

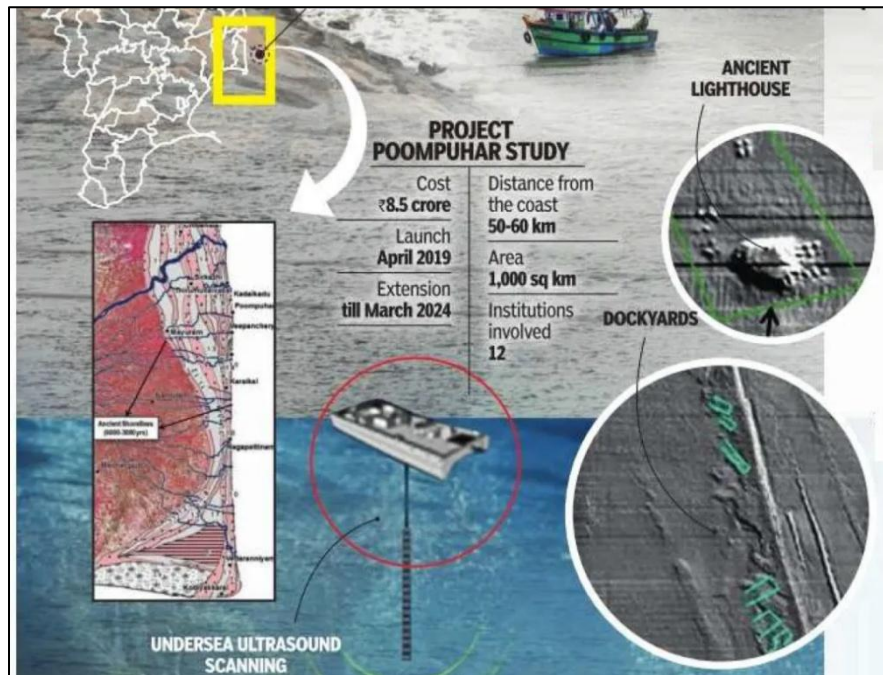
October - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) successfully busted a smuggling attempt involving the illegal import of Chinese-origin fireworks and firecrackers into India under “Operation Fire Trail”.
- ❖ The Ministry of Information Technology inaugurated the Uttarakhand AI Impact Summit in Dehradun.
 - The event serves as a pre-summit for the India AI Impact Summit 2026, scheduled in New Delhi from February 19 to 20.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

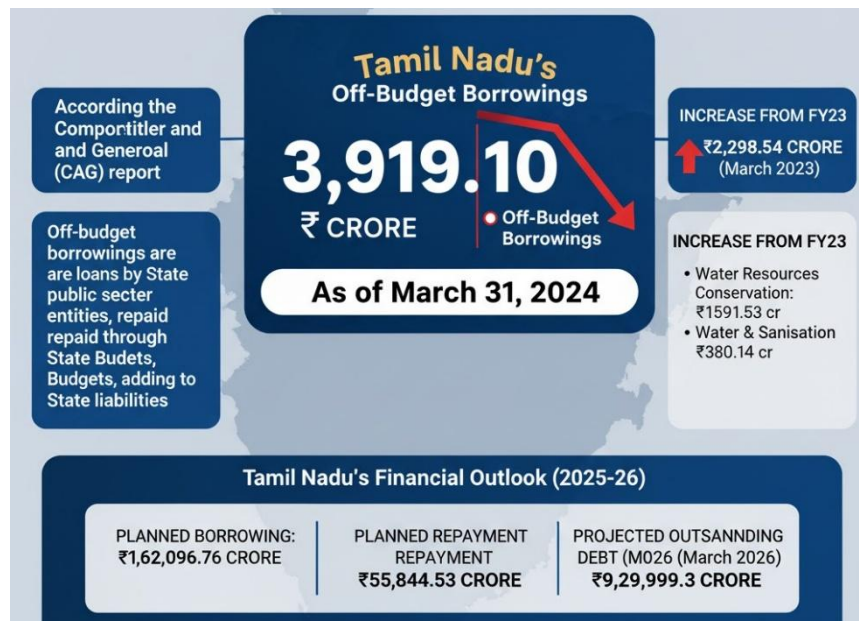
First Phase of Underwater Survey Off Poompuhar Coast



