

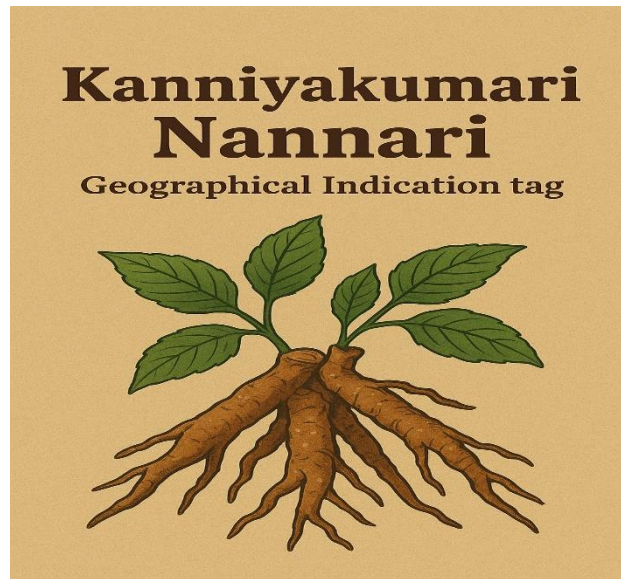
October - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the two-kilometre J. Anbazhagan Flyover in T. Nagar, the longest in Chennai.
- ❖ The third edition of the Unmesha International Literature Festival was held in Patna, Bihar.
- ❖ The Indian Navy conducted the joint exercise 'Jal Prahar 2025' with the Indian Army at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) and UNICEF launched the "Promise to Children" campaign during the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Kanniyakumari Nannari



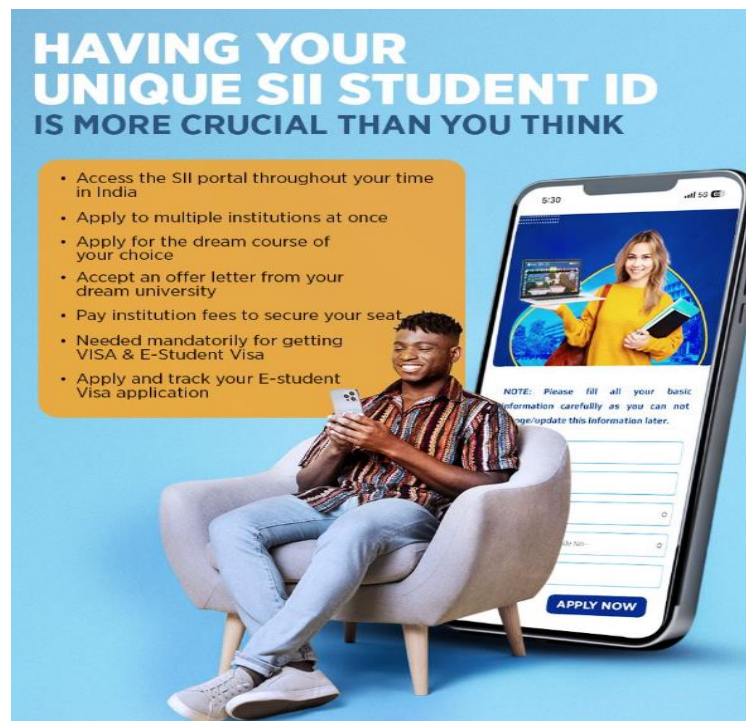
- ❖ Kanniyakumari Nannari has been proposed for a Geographical Indication tag.
- ❖ Kanniyakumari district is known for Nannari, a herb valued for its cooling properties and traditional use for treating mouth ulcers.
- ❖ The root of this Nannari is thicker, more aromatic, and deeper in colour than regular Nannari and is sun-dried, cleaned, and stored for medicinal and culinary use.

- ❖ The Kani tribe of the Southern Western Ghats has traditionally used *Hemidesmus indicus* in Siddha and Ayurvedic medicine as a blood purifier, body coolant, and digestive aid.

NATIONAL NEWS

Study in India (SII) portal

- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has made it mandatory for all foreign students studying in India to register on the Study in India (SII) portal from the academic year 2025–26.
- ❖ The Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) admitting foreign students must also register on the SII portal without exception.
- ❖ Study visas for foreign students will now be directly linked to the SII portal as per UGC instructions.
- ❖ Until now, there was no centralised tracking system for foreign students in India, causing issues in monitoring visa status and overstaying cases.



