



October - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Dr Ashokkumar Veeramuthu from Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, has been listed among the World's Top Scientists for the third consecutive year by Stanford University and Elsevier Publishers.
- ❖ The State Bank of India (SBI) has been honoured as the World's Best Consumer Bank 2025 and the Best Bank in India 2025 by Global Finance magazine.
- ❖ NPCI introduces UPI HELP Assistant, powered by a proprietary financial domain-specific language model, to enhance user engagement by providing intelligent conversational support.
- ❖ India started a unique nationwide campaign, '#23for23' on International Snow Leopard Day to encourage citizens to dedicate 23 minutes of physical activity to raise awareness about the conservation of snow leopards and their fragile mountain habitats.
- ❖ The 16th International Railway Equipment Exhibition-2025, Asia's largest and the world's second-largest railway exhibition was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Queen Mother Sirikit of Thailand passed away in Bangkok.
 - She was the wife of King Bhumibol Adulyadej and the mother of King Maha Vajiralongkorn.
- ❖ World Disarmament Weeks observed during 24–30 Oct to create awareness of disarmament, arms control, nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and emerging threats to enhance global peace and security.

NATIONAL NEWS

Notaries (Amendment) Rules, 2025

- ❖ The Department of Legal Affairs has notified the Notaries (Amendment) Rules, 2025 under the Notaries Act, 1952.
- ❖ The amendment revises the maximum number of notaries in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Nagaland.
- ❖ The ceiling for Gujarat increased from 2,900 to 6,000, for Tamil Nadu from 2,500 to 3,500, for Rajasthan from 2,000 to 3,000, and for Nagaland from 200 to 400.
- ❖ A notary is a public official authorized to verify, authenticate, and certify documents, witness signatures, and administer oaths.



Indian Army's Next-Generation Transformation



BHAIRAV LIGHT COMMANDO BATTALIONS

WHAT THEY ARE

- ★ 250-lethal-and-mobile soldiers per battalion
- ★ Drones and modern weapons
- ★ Swift, high-impact missions

DEPLOYMENT PLAN

- ★ Northern Front: Leh, Srinagaor, Nagrota
- ★ Western Sector: Desert terrain
- ★ Eastern Sector: Hill terrain

STRATEGIC IMPACT

- ★ 23 battalions by 2025
- ★ Two-front deterrence
- ★ Modular, tech-integrated warfare

❖ The Indian Army is undergoing a decade-long transformation from 2023 to 2032.

- ❖ New formations include Rudra Brigades, Bhairav Battalions, Divyastra Batteries, and Shaktibaan units.
- ❖ Rudra Brigades are all-arms formations combining infantry, artillery, and armored units for flexible deployment.
- ❖ Bhairav Battalions are special units bridging elite forces and regular infantry, focusing on rapid strikes and tactical operations.
- ❖ Divyastra Batteries combine traditional artillery with drones and loitering munitions for precision attacks.
- ❖ Shaktibaan units operate only with drones and loitering munitions for targeted operations.

Special Provisions for Ladakh - Article 371

Deadly standoff

A timeline of the protest and unrest in Leh city, Ladakh



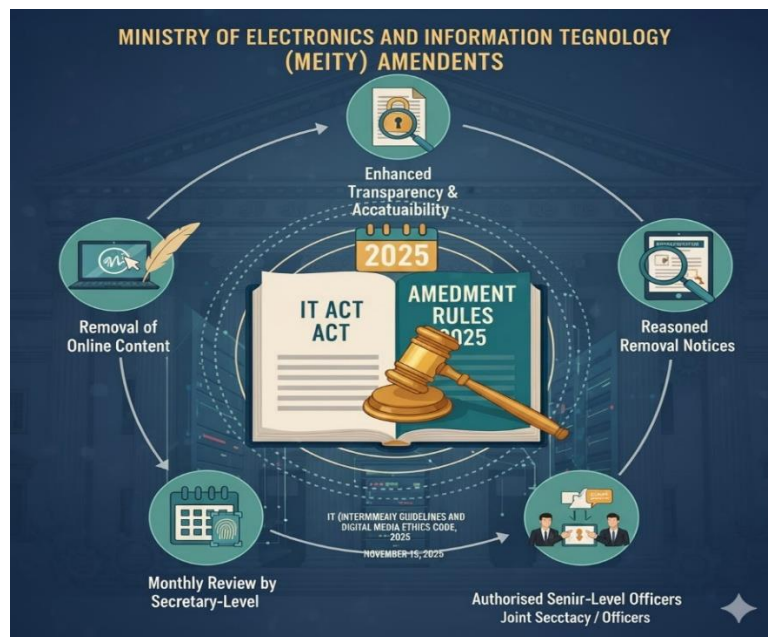
Sept. 10: LAB, KDA launch hunger strike in Leh	Sept. 26: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, leading the strike, detained under NSA
Sept. 24: Violence erupts in Leh; four killed, over 100 injured	Sept. 29: LAB and KDA cancel September 30 talks, demand judicial probe into killings
	Oct. 17: MHA announces judicial enquiry
	Oct. 19: Ladakh groups resume talks with MHA

