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TNPSC BITS

- Stanford University mathematician Sarah Peluse was named the 2026 SASTRA-Ramanujan Award recipient; the award was instituted in 2005 by SASTRA (Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy) for mathematicians aged 32 years and below.
- Google's Project Suncatcher will test artificial intelligence (AI) computing in space, with its first prototype satellite planned for launch on 1 October 2026.
- Mizoram launched its first 'Pluck & Pay' festival in Khawzawl district at Tualte and Chawngtlai villages to promote rural tourism and support local farmers.
- India will host the UCI Road World Championships for the first time in 2032, with Pune, Maharashtra selected as the host city.
- The Global Automotive Research Centre (GARC), Oragadam, Chennai, is upgrading its automotive testing facilities with ₹221.13 crore under the PM E-DRIVE (Prime Minister Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement) Scheme.
  - GARC functions under the National Automotive Board (NAB) of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and is an authorised vehicle-testing agency under Rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR).
- Vithya Ramraj set a new national record in women's 400m hurdles with 54.75 seconds, breaking P. T. Usha's 42-year-old record of 55.42 seconds set in 1984, with her timing ranking 33rd on the 2026 world list.
- Neeru Dhanda became the first Indian shooter to win an individual Asian Games gold in women's trap at the 2026 Asian Games held in Nagoya, Japan.
- The foundation stone was laid for India's first port-based e-methanol production facility at Deendayal Port, Kandla, Gujarat.
- The Bihar State Legal Services Authority (BLSA) will establish the country's first Victim Rights Centre as a pilot project in Patna.
  - The centre will provide victims with a single point of entry to access support and identify their legal entitlements.
- Researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) discovered a new Begonia species, Begonia rajvikramanii, in Rosemala, Kollam district, Kerala.
  - The species was named after R. Raj Vikraman, former Head of the Garden Management Division at JNTBGRI.
- India's indigenous Kaveri dry engine achieved a peak dry thrust of 48.5 kilonewtons (kN) during recent high-altitude and flight trials in Russia.
  - The engine is developed by the DRDO for India's Ghatak Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV).

- The Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the Pashudhan Bima Portal in New Delhi to streamline livestock insurance services.
  - The portal aims to protect livestock-dependent households from financial losses and improve rural livelihood security.
- The Indian Peafowl (Pavo cristatus) was recorded for the first time in Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam.
  - The Indian Peafowl is the national bird of India and belongs to the pheasant family (Phasianidae).
- World Contraception Day was observed on 26 September 2026 to spread awareness about contraception and family planning.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "No Barriers, Just Choices."
- India's first dual-fuel Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) train was flagged off from Sabarmati Railway Station, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Iran completed track-laying on the Chabahar–Zahedan railway in September 2026, connecting Chabahar Port with Iran's national rail network.
  - The corridor links the Gulf of Oman with Afghanistan, Central Asia and eastern Russia, while bypassing Pakistan; Chabahar is Iran's only oceanic port, and Zahedan is the capital of Sistan and Baluchestan province.
- India and Kazakhstan are conducting the 9th edition of KAZIND-2026 in Oskemen, Kazakhstan.
- India retained the Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy at the 46th Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, after finishing as the best overall nation.
- The Central Government approved a ₹87 crore project to develop India's first world-class geological museum at Bhedaghat-Lamhetaghat, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- Trinidad and Tobago is set to become the first Caribbean country to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
  - UPI is currently operational in 11 foreign countries, including Bhutan, Nepal, Singapore, UAE, France, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Qatar, Cambodia, Greece and Maldives.
- India's first steel bridge for the Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project was launched at Dive-Anjur village in Bhiwandi, Thane district, Maharashtra.
- 11-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan became the youngest-ever Woman Grandmaster (WGM) after earning her third WGM norm at the 2026 Women's Chess Olympiad held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- The FASTag Annual Pass crossed one crore issued passes on 28 September 2026 and is available only for private, non-commercial vehicles with a valid FASTag, activated through the Rajmargyatra app or NHAI website.

- The pass was launched on 15 August 2025 by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

❖ Mandar, a traditional folk percussion instrument of Jharkhand, received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.

- Mandar has a cylindrical red-clay body with leather-covered openings of different sizes on both ends and is used in Jharkhand's tribal and folk music.

❖ Researchers identified Pygoscelis kerguelensis as a new gentoo penguin species from the Kerguelen Islands in the southern Indian Ocean, making it the first new penguin species recognised in over 100 years.

❖ Jawahar Dweep Marine Oil Terminal in Mumbai, also known as Butcher Island, was declared India's first plastic-free oil terminal.

❖ Ladakh sent its first consignment of 15,000 A-grade Lilium stems from KBR Airport, Leh, grown in Choglamsar's 10,600-ft (3,265-m) flower field, described as the world's highest-altitude flower field with over 25 lakh Liliums, to major Indian markets.

❖ Wildlife Week is celebrated annually in India to promote awareness and protection of wildlife and their habitats, and was first started in 1952.

- The theme for the year 2026 is "Connecting Habitats and Thriving Wildlife."

❖ A Chinese team set a Guinness World Record by operating 116 TH-618 autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) for 34 minutes over 500 metres in a swimming pool in China, without human intervention.

❖ India won its first-ever Asian Games gold medal in the women's recurve archery team event at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

❖ A 3-year-old Royal Bengal tigress was translocated from Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar, and released into Buxa Tiger Reserve in Alipurduar, West Bengal, marking the launch of the State's first tiger reintroduction project.

❖ The Rogun Hydropower Project in Tajikistan is nearing its planned height of 335 metres, which would make it the world's tallest dam after completion.

- The dam is being built on the Vakhsh River, a major tributary of the amu darya river system.

❖ Zuppa Geo Navigation Technologies signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Corporation (TNUAVC) to develop a DGCA-certified drone pilot training programme for Agniveers and defence personnel.

❖ OpenAI unveiled GPT-6.1 Sol and Dots AI agents at its DevDay 2026 conference in San Francisco, California, USA.

❖ SpaceX's Starship reached Earth orbit for the first time and deployed 26 Starlink satellites during a test flight.

- India has crossed 1,000 km in quantum-secure communication, achieving more than half of the eight-year target of the National Quantum Mission in less than three years.
  - The mission aims to strengthen national security and develop India's quantum technology ecosystem.
- Six of the 24 Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees are set to get new chairpersons, with the Trinamool Congress (TMC) losing two posts.
  - BJP MPs Sudhanshu Trivedi, Sujeet Kumar, Shashank Mani and Sudhir Gupta will head the Commerce, Personnel, Labour and Railways Committees respectively, while Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and Mukul Wasnik will head the Chemicals and Education Committees.
- India won its first athletics gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games in the women's 4×400m relay at Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium, Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- World Rivers Day 2026 will be observed on 27 September, the fourth Sunday of September, to promote river conservation, protect freshwater ecosystems, and raise awareness about the importance of rivers.
- World Animal Day is observed annually on 4 October to promote animal welfare, protection and humane treatment of animals.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "See the World Through Their Eyes".
- Uttar Pradesh approved a nearly ₹37 crore project to set up India's first lock museum in Aligarh, showcasing the development of locks from the Vedic era to modern digital and cyber-locking systems.
- Ezzahra El Mansouri has been appointed as Morocco's first woman Prime Minister by King Mohammed VI.
- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) confirmed a new marine eel species, Bathymyrus perplexus, from the Bay of Bengal.
- The 2nd ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced at Subic Bay, Philippines, with INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish representing the Indian Navy.
- The International Space Station (ISS) made a rare solar transit over Chennai, crossing the face of the Sun as seen from Palavakkam, Chennai, for about 1.38 seconds.
  - A solar transit occurs when an object passes directly between an observer and the Sun, briefly appearing as a silhouette against the Sun's disc.
- Liolaemus archipensis, a new lizard species discovered in the Andes of Arequipa, Peru, at above 4,800 metres;
  - Liolaemus is a species-rich genus found mainly in South America.

- World Architecture Day was observed annually on the first Monday of October (October 5/2026), to promote awareness of the role of architecture in society and human settlements.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Housing is a Human Right. Build It."
- India demonstrated its first 5.56 km free-space Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) link between Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) and IIT Gandhinagar.
- The United States announced a new "Super Intelligence Force" task force to coordinate the federal government's response to artificial intelligence (AI).
- The Adani Ahmedabad Marathon was included in the World Athletics Global Calendar on 5 October 2026.
  - The 10th edition of the marathon will be held on 29 November 2026 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- A rare Japanese Sparrowhawk (Tachyspiza gularis) was sighted at Adyar Estuary, Chennai, marking the third recorded sighting in India.
  - The Japanese Sparrowhawk is classified as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (VDTR) is set to become the third cheetah habitat in the state after Kuno National Park (Madhya Pradesh) and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh).
  - VDTR, also known as Nauradehi Tiger Reserve, covers about 2,339 sq km across Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- World Teachers' Day is observed annually on 5 October to recognise teachers' contributions, raise awareness about their challenges and promote better support for them.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures".
- The third edition of India-UAE joint military exercise Mountain Guardian 2026 at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.
- British author and former politician Jeffrey Archer died aged 86 in the UK.
- A rare two-headed wolf snake was rescued from Agaswani village, Dhanpur taluka, Dahod district, Gujarat; the condition is called bicephaly, a developmental abnormality, and wolf snakes of the genus Lycodon and family Colubridae are non-venomous.
  - It was reported as the first recorded two-headed snake in Gujarat and the fifth reported case in India.
- France test-fired its new M51.3 nuclear-capable ballistic missile for the first time from a nuclear-powered submarine.

- The M51.3 is a submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missile (SLBM) developed by France and built by ArianeGroup.

❖ Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discoveries on non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis.

- Their work focuses on chemical processes that produce chiral compounds, which have non-superimposable mirror-image forms called enantiomers.

❖ The University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) received a Letter of Intent (LoI) from the University Grants Commission (UGC) to establish a degree-granting campus in Hyderabad.

- The proposed campus would be the first foreign university campus in Telangana and the first in India by a public American university.

❖ World Cotton Day is observed every year on 7 October to recognise the importance of cotton and its contribution to livelihoods, trade and economic development.

- The theme for the year 2026 is "Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership."

❖ Professor Mahesh Kakde of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, received the Ramanujan Prize 2026 for his contributions to algebraic number theory.

- The Ramanujan Prize has been awarded annually since 2005 to mathematicians under 45 from developing countries for outstanding research.

❖ The 12th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026) is being conducted by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) off the Paradip coast, Odisha.

❖ The 10th India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026 is being held in New Delhi, under the theme "Scale Without Boundaries."

- The event focuses on 6G, artificial intelligence (AI), 5G, satellite communications, cybersecurity, semiconductors, quantum technologies and digital infrastructure.

❖ India's first national-level pilot project for 3D-printed rural houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G) was launched in Andhra Pradesh.

- In 2021, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and startup Tvasta unveiled India's first 3D-printed single-storey house on the IIT Madras campus.

❖ Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed annually from 1–31 October to raise awareness about breast cancer and improve access to early diagnosis and quality treatment.

- The theme for the year 2026 is "Every Story Is Unique, Every Journey Matters."

❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) project for Delhi at a cost of ₹1,789.52 crore.

- It will use Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled adaptive traffic signals, automated traffic enforcement and real-time traffic information.

❖ Delaware became the first U.S. state to ban marriage before the age of 18.

❖ The US Department of War launched Project Meridian, a 120-day initiative led by Elon Musk and other experts to identify technologies for future military dominance.

- It will study future battlefields, from underground environments to cislunar space (the region between Earth and the Moon).

❖ The DRDO successfully tested an indigenous High-Altitude Platform (HAPS), a lighter-than-air system designed for long-endurance surveillance in the stratosphere.

❖ World Post Day is observed every year on 9 October to raise awareness of the importance of postal services in people's daily lives and their contribution to social and economic development.

- The theme for the year 2026 is "World Post Day: One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities."

❖ The DRDO conducted the maiden live jump of the indigenous Advanced High-Altitude Parachute (AHAP) at Nyoma, Ladakh.

❖ Andhra Pradesh laid the foundation stone for the ₹1 lakh-crore Global Horticulture Hub at Madanapalle, Annamayya district.

- The project, also called Rayalaseema Rising, will cover 10 districts through 201 clusters across 303 mandals and 5,869 villages.

❖ Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit has been appointed as the 29th Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and will take charge on 31 October 2026, succeeding Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh.

❖ IIT Madras Team AgniRath secured third place in the Sasol Solar Challenge 2026 in South Africa with its solar-powered vehicle Aagneya, becoming the first Indian team to participate in the competition and win a trophy.

❖ Ahmedabad-based spacetech startup Satleo Labs launched TAPAS-1(Thermal Access Platform for Analytics & Solutions-1), India's first commercial private thermal-imaging payload, aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket under the Transporter-18 rideshare mission.

- TAPAS-1 is a 1.5-kg modular CubeSat payload designed to measure Earth's surface temperatures using thermal infrared radiation.

- The G7 announced a coordinated release of 100 million barrels of oil and diesel through the International Energy Agency (IEA) to ease rising global energy prices.
  - The G7 includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States; the European Union is also represented.
- World Mental Health Day was observed on 10 October 2026 to involve people with lived experience of mental health conditions in shaping mental health policies, services and decisions.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change."
- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the 8th edition of Windergy India 2026 in Chennai, as India aims to achieve 100 GW of installed wind energy capacity by 2030.
  - India's installed wind energy capacity reached 59.20 GW as of 30 September 2026, with a record annual installation of 6.05 GW in 2025–26.
- President Droupadi Murmu announced gubernatorial appointments in six States on 12 October 2026: Rajendra Arlekar (Tamil Nadu), Sudha Yadav (Karnataka), Om Prakash Mathur (Keralam), Braj Mohan Ram (Odisha), Dhal Singh Bisen (Uttarakhand) and Dushyant Gautam (Sikkim).
  - Sudha Yadav replaced Thawarchand Gehlot as Karnataka Governor and became the State's second woman Governor; Arlekar became Tamil Nadu's full-time Governor after holding additional charge of Keralam.
- Renowned mridangam artiste Guruvayur Dorai passed away at the age of 92.
  - He received the Padma Shri, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Kalaimamani Award.
- American economists Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford won the 2026 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences on for their work on the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation.
- World Egg Day 2026 was observed on the second Friday of October (October 9, 2026), to promote awareness of the nutritional benefits of eggs and their role in ensuring nutritional security.
- The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed annually on 13 October to raise awareness about disaster-safe housing and investment in resilient homes.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Resilience Starts at Home."
- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a proposal to rename Noida International Airport at Jewar as Narendra Modi International Airport.
- Putul Sonowal from Assam won India's first-ever bronze medal at the World Bowls Champion of Champions 2026 in Barham, Australia.

- Exercise KONKAN 2026, the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the UK's Royal Navy, was held off the coast of Plymouth in the United Kingdom.
- Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda laid the foundation stone for India's first High-Altitude Health Research Centre at Keylong, Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh.
- Delhi Police denotified Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site and named Ramlila Ground, Burari Ground and CBD Ground in East Delhi as alternative venues, following recommendations of a committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- The World Health Organization (WHO) granted prequalification to CERVAVAC, making it the first Indian-made quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to receive this recognition.
- World Day Against the Death Penalty is observed annually on 10 October to raise awareness about the abolition of capital punishment and promote the protection of human rights worldwide.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Stories for Life".
- Bathukamma, Telangana's nine-day floral festival celebrated from 10–18 October 2026, honours nature, womanhood and Telangana's cultural identity through the worship of Goddess Gauri.
- The Indian Navy received two indigenous TROUT remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROVs), developed by Kerala-based EyeROV.
  - TROUT is India's first military-grade underwater ROV, designed for naval missions such as inspection, reconnaissance, search and recovery, and target identification.
- The 9th edition of the IBSAMAR Exercise 2026, involving India, Brazil and South Africa, is being hosted by South Africa.
- The Indian Army launched 'Bharat Rice' for defence personnel and signed a MoU with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to strengthen military logistics.
  - The initiative aims to improve ration quality, ensure timely supplies to forward areas and strengthen the Army's operational readiness.
- World Standards Day is observed annually on 14 October to recognise the importance of international standards in safety, global trade and sustainable development.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Shared Vision for a Better World: Spotlight on Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)."
- Global Handwashing Day is observed annually on 15 October to promote handwashing and improve public health.
  - The 2026 campaign theme is "Be a Handwashing Hero."

- Kolkata is hosting the 19th World Sudoku Championship and the 33rd World Puzzle Championship from 11 to 18 October 2026 at The Westin, Rajarhat.
- Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, was conferred France's Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour.
- Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh thanked India for supporting the construction of Mongolia's first oil refinery in Altanshiree Soum, Dornogobi Province, to produce fuel locally and reduce imports.
- Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, received the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) certification under the 'Eat Right Place of Worship' initiative on 10 October 2026.
    - The initiative promotes food safety and hygiene during the preparation and distribution of prasad and langar at religious institutions.
- A new plant species, Ceropegia tamilnaduensis, was discovered by botanists from the Botanical Survey of India on the hill slopes of Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu.
    - Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 2015 and has 29 mountain peaks, including Sivagiri Mala (1,748 m).
- World Food Day is observed annually on 16 October to raise awareness about hunger, food security and access to healthy food.
    - The theme for the year 2026 is "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow."
- India's renewable electricity generation crossed 100 billion units (BU) in a quarter for the first time in Q2 of Financial Year 2026–27, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated Periyar Arivulagam, a library and science centre, at Gandhipuram, Coimbatore.
- The Digital India BHASHINI Division and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, developed text-to-speech models for the Sourashtra language spoken by the Sourashtra community in Tamil Nadu.
    - Sourashtra is a minority Indo-Aryan language spoken predominantly by the Sourashtra community in Tamil Nadu.
- INS Samarthak is India's first indigenous multi-purpose vessel, commissioned at Karwar, Karnataka.
- INS Mangrol, the Indian Navy's third Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, was commissioned at Mumbai's Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Google DeepMind publicly launched Gemini 4 Argon, a frontier artificial intelligence (AI) model designed for complex software engineering, business, legal, financial and cybersecurity tasks.

- Southern Railway will introduce Tamil Nadu's first Vistadome coach on the Madurai–Guruvayur Express from October 22, 2026, on a trial basis until January 16, 2027.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs launched the first-ever Kanda Express to Agartala, Tripura, carrying around 440 metric tonnes (MT) of onions to improve availability and control prices before the festive season.
    - The initiative distributes onion buffer stocks under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to improve supply and keep prices affordable.
- World Menopause Day is observed annually on 18 October to raise awareness about menopause and improve support and care for women worldwide.
    - The theme for the year 2026 is "Chronic Pain at Midlife".
- World Statistics Day is observed every year on 20 October to highlight the importance of reliable statistics and data for informed decision-making and sustainable development.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) launched the Silver Refinery Scheme to certify and hallmark silver bullion and coins in three purity grades: 999.9, 999.5 and 999.0 parts per thousand, ensuring their purity and authenticity.
- India ranked third globally in cumulative contracted clean hydrogen volumes, with binding contracts for 3 lakh tonnes of clean hydrogen per annum and green ammonia export agreements exceeding 10 lakh tonnes per annum, according to the Bloomberg New Economy Forum's India Transition Factbook 2026.
- The 10th National Convention of Agrivision was held at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)–National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), Pusa, New Delhi, to connect students, scientists, entrepreneurs and farmers and promote agricultural education, research, technology and entrepreneurship.
- Greater Chennai Corporation organised Pink Pulse 2026, an online breast cancer awareness programme, in collaboration with the Department of Radiation Oncology at Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital, Chennai.
- India inaugurated its largest integrated phenol and acetone plant in Haldia, West Bengal, developed by Adperma Private Limited, and it is the first phenol manufacturing facility on India's eastern coast.
- The 17-member Indian Coast Guard (ICG) team scaled Mount Mukut (7,045 m) in the Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand, near the India–Tibet border.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented India at the 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
    - The meeting focused on trade, economy, investment, connectivity, innovation and cultural-humanitarian exchanges among member states.

- The fifth edition of the India–Australia joint military exercise AUSTRAHIND began in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- India crossed 300 gigawatts (GW) of installed electricity generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, adding over 55 GW during 2025–26.
    - India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030, with solar and wind energy as major contributors.
- Bengaluru-born astronomer Dr. Ramya Anche was selected as the Principal Investigator of NASA's $20 million PUFFINS space telescope mission.
    - PUFFINS stands for Polarimetry in the Ultraviolet to Find Features in Interstellar dust and is a small satellite mission carrying a 10-inch ultraviolet space telescope in low Earth orbit.
- Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), was elected Chair of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO).
    - IOCINDIO, a UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) sub-commission, was formally launched in May 2025 to strengthen regional cooperation in Indian Ocean research and marine science.
- IG Defence is developing JWALA-MK1, an indigenous short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) that uses a hard-kill method to destroy hostile drones, and successfully tested its two solid rocket motors.
- World Osteoporosis Day is observed annually on October 20 to raise awareness about osteoporosis, early detection and bone health.
    - The theme for the year 2026 is "Build, Protect, Strengthen Your Bones for Life."
- A juvenile European bee-eater (Merops apiaster), belonging to the Meropidae family and Coraciiformes order, was recorded for the first time in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- France witnessed violent protests and looting on 17–19 October 2026 over the rising cost of living and fuel prices, leading to 2,513 people being taken into custody and curfews in parts of Paris and other cities.
    - Italy also witnessed riots and looting in Milan, where at least 270 demonstrators were detained.
- Aditya-L1 generated Doppler velocity images of the solar corona using its Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), helping scientists study solar plasma movement and the direction of Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).
    - The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) developed the software to process VELC data; CMEs are huge clouds of hot plasma ejected from the Sun that can disturb near-Earth space.

- The ISRO completed Crew Module–Service Module (CM–SM) separation tests at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, to verify the safe separation of the two modules before Earth re-entry during the Gaganyaan mission.
  - Gaganyaan is India's first human spaceflight mission, which aims to send Indian astronauts into low Earth orbit and bring them safely back to Earth.
- World Trauma Day is observed annually on 17 October to raise awareness about traumatic injuries, their prevention and the importance of timely medical care.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Building a Safer Future with Trauma Care".
- The Indian Army conducted Exercise Akhand Prahar-II in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, to test combat readiness and technology-enabled military operations.
- A.P. Moller–Maersk planned its first drydocking in India for its Singapore-flagged container vessel Maersk Chattogram at Larsen & Toubro's (L&T) Kattupalli Shipyard near Chennai in October 2026.
  - Drydocking involves taking a ship out of the water for inspection, maintenance and repairs.
- 14-year-old British photographer Oscar Whitfield, who lives in Zimbabwe, won the Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026.
- Dr. Reddy's Laboratories received Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approval for Zytorvi (toripalimab) for advanced esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) in India.
  - Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma (ESCC) is a type of esophageal cancer in which cancer develops in the squamous cells lining the esophagus.
- The International Day of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is observed annually on 17 October to celebrate the diversity of living heritage and raise awareness about the need to safeguard it.
  - The day was proclaimed by the 42nd UNESCO General Conference in November 2023.
- Jindal Steel Limited won the 2026 Steelie Award for "Excellence in People" for its Dakshata Engineering Safety: One Duty Position at a Time programme.
  - The Dakshata programme uses role-specific safety training, competency assessment and reassessment before employees are deployed.
- State Bank of India (SBI) won Global Finance magazine's "World's Best Consumer Bank 2026" award for the second consecutive year, recognising its digital innovation, service excellence and financial inclusion.
- BHASHINI's Shrutlekh platform enabled real-time English-Spanish translation at an National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) capacity-building programme in

Mussoorie, showcasing voice-first multilingual Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.

- U.S. President Donald Trump renewed his call to rename New Mexico as "New America".
  - Trump first proposed the name change in September 2026, but state officials rejected the proposal.
- Tuticorin International Container Terminal (TICT) at VOC Chidambaranar Port (VOC Port), Tamil Nadu, was declared a green terminal on 22 October 2026 after 100% of its operational equipment was electrified.
  - VOC Port became India's first major port to be Scope 2 emission-free on 10 August 2026 and holds ISO 50001:2018 certification for energy management.
- Two new subterranean fish species, Gitchak nakana and Rakthamichthys anchi, were discovered in wells in Goalpara district of Assam.
- Indian wrestler Vishvajit Ramchandra More won silver in the men's 55 kg Greco-Roman event at the 2026 U23 World Wrestling Championships in Las Vegas, United States.
- Tamil Nadu MLAs' monthly emoluments increased by 71% from ₹1.05 lakh to ₹1.80 lakh from 1 October 2026 through an amendment to the Tamil Nadu Payment of Salaries Act, 1951.
- Severe wildfires in Indonesia have spread toxic haze across Southeast Asia, affecting Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines, with nearly 1.9 million hectares reportedly burned by the end of September.
- The 33rd edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)-2026 commenced at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy.
- Scientists from the University of Gothenburg, Chalmers University of Technology and Stockholm University have synthesised diamondiyne, a porous 3D carbon material proposed theoretically about 35 years ago.
  - Diamondiyne is a carbon allotrope that retains a diamond-like 3D network but contains both single and triple carbon–carbon bonds, making its structure more open and porous.
- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched its maiden sailing expedition aboard yacht Antara from Chennai as part of its 50th year celebrations.
  - The team will sail from Chennai to Kochi along India's coastline and then undertake international passages to the Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- International Stuttering Awareness Day is observed annually on 22 October to spread awareness about stuttering and the challenges faced by people who stutter.

- The 2026 theme is "Shades of Stuttering – What's yours?"

❖ The Wiikwemkoong First Nation community in Ontario, Canada, has installed a small data centre to preserve its cultural heritage, store Anishinaabe language recordings, corporate documents, residents health data and security camera footage, and maintain control over its information.

❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed making Advanced Emergency Braking Systems (AEBS) mandatory in all new car models from October 1, 2030.