India-EFTA TEPA Agreement

- ❖ The India–European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) come into force on 01 October 2025.

- ❖ TEPA commits to USD 100 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) and 1 million direct jobs in India over the next 15 years.
- ❖ EFTA will eliminate tariffs on 99.6% of India's exports, including 100% of non-agricultural products and key processed food items.
- ❖ India has opened 82.7% of its tariff lines covering 95.3% of EFTA exports, mainly gold, with no change in duty on gold.
- ❖ TEPA facilitates Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) in professional services like nursing, accountancy, and architecture.



India's Dairy Sector status

- ❖ India remains the world's top milk producer, contributing about 25 per cent of the global milk supply.
- ❖ Milk output grew by 63.56 per cent in 10 years, from 146.3 to 239.3 million tonnes by 2023–24.
- ❖ Per capita milk availability rose by 48 per cent to 471 grams per day, above the global average.
- ❖ Dairy forms 5 per cent of India's GDP (gross domestic product), employing over 8 crore farmers.
- ❖ Shreeja Milk Producer Organisation won the Dairy Innovation Award in Chicago for women's empowerment.
- ❖ In 2024–25, 565.55 lakh artificial inseminations (AI) were carried out nationwide.
- ❖ India has 22 milk federations, 241 district unions, and 25 milk producer organisations.
- ❖ White Revolution 2.0 targets 75,000 new cooperatives and upgrading 46,422 existing ones by 2028–29.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

FAO Conference 2025



- ❖ India participated in the 2nd Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome, Italy.

- ❖ India is the first vice chair of the FAO Sub-Committee on Livestock and maintains an 80-year partnership with the FAO.
- ❖ The livestock sector contributes 31% to agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA) and 5.5% to the national economy.
- ❖ India's livestock sector recorded a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12.77% in recent years.
- ❖ The Bharat Pashudhan (National Digital Livestock Mission) has registered 353 million animals and 94 million livestock owners.
- ❖ Over 70% of the dairy workforce in India consists of women, enabled by cooperative models.

Gaza peace plan

WHAT'S IN TRUMP'S 20-POINT PLAN IN GAZA?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gaza will be governed by a temporary technocrat gov't and Israel will not annex the Strip.• No Palestinians will be forced to leave Gaza. The Strip will be rebuilt.• If the plan is accepted by both sides, the war will end immediately, with all captives alive and dead returned within 72 hours.• Israel will release 250 life sentence prisoners and 1,700 Palestinians from Gaza who were detained after October 7, 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During this time, all military operations will be suspended in preparation for a complete staged withdrawal of Israeli forces.• Hamas members who commit to peace will receive amnesty while others will be provided safe passage to receiving countries.• Regional and international forces will provide security and train Palestinian police. Aid will flow into Gaza at agreed levels.• The US will facilitate dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis for coexistence.

- ❖ Donald Trump released a 20-point proposal, calling for an immediate ceasefire and the return of all hostages within 72 hours.
- ❖ The plan includes Israeli withdrawal, amnesty for disarmed Hamas members, and transfer of Gaza governance to a technocratic committee.
- ❖ A transitional governance committee will manage Gaza, overseen by an international "Board of Peace" led by Trump.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

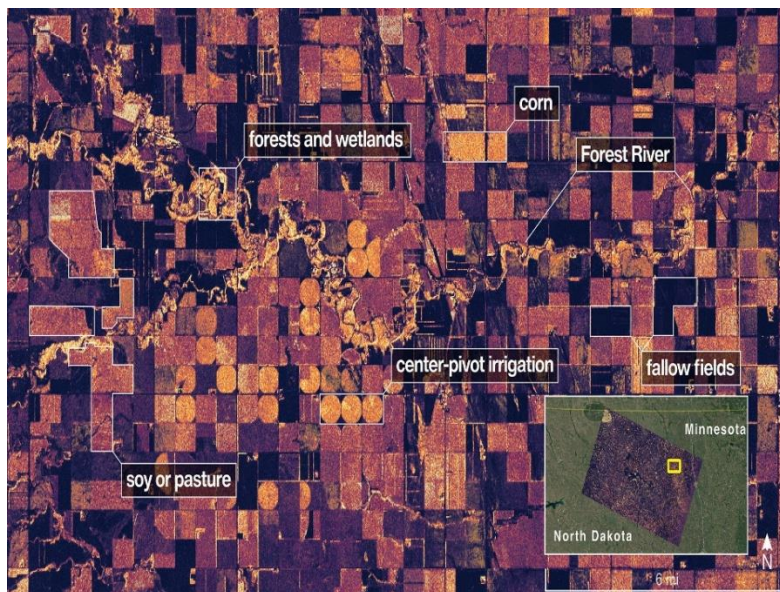
Vaccine against IBR

- ❖ India's first indigenously developed glycoprotein E (gE) deleted DIVA marker vaccine against infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) was launched recently.

