

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS SEPTEMBER 2026

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CONTENTS

TNPSC BITS	12
TAMIL NADU	28
TN Assembly - Mahamaham 2028	28
Tamil Nadu Agriculture Measures 2026	29
Tamil Nadu's New Industrial Projects	29
Tiruchy Dry Port Project	29
Chennai Rain Futures Contract	30
Wetland Development Bill in Tamil Nadu.....	30
Tamil Nadu Start Smart Seed Fund	30
Handloom and Textile Measures in Tamil Nadu	31
Vetri Kaivinai Kalaigargal Thittam	31
Vettri Karangal Scheme.....	31
Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Commission Bill.....	32
Tamil Nadu Fishing Regulation.....	32
Olympic City - Chennai	33
Madras High Court - Tamil language.....	33
Fire and Rescue Services Act Amendment.....	34
Megalithic Burial Site - Kadamakuttai.....	34
New integrated Secretariat complex in Chennai	34
Tamil Nadu Birth Rate Decline	35
Restoration of Veera Vasantharayar Mandapam.....	36
Sustainable debt-GSDP ratio for Tamil Nadu	36
Tamil Nadu on Planning Commission	37
Chola-Era Inscription	38
Poompuhar Underwater Exploration	38
Tamil Nadu Salt Reduction Mission	39
Census Caste Enumeration in Tamil Nadu	39
Justice Gokuldas Commission Report	39
11 Bills passed by T.N. Assembly	40
CAG Report on Tamil Nadu 2026.....	40
Archaeological Findings in Thanjavur.....	41

Staff for urban local bodies.....	42
New HRCE Department	42
Tamil Nadu New Assembly–Secretariat Complex	43
State Party Status to TVK	43
Tamil Nadu’s decade of debt.....	44
Sangam-period Water Management Structure	45
Tamil Nadu Police Manpower.....	46
Southern Railway Electrification.....	46
BRICS Summit - Rameswaram Temple	46
Birth of British Hill Stations	47
New Mental Healthcare Regulations 2026.....	47
Reforming Local Body Finances	48
Tamil Nadu Private Universities Amendment Bill, 2026.....	48
Tamil Nadu Fiscal Capacity	48
Meenakshi Temple - The making of Madurai’s greatest landmark	49
Tamil Nadu Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme	51
New GCC Investment in Chennai.....	52
Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme	52
Poompuhar Archaeological Survey.....	52
Tamil Nadu State Organ Donation Day 2026.....	53
Madras HC on Mekedatu Resolution	53
Madras HC on Resigned MLAs	54
De-addiction Programme - PAYANAM.....	54
Chola-Era Inscription at Medavakkam.....	54
Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam	55
Tirupattur MLA Election Case	55
Madurai Museum Renovation	56
Vetri Magalir Thozhilmunaivor Membattu Thittam.....	56
NATIONAL	56
National Mortuary Standards.....	56
Indian Standard Time Rules	57
Semicon India Programme 2.0.....	57
National Conference on Quantum Biotechnology 2026	57
Solar PV Overcapacity Risk	58

Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031	58
National Accounts Statistics 2026.....	59
RAKSHA – Defence Diplomacy Framework	59
PCA and Indus Waters Treaty	60
Article 142 - Limits and Powers.....	60
Western Zonal Council Meet	61
All India Judges Association v. Union of India	61
Population Enumeration 2027.....	61
Biotech Investment Platform	62
Small Modular Reactors in Andaman and Nicobar.....	62
e-FAST India Summit 2026	63
Constitutional Safeguards for Ladakh.....	63
HPV Vaccination Milestone	63
One Tag System for FASTag	64
Global 6G Network Initiative	64
AASHVAST Lab for Drone Security	64
India’s Nuclear Arsenal.....	65
Indigenous Disaster Warning System.....	65
Alternative Fuel Vehicles in India	65
Coal Sector CSR Framework.....	66
Green Hydrogen Hubs in India.....	66
SAF Flight in India.....	67
Global Vaccine Production	67
India’s Data Centre Capacity	67
NMBA Nationwide Campaign	68
GOBARdhan Central Sector Scheme Update	68
Integrated Fertilizer Management System.....	68
Tempest Programme - India	69
Global Fintech Fest 2026	69
Periodic Labour Force Survey – August 2026.....	69
Shahzad Bhatti Network Under UAPA	70
Clean Energy Milestone of India.....	70
New Climate Governance Platforms	70
National Water Summit 2026	71

Surakshit Sagar Campaign.....	71
Soil Carbon Payments for Farmers	71
SEMICON India 2026.....	72
India - Japan strategic partnership.....	72
Nasha Mukht Bharat Campaign	73
District-Level Labour Market Snapshot.....	73
3rd ANTF Conference	73
National Formulary of India	74
G20 Energy Abundance Meet.....	74
Amendment to Inter-State Council Order, 1990	74
11th Ayurveda Day 2026.....	75
Constitution Bench on EC.....	76
Supreme Court on Collegium.....	76
Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar 5.0.....	76
Digital Communications Commission.....	77
Hepatitis Elimination by 2030	77
Telecom Security in India	77
Modified UDAN 2026	78
India-PIF Strategic Partnership	78
India-ASEAN Trade Partnership	79
India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers Meeting.....	79
First Ascent Mountaineering Expedition	79
Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform	80
INTERNATIONAL.....	80
Africa Health Workforce Plan 2035.....	80
India-Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership	81
India-Russia Fuel Trade.....	81
EU Membership - Iceland.....	81
SCO Summit 2026.....	82
Artemis Accords - Turkey	82
Bishkek Declaration 2026	82
SCO Cultural Capital - Lahore.....	83
India-Uzbekistan Uranium Deal	83
Trump US dollar 1 Commemorative Coin	84

UN Adopts Africa-Accurate Map	84
Child Marriage Elimination Day - November 27	85
Kharg Island Tanker Attack.....	85
Vostok Oil Pipeline.....	85
G20 Innovation Ministers Meeting 2026.....	86
G20 FMCBG Meeting 2026	86
Dili Declaration on Health.....	86
Bangladesh Measles Outbreak.....	87
World's First Energy Island	87
Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)	87
BRICS Summit 2026 – New Delhi Declaration.....	88
BRICS Mental Health Network.....	88
BRICS Education Agenda 2026.....	89
Houthi Control of Mayyun Island.....	89
India–MERCOSUR Trade Pact	90
Antelope Reef Base - China	90
Historic Pact Among Three Nations.....	90
Orbital Weapons by USA	91
ATLAS Nuclear Initiative	91
EU–Canada Associate Membership.....	91
India-Oman Port Cooperation	92
Djibouti in Artemis Accords	92
US Drug Transit List 2027.....	93
Third BIMSTEC Conference on Traditional Medicine Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property Rights.....	93
Year of India and Vietnam Friendship – 2027	93
World Circular Economy Forum 2026.....	94
Oman Strategic Port.....	94
SCO Trade Ministers Meet.....	95
Greenland Security Deal.....	95
L.69 Group and UNSC Reform.....	95
Partners for Multilateralism	96
Global Pesticide Review.....	96
V4+India Foreign Ministers' Meeting.....	96
OneSCD Global Partnership	97

Enemy State Clauses in UN Charter.....	97
UN Shipping Safety Group	97
UN Cybercrime Convention 2026.....	98
ECONOMY.....	98
India's Coconut Exports Rise	98
GDP Methodology and Q1 Estimates	99
RBI Forex Swap Facility	99
Direct Tax Buoyancy	100
Coastal Local Area Bank - Scheduled Bank Status	100
EPFO Wage Ceiling	100
IT Resilience Index - SEBI	101
India's first Tokenized Corporate Bond	101
FDI Inflow in India 2026	101
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.....	102
Vacuum Birefringence	102
Nancy Grace Roman Telescope	102
Quantum-Safe Communication Products	102
EOS-05 Earth Observation Mission	103
Heat to Electricity Breakthrough	103
Rabies Elimination - Bhutan.....	103
Coffee Husk Innovation - CLRI	104
BAM-H24 Rocket Fuel	104
New Tokamaks in India	104
Hanle Dark Sky Reserve	105
Tata Steel Green Technology.....	105
Artificial Sun Project - India.....	106
New Study on Mercury	106
Gallium Nitride MMIC Technology	106
Elias 2-24 b Planet	107
Stem Cell Therapy Guidelines	107
Plastic Waste to Fuel Technology	107
Biovigilance Programme of India.....	108
Bio-Based PLA Plastics	108
Rapidly Shrinking Binary - eRASSU J0608	108

ENVIRONMENT	109
Rare Migratory Duck - Mergellus albellus.....	109
Global Drought Framework.....	109
Elephant Habitat Restoration in Assam.....	109
16 New Indigenous Animal Breeds	110
Global Ocean Temperature	110
Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation.....	111
El Niño Emergency - Ecuador	111
India's Open Natural Ecosystems	111
Coral Bleaching Threat.....	112
Striped Hyena Conservation.....	112
Eight Building Blocks of Birdsong	113
Pichavaram Mangrove Value	113
41 elephant Corridors in Tamil Nadu.....	113
Vulture Reintroduction – Maharashtra	114
High Risk Glacial Lakes - Sikkim.....	114
Pallikaranai Bird Population Record	114
Myristica Swamps issue.....	115
Kākāpō Conservation Recovery	115
Peat Fires – Indonesia	115
UN Climate Week in Azerbaijan	116
Teak Plantation Initiative	116
Pygmy Hog Conservation Mission - Assam.....	116
State of World's Birds Report	117
Antarctic Ozone Hole 2026	117
Rhino Population in Assam	118
Cheetah Reintroduction Programme	118
Climate-Resilient Moth Bean.....	118
New cat species 'Tilcayo'.....	119
International Workshop on Tiger Landscapes	119
Pichavaram Mangrove Restoration	119
Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary Mapping	120
Karanjia Sal Borer Crisis	120
Agasthyamalai Plant Diversity.....	121

INCOIS Marine Litter Project.....	121
WWF Global Conservation Conference	121
Botswana Cheetah in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary.....	122
Hazaribagh Vulture Conservation	122
Tamil Nadu Palm Seed Drive 2026.....	122
Cyclone Arnab 2026	123
Pallikaranai Bird Breeding Record	123
Tamirabharani River Biodiversity	123
REPORTS AND INDICATES	124
World Soil Resources Report 2026	124
Work From Anywhere Index 2026.....	124
UN Report on Warming Overshoot	125
CVC Annual Report 2025.....	125
India's Unincorporated Sector Data	126
India Electric Mobility Index 2025	126
Global Gender Gap Index 2026	126
Forests for food: Nourishing people, sustaining the planet	127
V-Dem Report on India.....	127
NITI Aayog Skilling Report	128
WMO Groundwater Report.....	128
UN Gender Equality Report	128
WHO-UNICEF WASH Report 2026.....	129
WEF Tourism Index 2026	129
Global Cities Index 2026	129
STATES	130
Sone River Water Pact.....	130
Census 2026 in Manipur.....	130
The name of the High Court of Kerala	131
UNESCO List - Sivasagar Heritage.....	132
Gollala Gudi National Monument - Telangana	132
Lakkundi Hidden Monuments – Karnataka	133
Zero Legacy Waste - Madhya Pradesh	133
Rural Waste Management	133
Chhattisgarh in Water Conservation.....	134

Zero Primary Dropout - Tripura	134
Elder-Friendly Office Certification – Kerala	135
Ganga Floodplain Demarcation – Uttar Pradesh	135
Blood Donation - Haryana	135
Hyderabad Liberation Day 2026	136
Ladakh's First Heritage Village – Kumik	136
Devadurga Gold-Copper Exploration	136
Tulu Language Recognition	137
Meghalaya Rainfall Deficit.....	137
Swamitva Yojana 2026	137
Regenagri Programme for South Indian Tea Estates	138
AFSPA Extension 2026.....	138
PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS	139
King Oyo of Tooro Demise.....	139
New LG of Andaman Islands	139
Krishna Achuta Rao Demise	139
Ig Nobel Prize 2026	140
Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards 2026	140
New Appointments in NCSK	140
Asian Pacific Postal Union - Vinaya Prakash Singh	141
UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2026	141
Solomon Pappaiah Demise	141
India's BRICS Sherpa 2026 - Sudhakar Dalela	142
Sansad Ratna Awards 2026	142
Tenzing Norgay Awards 2024	143
Cool Leaders Award 2026	143
SPORTS	143
World Humanoid Robot Games 2026	143
World Nomad Games 2026.....	144
World Archery Para Series 2026	144
Asian Games 2026 Opening Ceremony	144
IMPORTANT DAYS	145
National Small Industry Day 2026 - August 30	145
World Coconut Day 2026 - September 02	145

National Wildlife Day 2026 - September 04.....	145
National Teachers Day 2026 – September 5.....	146
International Literacy Day 2026 - September 08	146
World Duchenne Awareness Day 2026 – September 07	146
Himalaya Diwas 2026 - September 09.....	147
National Fluorosis Day 2026 - September 09	147
National Forest Martyrs Day 2026 - September 11	147
Digvijay Diwas 2026 - September 11	147
International Day for South-South Cooperation 2026 - September 11	148
National Hindi Diwas 2026 - September 14.....	148
World Lymphoma Awareness Day 2026 - September 15	149
International Day of Democracy 2026 - September 15.....	149
National Engineers Day 2026 - September 15.....	149
World Ozone Day 2026 - September 16.....	150
Social Justice Day 2026 - September 17.....	150
International Day for Interventional Cardiology 2026 – September 16	150
World Bamboo Day 2026 - September 18	151
World Alzheimer’s Day 2026 - September 21	151
World Rhino Day 2026 - September 22	151
National Pharmacovigilance Week 2026- September 17/23	152
International Day of Sign Languages 2026 - September 23	152
World Pharmacists Day 2026 - September 25	152
World Lung Day 2026 - September 25.....	153
International Day for the Total Elimination of nuclear weapons 2026 - September 26.....	153
National Service Scheme Day 2026 – September 24	153
CSIR Foundation Day 2026 - September 26.....	154
World Heart Day 2026 - September 29.....	154
MISCELLANEOUS	154
Bhupen Hazarika Birth Centenary	154
India’s New UNESCO Tentative Sites 2026	155
150 Years of Saratchandra Chattopadhyay	155
Academic Freedom in India.....	155
Global Rank - GIFT City	156
NIRF 2025 SDG Ranking	156

Bat Evolution Study	157
Typhoon Dujuan	157

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has approved India's first dedicated Quantum and Artificial Intelligence (AI) University campus in Amaravati, to be developed by the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT).
- ❖ Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) handed over ICGS Ajit to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) for coastal surveillance, fisheries protection and anti-smuggling operations.
- ❖ NASA astronaut Anil Menon and ESA astronaut Sophie Adenot installed a new Ku-band antenna on the International Space Station (ISS) for high-speed communication with ground stations.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh approved AM AI Factory's ₹31,387-crore, 512-megawatt green Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centre at Amanam village in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched Jago, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot that provides information on tribal welfare schemes, policies, programmes and guidelines.
- ❖ Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched India's first non-GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed at Musunuru in Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh.
 - The indigenous hybrid was developed for high-expansion popcorn production in association with Gourmet Popcornica.
- ❖ The Indian Navy received 'Samarthak', its first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at Kattupalli, near Chennai.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government will seek Geographical Indication (GI) tags for 10 agricultural products, with ₹30 lakh allocated for the process.
 - The products include Kancheepuram Parimilagai, Poyyur Kathiri, Chidambaram Black Gram, Karumandurai Kadukkai, Thiruvaiyaru Elai Vazhai, Eraiyur Karunai Kilangu, Cuddalore Vettiver, Manapparai Brinjal, Ooty Garlic and Javvadhu Pei Sesame.
- ❖ A new freshwater flowering plant species, *Ammannia telanganensis*, discovered in Telangana, is an annual, herbaceous, semi-aquatic plant belonging to the Lythraceae family.
- ❖ Samtel HAL Display Systems Limited (SHDS), a joint venture between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Samtel Avionics, inaugurated a new defence avionics manufacturing facility in Gurugram, Haryana.
 - SHDS is India's first public-private joint venture in defence avionics to indigenously design, qualify and serially produce multifunction displays (MFDs) for fighter aircraft.

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh recorded the first verifiable photographic evidence of the spoon-tailed duskhawker (*Gynacantha basiguttata*) in Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, adding the species to India's dragonfly list.
- ❖ Lionel Messi of Argentina announced his retirement from international football on August 31, 2026, after leading Argentina to the 2026 FIFA World Cup final.
- ❖ Uzbekistan conferred its highest state honour, the Order of Oliy Darajali Dustlik, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ Super Garuda Shield 2026 began in Indonesia as a joint military exercise involving the United States, Indonesia, and 13 other troop-contributing nations.
- ❖ Apple Inc. announced a leadership change on September 1, 2026, with Tim Cook becoming Executive Chairman after serving as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) since 2011, and John Ternus becoming the new CEO.
- ❖ Rare blue-violet flowers resembling Neelakurinji have bloomed along trekking trails in Kudremukh, Chikkamagaluru district, Karnataka.
 - Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) is a Western Ghats flowering plant famous for mass flowering, typically at a 12-year interval.
- ❖ The Indian Navy commissioned Nipun, the second indigenous Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel (DSV), at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- ❖ India inaugurated its first-of-its-kind Green Forge Complex at the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council-National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (BRIC-NABI), Mohali, Punjab.
- ❖ Shakti Sharma has become the first woman officer from the non-medical branch of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal.
- ❖ Researchers discovered and formally described a new scorpion species, *Liocheles gracilipalpus*, from the Shivalik Hills of Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir.
 - It belongs to the Hormuridae family and was discovered at an elevation of 1,655 metres above sea level.
- ❖ Scientists discovered a new species of stingless honey bee named *Tetragonula nagalandensis* in the Medziphema region of Nagaland.
 - The species was named nagalandensis in honour of Nagaland, where it was first discovered, taking the total number of known stingless bee species in India to 19.
- ❖ A rare Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) was recently spotted in Chandu village, Gurgaon.
 - Its International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List status is Vulnerable.
- ❖ Singai G. Ramachandran has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM).

- ❖ Tamil Nadu will digitise historical property documents dating back to 1865 and birth and death records up to 2018.
 - The Registration Department plans to scan 11.14 crore pages, including 7.06 crore old Encumbrance Certificate (EC)/Index-2 records from 1865–1974 and 5.68 crore birth and death records, without re-scanning already digitised documents.
- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the export of 18 metric tonnes (MT) of NPOP-certified ethnic rice from Tripura to Austria and the Netherlands.
- ❖ National Nutrition Week (NNW) 2026 is being observed in India from September 1 to 7, 2026, to create awareness about healthy eating and proper nutrition.
 - National Nutrition Week in India was started in 1982 through the Food and Nutrition Board to spread awareness about nutrition and health.
- ❖ World Skyscraper Day is observed annually on September 3 to celebrate the engineering and architecture behind the world's tallest buildings.
- ❖ Scientists have identified the new flowering plant *Osbeckia ulotricha* of the Melastomataceae family in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve of the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has shortlisted Cheyyur in Chengalpattu district and Manellore near Gummidipoondi in Tiruvallur district as the possible sites for Chennai's second airport.
 - The move follows the State government's decision to drop the proposed greenfield airport at Parandur and identify alternative sites.
- ❖ Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that teachers in the State can use the prefix "Tr." (Teacher) before their names from Teachers' Day, September 5, 2026.
 - The prefix is intended as a mark of respect and recognition for the contribution of teachers to society.
- ❖ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) partnered with Uzbekistan's National Interbank Processing Centre (NIPC) to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) merchant payments in Uzbekistan.
 - Uzbekistan becomes the 11th country to accept UPI, after Singapore, United Arab Emirates, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Greece.
- ❖ Giorgia Meloni's government has become Italy's longest-serving government since World War II (WWII), surpassing the previous record of 1,412 consecutive days.
 - Meloni became Italy's first woman Prime Minister after her party, Brothers of Italy, won the 2022 general election.

- ❖ International Vulture Awareness Day 2026 was observed on September 5, the first Saturday of September, to raise awareness about the ecological importance of vultures and promote their conservation.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Strengthen the Vulture Safe Zone."
- ❖ India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves reached a record high of US\$740.8 billion in the week ended August 28, 2026.
- ❖ Adobe has announced Anil Chakravarthy as its next President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective December 1, 2026.
- ❖ India hosted the three-day BRICS Chief Justices' Forum in New Delhi, ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit, inaugurated by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Surya Kant.
 - The forum discussed modern jurisprudence, Artificial Intelligence (AI) in judicial administration, international commercial mediation, sustainable development and cross-border enforcement of arbitral awards.
- ❖ Malaysia declared an emergency in Serian, Sarawak, Malaysia (Borneo), after Air Pollution Index (API) reached 519 due to Indonesian forest-fire haze.
 - The emergency covers a 20-km radius, with smoke crossing into Sarawak from Indonesia.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force successfully conducted a drop trial of the indigenously designed Khagantak-243, a long-range glide bomb.
- ❖ India secured a record 9 medals at the 19th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) 2026 held in Italy.
 - The Indian team won 4 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals among participants from 39 countries.
- ❖ West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari launched 'Arjun Vahini', a 200-member specialised disaster response squad modelled on the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), on 1 September 2026.
- ❖ Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma became the first woman officer from the non-medical branch of the Indian Armed Forces to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal or equivalent on 1 September 2026.
 - Commissioned into the IAF Education Branch in 1994, she assumed charge as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) and was the first woman Tri-Services officer to command a Sainik School, serving as principal of Sainik School, Kapurthala.
- ❖ Anak Krakatau volcano in Indonesia erupted, disrupting nearly 3,000 flights and leaving over 340,000 passengers stranded.

- Anak Krakatau, meaning “Child of Krakatoa”, is located in the Sunda Strait, between Java and Sumatra, about 150 km from Jakarta; it emerged from the sea in the caldera formed after the 1883 eruption of Mount Krakatoa.
- ❖ The International Day of Charity is observed every year on 5 September to encourage people, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders to help others through volunteering and charitable activities.
- ❖ A new frog species, *Amolops ammachi*, was discovered in the Jampui Hills of Tripura and named after Padmini Varkey (Ammachi) by a team led by S. D. Biju of the University of Delhi, the ‘Frogman of India’.
 - *Amolops ammachi* belongs to the Cascade Frog genus *Amolops*.
- ❖ IIT Madras-incubated Bodhan AI, in partnership with AI4Bharat, launched four open-weight AI models for Indian languages.
 - The models cover speech recognition, speech generation, machine translation and Optical Character Recognition (OCR).
- ❖ *Gegeneophis chandgadi*, a new legless amphibian (caecilian), was discovered in Buzawade village, Kolhapur, Maharashtra; it belongs to the genus *Gegeneophis*.
 - It was named after the Chandgadi dialect of Marathi spoken in the region.
- ❖ India launched ‘Agni Kawach’, its first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered safety platform, at the 6th International Climate Summit (ICS-2026) in New Delhi.
 - The platform uses AI to support industrial safety processes, strengthen industrial safety, and build a global industrial safety ecosystem.
- ❖ Hyderabad-based Apollyon Dynamics developed Ahuti Mk II, India’s fastest multirotor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), with a certified top speed of 498 km/h.
 - Ahuti Mk II is an electric interceptor drone designed to chase and neutralise hostile drones and loitering munitions.
- ❖ Google has launched India's first agricultural Artificial Intelligence (AI) models through its Google DeepMind AnthroKrishi team, including Agricultural Landscape Understanding (ALU) for mapping agricultural fields and land analysis.
 - Agricultural Monitoring and Event Detection (AMED) tracks crop conditions, land-use changes and agricultural events at scale.
- ❖ The India-Japan bilateral air exercise Veer Guardian-2026 is being conducted at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The President’s Colour was presented to the Goa Police at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Taleigao, Goa.
 - Goa Police became the fifth State Police force in India to receive the President’s Police Colour.

- ❖ Joheirry Mola of the Dominican Republic is crowned Miss World 2026 at the grand finale in Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa, Vietnam.
- ❖ World Physiotherapy Day is observed every year on 8 September to raise awareness about the importance of physiotherapy and its role in rehabilitation, mobility, pain management and improving quality of life.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “the role of physiotherapy and physical activity in the prevention, management, and rehabilitation of cardiovascular disease and stroke”.
- ❖ Satwiksairaj Ranki reddy and Chirag Shetty won the China Masters men’s badminton doubles title by defeating He Jiting and Ren Xiangyu of China held in China.
- ❖ The Badingilo-Boma Migratory Landscape was inscribed as South Sudan’s first UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2026.
 - It includes Boma National Park and Badingilo National Park and forms part of the Great Nile Migration Landscape (GNML).
- ❖ Five young orangutans were rescued from a casuarina plantation in the Udayapur–Talsari forest area of Balasore district, Odisha.
 - Orangutans are Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and are naturally found in the forests of Indonesia and Malaysia, not India.
- ❖ International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was observed annually on 7 September 2026 to raise awareness and promote action for better air quality.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Clean Air, Healthy Choices: Acting Together for People and Planet.”
- ❖ International Day of Police Cooperation was observed annually on 7 September to highlight the importance of international cooperation among police and law-enforcement agencies.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Protecting against Vulnerability – Building Trust and Legitimacy in Policing.”
- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s first government-built dedicated skate park was inaugurated at Buttfire near Udhagamandalam (Ooty), Nilgiris, on September 11, 2026.
- ❖ Stanzin Tsangyang became the first woman officer from Kargil district to be commissioned into the Indian Army at the Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai.
 - She is also the first person from Zaskar district of Ladakh to be commissioned as an officer in the Indian Army.
- ❖ AstraZeneca’s breast cancer drug camizestrant (Etcamah) failed to significantly improve progression-free survival in a late-stage trial involving 1,371 patients with advanced hormone-receptor-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer.