❖ Indian Railways achieved a record-breaking 22.5% increase in coal loading from October 1 to 18, 2026, compared to the same timeframe in 2025.

❖ President Droupadi Murmu released a ₹200 commemorative coin honouring Sindhi spiritual leader Mata Sahib Hasi Devi Ji in Raipur on her 200th birth anniversary.

- Mata Hasi Devi Ji was the fifth spiritual head of Shadani Darbar, an influential Sindhi religious institution based in Raipur.

❖ ICAR-CMFRI has launched its first full-fledged open-sea mussel longline farming unit at Vizhinjam, Kerala.

❖ Greece's Parliament approved a law on 23 October 2026 to restrict social media use by children under 15, with the ban set to begin on 1 January 2027.

❖ CERT-In is observing October 2026 as National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM), which promotes awareness about cyber security and safe online practices.

- The theme for the year 2026 is "Build a Culture of Cyber Hygiene".

❖ Alberta held its first-ever referendum on separation, with about 76% voting to remain in Canada and 24% supporting a binding separation vote; the referendum was non-binding.

- The vote took place amid a separatist movement in Alberta, a major energy-producing province in western Canada.

❖ Oil India Limited (OIL) has discovered natural gas in the shallow-water Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin, with the Godavari-1 well recording a peak flow of 200,000 Standard Cubic Metres per Day (SCMD).

❖ India's first Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) estimated 718 snow leopards across the Indian Himalayas, including 477 in Ladakh.

- The snow leopard (Panthera uncia) is classified as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List.

❖ The 30th Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) meeting was held in New Delhi to review domestic and global macro-financial developments and emerging risks to India's financial system.

- India has become the 3rd-largest exporter of defence goods to Europe, driven by demand under the "Rearm Europe" initiative.
  - Defence exports reached a record ₹38,424 crore, with India supplying ammunition, artillery shells, small arms and tactical gear.
- Lionel Messi won the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports, becoming the first footballer to win the award as a solo laureate.
- Indian cueist Pankaj Advani won his 29th career world title at the WBL World Billiards Championships in Great Wyrley, England.
- Indian physicist Ashoke Sen won the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal, becoming the first Indian physicist to receive the honour.
- The Indian Army is receiving indigenous Nagastra-2 anti-tank loitering munitions from Solar Defence and Aerospace Ltd. (SDAL), Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Scientists from Kobe University found fresh magma accumulating beneath the Kikai Caldera, a mostly submerged supervolcano south of Kyushu Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan.
  - Kikai's eruption around 7,300 years ago was the largest known volcanic eruption of the Holocene.
- Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 is observed from October 26 to November 1 to promote integrity, transparency and corruption-free administration.
  - The theme for Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 is "Probity for Prosperity".
- Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2026 is observed from 24–31 October to raise awareness about Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and promote the ability to critically evaluate, understand and use information responsibly.
  - The theme for Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2026 is "We All Play a Part – Media and Information Literacy for the People."
- Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won Brazil's 2026 presidential election, securing a fourth term after defeating Flávio Bolsonaro.
- 11-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan, an Indian-origin English chess player, became the youngest female International Master (IM), breaking a 38-year-old record held by Judit Polgar (Hungary).
- Ahmedabad will host the 2029 Senior World Weightlifting Championships, marking the first time India will host the senior edition, as confirmed by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).
- Kerala approved the launch of Co-Keralam, proposed as India's first cooperative-sector airline, through the Kerala Civil Aviation Development Cooperative Society.
  - It plans to operate from Kochi, connecting Kozhikode, Kannur, Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai.

- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage observed annually on 27 October to raise awareness of the importance of preserving audio visual documents and ensuring their accessibility for future generations.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Your Window to the World".
- International Animation Day is observed annually on 28 October to celebrate animation as an art form and recognise the artists and studios that bring animated stories to life.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "BEYOND BORDERS".
- A Mysuru Dasara drone display set a Guinness World Records title for the largest aerial display of a bird, using 3,473 drones to form a peacock at Bannimantap, Mysuru.
- NIFTEM-K hosted "Hack the Fork", India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) and food technology hackathon, in collaboration with France-based non-profit Hack the Fork, NIFTEM-K Smart Protein Project and The Good Food Institute India.
- China Zorrilla, the world's largest battery-electric vessel, has entered commercial service on the Buenos Aires–Colonia route between Argentina and Uruguay.
- Indian photographer Sitaram Raul won the 'Behaviour: Invertebrates' category at the 2026 Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition for his photograph Shifting Sand.
- Meeshapulimala in Idukki, Kerala, opened to tourists as Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana) came into full bloom at its high-altitude slopes.
  - Meeshapulimala is one of the highest peaks in the Munnar region, and the flowering is considered rare because Neelakurinji usually does not bloom above 2,500 metres.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 to support vehicles designed for E85 and E100 high-ethanol fuels, with E85 containing up to 85% ethanol and E100 consisting predominantly of ethanol.
  - The amendment includes E100 in emission certification provisions, requiring certified vehicles to meet applicable emission and safety standards.
- e-Sanjeevani, India's National Telemedicine Service, has facilitated nearly 50 crore teleconsultations across the country.
  - It was launched in November 2019 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) under the Ayushman Bharat programme.
- France and the United Kingdom conducted their first joint exercise simulating a nuclear strike, codenamed "Rummy," over the Mediterranean Sea.
  - France and the UK are the only nuclear-weapon states in Western Europe and are both permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

- The World Health Organization (WHO) supported the launch of the Tumaini trial in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to test whether Ervebo, an approved vaccine against the Zaire ebolavirus strain, also protects against the Bundibugyo virus.
  - The Bundibugyo virus, a species of Ebolavirus that causes severe illness and death, was first identified in Bundibugyo District, Uganda, in 2007.
- The United Nations observes the International Day of Care and Support every year on October 29 to recognise paid and unpaid care work and promote better care systems.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Building Sustainable Care and Support Systems through Decent Work."
- The United Nations observes Disarmament Week 2026 from 24–30 October to raise awareness of disarmament and arms control.
  - The theme for United Nations Disarmament Week 2026 is "Disarm for Peace: Fewer Weapons, Safer Communities."

TAMIL NADU

Madras HC on Microplastics Labels

- Madras High Court dismissed the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) review petition.
- The court's February 2026 order required drinking water, sugar and salt sold in plastic packaging to carry a warning about possible micro/nano plastics.
- The court said the order did not conclude that these products are unsafe, but aimed to provide information to consumers.
- FSSAI said scientific evidence on the health effects of microplastics and nanoplastics remains inconclusive.
- The Supreme Court had dismissed the challenge by FSSAI and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as withdrawn on 18 May 2026.
- FSSAI agreed to support further studies by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and IIT Madras.

First Confidence Motion in India

- A 1952 Aruppukottai Lok Sabha bypoll in Tamil Nadu led to the first confidence motion in an Indian legislature.

- The bypoll was held after U. Muthuramalinga Thevar resigned from the Lok Sabha seat.
- The ruling Congress lost the Aruppukottai bypoll to the Forward Bloc (Marxist Group) candidate M. D. Ramasamy.
- The Congress defeat led Chief Minister C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) to seek a confidence vote in the Madras Legislative Assembly.
- The motion was moved on 30 June 1952 by Finance Minister C. Subramaniam.
- The debate continued from 1–3 July, and voting was held on 4 July 1952.
- The motion was passed 200–151, giving the Council of Ministers the Assembly's confidence.
- The vote is described as the first confidence motion before an Indian legislature.
- The Kisan Lok Party, Muslim League and some Independents supported the government in the vote.

Tranquebar Maritime Heritage

- A model of the Danish frigate 'Elephant', which landed at Tharangambadi, Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil Nadu, in 1620, was donated to the Tranquebar Maritime Museum.
- Elephant was part of a fleet of 2 warships and 3 merchant ships sent to establish trade links with South Asia.
- The expedition was commanded by Admiral Ove Gedde and reached Tharangambadi on 13 September 1620.
- Gedde later signed a treaty with the Naik of Thanjavur and began constructing Fort Dansborg at Tharangambadi.
- The ship model was built by the Koge Maritime Model Builders' Guild in Denmark.
- The model was donated by the Danish Tranquebar Association to the Tranquebar Maritime Museum, Tharangambadi.

Vettri Payanam Scheme – Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the expanded Vettri Payanam scheme on 2 October 2026 at Koyambedu, Chennai, extending no-fare bus travel for women and transgender persons.
- The scheme expands the earlier Magalir Vidiyal Payanam scheme, which was introduced in May 2021.
- The expansion covers Express, Limited Stop Service (LSS), Deluxe, Mofussil Ordinary and Ghat Ordinary buses beyond 40 km, in addition to previously covered ordinary services.

- State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) buses are excluded from the expanded scheme.
- The scheme covers about 12,692 government buses, accounting for nearly 69% of the scheduled buses operated by seven State Transport Undertakings.
- Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETM) systems were integrated to record free journeys; trial runs were conducted on 27 September 2026.

Chola-Era Inscription in Medavakkam

- A 13th-century Chola-era stone inscription was discovered during the restoration and desilting of Nalla Thanneer Kulam in Medavakkam, Chennai.
- The inscription dates to 1268 CE, during the rule of Telugu Chola king Vijaya Ganda Gopalan, who ruled from Kancheepuram.
- It records the construction of a sluice in the ancient Monapakkam lake by a merchant from Monappakkam.
- Monapakkam later became known as Modavakkam, indicating the historical evolution of the locality's name.
- The inscription shows that ancient waterbodies around present-day Chennai were developed for agricultural and drinking-water needs.
- Nalla Thanneer Kulam was reportedly a drinking-water source for local residents until about three decades ago.

Madras HC on 'Vettri Payanam' Scheme

- The Madras High Court dismissed a writ petition challenging the constitutional validity of Tamil Nadu's 'Vettri Payanam' scheme.
- The scheme offers no-fare travel to 84.32 lakh women daily on 12,695 government buses across Tamil Nadu, from 2 October 2026.
- The petitioner, argued that free travel only on government buses would violate Article 14 (Right to Equality) by affecting a level playing field in bus transport.
- The petitioner also cited the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, arguing that collecting fares from passengers was mandatory.
- The court noted that the petitioner challenged only the Rule 110 announcement in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and the related Information and Public Relations Department release, but not the subsequent Government Order introducing the scheme.

Annan Seer Gold Scheme

- The Tamil Nadu government has launched the "Annan Seer" scheme for eligible brides from low-income families.
- The scheme provides an 8-gram, 22-carat gold coin and a silk sari to eligible brides.
- The annual family income limit has been fixed at ₹2.5 lakh.
- The government has allocated ₹812 crore as the first instalment for the current financial year.
- The scheme came into effect on 5 October 2026, and gold will be procured through an open tender under the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998.
- The gold price will be based on the rate published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) on the day of procurement.

TN Assembly Privilege vs Free Speech Case

- The Supreme Court on 6 October 2026 disposed of a more than 20-year-old case after the Tamil Nadu Assembly withdrew the disputed resolution in 2004.
- A seven-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant disposed of the case.
- The case arose from a 2003 Tamil Nadu Assembly resolution seeking to arrest editors of The Hindu over an editorial criticising then Chief Minister Jayalalithaa.
- The resolution invoked Article 194 of the Constitution relating to legislative privileges of State legislatures, while the case involved its relationship with freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a).
- The Supreme Court left the larger legal questions on legislative privilege and freedom of speech open for consideration in an appropriate future case.

Cauvery Water Shortage in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu recorded its lowest Cauvery water realisation in 14 years during the southwest monsoon (June–September) in 2026.
- The State received only 44.208 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) against the usual 123.14 tmc ft, a shortfall of nearly 79 tmc ft.
- Mettur Dam had 36.639 tmc ft of storage as of October 2026, with about 10 tmc ft reserved for drinking water, environmental flows and dead storage.
- Cauvery delta paddy coverage fell to 1.68 lakh acres by October 5, compared with 2.64 lakh acres during the same period in 2025–26.

- Cuddalore and Tiruvarur together accounted for about 72% of the current delta paddy coverage.

Madras High Court on Right to Travel

- The Madras High Court held that a bank loan default cannot by itself prevent a person from travelling abroad if there is no criminal charge against the person.
- The Court stated that the right to travel abroad is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- It observed that a bank's request to issue a Look Out Circular (LOC) cannot be treated as "law" for restricting this fundamental right.
- The case involved a guarantor for a loan who wanted to travel abroad to earn money and repay the debt.
- The Court noted that when there is no fraud or criminal case, merely being a loan defaulter cannot force a person to remain in India.

Expansion of TN Gold Ring Scheme

- Tamil Nadu has widened the eligibility for the Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Scheme, which provides a 1-gram gold ring to babies born in government hospitals.
- The earlier rule required the mother to be a permanent resident of Tamil Nadu; the revised rule allows women who moved outside the State after marriage to qualify.
- Under the revised rule, both maternal grandparents must be permanent residents of Tamil Nadu, and families must submit supporting documents.
- The revised conditions apply to babies born in government hospitals from June 22, 2026.
- The scheme was launched by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on September 28, 2026.

Thelunganur Archaeological Discovery

- A possible 3,000-year-old writing system was discovered at Thelunganur, near the Mettur Dam in Salem district, Tamil Nadu.
- An intact black-and-red ware bowl was found with five graffiti symbols arranged from left to right, the longest such sequence recorded in Tamil Nadu.
- A second bowl carries the same five symbols in a different order, suggesting a possible early writing system.
- The symbols may represent a precursor to Tamil-Brahmi, which dates to the 6th century BCE.

- Thelunganur and nearby Mangadu are Iron Age sites dated to 1600–1200 BCE; graffiti marks from Tamil Nadu sites show around 90% similarity to those found at Indus Valley sites.
- Other findings include iron weapons, a possible ancient steel sword, a 1.9-metre iron spear and skeletal remains of two individuals.
- Four burial types were identified: pit, cist, urn and sarcophagus.

AIADMK Disqualification Case

- The Supreme Court dismissed a plea challenging the Tamil Nadu Speaker's decision to drop disqualification proceedings against All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) legislators.
- The case involved AIADMK legislators who supported the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government during the confidence vote on 13 May 2026.
- The Speaker dropped the proceedings on 9 June 2026 after the AIADMK general secretary condoned the legislators' conduct.
- The Supreme Court held that a third party could not challenge the Speaker's decision in this case.
- The case involved the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which contains India's anti-defection law.

Thelunganur Archaeological Excavation

- Complete skeletal remains of two Iron Age individuals were discovered at Thelunganur, near Mettur Dam in Salem district, Tamil Nadu.
- The excavation was conducted by the Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology.
- Archaeologists found a 1.9-metre iron spear, arrowheads, axes, swords, daggers, knives and iron nails.
- An intact black-and-red ware bowl had five graffiti symbols arranged from left to right, which may provide clues about early writing.
- Thelunganur and Mangadu sites date to 1600 BCE–1200 BCE, and a sword from Thelunganur was dated to around 1200 BCE.

Timelines for disposal of representations

- The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has directed Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary and Secretary to Human Resources Management Department to issue instructions to all the departments to scrupulously adhere to the prescribed timelines for receipt, consideration and disposal of representations submitted by retired government employees, their family members and the public.

- Article 350 of the Constitution provides that every person shall be entitled to submit a representation for the redressal of any grievance to any officer or authority of the Union or a State in any of the languages used in the Union or in the State.
- The right to submit a representation to the authorities for the redressal of grievances is a constitutional right.
- The court said the instructions issued by the government, in the form of government orders, circulars and office manuals, prescribing the time limits for disposal of such representations were intended to ensure that the right was meaningfully exercised and grievances brought before the authorities were dealt with within a reasonable time.

HIV/AIDS Elimination Target by 2030

- Tamil Nadu achieved the National AIDS Control Programme Phase V (NACP-V) target of 95-95-95 in September 2026.
- The 95-95-95 target means 95% of people living with HIV know their status, 95% of diagnosed people receive antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 95% of those treated achieve viral suppression.
- HIV prevalence in Tamil Nadu fell from 0.40% in 2010 to 0.19% in 2023; the State aims to achieve an HIV/AIDS-free Tamil Nadu by 2030.
- The State has 1,63,151 people under treatment, 2,656 HIV testing facilities at primary health centres and government hospitals, and awareness programmes in 2,329 colleges and 9,830 schools.
- Tamil Nadu enhanced monthly financial assistance for children affected by HIV/AIDS to ₹1,500–₹3,000, allocating an additional ₹1.21 crore.

HIV/AIDS Child Welfare Scheme

- Tamil Nadu has enhanced monthly financial assistance for children affected by HIV/AIDS, effective from November 2026.
- Children living with HIV who have lost both parents will receive ₹3,000 per month; those who have lost one parent will receive ₹2,000.
- Children living with their parents and uninfected children who lost both parents to HIV/AIDS will receive ₹1,500 per month.
- An additional ₹1.21 crore has been allocated for the scheme to support nutrition, education and continuous treatment.

Tamil Nadu MLA Resignation Case

- The Madras High Court upheld the Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker's decision to accept the resignations of six All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) MLAs on October 13, 2026.
- The six MLAs later joined Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), and their resignations were submitted between May 26 and June 29, 2026.
- The court directed the Speaker to complete the pending disqualification proceedings against four MLAs within two months and publish a timetable within seven days.
- It held that accepting resignations and deciding disqualification proceedings are two separate constitutional processes.
- The case arose from allegations that AIADMK MLAs violated the party whip during a confidence motion on May 13, 2026.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Tamil Nadu

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated five redeveloped railway stations in Tamil Nadu on October 11, 2026, taking the total to 26 out of 77 stations covered in the State.
- The five stations are Ambasamudram (Tirunelveli), Palani (Dindigul), Namakkal (Namakkal), Paramakkudi (Ramanathapuram) and Vellore Cantonment (Vellore).
- The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) was launched in 2022.
- ABSS is a long-term, phased redevelopment scheme covering 1,309 stations nationwide, according to the National Portal of India.
- It aims to improve passenger facilities, accessibility, cleanliness and multimodal connectivity.

Supreme Court on Caste Reservation

- The Supreme Court dismissed the Tamil Nadu government's appeal on reservation benefits for people converting to Islam from backward communities.
- A person from a Hindu Backward Class does not automatically become a member of a notified Backward Muslim community by converting to Islam.
- The Court held that Article 16(4) of the Constitution does not automatically extend reservation benefits based on a person's previous religious and caste identity.
- Article 341 empowers the President to notify Scheduled Castes; under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, Scheduled Caste status is restricted to those professing Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism.

- A Jamath conversion certificate alone cannot establish statutory Backward Class membership; the Tamil Nadu government's March 2024 order was rejected.

Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Ecosystem Scheme 2026

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Ecosystem Scheme 2026 in Chennai.
- The scheme aims to make Tamil Nadu a leading semiconductor and advanced electronics manufacturing hub in India and attract investments.
- It has two categories: additional incentives for projects approved under the Union government's semiconductor scheme and support for other eligible projects important to Tamil Nadu's semiconductor ecosystem.
- The scheme will complement the Union government's Semicon India Programme 2.0, approved on 15 July 2026.
- Semicon India 2.0 focuses on the semiconductor value chain, including chip design, wafer fabrication, equipment, raw materials, research and development, and skill development.

TB-Free Panchayat Initiative

- A total of 2,390 Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu were declared tuberculosis (TB)-free for 2025 under the TB Free Panchayat initiative.
- The criteria include testing 30 or more presumptive TB cases per 1,000 population, a TB notification rate of one or fewer per 1,000 population, and a treatment success rate of 90% or more among notified drug-sensitive TB patients.
- Tamil Nadu's estimated TB incidence declined from 192 per lakh population in 2015 to 171 per lakh in 2024.
- JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Teams, also called TB Mukt Bharat Teams, were introduced at the block level to promote awareness, early detection, screening, treatment adherence and patient support.
- Each JOSH Team comprises a Class-I Nodal Officer, five MY Bharat volunteers and five National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets.
- In Tamil Nadu, Thoothukudi, Tiruchi, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri and Theni were selected for Phase I implementation. The initiative works with the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) and the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative to support patients, including nutritional assistance.

Vetri 150 Scheme – Tamil Nadu

- The Tamil Nadu government sanctioned the Vetri 150 scheme on 20 October 2026 to provide additional employment to vulnerable rural households.
- The scheme extends guaranteed employment from 125 to 150 days per financial year for eligible households under the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G).
- The State government sanctioned ₹100 crore for 2026–27 to implement the scheme.
- Eligible households include women-headed and single-woman households, households with persons with disabilities, Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) households, and eligible forest-dweller households.
- The additional 25 days are provided after completing the initial 125 days of employment under VB-G RAM G.
- The Union and State governments share VB-G RAM G funding in a 60:40 ratio.

Tamil Nadu Rainwater Harvesting Campaign

- Tamil Nadu has ordered a statewide rainwater harvesting (RWH) campaign to improve water conservation and groundwater recharge.
- The campaign will revive existing RWH structures and create new facilities in houses, apartments, institutions, commercial buildings and industries.
- Check dams and soak pits will be built near water-drawing points to improve groundwater recharge, while damaged systems will be repaired.
- Tamil Nadu has introduced RWH as a State policy in 2002, making harvesting structures mandatory for buildings.
- 1,202 firkas (revenue subdivisions), groundwater levels were found to be comfortable in 476 firkas.

TNRERA Reconstitution in Tamil Nadu

- The Tamil Nadu government reconstituted the Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TNRERA) and appointed retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer K. Phanindra Reddy as its chairperson.
- TNRERA is the state-level authority responsible for implementing the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) in Tamil Nadu.
- It regulates the real estate sector, protects homebuyers and promotes transparency in real estate projects and transactions.
- Retired bureaucrats Reeta Harish Thakkar and Mythili K. Rajendran, retired district judge S. Kirubaharan Mathuram and retired Public Works Department engineer-in-chief K. P. Sathyamurthy were appointed as members.

- The government had earlier superseded TNRERA for six months or until its reconstitution, whichever was earlier, during which K. Phanindra Reddy served as chairperson.

Tamil Nadu Rural Local Bodies — Special Officers

- Tamil Nadu has extended the tenure of special officers administering rural local bodies in 28 districts and appointed special officers in 9 more districts till April 19, 2027.
- The elected representatives' terms in 28 districts ended on January 5, 2025, after which special officers were appointed.
- The terms of elected representatives in the remaining 9 districts ended on October 19, 2026.
- Elections could not be held because 46 rural local bodies are being merged with urban local bodies, which will change local-body boundaries.
- Delimitation and reservation must be completed in 23 districts before rural local body elections can be conducted.
- The government has notified 9 new panchayat unions, 93 new village panchayats and the amalgamation of 1 village panchayat.
- Special officers will administer village panchayats, panchayat union councils and district panchayats until April 19, 2027.

Tamil Nadu Wind Energy Generation

- Tamil Nadu generated 12,256 million units of wind energy between April and September 2026, almost similar to the 12,360 million units generated during the same period in 2025.
- Wind energy accounted for 16.16% of Tamil Nadu's total electricity consumption during April–September 2026.
- During the same period in 2025, wind energy formed 17.87% of the State's total electricity consumption.
- The State's wind energy generation was slightly lower this year, while solar energy installations are increasing rapidly.
- Wind turbine capacities currently range from 2.1 megawatts (MW) to 5 MW, with the cost reaching about ₹9 crore per MW.

History of Mudalur

- Mudalur in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu, is known for being the first exclusive Christian settlement in the State, established in 1799.

- Mudalur was founded by David Sundaranandan, the first Shanar catechist in Tirunelveli district.
- It was established as a settlement for newly converted Christians who faced attacks, and its name means "First Town."
- The first church was built in 1799, while the present Church of St. Michael and Other Saints was constructed in 1883.
- Following the Mudalur model, other Christian settlements, including Nazareth, Sawyerpuram and Bethlehem, developed in the region.
- David Sundaranandan died in 1806 at the age of 34 and is remembered as an early Christian missionary in Tirunelveli.

TN Free Bus Travel for Persons with Disabilities

- Tamil Nadu introduced free bus travel for persons with disabilities and their companions using the Unique Disability ID (UDID) card, effective October 28, 2026.
- The scheme covers persons with over 40% disability and one companion in eligible non-air-conditioned government buses.
- Eligible services include city ordinary, express, low-floor and deluxe buses, along with ordinary-fare buses in suburban (mofussil) and hilly areas.
- The Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons, Tamil Nadu, issued the government order.
- Existing concessions, including the 75% travel concession, will continue; eligible passengers will receive free travel tickets from bus operators.

Tamil Nadu Model Registration Hubs

- The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned the establishment of five Model Registration Hubs (MRH) in the first phase at a cost of ₹7.84 crore to provide easier property and marriage registration services.
- The five hubs will be established in Chennai North, Chennai Central, Chennai South, Chengalpattu and Coimbatore registration districts.
- Citizens can register property documents and marriages at any hub of their choice, irrespective of the territorial jurisdiction of the concerned Sub-Registrar Office (SRO).
- The hubs will provide standard and premium services, including tatkal registration, and will be classified into three categories based on registration volume and infrastructure.

- A Managed Service Provider (MSP) selected through competitive tendering will manage operations, while statutory registration functions will remain with the concerned Sub-Registrar.
- The government plans to expand the initiative to 20 more locations.

TN Battery Storage Policy 2026

- Tamil Nadu has introduced the Tamil Nadu Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Policy, 2026.
- It aims to achieve 2.5 GW of battery storage capacity to reduce dependence on costly power purchases and support renewable energy.
- The policy targets at least 2.5 GW (10 GWh) of battery storage capacity during its three-year validity period.
- It offers a 10-year waiver of transmission and wheeling charges, subject to approval by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC).
- New solar and solar-hybrid projects of 1 MW and above must install Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) with discharge power equal to at least 10% of the installed solar capacity.