- ❖ The vaccine named Raksha-IBR will address infertility, abortions and reduced milk productivity linked to the disease.
- ❖ IBR is endemic in India and caused by Bovine Herpes Virus (BHV-1).
- ❖ The disease is transmitted through the aerosol route and affects the reproductive systems.
- ❖ It is also transmitted by semen from bulls to milch animals.
- ❖ Infertility, abortions and lower milk productivity are some of the major impacts of the disease.
- ❖ There is no vaccine available in India, and there is no specific treatment against this disease thus far.



First Radar Images of Earth



- ❖ NASA and ISRO's joint NISAR satellite was launched from Sriharikota, India.

- ❖ First radar images captured in August show Maine's Mount Desert Island and farmland in North Dakota.
- ❖ NASA's L-band radar detected forests, buildings, and crop fields; ISRO's S-band radar will observe vegetation.
- ❖ The satellite reached its 464-mile orbit in September and will begin full science operations in November 2025.

Drone-Mounted Radar Systems

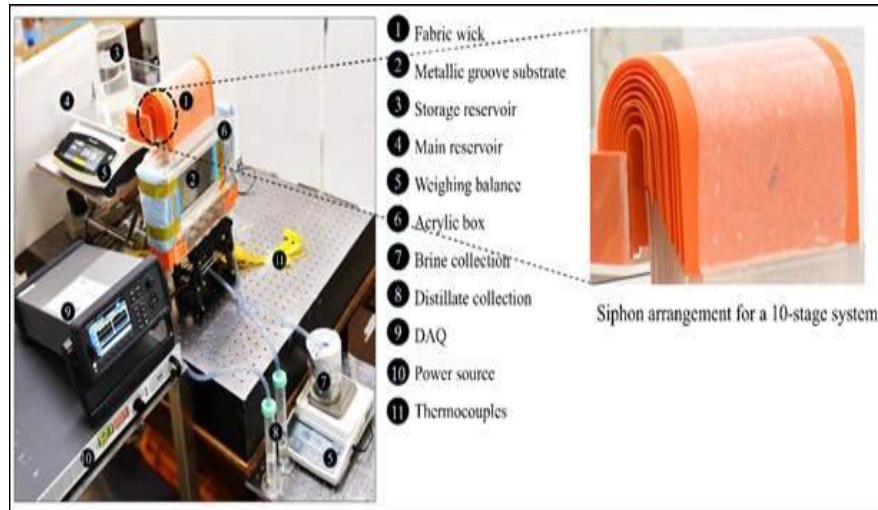


- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF) is developing radar-mounted drones in collaboration with ISRO for border surveillance.
- ❖ These drones will monitor India's western and eastern frontiers without crossing the international border.
- ❖ The BSF will manufacture these drones at its Tekanpur Academy located in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Radar-equipped drones will help detect movement of intruders, small vehicles, or smuggling attempts in real time.

Siphon Desalination

- ❖ The Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) developed a siphon-based thermal desalination system using fabric wicks and metal surfaces.

- ❖ The system avoids salt buildup by flushing brine continuously, solving the main problem of traditional solar stills.
- ❖ The setup recycles heat across multiple stages, increasing water output using only solar or waste heat.
- ❖ Made from low-cost materials like aluminium and cloth, it works even with very salty water (up to 20% salt).



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New coffee plant species



- ❖ A new coffee plant species was found in the Western Ghats.



- ❖ The species, *Ophiorrhiza echinata*, has not previously been reported in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ It was discovered in the biodiversity-rich shola forests at Devikulam in Idukki.
- ❖ It belongs to the family Rubiaceae and is closely related to the genus *Ophiorrhiza mungos*.
- ❖ There are over 100 coffee plant species, of which more than 10 species are found in the Western Ghats.

