

October - 02

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Oil India Ltd has discovered natural gas in the Offshore Andaman Block, with preliminary tests showing intermittent gas inflow containing 87% methane.
- ❖ Senior advocate R. Venkataramani has been re-appointed as Attorney General of India for two more years, effective October 1, 2025.
- ❖ India won its seventh South Asian Football Federation Under-17 (SAFF U-17) Championship title in Colombo (Sri Lanka) at the Racecourse International Stadium.
- ❖ India's first Integrative Oncology Research and Care Centre was inaugurated at the All-India Institute of Ayurveda in Dhargal, Goa.
- ❖ India launched its first fully indigenous 4G network with 5G-ready architecture developed by C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics).
- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways opened the Indian Ship Technology Centre (ISTC) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
  - ISTC promotes indigenous ship design, research, and skill development while providing consultancy, training, and policy support as a single-window service.
- ❖ India is hosting the 12th World Para Athletics Championships 2025 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.
  - The World Para Athletics Championships is the second-largest para-sport event after the Paralympic Games and marks the first time India is hosting it.
- ❖ The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved Shirish Chandra Murmu, Executive Director of RBI, as Deputy Governor for three years.
  - The RBI currently has four Deputy Governors: M. Rajeshwar Rao, T. Rabi Shankar, Swaminathan J., and Poonam Gupta.
- ❖ The Indian Army marks the 199<sup>th</sup> Gunners Day on 28th September.
  - It is commemorating the raising of the Regiment of Artillery as unit-5 (Bombay) Mountain Battery in 1827.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Central Tissue Bank

- ❖ India's first Central Tissue Bank was launched at the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences (MAIDS) in Delhi.

- ❖ It will provide tissue and bone grafts directly to patients, removing the need to buy these from external sources.
- ❖ Alongside, the Delhi Dental Council (DDC) launched a cashless "V-Office", making it the first state dental council to implement a virtual office system.



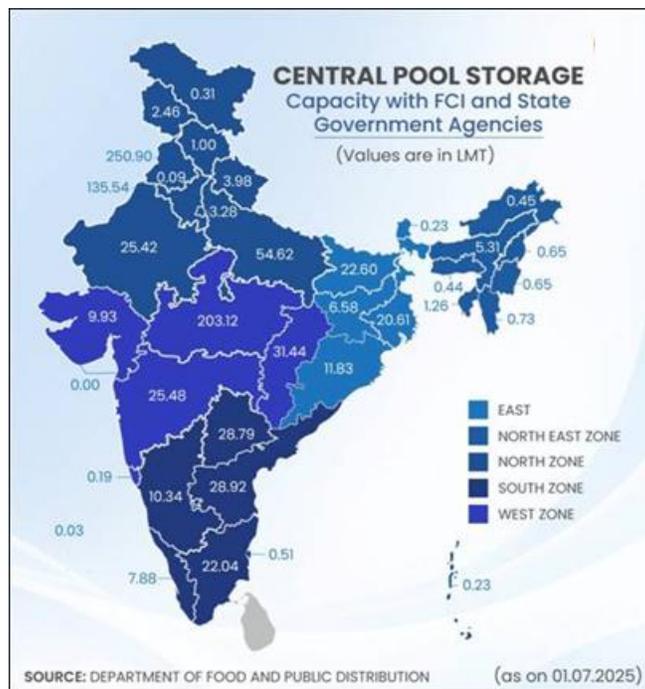
### Swachh Shehar Jodi Mentorship Initiative



- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Swachh Shehar Jodi initiative.
- ❖ It pairs 72 mentor cities with around 200 mentee cities to replicate best practices in urban sanitation and waste management.
- ❖ The initiative is part of the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban and is supported through a structured 100-day mentorship programme.
- ❖ The programme will be evaluated in Swachh Survekshan 2026 and aims to ensure city-level improvements through peer learning and collaboration.

