

October - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's first Semiconductor Innovation Museum was inaugurated by the Technology Chip Innovation Program (T-Chip) at Kondapur in Hyderabad.
- ❖ After a US-brokered ceasefire, Hamas killed 52 rivals from the Doghmush clan in a violent crackdown.
- ❖ Shah Rukh Khan becomes the world's richest actor with a net worth of \$1.4 billion (₹12,490 crore).
- ❖ The Japanese city of Toyoake, has enacted a local ordinance limiting residents' screen time to two hours a day, becoming one of the first cities to officially encourage reduced smartphone dependence.
- ❖ Nine prominent organisations from across the globe have signed a landmark agreement known as the Delhi Declaration to developing a secure, interoperable, and equitable 6G ecosystem.
- ❖ The Urban Test Bed facility was inaugurated under Mission Mausam at Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology in Chennai.
 - The facility, developed with support from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, was equipped with instruments for real-time weather monitoring.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

SPC report on Start-Up



- ❖ The State Planning Commission (SPC) report titled 'Start-Up Ecosystem in Tamil Nadu: Opportunities and Challenges' was submitted to the Chief Minister.



- ❖ It recommended enhancing accessibility and simplifying the application process for state government funding schemes to increase participation.
- ❖ It emphasized improving market access for startups, particularly through public procurement, which currently suffers from low registration due to a lack of awareness and complex procedures.
- ❖ Strengthening the talent ecosystem, support systems, social and spatial inclusion, and integrating sustainability were identified as key focus areas.
- ❖ The report suggested streamlining regulatory processes and accommodating startup failures to boost operational efficiency.
- ❖ The report highlighted that academic incubators, government funding, and public procurement have driven success but noted ongoing challenges in funding access, talent retention, and infrastructure availability for manufacturing startups.

New Radars for Tamil Nadu

3 New Doppler Radars For North Tamil Nadu

Chennai and neighbouring districts will soon get 3 new X-band Doppler weather radars to improve rainfall forecasting over north interior Tamil Nadu, said M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences. **The ageing S-band radar at Chennai Port, operational since 2002, will also be replaced. The new triangular radar setup covering Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, & Chengalpattu will enhance short-term rain prediction. He also inaugurated an urban testbed facility at Sathyabama Institute.**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu was set to receive more weather radars to improve forecasting accuracy in the coming years.
- ❖ Chennai was planned to get three additional X-band radars, adding to the existing S-band and X-band systems.
- ❖ Sites were being identified across the state as part of a national plan to install 100–120 weather radars across India.

- ❖ The initiative aimed to reduce forecast errors caused by climate change and urbanisation impacts.

Condolence Resolution in TN Assembly

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a condolence resolution on October 14, 2025, mourning the victims of the Karur stampede.
- ❖ The House observed a moment of silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the incident.
- ❖ The Assembly also adopted condolence resolutions mourning the deaths of former Kerala CM V. S. Achuthanandan, former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren, and Nagaland Governor La. Ganesan, veteran CPI leader Sudhakar Reddy, and IAS officer Beela Venkatesan.
- ❖ A separate resolution was passed mourning the death of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) legislator T. K. Amul Kandasamy.