Red Sanders Conservation

THE COST AND THE CRIME

PRECIOUS COMMODITY

- Red Sanders — *Pterocarpus santalinus* — is a tree species native to Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nellore & Prakasam districts
- The tree is on the endangered species list. Extraction of live trees is prohibited
- The brick red wood has immense value in countries like Japan, China and Myanmar where it is also used to make expensive furniture and musical instruments
- Smuggled wood is sent by land route through the Northeast states to Myanmar and by sea route to Singapore and Dubai
- In a recent auction, one tonne of

A-grade logs were sold for ₹1.9 crore. Most of the wood is of B-and C-grades, valued at ₹55 lakh and ₹25 lakh, respectively

- In November 2014, AP earned ₹900 crore by auctioning 2,600 tonne of seized wood
- Bidders from China, Hong Kong, Singapore & Japan took part. Yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Yogpeeth also bought the wood, for 'medicinal purposes'
- Second batch auctioning of 3,500 tonne planned for June 17.

WELL-OILED NETWORK

- The smuggling racket operates from forest villages to international markets
- An order placed from abroad is

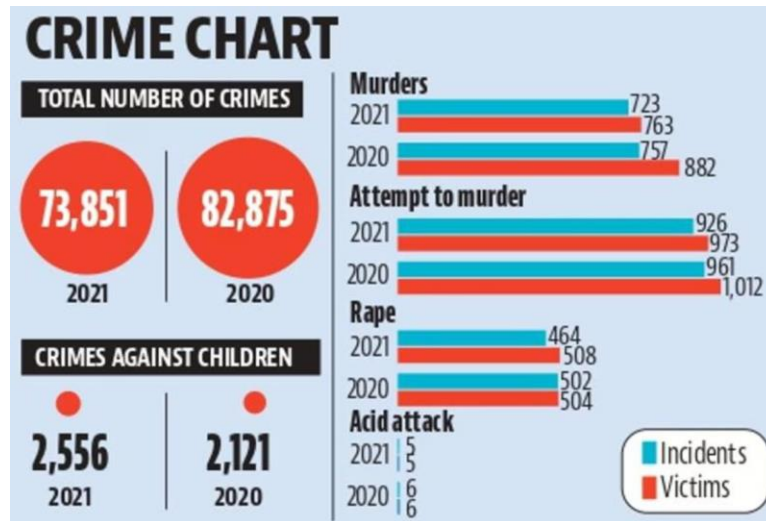
communicated through middlemen to the local operator, who then calls the foreman who supplies the wood-cutters from TN

- Labourers are brought in trains or buses and, in the dark of the night, walk long distances to the heart of the forests where the trees are found
- Lower level forest officials guide them to the right patches
- The logs are chipped, cured and then loaded onto vehicles, concealed in rice husk, watermelons, oil tankers and even ambulances
- Red sanders smuggling involves various independent gangs. Often, it's the turf war that leads to a leak in information and the busting of a network.

- ❖ The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has sanctioned ₹82 lakh to the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board for Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) conservation.
- ❖ The funds will be used to raise 1 lakh saplings of Red Sanders, which will be distributed to farmers under the Trees Outside Forests (ToF) programme.
- ❖ Red Sanders is endemic to the Southern Eastern Ghats, especially in Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa, and Kurnool.
- ❖ It is listed under Appendix II under CITES and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Crimes against Children