- ❖ The International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed every year on 9 September to highlight the need to protect education during armed conflicts.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Can Education Survive Attack? The Resilience of Human Communities.”
- ❖ World Suicide Prevention Day is observed every year on 10 September to raise awareness about suicide as a public health concern and promote prevention efforts.
 - The 2024–2026 theme is “Changing the Narrative on Suicide”, with the call to action “Start the Conversation.”
- ❖ Tanya Chaudhary won gold at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, with a 68.35-metre throw, setting a new Indian national record in women’s hammer throw at the Indian Athletics Series Final.
- ❖ Buellia maharajensis, a new rock-growing (saxicolous) lichen species, was discovered at about 1,351 metres elevation in Mathikettan Shola National Park, Idukki, Kerala.
 - The species was named in honour of Maharaja’s College, Ernakulam, marking its 150th anniversary.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted Russian President Vladimir Putin a Russian translation of Thirukkural during their bilateral meeting in New Delhi, ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit.
- ❖ The first road bridge connecting Russia and North Korea has opened across the Tumen River, linking the border cities of Khasan (Russia) and Rason (North Korea).
- ❖ The 22nd edition of Yudh Abhyas, the annual India–US bilateral Army exercise, is being conducted in a two-theatre format at Bikaner, Rajasthan and Auli, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ INS Mysore arrived at Lumut, Malaysia, to participate in the 4th edition of Exercise Samudra Laksamana, a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN).
- ❖ Alexander Zverev (Germany) and Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) won the men’s and women’s singles titles respectively at the 2026 US Open in New York.
 - Zverev defeated Ben Shelton (USA) to win his first US Open title, while Rybakina defeated Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) to win her first US Open title and third Grand Slam title.
- ❖ India set a Guinness World Record for the world’s longest steel slag road, measuring 1.85 km, at Raigarh, Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ A new DRDO weapon and missile testing range is proposed at Junput, Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal.

- Junput will become the third major DRDO testing hub, after the Chandipur facilities and the proposed testing centre in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ World First Aid Day is observed on the second Saturday of September every year; in 2026, it was observed on 12 September to raise awareness about the importance of first aid in saving lives during emergencies.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “First Aid in Migration Contexts.”
- ❖ World EV Day is observed every year on 9 September to promote electric mobility and sustainable transport.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Switching Electric: Driving Down the Cost of Motoring.”
- ❖ Google DeepMind introduced AlphaGenome Atlas, a database predicting the effects of single genetic changes across the human genome.
 - It uses the AlphaGenome Artificial Intelligence (AI) model to predict the regulatory effects of all 9 billion possible single-nucleotide variants, creating a 1-petabyte dataset.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) launched its first Dronathon-2026 at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, to test surveillance, reconnaissance, autonomous operations, swarm technologies, electronic warfare and Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CUAS).
- ❖ Talabira II & III coal mine in Odisha recorded its highest-ever annual coal production of 19.14 million tonnes (MT) in FY 2025–26.
 - The open-cast mine is located in Sambalpur and Jharsuguda districts, Odisha, and is operated by NLC India Ltd.
- ❖ FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) ordered the recall of Shalimar’s Chef-Coriander Powder, manufactured by M/s Nilgiri Oil & Allied Industries, due to unsafe pesticide residues, and Carrageenan, manufactured by M/s Aquagri Processing Pvt Ltd, due to unsafe cadmium levels.
 - The recall was ordered under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, in accordance with the Food Safety and Standards (Food Recall Procedure) Regulations, 2017.
- ❖ India defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the Women’s Twenty20 (T20) Asia Cup 2026 final in Dubai to win a record-extending eighth title.
- ❖ India’s Dhiraj Bommadevara became the first Indian male recurve archer to win World Cup Final gold at Saltillo, Mexico.
- ❖ The 6th All India Official Language Conference was held in Mumbai on 14 September 2026, along with Hindi Diwas 2026.
 - The conference discussed the development of Hindi, coordination among Indian languages, technology, translation and literature.

- ❖ Ganges Grandmasters won their maiden Global Chess League (GCL) title in Bengaluru by defeating defending champions Alpine APL Pipers.
- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to upgrade its 1033 National Highway Helpline using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and real-time location tracking.
 - The 1033 helpline, launched in 2018, operates 24×7 and covers more than 1.46 lakh kilometres of national highways.
- ❖ The Researchers have identified two new-to-science frog species in Mizoram — Duttaphrynus phawngpui and Ingerana aizawl.
 - Duttaphrynus phawngpui was found above 2,000 metres in Phawngpui National Park and was named after Mizoram's highest peak, Phawngpui.
- ❖ Karnataka made September 15 an official Engineers' Day event and allowed engineers to use the prefix "Er.", marking the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya, born on September 15, 1861.
- ❖ Sanjukta Parashar, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and known as the "Iron Lady of Assam", became the first woman officer to head the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)'s elite CoBRA commando unit as Inspector General (IG).
- ❖ India launched the Ocean Research Vessel (ORV) Sagar Manthan at Rishi Bankim Shipyard, Kolkata, strengthening domestic ocean research capabilities.
- ❖ Bengaluru-based Astrogate Labs unveiled India's first indigenous Optical Inter-Satellite Link (OISL) terminal at the Bengaluru Space Expo.
 - OISL uses laser beams for direct, high-speed communication between satellites, reducing dependence on ground stations.
- ❖ A healthy Badri female calf was successfully born in Uttarakhand using Ovum Pick-Up and In Vitro Fertilization (OPU-IVF) technology.
 - Badri cattle are an indigenous breed adapted to the mountainous regions of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ A rare philomela form of the Common Wanderer butterfly (Pareronia hippia) was recorded for the first time at Poothurai in Villupuram district.
 - Till date, the butterfly species has been historically associated more often with north eastern India and adjoining regions.
- ❖ Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)'s facility in Takwe, Pune, received National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation for high-pressure cylinder testing.
 - ARAI was established in 1966, while NABL is India's national accreditation body for testing and calibration laboratories.
- ❖ UK, the US and the Netherlands issued a joint advisory on CHOSEN BRICK, spyware linked to Iranian state actors and used through spear-phishing campaigns on WhatsApp and Telegram.

- The spyware can steal emails, messages and contact lists, capture screens, access social media accounts and use a device's microphone.
- ❖ Ophiopogon japonicus was recorded in India for the first time from West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh; it is commonly called dwarf lilyturf or mondo grass and is an evergreen perennial.
 - Its tuberous roots, known as Ophiopogonis Radix (Maidong), are used in traditional Chinese medicine.
- ❖ Schizopygopsis waddellii was recorded in India for the first time from Pangkang Teng Tso Lake, Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.
 - It is a cold-adapted freshwater fish of the Cyprinidae family, belonging to the snowtrout group.
- ❖ MG Hector Tomahawk is India's first mainstream Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) SUV.
 - A PHEV combines a petrol engine and electric motor with an externally chargeable battery, allowing it to run on electric power alone for longer distances than conventional hybrids.
- ❖ Kerala will introduce a mandatory Hazard Perception Test (HPT) for driving licence applicants, for the first time in India, using 10 one-minute videos based on international standards to test their ability to identify road hazards and take timely action.
- ❖ ICAR-CIBA (Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture) has introduced a deboning technology to improve the marketability and consumer acceptance of milkfish.
- ❖ Tata Sons Board has reappointed N. Chandrasekaran as Executive Chairman for another five-year term, from February 2027 to February 2032.
- ❖ Chennai-born scientist Sethuraman Panchanathan has been named the 2026 recipient of the IEEE Robert Bosch Bueche Award, becoming the first Indian-American to receive the honour.
 - The Bueche Award recognises outstanding contributions to technology and public policy.
- ❖ Nobel Prize-winning economist Michael Kremer was appointed World Bank Group Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics on September 16, 2026.
 - Kremer shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences with Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo for using experiments to study poverty.
- ❖ Four mountaineers from Munnar became the first group from Kerala to summit Ramjak, a 6,318-metre peak in Himachal Pradesh.
 - Ramjak is located in the remote Lahaul region of Himachal Pradesh.

- ❖ CSIR-NIScPR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research) is using SARAL AI, an Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) initiative, to convert research papers into short videos for wider dissemination of scientific knowledge using artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ Veteran Kannada actor Anant Nag will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024 at the National Film Awards ceremony in Kevadia, Gujarat.
- ❖ The 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) is being held in Cape Town, South Africa, under the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to discuss parliamentary democracy, legislative practices and inter-parliamentary cooperation.
 - The theme is “Strengthening International Law and Parliamentary Democracy in a Changing World Order: Commonwealth Leadership.”
- ❖ Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan addressed the 25th anniversary of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) as an Institution of National Importance in New Delhi on September 15, 2026.
 - ICWA was established to promote the study and understanding of international affairs and India’s foreign relations.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the first phase of the Veligonda Irrigation Project.
 - The project diverts Krishna River water from the Srisailem Reservoir to the Nallamala Sagar Reservoir through gravity.
- ❖ Denmark has started operations at the European Union’s (EU) first full-scale carbon dioxide (CO₂) storage facility, the Greensand project, which stores CO₂ under the seabed near an old oil platform in the North Sea.
- ❖ India’s 51st Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) was inaugurated at Sambalpur, Odisha, using radio waves to track the location, movement and intensity of rainfall and severe weather.
 - Odisha now has three DWRs at Sambalpur, Gopalpur and Paradip.
- ❖ The International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South is observed annually on 16 September to promote science, technology and innovation (STI) for sustainable and inclusive development in the Global South.
 - The day was proposed by G77 and China at the Summit on Science, Technology and Innovation in Havana, Cuba, on 15–16 September 2023, through the Havana Declaration.
- ❖ Scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI) identified a new eel species from the Arabian Sea.
 - The new species was named *Ariosoma cmfriense* after CMFRI.

- ❖ India's cheetah population has reached 56 after India-born cheetah KGP12, daughter of South African cheetah Gemini, gave birth to four cubs at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Kishor Makwana, Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), received the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Award 2026.
- ❖ India, represented by the Indian Air Force (IAF) Sarang Helicopter Display Team, participated in Egypt's second El Alamein International Air show, showcasing military, commercial and private aircraft along with defence, space and advanced aviation technologies.
- ❖ International Equal Pay Day is observed every year on 18 September to promote equal pay for work of equal value.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value — For Everyone, everywhere."
- ❖ International Red Panda Day 2026 was observed on September 19, the third Saturday of September, to raise awareness about red panda conservation and threats such as habitat loss, deforestation and poaching.
 - The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the red panda as an Endangered species.
- ❖ Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dipak Misra received the Kalinga Ratna Award 2026 in Cuttack, Odisha.
- ❖ The 27th World Knowledge Forum was held in Seoul, South Korea, organised by Maekyung Media Group.
 - With the theme "The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order," it focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI), global economic change, national security, quantum computing and cybersecurity.
- ❖ Elavenil Valarivan wins silver in women's 10m air rifle at Asian Games 2026, held in Toyota City, Aichi, Japan.
- ❖ India and Sri Lanka have begun the 13th edition of SLINEX-26, a bilateral naval exercise, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) are conducting Exercise Veer Guardian-2026 at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ Ladakh inaugurated twin flower fields at Choglamsar and Stakna in Leh district, at an altitude of 10,600 feet (3,265 metres).
- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) notified the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending the Passports Rules, 1980.
 - An ordinary passport for a child below 15 years will be valid for five years or until the child turns 18, whichever is earlier.

- ❖ International Coastal Cleanup Day 2026 was observed on September 19, the third Saturday of September, to raise awareness about marine pollution and encourage people to clean beaches, rivers and other waterways.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Clean Seas for Resilient Communities”.
- ❖ World Patient Safety Day is observed annually on 17 September, focusing in 2026 on safe care for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Safe care for life!”.
- ❖ World Water Monitoring Day is observed annually on 18 September to raise awareness about monitoring and protecting water quality.
- ❖ Warren Buffett stepped down as chairman of Berkshire Hathaway and became chairman emeritus, while his son Howard Buffett became the non-executive chairman.
- ❖ Bangladesh has sought International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) support to speed up electricity supply from the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Pabna, Bangladesh, to the national grid.
 - The meeting discussed peaceful use of nuclear technology, nuclear safety and security, and international cooperation.
- ❖ Luke Lindberg, a senior United States agricultural official, was appointed the next Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP).
- ❖ The International Conference on “The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics” was held in New Delhi by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), focusing on climate change, environmental protection, development and environmental justice.
- ❖ The rare ghost flower orchid *Gastrodia keyiensis*, locally called “Oram Opuh” in the Nyishi dialect, was recorded in Keyi Panyor district, Arunachal Pradesh, and is classified as Data Deficient.
- ❖ India ranked No. 1 among 41 global markets in the Global Business Climate Survey 2026 by Business Sweden and Swedish Chambers of Commerce.
- ❖ International Day of Peace is observed annually on 21 September to promote peace, non-violence and cooperation.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day.”
- ❖ International Snakebite Awareness Day is observed annually on 19 September to raise awareness about snakebite envenoming and its health impacts.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Disabilities from snakebite envenoming: The Hidden Crisis.”

- ❖ The keel of the Indian Navy's first Next Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV) was laid at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi.
- ❖ Premier Energies commissioned India's largest 7 GW N-type TOPCon (Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact) solar cell facility at Naidupeta, Andhra Pradesh, raising its total solar cell manufacturing capacity to 10.6 GW, the highest in India.
- ❖ Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, is set to host Asia's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) with an estimated investment of ₹5,500 crore.
- ❖ The foundation stone for ISRO's Advanced Radar Research Centre under Project NETRA (Network for Space Object Tracking and Analysis) was laid at Chandrapur near Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ Delhi's 160-year-old Chandni Chowk Town Hall complex will be redeveloped as a Global Heritage Centre under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 20 September 2026.
- ❖ India's first approved dengue vaccine, Qdenga, received Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) approval in July 2026 for people aged 4–60 years and is expected to be available in the private market in the first half of 2027.
- ❖ The DRDO is developing a 30 kilowatt (kW) directed-energy weapon (DEW) under the Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDD&IS) Mk-II(A) to counter drones and surveillance sensors up to 5 km, demonstrated at the National Open Air Range (NOAR), Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Foundation stone laid for Adani Power's ₹48,000-crore, 3,200 MW Ultra-Supercritical Thermal Power Plant at Chapar, Dhubri, Assam—the largest power plant in Northeast India.
- ❖ Nagaland-set film Angh, directed by Theja Rio, won the Platform Prize at the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).
- ❖ Savita Punia became India's most-capped women's hockey player after making her 321st international appearance at the Asian Games 2026 in Japan.
- ❖ Suchika Tariyal won bronze in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) at the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, becoming India's first Asian Games medallist in MMA.
- ❖ The 18th edition of Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT, an annual India–Mongolia bilateral military exercise, began in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The first meeting of the Sowa-Rigpa Working Group was held in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, to develop Sowa-Rigpa Pharmacopoeias and Formularies and support quality standards, regulatory requirements, and quality assurance of Sowa-Rigpa medicines.
- ❖ A new flowering plant species, Begonia neelamorum, has been found in Keyi Panyor district, Arunachal Pradesh.

- The species is named after the Neelam clan of the Nyishi community and is locally called “kobiirhopu baabrai.”
- ❖ World Maritime Day is observed on 24 September annually to highlight the importance of international shipping and maritime safety, security and environmental protection.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence.”
- ❖ India’s first indigenous long-range One-Way Attack (OWA) drone, KAL, was successfully flight-tested at Pokhran, Rajasthan, in September 2026.
 - An OWA drone is a one-way unmanned aircraft designed to reach a designated target and strike it without returning to its launch point.
- ❖ India has sent its largest-ever contingent of 70 skilled competitors to the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai, China.
 - India’s global skills ranking improved from 29th in 2015 to 13th in 2024; India also secured 8th rank at WorldSkills Asia 2025.
- ❖ India won its first-ever mixed team medal in skeet shooting at the Asian Games 2026 in Nagoya, Japan.
 - Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Parinaaz Dhaliwal won the bronze medal in the mixed team skeet event.
- ❖ The 9th India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026 was inaugurated at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, focusing on water security, climate-resilient water management, policy dialogue, technology exchange and global cooperation.
 - IIWW 2026 is organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti from 22–26 September 2026 with the theme “Climate Resilient Water Management.”
- ❖ World Rose Day is observed on 22 September 2026 to support cancer patients with hope, care and encouragement.
 - World Rose Day is associated with the story of Melinda Rose, a young Canadian cancer patient whose life inspired the observance.
- ❖ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) discovered natural gas in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin off Odisha under the Samudra Manthan initiative, marking its first exploration drill in the basin.
- ❖ India won its first-ever Asian Games medal in soft tennis after Jay Meena reached the men’s singles semi-finals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026, held in Japan.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced a ₹50 lakh cash reward each for athletes Vithya Ramraj and Vishal T.K. after they won silver at the 2026 Asian Games held in Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal in women’s 49 kg weightlifting at the Asian Games 2026 in Nagoya, Japan.

- ❖ Microsoft opened its India South Central data centre region in Telangana, its fourth cloud region in India.
- ❖ National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar is set to become the first NIT in India with a dedicated campus-based observatory.
- ❖ India's Baranica Elangovan won a bronze medal in the women's pole vault at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ Tesla opened its sixth Experience Centre in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on September 25, 2026, joining its existing centres in Mumbai, Gurugram, Delhi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi researchers developed India's first working indigenous micro-GPU (Graphics Processing Unit), which is used to process images and graphics.
- ❖ DRDO signed its first high-value deep-tech project agreement under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme with Rajasthan-based start-up Zero mK India Private Limited.
- ❖ The second edition of Tarang Shakti, a multinational air exercise of the Indian Air Force (IAF), is being held in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, with eight countries—Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Greece, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States (USA)—participating with air assets.
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is establishing an Advanced Radar Research Facility at Chandrapur, Assam, under Project NETRA to strengthen India's Space Situational Awareness (SSA).
- ❖ Mizoram farmer ZT Lalrithangi, also known as Pi Mari-i, has been selected for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) 100 Women Heroes in Agri food Systems and Rural Development Award.
- ❖ The Indian Navy's INS Trishul arrived at Toulon, France, to participate in the 24th edition of Exercise VARUNA, an annual bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the French Navy.
- ❖ India and the Netherlands signed two Tripartite Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) during the 9th India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026 in New Delhi to advance the Kalpasar Project in Gujarat.
 - The Kalpasar Project aims to create a freshwater reservoir using runoff from the Sabarmati, Mahi and Dhadhar rivers, along with water from the Narmada River.
- ❖ World Car Free Day is observed annually on 22 September to promote travel without private cars and encourage cleaner and safer transport.
- ❖ India hosted the QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission 2026, with Indian Coast Guard Ship Shaunak sailing from Chennai to Perth, Australia.
 - QUAD comprises India, Australia, Japan and the United States.

- ❖ The U.S. Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration's expanded Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system to be used for checking the citizenship status of registered voters.
 - The modified SAVE system uses Social Security numbers and federal records and allows states to conduct bulk voter-status checks.
- ❖ The United States and China agreed in Washington, D.C., to establish an Artificial Intelligence (AI) incident communication channel and a U.S.-China Super Intelligence Dialogue.
 - The AI incident channel will provide direct communication between the two countries during AI-related safety or security incidents.
- ❖ International Translation Day is observed annually on 30 September to recognise the role of language professionals in connecting nations, promoting dialogue and strengthening international cooperation.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Linguistic Diversity and Language Rights".
- ❖ World Tourism Day is observed annually on 27 September to promote the importance of tourism in connecting cultures, supporting development and highlighting its economic and social benefits.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism."

TAMIL NADU

TN Assembly - Mahamaham 2028

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Vinoth raised a question about preparations for the Mahamaham festival 2028 during Question Hour in the Assembly.
- ❖ Question Hour is the period in which Ministers answer questions raised by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) on matters related to government administration.
- ❖ Normally, Ministers cannot raise questions during the Question Hour under the Tamil Nadu Assembly procedure; Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar made an exception in this case.
- ❖ The Heritage Committee had inspected temples for kumbabishekam, and the government planned to speed up related works.
- ❖ Mahamaham is a major festival held at Kumbakonam and is scheduled to take place in 2028.

Tamil Nadu Agriculture Measures 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Vinoth announced several agricultural infrastructure and farmer-support measures in the Assembly.
- ❖ 9 seed storage warehouses will be established in 7 districts at a cost of ₹11.64 crore to preserve seed quality, germination capacity and vigour.
- ❖ 4 new Sub-Agricultural Extension Centres with seed storage facilities will be built at a cost of ₹2.85 crore to provide quality agricultural inputs closer to villages.
- ❖ 28,500 beekeeping boxes and 2,850 honey extraction units will be provided to farmers at a cost of ₹6.84 crore.
- ❖ 5 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will receive subsidies for refrigerated cargo vehicles, while 100 FPOs will get support to purchase electronic moisture meters.

Tamil Nadu's New Industrial Projects

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced new industrial projects in the State.
- ❖ A Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Park will be established at Maduramangalam, Kancheepuram, through SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu) at a cost of ₹175 crore.
- ❖ A Coimbatore FinTech Hub will be established under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model at ₹400 crore through TIDCO (Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation).
- ❖ A Multi-Modal Logistics Hub will be established in the Tiruchi region to support industries and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- ❖ The government also announced a new supercritical thermal power station in Thoothukudi, adding to the State's industrial and power infrastructure.

Tiruchy Dry Port Project

- ❖ The Central and Tamil Nadu governments have given in-principle approval to establish a Multi Modal Logistics Hub (MMLH/Dry Port) in Tiruchy.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) will soon begin a detailed study to identify a suitable location and prepare the project proposal.
- ❖ The dry port is expected to support industries and exporters in Tiruchy, Karur, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Pudukkottai and Thanjavur.
- ❖ It will provide container handling, warehousing, cold-chain, truck terminal, cargo consolidation, distribution and Customs clearance facilities.
- ❖ The facility could reduce transportation and cargo-handling costs and improve connectivity with major ports in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

- ❖ Proposed port connectivity includes Chennai, Kamarajar, Kattupalli and VOC Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, and Cochin and Vizhinjam in Kerala.

Chennai Rain Futures Contract

- ❖ The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched RAINCHNNAI, a weather futures contract linked to Chennai's Northeast monsoon rainfall.
- ❖ The contract is cash-settled and uses official India Meteorological Department (IMD) rainfall data from Meenambakkam and Nungambakkam stations.
- ❖ Chennai receives nearly 70% of its annual rainfall from the Northeast monsoon, mainly during October–December.
- ❖ RAINCHNNAI uses the Cumulative Deviation Rainfall (CDR) model to measure rainfall deviation from the Long Period Average (LPA).
- ❖ The contract initially has expiries in September, October, November and December.
- ❖ It is designed to help sectors such as agriculture, logistics, retail and utilities manage financial risks caused by rainfall variations.

Wetland Development Bill in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu introduced a Bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, regarding wetland development in non-planning areas.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to remove the requirement for prior concurrence of the District Collector before developing wetlands in non-planning areas.
- ❖ It proposes to empower the Director of Town and Country Planning to grant prior permission to local authorities for such development.
- ❖ The Bill also proposes full-time Chairman and full-time Member-Secretary posts in Urban Development Authorities to improve continuity and accountability.
- ❖ The District Collector will continue as a member of the Urban Development Authority for coordination with the district administration.

Tamil Nadu Start Smart Seed Fund

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has enhanced seed funding for early-stage startups from ₹15 lakh to ₹25 lakh under the Tamil Nadu Start Smart Seed Fund.
- ❖ The fund aims to support startups in their early stages and help them overcome initial funding difficulties.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented through StartupTN, the State's startup-support agency.

- ❖ The enhanced assistance will provide greater financial support for the growth and development of Tamil Nadu-based startups.

Handloom and Textile Measures in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced a 10% increase in basic wages and dearness allowance (DA) for handloom weavers who are members of cooperative societies.
- ❖ The government contribution under the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Handloom Weavers' Savings and Security Scheme will increase from 8% to 16%.
- ❖ A Tamil Nadu Knitwear Board will be established with representatives from the government and various stakeholders.
- ❖ A Silk Export Trade Facilitation Centre will be set up at the Perarignar Anna Handloom Silk Park, Kancheepuram, to support high-quality silk production and exports.
- ❖ 100% subsidy will be provided for installing solar panels in 1,000 handloom units, while a Natural Dye House will be established at a cost of ₹1 crore.
- ❖ A Design Studio for Thirubuvanam silk will be established in Thanjavur district for ₹20 lakh, and a Centre of Excellence for Home Textiles will be planned in Karur.

Vetri Kaivinai Kalaignargal Thittam

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is set to implement the Vetri Kaivinai Kalaignargal Thittam (VKKT) to support artisans engaged in 25 traditional craft trades.
- ❖ The scheme aims to preserve traditional arts and add value to Tamil Nadu's traditional handicraft products.
- ❖ Artisans will receive loan assistance of up to ₹10 lakh, with a 50% subsidy.
- ❖ The scheme will provide financial support to artisans and create new opportunities for the growth of their traditional craft businesses.
- ❖ It is intended to support the development of traditional crafts and the livelihoods of artisans.

Vettri Karangal Scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government launched 'Vettri Karangal' to provide international skill training to construction workers for overseas employment.
- ❖ Under the scheme, 1,000 registered construction workers will receive international-level skill training at a cost of ₹15 crore.
- ❖ Another 50,000 registered workers will receive seven-day training in masonry, carpentry, electrical work, plumbing and painting, with ₹800 per day as wage-loss compensation.

- ❖ The government will also double accident insurance cover for registered gig workers to ₹10 lakh and bear interest on bank loans for 1,000 gig workers buying e-bikes.
- ❖ 50 worker facilitation centres and temporary shelters for migrant construction workers will be established in Chennai and Coimbatore metropolitan areas.

Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Commission Bill

- ❖ A Bill was introduced in the Tamil Nadu Assembly to amend the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, 2018 and establish the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Commission (TNIPC).
- ❖ The Bill proposes Section 16-A, with the Chief Secretary as Chairperson and the Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce as Member-Convenor; up to 20 members can also be appointed.
- ❖ The Commission will facilitate and monitor large and strategic investments, including projects involving ₹200 crore or more or expected to create 5,000 or more jobs.
- ❖ It proposes reducing the clearance time under 22 State Acts and subordinate laws to 21 days, excluding public and local holidays, to speed up investments.
- ❖ The Commission can issue binding directions to departments and nodal agencies for timely clearances, incentives and approvals, and will monitor projects up to the start of operations.
- ❖ It will also review unused industrial land allotted by State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT), Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO), Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) and Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO), and monitor projects by TIDCO, TIDEL and TICEL.

Tamil Nadu Fishing Regulation

- ❖ The Supreme Court directed Tamil Nadu to frame rules for fishing vessels using purse seine nets to transit from territorial waters to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu must create a specified navigation channel under the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Rules, 2020 for vessels travelling to the EEZ.
- ❖ The EEZ Rules, 2025 provide for access passes to fishing vessels permitted to operate in the EEZ, while the 2020 State Rules regulate fishing within Tamil Nadu's territorial waters.

- ❖ The Court held that the Union and Tamil Nadu have co-equal and autonomous powers to regulate fishing in their respective areas and called for co-operative federalism.
- ❖ The Court directed Tamil Nadu to ensure timely clearance of applications for EEZ access passes.

