



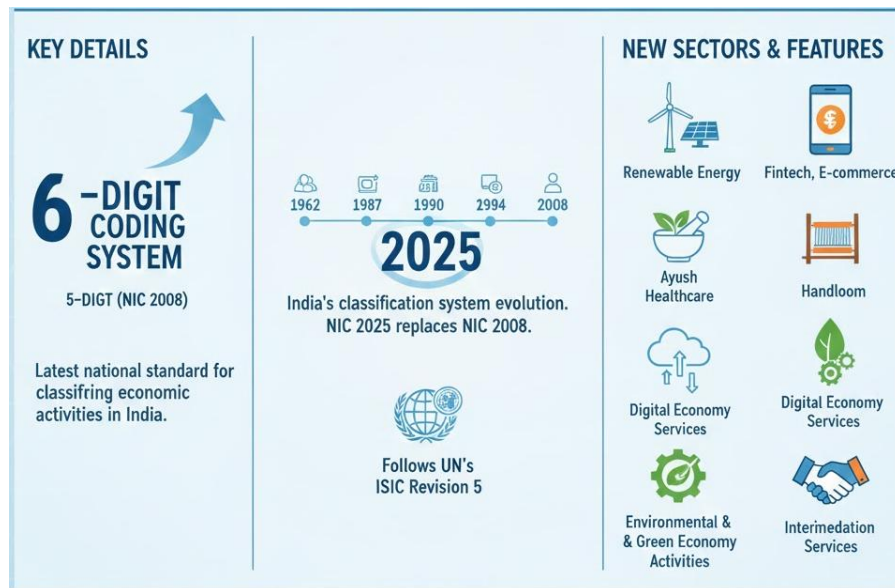
November - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet was on presented with the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024.
- ❖ Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar for a record 10th time.
- ❖ Tiny Caribbean Island country Curacao qualified to the 2026 World Cup as the smallest nation by population ever to qualify for the marquee event in men's football.
 - Other small countries like Cape Verde, Haiti, and Panama also qualified for 2026.

NATIONAL NEWS

National Industrial Classification 2025



- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2025 at Udaipur.
- ❖ The NIC 2025 is the latest national standard for classifying economic activities in India.
- ❖ India's classification system started in 1962 and has been revised several times, including NIC 1970, 1987, 1990, 1998, 2004, and 2008.

- ❖ NIC 2025 reflects structural, technological, and organizational changes, covering sectors like renewable energy, fintech, e-commerce, Ayush healthcare, and handloom.
- ❖ It follows the UN's International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Revision 5.
- ❖ NIC 2025 introduces a 6-digit coding system, replacing the 5-digit structure of NIC 2008.
- ❖ New features include better representation of intermediation services, environmental and green economy activities, and digital economy services.
- ❖ NIC 2025 will guide statistical surveys, national accounts, policymaking, and economic research across India.

AI and Cloud Platforms for PDS



- ❖ New digital initiatives aim to modernize warehousing and enhance transparency in the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- ❖ Bhandara 360 is a cloud platform for real-time monitoring of food grain stocks.
- ❖ Smart EXIM Warehouse optimizes import-export and storage operations.
- ❖ Anna Darpan is an integrated cloud system for efficient tracking and management of PDS operations.
- ❖ ASHA is an AI solution to enhance predictive planning, reduce wastage, and improve delivery accuracy.
- ❖ Modern SILO facility at Malout, Gujarat enables bulk storage and efficient distribution of food grains.
- ❖ The initiatives are designed to reduce logistics costs, minimize turnover time, and improve coordination among stakeholders.

- ❖ The goal is to ensure subsidized food grains reach households efficiently, accurately, and with dignity.