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Mega Ports of India

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways notified four ports as mega ports under the Indian Ports Act, 2025.
- The four mega ports are Deendayal Port (Kandla), Gujarat; Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Nhava Sheva), Maharashtra; Paradip Port, Odisha; and Mundra Port, Gujarat.
- A port qualifies as a mega port if it handles 150 million metric tonnes (MMT) of bulk cargo or 7.5 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (MTEUs) of container cargo in a financial year.
- The mega-port classification does not change a port's existing major or non-major classification.
- Mundra Port is the only one among the four that was previously classified as a non-major port.
- The mega-port status is valid for 5 years and is then re-evaluated based on the prescribed cargo threshold.

ECI Reforms 2026

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced nine decisions to improve internal governance, technology oversight and electoral roll management.
- Meeting agendas will be circulated in advance, minutes will be recorded, and foreign visits by ECI officers will require Commission approval.
- New Information Technology (IT) modules and digital portals will undergo committee scrutiny, while an independent Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) or Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) expert will review ECINet.
- Field officers will receive additional system access for electoral-roll work, and directions issued by Election Commissioners must be followed.
- In Goa, the ECI directed the Chief Electoral Officer to facilitate inclusion of 81 verified voters who had submitted Form 6.
- The ECI clarified that Form 6 under the Registration of Electors Rules can be used outside the Special Intensive Revision period.

Digital Livestock Insurance Portal

- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying launched the Livestock Insurance Portal in New Delhi.
- The portal provides a single digital platform for policy issuance, claim processing, monitoring and reporting under the Livestock Insurance Scheme.
- The scheme provides subsidised insurance for cattle, pigs and rabbits; small and marginal farmers pay 15% of the premium, while the Centre and states share the remaining 85%.
- The initiative is part of the National Livestock Mission; the government is also examining Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tagging for animal identification and claim verification.
- In the latest five-year period, 60.8 lakh animals were insured, and claims worth ₹161.07 crore were released.

Aquaculture Insurance Initiative

- The government is promoting aquaculture insurance under PM-MKSSY (Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana) with a 40% premium incentive.
- India recorded its highest-ever fish production of 19.8 million tonnes in 2024–25, becoming the world's second-largest fish-producing country with about 8% of global production.
- Aquaculture contributes over 74% of India's total fish output and includes carp, shrimp, prawn, cage and marine farming.

- India has about 14.1 lakh hectares of brackish-water area, but only around 17% has been developed for aquaculture.
- India has about 1.95 lakh km of rivers and canals, 31.5 lakh hectares of reservoirs and 22.1 lakh hectares of ponds and tanks.

Water Storage Crisis in India

- Water storage in 178 key reservoirs fell to 70% of total capacity by September 24, 2026, according to the Central Water Commission (CWC).
- The storage level was below the 10-year average of 76.62% and the 2025 level of 79%.
- South India (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu) had only 50% storage, against 87.25% in the same period last year.
- South India received 23% below-normal rainfall as of September 28, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- The CWC report covered 92 reservoirs in the southern, eastern and northern regions and coincided with drought declarations in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

OECD India Growth Forecast

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) raised India's 2026–27 growth forecast to 7.1%, from 6.3% estimated in June 2026.
- OECD said strong domestic demand and government policies helped India withstand the impact of the West Asia crisis.
- It expects India's growth to slow to 6.5% in 2027–28 after 7.1% in 2026–27.
- S&P Global raised its 2026–27 forecast to 7%, while Fitch Ratings raised it to 6.9% and Moody's Ratings to 7%.
- The OECD expects growth to slow in the second half of 2026–27 due to reduced purchasing power, followed by gradual recovery in 2027.

Paraquat Dichloride Ban

- The Central Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has officially banned Paraquat Dichloride, a highly toxic non-selective herbicide.
- Paraquat is a fast-acting, broad-spectrum contact herbicide used for weed control and crop desiccation.
- It is highly toxic when ingested and can cause severe lung and kidney damage, including progressive pulmonary fibrosis.

- The ban was based on expert review of risks to human health, livestock and the environment.
- The Insecticides Act, 1968 regulates the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides in India.

First Female Farmer Worker Conference

- India's first Female Farmer Worker Conference was held in New Delhi to recognise women's contributions to agriculture and rural livelihoods.
- The conference was organised by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) during the United Nations (UN) International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026.
- It focused on recognising women as farmers and addressing issues such as land rights, institutional credit, farm tools and market access.
- National awards were given to women farmers for achievements in natural farming, indigenous seed conservation, animal husbandry and food processing.

PRAGATI-50 Initiative

- PRAGATI-50 was launched on 29 September 2026 in New Delhi to develop 50 model cities across 24 states under Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0.
- PRAGATI-50 aims to improve urban cleanliness, solid waste management, used water management, sanitation and citizen participation through Key Performance Indicator (KPI)-based monitoring.
- The selected cities include capitals, cultural centres, pilgrimage towns, tourism hubs and economic centres, serving as clean role models for other urban local bodies.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) will implement the initiative, with review meetings chaired by the Union Minister every two months.
- Six selected cities from Uttar Pradesh are Agra, Ayodhya, Lucknow, Mathura-Vrindavan, Prayagraj and Varanasi.

Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages

- The Union Government approved five Centres of Excellence for Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Pali and Prakrit classical languages.
- The centres will support advanced research, preservation, documentation and digitisation of linguistic and literary heritage.
- The Centre for Classical Assamese will be at Tezpur University, Assam, Bengali at Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal, and Marathi at Deccan College, Pune, Maharashtra.

- The Centre for Classical Pali will be at Central University of Odisha, while the Prakrit centre will be at Central University of Gujarat.
- A total of 11 languages have been granted classical language status in India.
- A language is recognised as a Classical Language if it has 1,500–2,000 years of recorded history, a rich body of ancient literature, an original literary tradition, and a classical form distinct from its later or modern forms.

Health Trends in India

- The WHO estimates show India's life expectancy at birth reached 71 years in 2023, higher than Pakistan's 68.2 years but lower than Bangladesh's 72.7 years.
- India's life expectancy fell from 70.5 years in 2019 to 68.1 years in 2021, then recovered to 71 years in 2023.
- India's healthy life expectancy was 60.6 years in 2023, compared with 58.4 years in 2021 and 60.5 years in 2019.
- At age 60, Indians could expect another 18.8 years of life in 2023, including 13.7 healthy years.
- India's disease pattern shifted from communicable diseases making up nearly 62% of deaths from the top 10 causes in 2000 to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) making up nearly 75% in 2023.
- In 2023, major causes of death included ischaemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), stroke and diabetes, while tuberculosis and diarrhoeal diseases remained among the top 10 causes.
- WHO's Global Health Estimates cover life expectancy, healthy life expectancy, causes of death and disease burden from 2000 to 2023; global life expectancy reached 73.3 years in 2023.

PM-DHARA Scheme – Green Energy Transmission

- The Union Cabinet approved PM-DHARA (PM-Developing Harmonized and Accelerated Renewable-energy Access) to strengthen intra-State transmission systems.
- The scheme aims to evacuate up to 135 GW of renewable energy by FY 2032–33.
- It has a Central Financial Support of ₹54,082 crore to offset intra-State transmission charges and keep electricity costs lower.
- 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) will be deployed to improve grid flexibility and manage renewable energy intermittency.
- PM-DHARA supports renewable energy integration, energy storage, energy security and reduction of India's carbon footprint, targeting 900 GW installed non-fossil energy capacity by 2035.

100 Years of UPSC

- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) completed 100 years on 1 October 2026, marking its centenary since establishment in 1926.
- The first Public Service Commission was established on 1 October 1926, with Sir Ross Barker as its Chairman.
- The Government of India Act, 1935 reorganised it as the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC).
- The Constitution of India (1950) gave UPSC constitutional status under Articles 315–323, with Article 320 defining its major functions.
- UPSC conducts the Civil Services Examination (CSE) for services including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFoS).

Blue Bond for Maritime Growth

- Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) is set to issue India's first-ever blue bond to fund sustainable maritime infrastructure and ocean economy projects.
- SMFCL, India's first maritime sector-specific Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), plans to raise ₹600 crore through 10-year debt securities.
- Blue bonds are specialised debt instruments used to finance the sustainable protection and use of oceans and water ecosystems.
- The funds will support maritime lending, greenfield port projects and coastal road development.
- Seychelles issued the world's first sovereign blue bond in 2018, while Belize used a debt-for-ocean swap in 2021 for marine conservation.

CAFE-III Norms

- The Centre has notified the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE)-III norms for passenger vehicles, which will apply from April 1, 2027 to March 31, 2032.
- The fuel-efficiency target will become stricter, improving from 3.996 litres per 100 km in 2027–28 to 3.3273 litres per 100 km in 2031–32.
- Each Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) will count as 3 vehicles, while plug-in hybrids, strong hybrids and flex-fuel vehicles will receive additional credits.
- The norms provide incentives for hybrids, flex-fuel vehicles, biofuels and fuel-saving technologies such as regenerative braking and tyre-pressure monitoring.
- Carbon Neutrality Factors will reduce declared carbon dioxide emissions for vehicles using ethanol-blended petrol, compressed biogas and biofuels.

Green Energy Corridor Phase-III

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) scheme with an outlay of ₹1.86 lakh crore to strengthen India's intra-state power transmission network.
- GEC-III aims to evacuate up to 135 Gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy by Financial Year (FY) 2032–33.
- It will include 50 Gigawatt-hour (GWh) of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to manage fluctuations in solar and wind power.
- State Transmission Utilities (STUs) will implement the scheme, with greenfield projects using Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB).
- The scheme will strengthen the grid, reduce renewable-energy curtailment and support India's expansion of non-fossil fuel energy capacity.

Aadhaar Digital Governance Initiatives

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched five digital identity initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad in Kolkata on 29 September 2026, marking the 17th Aadhaar Day.
- Face Authentication for Electronic Public Distribution System (ePDS) was launched jointly by UIDAI, the Department of Food and Public Distribution, and the National Informatics Centre.
- SWIK Portal 2.0 and the Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) Framework were introduced to support Aadhaar authentication for eligible entities with low-volume requirements.
- A Token Management System was launched for residents visiting UIDAI offices, while its revamped website now supports 13 languages.
- Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identity number issued by UIDAI, which functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

National Coastal Mission 2.0

- The National Coastal Mission (NCM) 2.0 implementation guidelines were launched in New Delhi by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.
- NCM 2.0 is a Central Sector Scheme with an approved outlay of ₹767 crore, to be implemented up to 2030–31.
- It covers India's coastal regions across 9 coastal States and 4 Union Territories.
- Its main objectives are to strengthen coastal resilience and sustainability and support the blue economy.

- The mission includes coastal ecosystem restoration, pollution control, biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism and vulnerability assessment.

National Household Travel Survey 2025–26'

- The National Statistics Office (NSO) released findings from India's first National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), conducted from July 2025 to June 2026.
- Only 15% of workers use public transport, while 46% use two-wheelers or cars; walking is the second most common mode at 28.3%.
- Two-wheelers account for 43% and cars 3% of workers' commutes nationally, while 10.7% use bicycles.
- A worker takes an average of 25 minutes to reach the workplace, with 27 minutes in urban areas and 23 minutes in rural areas.
- Workers spend an average of ₹785 per month on commuting, with men spending ₹835 and women ₹533.

Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) - 375 Permissible Works

- The Government has notified 375 permissible works under the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025.
- The new list represents a 41% increase from the previous 266 works.
- The works are organised under 4 pillars: Water Security, Core Rural Infrastructure, Livelihood-related Infrastructure, and Special Works for Extreme Weather Events and Disaster Preparedness.
- Water Security has the highest number with 128 works, including check dams, recharge shafts, injection wells and river rejuvenation.
- Works will be planned through the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan and approved by the Gram Sabha.
- The scheme aims to link rural employment with water security, infrastructure, livelihoods and climate resilience.

eSanjeevani Digital Health Milestone

- India's National Telemedicine Service, eSanjeevani, has crossed 50 crore teleconsultations across all States and Union Territories.
- eSanjeevani was launched in 2019 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as India's national telemedicine service.
- It supports over 1.42 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandir spokes, 19,000+ medical hubs and 901 online OPDs.

- Its Artificial Intelligence-powered Clinical Decision Support System (AI-CDSS) received the Gold Award under the National Awards for e-Governance 2026.
- eSanjeevani was developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) as a Made-in-India digital health solution.

Integrated Transport Authority

- The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of the Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA) as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for integrated transport and logistics planning.
- ITLA will act as the national apex institution for transport planning, research, project appraisal, monitoring, policy support and data analytics.
- It will prepare a National Transport Master Plan with a planning horizon of 10 years or more, covering roads, railways, ports, shipping, aviation, inland waterways and urban mobility.
- ITLA will technically appraise and monitor major Government of India infrastructure projects costing ₹500 crore or more.
- It will create a National Transport Data Repository (NTDR) using data from GSTN e-way bills, FASTag, Vahan, GPS and urban traffic systems.

Annual Survey of Industries 2024–25

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the results of the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2024–25.
- The number of registered manufacturing establishments increased to 2.67 lakh, while total employment rose by 7.19% to 2.10 crore.
- Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 9.59%, and fixed capital increased by 10.54%.
- Industrial output increased by 7.81%, while total emoluments paid to workers rose by 12.08%.
- Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana accounted for about 56% of total manufacturing employment.
- Basic metals, motor vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and food products together contributed over 45% of manufacturing GVA.

UCIL Uranium Expansion Plan

- Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) plans to double uranium output by 2036 through new mines and uranium recovery from copper residues.

- India aims to increase domestic uranium availability to support its growing nuclear power programme, which currently has a capacity of around 9 gigawatts (GW).
- UCIL supplies roughly one-third of the uranium required from domestic sources, while India depends on imports because its uranium resources are relatively limited and low-grade.
- The proposed Rohil uranium project in Rajasthan will have the capacity to mine and process 2,500 tonnes of uranium ore per day.
- The Gogi project in Karnataka is at an early stage, with UCIL awaiting precise demarcation of the area from the State government.
- Two other proposed uranium mining projects are planned in Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- UCIL is a public sector enterprise under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), established in 1967 and headquartered at Jaduguda, East Singhbhum district, Jharkhand.
- UCIL is India's only company statutorily authorised to extract and process uranium ore, using underground mining, opencast mining and chemical processing of low-grade uranium ores.
- India's three-stage nuclear power programme envisages a gradual long-term shift towards thorium in its second and third stages.

Sagarmanthan 2026

- The third edition of Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue was held in New Delhi, with participants from nearly 75 countries.
- Sagarmanthan is an annual global maritime dialogue launched in 2024 and co-hosted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).
- The theme of the 2026 edition is "Blue Geographies, New Aspirations: Trade, Technology, and Trust at Sea."
- The dialogue focuses on the blue economy, maritime trade, port connectivity, shipping, ocean governance and sustainable development.
- Its five thematic pillars cover maritime security and trade routes, green shipping and shipbuilding, trade connectivity, coastal communities and livelihoods, and links between ports and inland regions.

Supreme Court on OBC Quota

- The Supreme Court rejected the Andhra Pradesh government's plea to restore 34% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies.

- The Court upheld the Andhra Pradesh High Court's decision that the enhanced quota exceeded the 50% reservation ceiling without sufficient empirical data.
- The State relied on a unified family survey that estimated BCs at 50.42% of the population in Andhra Pradesh.
- In Vikas Kishanrao Gawali v. State of Maharashtra (2021), the Supreme Court required a detailed empirical study of backwardness and representation in local bodies.
- The High Court stated that the State could reconsider the higher quota after conducting the required data-based assessment.

First International Cargo Voyage on National Waterway-2

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the first international cargo voyage from Dibrugarh, Assam, to Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The maiden voyage carried methanol produced by Assam Petro-Chemicals Limited (APCL) from Bogibeel Terminal to Pangaon Port in Dhaka.
- The cargo travelled through National Waterway-2 (NW-2), along the Brahmaputra River, and the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR).
- It marked the first time since India's Independence that a cargo consignment sailed from Dibrugarh to a foreign port.
- The initiative aims to promote cheaper, greener and more efficient inland waterway transport in Northeast India.

Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts 2026–2030

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts in India 2026–2030.
- The strategy aims to improve natural resource accounting, fill data gaps and integrate environmental information into economic planning.
- It covers forests, minerals, soil, land, water, carbon stocks, biodiversity and environment-related activities.
- It follows the previous 2022–2026 strategy and builds on India's environmental accounting work under the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) since 2018.
- SEEA is an internationally agreed framework endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission to connect environmental data with economic statistics.
- Unlike Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which measures economic production, environmental accounts also track natural resources, ecosystem services and environmental changes.

International Bharat 6G Symposium 2026

- The 3rd International Bharat 6G Symposium 2026 concluded at Dwarka, New Delhi.
- Organised by the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) alongside India Mobile Congress 2026, the symposium discussed the roadmap towards International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT)-2030 and beyond.
- Five Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were exchanged with GSMA, one6G, GTI Alliance, 6G Innovation Forum (Taiwan) and VOICE to strengthen international cooperation.
- B6GA released 10 white papers and reports on 6G research, standards, security, sustainability and inclusive connectivity.
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) highlighted ESTIC (Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave) 2026, scheduled for 27–29 October at New Delhi, with the theme "Creative Minds, Catalyzing Science, Empowering Technologies."

US-Led Excess Capacity Initiative

- India joined the United States and 13 other economies in a joint statement to address structural excess capacity in key industries.
- The group focuses on five sectors: automobiles and electric vehicles (EVs), batteries, chemicals, foundational semiconductors and solar panels.
- The participating economies aim to address excess production and non-market policies that distort global trade.
- The countries plan to meet at the technical level before December 2026 to share data and develop a framework for joint action.
- The initiative follows earlier discussions on industrial excess capacity at the Group of Twenty (G20) in 2016.

Central Armed Police Forces Act 2026

- The Ministry of Home Affairs brought the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026, into force on 8 October 2026, while its constitutional validity is being challenged in the Supreme Court.
- The Act concerns cadre management and the deputation of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers to senior posts in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).
- On 23 May 2025, the Supreme Court recognised CAPF Group A officers as Organised Services and directed a gradual reduction in IPS deputation to senior posts within two years.

- The 2025 judgment also directed a review of the cadre structure and service rules within six months.
- The Supreme Court scheduled the petitions challenging the Act and related contempt proceedings for 15 October 2026.

JOSH Initiative 2026

- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched Joint Squad for Health (JOSH) Teams under the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan on 8 October 2026 in New Delhi.
- The initiative aims to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) through youth participation, early detection, treatment support and stigma reduction.
- In the first phase, it covers 55 districts across 11 States and Union Territories.
- Each JOSH Team comprises five MY Bharat Volunteers and five National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets, supervised by a Class-I officer.
- Volunteers promote TB screening, nutritional counselling and regular treatment, supported by the TB Mukt Bharat App and an Artificial Intelligence (AI) assistant called Khushi Avatar (e-Sangini).
- The initiative aims to accelerate India's progress towards a TB-free nation before the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) deadline.

Supreme Court on eDAR Portal

- The Supreme Court directed States to promptly upload road accident data to the Electronic Detailed Accident Report (eDAR) portal and integrate it with VAHAN, SARATHI and the Insurance Information Bureau (IIB).
- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) operates the eDAR portal to digitise accident reports and support motor accident compensation claims.
- VAHAN stores vehicle registration details, SARATHI stores driving licence details, and IIB maintains insurance-related data.
- The PM-RAHAT scheme provides cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh per victim for up to seven days after a road accident.
- The Court gave the Centre and States four weeks to complete integration and submit compliance reports.

Additive Manufacturing in India – NSAM 2.0

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) initiated the rollout of the National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing (NSAM) 2.0 in October 2026, building on the strategy launched in 2022.

- Additive Manufacturing (3D printing) creates physical objects layer by layer from digital 3D models, reducing material waste compared with many traditional manufacturing methods.
- The 2022 strategy targeted a 5% share of the global market, a US$1 billion contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 50 technologies, 100 startups and 500 products.
- Progress reported includes over 1.54 lakh people trained, 56 startups funded and 65 indigenous technologies developed across seven national centres.
- NSAM 2.0 focuses on domestic patents, indigenous materials and machines, affordable shared facilities for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and 3D-printed electronics.

Global Agricultural AI Initiative – GI-AI4FS

- India hosted the second meeting of the United Nations Global Initiative on Artificial Intelligence for Agri-Food Systems (GI-AI4FS) in New Delhi, alongside India Mobile Congress 2026.
- The meeting was jointly hosted by the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- The initiative is coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP).
- The initiative aims to promote responsible, trustworthy and farmer-centric artificial intelligence (AI) solutions for agriculture.
- The meeting discussed governance, working groups and priority areas, following the initiative's first meeting in Rome, Italy, in June 2026.

Global Greenfield Investment Share

- The United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Trade and Development Report 2026 reported India's investment share and economic growth projections.
- India accounted for 5.7% of global greenfield investment during 2020–2025, compared with China's 2.8%.
- India implemented 1,416 industrial policy measures during 2008–2021 and 707 during 2022–2025.
- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected at 7.3% in 2026 and 6.8% in 2027.
- India's household consumption growth is estimated at 6.9% in 2026 and 5.6% in 2027.

National Social Assistance Programme Extension

- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for five years, from 2026–27 to 2030–31, with an outlay of ₹53,428 crore.
- NSAP was launched in 1995 to provide social assistance to vulnerable groups, including elderly people, widows and persons with disabilities.
- NSAP has been renamed Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana.
- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) has been renamed Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana, which provides pension assistance to eligible elderly people from poor households.
- Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) has been renamed Pradhan Mantri Vidhawa Pension Yojana, which provides pension assistance to eligible widows from poor households.
- Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) has been renamed Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana, which provides pension assistance to eligible persons with disabilities.
- The National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) has been renamed Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana.
- Monthly disability pension assistance increased from ₹300 to ₹375 for beneficiaries aged 0–79 years and from ₹500 to ₹625 for those aged 80 years and above.
- The benchmark disability eligibility requirement was reduced from 80% to 40%, and eligibility was extended to include persons with disabilities from birth.
- Pension assistance for elderly people and widows remains unchanged.

Bharat Stage VII Norms

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways proposed introducing BS-VII emission standards for passenger cars from 1 April 2029.
- The standards aim to reduce vehicle pollution through stricter exhaust-emission limits, real-world driving tests and on-board emission monitoring.
- Implementation is planned in three phases: April 2029, April 2031 and April 2035, covering exhaust emissions, brake particles, tyre abrasion and battery durability.
- The rules cover petrol, diesel, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), ethanol-blended fuels, hydrogen, hybrid and electric vehicles; electric vehicle batteries must retain at least 75% performance for 5 years or 100,000 km.

- An Environmental Vehicle Passport will provide information on vehicle emissions, fuel consumption and battery health; India currently follows BS-VI standards, introduced nationwide in April 2020.

Disaster Risk and Resilience Assessment Framework

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) assessed disaster risks to telecom towers in five States: Assam, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.
- The study found that 57% of 48,416 telecom towers in Tamil Nadu face high or very high cyclonic wind risk, while 33% are exposed to flooding.
- In Assam, 83% of 18,388 telecom towers are in very high cyclonic wind zones, 43% face high flood exposure and 5% face high landslide exposure.
- The framework was developed with the Department of Telecommunications and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- It recommends stronger towers, raised generators, battery backup, alternative communication networks and satellite connectivity to maintain services during disasters.

Supreme Court on Digital Rights

- The Supreme Court recognised children's right to access and use the internet as part of their fundamental rights under Articles 21 and 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution.
- Article 21 protects the Right to Life and Personal Liberty, while Article 19(1)(a) protects the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression.
- The Court observed that blanket bans on internet access may be disproportionate and could push children towards unsafe online platforms.
- Recommended safeguards include parental guidance, supervision, age-appropriate protections and dedicated "child mode" accounts on social media.
- Online safety measures should protect children from exploitation while respecting their digital rights and supporting the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

PM-AJAY – Adarsh Gram Development

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), 18,093 villages were declared Adarsh Grams as of 8 September 2026.
- The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to improve the socio-economic and educational conditions of Scheduled Caste (SC) communities.

- More than 47,200 villages have been covered, benefiting over 47.79 lakh people, with 46,944 development works completed.
- Around ₹1,730 crore was released to States under the Grants-in-Aid component from 2021–22 to 2025–26, supporting livelihood and skill development for over 2.5 lakh beneficiaries.
- The scheme has three components: Adarsh Gram development, Grants-in-Aid for socio-economic projects, and construction and repair of student hostels.

Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026, to expand the categories of people eligible to work as Census enumerators for India's upcoming digital Census.
- The amendment modifies Rule 3 of the Census Rules, 1990, under the Census Act, 1948, and took effect upon publication in the Official Gazette.
- Teachers from private educational institutions and clerical staff from public sector undertakings (PSUs), banks, private companies and other institutions can now be appointed as enumerators.
- State Governments and Union Territory (UT) administrations can appoint other suitable persons for Census duties.
- Appointed enumerators have the legal status of public servants, and performing their assigned duties is a statutory obligation.

Electoral Roll Revision 2026

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced SSR in 14 States and 3 Union Territories, with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date.
- SSR resumes the annual enrolment of new voters, which was stalled due to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).
- The ECI will re-enrol wrongly deleted voters using Form 6 without an ancestry declaration and provide searchable electoral rolls in text PDF format.
- In West Bengal, 38 lakh appeals were filed, including 22 lakh by deleted voters; tribunals restored voters in 93% of cases decided but disposed of only about 3% of appeals.
- In Bihar, the gender ratio in electoral rolls fell from 907 in 2024 to 892 after the SIR.

National Strategic Trade Command Centre

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry launched the National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.