Olympic City - Chennai

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced a world-class Olympic City in Chennai under Rule 110 in the State Assembly.
- ❖ The Olympic City will be developed by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) to help athletes win more medals in the Olympics and other international competitions.
- ❖ The facility is planned at Semmencheri along the Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) corridor, the same site earlier selected for the Global Sports City project.
- ❖ SDAT will also establish a Talent Research Wing (TRW) and Olympic Centres of Excellence at 10 locations across Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister also announced a world-class Motor Sports City in the State to promote sports tourism, encourage youth participation in motorsports, provide training, and develop Tamil Nadu as an international motorsports hub.
- ❖ The city will have an international-standard motorsports racing circuit, modern infrastructure and training facilities, with provisions to host Formula 1 (F1), Formula 2 (F2), Formula 3 (F3) and Formula 4 (F4) competitions.

Madras High Court - Tamil language

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution, urging the Centre to recognise Tamil as the principal language of the Madras High Court.
- ❖ Article 348(2) of the Constitution allows a State's official language to be used in High Court proceedings with the previous consent of the President of India.
- ❖ The resolution sought procedures for petitions, documents and arguments in Tamil, and for making judgments, decrees and judicial orders available in Tamil.
- ❖ It also urged legal Tamil and translation training for judges, advocates and court personnel, along with necessary legal measures.
- ❖ The Assembly recalled that it had passed a similar unanimous resolution on December 6, 2006; the Supreme Court's Full Court had not agreed to the proposal in 2012.
- ❖ Tamil was recognised as a Classical Language by the Union government on October 12, 2004, and the resolution noted advances in legal Tamil, e-Courts, translation technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Fire and Rescue Services Act Amendment

- ❖ A Bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Act, 2025 was introduced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on September 3, 2026.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to remove references to the National Building Code of India, 2016, after the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) withdrew it through a Gazette notification on April 30, 2026.
- ❖ The amendment follows the recommendations of the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP), 2026, for modernising fire and building regulations.
- ❖ It proposes replacing references to the National Building Code with liberalised and modern standards for fire and building norms.
- ❖ The proposed amendment is intended to align Tamil Nadu's fire and building laws with the 2026 Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) recommendations on Construction Permit and Building Regulations.

Megalithic Burial Site - Kadamakuttai

- ❖ A Megalithic burial complex with several dolmens and cist burials was discovered at Kadamakuttai village in Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The site is significant because its enclosing structural wall is still visible, and the burial monuments are arranged in a planned layout.
- ❖ Several Neolithic artefacts, including polished stone celts, soapstone objects, grinding stones and other stone tools, were found around the site.
- ❖ A large natural boulder with three Neolithic polishing grooves was found, indicating stone-tool finishing and processing activities.
- ❖ The site also has clay figurines, rubbing stones and fragments of urn burials, along with an isolated dolmen outside the main enclosure.
- ❖ Krishnagiri district has more than 200 documented Megalithic burial sites, while Kadamakuttai shows a cultural sequence from the Neolithic period to the present.

New integrated Secretariat complex in Chennai

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay announced a plan to construct a new integrated Secretariat complex in Chennai, spread over 20 lakh sq. ft., at an estimated cost of ₹1,200 crore.
- ❖ At present, the State's Legislative Assembly and Secretariat are functioning on the historic Fort St. George campus near Marina Beach.
- ❖ The complex will comprise the Legislative Assembly and offices of the Chief Minister, Ministers, and various departments, with modern facilities, to ensure

efficient governance and create world-class public administration infrastructure, intended to meet the requirements of the next 100 years.

- ❖ He was making a suo motu statement in the Assembly under rule 110.
- ❖ Recalling the history of Fort St. George, Mr. Vijay said its construction was begun in 1640 by the English East India Company on land acquired for its commercial operations and was completed in 1644.
- ❖ After being elevated to the status of a Presidency in 1652, it served as the official headquarters of British rule.
- ❖ After Independence, it continued to function as the Secretariat of the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ For nearly 400 years, it has served as the administrative centre of the State and as a symbol of its governance heritage.
- ❖ Of the 107-acre Fort St. George campus, only about four acres are being used by the Secretariat and are under the control of the Tamil Nadu government.
- ❖ As the remaining area is under the control of the Union Ministry of Defence and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), it has not been possible to expand or undertake development of the campus.
- ❖ At present, the Secretariat functions from two buildings. Fort St. George, known as the main Secretariat building, was originally constructed as the Governor's residence.
- ❖ It now houses the Legislative Assembly, the offices of the Chief Minister, Ministers and the Chief Secretary, the Finance Department and other important departments.
- ❖ The complex has a built-up area of 2.07 lakh sq. ft.
- ❖ To meet the expanding administrative requirements of the State government, Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai was constructed in 1978, with a ground floor and 10 floors, covering an area of 3.75 lakh sq. ft.
- ❖ Secretaries and officials of various departments, as well as more than 6,000 employees of over 30 government departments, work in these buildings.
- ❖ Further, as the remaining areas within Fort St. George are Defence and ASI land, additional buildings cannot be constructed and development works cannot be undertaken.

Tamil Nadu Birth Rate Decline

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded 8.02 lakh births in 2025, about 45,000 fewer than the 8.47 lakh births recorded in 2024, marking a 5.3% decline.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total fertility rate (TFR) fell below the replacement level of 2.1 nearly 20 years ago, and population growth is now expected to decline after the effect of population momentum.
- ❖ The declining birth rate is expected to lead to a smaller working-age population and a larger elderly population in the future.
- ❖ The State may need to focus more on quality education, childcare, social security, elderly care, nutrition and employment opportunities rather than simply trying to increase births.

Restoration of Veera Vasantharayar Mandapam

- ❖ The Veera Vasantharayar Mandapam at the Meenakshi Amman Temple, Madurai, was formally inaugurated on August 30, 2026, after being reconstructed.
- ❖ The mandapam was built in 1611 CE by Muthu Veerappa Nayak, brother of King Thirumalai Nayak, and is located near the temple's eastern tower (Kizhakku Gopuram).
- ❖ Of the 136 pillars, 79 monoliths were completely carved anew by around 150 sculptors led by sthapati V.P. Velmurugan.
- ❖ Each new pillar had an 18.6-foot shaft and reached about 29 feet after adding the capital elements, including lion motifs.
- ❖ A Nandi facing the Sundareswarar shrine is located inside a stone cistern in the mandapam; the Nandi dates back to the Early Pandya period.

Sustainable debt-GSDP ratio for Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The sustainable level of the debt-gross state domestic product (GSDP) ratio for the State is 23%.
- ❖ There is a demand for the reduction of the level from the existing 27%.
- ❖ The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee headed by former civil servant N.K. Singh, in its report prepared in 2017, prescribed 20% as the prudent limit for the States in general.
- ❖ An allowance of an additional three percentage points can be provided for Tamil Nadu, considering the progress of macroeconomic factors in the last five-odd years.
- ❖ Emphasising that borrowing, per se, is not an undesirable activity, it is one of the major sources of financing development projects.
- ❖ When borrowed funds are invested in productive assets and infrastructure that generate economic growth and future income, the government will be able to service its debt with increased income.

- ❖ However, when the debt-GSDP ratio exceeds the prudent level, it becomes unsustainable, and the burden of debt servicing becomes excessive for the future,
- ❖ It is crowding out productive expenditure and pushing the government into a debt trap.
- ❖ The debt trap is a situation that is “bad for growth, development and stability.
- ❖ The debt issue is widespread in the country and not confined only to Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Only three States – Gujarat, Odisha, and Maharashtra – have debt-GSDP ratios below the 20% mark.
- ❖ While all others have crossed the threshold, nine States – Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal – have higher ratios than that of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Like in most other States, the debt-GSDP ratio in Tamil Nadu shot up in the COVID-19 pandemic year (2020-21), from which it has not been able to stage a comeback.
- ❖ In 2019-20, it was 22.78%.
- ❖ The next year, it rose to 28.67%.
- ❖ It has been hovering in the range of 28% to 26% since then.
- ❖ Though appreciative of Tamil Nadu for being able to keep its fiscal deficit at 3% of the GSDP, the revenue deficit (the excess of revenue expenditure over revenue receipts) is about 1.4% of the GSDP.
- ❖ It means that nearly 50% of the borrowed money is spent on consumption and not on investment.
- ❖ To reach the sustainable level of a debt-GSDP ratio of 23% around 2050-51, the State should achieve 15% nominal economic growth annually and keep the fiscal deficit at 3%.
- ❖ If it wants to attain the level faster, it should, at least, reduce the fiscal deficit.
- ❖ For example, assuming the State is able to keep the fiscal deficit at 2.5% with 14% nominal economic growth, it can reach 23% by 2033-34.
- ❖ By strongly advocating expenditure rationalisation, the government should not hesitate to drop outdated and unproductive welfare schemes.

Tamil Nadu on Planning Commission

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is considering abolishing the State Planning Commission (SPC), which was formed about 55 years ago.
- ❖ The government has not filled the posts of Vice-Chairperson and full-time members after the previous team resigned.

- ❖ The government is considering subject-specific expert committees instead of a permanent Planning Commission for policy advice.
- ❖ The SPC was created in the early 1970s to assess State resources and prepare plans for their effective and balanced use.
- ❖ In 2017, the government proposed replacing the SPC with the State Development Policy Council (SDPC), which was formed in 2020 and renamed SPC in 2021.
- ❖ The Commission's "only contribution" is to provide policy inputs.
- ❖ In addition to the SPC, the services of the Department of Economics and Statistics (DoES) and the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR) are utilised by the government for policy advice.
- ❖ After M. Karunanidhi of the DMK came back to power in January 1989, the practice of naming the incumbent Chief Minister as the ex-officio head was revived.

Chola-Era Inscription

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) documented a Chola-era inscription at the Vedapureeswarar Temple in Therazhundur, Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The inscription dates to 1003 CE, the 18th regnal year of Rajaraja Chola I, and is written in Tamil on a stone pillar in the ardhmandapa.
- ❖ It records a donation of 21 kalanju of gold by the Mahasabha of Tiruvazhundur, a brahmadeya (tax-free land granted to Brahmins), for food offerings (neyyamudu) to Tirukadavudaiya Nayanar.
- ❖ The donated gold was intended to generate interest for purchasing paddy and meeting daily food-offering expenses.
- ❖ ASI recorded 15 Chola inscriptions at the temple, while more than 85 new stone inscriptions were recorded across Tamil Nadu during its August 2026 field survey.
- ❖ ASI plans to upload 28,000 Tamil Nadu inscriptions, including estampages (stone impressions) and transcripts, on the Bharat SHRI portal for free access by students, researchers and the public.

Poompuhar Underwater Exploration

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) launched the third phase of underwater archaeological exploration off the coast of Poompuhar (Kaveripoompattinam) in Mayiladuthurai district.
- ❖ Poompuhar, also known as Kaveripoompattinam, was an ancient port city of the Chola period.

- ❖ The exploration is aimed at tracing underwater structures and evidence of ancient maritime activity off the Poompuhar coast.
- ❖ The site is important for studying the maritime trade links of ancient Tamil Nadu with Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia and the West.
- ❖ The third phase follows the underwater survey conducted in September 2025.

Tamil Nadu Salt Reduction Mission

- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced a State-wide mission to reduce salt intake among the public.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends less than 5 grams of salt daily, while Tamil Nadu's average intake is 7–8 grams.
- ❖ About 88% of salt intake in the South Indian diet comes from salt added during home cooking.
- ❖ A State-wide urine-sample survey will measure salt consumption, while government kitchens will adopt standards to gradually reduce salt use.
- ❖ The government will study low-sodium salt substitutes and provide salt-reduction counselling through Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam and Health and Wellness Centres.

Census Caste Enumeration in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to remove the 'Open-Column Method' for enumerating Backward Classes (BCs), Most Backward Classes (MBCs) and Denotified Communities (DNCs).
- ❖ The resolution urged the Centre to pre-load the notified BC, MBC and DNC lists into the Census 2027 enumeration portal for caste data collection.
- ❖ It sought to enumerate BCs, MBCs and DNCs in the same manner as Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), instead of allowing respondents to self-declare their caste.
- ❖ The resolution said accurate caste-wise data was needed as Other Backward Classes (OBCs) caste details had been omitted from post-Independence censuses.

Justice Gokuldas Commission Report

- ❖ The Justice B. Gokuldas Commission report on the 2024 Kallakurichi hooch tragedy was tabled in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on September 8, 2026.
- ❖ The Commission held the Police, Prohibition and Excise Department, and Revenue officials responsible for lapses that allowed illicit arrack containing methanol to circulate.

- ❖ It recommended departmental action against responsible officials and creating a separate Prohibition Enforcement Wing for the Kalvarayan Hills, identified as a major source of illicit arrack.
- ❖ The report recommended education, food and shelter for children orphaned by the tragedy and government jobs after completion of their education.
- ❖ It also suggested setting up industries in Kallakurichi to provide employment and upgrading the Kariyalur police station.

11 Bills passed by T.N. Assembly

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed 11 Bills on September 8, 2026, including amendments to the Town and Country Planning and Private Universities laws.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2026 reduces the minimum land requirement from 100 acres to 12 acres in Greater Chennai Corporation, 18 acres in other municipal corporations/councils and 25 acres elsewhere.
- ❖ It also reduces the required permanent endowment fund from ₹50 crore to ₹25 crore.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2026 provides for a full-time chairman for urban development authorities instead of the concerned District Collector.
- ❖ The Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Second Amendment Bill, 2026 increases traders' mandi licence validity from 3 to 5 years and makes licence applications online.
- ❖ The Assembly also passed amendments related to Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) recruitment for urban local bodies, fire and rescue services, panchayats, business facilitation, Value Added Tax (VAT) and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

CAG Report on Tamil Nadu 2026

- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report on Tamil Nadu's State finances for 2024–25 was tabled in the State Assembly.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew by 15.98%, compared with 13.34% in 2023–24.
- ❖ The State's total debt reached ₹8.53 lakh crore, with a debt-to-GSDP ratio of 27.38%.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu contributed 9.43% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and continued to have higher per capita income than the national average.

- ❖ Revenue deficit increased from ₹45,121 crore in 2023–24 to ₹45,840 crore in 2024–25.
- ❖ The Committed expenditure on salaries, pensions and interest payments was ₹1,76,676 crore, about 53.75% of revenue expenditure.
- ❖ Interest payments used nearly 21% of revenue receipts, while subsidies formed 16% of revenue expenditure.
- ❖ State failed to meet the Fifteenth Finance Commission (15th FC) projection of achieving a revenue surplus, despite the increase in GSDP.
- ❖ The State's committed expenditure - expenses on salaries and wages, pensions, and interest payments added up to ₹1,76,676 crore – making up almost 53.75 per cent of the Revenue Expenditure and 62.47 per cent of total Revenue Receipts respectively.
- ❖ the report said that the subsidies provided by the State made up for 16 per cent of total revenue expenditure, an increase by ₹14,854 crore (39.35 per cent) over the previous year.
- ❖ This surge was mainly attributable to the schemes viz., Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme and subsidy extended to TNEB on behalf of farmers using farm pump sets during the year.
- ❖ The total debt ballooned to ₹8.53 lakh crore with debt-to-GSDP ratio being 27.38 per cent, falling within the target range of 28.90 per cent fixed by 15th Finance Commission and Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act.
- ❖ The official report by Comptroller and Auditor General of India's report titled "State Finances for the year 2024-25" was tabled in the State Assembly.

Archaeological Findings in Thanjavur

- ❖ A 13th-century Pandya copper coin and an ancient Pallava-era Sivalingam have been found near Budalur, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The 3.30 g copper coin belongs to Jatavarman Sundara Pandiyan I (1250–1284 CE) and was identified as an issue from his first regnal year, 1251 CE.
- ❖ The coin shows a human figure on the obverse and a vertically placed fish between two lamps on the reverse, with the Tamil legend "Ellanthalaiyanan".
- ❖ A large Sivalingam, about 3 feet in height, length and width, was also found in a nearby grove and is believed to belong to the Pallava period.
- ❖ The finds were reported from the Sengamedu mound between Ilangadu and Niyamam villages, an area historically ruled by Cholas, Pallavas, Mutharaiyars, Pandyas, Nayaks and Marathas.

Staff for urban local bodies

- ❖ Tamil Nadu govt has proposed to empower the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) to recruit staff for 25 corporations, 145 municipalities and 479 town panchayats across TN.
- ❖ It will bring appointments to urban local bodies under a common selection mechanism.
- ❖ A bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (Additional Functions) Act, 2022, was passed in the Assembly.
- ❖ Unlike recruitment to many state govt services through TNPSC, appointments to urban local bodies have followed different mechanisms depending on the post and service, with recruitment powers distributed among the Directorate of Municipal Administration, municipal commissioners and local selection/appointment committees.
- ❖ The proposed amendment seeks to bring these recruitments under a common TNPSC-led mechanism, according to senior bureaucrats.
- ❖ Once the bill receives the Governor's assent, the government can entrust recruitment for various posts in Chennai Corporation and other urban local bodies to TNPSC.
- ❖ The Govt has therefore decided to entrust TNPSC with recruitment of candidates for urban local bodies.
- ❖ The bill seeks to expand the scope of the 2022 Act, which assigned additional functions to TNPSC, for this purpose.

New HRCE Department

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government has decided to create a separate Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department at the Secretariat.
- ❖ The new department will have administrative control over the HR&CE Commissionerate, the field-level arm located at Nungambakkam, Chennai.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 provides the legal framework for administration of Hindu religious institutions and charitable endowments.
- ❖ The Commissioner of HR&CE is the head of the department and handles administrative affairs and statutory functions under the Act.
- ❖ The move separates HR&CE administration from the Commercial Taxes and Registration Departments and requires amendments to the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, 1978.

Tamil Nadu New Assembly–Secretariat Complex

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government gave in-principle approval to construct a new Assembly–Secretariat complex at Pattinapakkam (Foreshore Estate), Chennai.
- ❖ The complex will be built on 25.55 acres of land under the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Greater Chennai Corporation and Revenue Department.
- ❖ The proposed complex will cover about 20 lakh sq. ft. and is estimated to cost ₹1,200 crore.
- ❖ The Public Works Department (PWD) has been directed to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) within three months.
- ❖ At present, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Secretariat function from the historic Fort St. George campus.

State Party Status to TVK

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has recognised Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) as a State Party in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry after it met the prescribed criteria.
- ❖ TVK was earlier a registered but unrecognised political party; recognition allows its 'Whistle' election symbol to be reserved.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, TVK won 108 of 233 contested seats with 34.92% vote share in the 2026 Assembly election.
- ❖ In Puducherry, TVK won 2 of 28 contested seats with 16.85% vote share.

Conditions for Recognition as a State Party

- ❖ A political party is recognised as a State Party if it satisfies any one of the following conditions in a State/Union Territory.
- ❖ Secures 6% of valid votes in a State Assembly election and wins at least 2 Assembly seats.
- ❖ Secures 6% of valid votes in a Lok Sabha election from the State and wins at least 1 Lok Sabha seat.
- ❖ Wins at least 3% of the total Assembly seats or 3 seats, whichever is more.
- ❖ Wins at least 1 Lok Sabha seat for every 25 seats allotted to the State in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Secures at least 8% of the total valid votes in a State Assembly or Lok Sabha election.

Conditions for Recognition as a National Party

- ❖ A political party is recognised as a National Party if it satisfies any one of these.

- ❖ Secures 6% of valid votes in 4 or more States in Lok Sabha/Assembly elections and wins at least 4 Lok Sabha seats.
- ❖ Wins at least 2% of total Lok Sabha seats, with its MPs elected from at least 3 States.
- ❖ Is recognised as a State Party in at least 4 States.

Tamil Nadu's decade of debt

- ❖ An audit of the State Finances for a single year – 2024-25 – by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, especially on fiscal sustainability, has given a few insights.
- ❖ According to the CAG report, the total outstanding public debt of the State increased significantly, by 309%, during the decade from 2015-16 to 2024-25, rising from ₹1,94,096 crore to ₹7,94,107 crore.
- ❖ During 2024-25 alone, the outstanding public debt increased by 15.16%, with internal debt constituting the major portion of the increase.
- ❖ Total liabilities of the State government typically constitute the Internal Debt of the State (market loans, ways and means advances from the RBI, special securities issued to the National Small Savings Fund and loans from financial institutions, etc.), loans and advances from the Central government, and Public Account Liabilities.
- ❖ In fact, the internal debt increased by nearly 3.69 times over the last 10 years, while the corresponding repayment increased by about 6.70 times during the same period.
- ❖ The increase in the repayment burden was attributable to moratoriums on loans availed of in previous years, coupled with the servicing of accumulated past debt.
- ❖ Further, it was observed that the interest paid during the year 2024-25 amounted to ₹48,852 crore, which exceeded the repayment of the principal amounting to ₹38,470 crore.
- ❖ This reflects the rising level of committed expenditure arising from the State's debt obligations.
- ❖ Borrowed funds should ideally be used to fund capital creation and developmental activities.
- ❖ Using borrowed funds for meeting current consumption and repayment of interest on outstanding loans is not a healthy trend.
- ❖ In the audited year, a substantive portion of borrowed funds (public debt) was utilised towards revenue expenditure (34%) and repayment of debt (28%), leaving less fiscal space for capital creation and developmental activities.

- ❖ That a large chunk of debt (around 43%) is scheduled for repayment within a relatively short to medium term (0-7 years) indicates increasing liquidity pressure on the State.
- ❖ This might create an overwhelming fiscal obligation in later years, which could compel the State to rely heavily on fresh borrowings during such years.
- ❖ The audit further observed that a substantial portion of the State's gross borrowings continued to be utilised for the repayment of existing debt.
- ❖ This indicates that a significant share of new borrowings was used for debt rollovers rather than for financing productive capital expenditure, resulting in lower net availability of borrowed funds.
- ❖ Such a pattern constrains the State's capacity to undertake new developmental projects and increases the risk of entering a debt-servicing cycle instead of supporting productive investment.
- ❖ The ratio of interest payments to revenue receipts, which measures the affordability of debt servicing, increased to 21.18% during 2024-25. The rising level of debt servicing costs will be a matter of concern.
- ❖ In the last five years, debt stabilisation was negative only in 2020-21.
- ❖ From 2021-22 onwards, it turned positive and remained so through 2024-25.
- ❖ The positive debt stabilisation reflects a decline in the debt-to-GSDP ratio and indicates that the State is presently in a stable position with respect to its debt repayment capacity.
- ❖ According to the CAG, deficits can be improved by enhancing revenues and rationalising expenditures, which includes strengthening tax compliance, widening the tax base, revising user charges, and monetising idle government assets.
- ❖ On the spending side, better targeting of subsidies, controlling salary and pension growth, and ensuring proper classification of expenditure are key factors.
- ❖ Prioritising productive capital investment and improving debt management through transparent and efficient borrowing can further ease fiscal pressure.

Sangam-period Water Management Structure

- ❖ A brick structure exposed in the Kollidam riverbed at Koogur near Lalgudi, Tiruchi district, has been identified by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) as a Sangam-period water regulation structure.
- ❖ The structure is located about 100 m from the northern bank of the Kollidam, near the ancient Kallanai.
- ❖ Its bricks measure about 39–43 cm × 20–22 cm × 6–7 cm, similar to bricks found at Arikamedu, Keeladi, Mangulam and Poompuhar.

- ❖ The structure has been linked to Kurumpu, an ancient water-management structure comparable to a check dam.
- ❖ It may have helped regulate the flow of Cauvery water into the Kollidam through the Ullar.

Tamil Nadu Police Manpower

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has sanctioned 29,108 new police posts after a gap of 17 years to address manpower shortages and reduce the workload of police personnel.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's police-public ratio declined from 198.07 (2013) to 171.98 (2024), while the national ratio increased to 194.40 in 2024.
- ❖ The additional strength is expected to take Tamil Nadu's police-public ratio above the national average.
- ❖ Earlier, 4,563 posts were created for the Singappen Special Force and Anti-Narcotics Task Force.
- ❖ ₹212 crore was allocated for police modernisation, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Digital and Information Technology infrastructure and continuous surveillance systems.
- ❖ ₹4,477.58 crore was allocated under the Police Demand for 2026–27.

Southern Railway Electrification

- ❖ Southern Railway's entire 5,068 route-km (rkm) broad-gauge network has achieved 100% electrification.
- ❖ The electrification milestone traces back to 11 May 1931, when Madras became the second metropolitan city in India after Bombay to introduce electric traction.
- ❖ In 1968, 25 kilovolt (kV) alternating current (AC) electrification was commissioned between Madras Beach and Tambaram.
- ❖ This marks the completion of electrification across Southern Railway's entire broad-gauge network.

BRICS Summit - Rameswaram Temple

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed BRICS leaders against the backdrop of Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, during the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.
- ❖ Ramanathaswamy Temple is one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites and is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- ❖ It is the only southern Jyotirlinga among the 12 Jyotirlinga shrines in India; the other 11 are located in northern and central parts of India.

- ❖ Rameswaram is an important pilgrimage centre for both Shaivites and Vaishnavites, and the Kasi-Rameswaram Yatra traditionally begins at Kasi and ends at Rameswaram.
- ❖ The temple's 126-foot-high, nine-tiered eastern Rajagopuram was completed between 1897 and 1904 by the family of a Devakottai zamindar.
- ❖ According to the Tamil Nadu government, the historic shrine was under the care of a monk until the 10th century A.D.; later, the Sethupathi rulers of Ramanathapuram contributed to its construction and expansion.

Birth of British Hill Stations

- ❖ Sir Thomas Munro's visit to Ootacamund (Ooty) on 29 September 1826 helped lead to the formation of the first hill station of the British Raj in the Nilgiri Hills.
- ❖ Munro was the Governor of the Madras Presidency from 1820 to 1827 and visited Ooty at the invitation of John Sullivan, Collector of Coimbatore.
- ❖ During the visit, Munro reached the summit of Doddabetta, the highest peak in the Nilgiri Hills, and recorded the landscape and Kurinji flowers of the region.
- ❖ He later recommended to the East India Company that the Nilgiris be developed as a hill station, partly as a place where sick British officials and soldiers could recover instead of travelling to Europe.
- ❖ The Madras Government accepted his recommendation on 6 July 1827, the same day Munro died of cholera in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Munro's visit also helped bring the postal system to the Nilgiris at an early stage.
- ❖ Munro introduced the Ryotwari system in the Madras Presidency, which dealt directly with cultivators instead of Zamindars and middlemen.
- ❖ He also helped shape the modern district administration and initiated a major statistical survey of indigenous education in the Madras Presidency in 1822.