- ❖ Civil society groups in Ladakh resumed talks with the Union Home Ministry, after the September 24 violence in Leh.
- ❖ The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) demanded the release of Sonam Wangchuk and 20 other detained protesters.
- ❖ The Home Ministry indicated that special provisions under Article 371 of the Constitution could be considered for Ladakh.
- ❖ Article 371 deals with “Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions”, and exists under Part XXI of the Constitution.
- ❖ It is currently applicable in 12 States: Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, and Karnataka.
- ❖ LAB and KDA continue to demand inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution for tribal status and autonomy.

- ❖ Ladakh has been a Union Territory without a legislative assembly since 2019, after losing special status under Article 370.

IT Amendment Rules, 2025

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has amended Rule 3(1)(d) of the IT Rules, 2021, via the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2025.
- ❖ The amendments, effective from November 15, 2025.
- ❖ It aims to enhance the transparency, accountability, and proportionality in the removal of unlawful online content.
- ❖ Senior-level officers, not below Joint Secretary or Deputy Inspector General (DIG) for police, are now authorised to issue removal notices to intermediaries.
- ❖ Notices must be “reasoned intimations” specifying the legal basis, nature of unlawful content, and exact URL or electronic location.
- ❖ All removal intimations will undergo monthly review by a secretary-level officer to ensure necessity, proportionality, and compliance with law.



Telecommunications Amendment Rules, 2025

- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) notified the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Amendment Rules, 2025 on October 22, 2025, effective immediately.

- ❖ The rules establish a Mobile Number Validation (MNV) platform to verify telecom identifiers and bring Telecommunication Identifier User Entities (TIUEs) under DoT cybersecurity oversight.
- ❖ TIUEs include businesses using mobile numbers for identification, verification, or service delivery, and must comply with DoT standards and share usage details.
- ❖ The DoT can direct TIUEs and telecom operators to suspend or block numbers without prior notice if misuse is detected, recording reasons in writing.
- ❖ The rules also strengthen International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) regulations to prevent device tampering and circulation of stolen or cloned phones.

Draft Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Amendment Rules, 2025

REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

3D Laser Sensors for Highway Safety



- ❖ The NHAI is deploying Network Survey Vehicles (NSVs) equipped with 3D laser sensors.



- ❖ These vehicles will scan and detect road defects such as potholes, cracks, and surface patches automatically.
- ❖ The project covers 20,933 kilometres of national highways across 23 Indian states.
- ❖ Data collected will be uploaded to NHAI's AI-based Data Lake portal for expert analysis.
- ❖ The initiative aims to improve road safety, reduce accidents, and optimise maintenance costs.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

West Bank Annexation Bills



- ❖ Israel has frozen the West Bank annexation bills that passed a preliminary vote in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament.
- ❖ The bills proposed full annexation of the West Bank and the large-scale settlement of Maale Adumim near Jerusalem.
- ❖ The parliamentary vote occurred during a visit by a foreign dignitary.
- ❖ The vote was called a political stunt with no practical significance.

- ❖ The government described the vote as a deliberate political provocation by the Opposition.
- ❖ No further action on the annexation bills will be taken until further notice.