- NSTCC is a centralised trade intelligence and data analytics hub developed by the Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in coordination with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- Its aim is to enable real-time trade monitoring, evidence-based policymaking, greater transparency and faster trade clearances.
- It monitors Importer Exporter Code (IEC), Advance Authorisation, Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme and Certificates of Origin (CoO).
- It tracks licences for Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies (SCOMET), export obligations, regulatory compliance and trade performance across products and markets.
- It integrates data from the DGFT portal and Trade Connect ePlatform, helping identify trade bottlenecks, emerging export markets and underused Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

New Food Safety Rules 2026

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) proposed changes to food safety rules.
- The proposal seeks to ban the addition of sucrose and fructose in food products for babies up to six months old.
- Currently, these sugars can be added in infant foods, with their combined amount limited to 20% of total carbohydrates.
- FSSAI proposed maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides in tea: 20 parts per million (ppm) for acetamiprid and 50 ppm for imidacloprid.
- MRLs specify the highest legally permitted concentration of pesticide residues in food.

KAUMARACON-2026

- The Vice-President inaugurated the 3rd International Conference on Kaumarabhritya, KAUMARACON-2026, organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).
- Theme: “Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya.”
- Kaumarabhritya is the branch of Ayurveda concerned with child healthcare, nutrition, growth, development and disease prevention.
- The AYUSH Start-up Portal, AIIA-iCAINE website, AyuDIVA, Vamana App and Panchakarma Assessment App were launched.
- Panchakarma means “five actions” in Sanskrit and is an Ayurvedic treatment system aimed at removing toxins and balancing Vata, Pitta and Kapha.

Biofortified Purple Potato - Kufri Jamunia

- India developed Kufri Jamunia, a biofortified purple potato variety, to address hidden hunger.
- It was developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Potato Research Institute (ICAR-CPRI) and released in 2024.
- It contains 42.75 mg of vitamin C, 3.22 mg of iron and 2.28 mg of zinc per 100 g.
- It contains anthocyanins, natural pigments with antioxidant properties.
- It helps address hidden hunger by improving the intake of essential vitamins and minerals through everyday food.
- It is suitable for cultivation in the North Indian plains, including Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

LAHDC Amendment Regulation 2026

- President Droupadi Murmu promulgated the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC) (Amendment) Regulation, 2026, paving the way for hill council elections in all eight districts of Ladakh.
- The Union Cabinet approved the amendments on 14 October 2026.
- The regulation changes the number of constituencies in each council from 26 to a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 24.
- It provides for the nomination of four members from women and unrepresented communities to improve participation in local governance.
- Ladakh became a Union Territory in 2019 after its separation from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir; previously, it had two hill councils in Leh and Kargil.
- The newly created Sankoo district is also included in the plan for establishing hill councils across all eight districts.

Green Diwali Campaign 2026

- WWF-India EIACP Programme Centre launched its nationwide Green Diwali Campaign on 20 October 2026, which runs until 8 November 2026.
- The campaign is supported by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and encourages people to celebrate Diwali with less pollution and waste.
- It focuses especially on the 130 cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

- The campaign promotes avoiding firecrackers and single-use plastic, using traditional diyas and energy-efficient lights, segregating waste, and choosing local products.
- It aligns with Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), which promotes environmentally friendly lifestyles.

Agrivoltaics World Conference 2026

- India is hosting the 7th Agrivoltaics World Conference 2026 in New Delhi, marking the first time the conference is held in the Global South.
- Agrivoltaics (AgriPV) combines agriculture and solar photovoltaic power generation on the same land, allowing farming and solar energy production together.
- The conference theme is "Powering the Global South", focusing on crop productivity, policies, financing and farmer-centred models for clean energy and food production.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is hosting the conference.
- The AgriPV Policy Handbook, India Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA) Decision-Making Tool and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Book of Abstracts were launched at the conference.

Core Industrial Growth – September 2026

- India's Index of Core Industries (ICI) recorded a 7.9% growth in September 2026, the highest since the new data series began in April 2024.
- Coal grew 10.7%, its highest growth in 13 months, while refinery products grew 10.3% and iron ore grew 18.4%.
- Electricity grew 11.4%, while cement and steel grew 9.8% and 4.9%, respectively.
- Crude oil contracted 1.4% and natural gas contracted 4.6%, while fertiliser contracted 11.7% for the seventh consecutive month.
- The ICI tracks the performance of eight core sectors: coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.

Land Warfare Doctrine 2026

- The Indian Army's Land Warfare Doctrine 2026 was released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, during the Army Commanders' Conference held in New Delhi.
- The doctrine covers the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Iran-US conflict and Operation Sindoor, highlighting drones, surveillance, contested communications and information warfare.

- It focuses on Artificial Intelligence (AI), precision warfare, multi-domain operations, advanced technology and jointness among the armed forces.
- It stresses Atmanirbharta, indigenous defence capabilities, resilient logistics, human leadership and man-unmanned teaming.
- The Army will introduce a five-year multi-domain training roadmap, three-level AI skill development for officers and drone operations as a secondary skill.

Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for 2026–27 to 2030–31 with an outlay of ₹53,428 crore, renamed as the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana.
- NSAP was launched on 15 August 1995 to provide social assistance to poor households, in line with Article 41 of the Constitution.
- The programme will cover 3.20 crore beneficiaries and includes pensions for senior citizens, widows and persons with disabilities, along with family benefits.
- Disability pension eligibility has been widened from 80% to 40% benchmark disability, with the minimum age requirement removed.
- Central assistance for disability pension has increased to ₹375 per month up to 79 years and ₹625 per month for those aged 80 years and above.

National Action Plan for Inland Small-Scale Fisheries

- India has entered the development phase of a National Plan of Action (NPOA) for small-scale inland fisheries, focusing on better livelihoods, resource management and coordination.
- The plan is being developed under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) framework by the Department of Fisheries with BOBP-IGO (Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation).
- India has set a target of 30 million tonnes of fish production in the next five years, compared with the current annual production of 19.7 million tonnes.
- Inland fisheries contribute about three-fourths of India's total fish production, covering rivers, canals, reservoirs, lakes, wetlands, tanks and cold-water systems.
- The plan will address fishing rights, resource management, decent work, gender equality, value chains, post-harvest trade, climate change and disaster risks.

Ban on Medical Device Reuse

- The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) directed public and private hospitals to stop reusing single-use medical devices and disposable surgical items.
- Reusing such devices may cause cross-infection, device malfunction and reduced performance, especially in critical care.
- The directive covers devices used in cardiology, nephrology, oncology, neurosurgery and cardiothoracic and vascular surgery (CTVS).
- Devices labelled for single use must follow the original equipment manufacturer's instructions.
- State health authorities and drug controllers were asked to inspect, monitor and take action against violations.
- The practice may violate provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; Medical Devices Rules, 2017; and Clinical Establishments Act, 2010.

New Labour Survey Framework

- The Union government will modify the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) from January 2027 to better capture digital platform work, unpaid household and caregiving work, volunteer work and trainee work.
- The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will change the survey design and schedule.
- A separate Second Stage Stratum (SSS) will identify households having at least one digital platform worker, improving coverage of gig workers.
- The survey will add questions on unpaid household and caregiving work, including cooking, cleaning, childcare and caring for elderly, sick or disabled persons.
- It will also record own-use production, volunteer work and unpaid trainee work, which were not separately captured earlier in the PLFS.
- The sample allocation and stratification will also be updated to improve population representation and make sample selection more efficient.

SC on Candidate Disclosures

- The Supreme Court held that ordinary voters can file criminal complaints against election candidates for giving false information or concealing information in nomination affidavits.
- Candidates must disclose details such as assets, educational qualifications and criminal antecedents while filing nominations.

- Under Section 125-A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, giving false information or concealing information is an offence punishable with up to 6 months' imprisonment, fine, or both.
- The Court held that a complaint under Section 125-A can be filed by a private person and is not limited to public servants or competent authorities.
- Section 125-A was inserted in 2002 to strengthen transparency in elections and provide voters with accurate information about candidates.
- The Court also held that Section 195 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) does not prevent private citizens from filing complaints under Section 125-A.

National Urban Conclave 2026

- The National Urban Conclave 2026 concluded in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, with recommendations to strengthen urban governance, planning and service delivery towards Viksit Bharat 2047.
- Recommendations included stronger Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), better municipal finances, integrated planning and outcome-based service delivery.
- New initiatives included the Used Water Marketplace under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) Portal and Municipal Finance Data Hub.
- 18 Street Food Hubs were launched under Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) for circular use of treated used water.
- CPWD Nirman and CPWDway digital platforms were launched for project monitoring and capacity building.

SAMHiTA Project

- India and Sri Lanka launched the SAMHiTA (South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive) Project at Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo, to preserve shared Buddhist heritage.
- The project aims to digitise ancient manuscripts and preserve their historical, religious and cultural knowledge.
- Gangaramaya Temple became the first Sri Lankan institution to partner with the project.
- A team is digitising 100 ancient manuscripts, with the work expected to be completed by November 2026.

- The project is undertaken by the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi, with grant assistance from the Government of India.

Delhi-NCR Pollution Analysis – AATAL

- The Central Government inaugurated the Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL) for Delhi-NCR to improve air pollution forecasting and source analysis.
- AATAL is described as the world's first facility dedicated to air pollution analysis for the Delhi-NCR region.
- It analyses PM2.5, metals, toxic elements, atmospheric gases and aerosols.
- The facility was established under Mission Mausam and is integrated with IITM's AIRWISE (Air Quality Warning and Integrated Decision Support System for Emissions).
- AIRWISE combines air-quality forecasts, observations and source-apportionment data to support targeted pollution-control measures.

Supreme Court on Judicial Officers Retirement Age

- The Supreme Court stated that 14 States had agreed to increase the retirement age of District Judicial Officers from 60 to 62 years.
- The Supreme Court directed the consenting States to amend service rules, subject to suitability and performance assessment by the concerned High Court.
- Seven States — Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal — were directed to allow eligible officers who retired on or after 31 March 2026 to opt to rejoin judicial service.
- The Court asked other States and Union Territories to reconsider the proposal and stated that financial burden should not be cited as a reason to oppose the increase.
- The retirement age of Supreme Court judges is 65 years, while that of High Court judges is 62 years.

Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2027–28

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced that ASUSE 2027–28 will be conducted from April 2027 to March 2028, aligning the survey with the financial year.
- The survey is conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) to collect data on the characteristics and economic activities of unincorporated non-agricultural establishments; it has been conducted since 2021–22.

- For the first time, it will collect data on gender-specific constraints faced by women entrepreneurs and include questions on electricity sources and investment in fixed assets over a longer period.
- Two questions will identify handloom, power-loom and handicraft establishments, following a request from the Ministry of Textiles.
- The survey design allows participating States to generate district-level estimates; the January–March 2027 survey will use the existing ASUSE 2026 schedule to maintain continuity.

Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

- Viksit Bharat Buildathon (VBB) 2025 entered the Guinness World Records as the "Largest Innovation Solution Competition", with 2,87,967 project submissions nationwide.
- The Ministry of Education has organised the initiative through the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- The initiative promotes creativity, scientific curiosity, entrepreneurship and problem-solving among school students through Idea and Prototype tracks.
- Its four pillars are Atmanirbhar Bharat, Swadeshi, Vocal for Local and Samriddh Bharat.
- The event also featured the launch of guidelines for Teacher Education Institutions under ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.

Anaemia Mukt Bharat Strategy

- The Government of India revised the Anaemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) programme to a 7×7×7 strategy in June 2026 to strengthen anaemia prevention, testing and treatment.
- It was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- AMB aims to reduce anaemia among children, adolescents and women; its traditional 6×6×6 strategy covers six beneficiary groups, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms.
- The revised 7×7×7 strategy covers seven beneficiary groups, seven interventions and seven institutional mechanisms, including iron and folic acid supplementation, testing and treatment, deworming, awareness and digital monitoring.

- Double Fortified Salt (DFS) contains iron and iodine to help prevent iron-deficiency anaemia and iodine-deficiency disorders; iodine supports normal thyroid function and growth.
- Anaemia affects over half of Indian women and nearly three-fourths of children; studies in Bengaluru, Darjeeling, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh reported improved iron status, while a global review found that DFS can reduce anaemia by up to 21%.
- Government programmes distribute DFS to about 76 million people across four States; wider distribution through the PDS (Public Distribution System), which serves around 800 million people, remains uneven.
- The FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) has issued DFS standards; DFS complements iron supplementation, dietary improvement and screening for thalassaemia and sickle cell disease.

Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme

- The Union Cabinet approved the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS) on 28 October 2026 to boost domestic container manufacturing.
- The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2026–27, with a total outlay of ₹10,000 crore up to Financial Year (FY) 2039–40.
- It aims to reduce import dependence, strengthen supply chains and establish India as a global shipping-container manufacturing hub.
- The scheme allocates ₹859 crore for 3% interest support on eligible loans, ₹8,891 crore for operational costs of standard-compliant containers and ₹150 crore for testing and certification.
- It aims to increase annual domestic manufacturing capacity nearly 10-fold to 7.5 lakh Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs).

Siang Upper Multipurpose Project - Arunachal Pradesh

- The proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh faces opposition from local communities over displacement, livelihoods and cultural heritage.
- The proposed 11,200-megawatt (MW) project is planned on the Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The State Government considers it important to counter China's proposed upstream dam and strengthen national security.
- Members of the indigenous Adi community and riverbank residents fear the loss of ancestral land, livelihoods and cultural heritage.

- The Siang River is part of the Brahmaputra River system; the Brahmaputra is known as the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet.

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana

- The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana to strengthen rural local governance.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 2026–27 to 2030–31, with a total outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore.
- It aims to strengthen Gram Panchayats through integrated planning, digital governance, capacity building, public participation and financial accountability.
- Annual targets include over 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs), 2.55 lakh online audit plans and awareness campaigns reaching at least 1 crore citizens per campaign.
- Digital tools include eGramSwaraj for Panchayat planning and accounting, PANCHAM (Panchayat Assistance and Messaging Chatbot) for communication, and AuditOnline for online audits.
- It supports around 32 lakh elected representatives, Panchayat officials and other stakeholders, including traditional rural local bodies in areas where regular Panchayats do not exist.

INTERNATIONAL

Switzerland Neutrality Referendum 2026

- Swiss voters rejected the Neutrality Initiative on 27 September 2026, with 70.15% voting against it.
- The initiative sought to define Switzerland's neutrality as "perpetual and armed" in the Constitution.
- It proposed banning military alliances and sanctions against warring states, except when required by the United Nations (UN).
- All Swiss cantons rejected the initiative, so it failed to secure the required double majority.
- Switzerland has had neutrality in its Federal Constitution since 1848 and is not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- The initiative was supported by the Swiss People's Party (SVP) and other groups seeking stricter neutrality rules.

UN Women AI Hub

- UN Women launched the Digital, Innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hub to place gender equality at the centre of digital transformation.
- The hub will bring together governments, technology companies, researchers, AI experts and women's rights organisations.
- It aims to reduce gender bias in AI, address online violence and ensure technology reflects the needs of women and girls.
- UN Women reported that women hold nearly 20% of AI jobs and only about 10% of senior AI leadership positions.
- A global analysis of 133 AI systems found that 44% showed gender bias.
- The hub will support countries in developing gender-responsive digital and AI policies and promote inclusive, sustainable and rights-based technology.

UN Crime Prevention Congress 2026

- Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal addressed the 15th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- He highlighted India's criminal justice reforms, digital justice, cybercrime and terrorism measures.
- The UN Crime Congress is the world's largest gathering on crime prevention and criminal justice.
- It is organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- Theme: "Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age."

IPU Assembly in Tanzania

- Harivansh, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, is leading the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Arusha, Tanzania.
- The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the global organisation of national parliaments, founded in 1889 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The IPU works to promote parliamentary dialogue, democracy, peace, human rights and sustainable development among countries.
- The Assembly's theme is "Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all."

- Discussions will cover democracy, human rights, peace and security, artificial intelligence (AI), health, climate change and women's participation.

BIMSTEC Counter-Terrorism Meeting 2026

- The 11th BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) was held in New Delhi, with India as host.
- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was established in 1997 and connects South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- It has 7 members – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- The grouping promotes cooperation in areas including security, trade, connectivity, technology, environment and public health.
- The meeting focused on cooperation against terrorism, human trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering and other transnational crimes.

El Alamein Joint Declaration

- Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia issued the El Alamein Joint Declaration after a quadrilateral summit in New Alamein, Egypt.
- The four countries stressed state sovereignty, Red Sea governance and water rights and rejected interference in the internal affairs of regional states.
- They reaffirmed support for Sudan's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity and rejected the creation of parallel entities.
- They rejected the recognition or support for Somaliland and stated that Red Sea governance is the responsibility of its littoral states.
- They called for respect for international law on transboundary rivers, including the Nile, and opposed unilateral measures affecting the existing water uses of Egypt and Sudan.

FORTRESS America Initiative

- The United States Department of War launched the FORTRESS America defence security initiative.
- FORTRESS America stands for Federal Operations for Resilience, Troop Resources, Energy, Supply, and Survivability.
- It aims to make major US military installations independent of the civilian power grid to ensure uninterrupted operations during emergencies.

- Its five pillars are energy independence, supply-chain resilience, strategic defence reserves, installation and cyber resilience, and space and spectrum resilience.
- It promotes domestic production of critical defence materials, including rare earth elements, specialty metals, semiconductors and propellants.

India–Switzerland Strategic Partnership

- The President of the Swiss Confederation held bilateral talks with the Indian Prime Minister in New Delhi in October 2026, marking the first anniversary of the India–European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
- India and Switzerland agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, defence, civilian nuclear energy, infrastructure and artificial intelligence (AI).
- The Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMP) and Exchange of Young Professionals (YPS) agreements aim to promote legal migration, skill development and professional exchanges.
- The India–EFTA TEPA, implemented in October 2025, includes an investment commitment of USD 100 billion and one million direct jobs in India over 15 years.
- EFTA has four members: Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein; India and Switzerland also cooperate in science and research through the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).
- Key challenges include the trade imbalance, lack of a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), pharmaceutical patent concerns under Section 3(d) of India's Patents Act, 1970, and implementation of the investment commitment.

Carbfix Carbon Storage Technology

- Iceland is exploring cooperation with India in geothermal energy and Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), including its Carbfix technology.
- India has an estimated geothermal energy potential of 10.6 gigawatts (GW) and promotes its development through the National Policy on Geothermal Energy.
- Iceland generates around 70% of its electricity from hydropower and 30% from geothermal energy and offers India technical and regulatory expertise.
- Iceland's Carbfix technology converts captured carbon dioxide (CO_2) into stone through permanent mineralisation, helping store carbon underground.
- Carbfix could help reduce carbon emissions from India's steel and cement industries; Iceland is seeking collaboration with India to expand the technology.

EU Carbon Border Tax 2026

- The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) entered its definitive phase on January 1, 2026, increasing compliance requirements for Indian exporters.
- CBAM covers selected imports of iron and steel, aluminium, cement, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen to account for their embedded carbon emissions.
- Payments for emissions linked to 2026 imports are scheduled to begin in February 2027, with annual declarations and certificates due by September 30, 2027.
- The mechanism aims to prevent carbon leakage by applying a carbon cost to imports comparable to that faced by European Union producers under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS).
- Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) face challenges from compliance costs, complex paperwork and difficulties obtaining verified emissions data from suppliers.
- A June 2026 study by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) estimated that India's iron and steel exports to the EU could decline by 23.94% under a scenario with a carbon price of US$86.01 per tonne of carbon dioxide.

First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting 2026

- The first Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Home Ministers' Meeting concluded in New Delhi with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2026.
- BIMSTEC has seven members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- The declaration strengthens cooperation against terrorism, terror financing, money laundering, cyber fraud, human trafficking and drug trafficking.
- It calls for stronger intelligence-sharing, victim rescue and rehabilitation, and legal cooperation, including extradition.
- It supports security training and cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG).

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

- The Union Government approved India's accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

- Signed in Rome on 7 July 2006, it entered into force in June 2012 to conserve and sustainably use fishery resources in the southern Indian Ocean.
- It covers fish, molluscs, crustaceans and other sedentary species, excluding highly migratory species under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- Its main bodies are the Meeting of the Parties, Scientific Committee and Secretariat.
- India's accession will enable full participation in decision-making, access to scientific data and research, and new fishing opportunities for Indian fishers and entrepreneurs.

India–Costa Rica Diplomatic Relations

- India operationalised its resident diplomatic mission in San José, the capital of Costa Rica; the Ministry of External Affairs announced it.
- Earlier, India managed relations with Costa Rica through its mission in Panama and an honorary consular presence in San José.
- The mission aims to strengthen bilateral relations, trade, investment and cooperation in pharmaceuticals and Information Technology (IT).
- Costa Rica is located in Central America, bordered by Nicaragua to the north and Panama to the south-east, with the Caribbean Sea to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west.
- The move supports India's Focus Latin America and the Caribbean (Focus LAC) initiative to expand engagement with the region and improve consular assistance to Indian nationals.

IMF–World Bank Leadership 2027

- Pakistan was selected to chair the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group in 2027.
- Pakistan will hold the chairmanship for the first time since 1953.
- Ahad Khan Cheema, Pakistan's Economic Affairs Minister and World Bank Governor, was announced as the incoming chair during the World Bank–IMF Annual Meetings in Bangkok.
- The chairperson oversees proceedings attended by member countries' finance ministers and central bank governors but does not control lending decisions.
- Pakistan's appointment comes as it awaits approval for another US$1.2 billion from the IMF, despite its continuing dependence on external financing.

World Health Summit 2026

- The World Health Summit 2026 was held in Berlin, Germany.
- Theme: "From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health".
- Bangladesh and the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced a €250 million programme to improve women's healthcare, expected to benefit 47 million women and girls.
- The Gates Foundation and Wellcome Leap launched the Uzima: A Stillbirth Prevention Program, with $100 million to target a 50% reduction in stillbirths over a decade in selected countries.
- Germany pledged €10 million through the Global Financing Facility (GFF) to support maternal and child health.
- Key discussions covered misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI), nuclear warfare, declining public confidence in science and emotional well-being.

Bangkok Cybersecurity Framework

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group (WBG), with the Bank of Thailand, launched the Bangkok Blueprint in Bangkok, Thailand.
- It provides a framework to prevent, detect and address cyber-enabled fraud in digital financial services.
- It contains 12 key considerations under five pillars, including legal foundations, fraud prevention, enforcement, cooperation and consumer protection.
- It promotes cooperation between governments, financial institutions, law-enforcement agencies and digital platforms across countries.
- Asia accounted for 67% of global fraud losses in 2024, according to the Bank of Thailand Governor.

WHO Pandemic Intelligence Hub Strategy

- The World Health Organization (WHO) announced a five-year strategy for its Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence Hub at the World Health Summit in Berlin.
- The Berlin-based hub was established in 2021 after the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen global outbreak detection and response.
- It aims to help every country detect and understand emerging health threats within 24 hours by 2030.
- Its five priorities include open-source epidemic intelligence, pathogen surveillance, data science, collaborative surveillance and secure digital systems.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) will scan public sources for outbreak signals, while the One Health approach connects human, animal and environmental health.
- The hub has worked with 160 member states and 190 partner organisations.

ASEAN and Export Growth

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) emerged as the fastest-growing regional destination for India's exports during April–August 2026, with a 56% increase driven mainly by petroleum product shipments.
- India's petroleum product exports to ASEAN rose 2.4 times to over US$6.1 billion, with Singapore accounting for nearly three-fourths of these exports.
- Exports of computer hardware to ASEAN increased 20-fold to US$1.4 billion, while electric machinery exports rose 82% to US$1.6 billion.
- India's exports to the European Union (EU) grew at the slowest pace, as petroleum product exports fell 21% to US$4.6 billion.
- India's exports to Spain rose 54% to US$3.5 billion, while petroleum product exports to Italy increased from US$4 million to US$659 million.
- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, through the Bangkok Declaration.
- ASEAN has 11 member countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam and India is not a member of ASEAN.

India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement 2026

- The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) came into force on 20 October 2026.
- New Zealand removed tariffs on 100% of Indian goods, while India began tariff concessions on selected New Zealand imports.
- India will provide concessions on 70% of its tariff lines, covering about 95% of current bilateral trade value, with duty-free access increasing from 57% to 82% of tariff lines in phases.
- New Zealand committed to facilitating $20 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) into India over 15 years.
- The agreement aims to increase bilateral trade in goods and services to NZ$7 billion by 2030.
- It is India's 17th operational Free Trade Agreement.

US National Park - Chiricahua

- Chiricahua in Arizona officially became the 64th national park of the United States after President Donald Trump signed the Chiricahua National Park Act.
- Chiricahua was earlier a National Monument and had been protected for more than a century.

- The park covers about 12,025 acres in the Chiricahua Mountains, around 120 miles southeast of Tucson, Arizona.
- It became the fourth national park in Arizona and the first new U.S. national park established since 2020.
- Chiricahua is called the "Wonderland of Rocks" because of its tall and unusual rock formations.

CICA Summit 2026

- The 7th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, with India reiterating its commitment to inclusive and consensus-based cooperation in Asia.
- India called on CICA members to unite against all forms of terrorism and stressed respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- India said regional connectivity projects should be transparent, financially viable and inclusive.
- The Summit adopted the Baku Declaration, highlighting connectivity, digitalisation and sustainable growth as important for confidence-building and development in Asia.
- India is a founding member of CICA and considers it an important platform for dialogue, consensus-building and cooperation in Asia.

Ebola Bundibugyo Case - Nigeria

- Nigeria reported its first imported Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease (BDBV) case, becoming the fifth country to report BDBV in the 2026 outbreak.
- Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease (BDBV) is a severe disease caused by Bundibugyo virus, a species of the Ebolavirus genus first identified in Uganda in 2007.
- It spreads mainly through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person or animal and can cause fever, weakness, vomiting, diarrhoea and bleeding.
- The disease was first identified during an outbreak in Bundibugyo District, Uganda, which gave the virus its name.
- Before Nigeria, BDBV cases were reported in Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Kenya.