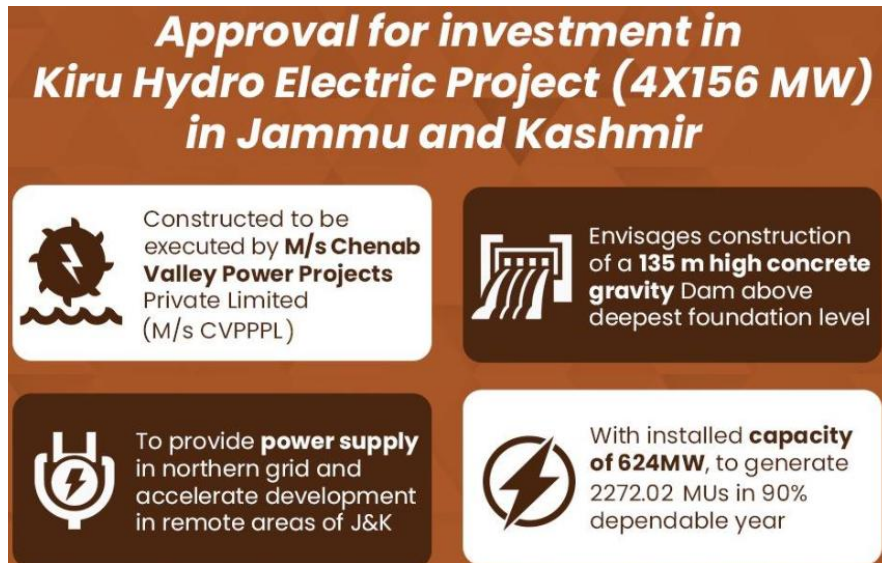


NATIONAL NEWS

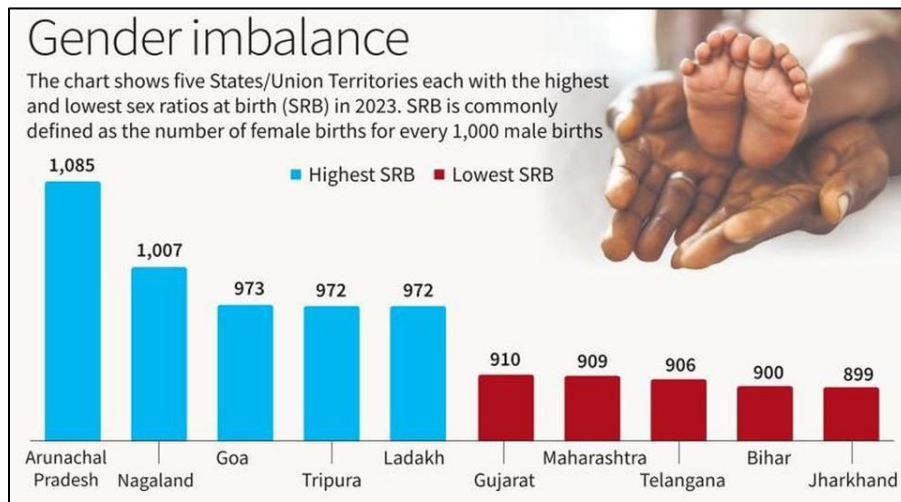
Kiru Hydroelectric Project

- ❖ The 624-megawatt Kiru hydroelectric project is under construction on the Chenab River in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.

- ❖ The project is part of the Indus Basin development strategy to utilize Jammu and Kashmir's hydropower potential.
- ❖ The project will contribute significantly to the Northern Grid and support regional energy security.
- ❖ Kiru is one of four major hydro projects in the Chenab Valley, along with Pakal Dul, Kwar, and Kirthai.



India's 2023 Vital Statistics report

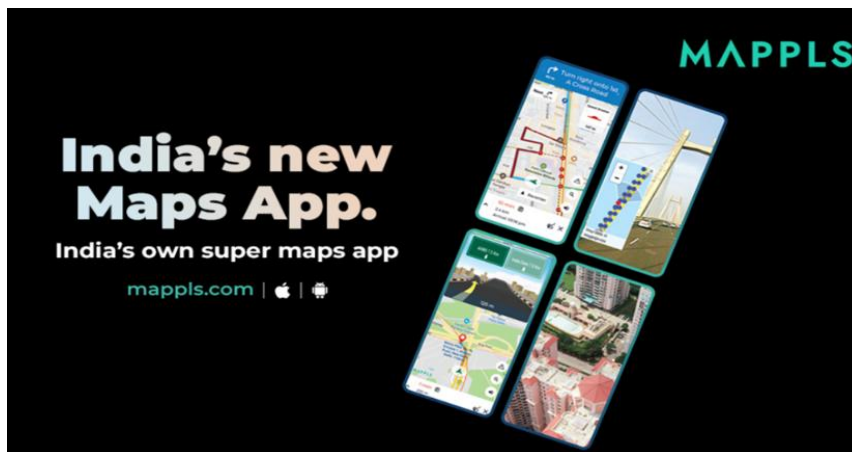


- ❖ India registered 2.52 crore births in 2023, around 2.32 lakh fewer than in 2022.
- ❖ 86.6 lakh deaths were registered in 2023, a marginal increase from 86.5 lakh deaths in 2022.

- ❖ Jharkhand recorded the lowest sex ratio at birth at 899, followed by Bihar at 900, Telangana at 906, Maharashtra at 909, Gujarat at 910, Haryana at 911 and Mizoram at 911.
- ❖ Since 2020, Bihar has been recording the lowest sex ratio.
- ❖ The highest sex ratio was reported by Arunachal Pradesh at 1,085.
- ❖ It is followed by Nagaland at 1,007, Goa at 973, Ladakh and Tripura at 972, and Kerala at 967.
- ❖ The share of institutional births in total registered births is 74.7 % in 2023.
- ❖ Overall registration of births for the year 2023 stood at 98.4%.

