

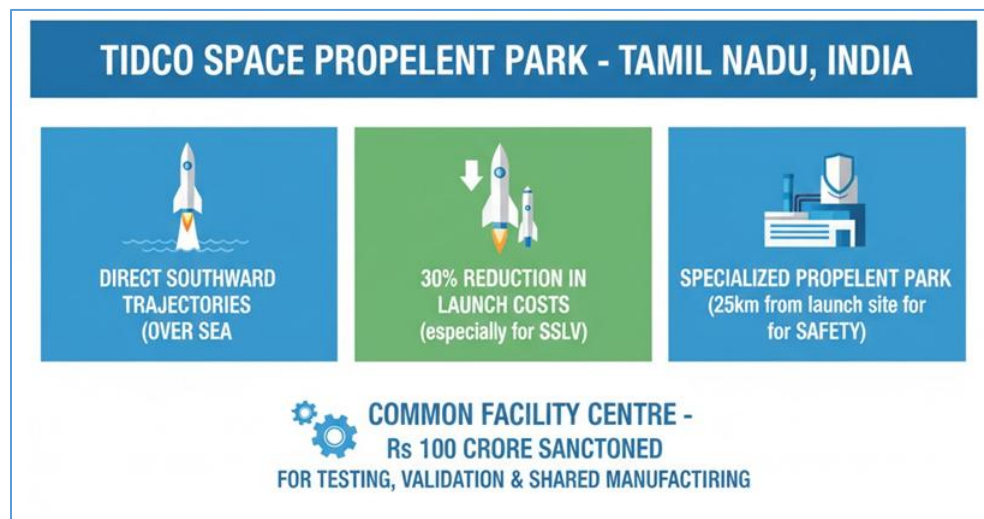
November - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched a free meal scheme (Chief Minister's Meal Scheme) for sanitation workers of the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) on November 15, 2025 and the meal scheme would be expanded to all corporations and municipalities from December 6.
 - It will provide three meals a day to sanitation workers for the first time in India.
- ❖ Marble from Ambaji, Gujarat's prominent pilgrimage site and Shaktipeeth, has been awarded the GI tag for its high-quality white stone.
- ❖ The 10th edition of the International Gita Festival has been inaugurated in Kurukshetra.
 - Fifty-one countries are participating in this year festival and Madhya Pradesh is the partner state for the 2025 celebrations.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

TIDCO Space Propellant Park



- ❖ Tamil Nadu is establishing a propellant and space manufacturing zone near the upcoming launch site of ISRO at Kulasekarapattinam.
- ❖ The new launch complex enables direct southward trajectories over the sea.
- ❖ It also reduces the fuel-heavy dogleg manoeuvre required at Sriharikota.



- ❖ Launch costs from this site are expected to decrease by about 30 % for missions including the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle.
- ❖ A specialised propellant park will be set up at least 25 km from the launch centre to meet safety requirements for handling energetic materials.
- ❖ A common facility centre with a sanctioned budget of Rs 100 crore will support testing, validation, and shared manufacturing activities.

NATIONAL NEWS

Aerohub Multiplex Case

- ❖ The Madras High Court has reserved orders on petitions filed by PVR Inox over the proposed closure of India's first airport multiplex at the Aerohub in Chennai.
- ❖ The Airports Authority of India stated that PVR Inox is only a sub-licensee and that the main contract with Meenambakkam Realty Private Limited stands terminated and is under arbitration.
- ❖ The authority argued that a cinema hall is not a permitted activity under the Airports Authority of India Act of 1994 and cannot operate within airport premises.
- ❖ It maintained that the Aerohub area legally forms part of the airport zone, even if it lies outside Central Industrial Security Force checkpoints.