- ❖ Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) conducted a 12-day underwater survey off the Poompuhar coast focusing on the ancient port city of Kaveripoompattinam.
- ❖ The survey covered the stretch between Thirumullaivasal and Neithavasal and traced locations earlier identified by archaeologist S. R. Rao.
- ❖ The collected data is under analysis, and a second phase of the survey is planned when sea conditions become favourable.

Tamil Nadu's off-budget borrowings

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's off-budget borrowings stood at ₹3,919.10 crore as of March 31, 2024, according to the CAG report.
- ❖ Off-budget borrowings are loans taken by State public sector entities but repaid through State Budgets, thus indirectly adding to State liabilities.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's off-budget borrowings were ₹2,298.54 crore as of March 31, 2023.
- ❖ It is including ₹1,591.53 crore by the Water Resources Conservation and ₹380.14 crore by the Water and Sanitation Pooled Fund.
- ❖ The State plans to borrow ₹1,62,096.76 crore and repay ₹55,844.53 crore in 2025-26.
- ❖ As a result, the outstanding borrowing as on March 31, 2026 will be ₹9,29,959.3 crore.



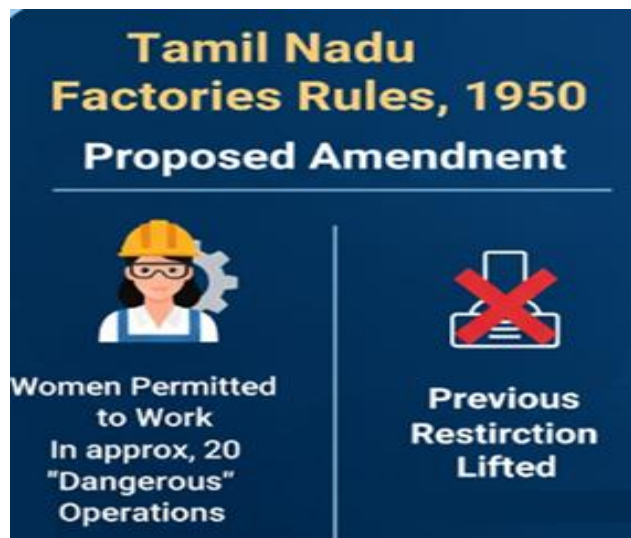
Mettur Dam's Full Capacity

- ❖ The Stanley Reservoir in Mettur, Salem district, reached its full reservoir level (FRL) of 120 feet on October 20, 2025, for the seventh time this year.
- ❖ Due to this, a flood alert has been issued to 11 delta districts.
- ❖ Mettur Dam reached full level earlier on June 12, July 5, July 28, August 19, September 15, and October 3, 2025.
- ❖ The last time the dam reached FRL seven times in a year was in 1977.
- ❖ In 2024, it attained FRL three times.
- ❖ The FRL of the dam is 120 feet.

- ❖ The dam's capacity is 93.47 tmc ft.



Factories Rules for Women Workers



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government plans to amend the Tamil Nadu Factories Rules, 1950.
- ❖ The amendment will permit women to work in about 20 operations previously classified as dangerous.

- ❖ The amendments include obtaining written consent from women workers who wish to work night shifts.
- ❖ Pregnant women will be prohibited from working in these dangerous operations.
- ❖ The allowed operations include electrolytic processes, lead processing, glass manufacturing, and handling of lead compounds.
- ❖ Other permitted jobs involve gas generation, petroleum handling, blasting, tanning, graphite powdering, printing involving lead, cashew nut processing, dyeing, painting, chemical works, fireworks manufacturing, and high noise or vibration environments.

