



September - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI) identified a new eel species from the Arabian Sea.
 - The new species was named *Ariosoma cmfriense* after CMFRI.
- ❖ India's cheetah population has reached 56 after India-born cheetah KGP12, daughter of South African cheetah Gemini, gave birth to four cubs at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Kishor Makwana, Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), received the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Award 2026.
- ❖ India, represented by the Indian Air Force (IAF) Sarang Helicopter Display Team, participated in Egypt's second El Alamein International Air show, showcasing military, commercial and private aircraft along with defence, space and advanced aviation technologies.
- ❖ International Equal Pay Day is observed every year on 18 September to promote equal pay for work of equal value.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value — For Everyone, everywhere."
- ❖ International Red Panda Day 2026 was observed on September 19, the third Saturday of September, to raise awareness about red panda conservation and threats such as habitat loss, deforestation and poaching.
 - The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the red panda as an Endangered species.

NATIONAL NEWS

India - Japan strategic partnership

- ❖ India and Japan will mark 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2027 through the India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons.
- ❖ India and Japan established diplomatic relations in 1952.
- ❖ India-Japan Week will be observed in the week of 28 April 2027, with outreach activities, business roundtables and India-focused roadshows.
- ❖ A friendship cricket match is scheduled during the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026 as a curtain-raiser to the anniversary year.

- ❖ SPORT-75 will cover sports exchanges, while Cricket Kizuna-75 will involve Indian coaches visiting Japan.
- ❖ IMAGE-75 will focus on manga, anime and gaming partnerships, while Shared Future-75 will deal with policy recommendations.
- ❖ RASA-75 will cover arts and cultural activities.
- ❖ India-Japan cooperation includes defence, infrastructure, technology, trade and cultural exchange.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Oman Strategic Port

- ❖ Sohar Port in Oman has emerged as a strategic alternative gateway for Indian cargo to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries amid disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❖ It is a deep-sea commercial port and industrial free zone located in Liwa, Al Batinah North Governorate, facing the Gulf of Oman.
- ❖ It lies outside the Strait of Hormuz, providing an alternative maritime route to global shipping lanes.
- ❖ It has four major industrial clusters: Logistics, Petrochemicals, Metals and Food.

- ❖ It provides road connectivity to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait, supporting movement of Indian goods across the Gulf.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Stem Cell Therapy Guidelines



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued an advisory to States and Union Territories to regulate stem cell therapy.
- ❖ Stem cell therapy can be used as standard care only for Ministry-approved diseases and indications, including certain blood cancers and blood disorders.

- ❖ Stem cell therapy for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is restricted to approved clinical trials and cannot be marketed as standard treatment.
- ❖ Clinical trials must follow the National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research, 2017, issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Biotechnology.
- ❖ Unauthorized use, promotion or advertisement of stem cell therapy can lead to disciplinary action and penalties under the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010.
- ❖ Haematopoietic stem-cell transplantation (bone marrow transplantation) is an established treatment for certain blood cancers and disorders such as leukaemia and thalassemia.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Pichavaram Mangrove Restoration

Guardians of the Coast

Mangroves act as natural shields against extreme climatic events. They reduce the impact of storms, cyclones and tidal surges. Their dense roots stabilise coastlines, prevent erosion and protect coastal communities from extreme weather.



- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Forest Department have created a new 25-hectare mangrove patch in Pichavaram, Cuddalore district, at a cost of ₹1.97 crore.
- ❖ Mangroves are salt-tolerant coastal plants that protect shorelines from erosion, storms and tidal waves, provide nursery grounds for fish and other marine life, and help store carbon.
- ❖ Over 75,000 *Rhizophora apiculata* saplings were raised in a Forest Department nursery and planted using a modified fish-bone method.

- ❖ The plantation was planned to compensate for mangrove loss during the widening of the East Coast Road and National Highway (NH)-332A; the actual damage at Marakkanam Estuary was reduced to 0.15 hectares and just over 100 trees.
- ❖ Three sites—Vandalmunai, MGR Thittu and Kottumunai—were selected in the Pichavaram mangrove region after suitable land was not available in Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts.

Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary Mapping

- ❖ Authorities will undertake spatial mapping and field verification of military installations within the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary in Ladakh.
- ❖ The survey will use Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographic Information System (GIS), geo-referencing and satellite imagery.
- ❖ Wildlife officials will map critical habitats and wildlife movement corridors scientifically.
- ❖ The exercise will be carried out with the police and defence establishment.
- ❖ The statutory rights determination process will resume, but it will not permit fresh encroachment or unauthorised construction after the applicable cut-off dates.



REPORTS AND INDICES

NITI Aayog Skilling Report

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the report 'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047' in August 2026, highlighting gaps between skill training and employment.

- ❖ The report notes that only around 3% of women are in formal jobs, while about 71% are in informal work or the Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) category.
- ❖ Key barriers for women include caregiving, safety concerns, lack of safe transport, limited mobility and limited access to finance and training.
- ❖ More than 7.67 crore people have been trained under various skilling programmes since 2014–15.
- ❖ The report proposes Digital Lifelong Learning Accounts, Skill Passports, skills-first hiring and greater use of the National Credit Framework (NCrF).
- ❖ It also suggests 'Back to School' for women's reskilling and 'Surakshit Saathi' for safe hostels and transport through public-private partnerships.



WMO Groundwater Report



- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported persistent groundwater decline in India in its State of Global Water Resources 2025 report.

- ❖ Persistent groundwater deficits were observed in parts of India during 2022–2025, with over-extraction identified as an important cause.
- ❖ The decline indicates that more groundwater is being extracted than recharged in affected areas.
- ❖ Globally, 34% of groundwater observation stations recorded below-normal to much-below-normal levels in 2025, compared with 25% in 2024.
- ❖ Groundwater levels were compared with the 2001–2020 reference period.
- ❖ Northern India also recorded below-normal terrestrial water storage in 2025.

UN Gender Equality Report

- ❖ UN Women and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) released the Gender Snapshot 2026 report.
- ❖ One in three institutional mechanisms for gender equality had their institutional power reduced over the past two years.
- ❖ Around one in four such institutions faced budget cuts, while nearly one in 10 lost control over their budgets.
- ❖ Six in seven countries are led by men, while women hold only 6% of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) positions globally.
- ❖ Nearly nine in 10 defence ministers and more than eight in 10 finance ministers are men.
- ❖ The report states that none of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) indicators are currently on track to be achieved by 2030.



STATE NEWS

Tulu Language Recognition

- ❖ The Karnataka Cabinet approved Tulu as the second additional administrative language for Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.



- ❖ Tulu is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in the coastal Karnataka region.
- ❖ The decision will allow its use in official work, translation and staff training in the two districts.
- ❖ The government allocated ₹82 lakh annually for Tulu-related translation and training.
- ❖ The decision applies only to Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, not to the entire state of Karnataka.

Tulu as the Second Additional Administrative Language

The Cabinet has approved Tulu as the **second additional administrative language of Karnataka**, alongside Kannada, for official government purposes in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts

