

October - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated Asia's largest ornamental fish market complex at Kolathur, Chennai.
- ❖ California has officially recognized Diwali as a state holiday, becoming the third state in the United States, after Pennsylvania and Connecticut.
- ❖ Prime Ministers of India and UK made a talk regarding Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and reaffirmed common commitment to global peace, stability, and a rules-based international order.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

RUCO initiative in TN



- ❖ The Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO) initiative by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) promotes converting used oil into biofuel.
- ❖ Tiruchirappalli-based kB Energy Corporation collects used oil from over 2,000 units in seven districts and has stored nearly 30 tonnes ahead of Deepavali.
- ❖ FSSAI norms allow 20 to 25 percent of used cooking oil to be repurposed, and Tamil Nadu has three biofuel plants among 64 in India.
- ❖ Collected oil is filtered and stored in Tiruvanaikovil and supplied to authorised biofuel manufacturers.

‘Vidiyal Payanam’ Scheme Expansion

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has extended the ‘Vidiyal Payanam’ free bus travel scheme to persons with disabilities in hilly regions from 2025–26.

- ❖ Beneficiaries must have 40 percent or more benchmark disabilities under 21 categories defined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- ❖ About 1,100 persons with disabilities and their escorts can travel in white board buses on fully and partially ghat routes.
- ❖ The scheme allows travel up to 35 km in served areas and 40 km in unserved areas operated by State Transport Undertakings.
- ❖ A subsidy of ₹88.65 lakh has been sanctioned by the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department to implement the expansion.

மலைப்பகுதிகளில் மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகளுக்கும் விடியல் பயணம்!

கடந்த சுதந்திர தின விழாவில் முதலமைச்சர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் வெளியிட்ட அறிவிப்பின்படி, மலைப்பகுதிகளில் செயல்படுத்தப்படும் கட்டணமில்லா விடியல் பயணத் திட்டத்தை, மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகளுக்கும் விரிவுப்படுத்தி அரசாணை வெளியிட்டுள்ளது தமிழ்நாடு அரசு! மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகள், அவருடன் வரும் ஒரு துணையாளர் மலைப்பகுதிகளில் இயக்கப்படும் சாதாரண கட்டண பேருந்துகளில் கட்டணமில்லாமல் பயணம் செய்யலாம்.

Remuneration for State Finance Commission Chairman



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has increased the monthly pay of the State Finance Commission Chairman from ₹6,500 to ₹2.25 lakh.
- ❖ The revision comes four months after the constitution of the Seventh State Finance Commission.

- ❖ An amendment was made to the Tamil Nadu State Finance Commission Chairman and Other Members (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1994.

NATIONAL NEWS

SC on District Judge Appointment

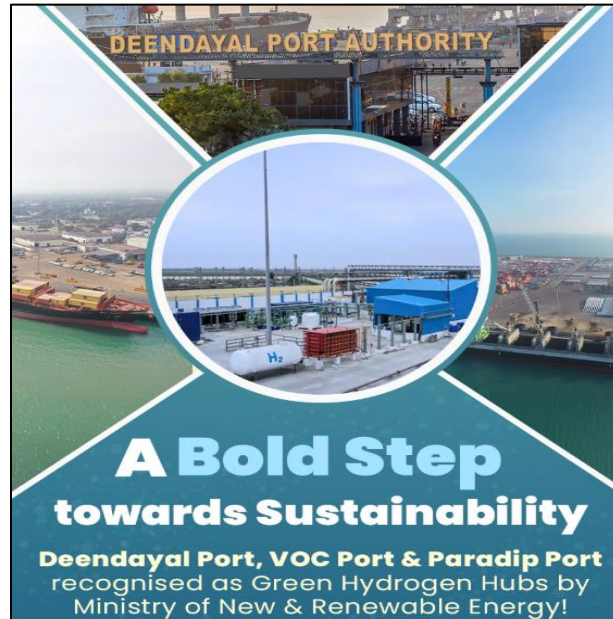


- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that judicial officers with seven years' combined experience in the Bar and service can become District Judges.
- ❖ The Constitution Bench interpreted Article 233 of the Indian Constitution for this decision.
- ❖ Previously, only practicing lawyers with seven years of experience were eligible for direct recruitment as District Judges.
- ❖ The court stated that lawyers do not lose their advocate status upon joining judicial service.
- ❖ The minimum age to be appointed as a District Judge or Additional District Judge is 35 years.
- ❖ State governments must amend rules within three months in consultation with the High Courts to implement this judgment.