First International Sahodaya Conference

- ❖ The first International and 31st Annual Conference of Sahodaya School Complexes was held in Dubai.
- ❖ The conference marking CBSE's first overseas Sahodaya event and guided by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ❖ Theme of the event is "Rooted in Wisdom, Rising with Vision: Reimagining Education through NEP 2020."
- ❖ Key objectives included fostering global partnerships, implementing NEP 2020, showcasing innovations in teaching, and promoting holistic education with critical thinking, creativity, and global citizenship.



Third Round (PLI 1.2) of Specialty Steel Scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of Steel launched the Third Round (PLI 1.2) of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel in New Delhi.
- ❖ The scheme was approved in July 2021 with a total outlay of ₹6,322 crore.
- ❖ Its aim is to make India a global hub for high-value and advanced steel production.

- ❖ The scheme encourages incremental production and investment in 22 specialty steel products.
- ❖ Some covered products are super alloys, stainless steel, titanium alloys, alloy forgings, CRGO, and coated steels.
- ❖ Incentive rates range from 4% to 15% for five years starting FY 2025–26, with payments starting FY 2026–27.

Steel PLI 1.2 to focus on advanced products; MSMEs also to benefit



2021 Tribunal Law – Supreme Court

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India struck down key provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021.
- ❖ The Act gave the Union Government excessive control over tribunal appointments, functioning, and salaries.
- ❖ The Court said the law undermined independence, impartiality, and effective adjudication, which are constitutional requirements.
- ❖ The Bench directed the Centre to establish a National Tribunal Commission within four months to ensure independence, transparency, and uniformity in tribunals.
- ❖ The 2021 Act was deemed a “repackaged version” of a struck-down 2021 ordinance, ignoring defects pointed out by the Court.
- ❖ The court also stated that Parliament cannot override Supreme Court judgments by merely repackaging invalid provisions.



- ❖ The 2021 Act had also abolished nine specialised tribunals, transferring their functions to High Courts and commercial courts, increasing their workload.

Re-enactment Of Struck Down Provisions Shows Form Of Administration Is Inconsistent With Spirit Of Constitution : Supreme Court On Tribunal Reforms Act

16th Presidential Reference 2025

- ❖ A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by CJI BR Gavai on 20th November 2025, answered the 16th Presidential Reference under Article 143.
- ❖ None of the five judges claimed authorship of the 111-page opinion, fashioning it as the ‘Opinion of the Court’.
- ❖ The Supreme Court’s opinion in its answer to the Presidential Reference “will have no impact on the April 8, 2025 judgment in the case of State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu.”
- ❖ A nine-judge Bench in Ahmedabad St. Xavier’s College Society v. State of Gujarat (1974) said “advisory opinion of the Court would have no more effect than the opinion of the law officers.
- ❖ The Supreme Court Bench tendering the advisory opinion “has reaffirmed” that the elected “government should be in the driver’s seat, and there cannot be two executive power centres in the State”.
- ❖ The opinion has also reaffirmed that the Governor cannot “indefinitely delay” acting on Bills



- ❖ In cases of prolonged, unexplained, and indefinite delay by the Governor in considering a Bill, States can approach the Constitutional Courts and hold Governors accountable for their deliberate inactions.
- ❖ The Supreme Court's opinion has again rejected the Tamil Nadu Governor's (a) theory of pocket veto, (b) assertion that Bills can be killed or buried by the Raj Bhavan.
- ❖ The SC has also empowered Constitutional courts to review their actions if they obstruct the passage of Bills indefinitely.
- ❖ And they cannot hide behind Article 361.
- ❖ The Bench also stated that limited judicial review is permissible in cases of prolonged inaction
- ❖ The Supreme Court clarified that governors and President are not bound by judicially prescribed timelines in the discharge of functions.
- ❖ Imposing timelines on the President and Governors to deal with all Bills pending with them for assent through judicial orders would be akin to taking a "one-size-fits-all" approach.
- ❖ It was especially in the absence of any constitutionally prescribed schedule or manner of exercise of powers by Governors or the President under Articles 200 and 201.
- ❖ The Reference Bench said the President need not consult the Supreme Court on every State Bill referred to her by Governors for consideration.
- ❖ It would be left to the discretion of the President to take the advice of the Supreme Court under Article 143.
- ❖ The Bench clarified that the courts had no power to review the merits of Bills.
- ❖ The usurpation of the gubernatorial function of the Governor, and similarly of the President's functions, is antithetical not only to the spirit of the Constitution, but also specifically, the doctrine of separation of powers
- ❖ The separation of powers is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution.
- ❖ It opines concept of 'deemed assent' is alien to the Constitution.
- ❖ At the same time, the court also clarified that the President and Governors cannot resort to prolonged and evasive inaction, by sitting endlessly on State Bills awaiting their approval.
- ❖ It clarified that a Governor has actually three options before him under Article 200:
 - To grant assent to the Bill
 - Reserve it for the consideration of the President

