

October - 11

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site of TN

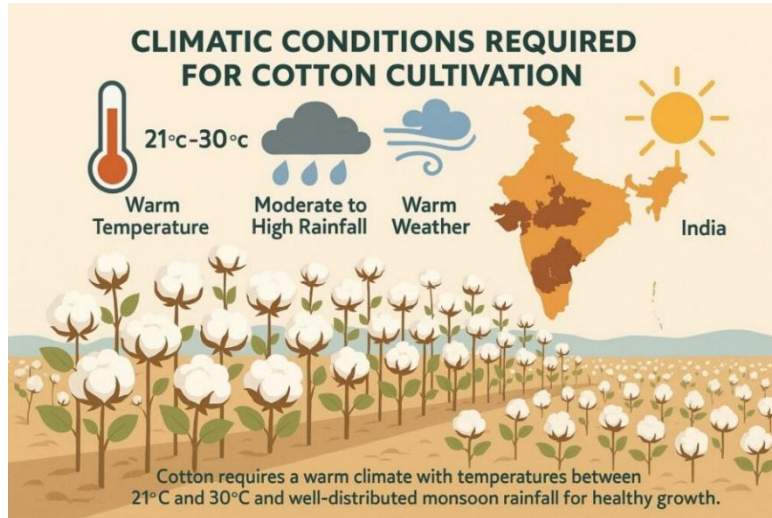


- ❖ Nagamalai hillock in Erode district has been notified as Tamil Nadu's fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site.
- ❖ It is designated under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- ❖ The site spans 32.22 hectares and supports diverse habitats, including deep waters, shallow margins, mudflats, and rocky outcrops.
- ❖ The site holds archaeological significance with Iron Age cairn circles, ancient rock shelters, and a 400-year-old stone carving of Lord Anjaneya.
- ❖ The other three Biodiversity Heritage Sites in Tamil Nadu are Arittapatti in Madurai, Kasampatty in Dindigul, and Elathur Lake in Erode.

Cotton Cultivation decline

- ❖ The area under cotton cultivation in Tamil Nadu, especially in the delta region, is expected to decline this year.
- ❖ Farmers who harvested cotton in July (aadi pattam) received only last year's minimum support price (MSP).
- ❖ The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has not procured cotton in Tamil Nadu since 2019 under the MSP scheme.

- ❖ In Andhra Pradesh, the state government provides transport support, but no such support exists in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ There are at least 15,000 cotton growers in the delta region with average land holdings of three to four acres.



Low-Altitude Economy Hub



- ❖ Tamil Nadu is preparing an infrastructure roadmap to become India's hub for the low-altitude economy (LAE) focused on drones and advanced air mobility.
- ❖ LAE covers aerial operations up to 3,000 metres.
- ❖ It includes manned and unmanned systems powered by evolving drone technologies.



- ❖ The state has set up India's first drone testing centre at SIPCOT Vallam Vadagal.
- ❖ It is also developing BVLOS (beyond visual line of sight) facilities at Chettinad Airport.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu will unveil its master plan at the LAE Forum 2025, detailing vertiports, drone corridors, training pipelines, and regulatory frameworks.

NATIONAL NEWS

India's Clean Energy Growth 2025

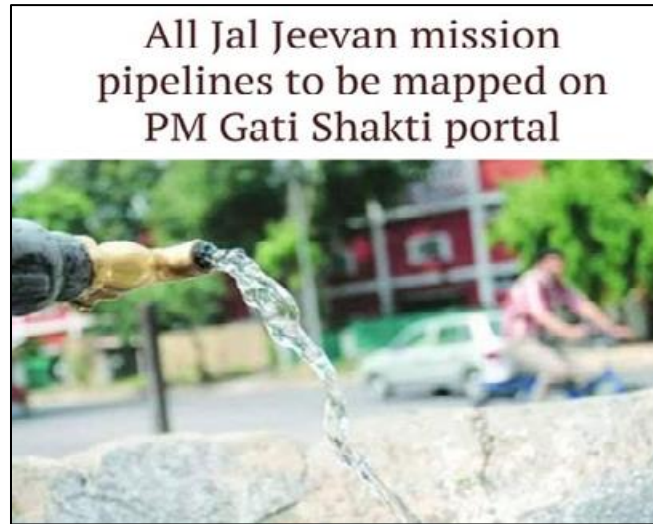
Overview of India's Renewable Energy Cumulative Installed Capacity Landscape					
Segment	FY2015 (GW)	FY2025 (GW)	FY2026 (GW) (Till 31 st August 2025)	CAGR (FY2015–FY2025)	Share in FY2025
Solar Power	4.0	105.6	123.1	39%	50.7%
Wind Power	23.4	50.1	52.7	8%	21.7%
Small Hydro Power	4.1	5.1	5.1	2%	2.1%
Bio Power	8.5	11.6	11.6	3%	4.8%
Large Hydro Power	36.0	47.7	50.1	3%	20.7%
Total	76.0	220.1	242.6	11%	100%