AAI, Which Approved PVR, Now Seeks Its Closure

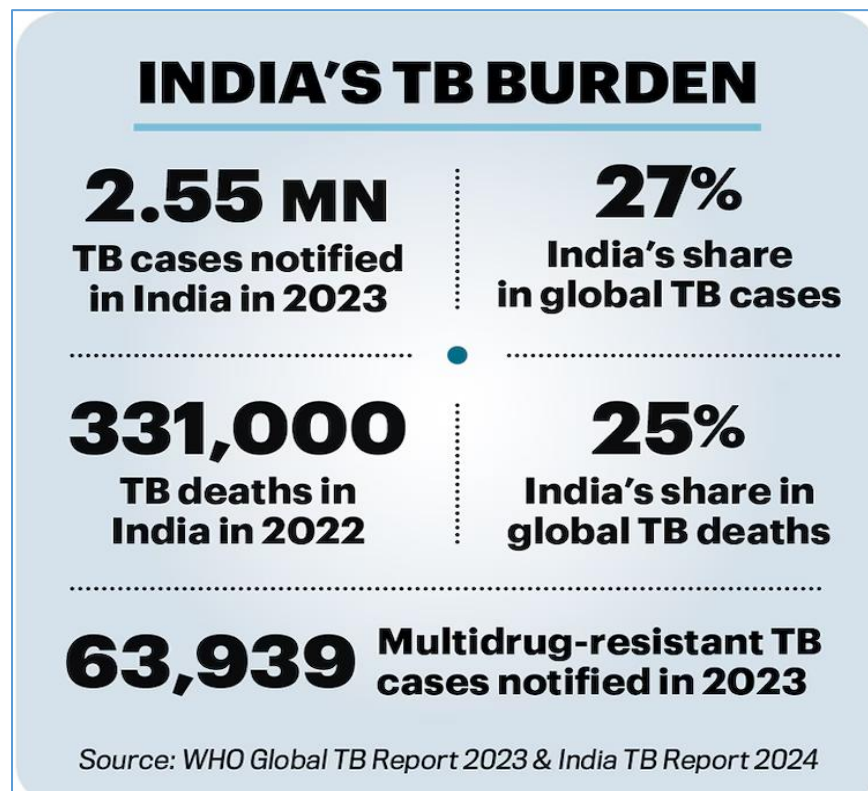
The five-screen PVR INOX multiplex at Chennai airport's Aerohub is facing closure after the Airports Authority of India (AAI), which had approved its construction and plans since 2018, now claims that operating a cinema hall violates the AAI Act, 1994. The Madras High Court has ordered AAI to maintain status quo until it considers a representation made by PVR INOX. Despite approvals and sanctioned plans earlier, AAI issued a closure notice in 2023, leading to prolonged legal and arbitration proceedings.

TB Elimination in India

- ❖ India's TB incidence dropped by 21%, from 237 per lakh in 2015 to 187 per lakh in 2024.



- ❖ This decline is almost twice the global rate.
- ❖ Treatment coverage rose to 92% in 2024, with 26.18 lakh patients diagnosed.
- ❖ This also led to a major reduction in missing TB cases.
- ❖ The treatment success rate under TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan reached 90%.
- ❖ This is higher than the global success rate of 88%.
- ❖ India achieved 92% rifampicin testing coverage, strengthening early detection of drug-resistant TB.
- ❖ The global average for this testing is 83%.
- ❖ Screening under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan identified 24.5 lakh TB patients, including 8.61 lakh asymptomatic cases.
- ❖ This was done after screening 19 crore vulnerable individuals.



Tribal Business Conclave 2025

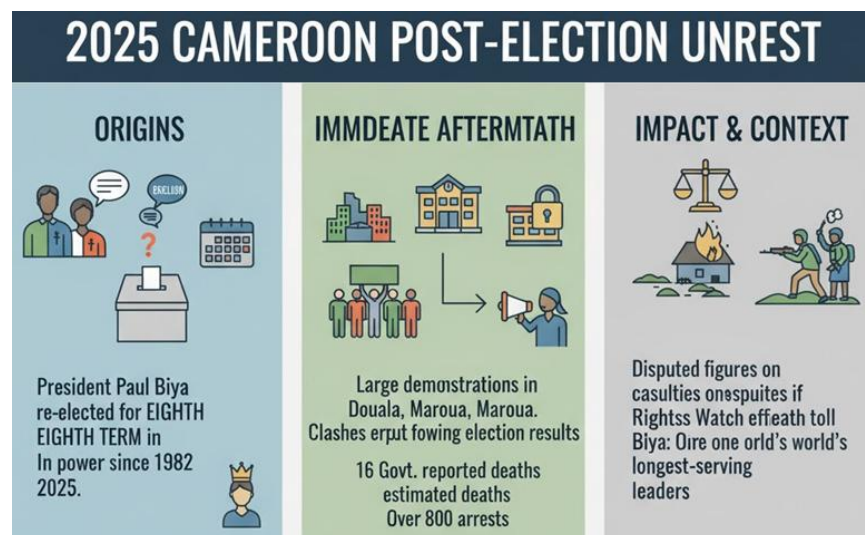
- ❖ The Geographical Indications (GI) tag application fee was reduced from ₹5,000 to ₹1,000 to promote traditional tribal goods.
- ❖ The Tribal Business Conclave in New Delhi announced export, e-commerce, and international warehouse support for tribal products.