New Mental Healthcare Regulations 2026

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has officially notified the Tamil Nadu State Mental Healthcare Regulations, 2026.
- ❖ The regulations set minimum standards for infrastructure, staff, professional qualifications and patient care in mental health establishments.
- ❖ Mental health establishments are classified into five categories, including psychiatric departments, de-addiction centres and psychosocial rehabilitation centres.
- ❖ Physical restraint is allowed only to prevent immediate harm and must be approved by a psychiatrist and properly documented.

- ❖ The rules provide for family visits, communication facilities and a grievance redress mechanism for patients.

Reforming Local Body Finances

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Seventh State Finance Commission (SSFC) Chairman K. Allaudin called for greater authority, financial autonomy and resources for local bodies at a seminar in Chennai.
- ❖ Local bodies depend heavily on financial transfers from the Union and State governments.
- ❖ Rural local bodies in many States raise only 1%–8% of their revenue from their own sources.
- ❖ Property tax collection in India is about 0.2% of GDP, compared with about 1.1% in OECD countries.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has 50% reservation for women in local bodies, but spouses of some elected women representatives sometimes try to exercise their roles informally.
- ❖ TN-VETRI (Tamil Nadu Village Empowerment, Transformation and Rejuvenation Initiative) aims to strengthen rural local bodies.
- ❖ The Rural Development Department has sought an increase in devolution funds from 10% to 12%.

Tamil Nadu Private Universities Amendment Bill, 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar sought clarifications from the State government on certain provisions of the Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Bill remains under his consideration.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019 required at least 100 acres of contiguous land and a ₹50 crore permanent endowment fund to establish a private university.
- ❖ The amendment proposes reducing the land requirement to 12 acres in Greater Chennai Corporation, 18 acres in other municipal corporations/municipal councils, and 25 acres in other areas, while reducing the endowment requirement to ₹25 crore.
- ❖ The 2026 Budget Session passed 13 Bills; the Governor has given assent to the other 12 Bills, while the Private Universities Bill has not yet received assent.

Tamil Nadu Fiscal Capacity

- ❖ A Kearney study, titled Tamil Nadu's Fiscal Crossroads, has recommended measures to improve the State's fiscal capacity.

- ❖ The study estimates that better revenue collection and spending efficiency could add over ₹1.2 lakh crore annually without new taxes or additional borrowing.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has a revenue deficit of ₹78,324 crore, outstanding debt above ₹10 lakh crore, and an own-tax-to-GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) ratio of 5.45%.
- ❖ The study recommends improving Goods and Services Tax (GST) compliance, property valuation, mining revenue collection, grants, procurement and capital-project execution.
- ❖ It also identifies scope to improve procurement competition and public-private partnership (PPP) projects for infrastructure.
- ❖ Union Home Minister inaugurated the 9th two-day National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference 2026 in New Delhi, covering counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing through the Multi Agency Centre (MAC), narcotics control and illegal migration.
- ❖ Discussions also covered cybercrime, proxy warfare, radicalisation, infiltration, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based security analysis, sub-aerial threats, blue economy security, information warfare and bio-security.

Meenakshi Temple - The making of Madurai's greatest landmark

- ❖ Consecrated after a gap of 17 years, the Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple, built and expanded by successive dynasties, is one of India's architectural marvels.
- ❖ It boasts 14 gopurams, including four towering raja gopurams at its eastern, western, southern and northern entrances; gold-plated vimanas above the sanctums of Sundareswarar and Meenakshi; the famed Golden Lotus Tank; and a train of magnificent mandapams.
- ❖ Built of granite, these halls are grand edifices supported by massive pillars and adorned with life-size sculptures, intricate carvings, friezes, murals and, most importantly, inscriptions.
- ❖ Equally striking is the Indra Vimanam above Sundareswarar's sanctum, held aloft by eight silver-coated elephant sculptures.
- ❖ The Cholas, the Pandyas, the Vijayanagara rulers and the Nayaks contributed to transforming the Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple into the spectacular complex.
- ❖ The Nayaks, who presided over the temple's final great phase of architectural expansion, left the most visible imprint.
- ❖ Viswanatha Nayak, the dynasty's founder, Tirumalai Nayak and Rani Mangammal renovated and extended the temple, building several mandapams and introducing the distinctive composite pillars featuring yalis and human figures.

- ❖ The inscriptions recording the Cholas' contributions, however, were lost during later Nayak-era renovations.
- ❖ There was intense hostility between the Cholas and the Pandyas for about 200 years.
- ❖ One of the most striking features of the temple are its mandapams — Ashta Shakti, Meenakshi Nayak, Mudali Pillai, Unjal, Veerappa Nayak, Veera Vasantha Raya, Kalyana, 16-pillared, 1000-pillared, Sangathar, 63-Nayanmars, Nagara and Pudhu mandapams.
- ❖ The Ashta Shakti Mandapam, located on the eastern side, serves as the main entrance to the temple.
- ❖ Apart from featuring the sculptures of dwarapalakis and eight forms of Shakti, it also houses sculptures of Tirumalai Nayak and his two wives, Rudrapathi Ammal and Dhoni Ammal, who built the mandapam.
- ❖ The mandapam was built when the Shakti cult was dominant in Tamizhagam.
- ❖ There is no temple, other than this one, which has a mandapam dedicated to Ashta Sakti.
- ❖ The pillars on the northern corridor have intricate stone carvings of Sangam-age poets, holding palm leaf manuscripts and a stylus.
- ❖ It also features sculptures of Viswanatha Nayak, and Perumal, who built the corridor.
- ❖ On the western side of the tank is the Unjal Mandapam, built in 1653 by Chettiappa Nayak.
- ❖ Its ceiling and walls are decorated with exquisite murals, created during the rule of Rani Mangammal.
- ❖ The paintings are based on three themes: The wedding of Meenakshi and Sundareswarar witnessed by Rani Mangammal, her minister Ramappaiyer and grandson Vijayaranga Chokkanathar; Rani Mangammal receiving the royal sceptre from the goddess; and Parvati's dik vijayam.
- ❖ The sanctum of Goddess Meenakshi was built in the 12th century CE during the reign of Kulasekhara Pandya.
- ❖ Until then, Meenakshi did not have a separate shrine.
- ❖ During the 7th century CE, when the famous Saivite saint Thirugnanasambandar visited and sang verses (Tevaram) praising the deity, Meenakshi did not have her own shrine.
- ❖ Instead, an idol of Angayarkanni (the one with fish-like eyes) was installed in the sanctum of Alavay Annal, as Sambandar called Chokkar or Shiva.
- ❖ The temple is believed to be about 1,800 years old.

- ❖ While Sangam-age works such as Madurai Kanchi and Purananooru, as well as the post-Sangam Paripadal, refer to a Shiva temple in Madurai, none mentions the present Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple.
- ❖ The Sangam era was extant from third century BCE to third century CE.
- ❖ It is Sambandar, who, in his Madurai decads (Madurai Padhigams) describes the temple's architectural layout, its location on the southern bank of the Vaigai river, and the long compound wall (neel madhil).
- ❖ He also talks about the Pandya king Ninraseer Nedumaran, his queen Mangayarkarasi and his minister Kulachirayar worshipping at the shrine of Alavay Annal.
- ❖ Tirunavukkarasar alias Appar, another revered Saivite saint and a contemporary of Sambandar, too has sung decads about this temple.
- ❖ To appreciate its grand architecture, mention should be made about the Kambathadi Mandapam, in front of Sundareswarar's sanctum.
- ❖ It was built by Nattukkottai Chettiers or Nagarathars in 1870.
- ❖ There are 25 sculptures of Shiva on these pillars representing his anugraha, samhara and nritta aspects.
- ❖ Their iconography is distinct from Nayak-period sculptures.
- ❖ The Kambathadi sculptures are heavily ornamented and characterised by cleft chins, razor-sharp shin bones and bulging kneecaps.
- ❖ The temple had faced debilitating vicissitudes from three Delhi Sultanate invasions by Malik Kafur in 1311, Khusroo Khan in 1314 and Ulugh Khan in 1323.
- ❖ Parakrama Pandya, who built the west raja gopuram, valiantly fought the invaders but fled to Kalaiyar Kovil during the third invasion.
- ❖ The invaders ransacked and looted the Madurai, Srirangam and Chidambaram temples.
- ❖ The Meenakshi-Sundareswar temple was shut down for 48 years from 1323 to 1371.
- ❖ The Vijayanagara army commander, Kumara Kampanna, arrived in Madurai in 1378 and drove out the invaders.
- ❖ Madurai was liberated and worship revived in the temple.

Tamil Nadu Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu launched the Tamil Nadu Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme in Chennai to encourage households to install rooftop solar plants.
- ❖ Consumers who applied from August 5 can get a combined Central and State subsidy of ₹35,000 for 1 kilowatt (kW), ₹70,000 for 2 kW and ₹1 lakh for 3 kW.

- ❖ The scheme has a target to install rooftop solar plants in 1 lakh households by March 2027.
- ❖ The State government has allocated ₹50 crore for the additional subsidy in the current financial year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDCCL) launched a portal for applications, subsidy details and authorised solar vendors.
- ❖ The scheme supports the use of solar energy in residential households across Tamil Nadu.

New GCC Investment in Chennai

- ❖ US-based healthcare group Walgreens is set to open a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Chennai.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Guidance is the nodal agency helping bring investments into the State.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has over 450 GCCs, accounting for about 10–15% of India's GCC ecosystem.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the third-largest GCC hub in India after Karnataka and Telangana.
- ❖ A Global Capability Centre (GCC) is a company-owned office in another country that handles work such as software development, data analysis and research.

Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu expanded the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme on 22 September 2026 to students of Classes VI to VIII.
- ❖ The expansion will benefit 15.3 lakh students in 15,454 government and government-aided schools across Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The scheme was launched at Thiruvannamiyur, Chennai, with students being served breakfast.
- ❖ Breakfast will be provided through centralised kitchens in urban areas and by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas.
- ❖ The scheme was originally launched in September 2022 for Classes I to V and was later renamed after Kamarajar.
- ❖ A total of ₹724 crore has been allocated, including ₹217.63 crore for the expansion.

Poompuhar Archaeological Survey

- ❖ A torpedo jar fragment, four ancient ring wells and over 250 ceramic pieces were found during underwater archaeological exploration off the Poompuhar coast, Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The torpedo jar, believed to have come from West Asia, was found about 10 metres deep and 2 km from the coast.
- ❖ Torpedo jars were tubular vessels used to transport liquids such as wine and oil by ship.
- ❖ The four ring wells had diameters of 60–65 cm and may indicate the presence of an ancient palaeochannel.
- ❖ Poompuhar, an ancient port city also known as Kaveripoompattinam, is being studied to understand its archaeological remains and changes caused by coastal erosion.

Tamil Nadu State Organ Donation Day 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu State Organ Donation Day was observed on 23 September 2026, marking the memory of Hithendran, whose organ donation in 2008 became a major milestone in the State's organ-donation programme.
- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about organ donation and honour donors and their families.
- ❖ From September 2025 to August 2026, Tamil Nadu recorded 312 organ donors and received 1,699 organs and tissues through donations.
- ❖ From October 2008 to September 2026, the State received 14,845 organs and tissues from 2,550 donors through its organ-donation programme.
- ❖ TRANSTAN (Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu) was formed in 2015 to regulate and coordinate organ transplantation in the State; the programme itself began in 2008.
- ❖ In 2025, Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of deceased organ donors among Indian States and performed 2,796 organ transplants, according to National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) data.
- ❖ Since September 2023, the State has also provided State honours to deceased brain-dead organ donors; 825 donors had received such honours by September 2026.

Madras HC on Mekedatu Resolution

- ❖ The Madras High Court dismissed a plea challenging the amended Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly resolution on the proposed Mekedatu dam across the Cauvery River.
- ❖ The court held that legislators who were present during the amendment and did not object at the time cannot later challenge it based on their own silence.
- ❖ The amended resolution included a request to the Centre to constitute a tribunal to resolve the Tamil Nadu–Karnataka Mekedatu dispute.

- ❖ The court noted that the amended resolution was put to vote and passed unanimously, with no objection raised by the petitioner during the proceedings.
- ❖ Article 212 of the Constitution limits judicial examination of legislative proceedings on grounds of procedural irregularity.
- ❖ Rule 286 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules gives the Speaker power to decide questions of procedure arising in the House.

Madras HC on Resigned MLAs

- ❖ The Madras High Court dismissed a plea seeking a five-year ban on legislators who resign and re-contest in the resulting bypolls.
- ❖ The court said Parliament or the legislature must make a law to prevent such resignations followed by re-contesting.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has no power to create a new five-year disqualification or recover by poll expenses without a law.
- ❖ The plea also sought to stop the Madurantakam and Dharapuram Assembly bypolls scheduled for October 6, 2026, but the court did not grant the stay.
- ❖ The case concerned legislators who resigned after winning elections and later sought to contest the resulting bypolls on another party's ticket.
- ❖ The court held that courts cannot create new statutory restrictions through judicial orders when such rules require legislation.

De-addiction Programme - PAYANAM

- ❖ A pilot de-addiction and rehabilitation programme called PAYANAM was launched at Central Prison-II, Puzhal, Chennai.
- ❖ PAYANAM stands for Positive Awareness Yielding Against Narcotics Addiction Movement.
- ❖ The programme aims to support drug offenders through counselling, psychological support, therapeutic interventions and life-skills training.
- ❖ It also focuses on behavioural change, rehabilitation and social reintegration of inmates.
- ❖ PAYANAM is designed as a pilot project to extend correctional services beyond custody towards treatment, reform and rehabilitation.

Chola-Era Inscription at Medavakkam

- ❖ A rare 13th-century Chola-era inscription was found during desilting of the Medavakkam tank, Chennai, recording the construction of a sluice in 1268 CE for irrigation.

- ❖ The sluice was built during the 20th regnal year of Telugu Chola king Sri Vijaya Kanda Gopalan.
- ❖ The inscription shows the existence of an ancient water-management system in the region.
- ❖ Monavakkam, mentioned in the inscription, is the present-day Medavakkam.
- ❖ Ancient rulers including the Pallavas, Cholas and Vijayanagara kings developed many lakes in Thondai Mandalam, present-day northern Tamil Nadu.

Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam at Government Rajaji Hospital (GRH), Madurai, on 28 September 2026.
- ❖ The scheme gives a one-gram, 22-carat, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)-hallmarked gold ring to newborn babies delivered in Tamil Nadu government hospitals.
- ❖ It covers eligible babies born on or after 22 June 2026 to mothers who are residents of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The scheme has an annual allocation of ₹755.83 crore and is designed to cover about 4.4 lakh government-institution births annually.
- ❖ Eligibility includes Tamil Nadu residents delivering in government institutions, with the mother registered under the Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring Evaluation (PICME) system with a Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) ID.

Tirupattur MLA Election Case

- ❖ The Madras High Court rejected an election petition challenging Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) MLA R. Seenivasa Sethupathy's one-vote victory in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election from Tirupattur constituency in Sivaganga district.
- ❖ Justice G.K. Ilanthiraiyan rejected the petition filed by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) candidate and former Minister K.R. Periakaruppan.
- ❖ The petition alleged that a postal ballot meant for Tirupattur constituency No. 185 in Sivaganga district was wrongly sent to constituency No. 50 in Tirupattur district.
- ❖ The court noted that the constituency number, along with details in Form 13C, is used to identify and transport postal ballots.
- ❖ Postal ballots are first deposited at facilitation centres under Rule 18A of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 before being transported by election officials.
- ❖ The court found no supporting material proving that a postal ballot was wrongly received or that any such irregularity materially affected the election result.

Madurai Museum Renovation

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the renovated Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai.
- ❖ The renovation was completed at a total cost of ₹10.25 crore by the Heritage Wing of the Public Works Department (PWD).
- ❖ The building was originally Rani Mangammal's summer palace and later served as the Collector's Bungalow and Judges' Residence during British rule.
- ❖ In 1955, the Tamil Nadu government gifted the palace to the All India Gandhi Smarak Nidhi.
- ❖ The palace was converted into a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi and inaugurated in 1959.
- ❖ The museum houses 14 belongings of Mahatma Gandhi, including his blood-stained cloth.

Vetri Magalir Thozhilmunaivor Membattu Thittam

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is expanding support for women entrepreneurs through the Vetri Magalir Thozhilmunaivor Membattu Thittam across the State.
- ❖ Eligible women entrepreneurs can get loans of ₹10 lakh to ₹5 crore through the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC).
- ❖ Loans are offered at 9.95% annual interest on a diminishing-balance basis, with repayment up to 9 years.
- ❖ The scheme is being implemented across all 234 Assembly constituencies of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ MLAs have been asked to identify 10 promising women entrepreneurs from each constituency.

NATIONAL

National Mortuary Standards

- ❖ India has finalised its first uniform national standards for mortuary and post-mortem infrastructure.
- ❖ The standards were issued under the Clinical Establishments Act through the National Council for Clinical Establishments, functioning under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).
- ❖ Mortuaries must be on the ground floor, away from hospital waste areas, with separate entry points for body movement.

- ❖ Cold storage must maintain 4°C–8°C, with a minimum capacity of four bodies and unique serial numbers for identification.
- ❖ Medico-legal case bodies must be stored separately from non-medico-legal remains.

Indian Standard Time Rules

- ❖ The Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, making Indian Standard Time (IST), UTC+5:30, the mandatory time reference for legal, administrative, commercial and official purposes in India.
- ❖ CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPLI), New Delhi maintains UTC(NPLI), the national time scale used for official IST.
- ❖ Official IST will be disseminated through Regional Reference Standards Laboratories and NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).
- ❖ Telecom, digital payments and power-grid systems must synchronise with IST using Network Time Protocol (NTP) and Precision Time Protocol (PTP).
- ❖ The rules will come into force 180 days after Gazette publication, around March 2027, with penalties for non-compliance under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

Semicon India Programme 2.0

- ❖ Government notified the Semicon India Programme 2.0 with an outlay of ₹1.27 lakh crore to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem.
- ❖ The scheme has six pillars, covering the semiconductor value chain from wafer fabrication to chip production, along with related ecosystem development.
- ❖ It aims to make India a major global semiconductor value-chain player and support domestic manufacturing and chip design.
- ❖ The programme focuses on building a strong talent pool, investment ecosystem, policy support and ease of doing business.
- ❖ Semicon India Programme 1.0 helped move approved projects towards ground-breaking and commercial production, increasing industry confidence.
- ❖ Semicon 2.0 focuses on the complete semiconductor ecosystem with a long-term vision for the sector.

National Conference on Quantum Biotechnology 2026

- ❖ The National Conference on Quantum Biotechnology 2026 was held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay to promote quantum technology applications in life sciences and healthcare.

- ❖ It focused on applications in diagnostics, biomedical imaging, drug discovery, precision medicine, and biosensing.
- ❖ QMet Tech Foundation at IIT Bombay is the thematic hub for Quantum Sensing and Metrology under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ❖ Key discussions included quantum biology, quantum biosensors, and the transition of biosensing technologies from laboratories to industry.

Solar PV Overcapacity Risk

- ❖ India's solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing capacity reached 233 gigawatts (GW) by June 2026, raising concerns about overcapacity and weak upstream manufacturing.
- ❖ India had 233 GW of solar module capacity, but only about 35 GW of cell capacity and very limited ingot and wafer capacity, showing a major upstream gap.
- ❖ Module factories were operating at only 35% to 40% utilisation, while another 135 GW of capacity was planned or under construction.
- ❖ Data centres, green hydrogen and exports could add 17 GW to 22 GW of solar demand by 2030, but this may not absorb the expected surplus.
- ❖ India exported about 4.5 GW of solar modules in Financial Year (FY) 2026, with nearly 97% going to the United States (US), creating high export dependence.
- ❖ Small non-integrated manufacturers and those using older Passivated Emitter and Rear Cell (PERC) technology face higher risks, while Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact (TOPCon) already accounts for over 70% of India's module capacity.

Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031

- ❖ Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031, a Strategic Action Plan for ornamental fisheries development, in Agatti, Lakshadweep.
- ❖ The plan is implemented by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, to organise and scientifically develop India's ornamental fish sector.
- ❖ It covers the complete supply chain, including breeding, hatcheries, production, quarantine, disease management, certification, transport, trade and exports.
- ❖ It aims to establish uniform operating procedures, quality assurance, biosecurity and traceability standards across the ornamental fish industry.
- ❖ The plan will improve the skills of farmers and traders, product quality and access to international markets, making the sector more competitive.

- ❖ Lakshadweep has been identified as a dedicated seaweed cluster, and its marine resources are also considered suitable for ornamental fish farming and other high-value fisheries activities.

National Accounts Statistics 2026

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released National Accounts Statistics 2026 with 2022-23 as the base year.
- ❖ The publication contains 64 statements covering Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross Value Added (GVA), national income, consumption, savings, capital formation, public sector and external transactions.
- ❖ It includes updated Final Estimates for 2022-23 and 2023-24, First Revised Estimates for 2024-25, and Provisional Estimates for 2025-26, along with quarterly GDP estimates.
- ❖ The estimates were revised using the new Producer Price Index (PPI), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Banking Services Price Index (BkSPI), all with the 2022-23 base year, along with updated administrative data.
- ❖ Updated indicators caused revisions in GDP and GVA estimates from 2022-23 onwards, with larger changes in sectors such as mining, manufacturing, trade services and public administration.
- ❖ Under the updated estimates, real GDP growth for 2025-26 increased from 7.7% to 7.8%, while current-price GDP growth was revised from 8.9% to 8.6%.

RAKSHA – Defence Diplomacy Framework

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released RAKSHA, a 10-year framework for India's defence diplomacy and global strategic partnerships on September 3, 2026.
- ❖ RAKSHA aims to strengthen India's bilateral and multilateral defence partnerships, military cooperation and global security engagement.
- ❖ It focuses on joint exercises, training, military education, professional exchanges and capacity building with friendly countries.
- ❖ The framework promotes defence industrial cooperation, including co-development, co-production, technology transfer and supply-chain integration under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ❖ It also aims to promote Indian defence exports and position India as a reliable global defence manufacturing partner.

PCA and Indus Waters Treaty

- ❖ India rejected the May 2026 award of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) on the maximum pondage (water storage capacity) allowed at Indian hydroelectric projects under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), 1960.
- ❖ The dispute concerns India's Kishenganga (330 megawatt) and Ratle (850 megawatt) run-of-the-river hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Pakistan objected to the pondage and spillway designs, stating that they could affect the flow of water into Pakistan.
- ❖ India rejected the Court of Arbitration process, stating that it was illegally constituted because Pakistan pursued the Court of Arbitration and Neutral Expert mechanisms in parallel.
- ❖ The IWT was signed by India and Pakistan in 1960, with the World Bank as a signatory and facilitator.
- ❖ The Ravi, Beas and Sutlej are allocated to India, while the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab are largely allocated to Pakistan.
- ❖ India is allowed limited uses of the western rivers, including run-of-the-river hydroelectric power generation, subject to the treaty's technical conditions.
- ❖ The IWT provides a three-stage dispute-resolution mechanism: Permanent Indus Commission, Neutral Expert and Court of Arbitration.
- ❖ India has maintained that the IWT is in abeyance following the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack and has not participated in the Court of Arbitration proceedings.
- ❖ The PCA was established in 1899 under the 1899 Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes to facilitate arbitration and peaceful settlement of international disputes.
- ❖ The PCA is an independent intergovernmental organisation, not a United Nations (UN) agency, but it has Permanent Observer status at the UN General Assembly.

Article 142 - Limits and Powers

- ❖ The Supreme Court used Article 142 of the Constitution to quash criminal cases registered against NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) protesters.
- ❖ Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to pass orders necessary to "do complete justice" in any case before it, and such orders are enforceable throughout India.
- ❖ The power is very wide, but it cannot be used to pass an order that violates the Constitution or fundamental rights.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that Article 142 can supplement existing law, but normally cannot replace substantive law or affect the rights of people who are not parties to the case.

- ❖ In *Shilpa Sailesh v. Varun Sreenivasan* (2023), the Court held that Article 142 can allow departure from procedural or substantive law when necessary to achieve complete justice, subject to public policy.
- ❖ In *High Court Bar Association, Allahabad v. State of Uttar Pradesh* (2024), the Court reiterated that Article 142 cannot violate natural justice, including the right to be heard.

Western Zonal Council Meet

- ❖ Union Home Minister chairs the 28th meeting of the Western Zonal Council in Panaji, Goa.
- ❖ Zonal Councils are statutory bodies created under the State's Reorganisation Act, 1956, to promote cooperation and discuss issues between States and the Centre.
- ❖ India has 5 Zonal Councils — Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern.
- ❖ The Western Zonal Council consists of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and the Union Territory (UT) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- ❖ The Council includes the Chief Ministers and two ministers from each State; representatives of the UT and senior officers from the Centre and States also participate.
- ❖ The meeting is organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

All India Judges Association v. Union of India

- ❖ In *All India Judges Association v. Union of India*, the Supreme Court directed seven States to raise the retirement age of district judges from 60 to 62 years.
- ❖ The seven States are Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
- ❖ The extension to 62 years is subject to a suitability assessment by the concerned High Court at age 60.
- ❖ District judges come under the subordinate judiciary under Articles 233–237 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The decision is linked to the pendency of over 5.18 crore cases in district courts.

Population Enumeration 2027

- ❖ The Population Enumeration phase of Census 2027 has been advanced in four poll-bound States, while the exercise in Manipur has been deferred.

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Goa will conduct population enumeration from November 16, 2026 to January 4, 2027, followed by a revisional round from January 5–9.
- ❖ The second phase will have 40 questions, including an open-ended caste field; at least 13 questions are new compared with the 2011 Census.
- ❖ New questions cover nationality, parents' details, spouse's name, digital literacy, permanent address, COVID-19 vaccination, bank accounts, passport, driving licence, mobile, Aadhaar and voter ID.
- ❖ Self-enumeration will be available from November 16–30, 2026, before the door-to-door exercise begins on December 1; the reference date for these four States is January 5, 2027.
- ❖ Census work in Manipur has been deferred till further declaration; its first phase, scheduled for September 1–30, was halted after protests and demands for a National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Biotech Investment Platform

- ❖ Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched BIO-NIVESH in New Delhi to connect biotechnology startups with investors.
- ❖ The platform aims to increase private investment in biotechnology innovations ready for scale-up and commercialisation.
- ❖ The first edition brought together 20 biotechnology and deep-tech startups and around 50 investors.
- ❖ The Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund has an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore, with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) as a Second-Level Fund Manager for biotechnology and allied sectors.
- ❖ The initiative is planned as a recurring platform, with future editions proposed in different cities to strengthen regional biotechnology ecosystems.