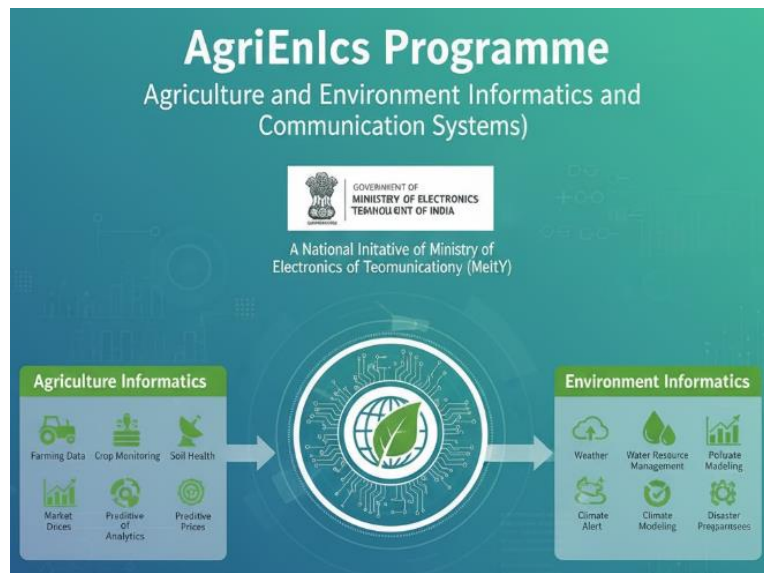
Green Hydrogen Hubs

- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy recognized three major Indian ports as green hydrogen hubs.
- ❖ Deendayal Port in Gujarat, V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Tamil Nadu, and Paradip Port in Odisha were selected.
- ❖ This recognition is part of the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- ❖ The mission aims to create an integrated hydrogen ecosystem in India.

- ❖ The goal is to advance India's transition to clean energy and achieve net zero emissions by 2070.
- ❖ The mission promotes large-scale production, use, and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives.



AgriEnIcs Program



- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the AgriEnIcs (Agriculture and Environment Informatics and Communication Systems) Program.

- ❖ It focuses on R&D, deployment, demonstration, and commercialization of electronics and IT-based solutions for agriculture and environmental sectors.
- ❖ The programme is implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Kolkata, as the nodal agency.
- ❖ Participating institutions include academic bodies, research and development (R&D) laboratories, and industry partners across India.
- ❖ All five technologies transferred or launched were developed and tested under the AgriEnIcs Programme.
- ❖ The initiative aims to support Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) by developing scalable, indigenous, sensor-based Agri Tech innovations.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Global Fintech Fest 2025

- ❖ The 6th edition of the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) was held in Mumbai.
- ❖ India and the United UK formed a partnership to strengthen the global financial landscape through this event.
- ❖ India's digital infrastructures processing 20 billion transactions every month.
- ❖ India ranked among the top three fintech ecosystems globally in funding during the first half of 2025.
- ❖ The India Artificial Intelligence Mission focuses on equitable access, population-scale skilling, and responsible deployment of artificial intelligence (AI).



China's Restriction on Rare-Earth Metal Exports



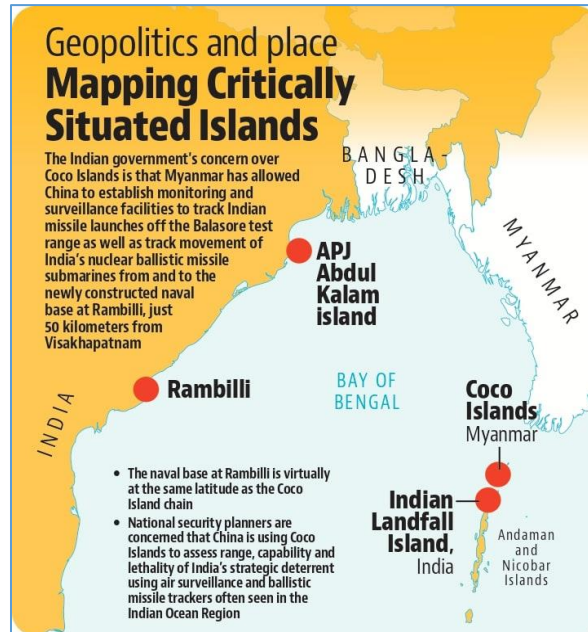
China Bans Export of Rare Earth Processing Tech Over National Security

- ❖ China announced new export restrictions on five additional rare-earth metals citing national security concerns.
- ❖ Thus, restricted items increased to 12 metals.
- ❖ The restrictions also cover specialist technological equipment used to refine rare-earth metals, effective from December 1, 2025.
- ❖ Rare-earth metals are vital for technologies like electric vehicles, semiconductors, and critical US defense systems, including fighter jets and missiles.
- ❖ China controls around 90% of global rare-earth metal processing.
- ❖ The US is the largest importer of Chinese rare-earth metals and is expected to be most affected by these export controls.