Bangladesh Measles Outbreak

- Bangladesh is facing the world's worst measles outbreak in 2026, with over 2.02 lakh suspected cases and 1,147 deaths reported since mid-March.

- Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that mainly spreads through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- The outbreak has been linked to declining immunisation coverage, unregistered children, health-worker shortages and weak health-data systems.
- About 94% of the reported deaths in Bangladesh were among children below five years, while around 22,000 cases were laboratory-confirmed.
- Measles vaccination coverage fell to 90% for the first dose and 86% for the second dose in 2025, below the 95% coverage generally needed to prevent outbreaks.

Badr Defence Cooperation

- Türkiye, Qatar, Pakistan and Indonesia signed the Badr Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Doha to promote cooperation in military production, defence capabilities, technical training, research and development.
- The four countries will combine their expertise for joint defence manufacturing and modern defence technology, with an executive board planning projects and a strategic board deciding budgets and production locations.
- Türkiye contributes defence technology, Qatar financial resources, Indonesia defence manufacturing experience, and Pakistan manufacturing facilities, skilled manpower and a defence market.
- Joint production facilities are expected to be established in Türkiye, which has extensive defence industry infrastructure.
- The Badr MoU is a defence cooperation arrangement, not a military alliance, and provides a framework for joint defence research, technology and industrial cooperation.

Loss and Damage Fund for Nepal

- The United Nations Loss and Damage Fund has earmarked $21.6 million for Nepal to address damage caused by the Bhotekoshi floods in August 2026, marking its first country-specific allocation.
- The August 26 ice-and-rock avalanche triggered debris flow and flooding along the Bhotekoshi-Trishuli-Narayani river system.
- The Bhotekoshi becomes the Trishuli in Nepal, which flows south and joins the Kali Gandaki at Devghat to form the Narayani, which later enters India as the Gandak.
- The flood travelled downstream from Rasuwa through Nuwakot, Dhading and Chitwan, affecting settlements and infrastructure along the river corridors.
- The Fund was established at COP27 in 2022, with its operational mechanism agreed at COP28 in 2023, to support vulnerable developing countries facing climate-related losses.

Ukraine in NATO Procurement Partnership

- Ukraine joined the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) Security Cooperation Support Partnership (SCSP), gaining access to NATO procurement contracts and defence tenders.
- Ukraine became the first and only non-NATO country with a separate SCSP partnership with NSPA.
- The partnership does not make Ukraine a NATO member.
- The North Atlantic Council approved direct NSPA contracts with Ukrainian industry in April 2026.
- NSPA has mobilised about €400 million through the Ukraine Comprehensive Assistance Package (CAP) Trust Fund.

US Critical Materials List - Helium

- The US Department of Energy designated helium as a critical material, making it the 20th material on its critical materials list.
- Helium (He) has atomic number 2 and belongs to Group 18 (noble gases).
- It is the second-lightest element after hydrogen and has the lowest boiling point of all elements.
- Liquid helium is used to cool superconducting magnets in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) systems.
- Helium is also important for semiconductors, scientific research and space exploration.
- Fluorine is the only other gas on the US critical materials list.

12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum 2026

- The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum was held in New Delhi under the theme "Fostering Parliaments for People-Centric Development."
- The forum brought together parliamentary representatives from 11 BRICS member countries: Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- India held the 2026 BRICS Chairship under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- The Joint Declaration called for reform of the United Nations (UN) and its Security Council to improve global representation, including that of the Global South.

- It addressed terrorism, climate change, sustainable development, digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI), and reaffirmed the principles of the UN Charter.
- The forum will reconvene in 2027 under China's BRICS Chairship.

ADMM-Plus Meeting 2026

- 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus held in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, Philippines.
- The meeting was held under the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN Chairmanship with the theme "Navigating Our Future, together."
- ADMM-Plus brings together 11 ASEAN member states and 8 dialogue partners: India, the United States, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.
- It was established in 2010, and the first meeting was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 12 October 2010.
- The meeting provides a platform to discuss regional and international security issues and strengthen defence cooperation.
- India reiterated its commitment to ASEAN centrality and Indo-Pacific peace and stability under the Act East Policy.
- A joint statement on Youth, Peace and Security was adopted at the meeting.

ECONOMY

First WASH Social Bond in India

- NABKISAN Finance Limited listed India's first social bond dedicated exclusively to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- The bond raised ₹180 crore, has a five-year tenure and matures in September 2031.
- The funds will support safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene projects in rural and underserved communities.
- The bond received CRISIL AAA (Stable) and CARE AAA (Stable) credit ratings.
- NABKISAN Finance Limited is a subsidiary of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD); Water.org supported the bond as Technical Advisor and Knowledge Partner.

RBI Banking Regulation Update

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) removed Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934, following the cancellation of its banking licence.
- In April 2026, the RBI cancelled PPBL's banking licence for non-compliance with regulations and concerns over the interests of depositors.
- The Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 contains the list of scheduled banks that meet specified eligibility requirements.
- In March 2022, the RBI barred PPBL from onboarding new customers due to supervisory concerns.
- In January and February 2024, the RBI imposed further restrictions, including stopping additional deposits, credits and top-ups in customer accounts and wallets.
- The Delhi High Court subsequently ordered the winding up of PPBL.

India–China Trade Deficit 2026

- India's trade deficit with China crossed US$105.93 billion during January–September 2026, despite a 40.7% rise in Indian exports.
- Bilateral trade between India and China increased by 25.4% to US$144.45 billion during January–September 2026.
- India's exports to China reached US$19.26 billion, while imports from China rose by 23.3% to US$125.19 billion.
- India's major exports to China include seafood products, naphtha and printed circuit boards.
- China's export controls on products such as fertilisers and rare earths have also raised concerns for India.
- India's trade deficit with China was US$116.12 billion in 2025.

India's Coir Exports 2025–26

- India's coir exports reached ₹6,614.40 crore in 2025–26, an increase of 305.70% since 2014–15.
- Coir is a natural fibre extracted from the outer husk of coconuts.
- India is the world's largest producer and exporter of coir, accounting for about two-thirds of global production.
- The coir industry has a turnover of around ₹16,000 crore and contributes nearly 1% to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

- Major export products include coir pith, fibre, yarn and tufted mats; major destinations include the United States, China, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.
- India has over 21,000 registered coir units, providing direct and indirect employment to more than 7 lakh workers, around 80% of whom are women.
- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implements the Coir Vikas Yojana (CVY) to support artisans, skill training, technology development and domestic and international marketing.

Oil Imports of India

- Russia, the United States (U.S.) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) supplied a record 66.8% of India's total oil imports by volume in August 2026.
- Russia supplied 44.3% (84.8 lakh tonnes), while the UAE supplied 17.4% (33 lakh tonnes) and the U.S. supplied 5.1% (9.7 lakh tonnes).
- India imported 191.2 lakh tonnes of oil in August 2026, while its oil import bill reached $12.2 billion, nearly 25% higher than in August 2025.
- Russia's share fell from 51% in July to 44.3% in August 2026; U.S. oil imports rose nearly 82% from July, while UAE imports increased amid alternative supply routes.
- The three countries accounted for 67.8% of India's total oil import bill; U.S. oil cost an average of $810.6 per tonne, compared with $640 per tonne for all imports.

GST Standing Committee: Five Permanent State Members

- Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu will be permanent members of a new Goods and Services Tax (GST) Standing Committee.
- The committee will include 12 states: five large, four medium and three small; other seats will rotate every two years.
- The Centre will work with the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) to expand the tax base using data analytics and technology.
- India has around 1.7 crore registered GST taxpayers; Business-to-Consumer (B2C) e-invoicing may be introduced from 1 April 2027.

NDEX and FINNDEX

- The National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) is preparing to enter the equity-index segment with two new indices, NDEX and FINNDEX.

- NDEX will track 20 large and actively traded companies, while FINNDEX will track 15 financial-sector companies, excluding insurance companies.
- Both indices will use four factors for stock selection and weighting: free-float market capitalisation (30%), average daily traded value (30%), beta (20%) and volatility (20%).
- NSE Indices will calculate and maintain the two indices using prices from the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- NCDEX plans to launch the indices in Q1 of FY 2027–28 (April–June 2027), followed by possible mutual funds, Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs), futures and options.

Revision of Leverage Framework

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised its capital adequacy framework to align with Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) standards, with new leverage ratio rules effective from 1 April 2027.
- The minimum leverage ratio is set at 4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) and 3.5% for other banks.
- The leverage ratio measures a bank's core capital against total exposure, without considering the riskiness of assets.
- Banks must maintain the minimum ratio at all times, with exposure including on-balance-sheet assets, derivatives and off-balance-sheet commitments.
- The framework acts as a backstop to risk-weighted capital requirements and aims to strengthen banks' balance-sheet resilience.
- The RBI rejected banks' request for additional time to implement the revised framework.

Soybean Imports in India

- India's soybean imports reached a record 1.1 million tonnes in the 2025–26 marketing season, up from around 2,000 tonnes in the previous season.
- Higher domestic soybean prices encouraged processors to import cheaper supplies; Niger became the largest reported supplier, with shipments exceeding 430,000 tonnes.
- India permits imports of only non-genetically modified (non-GM) soybeans, limiting the number of eligible suppliers.
- India's Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA) reported that soymeal exports fell by about half to around 1 million tonnes in 2025–26.
- Soybean (Glycine max) is a Kharif oilseed crop used to produce edible oil, protein-rich soymeal for animal feed and food products.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Akash Air Defence System Exports

- India exported the Akash Air Defence System to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan as of 1 October 2026.
- Akash is an indigenous short- to medium-range surface-to-air missile system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- Armenia was the first foreign customer for the Akash system.
- The system can engage fighter aircraft, cruise missiles, guided munitions and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Earth Gravity Assist - JUICE

- The European Space Agency's (ESA) Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) completed its third Earth gravity assist on 28 September 2026.
- It gained about 12,606 km/h (3.5 km/s) in speed during the flyby.
- A gravity assist, also called a slingshot manoeuvre, uses a planet's gravity and motion to change a spacecraft's speed and direction while saving fuel.
- JUICE will study Jupiter and its icy moons, especially Ganymede, the largest moon in the Solar System.
- The spacecraft is planned to enter Jupiter's orbit in 2031 and Ganymede's orbit in 2034.

Phoenix Planet Discovery

- Astronomers identified a candidate second-generation planet orbiting the white dwarf HS 0209+0832.
- The planet is called a "phoenix planet" because it may have formed from material released by the dying star.
- The white dwarf's atmosphere contains zinc, copper and niobium at levels more than 1,000 times higher than the Sun, linked to the s-process (slow neutron-capture process).
- The candidate is estimated to be Jupiter-sized and has an orbital period of about 4.4 Earth days.
- A white dwarf is the dense remnant of a star that has exhausted its nuclear fuel and shed its outer layers.

Nuclear Clock Breakthrough

- Scientists from Europe and China reported the world's first working nuclear clocks.
- Nuclear clocks use the nucleus of an atom to measure time, while atomic clocks use electrons.
- The clocks use the thorium-229 isotope, whose nucleus can be excited using an ultraviolet laser.
- Chinese teams embedded thorium-229 nuclei in calcium fluoride crystals to develop compact, portable clocks.
- Austrian and German teams used a thorium-229 nuclear clock to search for dark matter but found no signal.
- Nuclear clocks could eventually surpass atomic clocks in precision and help detect changes in fundamental forces.

Mars-Like Geological Sites in Tamil Nadu and Chile

- Indian scientists from the University of Kerala identified terrestrial sites in Tamil Nadu and Chile that resemble the geological and chemical environments of Mars.
- Melanterite was identified in Neyveli, Tamil Nadu, while gypsum was identified in the Tiruchirappalli Badlands, Tamil Nadu, and the Atacama Desert, Chile.
- Both are hydrous sulphate minerals that help scientists understand water–rock interactions and the history of water on Mars.
- Melanterite forms through the oxidation of marcasite, a sulphide mineral associated with lignite in Neyveli; researchers observed its formation within 23 days under atmospheric exposure.
- Gypsum records past water activity and may preserve biosignatures, or potential evidence of past life.

Perseverance's World Record

- NASA's Perseverance rover set a new record for the longest distance driven on another world on October 11, 2026.
- It drove 45.22 km (28.10 miles) on Mars, surpassing NASA's Opportunity rover record of 45.16 km.
- The record was achieved on its 2,006th Martian day (sol), in about 5.5 years.
- AutoNav (Autonomous Navigation) enabled over 90% of its total driving by mapping hazards and selecting routes independently.

- Perseverance has collected 29 rock and regolith samples and is exploring ancient terrain in Lac de Charmes and Idubi for possible evidence of ancient hydrothermal systems.
- NASA's extended mission will continue until roughly 2028, with the rover heading toward Rainbow Falls.

New Method for Fuel Storage

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Thiruvananthapuram, developed a compound that releases hydrogen and methane when heated.
- The compound, magnesium hydridomethylzincate, contains magnesium, zinc, hydrogen and carbon.
- Heating it in a solution at 100°C releases hydrogen, while heating its crystals at 80–110°C without a solvent releases both hydrogen and methane.
- The solid compound may offer an alternative to transporting these fuel gases under high pressure, but it is sensitive to moisture.
- Further research is needed to determine whether the compound can be reused after releasing the gases.

Mars Moons Exploration Mission

- Japan's Martian Moons Exploration (MMX) mission launched to study Mars and its two moons (Phobos and Deimos).
- The mission will become the first to land on a Martian moon and collect samples for return to Earth.
- MMX will target Phobos, the larger and closer moon of Mars, to collect rocks and surface material.
- The samples could provide information about the origin and evolution of Mars and its moons and the early history of the Solar System.
- The mission is led by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

CAR-T Therapy Partnership

- Nucelion Therapeutics and VeGen Bio announced a partnership to transfer technology and manufacture and commercialise VL-2511, a dual BCMA/CD19 autologous CAR-T therapy, in India.
- CAR-T (Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell) therapy modifies a patient's own T cells to recognise and destroy cancer cells; autologous means the cells come from the same patient.

- VL-2511 targets BCMA (B-cell maturation antigen) and CD19 and is being developed for multiple myeloma, a cancer of plasma cells.
- Nucelion Therapeutics, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bharat Biotech, will handle technology transfer and clinical- and commercial-stage manufacturing at its facility in Genome Valley, Hyderabad.
- The partnership aims to improve production efficiency, reduce manufacturing costs and expand access to CAR-T therapy in India.

Plant-Based Protein Research

- A study by the CSIR–Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT), Palampur, and the Good Food Institute (GFI) India found that five tested plant-based meat products had a higher share of absorbable protein than their chicken counterparts.
- Protein bioavailability was 80.8% and 86.1% for plant-based kebabs, compared with 38.8% for chicken; plant-based nuggets scored 61.2% versus 43.4%, while patties scored about 57–58% versus 21.2%.
- Researchers used an in vitro digestion method based on INFOGEST, an internationally harmonised protocol that simulates digestion under laboratory conditions.
- Plant-based meat is commonly made from soy, pea or wheat gluten using extrusion, a process that shapes ingredients using heat and pressure.
- The study assessed only protein bioavailability; researchers cautioned that the findings do not establish that plant-based meat is healthier, and further studies are needed.

New Dwarf Planet - 2026 ED138

- The International Astronomical Union's (IAU) Minor Planet Center announced 2026 ED138 as a possible dwarf planet.
- It is located beyond Pluto's orbit in the trans-Neptunian region, at an estimated distance of 46 Astronomical Units (AU) from the Sun.
- Its estimated diameter is 600–1,500 km.
- The five officially recognised dwarf planets are Ceres, Pluto, Haumea, Makemake and Eris.
- The IAU introduced the dwarf planet classification in 2006.

ENVIRONMENT

6th Cycle of Tiger Reserve Evaluation

- The 6th Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEE-TR 2026) was launched in New Delhi to assess the management of all 58 notified tiger reserves in India.
- It is organised by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- MEE assesses planning, resources, management processes, conservation outcomes and community participation, not just tiger numbers.
- The evaluation follows the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) framework and covers six elements: context, planning, inputs, processes, outputs and outcomes.
- MEE-TR 2026 introduces a dedicated Solid Waste Management (SWM) criterion and greater use of satellite data and geo-tagged field records.
- The evaluation also includes local communities and youth, with greater focus on village relocation and Eco-Development Committees (EDCs).

Kazakhstan Horse Reintroduction

- Two Przewalski's horse foals were born in Kazakhstan's steppe in August 2026, marking the first births there after nearly 200 years.
- Przewalski's horse is considered the world's last truly wild horse and has never been domesticated.
- The species disappeared from the wild; the last wild sighting was recorded in the Gobi Desert in 1969.
- Since 2024, 22 horses have been brought from European zoos to Kazakhstan's Alibi Reintroduction Centre for rewilding.
- Kazakhstan aims to have 40 Przewalski's horses by 2029, with the long-term goal of establishing a stable free-roaming population.

UN Declaration on Sea-Level Rise

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted its first declaration on sea-level rise.
- The declaration states that island nations do not automatically lose their statehood if their territory becomes submerged due to rising seas.
- It supports the stability of established maritime zones despite changes in coastlines caused by sea-level rise.

- It calls for stronger early warning systems, coastal protection and climate adaptation finance, especially for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- Around 770 million people live less than five metres above the high-tide line, highlighting the risks from rising sea levels.

Super El Niño Heat Risk – Nigeria

- A University of Chicago-led study projects that a strong El Niño could cause 451,000 additional heat-related deaths worldwide between September 2026 and February 2027.
- Nigeria is projected to have the world's highest heat-related death toll, with about 31,400 additional deaths.
- The Sahel region of Africa is projected to be the worst-affected region, with Nigeria, Sudan, Niger and Chad facing the highest risks.
- The four countries together could see about 66,800 additional heat-related deaths.
- The study analysed temperature and mortality data from 24,378 regions and compared projected deaths with the 1996–2025 average.
- El Niño is a climate phenomenon in which sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean become unusually warm, affecting global weather patterns.
- A strong or "super" El Niño can increase temperatures in several regions and may worsen heatwaves, droughts and other extreme weather events.

Sustainable Forest Certification - PRAMAAN

- Union Environment Minister handed over India's first PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS).
- Certificates were given to Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) for 33,000 hectares of plantations and a bamboo farmer from Odisha.
- IFWCS was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in December 2023.
- PRAMAAN certifies sustainable forest, wood and non-timber forest product management and supports compliance with global requirements.
- Forest management certification is based on the National Working Plan Code (NWPC) 2023 and involves independent field and management audits.
- The scheme aims to support sustainable forestry, global market access and livelihoods of farmers and forest-dependent communities.

FAO Forestry Committee

- India highlighted its achievements in sustainable forest management and ecological restoration at COFO 28 in Rome, Italy.
- Committee on Forestry (COFO) is the highest-level global intergovernmental statutory body on forestry under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- COFO has 128 FAO members and meets every two years at FAO headquarters in Rome.
- Theme of COFO 28: "Forests for food, resilience and prosperity."
- India's forest and tree cover reached 82.74 million hectares, covering 25.17% of its geographical area.
- India ranks 9th globally in total forest area and 3rd in net annual forest area gain, according to FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025.

International Whaling Commission Meeting 2026

- India reaffirmed its commitment to science-based cetacean conservation at the 70th meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC-70) in Hobart, Australia.
- The International Whaling Commission (IWC) was established under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, signed in Washington, D.C., on 2 December 1946.
- IWC is the global body for the management of whaling and conservation of whales and currently has 89 member governments.
- India has been an IWC member since 1981 and stressed scientific research, international cooperation and practical conservation measures.
- Cetaceans in Indian waters receive the highest legal protection under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; India also runs Project Dolphin and has Marine Protected Areas.
- India has given special conservation attention to the Arabian Sea humpback whale, among 25 species identified for focused conservation efforts.

GIB Conservation in Rajasthan

- For the first time, captive-bred Great Indian Bustard (GIB) chicks are set to be released into the wild at Desert National Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The status IUCN Status: Critically Endangered (CR); scientific name: Ardeotis nigriceps.
- Project GIB, launched in 2013, has bred at least 98 GIBs at conservation centres in Sam and Ramdevra, Jaisalmer.

- The wild population is estimated at only 120–150 birds, with about 130 ± 20 in Rajasthan.
- Major threats include habitat loss, poaching and collisions with power lines.
- GIB is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and has a slow reproduction rate, laying eggs once every 1–2 years.

Second Lion Habitat – Barda

- Gujarat has restructured the Porbandar Forest Division to strengthen forest management and develop Barda, Gujarat, as a second habitat for Asiatic lions.
- The restructuring follows the natural return of Asiatic lions to Barda after 143 years.
- Gujarat's 2026 lion census recorded 891 Asiatic lions, up from 674 in 2020.
- Barda is in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat and will provide an alternative habitat beyond the Gir landscape.
- Gir landscape in Gujarat is the first and main natural habitat of Asiatic lions.
- The Asiatic lion is classified as Endangered by the IUCN and is naturally found only in Gujarat.

Muttukadu Bird Migration

- Thousands of migratory waders and shorebirds have arrived in the Muttukadu-Nemmeli estuarine habitats near Chennai ahead of the annual migration season.
- The birds travel thousands of kilometres from northern countries through the Kovalam-Kelambakkam backwaters.
- At least 5,568 waders and shorebirds were counted in the estuary as of September 30, 2026.
- The count included over 1,000 Little Stints, 430 Greater Flamingos and more than 890 Garganeys.
- The estuary, salt pans and tidal waters provide important habitat for these migratory birds.
- The number of birds is expected to increase during October, the main migratory season.

Great Indian Bustard Conservation

- For the first time, two captive-bred male Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) were released into the wild at Desert National Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

- The release is part of the Bustard Recovery Programme to conserve the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard.
- The programme is a joint effort of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Rajasthan Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- It has technical support from the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) and funding from the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (National CAMPA).
- The release marks a step towards establishing a captive-breeding and wild-reintroduction programme for the species.

Pacific Pre-COP31 Climate Summit

- The Pacific Pre-COP31 climate meeting began in Nadi, Fiji.
- The meeting is co-hosted by Fiji, Tuvalu and Australia with participants from more than 50 countries.
- Key priorities include keeping the 1.5°C global warming target within reach, improving climate finance, accelerating the clean-energy transition and protecting oceans.
- A special Leaders' event is being held in Tuvalu, a low-lying Pacific island nation, to highlight the effects of rising sea levels and climate change.
- The meeting will help shape negotiations for COP31, which will be held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9–20 November 2026.
- Fiji is also highlighting the ocean–climate link, including clean shipping, renewable energy, sustainable fisheries and ocean conservation.

Aletsch Glacier Melt in Switzerland

- Aletsch Glacier, Switzerland's largest glacier, recorded its biggest-ever annual melt in 2026 after a winter with low snowfall and record summer temperatures.
- Swiss glaciers lost more than 5% of their ice in 2026, according to the Swiss Glacier Monitoring Network (GLAMOS).
- Over the past five years, Swiss glaciers have lost almost one-fifth of their ice.
- Swiss glaciers lost about 2.2 trillion litres of water between July and September 2026, over four times the annual drinking-water use of Swiss households.
- Glacier de Tsanfleuron lost more than 4 metres of average ice thickness during the year.
- The melting is linked to low winter snowfall and extreme summer heat, showing the impact of rising temperatures on Alpine glaciers.

New Cheetah Lineage in India

- An Indian-born female cheetah, KJP21, gave birth to five cubs at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, marking the beginning of the Botswana lineage in India.
- KJP21 is the third Indian-born female cheetah to reproduce, after Mukhi and KGP12.
- The cubs' father is a male cheetah brought from Botswana, making them the first Botswana-lineage cheetahs born in India.
- India's cheetah population has increased to 60, including 41 Indian-born cheetahs.
- Nine cheetahs from Botswana (6 females and 3 males) arrived at Kuno in February 2026 to strengthen the genetic base of Project Cheetah.
- Earlier, India brought 8 cheetahs from Namibia in 2022 and 12 from South Africa in 2023.

First Snow Leopard Safari - Ladakh

- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena flagged off India's first high-altitude wildlife safari focused on snow leopard trails in Ladakh.
- The safari is operated by the Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature Conservation (SHAN) Society in collaboration with the Union Territory's Forest Department.
- The safari routes cover Hemis National Park, Changthang and Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary, along with other regions of Ladakh.
- Ladakh is home to 477 snow leopards, according to the report.
- The snow leopard (Panthera uncia) is classified as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List.
- The project aims to support wildlife conservation while providing economic benefits to local communities.

TN Forest Conservation Plan

- Tamil Nadu will spend ₹100.72 crore over five years (2026–27 to 2030–31) to strengthen its forest force.
- A ₹60.58-crore forest-fire management programme will improve fire prevention and emergency response.
- 25 nature parks, each covering one hectare, will be developed across rural, urban and peri-urban areas at a cost of ₹10 crore.

- District Biodiversity Symbols will be announced to promote endemic and endangered species in each district.
- The Centre for Tree Forensics and Timber Analysis and research laboratories at the State Forest Research Institute, Chennai, will be modernised at ₹5 crore.
- 43 intern naturalists will be engaged at ₹4.2 crore to conduct biodiversity surveys in the Eastern Ghats, coastal districts and forest divisions.

Nameri Tiger Reserve - Global Recognition

- Assam's Nameri Tiger Reserve received Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) Approved status for its tiger conservation and protected-area management practices.
- CA|TS is a globally recognised framework that assesses tiger reserve management, including wildlife protection, habitat management, monitoring, administration and community participation.
- Nameri Tiger Reserve is located in Sonitpur district, Assam, and covers 464 sq km, including a core area of 200 sq km.
- With this approval, all four tiger reserves in Assam—Kaziranga, Manas, Orang and Nameri—have achieved CA|TS Approved status.