## Foodgrain production in 2024-2025

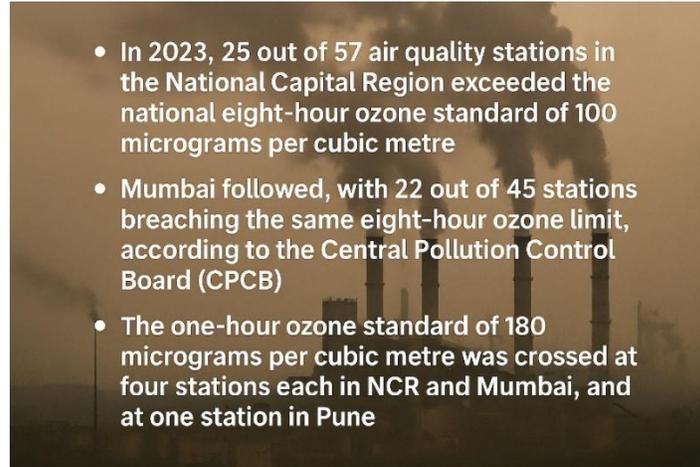
- ❖ As per third advance estimates, India achieved record foodgrain production of 353.96 million tonnes in 2024-25.
- ❖ Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies hold 917.83 LMT Covered and CAP Storage Capacity for central pool grains.
- ❖ 8,815 cold storages with 40.21 million MT capacity preserve perishables nationwide.
- ❖ Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) decentralised storage is expanding, with 5,937 new PACS registered and 73,492 computerized by June 2025.



## India's Ozone Pollution

- ❖ In 2023, 25 out of 57 air quality stations in the National Capital Region exceeded the national eight-hour ozone standard of 100 micrograms per cubic metre.
- ❖ Mumbai followed, with 22 out of 45 stations breaching the same eight-hour ozone limit, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- ❖ The one-hour ozone standard of 180 micrograms per cubic metre was crossed at four stations each in NCR and Mumbai, and at one station in Pune.
- ❖ CPCB attributed high ozone levels to emissions from transport, industries, power plants, and secondary pollutants formed from volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>).

- ❖ Residential and agricultural emissions of carbon monoxide (CO) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) also contribute to ground-level ozone formation.
- ❖ From April to July 2024, 21 of 57 stations in NCR exceeded the safe one-hour ozone limit.
- ❖ No stations in Mumbai crossed this limit.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 69th IAEA General Conference 2025



- ❖ The 69th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference was held in Vienna, Austria.
- ❖ The General Conference elected 11 countries to serve on the 35-member IAEA Board of Governors for the 2025–2027 period.
- ❖ The General Conference and Board of Governors are the two IAEA policy making bodies.

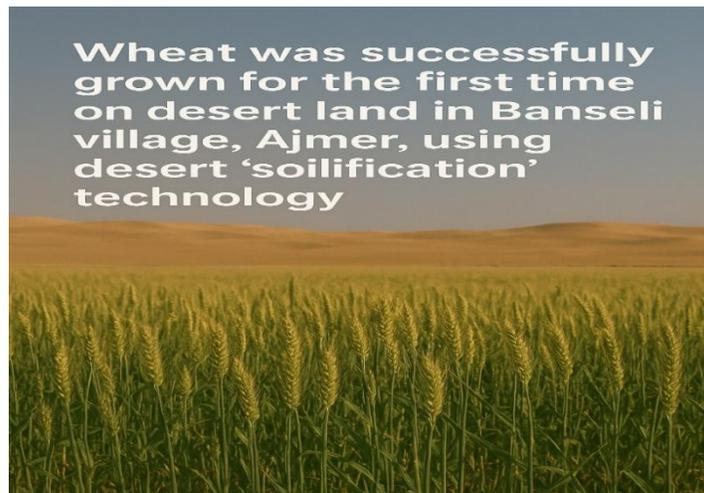
## Central American Integration System

- ❖ The India-Central American Integration System (SICA) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in New York to discuss deepening cooperation.
- ❖ India offered its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as a low-cost, efficient digital payment system for enhancing payment ecosystems in SICA economies.
- ❖ Over half of the world's cashless payments take place in India using UPI.
- ❖ The meeting emphasized commitment to South-South cooperation, addressing shared challenges such as development, poverty alleviation, and climate change.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