Mappls App

- ❖ Mappls is a Made-in-India navigation app developed by MapMyIndia and now officially backed by the Government of India.
- ❖ The app offers 3D junction views, precise doorstep navigation, live traffic updates, speed alerts, and a toll savings calculator.
- ❖ Mappls supports multiple Indian languages, includes weather and air quality index (AQI) data, and is designed for Indian roads.



Vishwas Scheme

- ❖ The Vishwas scheme aims to reduce litigation related to Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) dues.
- ❖ It rationalizes penal damages by setting a flat rate of 1% per month.
- ❖ The scheme includes a graded rate of 0.25% for defaults up to two months and 0.50% for defaults up to four months.



- ❖ It covers ongoing cases under Section 14B, finalized but unpaid orders, and pre-adjudication cases.
- ❖ The scheme is valid for six months and can be extended by another six months.

Vishwas Scheme

A Major Relief for Employers & Faster Dues for Workers

Reduction in Rate of Penal Damages:

- Flat 1%/month
- graded rate of 0.25% (delay $\leq$ 2 months)
- graded rate of 0.50% (delay $\leq$ 4 months)

Covers: ongoing, pre-adjudication & unpaid 14B cases Valid for 6 months (extendable by 6 months)

The Impact
Reduced legal burden for employers
Faster recovery of PF dues for members
Boosts trust, promotes timely PF compliance

All cases abated upon compliance under the scheme

Zoho Email Platform



Email accounts of 12 lakh Central Govt employees have now shifted to the Zoho platform

- ❖ Around 12 lakh Central government email accounts were migrated from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) platform to Zoho's platform over the past year.
- ❖ The move aimed to prevent employees from using open-source tools and enhance data security using indigenous software.
- ❖ The email domain names remained unchanged as "gov.in" and "nic.in", but the backend hosting and processing shifted to Zoho.
- ❖ A seven-year contract was awarded to Zoho in 2023 for handling email and office productivity services.
- ❖ The initiative was in response to cybersecurity concerns, especially after the 2022 cyberattack on AIIMS in Delhi.
- ❖ Personal email migration by ministers to Zoho was done voluntarily, while official communication continues under the NIC domain.

ECONOMY NEWS

Fomoflation



- ❖ Fomoflation refers to inflation driven by fear of missing out, where consumer psychology and supply pressures lead to sudden price increases.
- ❖ The term was formed by combining "fear of missing out" and "inflation".
- ❖ It described situations where prices rose faster than economic conditions warranted.
- ❖ In 2025, an increase in visa fees triggered panic among international travellers, causing a surge in last-minute flight bookings.
- ❖ This sudden demand pushed the ticket prices more than double the usual fare.

- ❖ In 2022, fuel shortages triggered by economic distress led to panic buying, which further increased fuel prices.
- ❖ Similar fear-driven behaviour was observed in essential goods like pulses and cooking oil, where perceived scarcity led to hoarding and price spikes.
- ❖ Unlike typical inflation caused by macroeconomic factors, fomoflation was rooted in consumer reactions, media influence, and demand anticipation.

India's Retail Inflation in September 2025

- ❖ India's retail inflation dropped to 1.54% in September 2025, the lowest in over 8 years.
- ❖ This marks a decline from August's 2.07%, continuing the disinflationary trend observed throughout 2025.
- ❖ Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation hit a 99-month low, driven by a sharp fall in food and beverage inflation to 1.4%.
- ❖ Despite this, inflation for miscellaneous items rose to 5.35%, due to higher gold and silver prices.
- ❖ This is the second time in 2025 that inflation has remained below 2%, indicating subdued price pressure.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Triple Elimination in the Maldives

- ❖ WHO has validated the Maldives for eliminating mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of hepatitis B.

- ❖ The Maldives had already received WHO validation for EMTCT of HIV and syphilis in 2019, completing the world's first verified triple elimination.
- ❖ Over 95% of pregnant women in the Maldives receive antenatal care and are tested for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B.
- ❖ More than 95% of newborns in the country receive timely hepatitis B birth doses and full vaccination coverage.
- ❖ No infants were born with HIV or syphilis in 2022 and 2023, and a 2023 national survey found zero hepatitis B among school-entry-age children.



