



October - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched two fast patrol vessels, ICG Ship Ajit and ICG Ship Aparajit, to perform coastal patrol, fisheries protection, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, and search and rescue operations.
- ❖ The Kerala government will construct a 2.75 km underwater tunnel connecting Vypin and Fort Kochi under the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Sunil Amrith, an Indian-origin historian and Yale University professor, won the 2025 British Academy Book Prize for *The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years*.
- ❖ Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra has been awarded the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army.
- ❖ Bajrang Setu, India's first 132-metre cable suspension glass bridge and the second of its kind in Asia, standing 57–70 feet above the Ganga River will be opened soon.
- ❖ Indo-Tibetan Border Police Raising Day is observed every year on October 24 to commemorate the establishment of the ITBP in 1962 and honour its service in safeguarding India's northern frontiers.
- ❖ India won the boys' kabaddi gold medal at the 3rd Asian Youth Games 2025 in Manama, Bahrain.
 - The U-18 girls' team, with vice-captain R. Karthika of Chennai, defeated Iran to win the girls' kabaddi gold medal.
- ❖ The International Day of Diplomats, observed every year on October 24 to honor the dedicated Diplomats around the world engaged in international relations.
- ❖ World Development Information Day is observed every year on October 24 to highlight the role of information and communication technology in promoting global development and cooperation.
 - The theme for 2025 is "Harnessing the Knowledge Sharing for the Global Development"
- ❖ World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed every year on October 27 to raise awareness about the importance of preserving audiovisual documents as a vital part of our cultural and collective memory.
 - The theme for 2025 is "A Window to the World".



TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Talents Plan

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government unveiled the 'Tamil Talents Plan' to attract overseas Tamil researchers.
- ❖ The initiative aims to provide competitive salaries, startup research grants, relocation support, and fast-tracked visa facilitation.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHE) will maintain a registry of overseas Tamil researchers across multiple disciplines.
- ❖ The plan targets researchers from the US, UK, Australia, and other countries for both long-term and short-term collaborations.
- ❖ The state has allocated Rs 100 crore to establish new research centres for basic sciences and mathematics in Chennai and Coimbatore.

TN Launches Plan To Attract US Researchers

Tamil Nadu is launching the Tamil Talents Plan to attract overseas researchers, especially those leaving the US due to visa issues. The plan offers global-standard salaries, research grants, relocation support, and fast-tracked visas. A diaspora researcher registry is being created, with joint labs and collaborative projects in the works. Annual conclaves will connect researchers with local academia. Two ₹100-crore basic science research centres in Chennai and Coimbatore will be set up with IISc and TIFR to boost innovation.

Iridium Scam

- ❖ The Crime Branch–Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID), Tamil Nadu, arrested 57 persons in connection with the Iridium scam.
- ❖ Iridium is the element with an atomic number of 77.
- ❖ It is a hard, brittle, silver-white transition metal in the platinum group, known for being extremely dense and corrosion-resistant.
- ❖ It belongs to the family of elements whose one of the most important elements is Platinum.
- ❖ It was found in the year 1803 by an English chemist Smithson Tennant from platinum ores.
- ❖ It comes in the transition metal group.

- ❖ Uses for iridium include fountain-pen nibs (alloyed with osmium), compass bearings, high-temperature crucibles and heavy-duty electrical contacts.

CB-CID CRACKS DOWN ON IRIDIUM

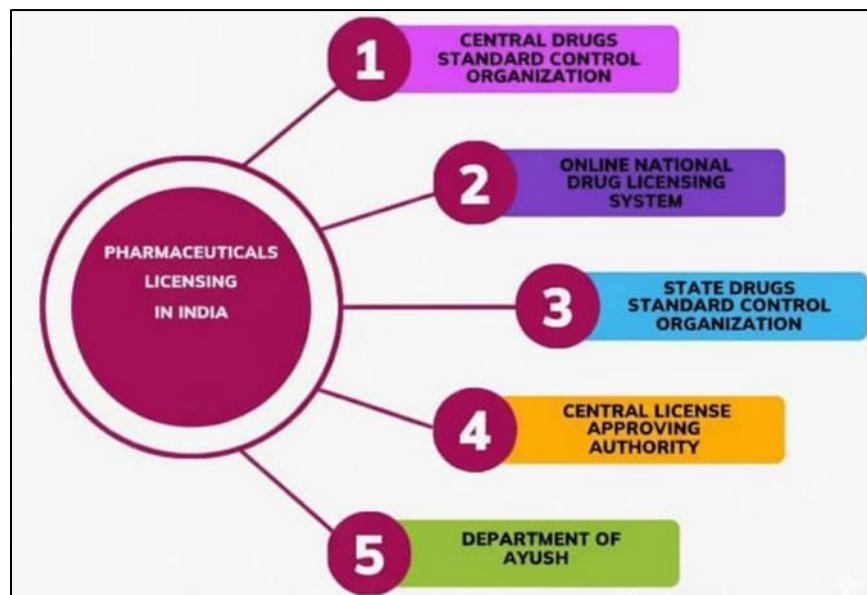
FRAUD SYNDICATE!