El Niño Impact on Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu may experience heavy rainfall and cyclones differently from the rest of India during the expected strong El Niño conditions in 2026.
- El Niño is the unusual warming of surface waters in the Pacific Ocean near Peru and Ecuador, which affects global weather patterns.
- Unlike much of India, Tamil Nadu may receive heavy northeast monsoon rainfall due to moist winds from the Bay of Bengal and warmer sea temperatures.
- During the 2015 El Niño, Chennai recorded 1,522 mm of rainfall in four days (December 1–4), causing devastating floods.
- The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is another climate phenomenon involving differences in sea surface temperatures between the western and eastern equatorial Indian Ocean.
- Satellite observations showed that sea temperatures in the southern Bay of Bengal were about 1°C above normal in September 2026, which may support intense rainfall and cyclonic systems.

Carbon Credits and Climate Integrity

- At least 130 civil society organisations urged the United Nations (UN) carbon market body to suspend carbon credits issued for a cookstove project in Myanmar, the first project approved under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement to receive credits in February 2026.
- Article 6.4 establishes a UN-supervised mechanism for generating carbon credits through emissions-reduction projects, which can be transferred between countries under specified rules.
- The project, managed by South Korea's Climate Change Center (CCC), distributes fuel-efficient cookstoves intended to reduce firewood consumption and carbon emissions.
- Earlier analyses estimated that the project may have received 14 times more credits than justified under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and seven times more under Article 6.4.
- The organisations raised concerns about independent verification, human rights safeguards, women's participation and the possibility of financial benefits reaching Myanmar's military authorities.

Bird migratory season 2026

- A grey-headed lapwing, a long-distance migrant from East Asia, arrived earlier than usual at the Pallikaranai marshland.
- Terek sandpiper, lesser sand-plover, marsh sandpiper, and black-tailed godwit were also spotted.
- Several shorebirds were sighted at the Adyar estuary.
- A surprise this year was the early arrival of a grey-headed lapwing, a long-distance migrant from East Asia.
- Its arrival has usually been around the first week of October.
- But this year, it arrived on September 20, almost two weeks earlier than usual.
- Weather conditions, rainfall, food availability, and conditions along the migration route could have played a role.
- The Adyar estuary has recorded several shorebirds, including caspian terns, whiskered terns, Eurasian whimbrels, European roller, and common greenshanks.
- Some of these birds travel thousands of kilometres along routes spanning Northern Europe and Central Asia.
- Further south, the Nemmeli salt pans have also come alive with bird activity.

- The Demoiselle crane, a rare visitor around Chennai, is expected this year also.
- The species was spotted near Nemmeli towards the end of last year's birding season.

Phoenix Species Project

- Re:wild and the Bezos Earth Fund launched the Phoenix Species Project on 4 August 2026, pledging $200 million to support the recovery of 100 threatened species.
- The project covers 100 species across 30 countries, including mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish, invertebrates and plants.
- The Bezos Earth Fund and Re:wild each pledged $100 million; Re:wild was co-founded by actor Leonardo DiCaprio.
- More than 100 partners, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, scientists and governments, are involved; the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission is the global knowledge partner.
- Each species will receive five years of support, with progress monitored through population recovery and reduction of threats.
- Examples include the golden-crowned sifaka (Critically Endangered), night parrot (Critically Endangered), Malayan pangolin (Critically Endangered), Visayan warty pig (Critically Endangered), bowmouth guitarfish (Critically Endangered) and Charco Azul pupfish (Extinct in the Wild).

Wētāpunga Conservation Programme

- A 15-year conservation breeding programme has released approximately 11,000 wētāpunga into the wild in New Zealand.
- Wētāpunga (Deinacrida heteracantha) is New Zealand's heaviest insect and one of the heaviest insect species in the world.
- Butterfly Creek and Auckland Zoo led the programme with support from New Zealand's Department of Conservation.
- The programme carried out 45 translocations to 10 sites, including eight predator-free islands and two mainland reserves.
- Self-sustaining wild populations have been established on Motuora and Tiritiri Matangi islands, where at least four to five generations have been born in the wild.
- Its conservation classification improved from "Threatened Nationally Endangered" in 2004 to "Threatened Nationally Increasing" in 2022.

Antarctic Ice Hits Record Low

- Antarctic sea ice reached its third-lowest winter maximum in satellite records on 14 September 2026, covering about 17.59 million square kilometres.
- The ice extent was about 1 million square kilometres below the long-term average.
- The four lowest winter sea ice maximums on record occurred during the past four years.
- Antarctic sea ice usually reaches its maximum in September and its minimum in February.
- Satellite records began in late 1978; scientists use passive microwave sensors to measure sea ice extent.
- Antarctic sea ice increased by about 1% per decade from 1979 to 2014, but significant declines began in 2016.

Chocolate Mahseer Conservation

- Sikkim Chief Minister released Chocolate Mahseer fish into the Rangeet River to promote the conservation of native fish species.
- Chocolate Mahseer (Neolissochilus hexagonolepis), also called copper mahseer, is a freshwater fish belonging to the family Cyprinidae; it is locally known as 'Kha Saw' in Meghalaya.
- It is the state fish of Meghalaya and Sikkim and is found in rivers and hill streams across Northeast India.
- The Rangeet River is a major tributary of the Teesta River, flowing through Sikkim and West Bengal, India. It originates in the Himalayan region of Sikkim.

Western Ghats ESA Draft

- The Union government issued the seventh draft notification on July 27, 2026, proposing to declare 56,825.7 sq km of the Western Ghats across six States as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).
- The six States are Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the draft proposes bans on new mining, quarrying, sand mining, thermal power projects and red-category industries, along with restrictions on specified large construction projects.
- The draft does not impose a blanket ban on farming or require the eviction of residents; existing houses can be repaired and renovated.

- Karnataka rejected the draft in its present form, while Kerala sought to reduce its proposed ESA area from 9,993.7 sq km to 8,590.69 sq km; other States also sought changes.
- The expert committee's tenure has been extended until July 2027 to examine objections and mapping concerns before the final notification.

Wild Water Buffalo Reintroduction in Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh released eight wild water buffaloes into a 17-hectare enclosure in Kanha Tiger Reserve to restore the species, which had disappeared from the state's forests about a century ago.
- The wild water buffalo (Bubalus arnee) is classified as Endangered on the International IUCN Red List and is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The eight buffaloes—six females and two males—were brought from Assam's Kaziranga National Park.
- Madhya Pradesh aims to reintroduce 50 wild buffaloes in the Kanha region over three years, with Assam supplying the animals in phases.
- Kanha National Park was established in 1955, and Kanha was included in Project Tiger in 1973.

Migratory Bird Conservation Hub

- The Central Asian Conservation Network (CACN) launched the Central Asian Flyway Digital Hub to support the conservation of migratory birds.
- The hub shares information on bird species, important migration sites, conservation projects and educational resources.
- It includes a Bird Collision Reporting Portal to record bird deaths and injuries caused by infrastructure.
- A Ringing and Resighting Portal helps record sightings of marked birds and understand their migration routes.
- The hub provides awareness materials for students, teachers, local communities and birdwatchers.

El Niño in the Pacific

- The European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service reported that the Pacific Ocean's Niño 3.4 region reached a record sea surface temperature of 29.70°C in September 2026.

- The temperature exceeded peaks recorded during the strong El Niño events of 1982–83, 1997–98 and 2015–16.
- El Niño is a natural climate pattern that warms the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, altering global rainfall and weather patterns.
- It can increase the risk of droughts, floods, extreme heat and crop losses.
- Global average sea surface temperature reached a September record of 21.05°C, while September 2026 was the world's second-hottest September on record.
- Copernicus said the current El Niño is exceptionally strong but has not yet been confirmed as the strongest ever recorded.

Super El Niño 2026

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warned that El Niño could become one of the strongest events since 1950, peaking around December 2026.
- Sea surface temperature anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region of the equatorial Pacific Ocean are forecast to reach about +3.7°C above normal.
- El Niño may cause extreme heat, droughts and altered rainfall patterns, affecting India, Africa, Indonesia and parts of the Americas.
- Around 2.6 billion people may face unusually high temperatures and 1.3 billion people may be at risk from extreme rainfall through December 2026.
- WMO forecasts indicate a near-100% likelihood of El Niño persisting through February 2027, with weather impacts potentially continuing into spring.

First Ecosystem Red List Assessment - Kerala

- Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) launched India's first State-level Red List Assessment of Ecosystems (RLE) project.
- The one-year project is jointly conducted by Kerala Forest Research Institute and MES Asmabi College to assess ecosystem collapse risks across all 14 districts.
- Tropical riparian evergreen forests in the southern Western Ghats have lost 83% of their area over the past century and are classified as Critically Endangered under International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria.
- The assessment covers forests, rivers, Myristica swamps, shola-grassland eco systems and coastal mangroves using five standardised IUCN criteria.
- The project will identify threats, guide ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation and support sustainable development.

Ramsar Sites in India

- Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh were added to the Ramsar list, taking India's total to 103 Ramsar sites.
- The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty adopted in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, and came into force in 1975.
- Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance that support biodiversity, water security, flood control, climate regulation and local livelihoods.
- Sukhna Wetland lies at the foothills of the Outer Himalayas in Chandigarh.
- Sauj Jheel is located in Mainpuri district, Uttar Pradesh, in the Ganga floodplain.
- India joined the Ramsar Convention on 1 February 1982.

Asiatic Lion Conservation – Gujarat

- Gujarat's Barda Wildlife Sanctuary has become an important second habitat for Asiatic lions after their return following around 144 years.
- Barda is located in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, across Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka districts; it covers approximately 192.31 sq. km and was declared a sanctuary in 1979.
- According to the 2025 population estimate cited in the report, Barda has 17 lions: 6 adults and 11 cubs; the reintroduction began with a male lion dispersing from Gir in January 2023, followed by the relocation of five females.
- Project Lion was launched by the Government of India in 2020.
- Barda supports habitat expansion beyond Gir, reducing dependence on a single core area; prey-base improvement and prevention of human–lion conflict are important for long-term conservation.

Giant Tortoise Population Recovery

- A 2026 survey estimated 180,000–183,000 Aldabra giant tortoises on Aldabra Atoll, more than Seychelles' human population.
- The survey was conducted by the Seychelles Islands Foundation and University of Exeter, using data collected from 2018–2022.
- The Aldabra giant tortoise (Aldabrachelys gigantea) is native to Aldabra Atoll, a coral atoll in the western Indian Ocean.
- Aldabra Atoll became a Strict Nature Reserve in 1981 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982.
- The population had fallen to fewer than 1,000 in the 19th century but recovered due to conservation efforts; threats include drought, sea-level rise and invasive species.

Global Deforestation Trends 2026

- The Forest Declaration Assessment 2026 reported that global deforestation fell by 15% in 2025, but the world remains off track to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030.
- Around 7 million hectares of forest were lost in 2025, leaving a cumulative shortfall of 10.7 million hectares against the reduction target since 2021.
- Tropical Latin America and the Caribbean reduced deforestation to 33% below the 2018–2020 baseline, while deforestation continued to rise in tropical Africa.
- In 2024, 65.4 million hectares of forest experienced a decline in ecological integrity, indicating damage to forest health and functioning.
- Forest protection and restoration received only US$6 billion, or 0.3% of global climate finance, in 2024.
- Protected areas cover 17.33% of the world's land and inland waters, below the 30% conservation target by 2030 under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Butterfly Migration in Western Tamil Nadu

- Large-scale butterfly migration was observed across Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Tiruppur and Coimbatore districts after the onset of the Northeast monsoon.
- Blue Tiger, Dark Blue Tiger, Common Crow and Double-branded Crow butterflies were seen moving west and southwest toward the Western Ghats foothills.
- Blue Tigers crossed Rasipuram at 72 individuals per minute, while movement in Coimbatore reached 135 butterflies per minute.
- The The Nature and Butterfly Society (TNBS) has monitored this migration pattern since 2013.
- A reverse movement from the Western Ghats towards the Eastern Ghats and plains normally occurs during April–May.

Climate-Resilient Soybean Varieties

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)–National Soybean Research Institute (NSRI), Indore, showcased new soybean varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270, with preliminary yields of around 20 quintals per hectare.
- NRC 268 and NRC 270 are improved varieties of soybean (Glycine max), developed in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- The varieties aim to increase soybean production, reduce weather-related crop losses and improve farmers' income.

- NRC 270 has larger seeds, higher seed weight and better market value.
- Both varieties are designed to tolerate irregular rainfall, dry spells, pests and diseases.
- They are suitable for soybean-growing States such as Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, especially during the Kharif season.

Interactive Cyclone Warning System

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) launched an interactive Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System (DSS) to improve cyclone preparedness.
- The platform is a Web Geographic Information System (WebGIS) that displays cyclone tracks, wind speed, rainfall warnings and storm surge information.
- It provides location-specific warnings to disaster management authorities, government agencies and the public.
- It supports evacuation planning, timely decision-making and disaster risk reduction.
- Its launch coincided with the anniversaries of the landfalls of Cyclones Phailin (2013) and Hudhud (2014).

Banjar Community Forest Rights

- Recognition of Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights in Banjar, Himachal Pradesh, highlights the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- The Forest Rights Act, 2006, recognises the rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.
- Gram Sabhas should prepare Community Forest Resource Management Plans with government and scientific support.
- The plans aim to conserve forests, biodiversity and water sources while promoting sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.
- Women and young people should participate in forest governance, monitoring and decision-making.
- Progress should be measured through forest health, water security, improved livelihoods and stronger local institutions.

CBD COP17 – Global Biodiversity Summit

- The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) began in Yerevan, Armenia.

- The conference aims to review global progress in implementing the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), adopted in 2022.
- The framework has 23 targets for 2030, including conserving 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030, known as the "30 by 30" target.
- COP17 will focus on accelerating biodiversity conservation, restoring ecosystems, improving monitoring and mobilising funds to protect nature.
- Countries aim to mobilise at least US$200 billion annually by 2030 from all sources for biodiversity, including US$30 billion annually in international biodiversity finance.

Leopard Immunocontraception – Maharashtra

- The Junnar forest division in Pune district, Maharashtra, launched India's first scientific study to control leopard reproduction using immunocontraception, and two female leopards have received the vaccine and been released into the wild.
- Immunocontraception is a non-lethal method that uses a vaccine to temporarily prevent pregnancy without permanently affecting fertility.
- The study was approved by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The pilot project aims to assess the safety and effectiveness of immunocontraception in reducing human–leopard conflict in high-density areas.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Mumbai, will help analyse blood samples to monitor hormonal changes and the vaccine's long-term effects.
- Between 2000 and 2025, leopard attacks killed 56 people in the Junnar forest division.

Tiger Migration in Maharashtra

- A four-year-old male tiger weighing over 200 kg was recorded by a camera trap in the Brahmgaon forest range of Beed district, Maharashtra, after nearly 100 years.
- The tiger originated from Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Yavatmal district and left in 2023.
- It travelled through Chandrapur, Dharashiv, Latur and Ahilyanagar before reaching Beed.
- The tiger, scientifically known as Panthera tigris, is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Project Tiger was launched in India in 1973 to conserve tigers and manage their habitats.

IUCN Red List Assessment in India

- India has begun assessing 1,211 regularly occurring bird species, including resident and migratory birds, under the IUCN framework.
- The assessment is being carried out by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), the IUCN SSC Center for Species Survival India–Wildlife Trust of India, and the State of India's Birds initiative.
- Preliminary assessments of 107 species were completed by 19 October 2026; work on all species is expected by the end of 2026, with final assessments expected by the end of 2027.
- Preliminary assessments proposed the Great Indian Bustard as Critically Endangered, the Sarus Crane as Vulnerable, and the Marbled Duck as Endangered; these categories are not final.
- The IUCN Red List was established in 1964.
- India's National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030 aims to assess more than 11,000 species of plants, animals and fungi by 2030.

Rare Spot-bellied Eagle Owl - Kozhikode

- A Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl (Bubo nipalensis / Ketupa nipalensis) was recorded in Janakikkad forest, Kozhikode district, Kerala.
- It was the first recorded sighting of the species in Kozhikode district.
- The owl belongs to the order Strigiformes and the family Strigidae.
- It is the second-largest owl species found in India.
- Janakikkad forest covers about 325 acres along the Kuttiady River and has more than 160 recorded bird species.

Three New Centipede Species in South India

- Scientists described three new centipede species from southern India: Rhysida quadrispinosa, Rhysida coorgensis and Rhysida neyyarensis.
- Rhysida coorgensis is named after Coorg in Karnataka, while Rhysida neyyarensis is named after Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala.
- The three new species bring the total number of known Rhysida species in India to 23.
- Centipedes belong to the class Chilopoda.
- Centipedes use venom-bearing appendages called forcipules to catch and subdue prey.

Two New Marine Fish Species

- Researchers from the Marine Biology Regional Centre of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Chennai, have discovered two new marine fish species—a sandperch and an electric ray.
- The sandperch is a bottom-dwelling fish found over sand or rubble in shallow seas and feeds on crustaceans, polychaetes and juvenile fishes.
- The electric ray was found in deeper waters of the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, with four specimens collected by researchers.
- The specimens were collected from waters off Chennai, Digha, Visakhapatnam and Kakinada at depths of 30–80 metres.
- The discovery shows that the demersal fish diversity of India's eastern continental shelf is still insufficiently explored.
- 17 species of sandperches have so far been reported from Indian waters.

Human-Wildlife Conflict Scheme - Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu will spend ₹180 crore over five years (2026–27 to 2030–31) to reduce human-wildlife conflicts in vulnerable areas.
- The scheme will cover 100 conflict-prone villages across 11 Western Ghats districts, including Coimbatore, Erode, Nilgiris, Salem, Theni, Tirunelveli and Tiruppur.
- ₹20 crore is allocated for 2026–27, followed by ₹40 crore annually for the next four years.
- Measures include hanging solar fences, steel wire-rope fencing, elephant-proof trenches, physical barriers, fodder development and water augmentation.
- GPS-enabled vehicles, night patrolling, surveillance, rapid response and wildlife movement monitoring will be strengthened.
- 95 Anti-Depredation Committees, village-level SMS early-warning systems, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based surveillance, radio-collaring and geo-referenced tracking will support community-based conflict mitigation.

Blue Tiger Butterfly Migration

- Millions of blue tiger and dark blue tiger butterflies are migrating from the Eastern Ghats towards the Western Ghats with the onset of the North-East monsoon.
- The migrating butterflies include blue tiger (Tirumala limniace), dark blue tiger, common crow and double-banded crow butterflies, with large numbers recorded across Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

- They migrate towards the Western Ghats to escape heavy North-East monsoon rains and reach forests with suitable host plants, where they feed, mate and lay eggs.
- The next generations remain in Western Ghats forests during the following months and fly back towards the Eastern Ghats around May, ahead of the South-West monsoon.
- Large congregations have been recorded in places such as Coimbatore, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Madurai, Silent Valley and Parambikulam, with citizen groups helping document the migration.

WII Bear Population Study

- Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, is preparing India's first national-level study to estimate the population, distribution and geographical range of all four bear species found in India.
- The four species are Himalayan brown bear, Asiatic black bear, sloth bear and sun bear, which belong to the mammalian family Ursidae.
- The Himalayan brown bear is a subspecies of the brown bear (Ursus arctos), which is Least Concern (LC) globally, while the other three are Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List.
- The scientific names are Ursus arctos (brown bear), Ursus thibetanus (Asiatic black bear), Melursus ursinus (sloth bear) and Helarctos malayanus (sun bear).
- The study will help identify critical habitats, human-bear conflict zones and areas needing better monitoring and habitat management; the older estimate of about 20,000 sloth bears refers to the Indian subcontinent.

Contagious Cancer in Catfish

- Scientists from the University of Vermont reported the fourth known case of naturally transmissible cancer in animals, involving melanoma in brown bullhead catfish (Ameiurus nebulosus) from Lake Memphremagog.
- The cancer cells originated in one fish and spread to other fish, where they formed tumours; about 30% of catfish sampled from the lake since 2013 had melanoma.
- Genetic analysis showed major differences in mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) between tumour and normal cells, supporting the spread of cancer cells from an outside fish.
- Researchers suggest the cancer cells may spread through physical contact during spawning or the aquatic environment, entering new fish through the gills, skin or mouth.
- Earlier transmissible cancers are known in dogs, Tasmanian devils and bivalve molluscs such as clams and mussels.

Madras Hedgehog Conservation

- Tenkasi Forest Division has proposed expanding the 'Golden Jackal Ambassadors' programme to conserve the Madras hedgehog (mulleli).
- The Madras hedgehog (Paraechinus nudiventris) is a nocturnal, spiny mammal found in southern India and is listed as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List.
- It has been recorded in Alangulam, Sankarankovil, Sivagiri and Uthumalai areas of Tenkasi district, with sightings photo-documented by the Forest Department.
- Students, volunteers, local youth and villagers will be trained to identify and report threats to the Madras hedgehog and other wildlife.
- Forest Guard Brother / Forest Guard Sister will be nominated for schools and colleges to support wildlife awareness, while Village Forest Committees will assist conservation activities.

Animals for Biodiversity and Health

- A new policy guide, Animals for Biodiversity and Health, was launched at COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Yerevan, Armenia, to integrate animal welfare into biodiversity and public health policies.
- The guide recommends stricter regulation of wildlife capture, transport and trade, better habitat protection, wildlife corridors and stronger protection of animal welfare.
- It calls for phasing out high-risk livestock confinement systems and conserving locally adapted, genetically diverse livestock breeds.
- The guide links animal welfare with biodiversity conservation, zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) under the One Health approach.
- The State of Biodiversity Action report found that the world is off track to meet the target of protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030.

Amur Falcon Migration - Manipur

- Two satellite-tagged Amur falcons returned to Manipur after a nearly 20,000-km round-trip migration across 23 countries.
- Apapang and Alang completed a nearly 6,000-km non-stop flight between northeast India and Somalia, including about 3,000 km over the Arabian Sea.
- The Amur falcon (Falco amurensis) breeds in northeastern China and the Russian Far East and winters in southern Africa.
- It is classified as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List.
- Manipur and Nagaland are important stopover areas where the birds feed mainly on insects such as termites and ants to build energy for long flights.

Pallikaranai Marsh - Spot-billed Pelicans

- Pallikaranai Marsh in Chennai has become a year-round habitat for Spot-billed Pelicans, according to long-term monitoring by the Nature Trust.
- The Spot-billed Pelican (Pelecanus philippensis) is classified as Near Threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List.
- In Tamil Nadu, the State of India's Birds lists the Spot-billed Pelican as a wetland species with a rapidly declining current annual trend.
- The Spot-billed Pelican is also called the Grey Pelican and belongs to the family Pelecanidae and order Pelecaniformes.
- It mainly inhabits freshwater lakes, reservoirs, rivers, coastal wetlands and estuaries.

Greater Flamingos - Veeranam Lake

- 18 Greater Flamingos were sighted at Veeranam Lake in Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu, an unusual occurrence for this inland freshwater lake.
- Greater Flamingo (Phoenicopterus roseus) is listed as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List.
- They are usually associated with coastal wetlands, mudflats, lagoons and shallow water bodies.
- Low rainfall, reduced Cauvery flows and food scarcity in coastal mudflats may have altered their usual migration pattern.
- The species usually migrates from the Gulf of Kutch towards the east coast during winter.

Two New Ophiorrhiza Species

- Researchers identified two new plant species, Ophiorrhiza shidiensis and Ophiorrhiza pemae, in Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Both species belong to the Rubiaceae family, also called the coffee, madder or bedstraw family.
- They were found in Vijoynagar within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.
- O. shidiensis is named after "Shidi", the Lisu (Yobin) name for Gandhigram.
- O. pemae honours Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

Global Coral Reef Decline

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released its first global assessment of coral reef ecosystems, finding that 96% of assessed shallow-water coral reef ecosystems are Critically Endangered.

- The assessment covers 188,362 sq km of coral reefs across 127 tropical and subtropical ecoregions in more than 80 countries and territories.
- Climate change-induced heat stress is the most dominant threat, causing ocean warming, marine heatwaves and coral bleaching.
- Overfishing, pollution, coastal development and excessive tourism are also major threats; depleted fish populations threaten 63% of coral reef ecosystems.
- Major reefs including the Great Barrier Reef, Coral Triangle, Mesoamerican Barrier Reef and Red Sea reefs are classified as Critically Endangered.
- Coral reefs support about 25% of marine species, and the assessment notes that stronger climate action and targeted conservation could still help prevent further collapse.

New Wildlife Protected Areas - Maharashtra

- The Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife approved proposals on 26 October 2026 to declare two wildlife sanctuaries and 14 conservation reserves across the state.
- The two sanctuary proposals cover Kolamarka Conservation Reserve in Gadchiroli, known for wild buffaloes, and an expanded area adjoining Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The 14 proposed conservation reserves span seven districts: Pune, Raigad, Nashik, Nandurbar, Thane, Palghar and Chandrapur.
- The Board approved proposals to declare 100.139 sq. km in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary and 255.79 sq. km in Jayakwadi Bird Wildlife Sanctuary as critical wildlife habitats.
- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides the legal framework for wildlife protection; the conservation-reserve category was introduced through a 2002 amendment.

Cheer Pheasant Conservation in Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh recorded a 100% survival rate among reintroduced Cheer Pheasants in 2024–25, compared with 11.11% in 2019–20.
- During Wildlife Week in October 2026, 12 captive-bred Cheer Pheasants were soft-released at Moi Jubbar near Koti in Shimla district, becoming the programme's third release site after Seri and Shilli-Mehli.
- Cheer Pheasant (Catreus wallichii), locally called Chir Tittar, is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The Khadiyun Cheer Pheasant Breeding Centre is located at Chail in Solan district.
- Habitat degradation due to forest fires, grazing and fodder collection threatens the species

CBD COP 17 – Biodiversity Conservation

- India reaffirmed its commitment to biodiversity conservation at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP-17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Yerevan, Armenia.
- The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) is implemented through India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, with 23 national targets and 142 indicators.
- India has 1,134 Protected Areas, 103 Ramsar sites, 57 Biodiversity Heritage Sites and 18 Biosphere Reserves, including 13 under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Programme.
- Key initiatives: MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes), Amrit Dharohar for wetland conservation, Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam.
- India called for adequate international funding, technology transfer and fair benefit-sharing from Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources, including through the Cali Fund.