Small Modular Reactors in Andaman and Nicobar

- ❖ The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is assessing sites for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from September 4–8, 2026.
- ❖ The assessment covers all three districts of the Union Territory: North & Middle Andaman, South Andaman and Nicobar.
- ❖ The SMRs are being considered to meet rising electricity demand from the Great Nicobar Project, including the International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT), greenfield airport and other infrastructure.
- ❖ The islands currently depend mainly on diesel-based power generation, making reliable local electricity important for future development.

- ❖ Great Nicobar is strategically important because of its proximity to the Strait of Malacca and major maritime routes.

e-FAST India Summit 2026

- ❖ NITI Aayog's e-FAST India launched the Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport (PACT) and ZET Marketplace at the 5th e-FAST India Summit 2026.
- ❖ e-FAST India (Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport-India) is India's first national collaborative platform for freight electrification, focusing on medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.
- ❖ PACT aggregates freight demand from cargo shippers and logistics companies to support Zero-Emission Truck (ZET) deployment.
- ❖ The ZET Marketplace connects truck manufacturers, fleet operators, charging operators and clean-technology companies.
- ❖ The initiative aims to decarbonise road freight transport and support India's Net-Zero 2070 target.

Constitutional Safeguards for Ladakh

- ❖ The Centre has proposed a new Article 371(K) to provide constitutional safeguards and greater local autonomy to Ladakh.
- ❖ The proposed provision may create a directly elected Union Territory-level governing body with legislative powers over land, culture and language, forests, environment and natural resources.
- ❖ The proposed body may also have powers over subjects currently reserved for the Union Territory under Article 240 of the Constitution.
- ❖ Article 240 gives the President of India power to make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of certain Union Territories.
- ❖ Ladakh has sought additional executive, budgetary, planning and financial powers, including control over police and law and order.
- ❖ The Centre has said further discussions will be held in October, when a draft of the proposed Article 371(K) is expected to be discussed.

HPV Vaccination Milestone

- ❖ India has administered more than 80 lakh (8 million) Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine doses under the National HPV Vaccination Campaign since its launch in February 2026.
- ❖ The campaign provides free, voluntary, single-dose HPV vaccination with parental consent to 14-year-old girls at government health facilities.

- ❖ Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram achieved 100% coverage, while Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Assam crossed 90%.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number, with more than 22 lakh adolescent girls vaccinated.
- ❖ The U-WIN digital platform is used to monitor vaccination coverage, identify gaps and track missed beneficiaries.

One Tag System for FASTag

- ❖ The union minister for Road Transport and Highways launched the One Tag system on September 11, 2026, at the Global Fintech Fest 2026 in Mumbai, allowing users to change the FASTag issuing bank without replacing the physical tag.
- ❖ The One Tag system works like mobile number portability, allowing users to digitally switch their FASTag to a new bank.
- ❖ Users can port their existing FASTag through the Rajmarg Yatra mobile app by linking it to a new bank account.
- ❖ FASTag uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for automatic deduction of toll charges.
- ❖ About 13 crore FASTags have been issued, and digital toll collection covers more than 98% of national highway user fees.

Global 6G Network Initiative

- ❖ India endorsed the Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security on September 9, 2026, joining 24 like-minded countries to promote open, interoperable, secure and resilient 6G networks.
- ❖ The initiative was announced on the sidelines of the G20 Innovation Ministerial in North Carolina, United States.
- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will coordinate India's participation with government agencies, industry and academia.
- ❖ India aims to contribute 10% of global 6G standards and patents and build on the Bharat 6G Vision and Bharat 6G Alliance.
- ❖ The initiative focuses on 6G research, cybersecurity, resilient supply chains and global 6G standards.

AASHVAST Lab for Drone Security

- ❖ The Indian Army set up AASHVAST at DG EME headquarters, New Delhi, to detect software threats and security vulnerabilities in military drones.

- ❖ AASHVAST stands for Assessment and Analysis of Electronic Systems Hardware for Vulnerabilities and Security Threats.
- ❖ It is an air-gapped, offline laboratory that checks drone firmware for backdoors, unauthorised components and hidden access tools.
- ❖ It can test drone responses to GPS spoofing and jamming, which are electronic warfare techniques.

India's Nuclear Arsenal

- ❖ A 2026 report by the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) estimates that India may have around 190 nuclear warheads.
- ❖ India is estimated to have over 160 warheads for operational launchers, plus about 30 additional warheads for new missiles under production.
- ❖ FAS estimates India may have produced enough military-grade plutonium for 140–225 nuclear warheads.
- ❖ As of early 2026, India was estimated to possess about 730 kg of weapon-grade plutonium.
- ❖ India follows Credible Minimum Deterrence and a No First Use (NFU) policy for nuclear weapons.

Indigenous Disaster Warning System

- ❖ The Ministry of Communications launched India's indigenous Cell Broadcast System (CBS) through its first large-scale nationwide demonstration.
- ❖ CBS sends geo-targeted emergency alerts to millions of mobile phones at the same time, without needing phone numbers, internet, apps or registration.
- ❖ It is integrated with SACHET (National Disaster Alert Platform) and can provide warnings for floods, tsunamis, gas leaks and other emergencies.
- ❖ CBS was developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ India joins 30+ countries using CBS, including Japan's J-Alert and the United States' Wireless Emergency Alerts.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles in India

- ❖ For the first time, alternative-fuel passenger vehicles (CNG, LPG, hybrid and electric vehicles) together overtook petrol vehicles in India's retail passenger vehicle market in August 2026.

- ❖ Alternative-fuel vehicles captured 41.95% of passenger vehicle sales, compared with 40.85% for petrol vehicles.
- ❖ The combined share of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana and Karnataka fell from 59.9% in August 2025 to 53.7% in August 2026.
- ❖ The share of the rest of India increased from 40.1% to 46.3% during the same period.

Coal Sector CSR Framework

- ❖ The Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited (CIL) launched India's first sector-wide Comprehensive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Framework for coal companies in New Delhi.
- ❖ The framework is the first sector-specific CSR guideline in India after the statutory CSR rules under the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ It was drafted by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) to make CSR activities in coal-mining regions transparent, measurable and outcome-oriented.
- ❖ Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 provides the legal basis for CSR provisions in India.
- ❖ Under Thalassaemia Bal Sewa Yojana, CIL has completed 1,050+ bone marrow transplants for children, providing up to ₹10 lakh per patient through 21 empanelled hospitals.
- ❖ CIL's Nanha Sa Dil initiative has screened 2 lakh+ children and performed 1,500+ free corrective cardiac surgeries since March 2024.

Green Hydrogen Hubs in India

- ❖ A World Resources Institute (WRI) India study identified Gujarat as India's most resource-ready state for developing green hydrogen hubs.
- ❖ Renewable energy availability and proximity to hydrogen consumers are the two most important factors for locating green hydrogen hubs, while water availability ranks third.
- ❖ Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, India targets 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of annual green hydrogen production by 2030, with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore.
- ❖ Gujarat ranks first, followed by Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh in the resource scenario; Rajasthan's low water availability is a major constraint.
- ❖ Important potential locations include Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, Mumbai, Paradeep, Chennai, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Kota, Khandwa and Kanpur.

SAF Flight in India

- ❖ Akasa Air and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) operated India's first commercial flight using 1% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blended with conventional aviation turbine fuel.
- ❖ The flight operated from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai, to Manohar International Airport, Goa.
- ❖ India aims to achieve 5% SAF blending by 2030 as part of efforts to reduce aviation-related carbon emissions.
- ❖ SAF is a lower-carbon aviation fuel made from sustainable feedstocks, and its wider use can support India's aviation energy-transition goals.

Global Vaccine Production

- ❖ Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted India's position as the world's largest vaccine producer and global supplier by volume.
- ❖ India accounts for nearly 60% of global vaccine production and supplies over 65% of the World Health Organization (WHO) routine immunisation requirements.
- ❖ India's bioeconomy reached USD 195.3 billion in 2025, recording 18% year-on-year growth.
- ❖ The Ind-CEPI Mission developed India's first messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) COVID-19 vaccine, GEMCOVAC-19.
- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology (DBT)-Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)-CEPI partnership supports vaccine research and epidemic preparedness.
- ❖ BRIC-THSTI Bioassay Laboratory is one of the 17 Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) centralised network laboratories supporting global vaccine development.

India's Data Centre Capacity

- ❖ India's installed data-centre capacity has increased to 1.57 GW as of August 2026 and is projected to reach nearly 8 GW by 2030.
- ❖ India's data-centre capacity increased from around 375 MW in 2020 to 1.57 GW in 2026, driven by cloud computing, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital services.
- ❖ Nearly USD 70 billion is already under investment in the sector, with another USD 90 billion in announced projects.
- ❖ The National Informatics Centre (NIC) operates National Data Centres in Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar, along with 37 smaller centres.
- ❖ Data-centre electricity demand could reach 17 GW by 2031–32, increasing the focus on renewable energy, efficient cooling and resource conservation.

NMBA Nationwide Campaign

- ❖ The Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) has reached 34.54 crore citizens during its nationwide campaign against drug abuse.
- ❖ NMBA was launched in 2020 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to create awareness about drug abuse and provide prevention, treatment and rehabilitation support.
- ❖ More than 1.67 lakh Nasha Mukti Mitras (NMMs) have joined the campaign, with over 31.40 lakh awareness and outreach activities conducted across India.
- ❖ More than 755 new de-addiction facilities have been established in the last two years, while over 1.67 lakh volunteers and personnel have been trained.
- ❖ The government aims to mobilise 10 crore+ citizens for a National Mass Pledge Against Drug Abuse by the end of September 2026, marking NMBA's 6th anniversary.

GOBARDhan Central Sector Scheme Update

- ❖ The GOBARDhan Central Sector Scheme came into effect on 1 September 2026 with a total outlay of ₹23,731 crore.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented up to 2035–36 to increase the production and use of Compressed Biogas (CBG) in India.
- ❖ It aims to increase domestic CBG production nearly tenfold and promote large-scale private investment.
- ❖ The scheme will support a circular bioeconomy by converting organic waste into useful energy and other products.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the scheme on 6 August 2026.

Integrated Fertilizer Management System

- ❖ The Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS) has entered a new phase with digital tools to improve transparency, fertilizer availability and supply-chain monitoring.
- ❖ New dashboards monitor fertilizer production, imports, dispatches, movement, stocks and retail sales at national, State, district and retailer levels.
- ❖ iFMS covers over 14 crore Aadhaar-linked fertilizer buyers, more than 2.5 lakh retailers and around 7 crore metric tonnes of fertilizer transactions annually.
- ❖ The system uses transaction data to analyse fertilizer purchases based on buyer category, landholding, crop, district and fertilizer type.
- ❖ iFMS also supports administration of nearly ₹2 lakh crore in fertilizer subsidies annually.

Tempest Programme - India

- ❖ India has joined the sixth-generation fighter jet programme, Tempest, as a dialogue partner with the UK, Italy and Japan.
- ❖ Tempest is a sixth-generation fighter programme jointly developed by the UK, Japan and Italy, with induction planned from 2034.
- ❖ India's dialogue partner status allows it to discuss the programme's technology, progress and capabilities, but does not make India a buyer or developer.
- ❖ India is currently developing the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), a fifth-generation fighter expected to join the Indian Air Force by 2035.
- ❖ The Tempest programme received US\$6.1 billion in funding to advance its full-scale design phase.

Global Fintech Fest 2026

- ❖ The 7th Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026 was held in Mumbai.
- ❖ The theme of GFF 2026 is "Potential to Impact: Agentic Artificial Intelligence (AI), Tokenisation, Quantum."
- ❖ The three main technologies discussed are Agentic AI, Tokenisation and Quantum Technology.
- ❖ The principal organisers are Payments Council of India (PCI), National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Fintech Convergence Council (FCC).
- ❖ The Fest is supported by agencies including the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Department of Financial Services, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The agenda focuses on using emerging technologies to build trusted, connected and inclusive financial systems.

Periodic Labour Force Survey – August 2026

- ❖ The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) reported that the Workforce Participation Rate (WPR) for people aged 15 years and above rose to 52.8% in August 2026, the highest since March.
- ❖ The rural WPR increased to 55.8%, while the urban WPR declined to 47%.
- ❖ The overall unemployment rate declined slightly to 5% in August from 5.1% in July.
- ❖ Rural unemployment fell to 4.1%, the lowest since January 2026, while urban unemployment rose to 6.8%.
- ❖ The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for people aged 15 years and above increased to 55.6%.

Shahzad Bhatti Network Under UAPA

- ❖ The Government of India declared the Shahzad Bhatti Network a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) made the declaration, citing the network's involvement in violence, unrest and activities affecting national security.
- ❖ The network has been accused of promoting extremist ideologies and activities linked to terrorism.
- ❖ Under the UAPA, the government can take measures against organisations involved in terrorist acts or supporting terrorism.
- ❖ The authorities will seek to freeze assets and prevent funding or support to the network in India.

Clean Energy Milestone of India

- ❖ India's coal-power generation recorded no growth for two years for the first time in more than 50 years, as clean-energy sources met the rise in electricity demand.
- ❖ Between H1 2024 (January–June 2024) and H1 2026 (January–June 2026), electricity generation increased by 7%, or about 63 terawatt-hours (TWh).
- ❖ The entire increase was met by non-fossil sources such as solar, wind, hydropower and nuclear power.
- ❖ India added about 77 GW of solar, 11 GW of wind, 5 GW of hydropower and 0.6 GW of nuclear capacity during this period.
- ❖ Power-sector carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in H1 2026 remained broadly at the same level as H1 2024 despite higher electricity demand.
- ❖ However, overall Indian emissions increased by 3.7% in H1 2026, mainly due to industries such as steel and cement.

New Climate Governance Platforms

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched the India Net Zero Portal and National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) Dashboard on 16 September 2026 in Mumbai, on World Ozone Day.
- ❖ The India Net Zero Portal allows Indian entities to voluntarily register their Net Zero commitments and report progress; Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions are encouraged, while Scope 3 reporting is voluntary.
- ❖ The NAPCC Dashboard provides a unified platform to monitor the implementation and progress of India's 8 National Missions under NAPCC, launched in 2008.
- ❖ India has set a target to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2070.

- ❖ The 8 missions include National Solar Mission, National Water Mission, National Mission for a Green India, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture and four other climate missions.
- ❖ World Ozone Day is observed annually on 16 September, marking the adoption of the Montreal Protocol (1987).

National Water Summit 2026

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based water data governance at the National Departmental Summit on Water on 2 September 2026.
- ❖ The summit was held in New Delhi and organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ The summit discussed integrated collection, analysis and use of water data.
- ❖ AI and uniform data formats were suggested for better water data management.
- ❖ Regular reviews were suggested for time-bound implementation of the summit recommendations.
- ❖ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were urged to prepare for increasing water demand due to urbanisation.

Surakshit Sagar Campaign

- ❖ The 5th edition of Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar (SSSS) 2026 was launched on 1 September 2026 for marine litter removal and coastal conservation.
- ❖ The week-long campaign will be held from 12 to 19 September 2026, ending on International Coastal Cleanup Day.
- ❖ The campaign covers India's 11,098-km coastline and includes clean-up drives at more than 100 beaches.
- ❖ It is implemented under the Ministry of Earth Sciences' PRITHVI scheme for shoreline erosion and seawater quality monitoring.
- ❖ The 2026 edition introduced the first national Ocean Olympiad for youth.
- ❖ The initiative began in 2022.

Soil Carbon Payments for Farmers

- ❖ India began its first direct benefit transfer payments for soil carbon credits to over 2,500 farmers in Punjab and Haryana.
- ❖ The payments totalled over ₹2.9 crore and were linked to verified carbon credits from regenerative farming.

- ❖ Farmers used Direct Seeded Rice, reduced tillage and crop-residue management during 2019–2022.
- ❖ The Aadi farmer carbon programme was launched in 2019 by Grow Indigo with technical guidance from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- ❖ The programme covers over 2 million acres and 1 lakh+ farmers across seven states.
- ❖ Farmers received about ₹3,000–₹15,000, while the programme also saved an estimated 45 billion litres of water and avoided over 2 lakh tonnes of crop-residue burning.

SEMICON India 2026

- ❖ SEMICON India 2026, India's fifth major semiconductor conference held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the event and highlighted India's shift towards commercial semiconductor production.
- ❖ Its aim was to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem and promote chip design, manufacturing and advanced packaging.
- ❖ Commercial production lines were virtually inaugurated at CDIL Semiconductor in Mohali and Suchi Semicon in Surat.
- ❖ The event saw 56 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), announcements and strategic initiatives covering chip design, fabrication, advanced packaging, equipment, materials, power electronics and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

India - Japan strategic partnership

- ❖ India and Japan will mark 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2027 through the India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons.
- ❖ India and Japan established diplomatic relations in 1952.
- ❖ India-Japan Week will be observed in the week of 28 April 2027, with outreach activities, business roundtables and India-focused roadshows.
- ❖ A friendship cricket match is scheduled during the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026 as a curtain-raiser to the anniversary year.
- ❖ SPORT-75 will cover sports exchanges, while Cricket Kizuna-75 will involve Indian coaches visiting Japan.
- ❖ IMAGE-75 will focus on manga, anime and gaming partnerships, while Shared Future-75 will deal with policy recommendations.
- ❖ RASA-75 will cover arts and cultural activities.

- ❖ India-Japan cooperation includes defence, infrastructure, technology, trade and cultural exchange.

Nasha Mukta Bharat Campaign

- ❖ The 100-week Nasha Mukta Yuva Abhiyan began on 18 September 2026 with a nationwide Rashtriya Sankalp Samaroh.
- ❖ The campaign is titled “Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan” and was launched on 2 August 2026 through a virtual address.
- ❖ It is led by the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and implemented through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) and National Service Scheme (NSS).
- ❖ The campaign focuses on four pillars: Prevent, Protect, Recover and Lead, with a 12-week activity calendar from September to December 2026.
- ❖ The wider Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan was launched on 15 August 2020 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

District-Level Labour Market Snapshot

- ❖ The National Statistical Office (NSO) released district-level labour market indicators for the first time under the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).
- ❖ About 57.8% of districts recorded a female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) of 40% or above, while over 98% of districts had LFPR and Worker Population Ratio (WPR) between 40% and 80%.
- ❖ Among the 100 most populous districts, Surat, Gujarat recorded the highest LFPR (68.6%) and WPR (67.8%), while Darbhanga, Bihar recorded the lowest levels.
- ❖ Ernakulam, Kerala had the lowest youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) rate at 9.6%, followed by Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu at 14.5%.
- ❖ South Twenty-Four Parganas, West Bengal and Araria, Bihar recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 0.9% each among the 100 most populous districts.

3rd ANTF Conference

- ❖ The 3rd national conference of chiefs of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) is being held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The two-day conference is organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and focuses on the Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026–29).
- ❖ ANTFs are specialised units of States and Union Territories that coordinate action against narcotics offences.

- ❖ The conference covers drug trafficking networks, demand reduction, rehabilitation, synthetic drugs, illicit cultivation, darknet and cryptocurrency investigations.
- ❖ The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 is the main law governing narcotics control in India.
- ❖ The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) was established in 1986 as India's central drug law enforcement agency.

National Formulary of India

- ❖ The 7th National Formulary of India (NFI) was launched in New Delhi during the 6th National Pharmacovigilance Week.
- ❖ NFI is a reference publication that provides standard information on medicines and supports their rational and safe use.
- ❖ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, publishes the NFI.
- ❖ The 6th National Pharmacovigilance Week was held from 17–23 September 2026.
- ❖ The previous 6th edition of NFI was launched in October 2021.

G20 Energy Abundance Meet

- ❖ India endorsed the G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial consensus outcomes adopted in Houston.
- ❖ The consensus covers household energy access, faster infrastructure approvals, water reuse and critical-mineral supply chains.
- ❖ Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) was recognised as a transitional fuel for improving access to cleaner household energy.
- ❖ It promotes streamlined and predictable approval processes for energy and infrastructure projects.
- ❖ A voluntary framework supports safe and purpose-specific water reuse in energy, agriculture and manufacturing.
- ❖ It also calls for diversified, secure and resilient critical-mineral supply chains; the outcomes are voluntary and non-binding.

Amendment to Inter-State Council Order, 1990

- ❖ President notifies amendment to Inter-State Council Order, 1990.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Inter-State Council (Amendment) Order, 2026.

- ❖ The amendment was made by the President under the powers conferred by Article 263 of the Constitution.
- ❖ It aims to provide for the participation of Governors and Lieutenant Governors in meetings of the Inter-State Council when specified constitutional or statutory provisions are in force in their respective States or Union Territories.
- ❖ According to the notification, the Governor of a State shall be invited when a proclamation issued by the President under Article 356 of the Constitution is in force in that State.
- ❖ In the case of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Lieutenant Governor shall be invited when an order issued by the President under Article 239AB is in force.
- ❖ For the Union Territory of Puducherry, the Lieutenant Governor shall be invited when an order issued by the President under the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, is in force.
- ❖ Similarly, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor shall be invited when an order issued by the President under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, is in force.
- ❖ The Inter-State Council was established under Article 263 of the Constitution through the Inter-State Council Order, 1990.
- ❖ The original order was published in the Gazette of India on May 28, 1990.
- ❖ It was following the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission of 1983.
- ❖ It aims to facilitate coordination, cooperation, and dispute resolution between the Union and states or among the states themselves.
- ❖ The council plays the advisory role and it is not a permanent body by default.
- ❖ It is headed by the Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ Members will be Chief Ministers of all states and Union Territories with legislatures, and administrators of Union Territories without legislatures.
- ❖ Six Union Cabinet-rank ministers will be nominated by the Prime Minister.

11th Ayurveda Day 2026

- ❖ The 11th Ayurveda Day was observed on 23 September 2026 to promote awareness of Ayurveda and its role in health and wellness.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow”.
- ❖ Ayurveda Day was first observed in 2016.
- ❖ From 2026, Ayurveda Day is observed every year on 23 September, after the Government fixed the date through a Gazette notification in 2025.

- ❖ The 2026 celebration was the first Ayurveda Day on the fixed date; earlier, it was observed on Dhanteras (Dhanwantari Jayanti), so the date changed each year.
- ❖ The Ministry of Ayush promotes Ayurveda through healthcare services, research institutions, education, quality standards and international cooperation.

Constitution Bench on EC

- ❖ The Supreme Court referred the challenge to the law governing the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) to a larger Constitution Bench.
- ❖ The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 is being challenged over its appointment process.
- ❖ The selection committee under the 2023 law has the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister and the Leader of Opposition, giving the government a 2:1 majority.
- ❖ The law replaced an earlier Supreme Court arrangement involving the Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India (CJI) and Leader of Opposition.
- ❖ The two-judge bench gave a split verdict on the referral but later agreed that a Constitution Bench should decide the issue.
- ❖ The Supreme Court noted that the case has been pending since 2015 and concerns the appointment and independence of the Election Commission.

Supreme Court on Collegium

- ❖ The Supreme Court defended the Collegium system while hearing the challenge to the law on the appointment of Election Commissioners.
- ❖ Justice Dipankar Datta said the Centre's comparison of the Collegium with the Election Commissioner selection process was "disquieting".
- ❖ He noted that the executive has a role in judicial appointments and can accept or not accept Collegium recommendations.
- ❖ The court also flagged the Centre's selective clearance of names recommended by the Collegium.
- ❖ The Collegium is the system through which senior judges recommend appointments and transfers of judges to higher courts.

Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar 5.0

- ❖ The fifth edition of Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar was conducted from September 12–19, 2026, with coastal clean-up activities at 231 locations across 13 States and Union Territories.

- ❖ Around 15 lakh people took the Ocean Conservation Pledge during the campaign.
- ❖ It focused on coastal cleanliness and ocean conservation through nationwide clean-up activities.
- ❖ The campaign was reviewed during the Monthly Review Meeting of Scientific Ministries and Departments in New Delhi.
- ❖ The proposed Digital Library of Scientific Achievements is being developed with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) as the nodal institution.

Digital Communications Commission

- ❖ The Government of India dissolved the Digital Communications Commission (DCC) after nearly 37 years of functioning.
- ❖ The DCC was originally established as the Telecom Commission in April 1989 and renamed DCC in October 2018.
- ❖ It was the apex inter-departmental body for telecommunication and digital communication policy and administrative matters.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved its dissolution on 16 September 2026, and the government resolution took effect on 19 September 2026.
- ❖ The decision followed overlap between DCC members and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) advisers, along with vacant key posts.

Hepatitis Elimination by 2030

- ❖ India reaffirmed its commitment to eliminate Hepatitis B and C as public health threats by 2030 at a United Nations General Assembly side event in New York.
- ❖ India is strengthening prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and care for viral hepatitis.
- ❖ Measures include Hepatitis B immunisation, antenatal screening, free diagnosis and treatment, and safe blood transfusion services.
- ❖ Counselling and rehabilitation support are provided for people who inject drugs.
- ❖ India stressed global cooperation and equal access to prevention, testing and treatment to achieve the 2030 target.

Telecom Security in India

- ❖ India's active wireless mobile subscriber base reached 1,204.01 million in July 2026, highlighting the need to protect mobile devices and International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers.

- ❖ IMEI is a unique 15-digit number that identifies a mobile device on a telecom network; the first 8 digits form the Type Allocation Code (TAC).
- ❖ Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) oversees TAC allocation, while manufacturers assign unique IMEIs to devices.
- ❖ Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, IMEI tampering and obtaining SIMs through fraud or impersonation are prohibited and can attract up to 3 years' imprisonment, a ₹50 lakh fine, or both.
- ❖ The Sanchar Saathi platform helps users verify device details and block lost or stolen mobile phones.

Modified UDAN 2026

- ❖ India's Civil Aviation Ministry signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 21 States and Union Territories and launched the Challenge Mode Portal for Aerodrome Development under the modified UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme.
- ❖ The portal allows States and Union Territories to nominate airstrips and helipads for regional air services.
- ❖ Since 2016, UDAN has operationalised 687 routes and 95 aerodromes, carrying about 17.1 million passengers.
- ❖ Modified UDAN aims to add 120 destinations and serve 4 crore additional passengers over the next decade.
- ❖ The scheme plans to develop 100 airports from existing unserved airstrips and 200 modern helipads, with an outlay of ₹28,840 crore for 2026–27 to 2035–36.

India-PIF Strategic Partnership

- ❖ India has been placed on the Strategic Partner Stream of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).
- ❖ The announcement was made during the India-FIPIC (Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York.
- ❖ The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) was founded in 1971 and has 18 members.
- ❖ India discussed development projects in healthcare, renewable energy, connectivity, technology and capacity building with Pacific island countries.
- ❖ India has completed the solarisation of 2,800 households across 14 Pacific Island countries and trained 70 women solar engineers.
- ❖ India is also working on a 100-bed super-speciality hospital in Fiji and plans to provide 20 sea ambulances to 12 PIF member states.

