

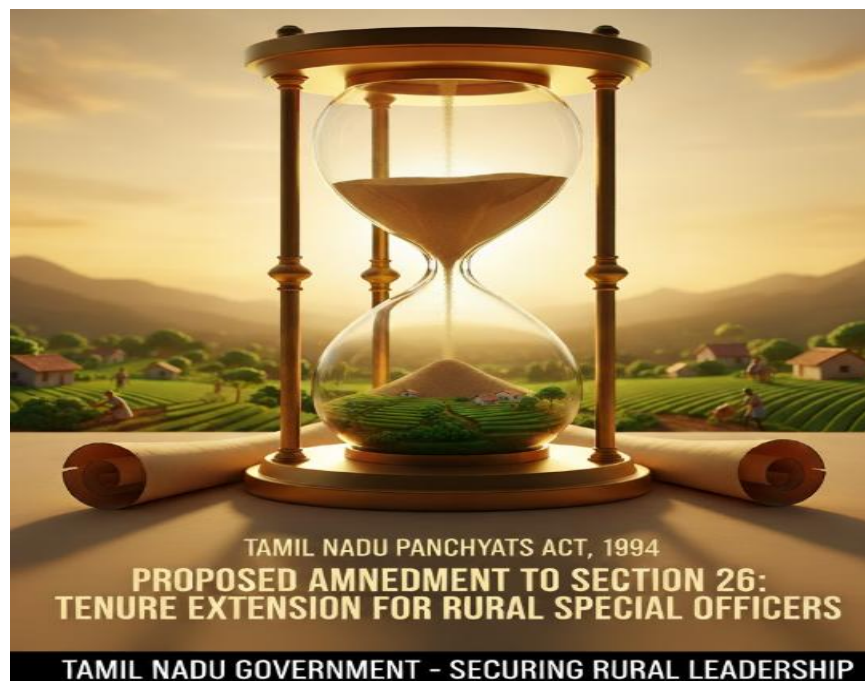
October - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A new Bill was introduced to amend the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (Additional Functions) Act, 2022 to allow the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission to recruit non-teaching staff for 22 state universities.
- ❖ The first India–South Korea naval bilateral exercise IN–RoKN began at Busan Naval Base in South Korea.
- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested three individuals across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala in a transnational cyber fraud case under Operation Chakra-V.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tenure Extension for Rural Special Officers



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has introduced a Bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to extend the tenure of Special Officers in rural local bodies up to January 5, 2026.
- ❖ The existing tenure of Special Officers was already extended by ordinance till January 5, 2025.

- ❖ The extension applies to 9,624 village panchayats, 314 panchayat unions, and 28 district panchayats in 28 districts.
- ❖ Block Development Officers (village panchayats) are functioning as Special Officers for the village panchayats.
- ❖ Assistant Directors (panchayats or audit) are appointed as Special Officers for the panchayat unions.
- ❖ Additional Directors, Additional Collectors, Joint Directors, or Project Directors are appointed as Special Officers for district panchayats.
- ❖ From August 12, 2024, Tiruvannamalai, Karaikudi, Pudukottai, and Namakkal Municipal Councils became municipal corporations.
- ❖ The merger of village panchayats into these corporations reduces the number of panchayats in the affected panchayat unions and districts.
- ❖ The reduction in panchayats will reflect in the overall process of delimitation.
- ❖ The Madras High Court directed that rural local body elections can be held only after the delimitation process is completed.

TN Siddha Bill 2025



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a resolution rejecting the Governor's remarks on the Tamil Nadu Siddha Medical University Bill, 2025.
- ❖ Chief Minister stated that the remarks were against the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.



- ❖ The Chief Minister said the Bill falls under the category of a Finance Bill and needs the Governor's recommendation under Article 207(3) of the Constitution.
- ❖ The draft Bill was prepared by the Health and Family Welfare Department and examined by the Law Department and the Minister for Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ The Bill was sent to the Governor, but he expressed views on specific provisions instead of following constitutional procedures.
- ❖ The Chief Minister said only members of the Assembly have the right to suggest amendments during the consideration stage of a Bill.
- ❖ The Governor used the term 'appropriate consideration' instead of 'consideration,' which was stated to be against the Constitution.
- ❖ The resolution stated that the Governor's observations could not be accepted by the House.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Siddha Medical University will be established in Chennai to provide instruction and training in Indian Medicine and Homeopathy.
- ❖ The Chief Minister will be the Chancellor of the University and the Minister for Health and Family Welfare will be the Pro-Chancellor.
- ❖ The Vice-Chancellor will be appointed by the Chancellor from a panel of three names recommended by a committee.
- ❖ The committee will include a nominee of the Chancellor, a nominee of the government, and a nominee of the senate, all being eminent persons.
- ❖ The Vice-Chancellor will hold office for three years or until the age of seventy, whichever is earlier.