NATIONAL NEWS

Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2025



- ❖ The 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2025 concluded in Dehradun with a focus on nutrition and empowerment.
- ❖ Poshan Maah featured six key themes, including men's involvement, local foods, and digital innovation.
- ❖ Anganwadi services serve more than 9 crore beneficiaries through 14 lakh centres across India.
- ❖ The Poshan Tracker app has improved transparency and efficiency in nutrition service delivery.
- ❖ Uttarakhand emphasized promoting local millets and pulses as nutritious and climate-resilient foods.

- ❖ The event highlighted the free distribution of nutrition kits and the digital release of support for COVID-affected children.
- ❖ The campaign aims to build a 'Suposhit' (well-nourished) and 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) by 2047.

We Rise initiative

- ❖ NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and DP World launched 'We Rise' to empower women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ The initiative supports women-led MSMEs in scaling businesses globally through mentorship and trade facilitation.
- ❖ Selected entrepreneurs can showcase products at Bharat Mart in Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Zone.
- ❖ WEP, incubated in 2018, is a public-private partnership addressing finance, market, training, mentoring, and compliance needs.



Kapas Kranti Mission

- ❖ Centre launches ₹600 crore Kapas Kranti Mission to promote high-yield, long-staple cotton cultivation.
- ❖ The mission focuses on scientific research, technological innovation, and extension services for farmers.
- ❖ Farmers in Maharashtra's Akola region have successfully adopted high-density plantation (HDP) methods to increase yields.
- ❖ Telangana farmers will visit Maharashtra to learn HDP techniques and receive suitable seeds for adoption.

- ❖ About 24 lakh farmers in Telangana cultivate cotton, making the state the top cotton producer in India.
- ❖ A mobile application called Kapas Kisan App will be launched post-Diwali for slot booking and streamlined cotton sales.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India's leadership in UN-GGIM-AP

- ❖ India has been elected as Co-Chair of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) for the 2025-2028 term.
- ❖ Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana, IAS, Surveyor General of India, represents India in this prestigious position.
- ❖ The election took place during the 14th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP held in Goyang-si, Republic of Korea.
- ❖ The UN-GGIM-AP represents National Geospatial Information Agencies of 56 countries and promotes economic, social, and environmental benefits of geospatial information.
- ❖ UN-GGIM is the apex intergovernmental body that sets directions and policies for geospatial information production and use globally.



Brazil-India Strategic Partnership

Deepening India-Brazil Strategic Partnership

- **PM Modi** to visit Brasília for talks with President Lula
- Strengthening India-Brazil strategic ties across trade, defence, energy, and technology
- Deepening cooperation in space, health, agriculture, and cultural exchanges

- ❖ Brazil announces a strategic alliance with India to boost economic and technological cooperation.
- ❖ The alliance aims to strengthen political, economic, and technological ties between the two countries.
- ❖ Cooperation between India and Brazil is complementary and not competitive.

- ❖ The strategic partnership seeks to develop both the Brazilian and Indian economies.

FAO - India Partnership

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare celebrating 80 years of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- ❖ India has transformed from a food-deficient country at independence to a food-surplus nation feeding 1.4 billion people.
- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization's technical support helped India achieve self-sufficiency in food grains and promote sustainable farming practices.
- ❖ India holds less than 4% of the world's agricultural land and freshwater resources, but maintains food security for over 800 million people under the National Food Security Act.
- ❖ The backbone of India's agriculture is its 146 million small and marginal farmers supported by innovations like climate-smart practices and crop insurance.
- ❖ Digital initiatives such as Agri Stack empower farmers with real-time data, advancing sustainable agriculture and climate adaptation.