India-ASEAN Trade Partnership

- ❖ India participated in the 14th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) and the 23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation in Manila, Philippines.
- ❖ The meetings included 11 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries and other East Asia Summit partners.
- ❖ India and ASEAN bilateral trade reached USD 128.38 billion in 2025–26, accounting for 10.55% of India's total global trade.
- ❖ Discussions focused on the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) to improve and facilitate trade.
- ❖ India also participated in the ASEAN-India Business Forum 2026 in Manila, Philippines.

India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers Meeting

- ❖ The India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) was held in New York, on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ The meeting followed the 2nd India-CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Summit, held in Guyana in November 2024.
- ❖ Foreign Ministers from 12 CARICOM countries, along with representatives from Belize and the CARICOM Secretary-General, attended the meeting.
- ❖ Discussions covered trade and investment, agriculture and food security, digital governance, climate resilience and energy cooperation.
- ❖ India and CARICOM agreed to cooperate on United Nations (UN) reforms, climate change, counter-terrorism and transnational crimes.
- ❖ CARICOM decided to support India's candidature for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) term 2028–29.

First Ascent Mountaineering Expedition

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the First Ascent Mountaineering Expedition in New Delhi on 25 September 2026, after the team climbed 20 previously unclimbed peaks above 6,000 metres in Ladakh in 23 days.
- ❖ The expedition was carried out by 20 climbers from the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS), based in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The team was led by Colonel Ranveer Singh Jamwal, Director of NIMAS.
- ❖ The peaks were located in the Chamser-Lungser, Gyama Nala and Chokula areas of the Ladakh Range.

- ❖ NIMAS functions under the Ministry of Defence and conducts mountaineering and adventure training.

Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform

- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) launched the Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform and mobile app to assess indoor digital connectivity across properties in India.
- ❖ The platform is administered by TRAI under the Ministry of Communications and follows the TRAI (Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity) Regulations, 2024, amended in May 2026.
- ❖ It assesses fibre readiness, 4G/5G coverage, Wi-Fi and in-building connectivity in areas such as common spaces, lifts and basements.
- ❖ Registered Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies (DCRAs) use a mobile app to conduct on-site signal-strength and internet-speed tests.
- ❖ Aadhaar-based eSign verifies assessment reports, while QR-coded certificates allow public verification.
- ❖ It aims to make indoor digital connectivity a measurable property feature and encourage developers to include Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI) in buildings.

INTERNATIONAL

Africa Health Workforce Plan 2035

- ❖ African health ministers adopted the Africa Health Workforce Agenda 2026–2035 to add at least 3 million health workers by 2035.
- ❖ The plan aims to halve the projected health-worker shortage through better planning, training, employment and retention.
- ❖ Africa had 5.72 million health workers in 2024, while at least 943,000 trained health professionals were unemployed.
- ❖ The plan follows a “Plan, Train and Retain” approach, focusing on workforce planning, quality education, job creation and better working conditions.
- ❖ By 2035, it aims to increase health-professional density from 27 to 47 per 10,000 people and reduce the average unemployment rate from 27% to 13%.
- ❖ The agenda was adopted at the 76th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa in Addis Ababa.

India-Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership

- ❖ India and Uzbekistan have upgraded their ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and set a \$5 billion annual trade target by 2030.
- ❖ The two countries signed/exchanged 11 agreements covering mining, tourism, culture, education, Ayurveda and other sectors.
- ❖ They agreed to establish a framework for the long-term supply of uranium from Uzbekistan to India for peaceful civil nuclear cooperation.
- ❖ Cooperation will expand in critical minerals, defence, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, health, information technology (IT), digital public infrastructure and education.
- ❖ UPI (Unified Payments Interface) apps will be enabled to scan Uzbekistan's UZQR for merchant payments, while India announced a \$1 million grant for afforestation in the Aral Sea region.
- ❖ The two sides also agreed to conserve the Fayaz Tepa and Kara Tepa Buddhist sites in southern Uzbekistan.

India-Russia Fuel Trade

- ❖ India has emerged as a key supplier of petrol to Russia as Ukrainian drone attacks disrupted Russian refinery operations.
- ❖ Russia's seaborne petrol imports reached a record 125,000 barrels per day (bpd) in August 2026.
- ❖ Indian refiners supplied about 1 million barrels of petrol to Russia during the last two months, mainly from the Vadinar refinery in Gujarat.
- ❖ India imported more than 2.6 million bpd of Russian crude oil in June and July 2026.
- ❖ Russia extended its petrol export ban until January 2027 amid domestic fuel shortages.

EU Membership - Iceland

- ❖ Icelandic voters rejected a proposal to resume negotiations on joining the European Union (EU).
- ❖ Around 53% of voters opposed restarting EU membership talks in the referendum.
- ❖ Supporters said EU membership could help reduce inflation and interest rates and provide greater economic stability through the euro.
- ❖ Opponents said Iceland already benefits from the EU single market and Schengen free-travel zone without full membership obligations.

- ❖ The referendum brought the long-running debate over Iceland's EU membership to an end.

SCO Summit 2026

- ❖ The 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ The summit marked 25 years of the SCO and was held under the theme "Together for Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity."
- ❖ PM Modi highlighted "Security, Connectivity and Opportunity" as key pillars and called for dismantling the entire terrorism ecosystem, including financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens.
- ❖ He stressed dialogue and diplomacy to resolve conflicts and called for a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine and West Asian conflicts.
- ❖ India also held bilateral engagements with Russia, China, Iran, Mongolia and Tajikistan during the summit.
- ❖ The SCO originated as the "Shanghai Five" in 1996 and became the SCO in 2001; India and Pakistan joined in 2017, Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.

Artemis Accords - Turkey

- ❖ Turkey became the 71st country to join the Artemis Accords, a framework for safe and peaceful space exploration.
- ❖ The Artemis Accords were launched in 2020 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Department of State.
- ❖ The agreement promotes safe, transparent and peaceful exploration of the Moon, Mars and beyond, based on the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.
- ❖ Signatories commit to sharing scientific data, assisting astronauts during emergencies and promoting interoperability of space systems.
- ❖ Turkey is the seventh West Asian country to join the Accords, after the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan and Israel.
- ❖ Turkey is developing its first uncrewed lunar mission, AYAP-1, and aims to strengthen its capabilities in space exploration.

Bishkek Declaration 2026

- ❖ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) adopted the Bishkek Declaration at its 26th Summit, held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

- ❖ The declaration strongly condemned terrorism in all forms and said that double standards in combating terrorism are unacceptable, while calling for action against terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens.
- ❖ SCO members called for the United Nations (UN) to play a central role in combating terrorism through implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
- ❖ The declaration opposed the use of terrorist, separatist and extremist groups for political purposes and stressed cooperation against the use of the internet for such activities.
- ❖ On West Asia, the SCO expressed concern over the conflict and supported a political and diplomatic solution, while reaffirming respect for Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's three pillars for the SCO — Security, Connectivity and Opportunity — and stressed that conflicts should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.
- ❖ India has launched initiatives under the SCO framework, including the SCO Start-up Forum, Young Authors' Conclave and Young Scientists' Forum, while the first SCO Civilizational Dialogue Forum is to be held in India in 2026.
- ❖ The SCO has 10 member countries: China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; India became a full member in 2017.

SCO Cultural Capital - Lahore

- ❖ Lahore, Pakistan, has been named the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2026–27 at the 26th SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek.
- ❖ The title has been rotated annually since 2022 to promote tourism, people-to-people contacts and the cultural heritage of SCO member states.
- ❖ Previous title holders were Varanasi (India), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Qingdao (China) and Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyzstan).
- ❖ Pakistan holds the SCO presidency in 2026, with the theme "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity."
- ❖ The SCO, founded in 2001 and headquartered in Beijing, has 10 member states and marks its 25th anniversary in 2026.

India-Uzbekistan Uranium Deal

- ❖ India decided to finalise a long-term uranium supply agreement with Uzbekistan to strengthen nuclear energy security.

- ❖ Uzbekistan produces nearly 6.6% of the world's uranium, making it an important source for India's nuclear fuel needs.
- ❖ India currently operates 24 nuclear power reactors with a capacity of 8.78 gigawatt (GW) and aims to achieve 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047.
- ❖ India already has a long-term uranium supply agreement with Kazakhstan, the world's largest uranium producer.
- ❖ Canadian company Cameco will supply nearly 22 million pounds of uranium ore concentrate to India between 2027 and 2035 for civil nuclear energy.
- ❖ India and Australia also finalised arrangements for the peaceful export of Australian uranium to India under the 2015 Australia-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement.

Trump US dollar 1 Commemorative Coin

- ❖ The United States Mint launched a \$1 commemorative coin featuring President Donald Trump to mark the country's 250th anniversary of independence.
- ❖ Trump became the first living U.S. president to appear on a U.S. coin since Calvin Coolidge in 1926.
- ❖ The coins are collectibles and are not issued for daily circulation, but they are legal tender.
- ❖ The coin has a golden colour but contains no actual gold; it is mainly made of copper, with zinc, nickel and manganese brass.
- ❖ The 1926 half-dollar featuring President Calvin Coolidge was the previous instance of a living U.S. president appearing on a U.S. coin.

UN Adopts Africa-Accurate Map

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the "Correct the Map" resolution to promote world maps that represent Africa's size more accurately.
- ❖ The resolution was supported by 164 countries, while the United States voted against it and six countries abstained.
- ❖ It promotes the Equal Earth projection, which shows the relative sizes of continents more accurately than the Mercator projection.
- ❖ The Mercator projection, created in 1569, makes regions near the poles appear larger and Africa appear smaller; Africa is actually about 14 times larger than Greenland.
- ❖ The resolution is non-binding, but it is expected to encourage international institutions to use more accurate world maps.

Child Marriage Elimination Day - November 27

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) has declared November 27 as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage.
- ❖ The date is significant for India as the 'Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat' campaign was launched on November 27, 2024.
- ❖ The campaign was started in 2023 by NDTV and Just Rights for Children, while Just Rights for Children founder Bhuwan Ribhu proposed the UN resolution.
- ❖ According to National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), 23.3% of women aged 20–24 was married before 18; NFHS-6 (2023–24) reported 20.1%.
- ❖ India aims to reduce child marriage prevalence by 10% by 2026, while Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, Target 5.3 calls for eliminating child, early and forced marriage by 2030.

Kharg Island Tanker Attack

- ❖ U.S. forces struck three Iranian oil tankers on 5 September 2026, including one near Kharg Island, after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched ballistic missiles at two U.S. Navy ships.
- ❖ Kharg Island is located in the Persian Gulf, in Bushehr Province, Iran, about 30 miles northwest of the port of Bushehr.
- ❖ It is Iran's largest crude oil export terminal, with most of the country's crude oil exports passing through the island.
- ❖ Iran said its forces also targeted three tankers in the Strait of Hormuz and other U.S.-linked vessels.
- ❖ The attacks increased concerns over oil supplies and shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a major global energy route.

Vostok Oil Pipeline

- ❖ Russia began the first oil flow through the Vostok Oil trunk pipeline.
- ❖ The pipeline carries crude to the Sever Bay (Bukhta Sever) terminal in Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia.
- ❖ Vostok Oil is a major Arctic oil project led by Rosneft.
- ❖ The project has an estimated resource base of about 7 billion tonnes of liquid hydrocarbons.
- ❖ The pipeline system connects the Vankor and Payakha oil fields with the coastal export terminal.
- ❖ The project is linked to oil transportation through Russia's Northern Sea Route.

G20 Innovation Ministers Meeting 2026

- ❖ The G20 Innovation Ministers' Meeting was held on 1–2 September 2026 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA.
- ❖ G20 Ministers adopted the Innovation Ministerial Statement covering six areas, including pro-innovation policies, emerging technologies, skilled workforce, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Intellectual Property (IP), and industrial innovation.
- ❖ The meeting reached consensus on the Carolina Principles for Emerging Technologies, AI Prosperity Objectives and AI Prosperity Compact.
- ❖ India discussed cooperation with the European Union, France, Germany, the African Union and the US in AI, digital technologies, semiconductors, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and research.
- ❖ The meeting highlighted cooperation in AI, semiconductors, robotics, Digital Public Infrastructure and other emerging technologies.

G20 FMCBG Meeting 2026

- ❖ The 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, under India's G20 Presidency.
- ❖ Five key areas were discussed: global economy and health, sustainable finance and infrastructure, international financial architecture, international taxation, and financial inclusion.
- ❖ Members endorsed recommendations on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for financial inclusion and the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP) 2024–26.
- ❖ The meeting focused on global debt vulnerabilities, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), climate finance and crypto-asset regulation, including concerns of emerging and developing economies.
- ❖ India was appointed Co-Chair of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) and will help implement the new FIAP for 2024–26.

Dili Declaration on Health

- ❖ The 79th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia (RC79) adopted the Dili Declaration on Human Resources for Health: Equity in Specialized Care in Dili, Timor-Leste.
- ❖ The declaration focuses on reducing health workforce shortages and unequal distribution of specialists, especially in rural, remote and underserved areas.
- ❖ Member States committed to better recruitment, deployment, retention and training of specialist health workers, along with stronger referral systems and telemedicine.

- ❖ India's medical colleges increased from 387 to 858 since 2014; MBBS seats rose from 51,348 to 1,42,464 and PG seats from 31,185 to 86,287.
- ❖ India is establishing 157 new nursing colleges, creating about 15,700 nursing graduates annually, and plans to create 1 lakh allied and healthcare professionals over five years.
- ❖ India received two WHO South-East Asia Regional awards for sustaining elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus and for leadership in controlling noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) through primary healthcare.

Bangladesh Measles Outbreak

- ❖ Bangladesh is facing its worst measles outbreak on record, with 999 suspected and confirmed measles-related deaths reported since March 2026.
- ❖ More than 166,000 suspected cases and 19,835 laboratory-confirmed cases have been reported, while over 146,000 patients have been hospitalised.
- ❖ The outbreak was linked to gaps in routine vaccination during 2024–2025 and vaccine supply problems.
- ❖ An emergency measles-rubella vaccination campaign targeted about 18 million children aged 6 months to under 5 years, with more than 19.7 million children vaccinated.
- ❖ Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that can be prevented through vaccination.

World's First Energy Island

- ❖ Belgium is building the world's first artificial energy island in the North Sea, about 45 km off the Belgian coast, to support offshore wind power.
- ❖ The Princess Elisabeth Island will serve as an energy hub for the Princess Elisabeth Zone, planned to have 3.5 GW of offshore wind capacity.
- ❖ It will collect electricity from offshore wind turbines and transmit it to mainland Belgium through undersea cables.
- ❖ The island will also host interconnectors with the United Kingdom and Denmark, linking the North Sea's offshore wind farms.
- ❖ Construction is scheduled to begin in 2027, with full operation expected by 2030.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)

- ❖ 128 countries reached a consensus in Geneva on a text defining Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) under the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

- ❖ LAWS are autonomous military systems that can detect, select and engage targets using pre-programmed parameters without meaningful human intervention for each attack.
- ❖ The consensus text is non-binding and may support future international regulations or a treaty on autonomous weapons.
- ❖ The United States, Russia, India and Israel oppose restrictive legally binding treaties and favour non-binding approaches or existing laws of armed conflict.
- ❖ Brazil, Ireland and Norway are among countries supporting a legally binding instrument to restrict autonomous targeting.
- ❖ CCW was adopted in Geneva in 1980 and entered into force in 1983; India is a State Party and participates in the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) discussions on LAWS.

BRICS Summit 2026 – New Delhi Declaration

- ❖ The 18th BRICS Summit was held in New Delhi, with India hosting the summit.
- ❖ India focused its BRICS chairship on four pillars: Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.
- ❖ The New Delhi Declaration, adopted at the summit, covered cooperation on global development, peace, health, climate, technology and other areas.
- ❖ BRICS leaders expressed concern over the growing risks of nuclear conflict and called for protection of civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.
- ❖ India highlighted BRICS initiatives including an early warning system for infectious diseases, disaster-management early-warning data integration, a logistics supply-chain cooperation framework and a digital agriculture network.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned against the weaponization of technology and critical minerals, stating that such disruptions could affect global supply chains and shared development.

BRICS Mental Health Network

- ❖ The 18th BRICS Summit's New Delhi Declaration supports a network of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) for mental health, with NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences), Bengaluru, as the coordinating centre.
- ❖ The network will promote collaborative research, policy dialogue, exchange of best practices and evidence-based mental health strategies among BRICS countries.
- ❖ Representatives from each BRICS member country will jointly govern the network to support the integration of mental well-being into primary healthcare.

- ❖ The Declaration also endorsed the BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle and the BRICS Roadmap for Healthy Lifestyle Promotion (2026–29).
- ❖ BRICS also proposed an Expert Working Group on TCIM (Traditional and Complementary/Integrative Medicine) under the BRICS Health Track.

BRICS Education Agenda 2026

- ❖ The New Delhi Declaration at the 18th BRICS Summit called for cooperation in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN).
- ❖ BRICS countries will promote sharing of best practices, mutual recognition of qualifications, academic mobility, digital literacy and safe, ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education.
- ❖ The BRICS Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Cooperation Alliance (BRICS-TCA) will support information exchange, resource sharing and joint development of vocational education.
- ❖ BRICS countries will strengthen skill development and link TVET institutions with industries to match training with changing market demands and improve workforce preparedness.
- ❖ Cooperation will continue through the BRICS Network University, including academic programmes, scholarships and collaboration on traditional and indigenous knowledge systems.

Houthi Control of Mayyun Island

- ❖ Iran-backed Houthi rebels captured Mayyun Island and expanded their control over Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab al-Mandab Strait.
- ❖ Mayyun Island lies on Yemen's side of the Bab al-Mandab Strait, the southern gateway to the Red Sea and Suez Canal.
- ❖ The Houthis also captured Greater Hanish and Lesser Hanish islands, the neighbouring Red Sea coastline, and the Yemeni port city of Mocha.
- ❖ These areas strengthen their position around the Bab al-Mandab Strait, an important international maritime route.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has relied on the Red Sea route after Iran's Strait of Hormuz blockade disrupted shipments through the Gulf.
- ❖ India condemned the attack on commercial vessel MT El Gaia off the coast of Oman, in the Arabian Sea, near the Strait of Hormuz.

India-MERCOSUR Trade Pact

- ❖ India and MERCOSUR signed the First Additional Protocol to the India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) to facilitate electronic Certificates of Origin.
- ❖ The Protocol promotes digital and paperless trade and reduces the time and cost of issuing and verifying Certificates of Origin.
- ❖ The India-MERCOSUR PTA was signed on 25 January 2004 and came into force on 1 June 2009.
- ❖ The PTA provides preferential tariff concessions on 450 tariff lines by India and 452 by MERCOSUR.
- ❖ MERCOSUR is a South American economic and political trade bloc founded in 1991.
- ❖ Its full members are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- ❖ Venezuela is a full member but has been suspended since 1 December 2016.
- ❖ Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Panama, Peru, and Suriname are associate countries.

Antelope Reef Base - China

- ❖ China has completed the first phase of land reclamation and infrastructure development at Antelope Reef in the disputed Paracel Islands, South China Sea.
- ❖ The reclaimed area spans nearly 6 km and includes a helicopter pad, 680-metre wharf, deep-water harbour and a possible 3-km runway.
- ❖ China says the facilities are for weather forecasting and scientific research, while Vietnam claims the entire Paracel Islands; China has maintained de facto control since 1974.
- ❖ The South China Sea is disputed by China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan; the 2016 Arbitral Tribunal rejected China's historic-rights claims beyond the maritime entitlements permitted under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- ❖ More than 55% of India's maritime trade passes through the South China Sea and Malacca Strait, making the development important for India's maritime security.

Historic Pact Among Three Nations

- ❖ Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) seeking greater self-determination and constitutional change from Westminster.

- ❖ The MoU was signed in Cardiff by the leaders of the three nations and states that they have the right to decide their political future democratically.
- ❖ It calls on the British Government to prepare and facilitate constitutional changes in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- ❖ The pact challenges Westminster, the seat of the UK Parliament, and calls for greater cooperation among the three nations in the economy and energy.
- ❖ The signatories support a future in which the three nations are part of the European Union (EU).

Orbital Weapons by USA

- ❖ The United States has acknowledged for the first time that the U.S. Space Force has deployed weapons in orbit.
- ❖ U.S. Air Force Secretary said the weapons are “on-orbit space control weapons” but did not specify their type or deployment date.
- ❖ The weapons are intended to protect U.S. forces and space systems from hostile actions.
- ❖ The capability could include systems for jamming or other forms of interference, but the exact technology has not been disclosed.
- ❖ The announcement comes as the United States, China and Russia continue developing and testing counterspace capabilities.

ATLAS Nuclear Initiative

- ❖ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) launched ATLAS (Atomic Technologies Licensed for Applications at Sea) to advance nuclear energy in civilian shipping and floating nuclear power plants.
- ❖ 26 countries signed a joint statement supporting ATLAS, including India, the US, the UK, France and Japan.
- ❖ Advanced reactors such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) could power ships for long periods without refuelling.
- ❖ Floating nuclear power plants could provide electricity to coastal and remote areas and offshore industries.
- ❖ ATLAS implementation will begin in 2026 through six expert groups covering safety, security, safeguards and regulatory issues.

EU-Canada Associate Membership

- ❖ European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has backed proposals for Canada to become the EU’s first “associate member”.

- ❖ The proposed status would deepen EU–Canada cooperation in technology, AI, defence, energy, critical minerals and economic security.
- ❖ “Associate membership” is not currently an EU membership category and could take years to establish.
- ❖ Canada has sought a “unique alliance” with the EU amid trade tensions with the US.
- ❖ Von der Leyen also proposed a European Security Council involving partners such as Canada, the UK and Ukraine.

India-Oman Port Cooperation

- ❖ Oman has invited Indian businesses to invest in Sohar Port, offering access to Gulf energy resources away from the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❖ Sohar Port is on Oman’s Gulf of Oman coast, away from the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❖ It is close to major energy pipelines of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and eastern Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The port has received over \$30 billion in investments and handles 72 million tonnes of cargo annually.
- ❖ Oman is promoting Sohar Port and its Free zone to increase Indian investment, trade and exports.
- ❖ Earlier, Oman had offered Duqm and Salalah ports to India.
- ❖ The upcoming Oman-UAE rail link is expected to connect Sohar with the UAE railway network.

Djibouti in Artemis Accords

- ❖ Djibouti joined the Artemis Accords, becoming the 72nd country globally and 8th African country to sign the U.S.-led space cooperation framework.
- ❖ Djibouti is located in the Horn of Africa, bordering Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia.
- ❖ It lies near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, connecting the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean.
- ❖ Lake Assal, at 155 m below sea level, is the lowest point in Africa and one of the world’s saltiest inland water bodies.
- ❖ Djibouti has no permanent surface rivers and lies at the junction of the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and East African Rift systems.
- ❖ Its space programme began in 2020, and it has placed two environmental-monitoring nanosatellites in low-Earth orbit.

US Drug Transit List 2027

- ❖ The United States included India, China and Pakistan in its FY2027 list of major drug transit or illicit drug-producing countries.
- ❖ Inclusion in the list does not automatically mean failure to control drug trafficking, as geography, trade and economic factors are also considered.
- ❖ The U.S. noted India's efforts against illicit opium cultivation, stronger supply-chain controls and cooperation under the U.S.-India Drug Policy Framework.
- ❖ China was identified as a major source of precursor chemicals used to manufacture fentanyl, methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs.
- ❖ Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma (Myanmar) and Colombia were designated as countries that had "failed demonstrably" to meet counternarcotics obligations.

Third BIMSTEC Conference on Traditional Medicine Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property Rights

- ❖ The Third BIMSTEC Conference on Traditional Medicine Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property Rights commenced in Goa.
- ❖ The conference is being organized by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, with the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa, serving as the nodal institute.
- ❖ It is being held alongside the Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Nodal Group on Traditional Medicine Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property Rights.
- ❖ Representatives from BIMSTEC member countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand — shared their respective national policies, legal frameworks and experiences.

About BIMSTEC

- ❖ Leadership is rotated in alphabetical order of country names.
- ❖ The permanent secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❖ It serves as a strategic regional bridge connecting South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ BIMSTEC acts as a strategic geographic and economic bridge connecting the regional blocs of SAARC and ASEAN.

Year of India and Vietnam Friendship – 2027

- ❖ India and Vietnam have agreed to observe next year as the "Year of India-Vietnam Friendship" to mark the 55th anniversary of their bilateral diplomatic relations.
- ❖ Vietnam for India is a key partner in India's Act East Policy, in India's Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) in outlook of the Indo-Pacific.

- ❖ Vietnam is equally an important partner in the framework of our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).
- ❖ Both countries elevated their relationship to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- ❖ Vietnam is the first country in the region with which we have bilateral ties at that level.
- ❖ India announced that it had signed a deal with Vietnam to supply BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.
- ❖ The bilateral joint military exercise between India and Vietnam is named Exercise VINBAX.

World Circular Economy Forum 2026

- ❖ The 10th World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026 was held from 15–18 September 2026 at Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, marking the first WCEF in South Asia.
- ❖ The theme was “Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity.”
- ❖ The forum was launched in 2017 and focuses on reuse, repair, remanufacturing, recycling and resource efficiency.
- ❖ The 2026 forum was organised by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Sitra and the Government of Gujarat, with the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) as a supporting organisation.
- ❖ Key areas included circular finance, sustainable resources, artificial intelligence (AI), digitalisation, circular supply chains, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), green jobs and sustainable products.

Oman Strategic Port

- ❖ Sohar Port in Oman has emerged as a strategic alternative gateway for Indian cargo to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries amid disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❖ It is a deep-sea commercial port and industrial free zone located in Liwa, Al Batinah North Governorate, facing the Gulf of Oman.
- ❖ It lies outside the Strait of Hormuz, providing an alternative maritime route to global shipping lanes.
- ❖ It has four major industrial clusters: Logistics, Petrochemicals, Metals and Food.
- ❖ It provides road connectivity to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait, supporting movement of Indian goods across the Gulf.

SCO Trade Ministers Meet

- ❖ The 25th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Ministers responsible for foreign economic and foreign trade activities was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- ❖ The meeting discussed sustainable economic growth, trade development, reducing trade barriers, and transport and logistics connectivity.
- ❖ A Joint Statement and the 2026–2030 Action Plan on multilateral trade and economic cooperation were adopted.
- ❖ The SCO, founded in 2001, has 10 member states, including India, China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran.
- ❖ The next SCO economic and foreign trade ministers' meeting is scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan in 2027.