Private Universities Amendment Bill

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed the Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Bill 2025.
- ❖ It will be allowing for conversion of existing private or government-aided colleges to a new entity called 'Brownfield Universities'.
- ❖ It is by altering the minimum requirement for contiguous land to establish such facility.
- ❖ Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019 necessitates a minimum of 100 acres of contiguous land to establish private universities in the State.
- ❖ The 2025 amendment has slashed the minimum requirement for Brown field Universities to 25 acres in municipal corporation areas, 35 acres in municipal council or town panchayat areas, and 50 acres in other areas.

- ❖ A new clause was also inserted earmarking 65 per cent of seats in Medical, Dental, Allied Health, and Indian Medicine courses at all non-minority private universities as government seats.
- ❖ While for minority private universities, half of the seats would be allotted to the government.
- ❖ If the aided colleges converted to private universities, they would lose the aided status and would stop receiving government grant.



NATIONAL NEWS

Jal Jeevan Mission Update



- ❖ Over 15.71 crore rural households have been provided with tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission, covering more than 80 percent of rural homes.
- ❖ The mission focuses on sustainability, functionality, and reliable water service delivery to every household.
- ❖ A programme called “Peyjal Samvad” was held to promote district-level coordination and peer learning.
- ❖ Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on 15 August 2019 to provide tap water to every rural household in India.

7th NSG hub

- ❖ The 7th National Security Guard’s (NSG) hub will be set up in Ayodhya, near the Ram temple.
- ❖ This hub will enable NSG troops to be on standby round the clock in the region.
- ❖ Six existing NSG hubs are located in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Jammu.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

The Forest Declaration Assessment 2025

- ❖ The report was released by the Forest Declaration Assessment coalition.
- ❖ Global deforestation rates remain dangerously high despite international promises to end deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 made at COP26 in Glasgow.



- ❖ In 2024, the world lost 8.1 million hectares of forest, mostly tropical, which is an area roughly the size of Austria.
- ❖ Agriculture, including livestock farming and monocrop plantations, accounted for 86% of global deforestation over the past decade.
- ❖ Public funding for forest conservation amounts to only 1.4% of the \$409 billion spent annually on agricultural subsidies that contribute to forest loss.
- ❖ Only 40% of financial institutions exposed to commodity-driven deforestation risks have implemented policies to address and manage these risks.

What's This Report About?

Every two years, the Forest Declaration Assessment reviews how countries are doing in their efforts to stop deforestation, restore green cover, and meet global climate goals. It tracks not just numbers - but actions, progress, and accountability.

Extinction Risk of Indian Bird Species

**Extinction Risk of 4 Indian
Bird Species Increases, IUCN Red
List Moves Them to Higher
Threat Categories**

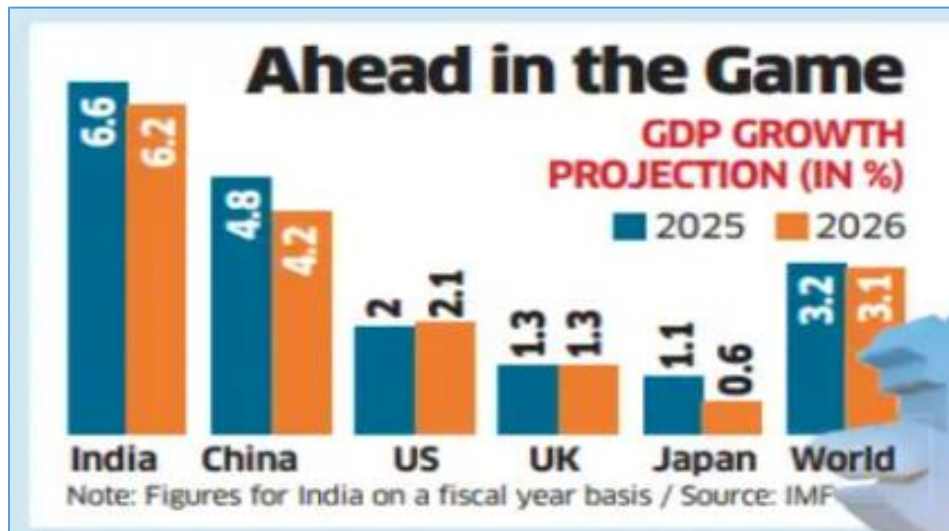
- ❖ IUCN Red List updated the extinction risk of four Indian bird species in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- ❖ These four birds, including the Indian Courser, Indian Roller, Rufous-tailed Lark, and Long-billed Grasshopper-warbler, were moved to higher threat categories such as Near Threatened and Endangered.
- ❖ All four species depend on open natural ecosystems like grasslands, semi-arid landscapes, deserts, croplands, hilly scrublands, and fallow lands.