Coco Islands issue

- ❖ Myanmar told India that no Chinese nationals are present on the Coco Islands near Andaman and Nicobar.
- ❖ The statement was made during the defence dialogue in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.
- ❖ India's request for a Navy visit to the Coco Islands is still pending, with no response from Myanmar.
- ❖ Satellite images show a 2,300-metre airstrip and new military infrastructure under development.
- ❖ New military barracks for 1,500 personnel and a causeway to Jerry Island signal expanding infrastructure.
- ❖ India suspects possible Chinese surveillance of missile tests and submarine movements from nearby locations.

- ❖ Myanmar denies Chinese presence but has limited control in northern areas with active China-linked insurgents.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

First Tejas Mk1A Fighter Jet



- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) will soon receive its first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A jet.
- ❖ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is contracted to deliver 83 Tejas Mk1A jets.
- ❖ The IAF currently operates 29 squadrons, below its sanctioned strength of 42, and aims to add around 30-40 aircraft annually to bridge the gap.

- ❖ Other projects include acquiring 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA), possibly indigenous Rafale jets, and developing the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) by 2035.

World's First Dual-Tower Solar-Thermal Plant

- ❖ China launched the world's first dual-tower solar-thermal power plant in the Gobi Desert.
- ❖ It uses 27,000 mirrors called heliostats to concentrate sunlight onto two 200-meter towers.
- ❖ The towers generate heat up to 570 degrees Celsius to produce steam that drives turbines.
- ❖ This system allows electricity generation even after sunset or during cloudy weather.
- ❖ The dual-tower design increases efficiency by about 25 percent compared to single-tower plants.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025

- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress 2025 began in Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ The Congress focuses on urgent global action to combat biodiversity loss, climate change, and environmental degradation.

- ❖ Key motions include policies on synthetic biology, regulation of the commercial pet trade, and fossil fuel phaseout for conservation.
- ❖ New global guidelines on ecosystem restoration and combating environmental crime were also presented.
- ❖ The Congress aims to accelerate global cooperation to meet biodiversity and climate goals by 2030.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Microfinance Loan Defaults in 2024–25

'Bad' debts

Delinquency levels have risen across the industry, says the annual Bharat Microfinance Report by Sa-Dhan

- The data showed that rural borrowers fared the worst in terms of loan repayment
- Of the ₹2.3 lakh crore of loans outstanding for rural customers, 6.4% were overdue by more than 30 days
- This is compared with 6.1% and 6% for semi-urban and urban borrowers, respectively



- ❖ Sa-Dhan, a self-regulatory organization for microfinance institutions (MFIs) publishes the annual Bharat Microfinance Report.
- ❖ The report for FY 2024–25 shows a sharp rise in microfinance loan defaults across the country.

- ❖ Portfolio at Risk over 30 days (PAR 30+) increased to 6.2% in FY 2024–25, compared to 2.1% in FY 2023–24.
- ❖ Loans overdue by over 90 days—classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)—rose to 4.8%, from 1.6% last year.
- ❖ Bihar had the highest microfinance loan outstanding at ₹57,712 crore.
- ❖ In Bihar, 7.2% of loans were overdue beyond 30 days, and 4.6% were overdue beyond 90 days.
- ❖ Rural borrowers took loans worth ₹2.3 lakh crore, with 6.4% overdue beyond 30 days.
- ❖ The overdue rate was lower in semi-urban (6.1%) and urban (6%) areas, showing greater stress in rural repayments.
- ❖ The data reflects increased credit risk and repayment pressure in the microfinance sector, especially in rural India.

