, climate regulation and carbon sequestration, while also supporting local livelihoods.



STATE NEWS

Devadurga Gold-Copper Exploration



- ❖ Telangana launched a gold and copper exploration programme at Lingadahalli village in Devadurga taluk, Raichur district, Karnataka.

- ❖ The Devadurga mineral block covers 199.13 sq km and was allotted through an auction by the Union Ministry of Mines.
- ❖ The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) entered gold and copper exploration for the first time through this project.
- ❖ An exploration agreement was signed on 6 August 2026 between the Karnataka Mines and Geology Department and SCCL.
- ❖ SCCL also proposed a joint venture with the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) related to coal supply for thermal power plants.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Global Rank - GIFT City



- ❖ GIFT City ranked 37th globally in the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 40, released in September 2026.
- ❖ GIFT City moved up 9 places to 37th, while Mumbai rose 3 places to 49th.
- ❖ It was the only Indian financial centre among the top 15 Asia-Pacific hubs.
- ❖ GIFT City ranked 26th in FinTech, moving up 3 places.
- ❖ GFCI 40 assessed 139 financial centres using 144 quantitative measures and 39,531 professional assessments.



- ❖ The index is published by Z/Yen Partners and the China Development Institute; the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) regulates financial services in GIFT City.