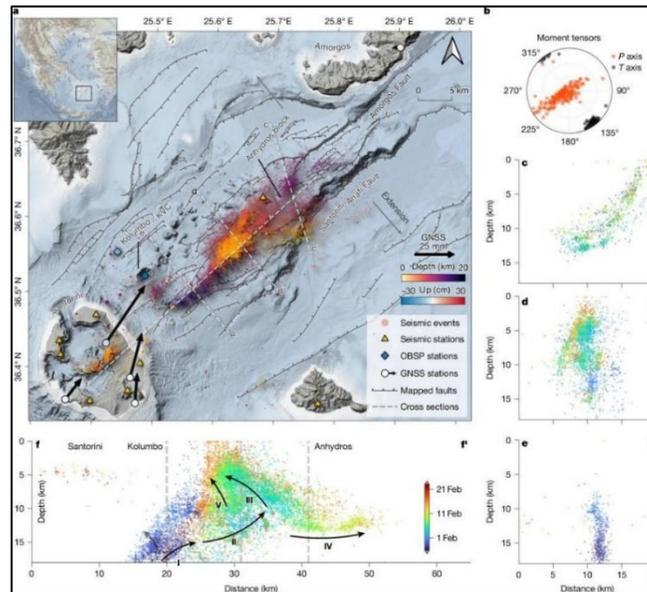
### Desert Farming



- ❖ Wheat was successfully grown for the first time on desert land in Banseli village, Ajmer, using desert 'soilification' technology.

- ❖ Researchers at Central University of Rajasthan (CUoR) modified desert sand into fertile soil using polymers.
- ❖ The wheat crop yielded 26 kg per 100 sq. metres with just three irrigation cycles.
- ❖ In a second phase, bajra, guar gum, and chickpea were tested in bio-treated sand from Jaisalmer, resulting in a 54% higher yield.

## Underground Link of Volcanoes

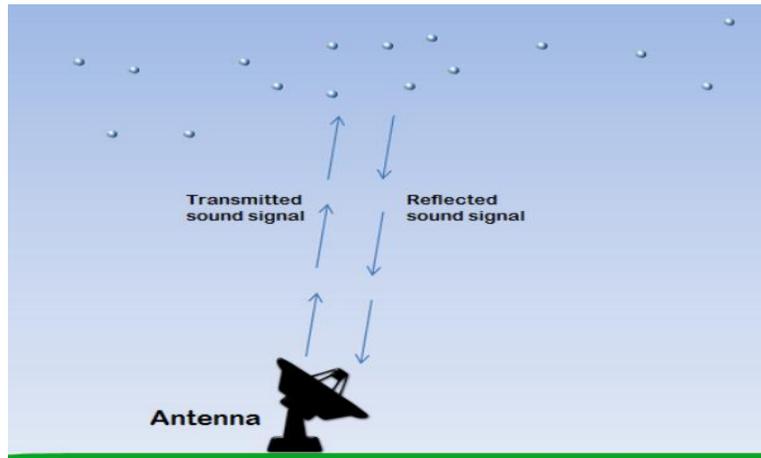


- ❖ A swarm of over 1,200 earthquakes in early 2025 revealed a shared magma source between Santorini Island and the nearby Kolumbo submarine volcano, located in Greece.
- ❖ Seismic and GPS data showed that both volcanoes experienced surface deflation.
- ❖ It was suggesting that the magma moved from a deep reservoir beneath the Aegean volcanic arc in Greece, feeding both systems.
- ❖ Santorini began swelling in July 2024, indicating magma buildup, followed by a migration of earthquake activity in January 2025.
- ❖ This is the first confirmed magmatic connection between the two volcanoes.

## SODAR system

- ❖ CSIR-AMPRI (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute) designed and developed a SODAR (Sound Detection and Ranging) system facility.
- ❖ The facility was inaugurated at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Delhi.

- ❖ SODAR system data will be shared for better weather forecasting and climate studies.



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Rare lizard species - Kerala

- ❖ For the first time, recorded the presence of Beddome's cat skink (*Ristella beddomii*) at the Aralam and Kottiyoor Wildlife sanctuaries.
- ❖ The survey also reconfirmed the presence of the Kottiyoor Day Gecko (*Cnemaspis kottiyorensis*) after decades of being unreported.
- ❖ It is a critically endangered species earlier discovered in 2014.
- ❖ Six previously unrecorded agamid lizards, four skinks and five geckos were documented recently.



## Dragonfly Survey in Delhi



- ❖ Delhi is known to host about 51 species of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies).
- ❖ A 54% increase has been registered — from 8,630 last year to 13,253 so far this year.
- ❖ At the Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Yellow-tailed Ashy Skimmer (*Potamarcha* congener) has been recorded for the first time.
- ❖ Kalindi and Kamla Nehru Ridge together accounted for more than half of the citywide count.
- ❖ Kamla Nehru Ridge led the citywide tally with 3,935 individuals and 26 species.
- ❖ It is followed by Kalindi (3,682 individuals and 20 species) and Aravalli (2,249 individuals and 16 species).
- ❖ Dragonflies and damselflies are bioindicators or species whose presence tracks wetland health.