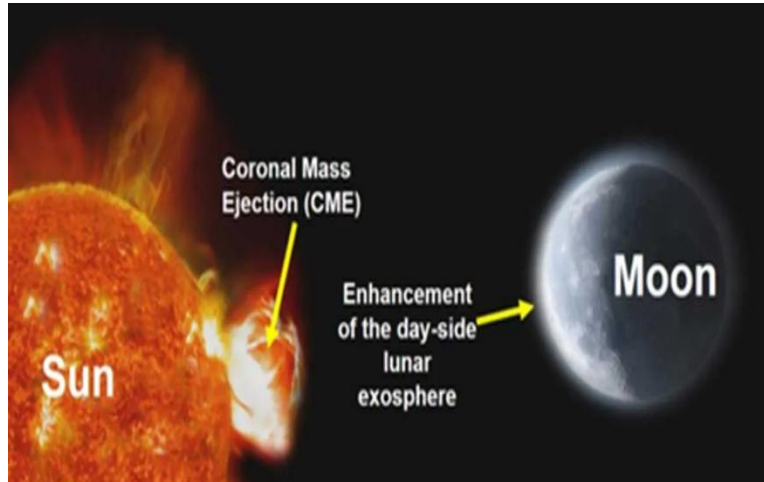


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Chandrayaan-2 Tracks Solar Impact

- ❖ Chandrayaan-2 payload makes first-ever direct observation of the Sun's coronal mass ejection impact on the Moon.
- ❖ The observation was made by the Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2 (CHACE-2) payload aboard Chandrayaan-2's lunar orbiter.
- ❖ A series of coronal mass ejections from the Sun impacted the Moon.

- ❖ CHACE-2 detected an increase of more than ten times in the total number density of the dayside lunar exosphere.
- ❖ The increase was caused by solar particles knocking atoms off the lunar surface, raising the pressure in the sunlit lunar exosphere.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

International Dugong Conservation Centre



- ❖ The International Dugong Conservation Centre is planned by the forest department at Sarabendrarajan pattinam village in Pattukottai taluk, Thanjavur district.
- ❖ The project is located within multiple Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ), including CRZ III (No-Development Zone), where construction is restricted.

- ❖ The proposed area covers nearly 23,000 square metres.
- ❖ It includes research, education, and recreational infrastructure such as a museum, theatre, eco-hub, and pathways.
- ❖ The site falls near seagrass beds, tidal rivers, and mangrove forests, which are ecologically sensitive and protected under the CRZ Notification, 2011.

Blackbuck population

- ❖ The blackbuck was declared locally extinct in Chhattisgarh in 2017 due to poaching and habitat loss.
- ❖ A five-year reintroduction plan was launched by the Chhattisgarh State Wildlife Board in 2021.
- ❖ 77 blackbucks were translocated from New Delhi and Bilaspur to Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ By 2025, the population in the sanctuary increased to 190, with 100 released into the wild and 90 still in enclosures.
- ❖ Blackbucks are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