- ❖ India generated record levels of solar and wind power in the first half of 2025.
- ❖ Solar generation rose by 17 terawatt-hours, increasing its share to 9.2 % of total electricity.
- ❖ Wind power grew by 11 terawatt-hours, raising its share to 5.1 %.
- ❖ Clean energy expansion reduced power sector emissions by 24 million tonnes.
- ❖ Coal-based electricity fell by 22 terawatt-hours; gas-based power dropped 34 %.
- ❖ Nuclear power output increased by 14 %; hydropower rose 17 %.
- ❖ Clean energy growth outpaced the demand increase by more than three times.
- ❖ The report was released by global energy think tank Ember.

Mapping of drinking water pipelines

- ❖ The Government of India will map all drinking water pipelines under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) on the PM Gati Shakti platform.
- ❖ The PM Gati Shakti platform is a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based digital infrastructure planning tool.
- ❖ It is developed by Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N).
- ❖ The platform will allow geo-tagging of water supply assets, unique scheme-level IDs, and household-level monitoring under JJM.

- ❖ The PM Gati Shakti platform currently contains over 200 GIS data layers, including roads, railways, ports, and logistics infrastructure.



Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas Campaign



- ❖ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has launched the nationwide Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas campaign on October 2, 2025.
- ❖ The campaign marked the beginning of the People's Plan Campaign (PPC) 2025–26 for preparing Panchayat Development Plans (PDPs) for 2026–27.
- ❖ Since 2019–20, over 18.13 lakh development plans have been uploaded on the eGramSwaraj portal.
- ❖ For the 2025–26 cycle, more than 2.52 lakh plans had already been uploaded as per portal data.

- ❖ Special Gram Sabhas were held on October 2 to review previous plans using platforms like eGramSwaraj and Panchayat NIRNAY.

Logo for the India-AI Impact Summit



- ❖ The Government of India unveiled the official logo for the India-AI Impact Summit 2026.
- ❖ The India-AI Impact Summit 2026 is scheduled to be held in February 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The logo features the Ashoka Chakra, symbolising ethical governance, justice, and constitutional values.
- ❖ The Summit is hosted by MeitY and will highlight AI's role in inclusive development, sustainability, and social progress.

ECONOMY NEWS

RBI's Integrated Ombudsman Scheme

- ❖ RBI brought Central and State Co-operative Banks under the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 (RB-IOS, 2021) on 8 October 2025.
- ❖ The decision was made under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- ❖ RB-IOS, 2021, provides customers of regulated entities with a speedy, cost-effective, and alternative grievance redress mechanism.
- ❖ The scheme originally covered all Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Scheduled and Non-Scheduled Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks with deposits of ₹50 crore or more.
- ❖ It also included Non-Banking Financial Companies (excluding Housing Finance Companies) with assets of ₹100 crore or more and a customer interface.

- ❖ System Participants under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, and Credit Information Companies are also covered.
- ❖ RB-IOs, 2021 unified three earlier schemes:
 - Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006;
 - NBFC Ombudsman Scheme, 2018; and
 - Digital Transactions Ombudsman Scheme, 2019.
- ❖ The scheme follows the ‘One Nation One Ombudsman’ principle”.
- ❖ The Ombudsman can award compensation up to ₹20 lakh, plus ₹1 lakh for the complainant’s time, expenses, or mental distress.