- ❖ The IUCN Red List now includes 172,620 species globally, with 48,646 species threatened with extinction.

REPORTS AND INDICES

World Economic Outlook 2025

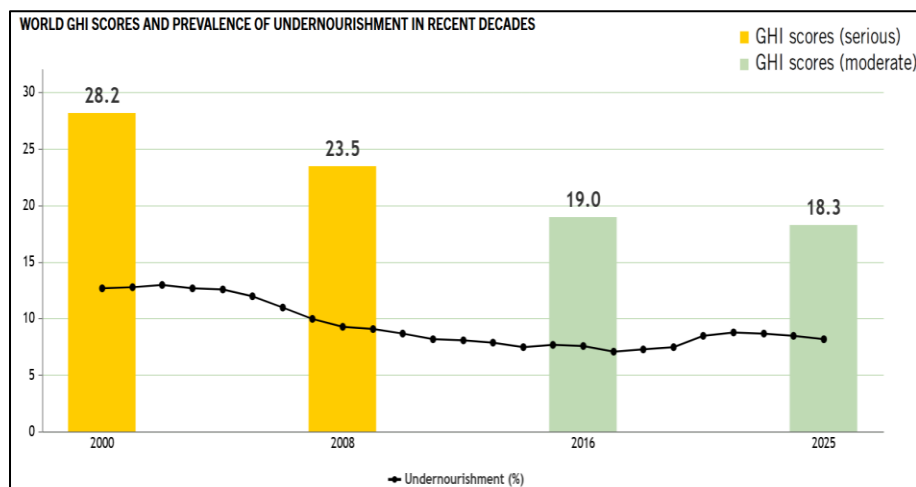
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised India's gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for the financial year 2025–26 to 6.6 percent.
- ❖ This is a 20 basis points increase from its earlier projection made in July 2025.
- ❖ The IMF has lowered its GDP growth estimate for 2026–27 to 6.2 percent, a cut of 20 basis points from the previous forecast.
- ❖ India's effective tariff rate on exports to the United States reached 35.8 percent in October 2025.
- ❖ This increase followed a 25 percent additional tariff imposed by the United States on Indian goods due to India's purchase of Russian oil.



Global Hunger Index 2025

- ❖ The 2025 Global Hunger Index (GHI) report was released, covering 136 countries.
- ❖ At least 56 countries are projected to miss the low hunger threshold by 2030 at the current pace.
- ❖ The global GHI score in 2025 stands at 18.3, a marginal improvement from 19.0 in 2016, placing it in the 'moderate' category.
- ❖ Hunger is at 'alarming' levels in seven countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen.