REPORTS AND INDICATES

NSO Domestic Tourism Report

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) released its 80th Round report on Domestic Tourism in India, based on a survey conducted from July 2025 to June 2026.
- Pilgrimage and religious travel formed the largest share of overnight trips at about 48%, followed by health and medical travel at about 30%.
- Health and medical travel were the most expensive category of domestic travel, while shopping was the second-highest expenditure category.
- Rural households made more than twice as many overnight medical trips per 100 households as urban households.
- Hired vehicles were the most common mode of transport for medical trips in both rural and urban areas.
- Senior citizens aged 60 years and above accounted for 32.3% of overnight health and medical trips.
- The report provides data on domestic overnight travel, travel purposes, expenditure, transport modes and rural–urban travel patterns.

Status of Policing in India Report 2026 (SPIR)

- The Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2026 was released based on a survey of 8,306 citizens across 16 States, focusing on cybercrime and police redressal.
- The report was jointly published by Lokniti–Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and Common Cause.
- Cybercrime cases increased 17.9%, from 86,420 in 2023 to 1,01,928 in 2024, while overall registered crime declined by 6%.
- About 13% of surveyed citizens faced cybercrime in the last 2–3 years; among them, 54% suffered financial fraud.
- Only 49% of victims filed a formal police complaint, while 27% of complainants reported paying a bribe to the police.

Living Planet Index 2026

- The WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Living Planet Report 2026 found a 73% decline in the average population sizes of monitored vertebrates between 1970 and 2022.
- The Living Planet Index (LPI), produced by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), tracks 35,803 population trends of 5,790 vertebrate species.
- The highest decline was recorded in freshwater ecosystems (85%), followed by terrestrial (69%) and marine ecosystems (59%).
- Major drivers include habitat loss, overexploitation, climate change, invasive species, pollution and disease.
- Global wild tiger numbers increased from about 3,200 in 2010 to 5,700 in 2025.

World Bank AI Report

- A World Bank report placed India among the top 10 emerging-market performers in AI (Artificial Intelligence) readiness.
- The report, released in October 2026, is titled “India and Artificial Intelligence: Seizing the Development Opportunity”.India’s private investment in AI increased from USD 1.2 billion in 2024 to USD 4.1 billion in 2025.
- About 23% of Indian firms reported using some form of AI, compared with about 43% in the United States.
- The number of professionals working in Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India increased from 1.9 million in 2024 to 2.36 million in 2025.
- The World Bank raised India’s FY27 economic growth forecast to 7.1% and recommended stronger AI infrastructure, skills, business environment and access.

WWF Living Planet Report 2026

- The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) released the Living Planet Report 2026, reporting a 73% decline in the average size of monitored global wildlife populations between 1970 and 2022.
- The report was prepared with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and analysed 5,790 vertebrate species.
- Freshwater wildlife populations recorded the highest decline at 85%, followed by terrestrial populations at 69% and marine populations at 59%.
- India's wildlife conservation gains include 3,682 tigers (2022), 891 Asiatic lions (2025), over 3,300 greater one-horned rhinoceroses and 718 snow leopards.
- India's first nationwide river dolphin assessment estimated 6,324 Ganges river dolphins across the surveyed river systems between 2021 and 2023, covering 8,507 km across 28 rivers.
- The common leopard population in India was estimated at 13,874.
- Monitored wildlife populations in the Asia-Pacific region declined by 49% between 1970 and 2022, based on 4,664 populations from 787 species.
- Habitat loss and degradation were the most frequently reported threats, followed by overexploitation, climate change, pollution, invasive species and disease.

World Development Report 2026

- The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology launched the World Bank Group's World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence in New Delhi.
- The report examines the opportunities and challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for low- and middle-income countries.
- It recommends adopting existing AI models and adapting them to local languages and development needs instead of building expensive models from scratch.
- Just over 4% of Indian jobs face immediate automation risks, compared with over one-third of jobs in advanced economies.
- India had approximately 50,460 AI professionals in 2025, but lost 200 leading AI researchers and inventors during 2011–2024, according to the report.

UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2026

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) projected that Official Development Assistance (ODA) would fall by 6.9% in 2026 to US$152 billion, its lowest level since 2014.

- ODA is expected to decline for the third consecutive year, following falls of 8.5% in 2024 and 23.3% in 2025.
- ODA is projected to reach 0.23% of donor countries' combined Gross National Income (GNI), against the international target of 0.7%.
- The report projected global economic growth at 2.6% in 2026, while India's growth was estimated at 7.3%.
- Strategic sectors accounted for 44% of global greenfield investment in 2025; these include semiconductors, energy-transition technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure.
- UNCTAD highlighted renewable energy as a way to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and protect countries from energy-price shocks.

Global Innovation Index 2026

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) released the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026, ranking 139 economies based on innovation performance.
- Switzerland ranked 1st for the 16th consecutive year, followed by Sweden and the United States; India ranked 38th overall.
- India ranked 1st among 36 lower-middle-income economies and 11 economies in Central and Southern Asia.
- India ranked 49th in innovation inputs and 25th in innovation outputs, and led globally in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services exports.
- The Shenzhen–Hong Kong–Guangzhou cluster ranked 1st globally, followed by Tokyo–Yokohama; Bengaluru ranked 25th and Delhi 27th.
- The index uses around 80 indicators under two sub-indices: Innovation Input and Innovation Output; their scores are equally weighted.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2026

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the University of Oxford released the latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
- Introduced in 2010, the MPI covers 108 countries and measures poverty using 10 indicators across health, education and standard of living.
- India had over 238 million multidimensionally poor people in 2024, while nearly one-fifth of its population remained vulnerable to multidimensional poverty.

- India's multidimensional poverty incidence declined from 55.1% in 2005–06 to 16.4% in 2019–21; living standards contribute nearly 40% of its multidimensional poverty.
- Globally, 1.2 billion people were multidimensionally poor in 2025; half were children and over four-fifths lived in rural areas.

Henley Passport Index 2026

- India ranked 84th in the October 2026 Henley Passport Index, sharing the position with Algeria and Mauritania.
- Indian passport holders can access 55 destinations without obtaining a visa in advance, compared with 57 in October 2025.
- The index compares 199 passports across 227 travel destinations using data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- Singapore ranked first, with access to 193 destinations without a prior visa.
- Japan, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates shared second place, with access to 188 destinations each.

Global Hunger Index 2026

- The 2026 Global Hunger Index (GHI), released by Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Helvetas and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV), reported a global hunger score of 18.1.
- The global score worsened from 17.6 in 2018 to 18.1 in 2026, remaining in the moderate hunger category.
- The GHI measures four indicators: undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality among children under five years.
- Eight countries, including Somalia, Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Madagascar, were classified as having alarming hunger levels.
- Sub-Saharan Africa recorded a serious hunger level with a score of 27.5, while South Asia scored 23.5, also in the serious category.
- Armed conflicts, climate shocks and reduced aid funding worsen food insecurity, while Nepal, Uganda and Togo have made progress in reducing hunger.

World Economic Outlook 2026

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, raising its global growth forecast for 2026.

- Global economic growth is projected at 3.1% in 2026, up by 0.1 percentage points, compared with 3.5% in 2025.
- Global growth for 2027 remains unchanged at 3.4%, while global inflation is projected to reach 4.7% in 2026.
- The Iran war and rising energy prices threaten energy-importing and low-income countries, while investment in Artificial Intelligence (AI) supports growth in some advanced economies.
- The Middle East and Central Asia region is projected to contract by 0.3% in 2026, while advanced economies are expected to grow by 2.1%.

Friendliest Cities Index 2026

- The Friendliest Cities Index 2026, commissioned by travel platform Fernwayer, ranked Mérida in Mexico as the world's friendliest city, while Delhi was among the 10 lowest-scoring cities.
- Mérida ranked first with 95 out of 100, followed by Glasgow in Scotland (94.9) and Bogotá in Colombia (94.5).
- The top 10 also included Bodrum, Manchester, Hamburg, Perth, São Paulo, Mexico City and Nashville.
- Delhi scored 43.6 out of 100, while Buenos Aires in Argentina ranked last with 42.0.
- The index assessed how people described local residents' friendliness, welcome and hospitality; its findings reflect online comments and do not prove that all residents of a city are unfriendly.

World Development Report 2026

- The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the World Bank Group's World Development Report (WDR) 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence under the IndiaAI Mission.
- ChatGPT reached 50% of its traffic from middle-income countries within six months, showing that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is spreading faster than earlier technologies such as electricity and the internet.
- The report highlights the Three Cs of AI development: Capabilities, Concentration and Complements, covering AI's uses, concentration of advanced AI resources, and the need for infrastructure and institutions.
- Small AI uses compact, low-compute models for specific needs; examples include Wadhwani AI's Cough Against TB in India and the Rori learning platform in Ghana.

- In India, AI-based weather forecasts produced savings of up to USD 560 per small farmer in Telangana.
- The report recommends the "Adopt, Adapt and Advance" approach: first use existing AI tools, then adapt them to local needs, and selectively develop advanced AI capabilities.

Emissions Gap Report 2026

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the Emissions Gap Report 2026.
- Warning that limiting global warming to 1.5°C without significant overshoot is no longer possible.
- Global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions slightly declined to 58.4 gigatonnes of CO_2 equivalent ($GtCO_2e$) in 2025, but fossil-fuel CO_2 emissions continued to rise.
- G20 members, excluding the African Union, accounted for 76% of global emissions, while their emissions excluding land-use sectors increased by 0.7% in 2025.
- To achieve the lowest possible 1.5°C overshoot, global GHG emissions need to fall by 18% by 2030, 45% by 2035 and 69% by 2040, compared with 2025 levels.
- Large-scale CO_2 removal from the atmosphere will be required to return global warming to 1.5°C by the end of the century.

GEM Gender Report 2026

- UNESCO released the 2026 GEM (Global Education Monitoring) Gender Report on Education Access on 9 October 2026, coinciding with the International Day of the Girl Child.
- The report examines gender equality in education access and tracks disparities based on gender, location, wealth and disability over the past 25 years.
- In 2024, around 273 million children, adolescents and youth were out of school globally, with the number rising for the seventh consecutive year.
- Gender gaps in enrolment have narrowed, but 4 in 10 adolescent girls and young women still do not complete upper-secondary education; the global completion rate is only 45%.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 25% of girls complete upper-secondary education, while 9 in 10 adolescent girls in low-income countries lack internet access.

UN Report on Women in Conflict Zones

- UN Women released the UN Secretary-General's report on Women, Peace and Security, highlighting rising deaths and violence against women and girls in armed conflicts.
- In 2025, over 37,000 civilians were killed in armed conflicts; one in four was a woman or girl, with their share doubling since 2021.
- Over 750 million women and girls lived within 50 km of active conflicts; the UN verified 9,788 cases of conflict-related sexual violence in 2025.
- Women constituted only 5% of negotiators across 57 peace processes in 2025, and none of the 13 ceasefire agreements explicitly prohibited conflict-related sexual violence.
- Women in conflict-affected countries spent five times as many hours on unpaid domestic and care work as men; girls were 2.5 times more likely to be out of school.

Rule of Law Index 2026

- The World Justice Project (WJP) released its Rule of Law Index 2026, in which India ranked 88th out of 143 countries and jurisdictions, falling two places from 86th in 2025, with a score of 0.48.
- Top three countries: Denmark (1st), Norway (2nd) and Finland (3rd).
- The United States ranked 30th, China 92nd and Russia 121st.
- The rule of law declined globally for the ninth consecutive year, with scores falling in 62% of countries.
- The index assesses eight factors: constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice and criminal justice.

STATES

Statehood Resolution - Jammu and Kashmir

- The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly passed a resolution on 28 September 2026 seeking the immediate restoration of full Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.
- The resolution was moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on 25 September and passed by voice vote after a debate.
- Around 60 of the 90 legislators supported it, while 29 BJP legislators opposed the move and staged a walkout.

- Eight amendments proposed by National Conference (NC) legislators sought references to Article 370, Article 35A and the pre-5 August 2019 status; all were withdrawn before the resolution was passed.
- Article 370 provided the constitutional framework for the special relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the Union, while Article 35A enabled the former J&K State legislature to define "permanent residents" and their associated rights; both ceased to operate following the 2019 constitutional changes.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 reorganised the former State into the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature and the Union Territory of Ladakh without a legislature, effective from 31 October 2019.
- The resolution calls for its forwarding to the Government of India for necessary action.

First Glacial Lake Early-Warning System - Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand began installing its first Glacial Lake Early-Warning System at Vasundhara Tal in Chamoli district.
- The system will monitor water level, weather, snow depth, ground movement, subsurface temperature and water flow.
- A 22-scientist team led by the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology is installing the system with support from the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, Uttarakhand.
- The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) identified 344 glacial lakes in Uttarakhand in 2023, of which 13 were classified as high-risk by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- The system aims to provide early warning against Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).

Ladakh Map Standardisation

- The Government of India has standardised the names of 28 geographical features in Ladakh on the official Survey of India map.
- The list includes 11 peaks, 5 mountains, 6 land areas, 2 glaciers, 2 passes, 1 valley, 1 river, 1 lake and 1 other water body.
- Newly standardised features include Atisha Giri, Kanishka Peak, Zorawar Peak, Shiva Ri, Karun Pir, Drak Karpo and Jolmori.
- Parpik and Skamri were identified as glaciers, while Chapchingal Pass and Shachmirk Pass were identified as passes.
- Other features include Shkorga Valley, Yangpa River, Guru Rinpoche Lake and Hot Spring.

MICE Incentive Portal - Odisha

- Odisha launched India's first dedicated digital portal for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) incentives.
- The portal was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Pravati Parida at the Odisha Travel Bazaar 2026.
- It allows event organisers and tourism operators to apply digitally for financial incentives for MICE events.
- The Odisha Tourism (Amendment) Policy, 2026 provides the policy framework for the portal.
- The Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri-Paradip region has been identified for development as a MICE tourism hub.
- MICE tourism is a part of business tourism covering corporate meetings, incentive trips, conferences and exhibitions.

West Bengal Renaming Proposal

- West Bengal has proposed renaming the state "Paschim Banga", with a Bill expected to be introduced in the State Assembly.
- Under Article 3, Parliament can alter the name of an existing state, and such a Bill can be introduced only with the President's recommendation.
- The President refers the Bill to the concerned State Legislature for its views, but these views are not binding on Parliament.
- Under Article 4, changes to the First and Fourth Schedules can be made through laws under Article 3 and do not require a constitutional amendment under Article 368.
- Earlier state name changes include Madras State to Tamil Nadu (1969), Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand (2007) and Orissa to Odisha (2011).

Sixth Fully Literate State - Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand has been declared India's 6th fully literate state under the ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) initiative in 2026.
- A state or Union Territory is considered fully literate after achieving at least 95% functional literacy, while Uttarakhand reported an adult literacy rate of 98.70%.
- Uttarakhand joins Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Goa and Tripura among states that have crossed the national literacy benchmark.
- Around 25,000 volunteers supported the programme through surveys, learner registration and adult literacy activities.

- ULLAS focuses on foundational literacy and numeracy, digital literacy, financial literacy, civic awareness and lifelong learning.

ULLAS Programme - Lakshadweep

- Lakshadweep was declared a 100% literate Union Territory by Administrator Praful Patel at Kavaratti.
- The achievement was recorded under ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for adult education.
- All 1,113 identified adult non-literate learners cleared the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT).
- ULLAS targets adults aged 15 years and above who missed formal schooling and promotes basic literacy, numeracy and critical life skills.
- Unlike the Census of India's conventional literacy measure for people aged 7 and above, this achievement is based on the assessment of eligible learners identified under ULLAS.

New High Court Bench - Ladakh

- The Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh got a High Court (HC) bench in Leh, located about 3,500 metres above sea level.
- The bench belongs to the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, established on 26 March 1928.
- Ladakh became a separate Union Territory in 2019, after which the High Court was renamed the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- The bench aims to improve access to justice for people living in Ladakh's remote and mountainous regions.
- The Supreme Court plans to hear matters from Ladakh on a single day through video conferencing once adequate facilities are available.

Fully Organic UT - Ladakh

- Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena declared Ladakh India's first 100% organic Union Territory (UT).
- The declaration covers Leh and Kargil districts and followed a phased shift away from synthetic fertilisers and chemical pesticides.
- In July 2026, Ladakh prohibited the procurement, distribution, sale, marketing and use of chemical and synthetic fertilisers for agriculture.

- 207 villages had received organic certification by 27 July 2026.
- Major organic produce includes apricots, sea buckthorn, buckwheat, barley and vegetables.
- The National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) sets India's organic farming standards and is administered by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- Sikkim became India's first fully organic state in 2016.

Hydroseeding Technology in Jharkhand

- Tata Steel introduced hydroseeding technology at its West Bokaro Division in Ramgarh district, Jharkhand, covering over 50 acres of mined land, nurseries and overburden dumps.
- Hydroseeding is a mechanised planting technique that sprays a slurry of seeds, mulch, fertiliser, binders and soil-conditioning agents onto bare land.
- The mulch retains moisture, protects seeds and helps control wind and water-driven soil erosion.
- The technique supports mine-land reclamation, slope stabilisation and restoration of degraded overburden dumps.
- It reduces manual planting on hazardous slopes and enables rapid coverage of large areas.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Lamyanba Hijam Irabot – 75th Death Anniversary

- Manipur observed the 75th death anniversary of Lamyanba Hijam Irabot on 26 September 2026.
- Lamyanba Hijam Irabot (1896–1951) was a prominent freedom fighter, social activist and communist leader from Manipur.
- He worked for the social and political rights of the people of Manipur.
- From the 1930s, he opposed British rule and raised his voice against social and political inequalities.
- He played an important role in uniting people from different communities of Manipur.
- He is remembered for his vision of social equality, unity and justice.
- He died on 26 September 1951.

2026 Ig Nobel Prizes

- The 2026 Ig Nobel Prizes were awarded in Zurich, Switzerland, for unusual scientific research.
- The Ig Nobel Prizes were started in 1991 by Marc Abrahams as a humorous counterpart to the Nobel Prizes.
- The Medicine Prize went to Tokuji Unno (posthumously) for studying the aerodynamics of nose-blowing and its effects on health.
- The Biology Prize went to João Miguel Alves-Nunes and colleagues for studying factors that make venomous snakes bite humans.
- The Chemistry Prize went to Sanchari Banerjee, Nathan Coussens and colleagues, including researchers from India, for studying the high-energy milk proteins of viviparous cockroaches.
- Other prizes recognised research in Economics, Physics, Technology, Olfaction, Peace and Soil Science.

Nobel Medicine Prize 2026

- Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel jointly won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries on light-gated ion channels and optogenetics.
- Hegemann and Nagel discovered channelrhodopsin, a protein that makes cells respond to light.
- Deisseroth used the technique to control nerve cells with light, including in the brains of living mice.
- Optogenetics allows scientists to switch selected nerve cells on or off using light, helping study brain functions such as memory and movement.
- The technique is widely used to study neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease, depression and addiction.
- The prize is selected by the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

Nobel Prize in Physics 2026

- Belgian-American physicist Francis Halzen won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for his contributions to the IceCube neutrino observatory and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin.
- IceCube, located at the South Pole, Antarctica, covers about 1 cubic kilometre of ice and uses 5,160 optical sensors to detect neutrinos.
- Halzen first proposed the idea of detecting neutrinos at the South Pole in 1988; IceCube was completed in 2010.

- Researchers reported the first high-energy cosmic neutrinos in 2013 and traced one to a distant blazar in 2018.
- In India, neutrino research began with experiments at the Kolar Gold Fields (Karnataka), while the proposed India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) was planned in Theni district, Tamil Nadu.

Nobel Prize in Literature 2026

- Canadian author Anne Carson won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature.
- She was awarded the prize for her innovative literary works that create new forms of contemporary literature through dialogue with classical traditions.
- She is a poet, essayist, translator and teacher.
- Her notable works include The Beauty of the Husband (2001), Glass, Irony, and God (1995) and Nox.
- The Nobel Prize carries a cash award of 12 million Swedish kronor.

Nobel Peace Prize 2026

- South African jurist Navanethem "Navi" Pillay was awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to promote peace and international law.
- Navi Pillay was born in Durban, South Africa, into a family of Indian Tamil origin during the apartheid era.
- She served as a judge of the South African High Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- She served as the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2008 to 2014.
- She chaired the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- She serves as a judge in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) case in which Myanmar is accused of genocide against the Rohingya.

Cheruvayal Raman Demise

- Padma Shri awardee Cheruvayal Raman, known for conserving traditional rice varieties, passed away in Kerala.
- He belonged to the Kurichya tribal community and was from Kammana village in Wayanad, Kerala.
- He was popularly known as "Nellachan" (Father of Paddy) and the "Guardian of Native Paddy."

- Around 2000, he began collecting and preserving indigenous rice varieties.
- He received the Padma Shri in 2023 for his contribution to agriculture.
- He also received the National Plant Genome Saviour Award for conserving traditional plant varieties.
- He promoted traditional farming practices and the conservation of agricultural biodiversity.

Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary 2026

- Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary is marked on 15 October to honour his contributions to science, education and youth development.
- Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931 in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.
- He was the 11th President of India and served from 2002 to 2007.
- He was popularly known as the "Missile Man of India."
- He received the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1997.
- He led the development of India's first Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3).
- SLV-3 successfully placed the Rohini satellite into near-Earth orbit in July 1980.
- He played a leading role in the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).
- His books include Wings of Fire, India 2020 and Ignited Minds.

Vummidi Ethiraj Demise

- Vummidi Ethiraj, a key craftsman involved in making the historic Sengol, died in Chennai at the age of 99.
- Ethiraj was involved in crafting the gold-plated silver Sengol in 1947, which symbolised the transfer of power from British rule to independent India.
- On the night of August 14, 1947, the Sengol was presented to Jawaharlal Nehru by priests from Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam, Tamil Nadu.
- The Sengol was crafted by Vummidi Jewellers, a jewellery firm with a history of over 125 years.
- On May 28, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ceremonially installed the Sengol in the new Parliament building.

Europhysics Prize 2026

- Three scientists received the 2026 Europhysics Prize for their work establishing altermagnetism, a new class of magnetic order.
- Jairo Sinova, Libor Šmejkal and Tomas Jungwirth received the prize from the European Physical Society (EPS) Condensed Matter Division.
- Altermagnetism combines features of ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism, with compensated magnetic moments and spin-polarised electronic bands.
- The term "altermagnetism" was proposed by Libor Šmejkal and colleagues in 2022, while the concept was developed through research at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz.
- Altermagnetism is important for spintronics, which uses electron spin along with electric charge to store and process information.

Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2026

- The European Parliament awarded the 2026 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its officials on 22 October 2026.
- The ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court, established under the Rome Statute, which was adopted in 1998; the Court began functioning in 2002.
- It prosecutes individuals for four major crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. International Criminal Court
- The ICC is based in The Hague, Netherlands, and currently has 125 States Parties to the Rome Statute.
- India is not a State Party to the Rome Statute, so it is not a member of the ICC.
- The Sakharov Prize is awarded by the European Parliament to honour individuals or organisations defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.

World Food Prize 2026

- The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) showcased India's agricultural research and education at the 2026 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue, held from 20–22 October in Des Moines, Iowa, USA.
- Ameena Nazreen A S won the GYI Award with a US$500 cash prize, recognising Indian youth talent in agriculture and food security.

- NAAS and the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), USA signed an MoU for cooperation in agricultural research, capacity building and knowledge exchange.
- NAAS also highlighted the role of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) publications and India's agricultural research at the international exhibition.
- The 2026 dialogue was organised by the World Food Prize Foundation (WFPF) with the theme "Before Hunger Wins."

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award 2026

- The Assam Cabinet approved the Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Award and selected Usha Mangeshkar as its first recipient.
- The award carries ₹10 lakh and a citation and will be given once every three years for contributions to music, arts or cinema.
- Bhupen Hazarika was born on 8 September 1926 in Sadiya, Assam and worked as a singer, composer, lyricist and filmmaker.
- He was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 2019; 2026 marks his birth centenary.
- Usha Mangeshkar is an Indian playback singer who has sung in several Indian languages.

Ballon d'Or Awards 2026

- Harry Kane won the 2026 Ballon d'Or in London, becoming the first English winner in 25 years.
- Kane plays for Bayern Munich and England and won the award ahead of Kylian Mbappé and Lamine Yamal.
- Alexia Putellas of Spain won the Women's Ballon d'Or for the third time, after victories in 2021 and 2022.
- Lamine Yamal won the Men's Young Talent of the Year award, while Vicky López won the women's award.
- Paris Saint-Germain won Men's Club of the Year, while Barcelona won Women's Club of the Year.
- Kane also won the Men's Striker of the Year award after scoring 73 goals, while Mexico's Charlyn Corral won the women's striker award.

SPORTS

WorldSkills Shanghai 2026

- Five Tamil Nadu participants won 1 Silver Medal and 4 Medals for Excellence at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, held in Shanghai, China.
- Mohammed Salam won the Silver Medal in Dental Prosthetics.
- Ragul K.B. won a Medal for Excellence in Intelligent Security Technology.
- Arjun S.V. won a Medal for Excellence in Mobile Applications Development.
- Surenthiran M. and Joy Das won Medals for Excellence in Plastering and Drywall Systems and Jewellery, respectively.

