



October - 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Maharashtra's Aurangabad Railway Station was renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar Railway Station.
- ❖ RBI launched its fourth global hackathon, HaRBInger 2025, themed "Secure Banking: Powered by Identity, Integrity, and Inclusivity."
- ❖ The year 2026 has been declared as the "ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation" to enhance collaboration between India and ASEAN countries in maritime security, ocean research, disaster response, and sustainable use of marine resources.
- ❖ China's CR450 bullet train reached 450 kilometers per hour during pre-service trials on the Shanghai-Chongqing-Chengdu line, making it the world's fastest train.
- ❖ Odisha weightlifter Preetismita Bhoi won the gold medal in the 44 kg category at the 3rd Asian Youth Games held in Bahrain.
- ❖ A book titled Ulaga Arangil Siraj Ul Minnath on Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader Abdul Samad was released at Chennai, on his birth anniversary on October 26, 2025.
- ❖ Cyclone Montha formed over the Bay of Bengal and made landfall near Kakinada on the Andhra Pradesh coast
 - The cyclone was named "Montha," meaning fragrant or beautiful flower, suggested by Thailand under the North Indian Ocean naming system.
- ❖ World Thrift Day is observed on October 31 globally and on October 30 in India.
 - The theme for 2025 is "Conquer your Tomorrow," launched by the World Savings and Retail Banking Institute (WSBI).

TAMIL NADU NEWS

New Sainik School in Namakkal District

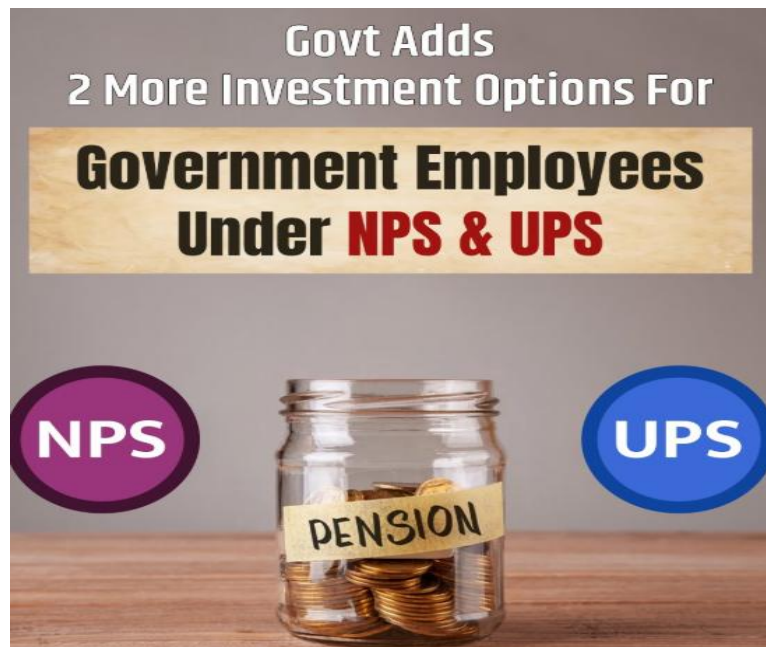
- ❖ The Sainik School Society under the Union Ministry of Defence has added a new school in Tamil Nadu for candidates appearing in the All India Sainik Schools Entrance Examination (AISSEE) 2026.
- ❖ SRRI SPK Public Senior Secondary School in Namakkal district has been included in the list of schools considered for AISSEE 2026.

- ❖ With this addition, Tamil Nadu now has five schools under consideration for the examination.
- ❖ The other approved Sainik Schools in the State are in the Amaravathi Nagar (Tiruppur), Madurai, Salem, and Tiruppur districts.



NATIONAL NEWS

Expansion of Pension Investments



- ❖ The government has approved extending LC75 and BLC investment options to Central Government employees under the National Pension System (NPS) and Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).



- ❖ The move responds to demand from employees for a wider range of investment choices similar to those available to non-government subscribers.
- ❖ The new options aim to provide greater flexibility in retirement planning and allow employees to manage their retirement corpus according to individual preferences.
- ❖ Key benefits include increased flexibility, a glide path mechanism, broadened auto-choice options, and support for informed financial planning.

Maha MedTech Mission

- ❖ Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), in collaboration with ICMR and the Gates Foundation, launched the Maha MedTech Mission.
- ❖ The initiative aims to accelerate innovation in India's medical technology sector and reduce reliance on high-cost imports.
- ❖ The mission covers medical devices, in-vitro diagnostics, implants, surgical and assistive devices, consumables, and AI/ML-enabled and robotic technologies.
- ❖ It supports projects addressing national health priorities such as tuberculosis, cancer, neonatal care, and primary healthcare.