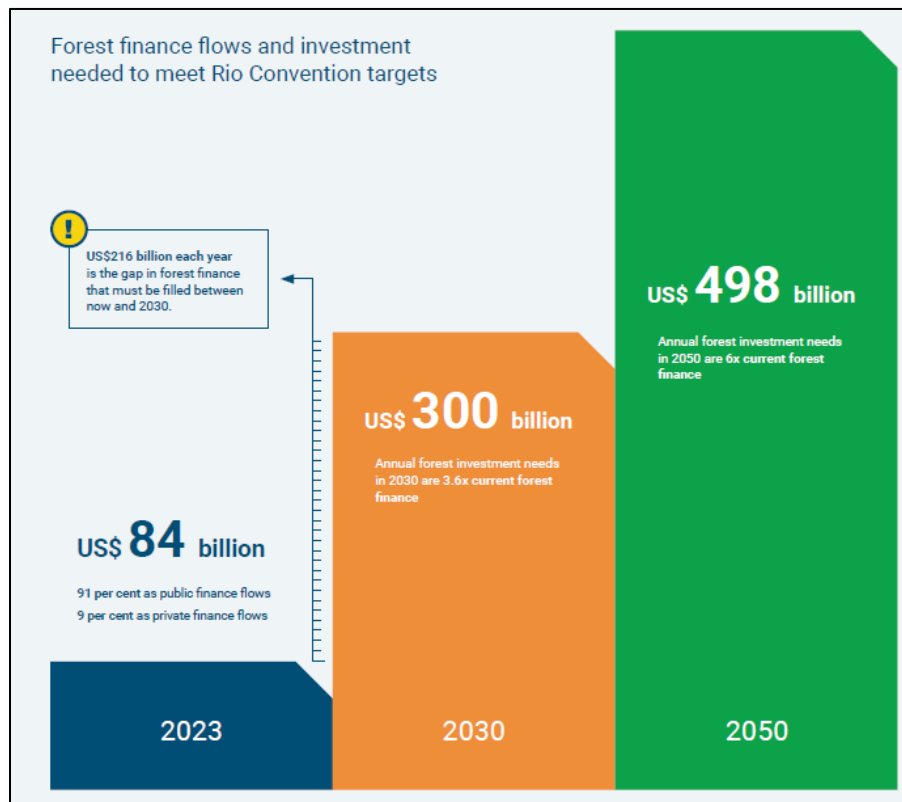


REPORTS AND INDICES

State of Finance for Forests report 2025

- ❖ The first State of Finance for Forests (SFF) report was released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❖ In 2023, global investment in forests was estimated at US\$84 billion.

- ❖ Annual investment must increase to US\$300 billion by 2030 to meet climate and biodiversity goals.
- ❖ By 2050, required forest investment is projected to reach US\$498 billion per year.
- ❖ This results in an annual investment gap of approximately US\$216 billion.
- ❖ Private forest finance was US\$7.5 billion in 2023, mainly directed to low-risk markets.
- ❖ Environmentally harmful subsidies totalled about US\$406 billion in 2023.
- ❖ By November 2024, private financial institutions held US\$8.9 trillion in active financing linked to companies with high deforestation risk.



STATES' NEWS

Millet procurement in MP

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh cabinet approves procurement of Kodo and Kutki millets from major producing districts for the first time.
- ❖ Procurement will cover districts including Jabalpur, Katni, Mandla, and others under the Rani Durgavati Shree-Ann Protsahan Yojana.

- ❖ Shri Ann Federation will buy 30,000 metric tonnes of millets at Rs 3,500 per quintal for Kutki and Rs 2,500 per quintal for Kodo.
- ❖ Farmers will receive an additional incentive of Rs 1,000 per quintal through direct benefit transfer to their bank accounts.
- ❖ The Price Deficit Payment Scheme (Bhavantar Scheme) will be implemented for soybean farmers from October 24, 2025, to January 15, 2026.
- ❖ The difference between MSP (Minimum Support Price) of ₹5,238 per quintal and the model/market rate will be paid via DBT.



SPORTS NEWS

Khelo India University Games 2025

- ❖ The 5th edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) will be held in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Games will take place across seven cities in Rajasthan: Jaipur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kota, and Bharatpur.
- ❖ A total of 23 medal sports and one demonstration sport, kho-kho, will be featured.
- ❖ New disciplines added this year include beach volleyball, canoeing and kayaking, and cycling.
- ❖ KIUG serves as a national platform connecting university-level athletes to higher-level competitions.
- ❖ The previous edition was held in North-east India, where Chandigarh University won the overall title.

- ❖ Khelo India is a flagship scheme by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Taftan volcano



- ❖ Taftan volcano shows signs of awakening after 710,000 years.
- ❖ The Taftan volcano is located in southeastern Iran near the city of Khash.
- ❖ It is a 3,940-metre-high stratovolcano formed by the subduction of the Arabian plate beneath the Eurasian plate.
- ❖ Between July 2023 and May 2024, satellite data detected a 9-centimetre ground uplift near its summit.
- ❖ This uplift indicates increasing underground gas or magma pressure beneath the volcano.



- ❖ In 2023, gaseous emissions were observed up to 50 kilometres away from the volcano.
- ❖ Scientists have reclassified Taftan from extinct to dormant based on new evidence.
- ❖ There are no known historical eruptions, but sulfur-emitting fumaroles are active.