- ❖ The event was organised by the Tribal Affairs Ministry, Culture Ministry, and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- ❖ GI tag certificates were issued for items such as Kannadippaya bamboo mat, Apatani textile, Marthandam honey, Lepcha Tungbuk, Bodo Aronai, Ambaji White Marble, and Bedu and Badri cow ghee.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cameroon Unrest



- ❖ Cameroon witnessed unrest after President Paul Biya was re-elected for an eighth term in October 2025.



- ❖ Large demonstrations took place in cities such as Douala, Maroua, and Garoua following the election results.
- ❖ Paul Biya has remained in power since 1982, making him one of the world's longest-serving leaders.

End of US Shutdown

- ❖ The US government reopened after a 43-day shutdown, the longest in American history.
- ❖ The shutdown began when Democrats refused to approve the funding bill unless it included an extension of Affordable Care Act (ACA) health-insurance subsidies.
- ❖ Republicans rejected adding the ACA subsidies, causing a deadlock in Congress.
- ❖ Without an approved funding bill, federal departments ran out of money, triggering a government shutdown.
- ❖ President Trump has signed a temporary funding bill restoring federal operations until January 2026.
- ❖ The bill does not include health-insurance subsidies under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which was the core of the dispute with Democrats.



Green Fuel Levy - Singapore

- ❖ Singapore will impose the world's first green fuel levy on air passengers from next year.

- ❖ Economy and premium economy travellers will pay between S\$1 and S\$10.40 per flight, while business and first-class passengers pay 4 times more.
- ❖ The levy funds the purchase of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) made from waste oils or agricultural feedstock.
- ❖ The SAF adoption target is 3–5% of total aviation fuel by 2030.
- ❖ Cargo flights and tickets sold from April 1 for flights departing Singapore from October 1 will also incur the levy.



ECONOMY NEWS

Retail inflation October 2025

- ❖ India's retail inflation fell to 0.25% in October 2025, marking a historic low.
- ❖ It is the lowest inflation rate since January 2012 and the lowest in the current CPI series.
- ❖ The decline was driven mainly by GST rate cuts, a favourable base effect, and lower inflation in food items.

- ❖ Food and beverages inflation contracted by 3.7% in October 2025, following a 1.4% contraction in September.
- ❖ Most other CPI categories recorded higher inflation than last year, except clothing and footwear, which eased to 1.7%.
- ❖ Fuel and light inflation rose to 2%, and housing inflation increased to 3%.
- ❖ Miscellaneous inflation accelerated to 5.7% in October 2025.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Language and Cognition Lab - IIT Madras

- ❖ IIT Madras has set up the Language and Cognition Laboratory to study India's linguistic diversity.
- ❖ The laboratory uses experimental and technology-based methods to understand how humans perceive, process, and produce language.
- ❖ The facility is the first in India to systematically analyse language through experimental linguistics.
- ❖ The lab employs tools such as eye-tracking and reaction-time studies to investigate linguistic processing in multilingual contexts.
- ❖ The laboratory works with the Centre for Responsible Artificial Intelligence to develop linguistically aware and human-centred artificial intelligence systems.

- ❖ Research focuses on Indian languages, covering areas such as grammatical voice, copula constructions, and dyslexia studies in Indian children.



Cohort Connect 2025



- ❖ India launched the Phenome National Conclave on Longitudinal Cohort Studies, called Cohort Connect 2025.
- ❖ It was inaugurated at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR–IMMT) in Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ The initiative aims to become India’s largest evidence-based study examining genetic, lifestyle, and environmental drivers of major diseases.
- ❖ The launch highlighted the rising national burden of metabolic disorders such as diabetes and their related complications.