Greenland Security Deal

- ❖ The United States, Denmark and Greenland are set to sign a security agreement expanding U.S. involvement in Greenland's defence.
- ❖ Greenland is the world's largest island, located between the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans, northeast of Canada, and is an autonomous territory of Denmark.
- ❖ The deal is scheduled to be signed on September 22, 2026, at the United Nations (UN) building in New York.
- ❖ It affirms Danish sovereignty and the right of Greenland's people to self-determination.
- ❖ The agreement concerns Greenland's defence and aims to prevent China and Russia from establishing military bases or making sensitive investments there.

L.69 Group and UNSC Reform

- ❖ External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired the L.69 Consultative Ministerial Interaction on United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform with Saint Lucia's Foreign Minister Alva Baptiste in New York.
- ❖ The L.69 Group is a cross-regional coalition of over 30 developing countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific, including Small Island Developing States.
- ❖ It works for comprehensive and urgent reform of the UNSC to make the Council more representative and effective.
- ❖ The C-10 (Committee of Ten) is an African Union group of 10 countries that promotes the Common African Position on UNSC reform.
- ❖ India said that the UNSC's inability to address ongoing conflicts and threats to international peace and security highlights the need for reform.

- ❖ India, L.69 and C-10 continue to coordinate their efforts on UNSC reform; India also works with the G4 (India, Brazil, Germany and Japan) on the issue.

Partners for Multilateralism

- ❖ India attended the inaugural Partners for Multilateralism (P4M) Summit held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.
- ❖ P4M is a coalition of middle powers, regional organisations and developing countries aimed at strengthening multilateral cooperation.
- ❖ European Union (EU), Brazil, Canada and Kenya are the founding initiators; India, Australia and Barbados joined as initial co-sponsors and participants.
- ❖ The grouping seeks reforms in the United Nations (UN) and global financial institutions to improve representation and effectiveness.
- ❖ It focuses on common global issues such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), climate change, pandemics, supply-chain resilience and digital transformation.

Global Pesticide Review

- ❖ The Chemical Review Committee (CRC-22) of the Rotterdam Convention adopted a Decision Guidance Document on the insecticide methyl parathion at its meeting in Rome, Italy.
- ❖ Methyl parathion is an organophosphorus insecticide used to control insects in crops such as cereals, fruits, vegetables and cotton.
- ❖ It is highly toxic to humans, birds, honeybees and aquatic animals.
- ❖ Brazil and the European Union (EU) have already banned the production, sale and use of products containing methyl parathion.
- ❖ The guidance document has been forwarded to the Conference of the Parties (COP) for final review; if approved, methyl parathion will come under the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure for international trade.

V4+India Foreign Ministers' Meeting

- ❖ The first V4+India Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.
- ❖ The meeting brought together India with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, which form the Visegrád Group (V4).
- ❖ External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar participated in the meeting under the Slovak Presidency of the V4.
- ❖ Discussions covered trade, investment, technology, innovation, defence, security, connectivity, education and mobility.

- ❖ The V4+India format provides an additional platform for dialogue and cooperation between India and the Visegrád Group.

OneSCD Global Partnership

- ❖ India co-hosted the launch of OneSCD (Global Partnership to Advance Equity and Transform Sickle Cell Care) during the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.
- ❖ Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an inherited blood disorder in which red blood cells become rigid and sickle-shaped, affecting blood flow and oxygen supply.
- ❖ India's National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCAEM) was launched in 2023 to eliminate Sickle Cell Disease as a public health problem by 2047.
- ❖ The mission focuses on population-scale screening, early diagnosis, counselling, treatment and follow-up.
- ❖ India reaffirmed its commitment to an equitable, coordinated and sustainable global response to Sickle Cell Disease.

Enemy State Clauses in UN Charter

- ❖ Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi called for the removal of the "enemy State" clauses from the United Nations (UN) Charter during the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ The term "enemy State" refers to countries that were enemies of a UN Charter signatory during World War II, mainly Germany, Italy and Japan.
- ❖ Articles 53, 107 and 77 contain provisions related to enemy States, created in the post-World War II period.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recognised these clauses as obsolete in 1995, but they remain part of the UN Charter.
- ❖ Under Article 108, removing them requires a two-thirds General Assembly majority and ratification by two-thirds of UN member states, including all five permanent Security Council members.

UN Shipping Safety Group

- ❖ India and Liberia jointly launched the Group of Friends on Safety and Security of Shipping and Seafarers (GoF on S4) during the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York.
- ❖ India and Liberia are the co-chairs of the group, which includes 25 member countries.

- ❖ Liberia has the world's largest open ship registry, while India is the second-largest supplier of seafarers, with around 2.5 lakh active Indian seafarers.
- ❖ The group aims to protect seafarers, improve maritime security and coordinate responses to piracy and attacks on ships.
- ❖ It promotes the safe evacuation, medical treatment and repatriation of seafarers trapped in conflict zones.
- ❖ Over 80% of global trade by volume is transported by sea, making safe Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) important for international trade.

UN Cybercrime Convention 2026

- ❖ India's External Affairs Minister signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, strengthening India's participation in global efforts to combat cybercrime.
- ❖ It is the first comprehensive global treaty on cybercrime, aimed at strengthening international cooperation against cyber offences.
- ❖ The Convention supports cross-border investigations, sharing of electronic evidence and prosecution of cybercrime.
- ❖ It helps countries investigate crimes involving Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).
- ❖ It addresses both technical and legal challenges created by transnational cybercrime.
- ❖ It also supports the recovery of criminal proceeds linked to cybercrime.

ECONOMY

India's Coconut Exports Rise

- ❖ India's coconut product exports increased 62% in FY 2025–26, reaching ₹7,038.35 crore (USD 794.70 million) from ₹4,349.03 crore in the previous fiscal year.
- ❖ India remained the world's largest coconut producer, contributing 31.24% of global coconut production.
- ❖ Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh together account for 91.11% of India's coconut production.
- ❖ Major value-added exports include virgin coconut oil, coconut milk, coconut water and activated carbon, used in food, cosmetics and industrial applications.

- ❖ The Coconut Development Board (CDB) is the statutory body for coconut-sector development; it had 8,700 registered coconut product exporters as of 31 July 2026.
- ❖ The Union Budget 2026–27 introduced the Coconut Promotion Scheme with an allocation of ₹350 crore; the sector supports nearly 30 million livelihoods in India.

GDP Methodology and Q1 Estimates

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) explained the revised Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates for the first quarter (Q1) of 2026–27.
- ❖ A negative 1.5% manufacturing GVA (Gross Value Added) deflator does not mean manufacturing prices fell; it resulted from input prices rising faster than output prices under the double-deflation method.
- ❖ Manufacturing nominal GVA grew 7.7%, while real GVA grew 9.2% in Q1 2026–27.
- ❖ Q1 2025–26 current-price GDP was revised from ₹86.05 lakh crore to ₹80.00 lakh crore due to the new 2022–23 base year, improved data sources, and updated indicators.
- ❖ The GDP deflator, Consumer Price Index (CPI), and Wholesale Price Index (WPI) differ because they cover different goods, services, and economic activities.
- ❖ Mining and Quarrying real GVA fell 2.4%, while nominal GVA grew 22.3%, mainly due to sharp increases in mineral prices.

RBI Forex Swap Facility

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) forex swap facility has mobilised over \$136 billion through foreign exchange inflows.
- ❖ A total of \$136.377 billion was mobilised, including \$127.226 billion through Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposits, \$5.260 billion through Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs), and \$3.891 billion through External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs).
- ❖ The RBI introduced the special USD-INR forex swap facility on June 8, 2026, to manage foreign exchange outflows caused by high oil prices and Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) outflows.
- ❖ The FCNR(B) deposit facility, originally open until September 30, 2026, was closed early on August 31, 2026, due to higher-than-expected inflows.
- ❖ The inflows are expected to strengthen India's foreign exchange reserves and provide support to the Indian rupee.

Direct Tax Buoyancy

- ❖ India's direct tax buoyancy remained above 1 for the third consecutive financial year, reaching 1.39 in 2024–25.
- ❖ Direct tax buoyancy compares the growth in direct tax revenue with the growth in nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- ❖ The ratio was 1.27 in 2022–23, 1.48 in 2023–24, and 1.39 in 2024–25.
- ❖ A buoyancy value above 1 means direct tax revenue grew faster than nominal GDP.
- ❖ Direct taxes include income tax, corporate tax and securities transaction tax, and are administered by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- ❖ The Income-tax Act, 2025 replaced the Income-tax Act, 1961 from 1 April 2026.

Coastal Local Area Bank - Scheduled Bank Status

- ❖ Coastal Local Area Bank Limited was included in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, and received Scheduled Bank status through an RBI notification.
- ❖ The bank is headquartered in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, and has been operating for 26 years.
- ❖ It currently operates 57 branches across 12 districts.
- ❖ It recently received RBI approval to expand to Vizianagaram and Prakasam in Andhra Pradesh, and Khammam in Telangana, with 13 additional branches.
- ❖ Scheduled Bank status will enable it to target new customers and institutional depositors and increase Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) deposits.

EPFO Wage Ceiling

- ❖ Union Cabinet has approved raising the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) wage ceiling from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month.
- ❖ The change is expected to bring over 51 lakh additional employees under mandatory EPFO coverage.
- ❖ It will expand access to Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) and Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI) benefits.
- ❖ The wage ceiling was last increased from ₹6,500 to ₹15,000 in September 2014.
- ❖ The estimated additional government expenditure is ₹11,339 crore annually and about ₹56,696 crore over five years.

IT Resilience Index - SEBI

- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced the Information Technology Resilience Index (ITRI) for Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs).
- ❖ ITRI will assess IT systems on nine parameters, including availability, security, integrity, governance, reliability, business continuity and scalability.
- ❖ Availability and security carry the highest weightage of 20% each.
- ❖ MIIs must develop an Early Warning System (EWS) to detect IT risks and calculate ITRI half-yearly.
- ❖ Full rollout, including EWS and real-time monitoring, is due by 28 February 2027.

India's first Tokenized Corporate Bond

- ❖ The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has enabled tokenised corporate bond issuances worth a combined Rs 1,000 crore.
- ❖ The transactions were conducted under the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) Regulatory Sandbox Framework with guidance and support from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ The issuance saw participation from banks, financial institutions, mutual funds and depositories.
- ❖ Tokenisation enables securities to be represented and managed digitally using Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT).
- ❖ The technology allows digital records of securities to be maintained across a distributed network, with NSE positioning it as a tool for improving processes across the securities lifecycle.

FDI Inflow in India 2026

- ❖ India recorded its highest-ever annual Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow of USD 94.53 billion in FY 2025–26, while cumulative inflows from FY 2014–15 to FY 2025–26 reached USD 843 billion.
- ❖ Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes attracted ₹2.40 lakh crore investment, ₹23.8 lakh crore in production/sales and ₹15.2 lakh crore in exports.
- ❖ PLI schemes generated over 14.6 lakh direct and indirect jobs and benefited sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and Information Technology (IT) hardware.
- ❖ Make in India marked its 12th anniversary on 25 September 2026, with reforms aimed at boosting investment and manufacturing.
- ❖ More than 470 crore orders have been placed through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Vacuum Birefringence

- ❖ Scientists found strong evidence of vacuum birefringence around the magnetar 1E 1547.0–5408, supporting a prediction of quantum electrodynamics (QED).
- ❖ Vacuum birefringence occurs when an extremely strong magnetic field makes empty space behave like a crystal and changes the polarisation of light.
- ❖ The IXPE (Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer) satellite detected X-ray polarisation of up to 80% from the magnetar, located about 14,700 light-years away.
- ❖ The study also used NICER (Neutron Star Interior Composition Explorer) and Australia's Murriyang radio telescope.
- ❖ Magnetars are neutron stars with extremely powerful magnetic fields, making them natural laboratories for studying this quantum effect.

Nancy Grace Roman Telescope

- ❖ NASA is preparing to launch the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, a next-generation observatory to study dark energy, dark matter, gravity and planets beyond the Solar System.
- ❖ It is named after Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first chief astronomer, and follows the Hubble Space Telescope (1990) and James Webb Space Telescope (2021).
- ❖ The telescope is planned to launch aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy from Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, and will travel to Lagrange Point 2 (L2), about 1.6 million km from Earth.
- ❖ Its main survey is expected to cover over two billion galaxies, helping scientists study the growth of cosmic structures and the expansion of the universe.

Quantum-Safe Communication Products

- ❖ The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) unveiled 14 indigenous quantum products on its 43rd Foundation Day in New Delhi on 31 August 2026.
- ❖ The products cover Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) and specialised components for secure communication.
- ❖ Key products include Q-AKSHAY, Q-SETU, Q-MAHASETU, Q-VIKRAM, Q-AMOGH, Q-DARSHAN, Q-VAJRA1000 and Q-PARAKRAM for telecom, enterprise, optical, wireless and defence applications.
- ❖ They use National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Post-Quantum Cryptography algorithms to protect communications from future quantum-computing threats.

- ❖ The initiative aims to strengthen the security and resilience of India's communication networks through indigenous technology.

EOS-05 Earth Observation Mission

- ❖ ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) successfully launched EOS-05, using the GSLV-F17 (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F17) launch vehicle at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ❖ It placed EOS-05, an Earth observation satellite, into a Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub-GTO).
- ❖ EOS-05 is India's first imaging satellite designed to operate from a geosynchronous orbit, enabling repeated observation of large areas.
- ❖ Earth observation data can be used for agriculture, disaster management, water resources, forestry, environmental monitoring and urban planning.
- ❖ The mission is the 19th flight of the GSLV, demonstrating India's capability to place spacecraft into high-energy orbits.

Heat to Electricity Breakthrough

- ❖ Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), University of Sydney and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) developed a crystal that produces nearly 1,000 times higher thermoelectric voltage than the textbook limit.
- ❖ They used scandium nitride (ScN) thin films doped with magnesium to create a heavily doped, highly compensated semiconductor.
- ❖ The discovery challenges the long-accepted limit of the Seebeck effect, which converts a temperature difference into electrical voltage.
- ❖ The material can support ultrasensitive temperature sensors, heat detectors and quantum sensing devices.
- ❖ The films were confirmed to be single-crystalline and epitaxial using X-ray diffraction and atomic-resolution electron microscopy.

Rabies Elimination - Bhutan

- ❖ Bhutan has become the first country in the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region to eliminate dog-transmitted rabies as a public health problem.
- ❖ Rabies is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system and is almost always fatal once clinical symptoms appear.

- ❖ It is mainly transmitted through the saliva of infected animals, especially through bites.
- ❖ Dogs are the main source of human rabies deaths, accounting for about 99% of human rabies cases globally.
- ❖ Globally, rabies causes about 59,000 human deaths every year, with about one-third occurring in India.
- ❖ India aims to bring human rabies deaths to zero by 2030 under the National Rabies Control Programme.

Coffee Husk Innovation - CLRI

- ❖ CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CSIR-CLRI), Chennai, has developed a leather-like material from coffee husk waste.
- ❖ India produces about 3.5 lakh tonnes of coffee annually, generating around 1 lakh tonnes of coffee husk waste.
- ❖ The material is made by converting coffee husk into a matrix using plant-derived materials, followed by colouring, coating and embossing.
- ❖ The technology follows a zero-liquid and zero-solid-waste discharge concept and can be used to make bags, wallets, footwear and notebook covers.
- ❖ It is intended as an alternative to petroleum-based synthetic materials such as Polyurethane (PU) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC), not as a replacement for real leather.

BAM-H24 Rocket Fuel

- ❖ The Indian Patent Office granted a patent to DRDO and the University of Hyderabad for the solid rocket propellant BAM-H24.
- ❖ BAM-H24 is a boron-, hydrogen- and nitrogen-rich energetic compound designed for use as solid rocket fuel, fuel additive or burn-rate accelerator.
- ❖ It is described as chemically and thermally stable, non-hygroscopic, and highly insensitive to impact and friction.
- ❖ The compound was developed by researchers from the Advanced Centre of Research in High Energy Materials (ACRHEM) and the University of Hyderabad.
- ❖ The material is intended for defence propulsion systems and space launch vehicles.

New Tokamaks in India

- ❖ India added two small-scale spherical tokamaks to its fusion research base in 2026.

- ❖ Pragma, developed by Bengaluru-based Pranos Fusion, was completed on 21 August 2026 and launched on 3 September 2026.
- ❖ The Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), Gandhinagar, achieved the first plasma in its compact spherical tokamak and conducted 114 plasma discharges.
- ❖ A spherical tokamak is a compact magnetic-confinement device used to study plasma behaviour for nuclear fusion research.
- ❖ India's fusion facilities include ADITYA-U and SST-1 at IPR, while India holds a 9% stake in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) in France.
- ❖ Pragma is an experimental testbed for plasma control and high-temperature superconducting (HTS) magnets, not a commercial electricity-generation machine.

Hanle Dark Sky Reserve

- ❖ The 4th Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR) Star Party was held at the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh.
- ❖ It was jointly organised by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Department of Wildlife Protection, Ladakh, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).
- ❖ The HDSR was notified in December 2022 to reduce light pollution, support astronomical research and promote Astro-tourism.
- ❖ Hanle is also planned to host the 3.7-m upgraded Himalayan Chandra Telescope and 13.7-m National Large Optical-infrared Telescope (NLT).

Tata Steel Green Technology

- ❖ Tata Steel has commissioned India's first Coke Oven Gas (COG) injection project at its Meramandali plant in Odisha.
- ❖ COG is a hydrogen- and hydrocarbon-rich by-product gas generated during coke production.
- ❖ The cleaned gas is injected into the blast furnace through tuyeres to partly replace conventional fossil fuels.
- ❖ Its hydrogen content helps reduce the use of coke and coal and lower carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.
- ❖ It aims to improve resource efficiency, operational flexibility and low-carbon ironmaking.

Artificial Sun Project - India

- ❖ India's fusion research advanced with the installation of a new 82.6 GHz, 400 kW gyrotron in the SST-1 tokamak at the Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), Gujarat.
- ❖ SST-1 (Steady State Superconducting Tokamak-1) is an experimental machine that studies magnetically confined hot plasma for fusion research.
- ❖ The new gyrotron provides up to 400 kW radio-frequency (RF) power for electron cyclotron resonance heating (ECRH) experiments.
- ❖ SST-1 has already achieved plasma temperatures above 200 million°C, much hotter than the Sun's core.
- ❖ The system works with an existing 42 GHz, 500 kW ECRH system, helping scientists study plasma heating, control and stability.

New Study on Mercury

- ❖ A new study suggests that Mercury may have contracted 10–30% more than earlier estimates, as its interior cooled over billions of years.
- ❖ Researchers estimate that Mercury's radius may have decreased by about 7.2 miles (11.6 km) due to the cooling and contraction of its interior.
- ❖ The study used data from NASA's MESSENGER mission to map Mercury's surface roughness.
- ❖ Impact debris from asteroids and comets may have hidden some cliffs, wrinkles and ridges caused by Mercury's contraction.
- ❖ Mercury's shrinkage could provide clues about its metallic core, interior structure, geological history and magnetic field.

Gallium Nitride MMIC Technology

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated indigenous Gallium Nitride Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit (GaN MMIC) technology.
- ❖ GaN MMIC is a small chip for handling high-frequency microwave signals and works up to the X-band.
- ❖ Gallium Nitride (GaN) offers high power, better energy efficiency, faster signal processing and improved heat performance.
- ❖ A 3.5×3 mm GaN chip can deliver up to 30 watts of power, useful in radars, satellites, sensors and missiles.
- ❖ DRDO developed the technology in 2024, helping India join a limited group of countries with indigenous GaN MMIC technology.

Elias 2-24 b Planet

- ❖ Astronomers confirmed Elias 2-24 b as the youngest known planet, aged less than 1 million years.
- ❖ It orbits Elias 2-24, about 450 light-years from Earth, and has a mass similar to Jupiter.
- ❖ The planet lies in a gap in its protoplanetary disk and is still gathering material from it.
- ❖ Its confirmation used observations from W. M. Keck Observatory, Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) and Very Large Telescope (VLT).
- ❖ It was first inferred from a disk gap in 2017, before being confirmed later.

Stem Cell Therapy Guidelines

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued an advisory to States and Union Territories to regulate stem cell therapy.
- ❖ Stem cell therapy can be used as standard care only for Ministry-approved diseases and indications, including certain blood cancers and blood disorders.
- ❖ Stem cell therapy for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is restricted to approved clinical trials and cannot be marketed as standard treatment.
- ❖ Clinical trials must follow the National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research, 2017, issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Biotechnology.
- ❖ Unauthorized use, promotion or advertisement of stem cell therapy can lead to disciplinary action and penalties under the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010.
- ❖ Haematopoietic stem-cell transplantation (bone marrow transplantation) is an established treatment for certain blood cancers and disorders such as leukaemia and thalassemia.

Plastic Waste to Fuel Technology

- ❖ Scientists at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) developed a method to convert polyethylene plastic waste into gasoline- and diesel-like fuels.
- ❖ The process uses aluminium chloride-based molten salts as both the reaction medium and catalyst.
- ❖ It converts polyethylene into smaller hydrocarbon molecules at temperatures below 200°C.
- ❖ The process produced about 60% gasoline under relatively mild conditions.
- ❖ It does not require noble-metal catalysts, organic solvents or external hydrogen.

Biovigilance Programme of India

- ❖ India launched the Biovigilance Programme of India (BvPI) in New Delhi during the 6th National Pharmacovigilance Week.
- ❖ BvPI will monitor adverse events related to biological products used in organ and tissue transplantation.
- ❖ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) will lead the monitoring of these safety events.
- ❖ Biovigilance complements Pharmacovigilance and Materiovigilance programmes for medicines and medical devices.
- ❖ The 7th Edition of the National Formulary of India (NFI) and its digital version were also released on 21 September 2026.

Bio-Based PLA Plastics

- ❖ India has started the commercial transition and pilot-scale manufacturing of bio-based, biodegradable Polylactic Acid (PLA) plastics under the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy.
- ❖ A 100 Tonnes Per Annum (TPA) pilot facility is being established at Kumbhi, Uttar Pradesh, using agricultural feedstock such as sugarcane molasses and bagasse.
- ❖ PLA is a bio-based thermoplastic made from fermented plant materials such as sugarcane, corn and cassava.
- ❖ PLA can be industrially composted and breaks down into water, carbon dioxide and organic matter under suitable conditions.
- ❖ It can reduce dependence on petroleum-based plastics and convert agricultural waste into useful products.
- ❖ PLA can be used in compostable packaging, agricultural films and consumer products.

Rapidly Shrinking Binary - eRASSU J0608

- ❖ Indian-led astronomers identified eRASSU J060839.5–704014 (eRASSU J0608), a pair of white dwarfs orbiting each other in about 6.2 minutes.
- ❖ It is an ultracompact double-white-dwarf binary whose orbit is shrinking at about 4.7×10^{-11} seconds per second.
- ❖ White dwarfs are dense remains of stars like the Sun after they use up their nuclear fuel and lose their outer layers.
- ❖ Material from one white dwarf may directly hit the other through direct-impact accretion, producing strong X-ray emission.
- ❖ NASA NICER, Einstein Probe and European Space Agency (ESA) XMM-Newton observations were used to study the system for about 3.5 years.

ENVIRONMENT

Rare Migratory Duck - *Mergellus albellus*

- ❖ The rare migratory Smew (*Mergellus albellus*) was sighted for the first time at Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.
- ❖ The Smew is a small diving duck belonging to the family Anatidae.
- ❖ It breeds in northern Eurasia and migrates south to ice-free water bodies during winter.
- ❖ It is listed as Least Concern on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- ❖ Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Nagaon district.

Global Drought Framework

- ❖ Countries failed to agree on a global drought framework at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ❖ The proposed framework aimed to improve drought prevention, early-warning systems, national planning and international cooperation.
- ❖ Both legally binding and voluntary options remained unresolved and were postponed until COP18.
- ❖ The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) estimated an annual drought resilience and land restoration funding gap of \$278 billion.
- ❖ Countries agreed to make drought a permanent standalone agenda item from COP18 onwards.
- ❖ COP18 will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

Elephant Habitat Restoration in Assam

- ❖ A two-hectare area in Khalingduar Reserve Forest, Udalguri district, Assam, has been selected for elephant habitat restoration using biochar made from invasive plants.
- ❖ The project is supported by the International Elephant Foundation (IEF) to restore degraded habitats and increase native vegetation.
- ❖ Invasive plants such as *Lantana camara*, *Chromolaena odorata* and *Mikania micrantha* will be used to produce biochar through controlled heating with limited oxygen.
- ❖ The biochar will help improve soil quality and support the regeneration of native vegetation, strengthening elephant habitats.

- ❖ The project follows a circular approach by converting invasive plant biomass into a useful soil amendment.
- ❖ Improved food availability in forests may help reduce human-elephant conflict by reducing elephants' dependence on agricultural fields.

16 New Indigenous Animal Breeds

- ❖ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has officially registered 16 new indigenous breeds of livestock and dogs.
- ❖ The registration was approved at the 14th meeting of the Breed Registration Committee (BRC), taking India's total registered animal breeds to 262.
- ❖ The 16 breeds belong to 9 animal species and are found across 13 States and 1 Union Territory (Jammu & Kashmir).
- ❖ The new breeds include Koppal, Mahakaushali, Periyar and Umarda cattle; Gomanchali buffalo; Battisi and Totapuri goats; and Asomi, Kow Debar, Madgyal and Seemanchali sheep.
- ❖ They also include Braj donkey, Kashmiri horse/pony, Nagal pig, Sikkimese yak and Kombai dog of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ ICAR-NBAGR (National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources), based in Karnal, Haryana, is the nodal institute for registering livestock and poultry breeds in India.

Global Ocean Temperature

- ❖ The global daily average sea surface temperature reached a record 21.104°C on August 22, 2026, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).
- ❖ The extra-polar ocean (60°S–60°N) recorded the temperature, slightly exceeding the previous record of 21.09°C set on March 1, 2024.
- ❖ The August record is unusual because global ocean temperatures normally peak during March and April; the previous highest August value was 20.98°C in 2023.
- ❖ The El Niño developing in the tropical Pacific is adding heat to oceans already warmed by long-term human-driven climate change.
- ❖ On August 22, 1979, the same ocean region averaged 20.15°C, nearly 1°C cooler than in 2026.
- ❖ Warmer oceans can contribute to sea-level rise, marine heatwaves, coral and seagrass damage, stronger rainfall and storms, and reduced ocean absorption of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation

- ❖ Assam's Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) has completed 25 years of wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and conservation.
- ❖ CWRC, established at Panbari near Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, is India's first dedicated facility to hand-raise, treat and release orphaned and injured wild animals.
- ❖ It is jointly run by the Assam Forest Department, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).
- ❖ The centre has rescued 10,000+ animals and released about 68% of them back into the wild.
- ❖ It helped reintroduce one-horned rhinoceroses into Manas National Park and rehabilitated Asiatic black bears, wild buffaloes and hoolock gibbons.