STATES' NEWS

International Purple Fest 2025

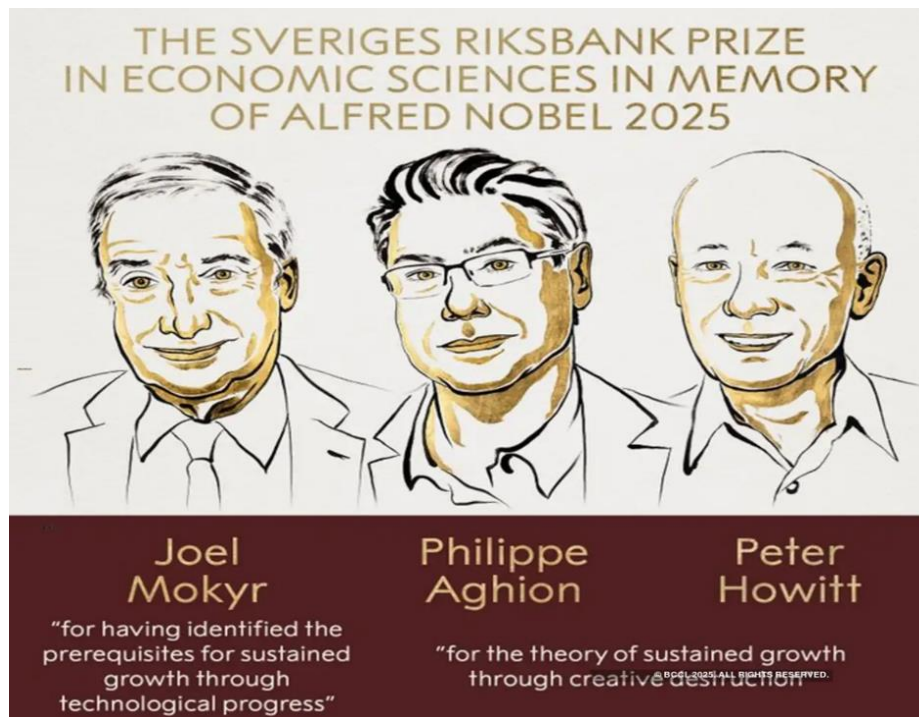


- ❖ The 3rd edition of the International Purple Fest was inaugurated in Goa.
- ❖ The event highlights diversity and commitment to an inclusive society.
- ❖ The festival showcased the talent and potential of persons with disabilities, promoting a shift from viewing disability as a limitation to recognizing ability and entrepreneurship.
- ❖ The event was organized by the State Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities, Directorate of Social Welfare, and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities of Centre.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2025

- ❖ It is officially known as Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences.
- ❖ The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for 2025 was awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt.
- ❖ The three were honoured, “for having explained innovation-driven economic growth”.
- ❖ Half of the prize goes to Mokyr “for having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress”.
- ❖ The other half jointly to Aghion and Howitt “for the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction.”



Kalaimamani Awards 2025

- ❖ Chief Minister MK Stalin presented the Kalaimamani Awards to 90 artistes in various fields of art and culture for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023, at a ceremony organised by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram in Chennai.
- ❖ Each Kalaimamani awardee received a gold medal weighing three sovereigns and a certificate of honour from the chief minister.
- ❖ Professor N. Murugesu Pandian received the Bharathiyar Award 2025 at the national level.

- ❖ Playback singer K. J. Yesudas was honoured with the M. S. Subbulakshmi Award 2025.
- ❖ Folk artiste Muthukannammal was presented with the Balasaraswathi Award 2025.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Migrant Bird Day 2025 - October 11





- ❖ It is celebrated twice a year in May 10th and October 11th.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the many challenges migratory birds face due to human activities and expanding urban development.
- ❖ This year's theme will be "Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities."

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Exhibition of Buddha's relics

- ❖ Buddha Shakyamuni's relics reached in Kalmykia, Russia, from India for the first time.
- ❖ The relics are known as the Kapilavastu relics and are among Buddhism's most sacred treasures.
- ❖ The relics are displayed at the Central Khurul of Kalmykia from October 12 to 18, 2025.
- ❖ The exhibition is organized by the Ministry of Culture of India and the International Buddhist Confederation.
- ❖ Elista, the capital of Kalmykia, is a major spiritual center in Russia.



Casket of Holy Relics
of **Lord Buddha**

Relic expositions in the recent past:

The holy relics of the Buddha have been taken to Mongolia, Thailand, and Vietnam in the recent past. The Piprahwa relics at the National Museum were taken to Mongolia in 2022 whereas the holy relics of the Buddha and his two disciples enshrined at Sanchi were taken for exposition to Thailand in 2024. This year in 2025, the holy relics of the Buddha from Sarnath were taken to Vietnam. The relics for Russia are enshrined in the 'Buddhist Gallery' of the National Museum in New Delhi for veneration. The holy relics being taken to Kalmykia belong to this same family of relics based in the National Museum.