CB-CID busts ₹25 crore Iridium Scam 🇮🇳

- ◆ 30 people arrested across Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karnataka
- ◆ 6 scam syndicates dismantled
- ◆ Victims cheated with fake promises of huge returns from “dormant RBI accounts”

NATIONAL NEWS

Online National Drugs Licensing System

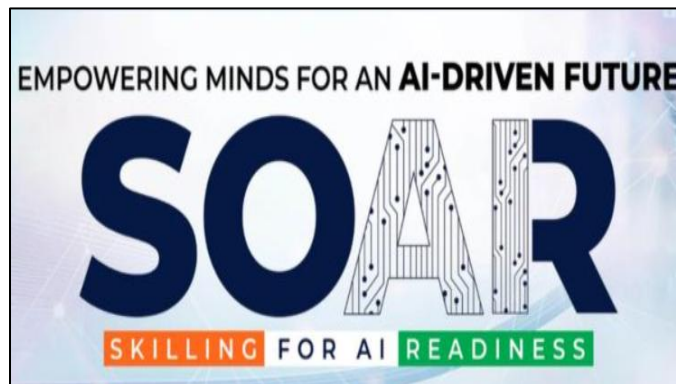


- ❖ The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has launched a digital monitoring system on the Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLS) portal.
- ❖ The system tracks the supply chain and quality of high-risk pharmaceutical solvents.

- ❖ The move follows reports of contaminated cough syrups containing diethylene glycol (DEG) that caused over 20 child deaths in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ High-risk solvents include glycerin, propylene glycol, maltitol, sorbitol, polyethylene glycol, polysorbates, and certain alcohols.
- ❖ Solvent manufacturers must register on ONDLS, upload batch-specific data, and obtain licenses before market release.
- ❖ The portal also supports the processing of manufacturing and sales licenses, including certifications like Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and World Health Organization-GMP (WHO-GMP).

SOAR Program

- ❖ The Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) program targets students from class 6 to class 12 and educators to prepare India for a digital future.
- ❖ SOAR provides modules for students and educators focusing on ethical AI use and basic machine learning concepts.
- ❖ The Union Budget 2025-26 allocated ₹500 crore to establish a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for education.
- ❖ SOAR aligns with the Skill India Mission and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0 to enhance digital skills, AI literacy, and employability.