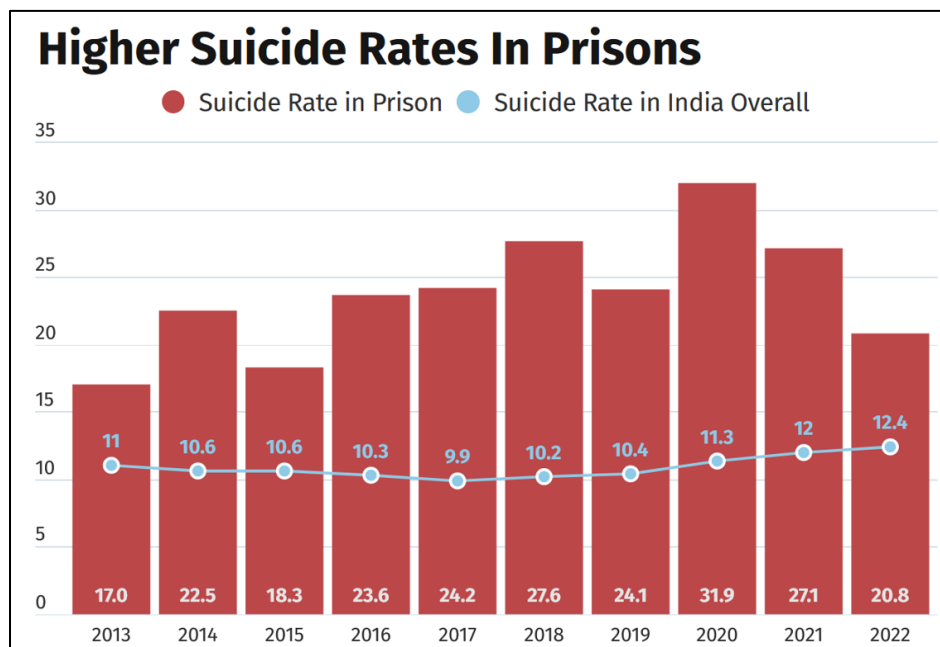


- ❖ The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported that 1,77,335 cases of crimes against children were registered in 2023.
- ❖ It was marking a 9.2% rise from 1,62,449 in 2022.
- ❖ The national crime rate against children increased to 39.9 per one lakh child population in 2023, up from 36.6 in 2022.
- ❖ Kidnapping and abduction made up 45% of the cases (79,884).
- ❖ Offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act accounted for 38.2% (67,694).
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh (22,393 cases), Maharashtra (22,390), and Uttar Pradesh (18,852) reported the highest case volumes.
- ❖ Assam had the highest rate at 84.2 per one lakh children.
- ❖ Delhi reported 7,769 cases with a high crime rate of 140.3, while the Andaman and Nicobar Islands had the highest rate at 143.4 per one lakh.
- ❖ The overall national charge-sheeting rate was 64.3%, with Tamil Nadu (93.7%) and Andhra Pradesh (91.3%) leading, and Delhi (31.7%) and Haryana (39.6%) on the lower end.

Prison Statistics India (PSI) 2023 Report

- ❖ The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released Prison Statistics India 2023.
- ❖ It was showing India's prison population dropped from 5,73,220 in 2022 to 5,30,333 in 2023.

- ❖ Despite the decline, the national average occupancy rate remained high at 120.8%.
- ❖ Delhi recorded the highest at 200% and Telangana recorded the lowest at 72.8%.
- ❖ India had 1,332 prisons housing 5.3 lakh inmates by December 2023, with undertrials making up 73.5% of all prisoners (3.84 lakh).
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh held the most undertrials (around 73,000).
- ❖ It is followed by Bihar (46,000+) and Maharashtra (32,000+); most were lodged in district and central jails.
- ❖ Delhi's 10,026-capacity jails held 20,077 inmates, while UP's jails housed 98,849 inmates against a capacity of 65,866.
- ❖ A total of 1,972 deaths were recorded in prisons—1,787 natural and 150 unnatural.
- ❖ Suicides accounted for 96 deaths, mainly through hanging.
- ❖ Punjab reported the highest number of unnatural deaths.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh had the most inmates on death row, with 145 sentenced in 2023.



STATES' NEWS

Bathukamma Festival 2025

- ❖ Bathukamma, a floral festival celebrated mainly by women, has been declared the official State Festival of Telangana.

- ❖ It is observed for nine days during Durga Navratri, starting on Bhadrapada Amavasya (Mahalaya Amavasya) and ending on Saddula Bathukamma (Ashwayuja Ashtami), typically falling in September–October.
- ❖ The festival follows Boddemma (marking the end of monsoon) and signals the beginning of Sharad Ruthu (autumn), blending seasonal change with traditional rituals.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Deaf Day 2025 - September 28

World Deaf Day, observed on September 28 this year, aims to raise awareness about hearing loss and the Deaf community. It highlights their rights, culture, and the importance of sign language, while advocating for inclusion and equal opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals worldwide.



- ❖ World Deaf Day was first celebrated in 1958 by the World Federation of the Deaf to mark the achievements and rights of deaf people.



- ❖ It is observed on the last Sunday of September to coincide with the International Week of the Deaf.
- ❖ The 2025 theme is “Set the basis for the future: together we can innovate, inspire and impact!”.