ANRF in Collaboration with ICMR & Gates Foundation announces

Strategic Prioritization of Medical Technologies under the MAHA MedTech Mission

The initiative envisions equitable access to high-quality, affordable, and innovative medical technologies to strengthen healthcare and improve lives

SVASTIK initiative

- ❖ The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) coordinates the SVASTIK – Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge.

- ❖ SVASTIK aims to document, validate, and communicate scientifically verified traditional knowledge to society.
- ❖ The initiative has reached over 22 million people through social media and the MyGov platform.



New Helpline Number 1515



- ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development announced that the new toll-free helpline number 1515 will replace the existing number 14408.
- ❖ This change will be effective from November 1, 2025, to simplify recall and improve accessibility for beneficiaries.

- ❖ The helpline will continue to serve as a single point of contact for queries, information, and support related to POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) and PMMVY (Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

11th member of ASEAN

- ❖ East Timor, also known as Timor-Leste, became the 11th member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ❖ East Timor gained full independence in 2002 after Portuguese colonial rule and occupation by Indonesia.
- ❖ Membership in ASEAN was formalized during the annual summit in Kuala Lumpur.
- ❖ The country aims to participate in regional trade, investment, and cooperation initiatives.



East Timor, Asia's youngest nation, becomes ASEAN's 11th member

22nd ASEAN-India Summit

- ❖ 22nd ASEAN-India Summit held in Kuala Lumpur.

- ❖ Timor-Leste became the 11th member of ASEAN and attended its first ASEAN-India Summit as a full member.
- ❖ India reaffirmed support for ASEAN unity, the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.
- ❖ Several initiatives were proposed, including the ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2026–2030), ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation 2026, and a Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at Nalanda University.
- ❖ ASEAN, founded in 1967, currently has 11 members, with Malaysia as the 2025 Chair and the Philippines taking over in 2026.



UN Convention against Cybercrime



- ❖ The UN Convention against Cybercrime is the world's first legally binding global treaty to prevent and respond to cybercrimes.

- ❖ It was signed by 72 nations in Hanoi, Việt Nam, and entered into force 90 days after ratification by at least 40 UN member states.
- ❖ It establishes the first global framework for the collection, sharing, and use of electronic evidence for all serious offences.
- ❖ The convention criminalizes cyber-dependent crimes, online fraud, online child sexual abuse, grooming of children, and non-consensual dissemination of intimate images.
- ❖ It creates the first global 24/7 cooperation network for rapid international collaboration on cybercrime cases.
- ❖ Cybercrimes include cyber-enabled crimes such as online fraud and trafficking, and cyber-dependent crimes such as phishing, identity theft, malware, and ransomware.

FATF Plenary Meeting 2025



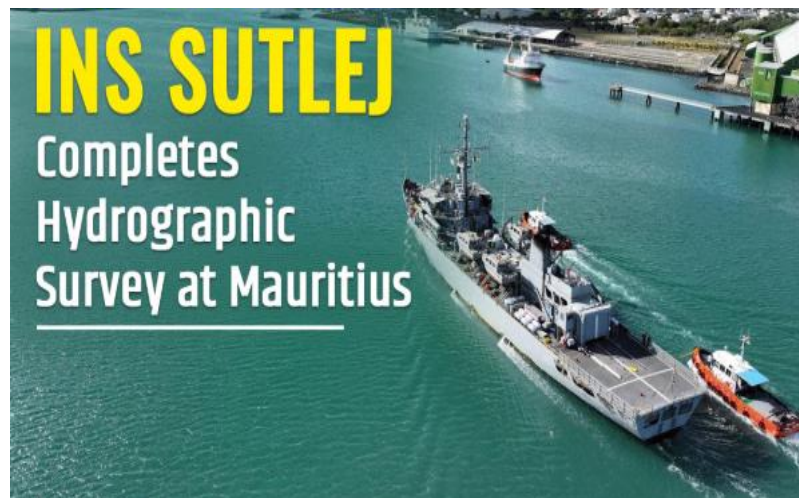
- ❖ The 4th Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary meeting was held under the Mexican Presidency of Elisa de Anda Madrazo in Paris.
- ❖ Jamaica and Nigeria joined the FATF Plenary and Working Group meetings for the first time, along with Kenya, under the Guest Initiative.
- ❖ The Plenary adopted mutual evaluation reports for Belgium and Malaysia under a new time-bound, risk-based assessment system.

- ❖ Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Africa were removed from the list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring after completing their Action Plans.
- ❖ The Plenary approved new guidance on asset recovery and a Horizon Scan to address illicit finance risks from artificial intelligence (AI) and deepfakes.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

INS Sutlej

- ❖ INS Sutlej, an Indian Navy hydrographic survey ship, completed a 35,000 square nautical mile survey with the Mauritius Hydrographic Service.
- ❖ The survey was conducted under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Mauritius.
- ❖ INS Sutlej also carried out joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance and anti-piracy patrols with the Mauritius National Coast Guard.
- ❖ This mission marked the 18th joint hydrographic survey and aligns with India's MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across the Regions) maritime vision.