- Withhold assent and return the Bill to the State legislature with comments if it is not a Money Bill.
- ❖ A Governor cannot stall a Bill without returning it to the State Assembly along with his reasons for doing so.
- ❖ The court opined that a Governor was not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers while exercising his function under Article 200.

Article 143

- ❖ It empowers the President of India to seek the SC's advisory opinion on any question of law or fact that is of public importance and is likely to arise or has already arisen.
- ❖ This provision establishes the SC's advisory jurisdiction, which is exclusive to the President.
- ❖ But the Clause 2 of this Article allows the President to refer disputes from pre-Constitution treaties, agreements, sanads, etc.
- ❖ The above was excluded under Article 131 so the Court must opine.
- ❖ Article 131 empowers the Supreme Court to adjudicate Centre-State or inter-State disputes

Supreme Court's advisory opinion

Breaking down the court's response to **14 questions raised by the President** asking if a constitutional court can impose timelines for Governors and the President to give assent to Bills passed by legislatures

Governor's discretion under Article 200 ■ May assent to the Bill ■ May withhold assent, but must communicate reasons to the State legislature ■ May refer the Bill to the President for consideration under Article 201	Judicial limits ■ SC cannot impose timelines for assent or create a concept of 'deemed assent' under Article 142 President's role under Article 201 ■ When a Bill is referred, the President need not seek SC's advisory opinion under Article 143 every time	Governor's accountability ■ Governors cannot indefinitely sit on a Bill; if they do, limited judicial review applies ■ Courts can direct Governors to decide within a reasonable time frame, but not dictate the outcome
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ECONOMY NEWS

NaBFID to Global Infrastructure Bank

- ❖ The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) was established in 2021.
- ❖ It will be renamed as the Infrastructure Development Bank (IDB).

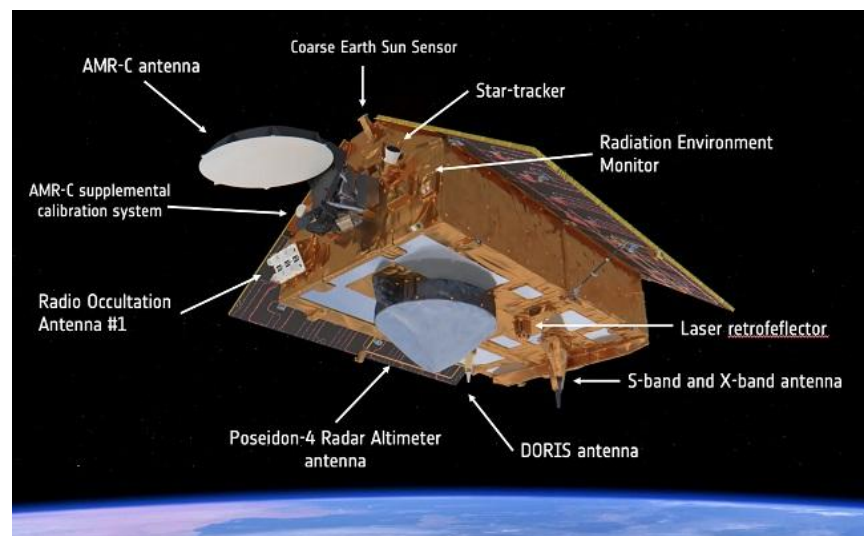
- ❖ It is 100% government-owned and classified as an All-India Financial Institution (AIFI) under the RBI Act, 1934.
- ❖ NaBFID's mandate includes long-term financing of infrastructure projects, refinancing existing infrastructure debt, and mobilising private investment.
- ❖ The repositioning aims to make it a global financial institution, engaging in cross-border infrastructure financing and raising international capital.
- ❖ Domestically, it strengthens India's infrastructure pipeline and long-term development strategy.

