



September - 23

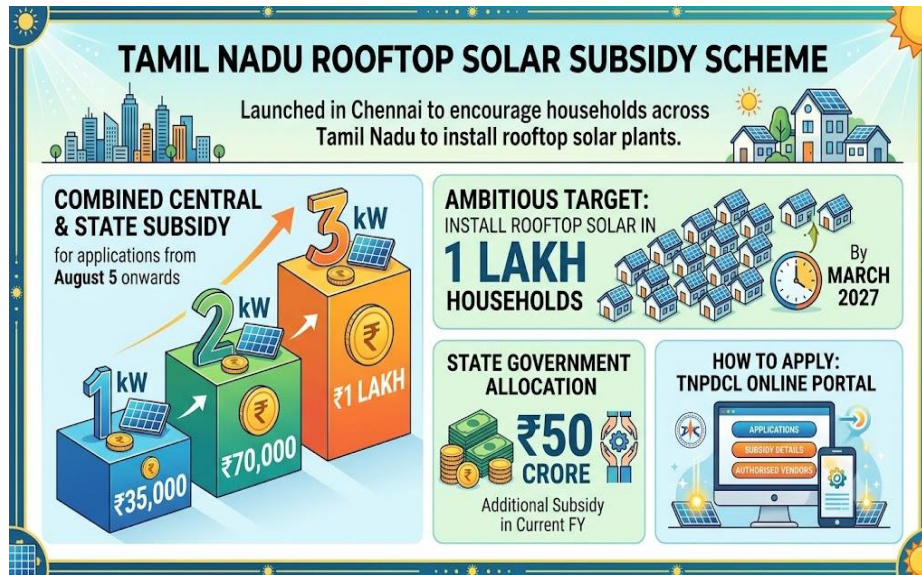
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dipak Misra received the Kalinga Ratna Award 2026 in Cuttack, Odisha.
- ❖ The 27th World Knowledge Forum was held in Seoul, South Korea, organised by Maekyung Media Group.
 - With the theme “The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order,” it focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI), global economic change, national security, quantum computing and cybersecurity.
- ❖ Elavenil Valarivan wins silver in women’s 10m air rifle at Asian Games 2026, held in Toyota City, Aichi, Japan.
- ❖ India and Sri Lanka have begun the 13th edition of SLINEX-26, a bilateral naval exercise, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) are conducting Exercise Veer Guardian-2026 at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ Ladakh inaugurated twin flower fields at Choglamsar and Stakna in Leh district, at an altitude of 10,600 feet (3,265 metres).
- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) notified the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending the Passports Rules, 1980.
 - An ordinary passport for a child below 15 years will be valid for five years or until the child turns 18, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ International Coastal Cleanup Day 2026 was observed on September 19, the third Saturday of September, to raise awareness about marine pollution and encourage people to clean beaches, rivers and other waterways.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Clean Seas for Resilient Communities”.
- ❖ World Patient Safety Day is observed annually on 17 September, focusing in 2026 on safe care for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Safe care for life!”.
- ❖ World Water Monitoring Day is observed annually on 18 September to raise awareness about monitoring and protecting water quality.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu launched the Tamil Nadu Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme in Chennai to encourage households to install rooftop solar plants.
- ❖ Consumers who applied from August 5 can get a combined Central and State subsidy of ₹35,000 for 1 kilowatt (kW), ₹70,000 for 2 kW and ₹1 lakh for 3 kW.
- ❖ The scheme has a target to install rooftop solar plants in 1 lakh households by March 2027.
- ❖ The State government has allocated ₹50 crore for the additional subsidy in the current financial year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDC) launched a portal for applications, subsidy details and authorised solar vendors.
- ❖ The scheme supports the use of solar energy in residential households across Tamil Nadu.



New GCC Investment in Chennai

- ❖ US-based healthcare group Walgreens is set to open a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Chennai.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Guidance is the nodal agency helping bring investments into the State.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has over 450 GCCs, accounting for about 10–15% of India's GCC ecosystem.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the third-largest GCC hub in India after Karnataka and Telangana.

- ❖ A Global Capability Centre (GCC) is a company-owned office in another country that handles work such as software development, data analysis and research.



NATIONAL NEWS

Nasha Mukh Bharat Campaign



- ❖ The 100-week Nasha Mukh Yuva Abhiyan began on 18 September 2026 with a nationwide Rashtriya Sankalp Samaroh.
- ❖ The campaign is titled “Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan” and was launched on 2 August 2026 through a virtual address.
- ❖ It is led by the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and implemented through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) and National Service Scheme (NSS).
- ❖ The campaign focuses on four pillars: Prevent, Protect, Recover and Lead, with a 12-week activity calendar from September to December 2026.