- ❖ India has already sequenced nearly 10,000 human genomes through CSIR and the Department of Biotechnology, with work progressing toward one million genome sequences.
- ❖ The programme will support long-term cohort studies to generate India-specific data for preventive and precision-medicine approaches.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

COP30 Declaration to Combat Climate Disinformation

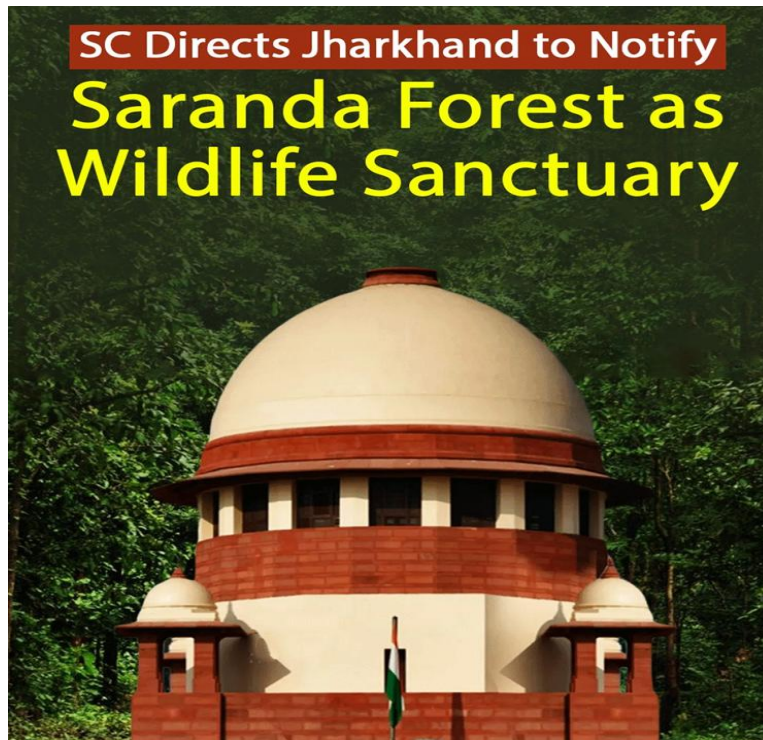
- ❖ Twelve countries have signed the Declaration on Information Integrity on Climate Change at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.
- ❖ The agreement protects the accurate climate information and combats the disinformation, denialism, and attacks on scientists.
- ❖ Signatories include Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Uruguay.
- ❖ The initiative was launched by UNESCO, the UN, and the Government of Brazil.



Saranda Forest - Wildlife Sanctuary

- ❖ The Supreme Court directed Jharkhand to declare 31,468.25 hectares of the Saranda forest as a wildlife sanctuary.
- ❖ Saranda is home to endangered species, including the sal forest tortoise, four-horned antelope, Asian palm civet, and wild elephants.
- ❖ The forest hosts tribal communities such as the Ho, Munda, and Uraon, whose rights will remain unaffected.

- ❖ The area contains 26% of India's iron ore reserves, but no mining exists in the newly notified sanctuary.
- ❖ Mining within the sanctuary and within one kilometre of its boundary is prohibited.
- ❖ Saranda forest is located in the West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.
- ❖ It is the largest sal forest in Asia.

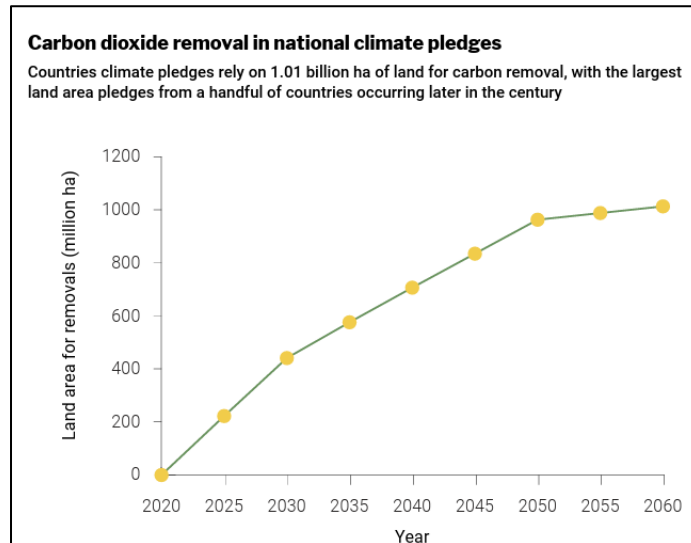


REPORTS AND INDICES

Land Gap Report 2025

- ❖ Current global government climate pledges plan to use approximately 1.01 billion hectares of land for Land-Based Carbon Removal (LBCR).
- ❖ LBCR refers to strategies that use terrestrial ecosystems such as forests, soils, wetlands, and agricultural landscapes to absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- ❖ Key LBCR methods include reforestation and afforestation, and the soil carbon sequestration.
- ❖ Other methods include bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), geologic carbon sequestration, biochar, and enhanced weathering.