**National Bank
for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)**

It will facilitate mobilization of ₹ 111 lakh crore for funding National Infrastructure Pipeline (out of which ₹ 1,15,000 crore is allocated to projects under National Industrial Corridor Programme)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

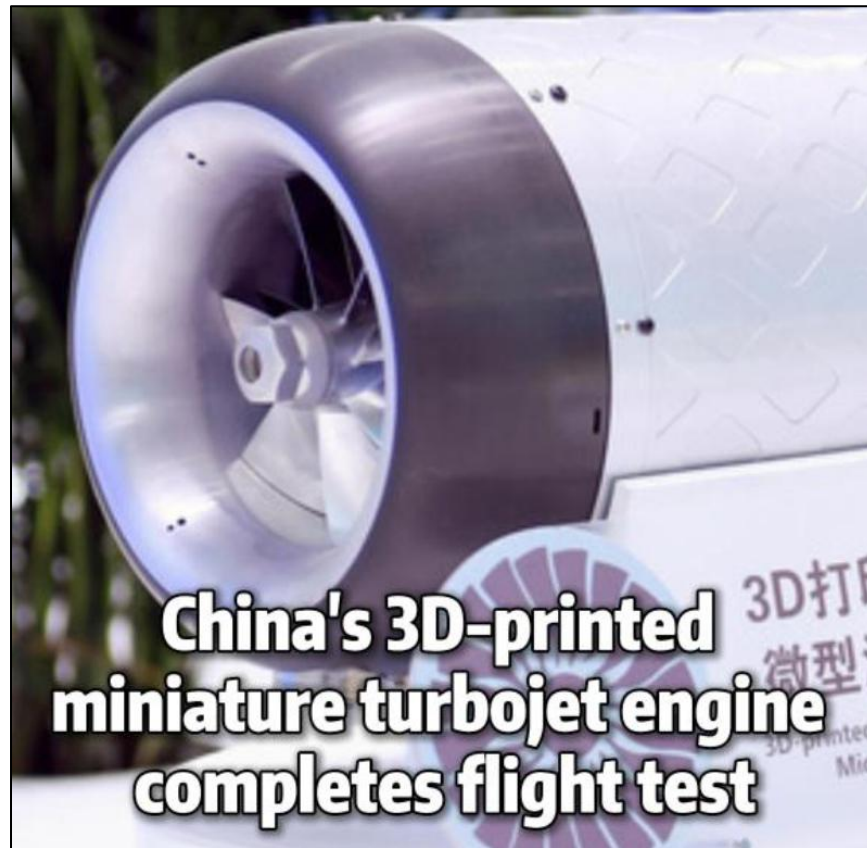
Sentinel-6B Satellite



- ❖ Sentinel-6B was launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, USA.
- ❖ It is an ocean-observing satellite with six science instruments to measure rising sea levels and ocean temperature.

- ❖ The satellite orbits the Earth at 7.2 km per second and completes one revolution every 112 minutes.
- ❖ Data from Sentinel-6B will improve the weather forecasts, storm and flood predictions, and protect coastal infrastructure.
- ❖ The mission is a joint project of NASA (USA), NOAA (USA), and the European Space Agency (ESA).