Mission Drishti

- ❖ Space-tech firm GalaxEye announced the launch of Mission Drishti.
- ❖ It will be the world's first multi-sensor Earth observation (EO) satellite, scheduled for early 2026.
- ❖ Mission Drishti weighed 160 kilograms and was India's largest privately built satellite.
- ❖ It featured the highest resolution developed in the country, with 1.5 meters.
- ❖ The satellite combined synthetic aperture radar (SAR) and high-resolution optical sensors to provide all-weather, day-and-night Earth observation data.
- ❖ The satellite aimed to support governments, defense agencies, and industries in applications such as border surveillance, disaster management, agriculture, infrastructure monitoring, and financial assessment.

GalaxEye to Launch Mission Drishti, India's First Multi-Sensor Earth Observation Satellite



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

25 Years of Van Rakshak Project



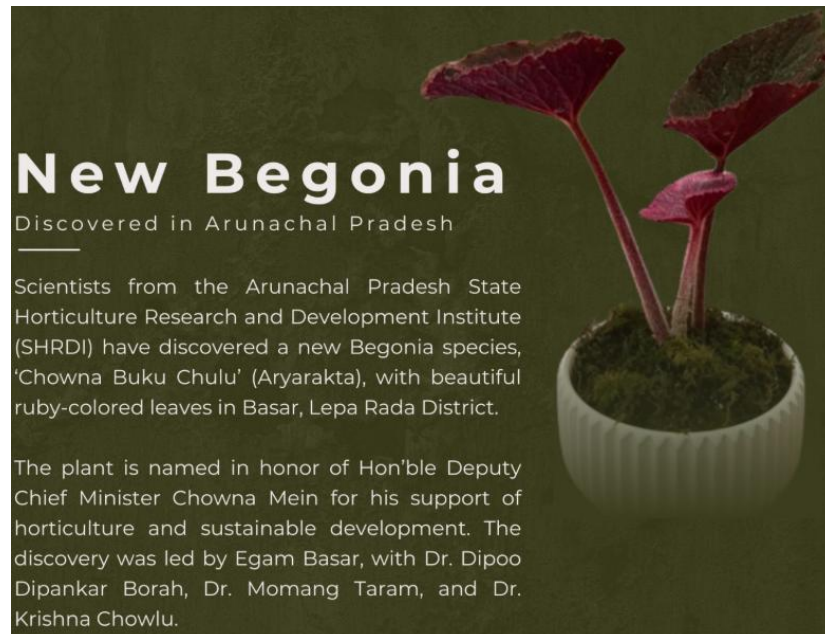
WTI recognises Van Rakshaks' 25-year legacy, highlighting their critical role in safeguarding India's biodiversity.

- ❖ The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) released a report titled Guardians of the Wild: Supporting India's Frontline Forest Staff in Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ The report highlights the stories of 540 Indian forest rangers who were killed or injured in the line of duty between 2000 and 2025.

- ❖ India's forest rangers, called Van Rakshaks, protect over 1,100 protected areas and various forest habitats across the country.
- ❖ WTI launched the Van Rakshak Project (VRP) in 2000 with support from IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) to strengthen the frontline forest staff.

Chowna Buku Chulu

- ❖ A new species of Begonia – 'Chowna Buku Chulu' discovered in Basar, Leparada District, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It features vibrant red leaves and has been named 'Chowna Buku Chulu (Aryarakta)', meaning "Noble Red," in honor of Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein.
- ❖ Begonias belong to the genus Begoniaceae, which contains over 1,800 species of perennial flowering plants.
- ❖ These plants are native to moist subtropical and tropical climates and thrive in shaded, humid environments.



Biodiversity Conservation Project

- ❖ The Indian Social Welfare and Development Council (ISWDC), in collaboration with Nilgiris Division Forest Department, completed a biodiversity conservation project specifically in Nadugani, Nilgiris.
- ❖ The project aimed to enhance green cover and protect native ecosystems within the Nadugani area.

- ❖ As part of the initiative, 100 native tree saplings were planted in the Palmedu region of Nadugani, located in the Gudalur forest division.
- ❖ The focus was on restoring degraded forest land in Nadugani, increasing vegetation density, and promoting peaceful coexistence between humans and wildlife.



STATES' NEWS

CM Flight initiative

- ❖ The Assam government launched the Chief Minister's Foreign Languages Initiative for Global Human Talent (CM-FLIGHT) to provide language training and job placement in Japan.
- ❖ CM-FLIGHT connects Assam youth to Japan's Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) visa program.
- ❖ The Assam government provides a subsidy of ₹1 lakh per candidate for training, orientation, and documentation, and an additional ₹50,000 after placement for relocation costs.
- ❖ India and Japan have agreed to facilitate 5 lakh Indian workers by 2030, with Assam securing an initial target of 50,000 placements, potentially rising to 1 lakh based on participation.

