



November - 20

TNPSC BITS

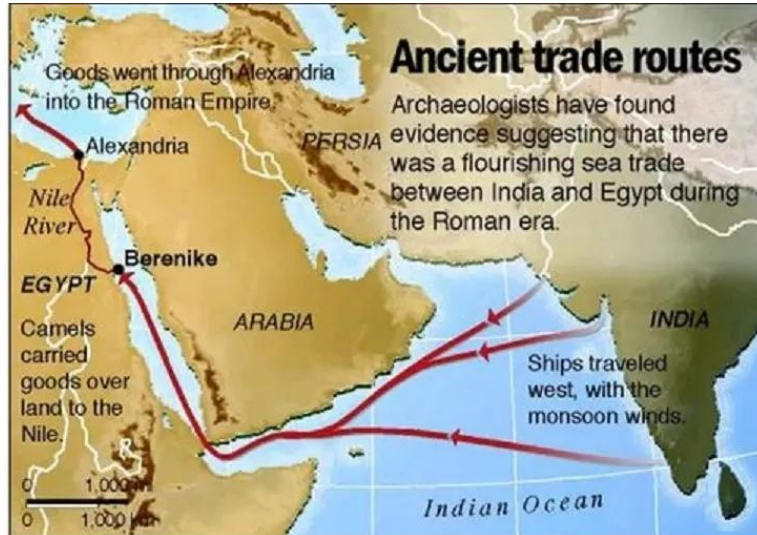
- ❖ Arunachalam Vellayan, chairman emeritus of Coromandel International and former chairman of Murugappa Group, passed away in Chennai.
- ❖ India signed its first structured deal to import 2.2 million tonnes of LPG from the United States in 2026, covering around 10% of its annual LPG imports.
- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF) launched its first all-women drone unit called the Durga Drone Squadron at the School of Drone Warfare (SDW) in the BSF Academy in Gwalior.
- ❖ The Southern Command of the Indian Army (headquarters at Pune) successfully conducted Exercise Akhand Prahaar across the Desert Sector in Rajasthan, as part of Tri-Services Exercise Trishul.
- ❖ 45 Umrah Indian pilgrims died in a bus crash near Medina in Saudi Arabia on November 17, 2025.
 - Umrah is an Islamic pilgrimage that takes place in Saudi Arabia, specifically in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.
- ❖ American actor Tom Cruise was honoured with an honorary Oscar at the 16th Annual Academy Governors Awards.
- ❖ Sweden has become the world's first cashless country, replacing physical money with digital payments through phones and cards.
- ❖ English darts game player Luke Littler has made history by becoming the youngest-ever world number one at just 18 years old.
- ❖ Kyvalya Reddy Kunchala (17) from Nidadavole is being selected as an Astronaut Candidate for the Space Class 2025–2029 Astronaut Programme of Titans Space Industries Incorporated (TSI).
 - Kyvalya has earlier completed the International Air and Space Programme, discovered 2 provisional asteroids.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil-Roman Trade Links in Egypt

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) has joined excavations at Berenike, an ancient port city on the Red Sea coast of Egypt.
- ❖ The objective is to identify evidence of ancient trade links between the Tamils and the Romans.

- ❖ Earlier excavations at Berenike in 1995 uncovered a potsherd bearing the Tamil-Brahmi text korrapuman.
- ❖ Other Red Sea sites, including Quseir al-Qadim, yielded Tamil-Brahmi-inscribed potsherds with texts like kanan and catan.



NATIONAL NEWS

Draft Seeds Bill 2025



- ❖ The Draft Seeds Bill aims to replace the Seeds Act (1966) and the Seeds Control Order (1983) with a modern framework for seed quality, regulation, and traceability.



- ❖ The Bill introduces mandatory registration of seed varieties based on Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) trials and requires QR-based digital tracking for all seeds.
- ❖ Farmers retain the right to save, use, re-sow, exchange, and sell farm-saved seeds except under a brand name, and they are exempt from penalties.
- ❖ The Bill strengthens seed quality standards, certification agencies, and testing laboratories and gives inspectors clear powers for sampling and seizure.
- ❖ A graded penalty system is introduced, along with provisions for seed price regulation during scarcity or profiteering.

World's Deepest Underwater Laboratory

- ❖ India has announced a plan to construct a human-occupied underwater research laboratory at a depth of 6,000 metres in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ A pilot module at 500 metres will be tested first to validate life-support and pressure-resistant systems.
- ❖ The full-scale habitat will operate deeper than any existing research station, including the Aquarius Reef Base in the United States at 19 metres.
- ❖ The facility will support studies in deep-sea biology, geology, biotechnology, and human performance under high pressure.