3D-Printed Turbojet Engine for Drones



- ❖ China successfully tested a 3D-printed turbojet engine on a drone.
- ❖ The engine produced around 160 kilograms (kg) of thrust.
- ❖ More than 75% of the engine parts were made using 3D printing.
- ❖ The drone reached a speed of Mach 0.75 and an altitude of 6,000 metres.
- ❖ The engine is meant for loitering munitions, unmanned aircraft, and target drones.

AI-Based Locking Monitoring System - DRISHTI

- ❖ Indian Railways is set to install an AI-powered system called DRISHTI to monitor freight wagon doors in real time.
- ❖ The system has been developed jointly by Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) and IIT Guwahati – Technology Innovation and Development Foundation (TIDF).
- ❖ DRISHTI can automatically detect the unlocked, open, or tampered wagon doors during transit.
- ❖ It uses AI cameras, sensors, computer vision, and machine learning algorithms for continuous monitoring.
- ❖ The system sends real-time alerts for any abnormalities without disrupting train operations.
- ❖ Its main aim is to enhance freight security, reduce manual inspections, and improve operational efficiency across Indian Railways.

**NFR, IIT Guwahati Unveil
AI-Based 'DRISHTI' System To
Monitor Wagon Door Locks**

AI Benchmark IndQA



- ❖ OpenAI launched IndQA, a benchmark to evaluate AI systems on Indian languages, culture, and communication patterns.

- ❖ Languages covered include Bengali, English, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, Telugu, Gujarati, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil, and Hinglish.
- ❖ IndQA focuses on topics such as Architecture & Design, Arts & Culture, Everyday Life, Food & Cuisine, History, Law & Ethics, Literature & Linguistics, Media & Entertainment, Religion & Spirituality, and Sports & Recreation.
- ❖ OpenAI uses IndQA to track AI performance on Indian languages and cultural topics, noting improvement over time but recognizing room for growth.

MantrAsana – Robotic Surgery System

- ❖ SS Innovations International, Inc., launched MantrAsana, the world's first portable robotic telesurgery system, developed entirely in India.
- ❖ MantrAsana is a compact, ergonomic telesurgery console that allows surgeons to perform complex surgeries remotely.
- ❖ The system uses magnetic sensor-based controls and lightweight 3D glasses for real-time precision operations.
- ❖ The console can be deployed in smaller healthcare facilities, giving patients access to expert surgeons even in rural or underserved areas.