- ❖ Large-scale reliance on LBCR could displace food production, threaten biodiversity, and disrupt livelihoods, creating significant social and ecological trade-offs.
- ❖ The forest gap shows that about 20 million hectares of forest may be lost or degraded each year by 2030, despite commitments to halt deforestation.



STATES' NEWS

EoDB Rankings 2024



- ❖ Kerala was topped in the Fast Mover category under the Business Reforms Action Plan 2024.

- ❖ The State achieved 99.3% reforms in 2024, compared to 91% in the previous year.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh was also listed as a Fast Mover, while Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra were placed in the Aspirers category.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Saalumarada Thimmakka

- ❖ Saalumarada Thimmakka, known as the mother of Karnataka's Trees, passed away at 114.
- ❖ The title "Saalumarada" means "row of trees" in Kannada.
- ❖ She and planted 385 banyan trees along State Highway 94 from Kudur to Hulikal.
- ❖ She had no formal education and earlier worked as a quarry labourer.
- ❖ She received the Padma Shri in 2019 and was listed in the BBC's 100 Women in 2016.

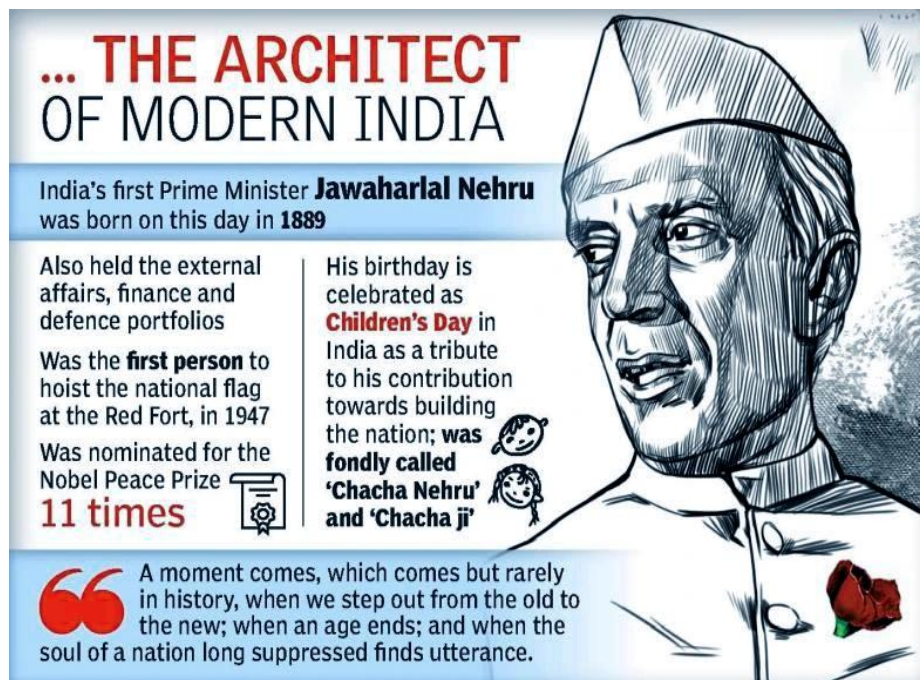


IMPORTANT DAYS

Children's Day 2025 - November 14

- ❖ It is observed each year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru was the first prime minister of independent India.
- ❖ He promoted scientific temper and supported the creation of institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), and the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- ❖ He presented the Objectives Resolution in 1946, which became the foundation of the Constitution.
- ❖ He authored *The Discovery of India*, *Glimpses of World History*, and *An Autobiography*.
- ❖ He served as chairperson of the National Planning Committee in 1938 and guided India's early Five-Year Plans.
- ❖ The 2025's theme is "For Every Child, Every Right".



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Drought Crisis in Iran

- ❖ Iran is experiencing its worst drought in around 60 years, with major dams at critically low levels.
- ❖ Tehran recorded only 159 mm of rainfall last year, triggering water rationing in the city.
- ❖ The Amir Kabir Dam, supplying Tehran, holds only 14 million cubic litres per day, less than half the city's daily water usage.



- ❖ Factors include low rainfall, unsustainable water management, illegal wells, and ground subsidence of 300 mm per year in Tehran.