India is planning to build the world's deepest underwater research station, plunging 6,000 metres below sea level. A test module will go down to 500 m to validate life-support, pressure systems & communications, before scaling up.

This initiative is part of India's Deep Ocean Mission & Vision 2047.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cartel de los Soles - Terrorist Group

- ❖ The United States has designated the Cartel de los Soles (Cartel of the Suns) as a terrorist organisation.
- ❖ The Cartel of the Suns is an informal Venezuelan criminal organization.
- ❖ The group is accused of involvement in large-scale narcotics trafficking.



- ❖ The group is accused of providing material support to other terrorist organisations, including Tren de Aragua and the Sinaloa Cartel.
- ❖ The cartel traffics narcotics into the United States and Europe and supports terrorist activities across the region.

US TO DESIGNATE CARTEL DE LOS SOLES AS TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

ECONOMY NEWS

SEBI Integrity Review Committee

EX-CVC PRATYUSH SINHA TO HEAD SEBI'S HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW 2008 PROVISIONS

THE COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW THE 2008 PROVISIONS RELATED TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES RELATED TO PROPERTY, INVESTMENT AND LIABILITIES FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE SEBI BOARD. INJETI SRINIVAS HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SIX-MEMBER PANEL.

- ❖ SEBI formed the Pratyush Sinha Committee to tighten conflict-of-interest and disclosure rules for its senior officials.
- ❖ The committee recommended mandatory asset and liability disclosures for the chairperson, whole-time members and senior officers.
- ❖ It proposed classifying the top leadership as “insiders” under insider-trading rules and restricting personal market investment to pooled professionally-managed funds.

- ❖ It suggested creating an Office of Ethics and Compliance with a digital disclosure registry and a secure whistleblower channel.
- ❖ It recommended a two-year cooling-off period for former officials before appearing before SEBI in regulatory matters.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Hydrogen Valley Hub

- ❖ Hyundai Motor India and IIT Madras signed an MoU to establish a Hydrogen Valley Innovation Hub at the IIT Madras campus.
- ❖ The hub aims to build a green-hydrogen ecosystem through R and D infrastructure, localisation, skill development, and technology validation.
- ❖ Hyundai will invest ₹100 crore toward the project's capital needs as part of a total project cost of ₹180 crore.
- ❖ The hub will function as a national platform involving industry, academia, and government to accelerate green-hydrogen adoption.



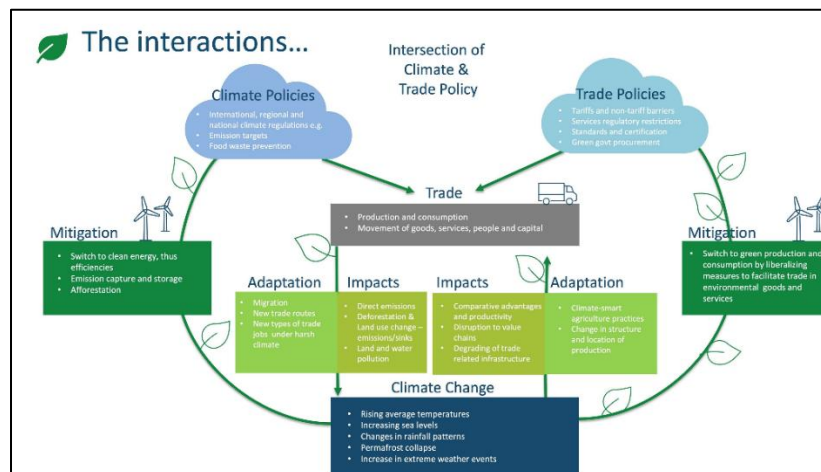
Google AI Data Centre

- ❖ Google is planning an artificial intelligence data centre on Christmas Island.
- ❖ The island an Australian territory located 350 kilometres south of Indonesia.
- ❖ Google has applied for Australian environmental approval to build a subsea cable connecting Christmas Island to Darwin, to be installed by the U.S. company SubCom.
- ❖ Australia's Department of Defence has a three-year cloud agreement with Google.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Integrated Forum on Climate Change and Trade



- ❖ The Integrated Forum on Climate Change and Trade (IFCCT) was formally opened by the COP 30 Presidency.
- ❖ The forum provides a non-negotiating, politically supported space to discuss how climate ambition and trade policy intersect.
- ❖ The IFCCT is designed to explore technical and policy solutions without the binding constraints of formal treaty negotiations.
- ❖ It aims to foster cooperation on defining climate-value criteria, carbon accounting, and shared trade-climate frameworks.