- ❖ The wider Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan was launched on 15 August 2020 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

District-Level Labour Market Snapshot

- ❖ The National Statistical Office (NSO) released district-level labour market indicators for the first time under the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).
- ❖ About 57.8% of districts recorded a female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) of 40% or above, while over 98% of districts had LFPR and Worker Population Ratio (WPR) between 40% and 80%.
- ❖ Among the 100 most populous districts, Surat, Gujarat recorded the highest LFPR (68.6%) and WPR (67.8%), while Darbhanga, Bihar recorded the lowest levels.
- ❖ Ernakulam, Kerala had the lowest youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) rate at 9.6%, followed by Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu at 14.5%.
- ❖ South Twenty-Four Parganas, West Bengal and Araria, Bihar recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 0.9% each among the 100 most populous districts.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

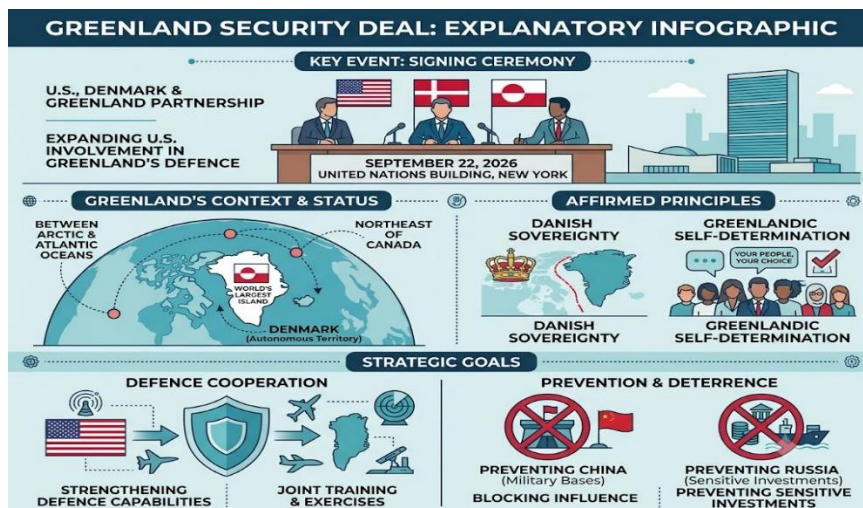
SCO Trade Ministers Meet

- ❖ The 25th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Ministers responsible for foreign economic and foreign trade activities was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- ❖ The meeting discussed sustainable economic growth, trade development, reducing trade barriers, and transport and logistics connectivity.

- ❖ A Joint Statement and the 2026–2030 Action Plan on multilateral trade and economic cooperation were adopted.
- ❖ The SCO, founded in 2001, has 10 member states, including India, China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran.
- ❖ The next SCO economic and foreign trade ministers' meeting is scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan in 2027.



Greenland Security Deal



- ❖ The United States, Denmark and Greenland are set to sign a security agreement expanding U.S. involvement in Greenland's defence.
- ❖ Greenland is the world's largest island, located between the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans, northeast of Canada, and is an autonomous territory of Denmark.

- ❖ The deal is scheduled to be signed on September 22, 2026, at the United Nations (UN) building in New York.
- ❖ It affirms Danish sovereignty and the right of Greenland's people to self-determination.
- ❖ The agreement concerns Greenland's defence and aims to prevent China and Russia from establishing military bases or making sensitive investments there.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Karanjia Sal Borer Crisis

- ❖ Permission has been granted to cut 156,319 sal trees affected by the sal borer insect in Dindori and Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The sal borer is a wood-boring beetle whose larvae bore into sal trees and damage their wood and tissues, weakening or killing the trees.
- ❖ Sal (*Shorea robusta*) is a major forest tree of India and is valued for its strong, durable timber; its leaves are also widely used for making plates and bowls.
- ❖ 146,784 trees will be cut in Dindori and 9,535 trees in the Amarkantak area of Anuppur.
- ❖ The Karanjia Range is the worst affected, with nearly 90% of Dindori's affected sal trees located there.