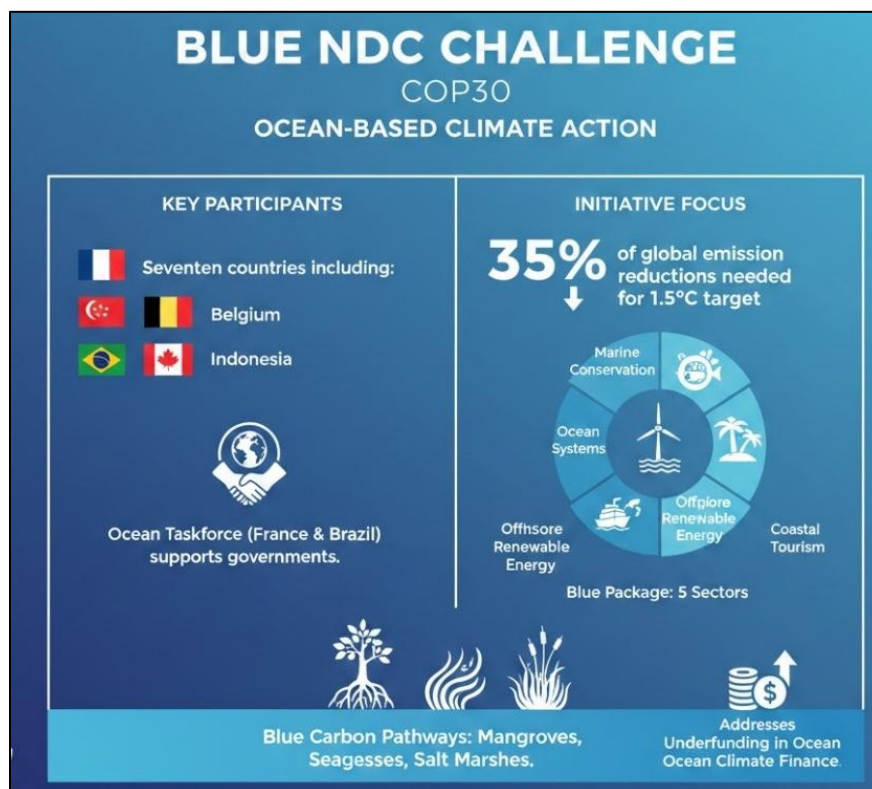


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Blue NDC Challenge

- ❖ Seventeen countries, including France, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Indonesia, and Singapore, joined the Blue (Nationally Determined Contributions) Challenge at COP30.

- ❖ The initiative promotes the ocean-based climate actions in national climate plans under the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ An Ocean Taskforce, supported by France and Brazil, helps the governments to integrate ocean solutions into 2030 climate targets.
- ❖ The Blue Package focuses on the five sectors: marine conservation, ocean food systems, offshore renewable energy, shipping decarbonisation, and coastal tourism.
- ❖ Oceans can deliver up to 35% of global emission reductions needed for the 1.5°C temperature target.
- ❖ The initiative promotes blue carbon pathways, including mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes, and addresses underfunding in ocean climate finance.



REPORTS AND INDICES

QS Sustainability Rankings 2026

- ❖ Lund University in Sweden has secured the first position globally, followed by the University of Toronto, Canada.
- ❖ No Indian institute ranked in the top 200 of QS World University Sustainability Rankings 2026.



- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) is the highest-ranked Indian institution at 205 globally, down from 171 last year.
- ❖ IIT Bombay is ranked 236, and IIT Kharagpur is also at 236, both lower than last year.
- ❖ Other top Indian institutions dropped too: IIT Madras (305), IIT Kanpur (310), and Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (462).

2026 Rank	Institution Name	Institution Location	Region	Subregion	Overall Score
1	Lund University	Sweden	Europe	Northern Europe	100
2	University of Toronto	Canada	Americas	Northern America	99.8
3	UCL	United Kingdom	Europe	Northern Europe	99
4	The University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom	Europe	Northern Europe	98.7
5	University of British Columbia	Canada	Americas	Northern America	98.6
6	The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)	United Kingdom	Europe	Northern Europe	98.5
=7	Imperial College London	United Kingdom	Europe	Northern Europe	98.2
=7	The University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney)	Australia	Oceania	Australia and New Zealand	98.2
9	McGill University	Canada	Americas	Northern America	98.1
10	The University of Manchester	United Kingdom	Europe	Northern Europe	98
=11	ETH Zurich	Switzerland	Europe	Western Europe	97.9
=11	University of California, Berkeley (UCB)	USA	Americas	Northern America	97.9
13	Stanford University	USA	Americas	Northern America	97.8
14	University of Oxford	United Kingdom	Europe	Northern Europe	97.7
15	The University of Sydney	Australia	Oceania	Australia and New Zealand	97.3

Global Passport Rankings 2025



COUNTRY	SCORE
1. SINGAPORE	193
2. SOUTH KOREA	190
3. JAPAN	189
4. GERMANY	188
5. ITALY	188
6. LUXLEMBURG	188
7. SWITZERLAND	188
8. SPAIN	188
9. AUSTRIA	187
10. BELGIUM	187

US DROPS OUT OF TOP 10!