- ❖ The forum is part of COP 30's Action Agenda and responds directly to the first global stocktake by aligning trade and climate action.

Climate Finance Platform



- ❖ India announced a national platform for “climate and nature finance” at COP30 in Belem, Brazil.
- ❖ The platform will work through the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which has committed \$19 billion globally since 2015.
- ❖ India joins with other 12 countries and an African regional alliance to streamline access to climate finance for mitigation and adaptation.
- ❖ India has secured GCF commitments worth \$782 million across 11 projects in clean energy, water, transport, and climate start-ups.
- ❖ The platform will be supported by the Africa Climate Foundation during its early phase with initial funding of nearly \$4 million.

Food Waste Breakthrough initiative

- ❖ The Food Waste Breakthrough was officially launched at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.
- ❖ It aims to halve global food waste by 2030.
- ❖ The initiative targets up to a 7 per cent reduction in methane emissions.
- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is supporting it with a US\$ 3 million, four-year project.

- ❖ The breakthrough aligns with previous COP declarations, including COP28's Emirates Declaration and COP29's methane-waste commitments.

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Gynandromorph Spider - *Damarchus inazuma*



- ❖ Scientists in Thailand have discovered a new spider species named *Damarchus inazuma*.
- ❖ The spider showing gynandromorphism, where one half of the body is male and the other half is female.
- ❖ It is the first such case recorded in the Bemburidae family and only the third known example among mygalomorph spiders.

- ❖ No formal venom studies exist, but related spider families are known to possess venom glands.

New Lichen Species in the Western Ghats

- ❖ A research team in Kochi discovered four new species of lichens in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The species identified are
 - *Parmotrema sahyadricum* (Wayanad),
 - *Solenopsora rhizomorpha* (Eravikulam and Mathikettanshola National Parks),
 - *Buellia ghattensis* (Mathikettanshola National Park) and
 - *Pyxine janakiae* (Mathikettanshola National Park).
- ❖ The team also recorded over 50 lichen species newly reported for the Kerala part of the Western Ghats.
- ❖ Lichens serve as biomonitoring agents because they absorb pollutants directly from the air.



STATES' NEWS

Cyber Fraud Response Network

- ❖ Goa became the first state in India to achieve a 100% response rate to cyber-fraud calls through the cloud-based 1930 call centre.
- ❖ A 24×7 team runs the system, which auto-records caller details and keeps clear communication and full documentation.
- ❖ The network review call recordings, monitor live calls, and join conference calls when needed, ensuring better service and reliability.

- ❖ The system helps faster reporting and fund-tracing in a year when cyber-fraud losses in Goa were around ₹100 crore.

MAKING AN IMPACT	
100% response rate ➤ First state police in India to achieve full response on cyber fraud calls	attending calls round the clock
5,000+ calls handled ➤ Including 1,500 missed calls returned by the team	Better caller accessibility ➤ Cloud-based system captures caller details for seamless follow-ups
Faster reporting, quicker action ➤ Prompt alerts helped save citizens' money from ongoing frauds	Improved voice clarity & recordings ➤ Every call is recorded, reviewed, and monitored for quality
24x7 dedicated team ➤ Nine cyber police personnel	Real-time supervision ➤ Allows senior officers to join calls and guide responses instantly

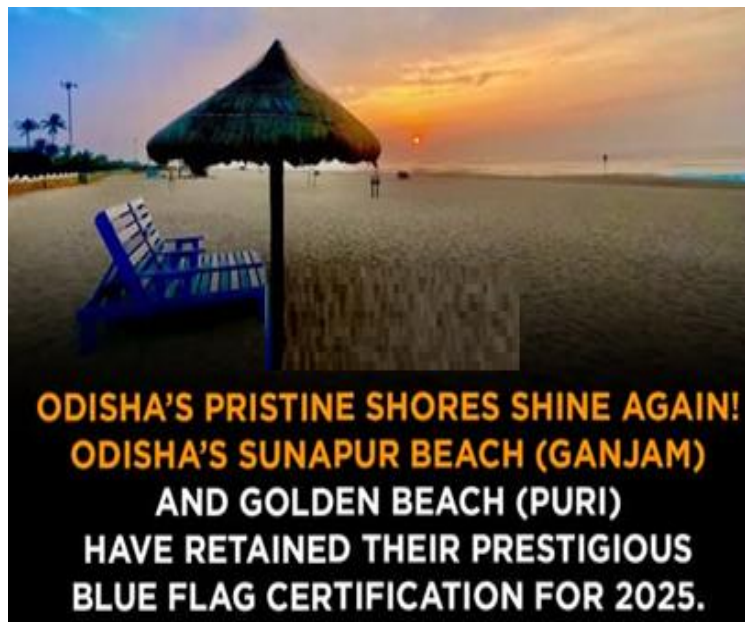
Sohra Tourism Circuit Project



- ❖ Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Meghalaya Chief Minister inaugurated the Sohra Tourism Circuit in Sohra, Meghalaya.
- ❖ The project is funded under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE).
- ❖ The project is valued at over 200 crore rupees and aims to build sustainable tourism infrastructure in Sohra.