## New Wetlands in Bihar



- ❖ Gokul Jalashay (Buxar) and Udaipur Jheel (West Champaran) in Bihar have been added to the Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance.
- ❖ With these additions, India now has 93 Ramsar sites, making it 1st in Asia and 3rd globally after the UK (176) and Mexico (144).
- ❖ Both are oxbow lakes that support rich biodiversity, aid in flood control, and provide livelihood through fishing, farming, and irrigation.
- ❖ Udaipur Jheel hosts 280+ plant species and 35 migratory bird species, including the vulnerable common pochard; Gokul Jalashay acts as a flood buffer.

### India's First Adult Born Cheetah

- ❖ Mukhi, an India-born female cheetah, will become the first to reach adulthood at Kuno National Park.
- ❖ Project Cheetah began in September 2022 with the release of eight Namibian cheetahs.
- ❖ India currently hosts 27 cheetahs, including 16 born in the country.
- ❖ Kuno's cub survival rate is over 61%, above the global average of 40%.



### India's Cold Desert Reserve

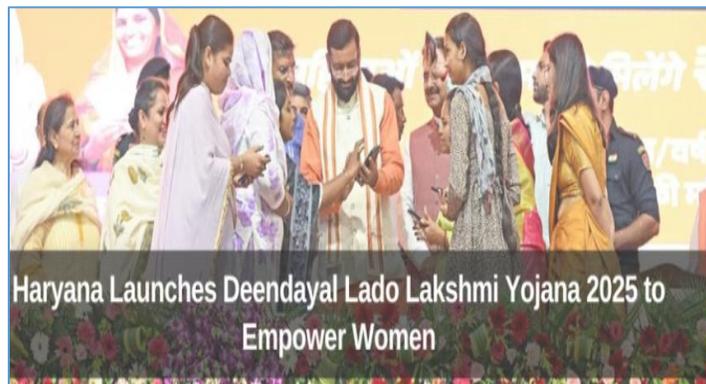
- ❖ The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in Himachal Pradesh was added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- ❖ It is located in the Lahaul-Spiti district, spanning around 7,770 sq. km. across alpine deserts, glacial valleys, and high-altitude plateaus.

- ❖ It is India's 13th biosphere reserve listed by UNESCO and one of the coldest, driest ecosystems in the network.
- ❖ The reserve includes rare flora like Himalayan birch and fauna such as the snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, and golden eagle.
- ❖ UNESCO's global network now includes 785 biosphere sites across 142 countries, covering 5% of Earth's land area.



## STATES' NEWS

### Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana 2025



- ❖ The Haryana government launched Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana 2025.
- ❖ It will provide ₹2,100 per month to eligible women through direct bank transfer.
- ❖ Women can apply online using the official Lado Lakshmi Yojana mobile app.
- ❖ Eligibility is fixed as Women aged 23–60 years, with family income below ₹1 lakh, and a minimum of 15 years of Haryana residency.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### M.S. Swaminathan Award 2025

- ❖ The 31st edition of the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environmental Protection was presented in Chennai.
- ❖ Sahaja Samrudha from Mysuru received the award for conserving traditional paddy varieties and millets through community-based biodiversity initiatives.
- ❖ Veerappan, a Irular fisherman from Kalaingar Nagar, was honoured for his efforts in mud crab propagation and training students in sustainable aquaculture.



### The Hindu Businessline Award 2025



- ❖ DRDO won the Changemaker of the Year Award at The Hindu Businessline event held in Mumbai.
- ❖ The award was given for DRDO's strategic technology contributions during Operation Sindoor in securing India's borders.

- ❖ The Digital Transformation Award went to Bhashini, a government AI-based translation platform handling 20 million daily requests.
- ❖ The Iconic Changemaker Award was given to the Azim Premji Foundation for its work in education and healthcare with over 1,300 partners.

## SPORTS NEWS

### Mascots for the 2026 FIFA World Cup



- ❖ FIFA unveiled three official mascots for the 2026 World Cup, reflecting the tournament's tri-nation format.
- ❖ Maple the Moose represents Canada, Zayu the Jaguar represents Mexico, and Clutch the Bald Eagle represents the United States.
- ❖ This is the first time multiple mascots have been introduced for a FIFA World Cup, replacing the single-mascot tradition.
- ❖ Eight World Cup matches, including a semifinal on July 15, 2026, will be hosted in Atlanta at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