Trade Watch Quarterly report

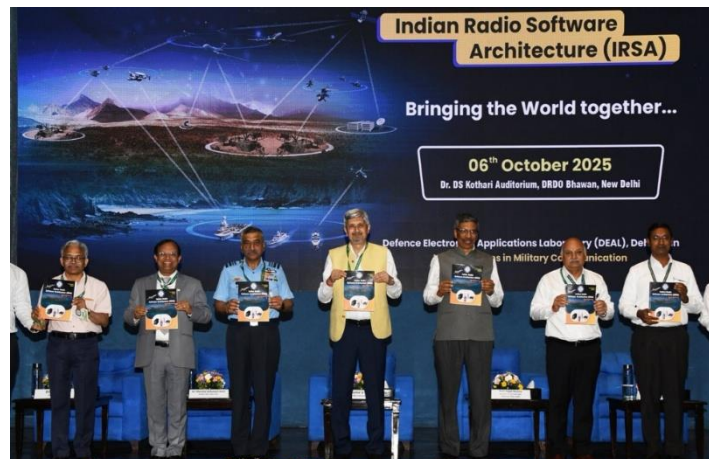


- ❖ NITI Aayog released the fourth edition of Trade Watch Quarterly, assessing India’s trade in Q4 FY 2024-25.
- ❖ India’s total trade reached \$441 billion, growing 2.2% year-on-year in Q4 FY 2024-25.

- ❖ North America was India's largest export market, growing 25% and making up 25% of exports; EU, GCC, and ASEAN exports slowed.
- ❖ UAE became India's second-largest import source, surpassing Russia, aided by gold inflows under CEPA.
- ❖ Imports from China rose on electronics demand.
- ❖ India's leather and footwear sector employs 4.4 million people, contributes 1.8% of the \$296 billion global market.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Indian Radio Software Architecture



- ❖ The DRDO released Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) version 1.0 in collaboration with the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the Tri-Services.
- ❖ IRSA 1.0 was launched during a national workshop held at DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ❖ IRSA is a software specification designed for Software Defined Radios (SDR).
- ❖ The IRSA standard defines interfaces, application programming interfaces, execution environments, and waveform portability mechanisms.
- ❖ It aims to enable interoperability in military communication systems across the Indian Armed Forces.

REPORTS AND INDICES

WHO report on Global teen vaping

- ❖ According to World Health Organization (WHO) report, nearly 15 million children aged 13 to 15 are using e-cigarettes worldwide.

- ❖ The report states that 9.1 million boys and 5.6 million girls currently vape, representing 7.2% of adolescents globally.
- ❖ The WHO warns that vaping may undermine decades of tobacco control progress.
- ❖ India enforces the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2019, banning the production, sale, and advertisement of e-cigarettes.
- ❖ First-time offenders in India face up to one year in prison or a fine of one lakh rupees.



STATES' NEWS

India's First ABC Training Centre – Uttar Pradesh

Lucknow Launches First Animal Birth Control Training Centre



- ❖ Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) and Humane World for Animals India have signed a MoU.

- ❖ They will set up India's first dedicated Animal Birth Control (ABC) training centre in Lucknow.
- ❖ The centre will train veterinarians, para-veterinarians, animal handlers and animal welfare organisations.
- ❖ It will serve as a national hub for capacity building in street dog sterilisation and related welfare work.