Blue Flag Recognition for Odisha Beaches

- ❖ Sunapur beach earned the International Blue Flag Certification for the 3rd consecutive year.
- ❖ Puri's Golden Beach received the Blue Flag Certification for the 7th time.
- ❖ The certification is awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in Denmark.
- ❖ 13 beaches in India received the Blue Flag status for 2025-26, including two in Odisha.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for the Prevention of and Fight Against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime 2025 – November 15

- ❖ The day commemorates the adoption of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), also called the Palermo Convention, on 15 November 2000.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the threat of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC).
- ❖ It was declared by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution in March 2024.
- ❖ The 2025's theme is "Follow the Money. Stop Organized Crime."



15
November

GLOBAL INITIATIVE
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime

This day is about Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime, in order to raise awareness of the threats posed by all forms of transnational organized crime and to enhance international cooperation in this regard.

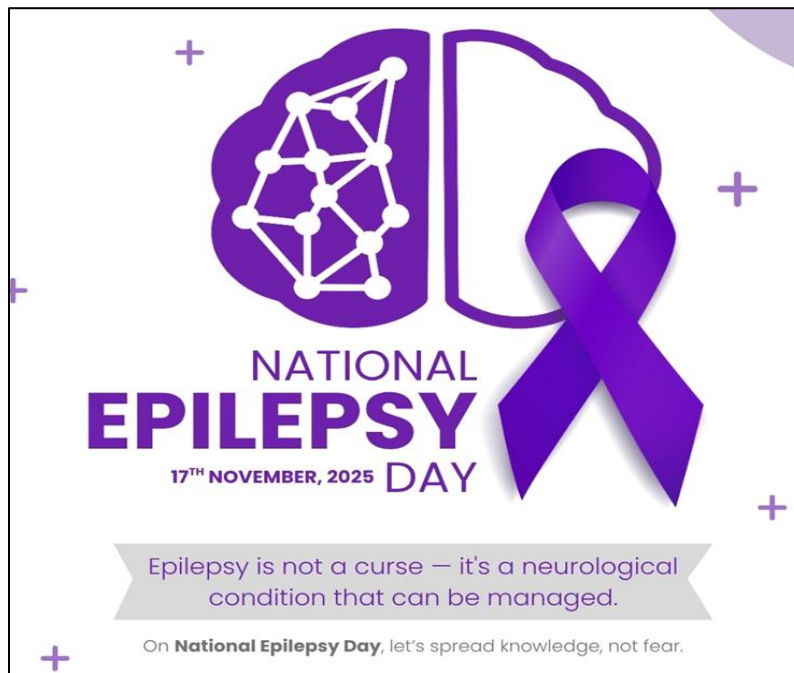
National Press Day 2025 - November 16



- ❖ The aim is to honor a free and responsible press as the fourth pillar of democracy.
- ❖ The day established by the Press Council of India (PCI) and was first celebrated in 1966.
- ❖ The theme of 2025 is “Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media”.

National Epilepsy Day 2025 - November 17

- ❖ The aim is to raise awareness about epilepsy, a neurological condition causing recurrent seizures.
- ❖ It was first initiated by the Epilepsy Foundation of India in 2009 under Dr. Nirmal Surya.
- ❖ Approximately 1.2 crore people in India are affected, and globally over 7 crore people live with epilepsy.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Understanding Seizures, Symptoms, and Treatment Options”.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Ancient Mammoth's RNA

- ❖ Scientists recovered ancient ribonucleic acid (RNA) from a 39,000-year-old woolly mammoth preserved in Siberian permafrost.
- ❖ The specimen, known as Yuka, was found near the Laptev Sea coast, Russia.
- ❖ The RNA showed gene activity linked to muscle structure, cellular maintenance, and stress responses present shortly before the mammoth's death.
- ❖ Sequencing methods adapted for degraded molecules enabled the identification of transcripts that matched woolly mammoth and elephant genes.