Asian Games 2026

- The 20th Asian Games 2026, held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- India finished 4th with 85 medals — 24 gold, 29 silver and 32 bronzes.
- China topped the medal table with 341 medals, followed by Japan (250) and Republic of Korea (143).
- Vithya Ramraj (Athletics) won gold, silver and bronze, becoming the first Tamil Nadu sportsperson to win three medals at a single Asian Games.
- G. Kamalini (Cricket) won gold in women's T20; Vishal T.K. (Athletics) won silver in mixed 4×400m relay and bronze in men's 4×400m relay.
- Abhay Singh (Squash) won silver and bronze; Joshna Chinappa (Squash) and Velavan Senthilkumar (Squash) won two bronze medals each.
- Baranica Elangovan (Athletics) won bronze in women's pole vault, while Nethra Kumanan (Sailing) won bronze in women's dinghy.
- Kumkum Anil Mohod (Archery) won two gold medals — women's team recurve and individual recurve — becoming the first Indian woman to win individual recurve gold at the Asian Games.
- Neeru Dhanda (Shooting) won two gold and one silver, including individual trap gold that ended India's 48-year wait for an individual trap gold.
- Neeru Dhanda and Kynan Chenai (Shooting) won gold in mixed team trap, setting a new Asian record and winning India's first Asian Games gold in this event.
- India won gold in men's and women's hockey, cricket, archery, shooting, boxing and kabaddi.
- Pranavi Urs became the first Indian woman golfer to win Asian Games gold, while the women's hockey team ended a 44-year wait for gold.

New IOA Asian Games Awards

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) named archer Kumkum Anil Mohod and wrestler Sujeet Kalkal as the first recipients of two new awards for their performances at the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games held in Japan.
- The Jaspal Rana Award recognises the best female sportsperson, while the Raja Randhir Singh Award recognises the best male sportsperson at the Asian Games.
- Kumkum Mohod won three medals, including two gold medals.
- Sujeet Kalkal won gold in the men's 65 kg freestyle wrestling final.
- India finished fourth in the Asian Games medal standings, winning 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze medals, for a total of 85 medals.

Vithya Ramraj's record

- 28-year-old athlete Vithya Ramraj of Meenakshipuram in Coimbatore won bronze in the women's 400m hurdles at the 2026 Asian Games in Japan.
- She was clocking a personal best of 54.75 seconds to become the first Indian woman to breach the 55-second barrier.
- And better P.T. Usha's 55.42-second national record set at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.
- She also won gold in the women's 4x400m relay and silver in the mixed 4x400m relay at the Games.

Tamil Nadu Para Games Medallists

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister congratulated the State's medal winners at the 5th Asian Para Games in Japan.
- Naveen Sivakumar won gold in the men's singles SL4 badminton category.
- Thulasimathi Murugesan and Nithya Sree won silver in women's singles SU5 and SH6 badminton categories, respectively.
- Jehan Dorab Madan won bronze in the men's doubles MD4 table tennis category.
- The Tamil Nadu government will award ₹75 lakh to Naveen, ₹50 lakh each to Thulasimathi and Nithya Sree, and ₹30 lakh to Jehan as incentives.

Khelo India Sports Manufacturing Scheme

- The Union Cabinet approved the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme to develop a globally competitive sports goods industry.
- Announced in the Union Budget 2026–27, it has an outlay of ₹1,856.67 crore for 2026–2033–34.

- It aims to boost domestic manufacturing, innovation, exports and employment while reducing import dependence.
- ₹1,130 crore supports investment and production, while ₹105 crore supports international quality certification.
- Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones (SGMZs) will integrate manufacturers, suppliers, testing facilities and design centres; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) will also receive support.
- The scheme promotes research, skill development and global market access, aligning with Khelo Bharat Niti 2025, Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Antyodaya Diwas 2026 – September 25

- The day observed on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was born on 25 September 1916 and died on 11 February 1968.
- He was associated with the philosophy of Integral Humanism, which considers the development of the body, mind, intellect and soul as an integrated whole.
- His Antyodaya idea places the poorest person at the centre of development and links development with a minimum standard of living for all.
- The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) was launched on 25 September 2014 to provide skill training and employment opportunities to rural youth.
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is another government programme named after him and focuses on the social and economic empowerment of rural households.

International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste 2026 - September 29

- The day aims to raise awareness and promote action to reduce food loss and waste worldwide.
- The United Nations (UN) declared it in 2019.
- SDG 12 (Sustainable Development Goal 12), Target 12.3 aims to halve food waste and reduce food losses by 2030.
- Reducing food loss and waste helps improve food security, protect natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- The theme for the year 2026 is "Transformative Potential of Reducing Food Loss and Waste."

National Voluntary Blood Donation Day 2026 - October 01

- The day aims to promote regular, voluntary and non-remunerated blood donation.
- Around 75% of blood collection in India is through voluntary donation.
- The Nationwide Mega Voluntary Blood Donation Campaign is being held from 17 September to 2 October 2026, with focus on youth participation and public awareness.
- Haryana, Uttarakhand and Punjab ranked first, second and third among states for blood collection performance in 2025; Mizoram and Sikkim ranked first and second among North-Eastern states.
- Chandigarh and Delhi ranked first and second among Union Territories.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives."

International Day of Older Persons 2026 - October 01

- The day aims to highlight issues related to ageing and the rights and well-being of older persons.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) observed the day first in 1990.
- The number of people aged 60 years or over reached 1.22 billion in 2025 and is projected to reach 2.1 billion by 2050.
- The Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) aims to improve the lives of older people, their families and communities.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives."

International Coffee Day 2026 - October 01

- The day was observed with the International Coffee Organization (ICO) campaign "Coffee is Part of the Solution."
- The International Coffee Organization (ICO) says coffee provides income for about 12.5 million farming families worldwide.
- In India, coffee is mainly grown in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, with cultivation also present in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and the northeastern states.
- India produced a record 3,63,500 metric tonnes of coffee in 2024–25, including 1,05,700 tonnes of Arabica and 2,57,800 tonnes of Robusta.

- India exported 3,88,925 tonnes of coffee, including re-exports, to 126 countries during 2024–25.
- Finland had the highest per-person coffee consumption at about 11.9 kg annually, followed by Norway and Iceland.

International Day of Non-Violence 2026 - October 02

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established the day through a resolution in 2007.
- The date coincides with Gandhi Jayanti, commemorating Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's birth anniversary.
- The day promotes peaceful action, dialogue, tolerance and conflict resolution.
- Gandhi's philosophy of Ahimsa (non-violence) and Satyagraha (non-violent resistance) is associated with the observance.
- M.K Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869 at Porbandar, Gujarat.

World Rabies Day 2026 - September 28

- The day aims to raise awareness about rabies prevention and elimination.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Stronger Together".
- Rabies is a deadly zoonotic disease that kills nearly 59,000 people every year.
- Once symptoms appear, rabies has an almost 100% fatality rate.
- The day has been marked globally since 2007 with support from the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC).

World Habitat Day 2026 - October 05

- The day is observed annually on the first Monday of October to focus on adequate shelter and the condition of human settlements.
- More than 3 billion people lack adequate housing, while over 1.1 billion live in informal settlements.
- The day also marks the beginning of Urban October, which ends with World Cities Day on 31 October.
- The United Nations (UN) designated World Habitat Day in 1985 to highlight the basic right to adequate shelter.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Adequate Housing for All."

World Cerebral Palsy Day 2026 - October 06

- The day aims to raise awareness about cerebral palsy and promote inclusion.
- Cerebral palsy is a group of conditions that affect movement, balance and posture due to abnormal development or injury to the developing brain.
- Spastic cerebral palsy is the most common type, while other types include dyskinetic, ataxic and mixed cerebral palsy.
- Cerebral palsy is a lifelong, non-progressive condition, but symptoms and support needs can change over time.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Unique and United".

World Space Week 2026 - October 04/10

- The day aims to highlight the contribution of space science and technology to human development and promote education, innovation and international cooperation.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Rocket Revolution."
- World Space Week was declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1999.
- It marks Sputnik 1, launched on 4 October 1957, and the Outer Space Treaty, which entered into force on 10 October 1967.
- India's Gaganyaan programme is planned to conduct its first crewed mission in 2027.

World Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day 2026 - October 08

- The day aims to raise awareness about hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.
- In 2026, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) organised an event in New Delhi to discuss hydrogen standards and safety.
- The event focused on the safe production, storage, transportation and use of hydrogen in India.
- The report India's Hydrogen Standards: Gap Assessment and Preliminary Action Framework was released at the event.
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) was approved in January 2023 with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore and targets 5 million metric tonnes of annual green hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

World Migratory Day 2026 - October 10

- The day aims to raise awareness about migratory birds, the threats they face, and the importance of protecting their habitats through international cooperation and public participation.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter!".
- The 2026 campaign highlights community science in tracking bird migration patterns, monitoring populations and identifying threats.
- The campaign is organized by four partners: the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) and Environment for the Americas (EFTA).
- The 2026 campaign coincides with the 60th anniversary of the International Waterbird Census (IWC), which monitors waterbird populations through volunteer participation.
- The campaign encourages international cooperation to protect migratory birds and the habitats they depend on.

International Day of the Girl Child 2026 - October 11

- The day aims to promote girls' rights, empowerment and equal opportunities, and address the challenges they face.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "End child marriage and invest in girls' rights!"
- The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through Resolution on 19 December 2011.
- More than 12 million girls are married before reaching adulthood every year.
- An estimated 68 million child marriages have been prevented over the past 25 years through investments in girls' education, legal reforms and social protection.

World Arthritis Day 2026 - October 12

- Arthritis is a condition that affects the joints and may cause pain, swelling, stiffness and difficulty moving.
- The theme for 2026 is "Achieve Your Dreams."
- The day aims to promote early diagnosis, proper treatment and support for people living with arthritis.
- Arthritis can affect people of all ages, including children and young adults.
- Common types include osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and gout.

- Causes vary by type and may include joint wear and tear, autoimmune reactions, genetics and previous injuries.

National Postal Week 2026 – October 09/15

- The Department of Posts (DoP) is celebrating National Postal Week from 9 to 15 October 2026, beginning with World Post Day on 9 October.
- The 2026 World Post Day theme is "One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities."
- The week aims to highlight India Post's role in connecting citizens, supporting financial inclusion and improving access to postal services.
- N-Gen Post Offices and Jan Sewa Connect Post Offices are initiatives to create modern and inclusive postal service spaces.
- The Dak Sewa App and Dak Mitra App use digital platforms to make postal services more accessible and convenient.

International Day of Rural Women 2026 - October 15

- The day aims to recognise the contributions of rural women and promote their rights, economic empowerment, environmental leadership and equal access to resources.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature."
- It recognises rural women's role in seed conservation, biodiversity protection, water management and land restoration.
- It calls for equal access to land, water, finance, markets, technology, agricultural services and social protection.
- 2026 is the International Year of the Woman Farmer, providing an opportunity to strengthen the rights and leadership of rural women.

International Sloth Day 2026 - October 17

- The day aims to raise awareness about sloths, their habitat and conservation.
- there are 6 living species, divided into two-toed and three-toed sloths.
- Sloths are found mainly in the tropical forests of Central and South America and The Pygmy Three-toed Sloth (Bradypus pygmaeus), found only on Isla Escudo de Veraguas, Panama, is listed as Critically Endangered (CR) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The Maned Three-toed Sloth (Bradypus torquatus) is Vulnerable (VU), while the other four species are listed as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List.

- The day was established in 2010 by AIUNAU (a Colombian wildlife conservation organisation).
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Sloths Wild and Free"

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2026 - October 17

- The day began on October 17, 1987, and was officially recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992 through Resolution.
- The day aims to eradicate poverty, protect human dignity and promote access to safe housing, clean water, sanitation, healthcare and education.
- More than 2.8 billion people face inadequate housing, while 826 million people live in extreme poverty in 2026, surviving on less than US$3 per day (2021 purchasing power parity).
- The 2026 focus supports Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 10, 11 and 16, covering poverty eradication, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, and peace and justice.
- The 2026 focus is “Safe Homes for All” under the 2026–2028 theme “United for Peace and Human Rights.”

Police Commemoration Day 2026 - October 21

- The day aims to honour police personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.
- On 21 October 1959, 10 Indian police personnel were killed in an attack by Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh.
- The incident occurred during a patrol along the India–China border in the high-altitude region.
- In January 1960, the annual Conference of Directors General and Inspectors General of Police decided to observe 21 October as Police Commemoration Day.
- The day is also known as Police Shaheed Diwas or Police Martyrs Day.

Global Iodine Deficiency Disorder Prevention Day 2026 - October 21

- The day aims to raise awareness about iodine deficiency and its effects on health.
- Iodine is an essential micronutrient needed to produce thyroid hormones, which support growth, metabolism and brain development.
- Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDs) include goitre, hypothyroidism and problems with brain development in children.

- India's National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) promotes iodized salt, health education and monitoring of iodine deficiency.
- Iodine deficiency during pregnancy can affect the developing baby's brain and nervous system.

National Solidarity Day 2026 – October 20

- The day aims to honour the Armed Forces and remember the 1962 India–China War.
- On 20 October 1962, China launched attacks against India in NEFA (North-East Frontier Agency), now Arunachal Pradesh, and Ladakh, marking the beginning of the war.
- The war was fought mainly in the eastern sector (NEFA) and western sector (Ladakh, including Aksai Chin).
- China announced a unilateral ceasefire on 21 November 1962, ending the major fighting.
- In 1966, a national committee set up during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure designated 20 October as National Solidarity Day.
- The day honours the soldiers who sacrificed their lives and promotes national unity, patriotism and solidarity.

International Day of the Snow Leopard 2026 - October 23

- The day aims to raise awareness about snow leopard conservation and its mountain habitats.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed the day through Resolution on 12 December 2024.
- The snow leopard (Panthera uncia) is a high-altitude wild cat found in 12 countries, including India, across Central and South Asia.
- It is listed as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List.
- In India, Project Snow Leopard was launched in 2009.

United Nations Day 2026 - October 24

- United Nations Day 2026 marks 81 years since the United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945.
- In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco to prepare the United Nations Charter.

- The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- The United Nations brings countries together to address common international issues and promote global cooperation.
- The day reaffirms the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

Raising Day of Indo-Tibetan Border Police 2026 - October 24

- October 24, 2026 marks the 65th Raising Day of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- ITBP was established on 24 October 1962, after the India-China War, to strengthen security along the Himalayan frontier.
- Under the One Border One Force approach, ITBP was assigned the entire 3,488-km India-China border, from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ITBP is a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, specialising in high-altitude border security; its personnel are known as Himveers.
- Its motto is "Shaurya, Dridhata, Karmanishtha", meaning valour, steadfastness and dedication to duty.

World Polio Day 2026 - October 24

- The day aims to raise awareness about polio prevention, promote vaccination, and support global efforts to eradicate polio.
- The theme for the year is "Together, We End Polio."
- Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by poliovirus, mainly affecting children under five and potentially causing permanent paralysis.
- India was certified polio-free on 27 March 2014 by the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Regional Certification Commission.
- Afghanistan and Pakistan remain the two countries where wild poliovirus is endemic.

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2026 – October 18/24

- The 14th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) is observed to raise awareness about lead poisoning and promote measures to prevent lead exposure, especially in children.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "From Detection to Prevention."

- Lead poisoning occurs when lead enters the body mainly through inhalation or ingestion of contaminated dust, soil, water, food and other materials.
- Lead is a cumulative toxicant that can affect the brain, kidneys, liver, cardiovascular system and blood; it can accumulate in bones and teeth over time.
- Major sources include lead-based paint, mining, smelting, battery recycling, contaminated spices, cosmetics, toys, ceramics, electronic waste and contaminated water.

World Development Information Day 2026 – October 24

- The day highlights global development challenges and the need for international cooperation.
- The United Nations General Assembly established it in 1972 through a Resolution.
- The day coincides with United Nations Day (24 October) and the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in 1970.
- It aims to improve the dissemination of development-related information and mobilise public opinion, particularly among young people.
- It highlights the role of science, technology and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in economic and social development.

Indian Infantry Day 2026 – 27 October

- The Indian Army observed the 80th Infantry Day (Shaurya Diwas) on 27 October 2026 to commemorate the historic landing of Indian Army troops at Srinagar Airport in 1947.
- On 27 October 1947, the 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment landed at Srinagar Airport to counter Pakistan-backed tribal invaders in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The operation helped protect Srinagar and safeguard the territorial integrity of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Lieutenant Colonel Dewan Ranjit Rai, who was killed during the 1947 operations, was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra (MVC).
- The day honours the courage, sacrifice and service of infantry soldiers, the Indian Army's principal ground-combat arm.

World Stroke Day 2026 - October 29

- The day aims to raise awareness about stroke prevention, early detection and treatment.
- The day established by the World Stroke Organization (WSO) in 2006; the 2026 campaign message is “Every M1nute Counts”, using #ActFAST.
- Stroke occurs due to blocked blood flow to the brain (ischaemic stroke) or bleeding caused by a ruptured blood vessel (haemorrhagic stroke).
- Globally, over 12 million people experience a stroke annually; India records an estimated 108–172 cases per 1 lakh people each year.
- Major risk factors include hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease, smoking and physical inactivity; immediate medical attention can reduce complications.

National Unity Day 2026 - October 31

- National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is observed on October 31 to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- In 2026, his 151st birth anniversary will be celebrated.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875–1950) was a freedom fighter and senior leader of the Indian National Congress.
- He led the Bardoli Satyagraha (1928) in Gujarat, after which he became popularly known as “Sardar”.
- He played a key role in integrating more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union after Independence in 1947, with the help of V. P. Menon.
- He served as India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister from 1947 to 1950 and is popularly known as the “Iron Man of India.”
- The 2026 theme is “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat”.
- He also led the Kheda Satyagraha (1918), supporting farmers who were unable to pay land revenue due to crop failure.
- He served as the President of the Indian National Congress (INC) during its Karachi Session in 1931.
- He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1991.
- The Statue of Unity, inaugurated in 2018 at Kevadia (Ekta Nagar), Gujarat, was built in his honour and is the world's tallest statue.

MISCELLANEOUS

Etruscan Civilization – Ancient Tomb Discovery

- Archaeologists have uncovered a 2,700-year-old Etruscan tomb at the Polledrara necropolis in Vulci, central Italy, 137 years after archaeologist Stéphane Gsell first identified the burial mound.
- The Tomb of the Stone Chamber dates to the 7th century BCE, when Vulci was at the peak of its power.
- The tomb contains gold and bronze objects, weapons, jewellery, chariot parts, clothing, rare shoes and an almost complete banquet set.
- A bronze tripod from Rhodes shows that Etruscan society had long-distance connections with the wider Mediterranean world.
- The tomb was linked to the "Gsell tumulus", which Gsell mapped in 1889 but could not excavate because of limited time and funds.

Dakhla Archaeological Discovery

- Archaeologists discovered a 1,700-year-old pyramid-shaped tomb at Bir Al-Shaghala in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis, dating to the late 3rd or early 4th century AD.
- The mud-brick tomb was built for a married couple and combines Egyptian, Greek and Roman cultural traditions.
- Its Egyptian-style entrance has 14 steps, hieroglyphic funerary spells, a winged sun disk and two cobras.
- A 19-line funerary poem in ancient Greek was found on a stone stele inside the tomb.
- Archaeologists also found pottery, a sandstone offering table, a purification basin and a bronze coin showing Roman Emperor Constantine.
- Bir Al-Shaghala was part of the necropolis of Mothis, the ancient capital of the Dakhla Oasis during the Ptolemaic and Roman periods.

5 New Sites on UNESCO Tentative List

- Five new sites were added to India's UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, taking the total to 78 sites.
- The five additions are Bagh Cave Paintings, Group of Temples of the Chambal Valley, Udaigiri Caves, Ginnorgarh, and Sites of Satyagraha.
- The first four sites are in Madhya Pradesh, while Sites of Satyagraha is a proposed India–South Africa transnational serial property.

- Udaigiri Caves contain 20 rock-cut caves, sculptures and inscriptions dating mainly to the Gupta period (late 4th–early 5th century).
- Bagh Caves are nine rock-cut Buddhist caves on the banks of the Baghni River in western Madhya Pradesh, known for their mural paintings.
- Sites of Satyagraha includes 9 components—2 in South Africa and 7 in India—tracing the development of Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha.

Skytrax Airline Rankings 2026

- Singapore Airlines was ranked the world's best airline for 2026 in the Skytrax World Airline Awards.
- Qatar Airways ranked 2nd and Cathay Pacific 3rd in the global ranking.
- Air India ranked 57th globally, improving from 84th in 2025, and topped the India and South Asia ranking.
- IndiGo ranked 61st globally, compared with 39th in 2025, and was 2nd among India and South Asia airlines.
- Singapore Airlines also won awards for Best Airline in Asia and Best First Class Comfort Amenities.

Nepal Flash Floods

- Flash floods struck Nepal's Budhi Gandaki River in Gorkha district, damaging infrastructure.
- Flash floods are sudden, rapid floods that develop within minutes or hours due to intense rainfall, cloudbursts, sudden release of water or the bursting of temporary river blockages.
- They carry large amounts of water, mud, rocks and debris, causing sudden destruction and loss of life.
- In Gorkha district, Nepal, a landslide above Siuribas reportedly blocked the Chumke Khola stream, triggering a sudden release of floodwater downstream.
- In the Himalayas, retreating glaciers, unstable slopes, glacial lake outbursts and loose sediments can increase flash-flood risks.

Giant Fungus Discovered in China

- Scientists discovered a giant fungus, Dianjunus rex (D-rex), in Yunnan Province, China.
- It grows up to 50 cm tall and weighs up to 2.2 kg, making it the largest known fruiting body in the fungal phylum Ascomycota.

- It represents a new species, genus (Dianjunus) and family (Dianjunaceae) under the order Xylariales.
- Genetic analysis estimates that its family originated around 65 million years ago, shortly after the Cretaceous–Paleogene mass extinction.
- It grows on woody roots.

Kekova Island Shipwreck Discovery

- Archaeologists discovered the world's oldest known shipwreck near Kekova Island, Antalya, southern Turkey, dating back 4,400–4,700 years to the Early Bronze Age.
- The vessel was about 10 metres long and carried over 30 ceramic storage pots called amphorae and three stone anchors.
- The ship's wooden structure has not survived; archaeologists estimated its age from the pottery's shape and decoration.
- Residues inside some pots are being analysed to identify possible ancient trade goods such as olive oil, wine or tree resins.
- The discovery provides evidence of early Mediterranean maritime trade.

70th Dhammachakra Pravartan Day 2026

- The 70th Dhammachakra Pravartan Day was observed at Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur, Maharashtra, on 20 October 2026.
- On 14 October 1956, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism along with his followers at Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur, on Ashoka Vijayadashami.
- The event is remembered as a historic mass conversion to Buddhism and is commemorated annually as Dhammachakra Pravartan Day.
- Deekshabhoomi, located in Nagpur, Maharashtra, is the memorial site associated with Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism.
- The observance is associated with the Buddhist principles of equality, liberty, fraternity and human dignity.

New UNESCO Tentative List Sites

- Three Indian sites—Baratang's Karst-Mud-Volcano Complex, Andaman Subduction Volcanoes and Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape—were added to the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Tentative List on 20 October 2026.

- The Baratang Complex in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has limestone caves and active mud volcanoes, including the Jalki cave area.
- The Andaman Subduction Volcanoes include Barren Island and Narcondam Island, both protected areas in the Andaman Sea.
- Sirpur in Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh, is an ancient cultural and archaeological landscape along the Mahanadi River, with monuments dating from the 5th to 12th century CE.
- The Tentative List is a preliminary step before a site can be nominated for the UNESCO World Heritage List; India currently has 45 World Heritage Sites.

Cyclone Arnab

- Cyclone Arnab completed landfall along the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts as a very severe cyclonic storm.
- A cyclone is a large rotating weather system around a low-pressure centre; in the Northern Hemisphere, winds rotate anticlockwise.
- Tropical cyclones form over warm ocean waters and can cause strong winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges and flooding.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifies North Indian Ocean cyclones based on maximum sustained wind speed as,
  - Cyclonic Storm (62–88 km/h),
  - Severe Cyclonic Storm (89–117 km/h),
  - Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (118–166 km/h),
  - Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm (167–221 km/h) and
  - Super Cyclonic Storm (222 km/h or more).
- Bangladesh proposed the name “Arnab” under the North Indian Ocean cyclone-naming system coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
- The list contains 169 names contributed by 13 countries.

Word of the Year 2026 – Maxxing

- Dictionary.com selected “Maxxing” as its 2026 Word of the Year, reflecting the growing online trend of optimising different aspects of life.
- “Maxxing” means maximising or doing something to the fullest and became popular among Generation Z (Gen Z) and Generation Alpha (Gen Alpha).

- "Looksmaxxing" usage increased by over 1,000% since the beginning of 2026 in the media analysed by Dictionary.com.
- Other finalists were Affordability, Data Center, Unc and Odyssey; the 2025 Word of the Year was "67".

Fully Marine Stem Amphibian - Gerrothorax maritimus

- Two nearly complete fossil skeletons of Gerrothorax maritimus, described as the first known fully marine stem amphibian, were discovered in Guizhou Province, China.
- Lived about 237 million years ago during the Late Triassic period of the Mesozoic Era.
- It belonged to Temnospondyli, an extinct group of early four-limbed vertebrates related to the amphibian evolutionary lineage.
- The species was named Gerrothorax maritimus; "maritimus" refers to its marine habitat.

World's 100 Best Museums 2026

- The Bihar Museum in Patna ranked 9th globally and 1st in Asia in The World's 100 Best Museums 2026, published by Germany-based Worth a Journey.
- Bihar Museum is the only Indian museum included in the 2026 list.
- The top three museums are Museo Nacional de Antropología (Mexico), Museo del Prado (Spain) and Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Denmark).
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, ranked 10th, while the Louvre Museum, Paris, ranked 31st.
- Designed by architect Fumihiko Maki and Mumbai-based Opolis Architects, the Bihar Museum is located on Nehru Path in Patna.

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