Mera Hou Chongba festival



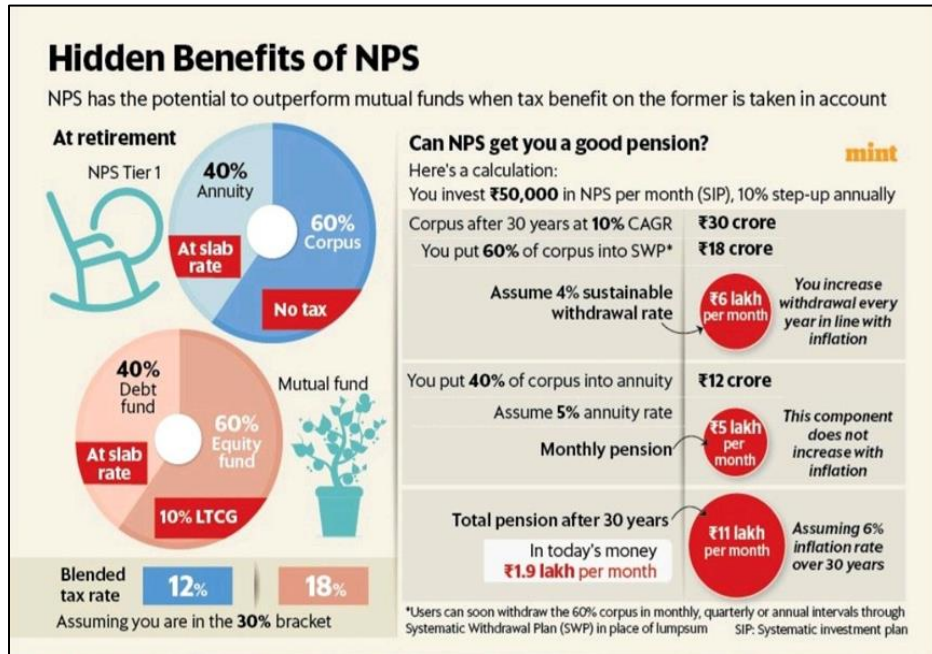
- ❖ The annual Mera Hou Chongba festival was held at Kangla Fort in Imphal, Manipur.
- ❖ The festival celebrates the cultural diversity of Manipur's indigenous communities.
- ❖ The festival unites communities from both the hills and the valleys of Manipur.
- ❖ Mera Hou Chongba is celebrated to promote peace and unity among different groups in the state.

IMPORTANT DAYS

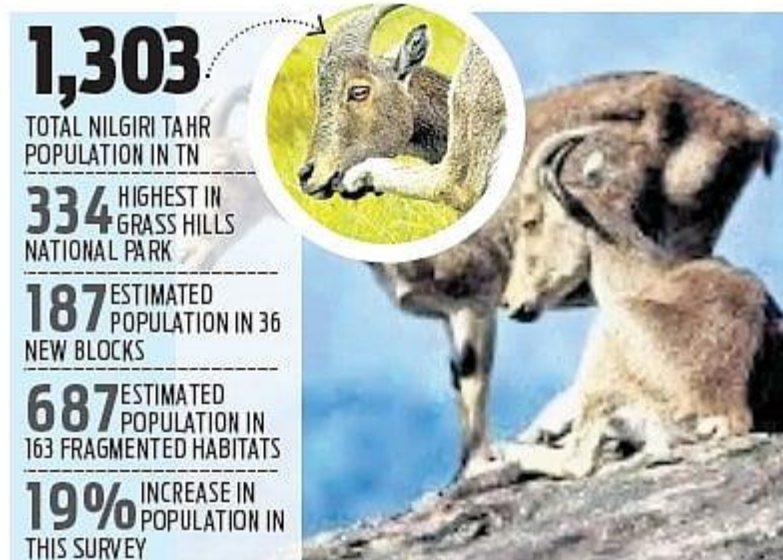
NPS Diwas 2025 - October 01

- ❖ It was celebrated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

- ❖ The first NPS Diwas was observed in 2021.
- ❖ It aims to encourage financial independence in old age through pension planning among all sections of society.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Inclusive Pensions, Innovative Solutions: Strengthening Retirement Security in India.”



World Nilgiri Tahr Day 2025 - October 07



- ❖ The day is observed annually to mark the birth anniversary of conservationist E. R. C. Davidar.
- ❖ He conducted the first Nilgiri tahr survey in 1975.
- ❖ The second-highest population of Nilgiri tahr is found in Mukurthi National Park in Nilgiri.
- ❖ The IUCN Status of Nilgiri Tahr is Endangered.

World Cotton Day 2025 - October 07



- ❖ This day aims to raise global awareness about cotton's role in trade, employment, poverty reduction, and sustainable economic growth.
- ❖ It was first proposed in 2019 by the "Cotton Four" countries — Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali — to the World Trade Organization.
- ❖ Cotton sustains 24 million growers, nearly half of them women, and supports over 100 million families across 80 countries on five continents.
- ❖ India celebrated the event with the theme "Cotton 2040: Technology, Climate & Competitiveness."