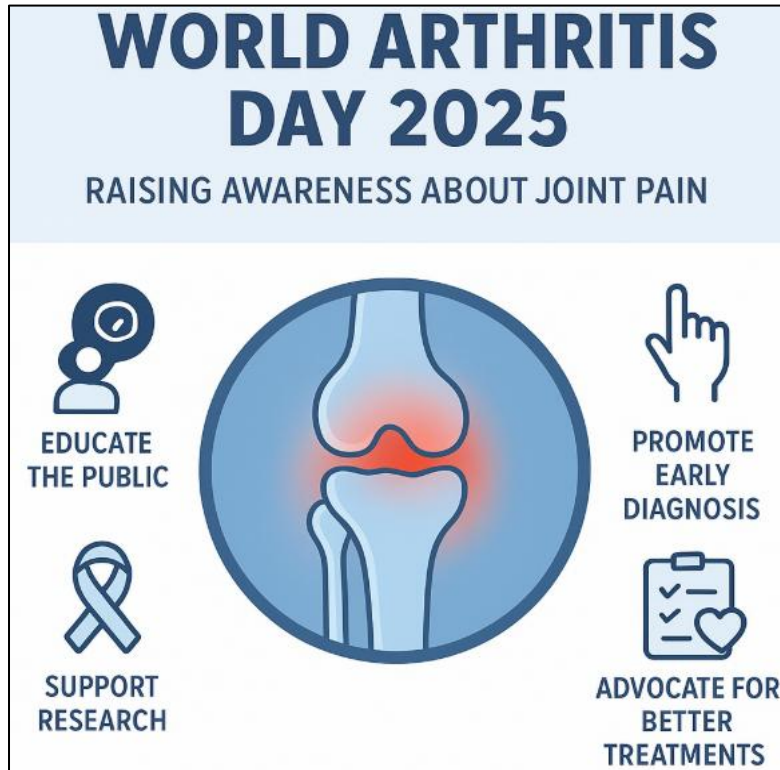
- ❖ Hunger is classified as 'serious' in 35 countries, with 27 countries showing a rise in hunger since 2016.
- ❖ Five countries — Fiji, Jordan, Libya, Solomon Islands, and Syria — have worse GHI scores in 2025 than in 2000.
- ❖ Six countries in Africa — Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Madagascar, Kenya, Somalia, and Zambia — have extremely alarming hunger levels.
- ❖ Notable progress has been made in countries like Tajikistan, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Togo, and Uganda.
- ❖ Examples from India, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal, and Sierra Leone show that targeted policies can reduce hunger.
- ❖ The GHI is based on four indicators: undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.
- ❖ It is published by Concern Worldwide (Ireland), Welthungerhilfe (Germany), and Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).



IMPORTANT DAYS

World arthritis day 2025 - October 12

- ❖ It aims to educate people about symptoms, preventive measures, and the importance of early diagnosis to prevent further complications.
- ❖ It was first established by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) in 1996 to address the awareness gap and support affected communities worldwide.
- ❖ Arthritis affects joints and connective tissues, causing pain and stiffness, with over 100 types, including osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Achieve Your Dreams".



International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025 - October 13



- ❖ It aims to encourage citizens and governments to actively participate in reducing disaster risks.

- ❖ This day was established in 1989 following a UNGA call to foster global risk-awareness and disaster reduction culture.
- ❖ The theme of 2025 is “Fund Resilience, Not Disasters”.

World Standards Day 2025 - October 14



- ❖ It aims to recognize the role of standards in fostering innovation, trade, safety, and sustainable development worldwide.
- ❖ Standards are foundational for reliable systems, fair trade, technological compatibility, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Shared Vision for a Better World Spotlight on SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals".

World Students' Day 2025 - October 15

- ❖ The day is celebrated to honour Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary and his lifelong dedication to student empowerment and education.
- ❖ Though it is named "World Students' Day", the day does not have any recognition outside India.
- ❖ From 2002 to 2007, Kalam served as the 11th President of India.
- ❖ After his term, he continued to interact with students until his passing in 2015.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Empowering Students as Agents of Innovation and Change”.

"All of us do not have equal talent. But, all of us have an equal opportunity to develop our talents"

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, scientist-turned-President, was born on Oct 15, 1931

THE MISSILE MAN

Sold newspapers to supplement the family income during his childhood

Wanted to be a fighter pilot but ranked 9th in the selection, while only 8 could be selected

Elected as the **11th President of India** in 2002

Headed India's first **Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV III)** project, which successfully deployed Rohini Satellite in the near-Earth orbit

Received honorary doctorates from 40 universities, and won numerous awards, including **Padma Vibhushan** (1990) & **Bharat Ratna** (1997)



World Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day 2025 - October 15



- ❖ The aim is to raise awareness about pregnancy and infant loss, promote education and preventive care to reduce future losses.
- ❖ The observance was started in 2002 by Robyn Bear, Lisa Brown, and Tammy Novak through a petition.
- ❖ It was officially recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2006.



- ❖ Globally, around 2 million babies are stillborn each year, and up to 26% of pregnancies end in miscarriage or infant loss, with many causes being preventable.
- ❖ Miscarriage risk increases with maternal age—from 8.9% (age 20–30) to 74.7% (age 40+), and prior miscarriage history also increases future loss risks.