UN CFT Treaty - Iran



- ❖ Iran has ratified a law to join the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) under the United Nations.
- ❖ The law was promulgated by President Masoud Pezeshkian to align Iran with global standards on combating terrorist financing.
- ❖ Iran aims to improve access to international banking, ease trade restrictions, and relieve pressure from sanctions-hit economic conditions.
- ❖ The country has faced FATF (Financial Action Task Force) blacklisting since 2020 due to non-compliance, alongside nations like North Korea and Myanmar.
- ❖ Iran has historically supported groups designated as terrorist by the U.S., including Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis.

ECONOMY NEWS

India's Forex Reserves

- ❖ India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$4.496 billion to \$702.28 billion as of October 17, 2025.

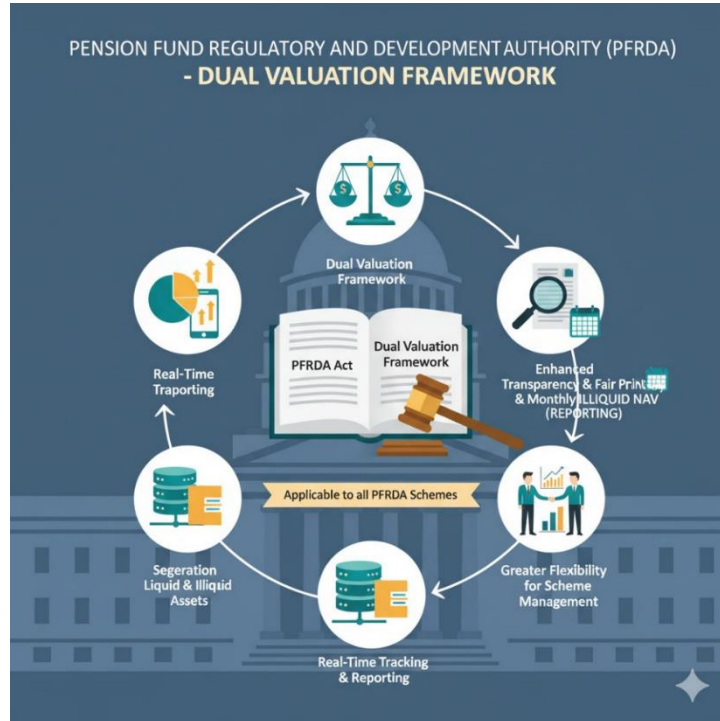
- ❖ The increase was mainly due to a surge in the value of gold reserves, which jumped by \$6.181 billion to \$108.546 billion.
- ❖ Foreign currency assets fell slightly by \$1.692 billion to \$570.411 billion, influenced by currency fluctuations.
- ❖ Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) rose marginally to \$18.722 billion, while India's IMF reserve position fell to \$4.602 billion.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been favouring gold over dollar-based assets, adding 600 kilograms of gold this fiscal year.
- ❖ RBI's US Treasury holdings dropped to a seven-month low of \$219 billion.



Dual Valuation Framework

- ❖ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has proposed a dual valuation framework for government securities in the National Pension Scheme (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
- ❖ The proposal suggests using both mark-to-market and accrual or held-to-maturity (HTM) valuation methods for government securities.
- ❖ Currently, NPS investments are valued on a mark-to-market basis, which reflects daily market prices.

- ❖ The accrual or HTM method recognizes interest income daily while avoiding short-term price fluctuations.
- ❖ The dual valuation approach allows pension funds to manage liquid securities actively while holding long-term government securities at stable values.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

GJ 251c exoplanet



- ❖ Scientists have discovered a super-Earth exoplanet named GJ 251c.
- ❖ The planet has a minimum mass of 3.84 times that of Earth.

- ❖ GJ 251c orbits in the habitable zone of its star, where liquid water could exist.
- ❖ Its host star, GJ 251, is a red dwarf about a third the mass of the Sun.
- ❖ The exoplanet completes an orbit every 53.6 days around its star.
- ❖ The planet does not transit its star, so its diameter and atmosphere are unknown.