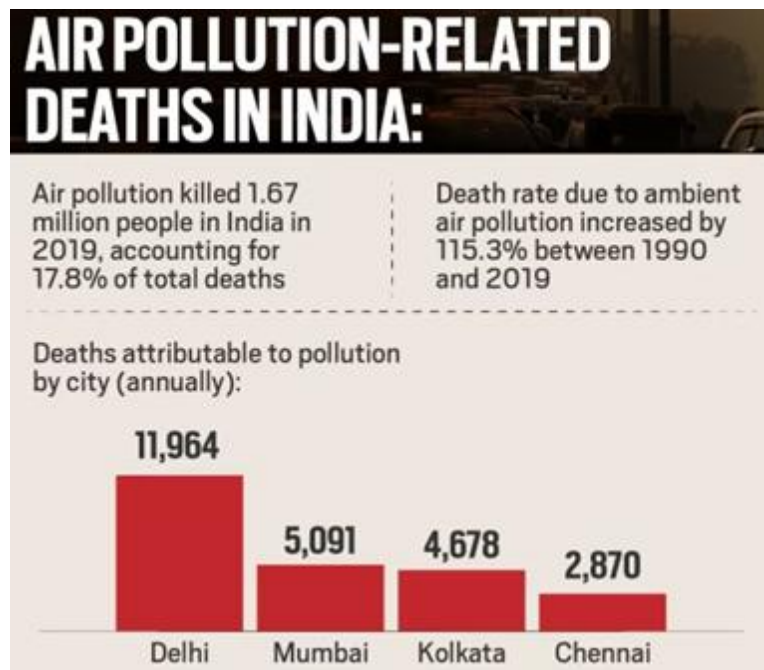
Intrusion Detection System

- ❖ The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has launched an Intrusion Detection System (IDS) to protect elephants near railway tracks.
- ❖ The system uses optical fibre sensors to detect elephant movement and sends real-time alerts to train drivers and control rooms.
- ❖ Pilot installations cover 64.03 km of elephant corridors and 141 km of block sections across four railway divisions.

- ❖ The next phase will expand the IDS to 146.4 km of elephant corridors, with full implementation expected by April 2026.



India's Air Pollution Crisis



- ❖ In 2023, about 2 million deaths in India were linked to air pollution.
- ❖ Nearly 90% of these deaths were due to non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, lung cancer, diabetes, and dementia.

- ❖ India records approximately 186 air-pollution deaths per 100,000 people.
- ❖ Air pollution accounts for about 70% of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease deaths in India.
- ❖ It contributes to roughly 33% of lung cancer deaths, 25% of heart-disease deaths, and 20% of diabetes deaths.
- ❖ PM2.5 levels in India are eight times the World Health Organization annual exposure guideline and four times the 24-hour guideline.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

New Sevilla Forum on Debt

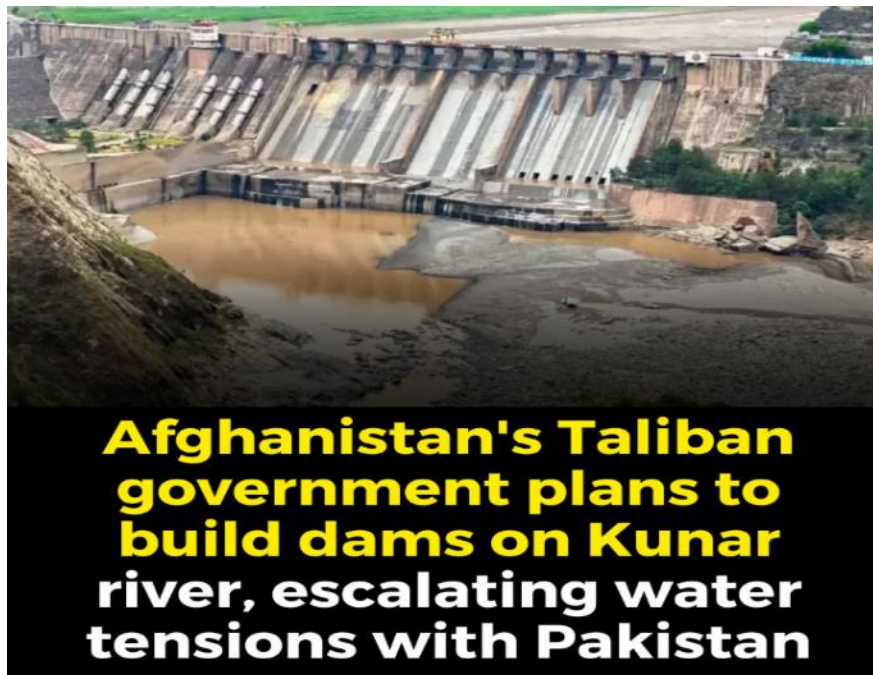


- ❖ The New Sevilla Forum on Debt is a Spanish-led multilateral platform supported by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
- ❖ It was launched at the 16th UNCTAD Conference in Geneva as part of the Sevilla Platform for Action.
- ❖ The forum promotes fair, transparent, and sustainable solutions to sovereign debt crises.
- ❖ It involves governments, creditors, civil society, and experts to strengthen responsible borrowing and lending practices.
- ❖ The forum provides technical support for predictable debt management and tracks the implementation of debt initiatives agreed in Sevilla.

- ❖ It enhances North–South cooperation and fosters systemic reforms for fairer debt governance in developing economies.

Dams on the Kunar River

- ❖ Afghanistan's Taliban-led administration announced plans to construct dams on the Kunar River.
- ❖ The Kunar River flows into Pakistan's northwestern region.
- ❖ The dam project was ordered by the Taliban leadership.
- ❖ The dams are expected to restrict water flow into Pakistan.