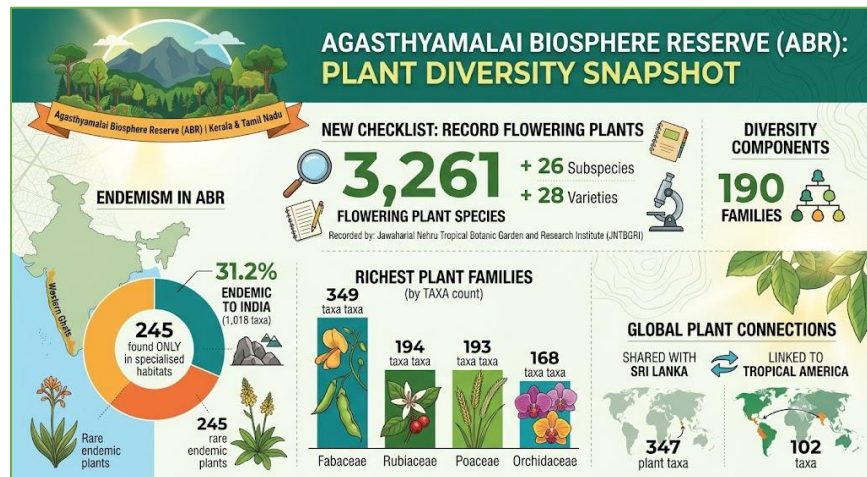


Permission granted to cut more than 156,000 sal trees in Madhya Pradesh

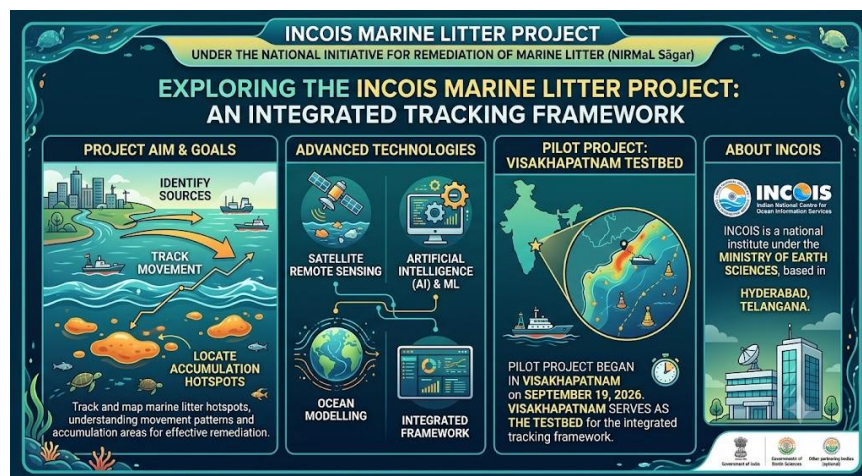
Agasthyamalai Plant Diversity

- ❖ A new checklist recorded 3,261 flowering plant species in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR) in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) recorded 3,261 species, 26 subspecies and 28 varieties from 190 families.
- ❖ Fabaceae is the richest family with 349 taxa, followed by Rubiaceae (194), Poaceae (193) and Orchidaceae (168).
- ❖ About 1,018 taxa (31.2%) are endemic to India, including 245 found only in specialised habitats.
- ❖ ABR shares 347 plant taxa with Sri Lanka and has 102 taxa linked to tropical American flora.



INCOIS Marine Litter Project



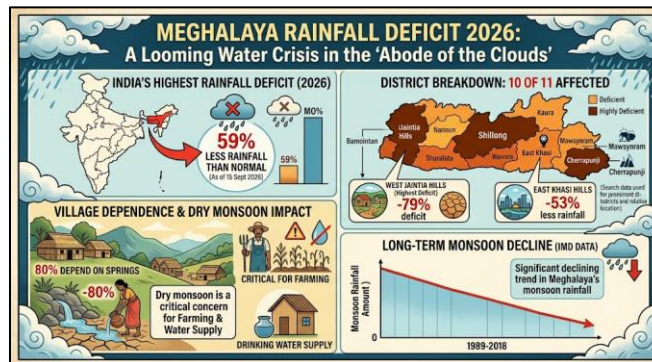
- ❖ The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) will use Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), satellite remote sensing and ocean modelling to track marine litter hotspots.

- ❖ The pilot project began in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on September 19, 2026, under the National Initiative for Remediation of Marine Litter (NIRMaL Sāgar).
- ❖ It aims to identify sources of marine litter, track its movement and locate areas where waste accumulates.
- ❖ The pilot will create an integrated marine litter tracking framework, with Visakhapatnam as the testbed.
- ❖ INCOIS is a national institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, based in Hyderabad, Telangana.

STATE NEWS

Meghalaya Rainfall Deficit

- ❖ Meghalaya recorded India's highest rainfall deficit in 2026, with 59% less rainfall than normal as of 15 September.
- ❖ Meghalaya, known as the "Abode of the Clouds," has 10 of its 11 districts facing deficient or highly deficient rainfall.
- ❖ West Jaintia Hills recorded the highest deficit at 79%, while East Khasi Hills recorded 53% less rainfall.
- ❖ About 80% of villages depend heavily on springs for drinking water and irrigation, making the dry monsoon a concern for farming and water supply.
- ❖ India Meteorological Department (IMD) data also shows a significant declining trend in Meghalaya's monsoon rainfall from 1989 to 2018.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Alzheimer's Day 2026 - September 21

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

- ❖ The day was first observed in 1994 and is organised by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI).
- ❖ Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia and mainly affects memory and thinking abilities.
- ❖ The day promotes early diagnosis, caregiver support, dementia awareness and reducing stigma.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "The Earlier You Know, The More You Can Do: A Dementia Diagnosis Matters."