STATES' NEWS

Kerala - Free from Extreme Poverty



- ❖ Kerala will officially be declared free from extreme poverty on November 1, 2025.
- ❖ The Extreme Poverty Eradication Project (EPEP) identified and supported 1,03,099 individuals from 64,006 families.
- ❖ Customized micro-plans were prepared for each family and integrated with welfare schemes and infrastructure development.
- ❖ NITI Aayog reported that less than 0.55% of Kerala's population now lives in extreme poverty, the lowest in India.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Children's Booker Prize

- ❖ The Booker Prize Foundation has announced the Children's Booker Prize.

- ❖ It is a new £50,000 award for children's fiction supported by the AKO Foundation.
- ❖ The prize will honour the best fiction for children aged eight to twelve, written in or translated into English, and published in the United Kingdom (UK) or Ireland.
- ❖ It will launch in 2026 and be awarded annually from 2027, marking the foundation's first new prize in twenty years.



WIPO Advisory Board



- ❖ Justice Prathiba M. Singh of the Delhi High Court has been appointed chairperson of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Advisory Board of Judges for the 2025–2027 term.

- ❖ She previously served as chairperson and presiding judge of the first Intellectual Property Division of the Delhi High Court during 2021–2022.
- ❖ The Advisory Board of Judges includes 9 other international members who provide guidance to WIPO's work with judiciaries.
- ❖ Justice Singh also co-chairs the World Health Organization's Working Group on Regulatory Considerations on Artificial Intelligence in Health.
- ❖ She has been named among the 50 most influential people in intellectual property globally in 2021 and 2022.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2025



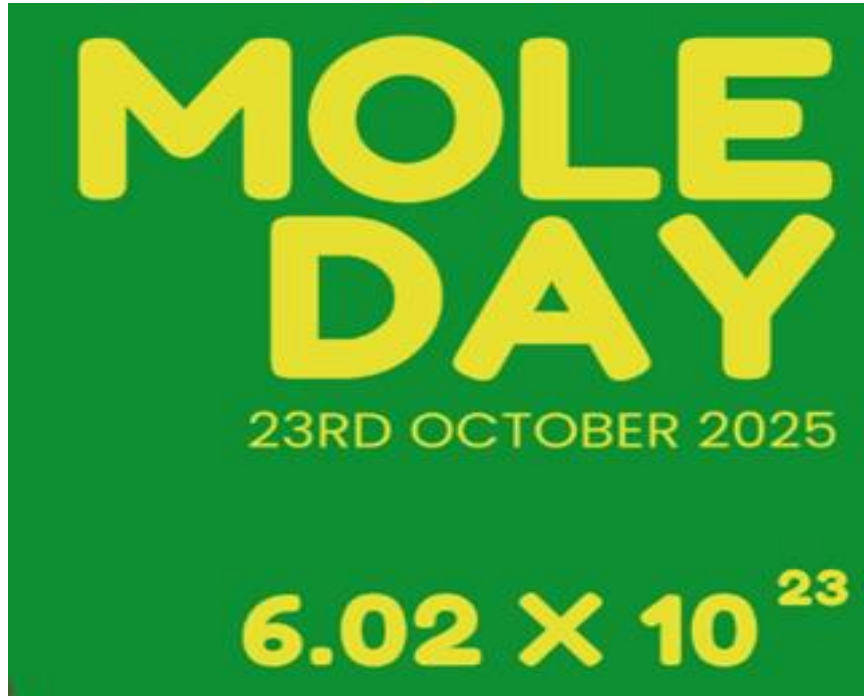
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness and celebrate progress in Media and Information Literacy (MIL) for all.
- ❖ The week promotes responsible, ethical, and informed use of media and information, especially in the age of AI.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Minds Over AI: MIL in Digital Spaces,”

Mole Day 2025 - October 23

- ❖ Mole Day is celebrated every year on October 23 from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m.



- ❖ It aims to honor Avogadro's number, 6.022×10^{23} , and promote awareness of the mole concept in chemistry.
- ❖ Mole Day was founded in the 1980s by Maurice Oehler, a chemistry teacher in Wisconsin, USA.



World Polio Day 2025 - October 24



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about polio eradication and ensure every child receives life-saving polio vaccinations.
- ❖ The day was first initiated by Rotary International to honor Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the first effective polio vaccine.



- ❖ The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) launched in 1988 aims to eliminate polio worldwide.
- ❖ The 2025 theme is “End Polio: Every Child, Every Vaccine, everywhere.”