ECONOMY NEWS

Drip Pricing

- ❖ The Department of Consumer Affairs has warned online shoppers about 'dark pattern drip pricing' on e-commerce platforms.
- ❖ Drip pricing occurs when hidden charges like service or convenience fees are added at checkout.
- ❖ Consumers can report such unfair trade practices through the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) by calling 1915.
- ❖ The warning follows record Diwali 2025 online sales and a sharp rise in quick commerce transactions.

- ❖ According to Uni commerce, India's online retail orders grew 24% year-on-year during the festive period.

DARK PATTERN

DRIP PRICING

When the full cost is hidden upfront, and extra charges appear later, during purchase.

Price Detail	
Price (1 item)	₹1400
Packing Charges	₹25
Platform Fee	₹10
Delivery Charges	₹40
TOTAL	₹1475



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

AI Playbooks and White Paper



- ❖ Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, launched three publications under the AI for India 2030 initiative.
- ❖ The publications include
 - Future Farming in India: AI Playbook for Agriculture,
 - Transforming Small Businesses: An AI Playbook for India's Small and Medium Enterprises, and
 - Shaping the AI Sandbox Ecosystem for the Intelligent Age: White Paper.

- ❖ The playbooks provide actionable strategies to deploy artificial intelligence solutions for farmers and small businesses.
- ❖ The IMPACT AI framework guides collaboration where the government enables policies, industry creates solutions, and front-line workers deliver tools.

REPORTS AND INDICES

WMO Report on Early Warnings 2025

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization published a report on “the Early Warnings for All initiative”.
- ❖ The initiative aims to protect every person by 2027 with multi-hazard early warning systems.
- ❖ The report highlights the expansion of the Global Basic Observing Network and automation of national networks to improve data quality.
- ❖ The launch of WMO Information System 2.0 enables real-time global data exchange, connecting even resource-constrained meteorological services.
- ❖ Forecasting capabilities have improved through the WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System, including AI-based predictions for cyclones, floods, droughts, and extreme heat.



UNEP Report on Methane 2025

- ❖ The fifth edition of IMEO’s report, “An Eye on Methane 2025: From Measurement to Momentum”, tracks progress in methane reduction efforts worldwide.

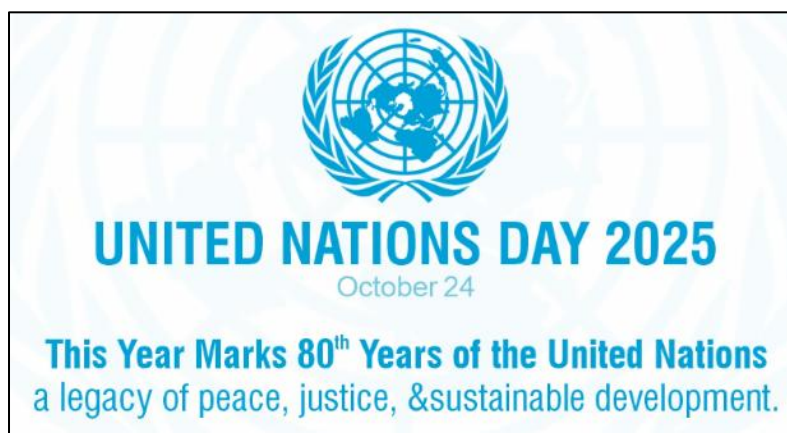


- ❖ Human-caused methane emissions are responsible for roughly one-third of current global warming.
- ❖ The International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) provides open and actionable data to governments and companies to reduce methane emissions.
- ❖ Data sources include industry reporting through the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0, satellite detections via the Methane Alert and Response System, global methane studies, and national emissions inventories.
- ❖ The report emphasizes that scaling methane reduction actions must accelerate across governments and companies to prevent climate tipping points.



IMPORTANT DAYS

United Nations Day 2025 - October 24



- ❖ United Nations Day is observed every year on October 24 to mark the founding of the United Nations in 1945.



- ❖ The United Nations was established when the UN Charter came into force on October 24, 1945.
- ❖ The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the United Nations.
- ❖ The day aims to promote awareness of the goals and achievements of the United Nations and to encourage international cooperation.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Building Our Future Together.”