CRYODIL Solution

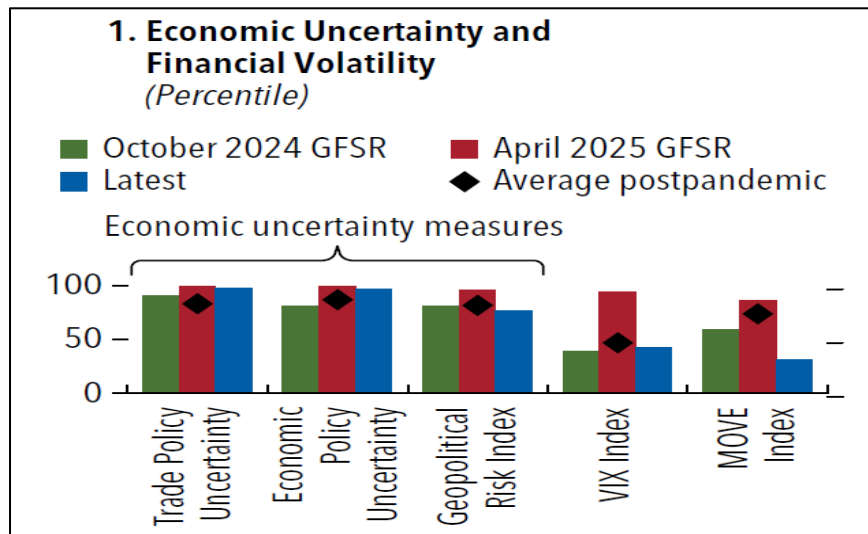
- ❖ Scientists at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (ICAR-NIANP), Bengaluru, developed a ready-to-use egg yolk-free solution called CRYODIL for cryopreserving buffalo semen.
- ❖ CRYODIL has a shelf life of 18 months at refrigeration temperature.
- ❖ The solution uses purified whey proteins from milk without milk sugars to maintain sperm viability and motility after freezing.

- ❖ Semen preserved with CRYODIL showed significantly higher post-thaw progressive motility compared to traditional egg yolk-based extenders.



REPORTS AND INDICES

IMF Global Financial Stability Report 2025



- ❖ Financial stability risks remain elevated due to stretched asset valuations, sovereign bond market pressures, and the growing role of nonbank financial institutions (NBFIs).

- ❖ Structural vulnerabilities in global foreign exchange and emerging market bond markets can amplify shocks, including currency mismatches, concentrated dealer activity, and high NBFIs participation.
- ❖ Emerging markets have shown resilience through increased local currency sovereign bond issuance, but risks persist from heavy borrowing and narrow investor bases.
- ❖ Rising geopolitical tensions, government debt, and the expansion of stablecoins further increase systemic risks.

STATES' NEWS

Ambikapur Garbage Café



- ❖ The Ambikapur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh runs the Garbage Café initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ❖ Citizens can exchange 1 kilogram of plastic waste for a free meal or 0.5 kilogram for a snack.
- ❖ The programme is supported by women's self-help groups, promoting employment and civic participation.
- ❖ The initiative encourages urban sustainability and demonstrates grassroots implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 12.

- ❖ Ambikapur's model has inspired replication in states like Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025



- ❖ Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar was posthumously awarded the Vigyan Ratna.
- ❖ Eight scientists have received the Vigyan Shree award for their contributions to science.
- ❖ Fourteen young scientists were selected for the Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award.
- ❖ The Vigyan Team award was given to Team Aroma Mission of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- ❖ The awards recognize exceptional contributions in science, technology, and innovation.
- ❖ They are presented under four categories: Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shree, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, and Vigyan Team.

Award for PMJANMAN Implementation

- ❖ Anil Malik, Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, received an award from the President of India.
- ❖ The award recognized the Ministry's outstanding contribution to implementing the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PMJANMAN).
- ❖ Over 2000 Anganwadi Centres have been made functional in the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) areas under the scheme.

- ❖ PMJANMAN aims to empower tribal communities at the last mile and strengthen welfare delivery.



SPORTS NEWS

New ASEAN Cup - FIFA



- ❖ FIFA announced the launch of a new ASEAN Cup during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Malaysia.

- ❖ The tournament will allow national teams to compete during FIFA's official international match window.
- ❖ Players from clubs worldwide will be eligible to join their national teams for the competition.
- ❖ FIFA will collaborate with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and other stakeholders to finalise the tournament format and schedule.
- ❖ The new ASEAN Cup aims to strengthen national team football and increase competitive exposure for Southeast Asian countries.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Unity Day 2025 - October 31

- ❖ National Unity Day is observed on October 31 every year in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ❖ The year 2025 marks the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, known as the Iron Man of India.
- ❖ He played a crucial role in uniting over 560 princely states after independence to form a united India.
- ❖ The theme for National Unity Day 2025 is "Ek Bharat, Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