- ❖ Singapore has the strongest passport in 2025, with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 193 destinations.
- ❖ South Korea ranks second with access to 190 destinations, and Japan is third with 189 destinations.
- ❖ 13 European countries share fourth place with access to 187 destinations.
- ❖ Mid-tier European nations like Austria, Greece, Norway, Portugal, and Sweden allow travel to 186 destinations.
- ❖ India has moved up to the 80th position with access to 62 countries.
- ❖ Passport strength is measured by the number of countries citizens can enter without a visa or with visa-on-arrival.

ICA Global Rankings 2025



- ❖ India's IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited) and Amul (Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation) were ranked among the top cooperatives globally in the ICA Global Rankings 2025.
- ❖ The ranking was released by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) World Cooperative Monitor 2025 at the ICA CM50 Conference in Doha, Qatar.
- ❖ Amul's dairy network has improved the livelihoods of millions of farmers and demonstrates India's strength in food security and agribusiness.
- ❖ IFFCO empowers millions of farmers through sustainable fertiliser production, digital platforms, and environmental stewardship.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Naturopathy Day 2025 - November 18

- ❖ The day marks 18th November 1945, when MK Gandhi became the Lifetime Chairman of the All-India Nature Cure Foundation Trust.
- ❖ The National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune, observes this day with nationwide programs promoting Naturopathy.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Ni-Sar-Gam – Healing & Wellness Festival 2025."



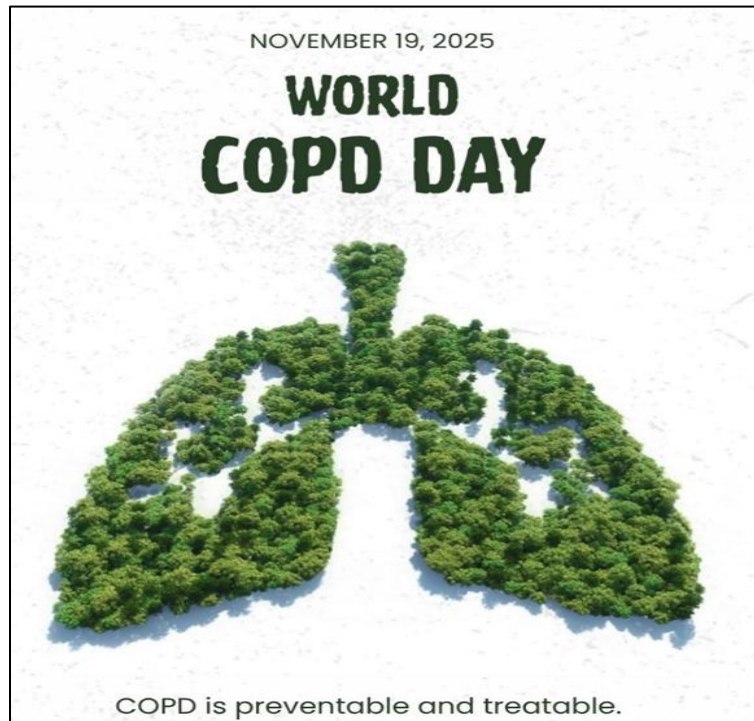
World Toilet Day 2025 - November 19



- ❖ The day aims to promote sanitation, hygiene, dignity, and environmental care.
- ❖ The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organized events including the 3-day World Toilet Summit with Sulabh International and the World Toilet Organization.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Sanitation: Collective Responsibility for Dignity and Planet.”
- ❖ It was first recognized globally by the United Nations in 2001.
- ❖ UN-Water is the official convener of World Toilet Day.

- ❖ Prior to that, World Toilet Day had been established unofficially by the World Toilet Organization (a Singapore-based NGO) in 2001.

World COPD Day 2025 - November 19



- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness, share knowledge, and reduce the global burden of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).
- ❖ It was first observed in 2002.
- ❖ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a long-term lung condition caused by lung damage that makes breathing difficult.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Short of Breath, Think COPD".