El Niño Emergency - Ecuador

- ❖ Ecuador declared a red alert across the country due to the ongoing El Niño climate phenomenon, which officials warn could become the strongest on record.
- ❖ El Niño is a climate phenomenon in which surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean rise, causing changes in winds, atmospheric pressure and rainfall.
- ❖ The phenomenon is causing severe drought in Central America and worsening wildfires in Indonesia.
- ❖ Scientists expect the current El Niño to peak by the end of 2026 and potentially contribute to record global heat in 2027.
- ❖ Ecuador is preparing for droughts and wildfires in its Amazon region, while El Niño can also disrupt fishing and bird migration.
- ❖ Panama, Honduras, El Salvador and Peru have also declared emergencies related to El Niño.

India's Open Natural Ecosystems

- ❖ India launched its first Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems of India at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ❖ The guide recognises grasslands, savannas, deserts, scrublands, ravines and rocky plateaus as important ecosystems instead of "wastelands".
- ❖ It covers ecosystems such as the Thar Desert, Banni grasslands, Deccan savannas, Aravalli scrublands, Yamuna-Chambal ravines and Tamil Nadu's Theri Kaadu.

- ❖ It was developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with institutions including the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ❖ The guide highlights biodiversity, soil carbon, hydrology and pastoral livelihoods, including communities such as Raikas, Dhangars, Gujjars and Bakarwals.
- ❖ It stresses that tree planting is not always suitable, as species such as the Great Indian Bustard and Blackbuck depend on open habitats, which also store significant below-ground carbon.

Coral Bleaching Threat

- ❖ The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) released its seventh Status of Coral Reefs of the World report, showing that coral bleaching events are becoming more frequent.
- ❖ Global hard coral cover declined by about 9.5% compared with the 1980–2009 reference period, with a major decline since 2010.
- ❖ In 2024, 87% of reefs experienced unprecedented heat stress, while 42.6% faced heat stress severe enough to risk widespread bleaching and coral mortality.
- ❖ Marine heatwaves, intensified by human-caused climate change, have become the strongest global driver of coral-cover decline; reef recovery periods have shortened from about 10 years to 4–6 years in many regions.
- ❖ The fourth global mass coral bleaching event began in 2023 and was likely the most severe and widespread event recorded, with its full impact expected to continue after 2024.
- ❖ The assessment used 21.1 million observations from 87,299 surveys across 36,886 reef sites between 1980 and 2024.

Striped Hyena Conservation

- ❖ The conservation status of the striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) in India has highlighted the need for better population data and conservation efforts.
- ❖ The striped hyena is listed as Near Threatened (NT) on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- ❖ Around 5,000–14,000 striped hyenas are estimated worldwide, with about 1,000–3,000 in India; India does not have an official census.
- ❖ It is mainly a scavenger that feeds on carrion and helps keep ecosystems clean by reducing the risk of disease from animal remains.
- ❖ It has the highest legal protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, but India lacks a unified national action plan for the species.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has allocated ₹14 lakh for striped hyena conservation.

Eight Building Blocks of Birdsong

- ❖ A new study found that songs of over 3,000 passerine bird species are built from eight basic sound motifs.
- ❖ Researchers analysed over one lakh recordings using machine learning and identified three trills, three whistles, atonal chaotic notes and harmonic stacks.
- ❖ Birds use about five motifs on average, and their choice is influenced mainly by evolutionary history, habitat and social behaviour.
- ❖ Birds in tropical rainforests generally use simpler songs for better sound transmission, while birds in temperate regions tend to use more complex, information-rich songs.

Pichavaram Mangrove Value

- ❖ A recent study estimated the Total Economic Value (TEV) of the Pichavaram Mangrove Ecosystem at ₹2,485.38 crore.
- ❖ Pichavaram Mangrove Forest in Tamil Nadu provides ecosystem services such as coastal protection, biodiversity conservation, fisheries, tourism and climate regulation.
- ❖ Its blue carbon asset value is estimated at ₹1,612.40 crore, including carbon stored in vegetation and soil.
- ❖ Soil organic carbon alone accounts for ₹1,224.63 crore, showing that much of the carbon is stored below the ground in mangrove sediments.
- ❖ The study estimated an average of 79.449 tonnes of carbon per hectare in mangrove vegetation and 251.14 tonnes per hectare in soil.

41 elephant Corridors in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has identified 41 elephant corridors across the State and sought three more months to complete their study and notification.
- ❖ The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) had earlier identified 17 elephant corridors, while a state government committee identified 41 corridors.
- ❖ The Forest Department is conducting field inspections and detailed studies to determine which identified areas need to be officially notified as elephant corridors.
- ❖ The Madras High Court granted the additional three months and adjourned the hearing to December 4, 2026.

Vulture Reintroduction – Maharashtra

- ❖ Melghat and Pench Tiger Reserves in Maharashtra have emerged as India's most successful sites for the reintroduction of captive-bred vultures.
- ❖ 29 vultures released across the two reserves between December 2025 and January 2026 recorded survival rates of up to 78%.
- ❖ The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) reported that the results show the suitability of prey-rich and undisturbed tiger habitats for vulture reintroduction.
- ❖ The Indian Vulture (*Gyps indicus*) is classified as Critically Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- ❖ The reintroduction effort aims to conserve and restore declining vulture populations and strengthen their future in India.

High Risk Glacial Lakes - Sikkim

- ❖ Sikkim has identified 40 high-hazard glacial lakes, including 16 in the highest-risk Category A for possible Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).
- ❖ Glacial lakes form from melting glaciers and accumulated meltwater; GLOFs occur when these lakes suddenly burst due to triggers such as excess water or earthquakes.
- ❖ Shako Chho Lake has been identified as the most vulnerable to a GLOF; Sikkim is preparing mitigation measures for it.
- ❖ Sikkim's Department of Science and Technology has been the nodal department for GLOF hazard assessment and mitigation since February 2025.
- ❖ Sikkim is working on what could be India's first dedicated GLOF Risk Mitigation Protocol, while satellite imagery, remote sensing and early-warning sensors are being used for monitoring.

Pallikaranai Bird Population Record

- ❖ Pallikaranai marshland in Chennai recorded high numbers of native waterbirds ahead of the 2026–27 migratory bird season.
- ❖ 3,091 common coots were recorded in August 2026, the highest August count since 2014–15.
- ❖ A record 3,597 grey-headed swamphens were also recorded in August.
- ❖ 252 oriental darters, a Near Threatened bird, were sighted.
- ❖ The Nature Trust has been monitoring and documenting birds in the marshland with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department since 2012.
- ❖ The migratory bird season is expected to continue from August/September 2026 to April/May 2027.

Myristica Swamps issue

- ❖ A new study warned that rare Myristica swamps in the Western Ghats of Kerala are close to extinction due to habitat loss.
- ❖ These freshwater swamps occur mainly in Kerala, with small distributions in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ Kerala now has only 53 patches in the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, Anchal and Kulathupuzha forest areas.
- ❖ They act as natural water-holding systems, helping groundwater recharge, maintaining perennial streams and reducing floods.
- ❖ Logging, drainage and conversion into paddy fields, plantations and farms have caused their decline.

Kākāpō Conservation Recovery

- ❖ New Zealand's critically endangered kākāpō, the world's heaviest parrot, has reached 325 birds, up from 51 in 1995.
- ❖ The kākāpō, scientifically known as *Strigops habroptila*, is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ The 2026 breeding season produced 90 chicks, the highest recorded under the modern recovery programme.
- ❖ Kākāpō are flightless parrots native to New Zealand.
- ❖ Conservationists moved surviving birds to predator-free offshore islands and began intensive monitoring and breeding programmes.
- ❖ They usually breed once every 2–4 years, when rimu trees produce abundant fruit.

Peat Fires – Indonesia

- ❖ Indonesia's peat fires are intensifying in 2026 due to severe drought and strengthening El Niño, with underground fires producing heavy pollution.
- ❖ Peat fires burn slowly underground in dried wetland soils and can continue for months, making them difficult to extinguish.
- ❖ Indonesia contains about 36% of the world's tropical peatlands, mainly in Kalimantan, Sumatra and Papua.
- ❖ Peat fires can produce about 3 times more fine particulate matter and 2 times more methane and carbon monoxide than other tropical forest fires.
- ❖ MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) and VIIRS (Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite) satellites are used to monitor fires, but thick smoke can hide the worst fires.

- ❖ About 90% of Indonesia received little or no rainfall in early August 2026, while the SiPongi system recorded 946 hotspots on August 31.

UN Climate Week in Azerbaijan

- ❖ The fourth United Nations Climate Week opened in Baku, Azerbaijan, ahead of COP31.
- ❖ The meeting is being held from 7–11 September 2026 to discuss climate action, finance, adaptation and transparency.
- ❖ Discussions focus on the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement, including reporting on emissions, adaptation and climate support.
- ❖ COP29 (Azerbaijan), COP30 (Brazil) and COP31 (Türkiye) presidencies are participating in the dialogue.
- ❖ Key issues include carbon markets, just transition, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), adaptation and climate finance.
- ❖ Baku Climate Action Week 2026 is being held alongside the UN Climate Week, bringing together investors, businesses and civil society groups.

Teak Plantation Initiative

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has launched five high-yielding teak clones to improve timber productivity and increase farmers' long-term income.
- ❖ Teak (*Tectona grandis*) is a large deciduous tree of the Lamiaceae family, valued for its strong, durable and termite-resistant timber.
- ❖ The Green Tamil Nadu Mission (GTM), with the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, is promoting clones IFGTB-TG-1 to IFGTB-TG-5.
- ❖ These clones were selected for faster growth, better girth development, straight cylindrical trunks and higher-quality timber production.
- ❖ Around 55,000 clonal teak seedlings will be planted in demonstration plots across 20 districts suitable for teak cultivation.
- ❖ A polyclonal approach will be used to reduce risks from pests, diseases and climatic stress, while tissue-culture facilities will support production of superior planting material.

Pygmy Hog Conservation Mission - Assam

- ❖ The population of the endangered pygmy hog (*Porcula salvania*) in Assam has increased from 6 in 1996 to 194 through a captive breeding programme.

- ❖ The pygmy hog is the world's smallest and rarest wild pig; the IUCN Red List classifies it as Critically Endangered (CR).
- ❖ The Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP) began after six pygmy hogs were captured from Manas National Park, Assam, in 1996.
- ❖ Conservationists began reintroducing pygmy hogs into the wild in 2008; they are now found in Manas, Orang, Sonai-Rupai and Bornadi protected areas.
- ❖ The programme aims to increase the population to 300 by 2040, with the Assam Forest Department, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, IUCN Wild Pig Specialist Group, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and other organisations involved.

State of World's Birds Report

- ❖ BirdLife International's State of the World's Birds 2026 report found that 45% of migratory bird species are declining, while one in nine faces extinction.
- ❖ The report is the first edition focused on migratory birds and their flyways, which are the routes birds use during migration.
- ❖ The Slender-billed Curlew became extinct in 2025, marking the first global bird extinction in mainland Eurasia and Africa in recent centuries.
- ❖ Major threats include invasive species, intensive agriculture, climate change and unsustainable hunting.
- ❖ The Nairobi Flyways Declaration was signed to promote international cooperation for protecting migratory birds and their habitats across entire flyways.

Antarctic Ozone Hole 2026

- ❖ The 2026 Antarctic ozone hole reached 15 million km² by the end of August, slightly earlier than average, according to Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS).
- ❖ It expanded sharply to about 25 million km² on September 12, around 5 million km² above the average for that period.
- ❖ The rapid growth coincided with a sudden fall in stratospheric temperature at about 20 km above the South Pole.
- ❖ Cold temperatures form Polar Stratospheric Clouds (PSCs), which support chemical ozone depletion by halogens during austral spring.
- ❖ Other indicators, including minimum ozone column value and ozone mass deficit, remained close to average levels.
- ❖ The ozone hole forms annually over Antarctica during August–November, with recent years showing smaller and shorter-lived holes.

Rhino Population in Assam

- ❖ Assam had 3,260 greater one-horned rhinoceroses as of September 2026, about 80% of the global population.
- ❖ The greater one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ Kaziranga National Park shelters more than 2,600 rhinos and is the largest stronghold of the species.
- ❖ Assam recorded zero rhino-poaching incidents in 2025, with poaching reported to have fallen by 86% since 2016.
- ❖ The species depends on alluvial grasslands, wetlands and riverine forests and is the state animal of Assam.
- ❖ It is found mainly in India and Nepal and is one of three Asian rhino species, along with the Javan and Sumatran rhinoceros.

Cheetah Reintroduction Programme

- ❖ India's cheetah population increased to 52, including 32 cheetahs born in India, after four years of the reintroduction programme.
- ❖ 49 cheetahs are currently in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh and 3 in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Of the 52 cheetahs, 25 are of Namibian origin, and 18 are of South African origin, while 9 were recently introduced from Botswana.
- ❖ The programme began with 8 Namibian cheetahs in September 2022 and 12 South African cheetahs in February 2023; 9 Botswana cheetahs were introduced in February 2026.

Climate-Resilient Moth Bean

- ❖ Four CAZRI moth bean varieties withstood a prolonged 35-day dry spell during Kharif 2026 in western Rajasthan.
- ❖ ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur, developed CAZRI Moth-4, 5, 6 and 7 for arid conditions.
- ❖ The varieties maintained green growth and profuse pod development despite low soil moisture during flowering and pod formation.
- ❖ Their developmental plasticity allows flowering from around 30 days after sowing and adjustment of growth and maturity according to soil-moisture availability.
- ❖ Timely sowing, optimum plant spacing, weed management and moisture-conservation practices supported their performance.

New cat species ‘Tilcayo’

- ❖ New cat species ‘Tilcayo’ identified in Bolivia, first in over a century.
- ❖ Genetic analysis suggested that the Tilcayo lineage separated from other tiger cats about 1.4 million years ago.
- ❖ It is part of a group called tiger cats found across much of South America.
- ❖ It was found in Bolivia’s lush Yungas forest, a mountainous region.
- ❖ It measures about 18 inches (46 cm) long and weighs around 3 pounds (1.4 kg), making it smaller than the average domestic cat.
- ❖ Researchers used genetic data to confirm that the cat is a new species, and gave it the scientific name *Leopardus tilcayo*, retaining its local name.
- ❖ Remains of small rodents in scat samples suggest they may form part of its diet, while camera-trap evidence indicates it could be more active at night.
- ❖ Tiger cats are so-called cryptic species, meaning they cannot easily be distinguished merely by appearance.
- ❖ Tiger cats previously had been considered a single species, but genetic studies decades ago suggested the existence of multiple species.
- ❖ The research team also described a new tiger cat subspecies in Peru’s Yungas, naming it *Leopardus tigrinus antisuyo* after Antisuyu, the region of the old Inca Empire that included the area it inhabits.
- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature, or IUCN, Red List tracking the status of species currently treats tiger cats as two “vulnerable” species with declining populations.

International Workshop on Tiger Landscapes

- ❖ An international workshop on Tiger Landscapes was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ❖ The workshop was organised by the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- ❖ The theme is “Tiger Landscapes: Conservation, Bioeconomy and Ecotourism as Pillars for Livelihood and Income Generation.”
- ❖ An MoU between IBCA and ADB was signed for landscape conservation, capacity building and nature-positive financing.
- ❖ Tiger landscapes support water security, climate regulation and carbon sequestration, while also supporting local livelihoods.

Pichavaram Mangrove Restoration

- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Forest Department have created a new 25-hectare mangrove patch in Pichavaram, Cuddalore district, at a cost of ₹1.97 crore.

- ❖ Mangroves are salt-tolerant coastal plants that protect shorelines from erosion, storms and tidal waves, provide nursery grounds for fish and other marine life, and help store carbon.
- ❖ Over 75,000 *Rhizophora apiculata* saplings were raised in a Forest Department nursery and planted using a modified fish-bone method.
- ❖ The plantation was planned to compensate for mangrove loss during the widening of the East Coast Road and National Highway (NH)-332A; the actual damage at Marakkanam Estuary was reduced to 0.15 hectares and just over 100 trees.
- ❖ Three sites—Vandalmunai, MGR Thittu and Kottumunai—were selected in the Pichavaram mangrove region after suitable land was not available in Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts.

Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary Mapping

- ❖ Authorities will undertake spatial mapping and field verification of military installations within the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary in Ladakh.
- ❖ The survey will use Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographic Information System (GIS), geo-referencing and satellite imagery.
- ❖ Wildlife officials will map critical habitats and wildlife movement corridors scientifically.
- ❖ The exercise will be carried out with the police and defence establishment.
- ❖ The statutory rights determination process will resume, but it will not permit fresh encroachment or unauthorised construction after the applicable cut-off dates.

Karanjia Sal Borer Crisis

- ❖ Permission has been granted to cut 156,319 sal trees affected by the sal borer insect in Dindori and Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The sal borer is a wood-boring beetle whose larvae bore into sal trees and damage their wood and tissues, weakening or killing the trees.
- ❖ Sal (*Shorea robusta*) is a major forest tree of India and is valued for its strong, durable timber; its leaves are also widely used for making plates and bowls.
- ❖ 146,784 trees will be cut in Dindori and 9,535 trees in the Amarkantak area of Anuppur.
- ❖ The Karanjia Range is the worst affected, with nearly 90% of Dindori's affected sal trees located there.

Agasthyamalai Plant Diversity

- ❖ A new checklist recorded 3,261 flowering plant species in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR) in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) recorded 3,261 species, 26 subspecies and 28 varieties from 190 families.
- ❖ Fabaceae is the richest family with 349 taxa, followed by Rubiaceae (194), Poaceae (193) and Orchidaceae (168).
- ❖ About 1,018 taxa (31.2%) are endemic to India, including 245 found only in specialised habitats.
- ❖ ABR shares 347 plant taxa with Sri Lanka and has 102 taxa linked to tropical American flora.

INCOIS Marine Litter Project

- ❖ The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) will use Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), satellite remote sensing and ocean modelling to track marine litter hotspots.
- ❖ The pilot project began in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on September 19, 2026, under the National Initiative for Remediation of Marine Litter (NIRMaL Sāgar).
- ❖ It aims to identify sources of marine litter, track its movement and locate areas where waste accumulates.
- ❖ The pilot will create an integrated marine litter tracking framework, with Visakhapatnam as the testbed.
- ❖ INCOIS is a national institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, based in Hyderabad, Telangana.

WWF Global Conservation Conference

- ❖ The WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Global Conservation Conference was inaugurated in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ WWF is an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1961 that works on wildlife conservation, habitat protection, climate action and sustainable use of natural resources.
- ❖ India's protected areas increased from around 750 to more than 1,000 in the last decade, while tiger reserves increased from 47 to 58 and elephant reserves from 30 to 33.
- ❖ India's Ramsar sites increased from 24 to 101; Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, 1971.

- ❖ India's cheetah reintroduction programme aims to restore the species in protected landscapes after its local extinction in the 20th century.

Botswana Cheetah in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh's Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, a second home in the works for cheetahs in India, has a new female cheetah inhabitant.
- ❖ The sanctuary, located some 300 km from Kuno National Park, the ground zero of Project Cheetah, already houses two male cheetahs.
- ❖ A third home for the cheetahs is being developed at the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, which is part of the Rani Durgawati Tiger Reserve spanning Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Hazaribagh Vulture Conservation

- ❖ Hazaribagh, Jharkhand is emerging as a safe habitat for vultures, with regular presence and natural breeding recorded.
- ❖ Five of the nine vulture species found in India occur in Hazaribagh: White-rumped Vulture, Indian Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture, Himalayan Griffon and Egyptian Vulture.
- ❖ The Jharkhand Forest Department has proposed a conservation-cum-breeding centre in Hazaribagh.
- ❖ India's vulture population has declined by more than 95% in the past three decades, mainly due to toxic residues of some Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) used for livestock.
- ❖ A proposed 100-km vulture safe zone will cover areas of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar.

Tamil Nadu Palm Seed Drive 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu launched a State-wide drive to plant one crore palm seeds to strengthen waterbody bunds and prevent soil erosion.
- ❖ The drive was inaugurated at Devariyambakkam village, Kancheepuram district, by the Rural Development-Panchayat Raj and Water Resources Minister.
- ❖ The initiative aims to support groundwater recharge, soil conservation and production of value-added palm products.
- ❖ Palm trees have deep and strong roots that hold soil, reduce soil erosion, improve water infiltration, and help conserve groundwater.
- ❖ They are drought-tolerant and can grow well in dry regions with less water.

Cyclone Arnab 2026

- ❖ A deep depression over the Bay of Bengal crossed the coast near Kalingapatnam, between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur, and later weakened into a depression over Odisha and adjoining Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The system was near Nuapada, Odisha, and moving north-northwestward.
- ❖ It was not classified as a cyclonic storm and was expected to weaken into a well-marked low-pressure area.
- ❖ “Arnab” means ocean in Bengali, and the name was contributed by Bangladesh to the regional cyclone naming system.
- ❖ Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and parts of West Bengal experienced heavy rainfall, strong winds, rough seas and local flood/landslide risks.

Pallikaranai Bird Breeding Record

- ❖ Pallikaranai marshland in Chennai recorded the highest-ever breeding numbers of several non-native birds during the 2026 migratory season.
- ❖ Jacanas increased to 201 in August and 185 in September, the highest count since their return to the marshland in 2014.
- ❖ Fulvous whistling ducks reached a record 1,155 in September, compared with 68 in September 2025.
- ❖ Pied mynas were also recorded, with 40 birds and at least 23 hatchlings in September.
- ❖ Floating vegetation, organic waste and suitable water conditions may have created a favourable habitat for these birds.

Tamirabharani River Biodiversity

- ❖ Seven endemic fish species of the Tamirabharani River, Tamil Nadu, are facing threats from pollution, habitat loss and invasive species.
- ❖ The river has 125 identified fish species, including seven species found only in the Tamirabharani.
- ❖ Dawkinsia tambraparniei (Tamirabharani Seval Kendai) is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ Other endemic species include Haludaria kannikattiensis, Garra kalakadensis, Garra joshuai, Neolissochilus tamiraparanensis, Mesonoemacheilus tambraparniensis and Hypselobarbus tamiraparniei.
- ❖ Major threats include pollution, untreated sewage, habitat destruction, loss of riparian vegetation and invasive fish such as tilapia and African catfish.
- ❖ The Tamirabharani is the only river in Tamil Nadu that both originates and reaches the sea within the State.

REPORTS AND INDICATES

World Soil Resources Report 2026

- ❖ The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)'s Status of the World's Soil Resources 2026 report shows that soil degradation is worsening globally, with South Asia, especially India, facing severe degradation.
- ❖ More than half of the regional assessments reported low or very low adoption of sustainable soil practices; 58% showed worsening conditions since 2015, while only about 10% showed improvement.
- ❖ Soil erosion was identified as the biggest problem, with 81% of assessments rating erosion management as poor or very poor and 65% reporting deterioration.
- ❖ In India, about 30–37% of land is estimated to be degraded, while around 83 million hectares are affected by water erosion; India loses about 4.8–5.3 billion tonnes of soil annually.
- ❖ India, Bangladesh and Pakistan have unsustainably high nitrogen surpluses, and Indian crops absorb only 30–45% of applied nitrogen, compared with the global average of 59%.
- ❖ The report highlights misdirected agricultural subsidies, especially those favouring nitrogenous urea, and calls for better coordination of policies on agriculture, land, climate and biodiversity.

Work From Anywhere Index 2026

- ❖ Mumbai was the only Indian city included in the Work From Anywhere Index 2026, released by the International Workplace Group (IWG), with 77 points.
- ❖ Mumbai ranked 50th globally and performed well in transport costs, accommodation, climate and flexible workspace availability.
- ❖ It scored lower in broadband speed and quality, local events and the happiness index.
- ❖ Bangkok ranked first with 106.5 points, followed by Tokyo (96.5) and Barcelona (95.5).
- ❖ The index considers climate, broadband connectivity, accommodation, transport, food, culture and flexible workspace availability.
- ❖ India scored 100 points in the flexible workspace maturity index, according to data cited from Cushman & Wakefield.

UN Report on Warming Overshoot

- ❖ A landmark United Nations (UN) report warns that the world is likely to cross the 1.5°C global warming limit by around 2030, but temporary overshoot can still be reversed later this century.
- ❖ The Paris Agreement (2015) aims to keep global warming well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- ❖ The world is already about 1.4°C warmer than pre-industrial levels, and crossing 1.5°C could increase extreme weather, sea-level rise, biodiversity loss, and other climate risks.
- ❖ With rapid fossil fuel phase-out and emission cuts, warming could potentially be limited to around 1.8°C, followed by carbon removal to bring temperatures back to 1.5°C or below.
- ❖ Carbon dioxide removal could involve tree planting and ecosystem restoration, while technologies such as rock weathering and ocean alkalinity enhancement are still not proven at large scale.
- ❖ The report stresses urgent emission reductions, international cooperation, climate finance, and strong political action to keep the 1.5°C goal within reach.

CVC Annual Report 2025

- ❖ The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) released its Annual Report 2025, highlighting over 7,200 corruption cases investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that remain pending trial.
- ❖ The report is prepared and submitted by the CVC to the President of India under Section 14 of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.
- ❖ The President causes the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.
- ❖ The CVC functions under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, which gives it statutory status and defines its powers and functions.
- ❖ The CVC exercises superintendence over the CBI in cases related to offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- ❖ The CVC was established in 1964 on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee and became a statutory body in 2003.
- ❖ The CBI conviction rate increased from 69.14% in 2024 to 71.71% in 2025.
- ❖ The CBI had 1,088 vacant posts against a sanctioned strength of 7,300.
- ❖ Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 requires prior approval before investigating certain official decisions or recommendations of public servants.

India's Unincorporated Sector Data

- ❖ The National Statistics Office (NSO) released India's first-ever district-level estimates for the unincorporated non-agricultural sector using Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2025.
- ❖ The estimates cover 757 of 770 districts and include data on establishments, workers, women's participation and Gross Value Added (GVA).
- ❖ The top 50 districts account for nearly one-third of the sector's establishments, workforce and GVA.
- ❖ In 237 districts, women make up at least one-third of the workforce, while in 25 districts they form more than half.
- ❖ In 280 districts, GVA per worker is higher than the all-India average of ₹1,56,539.
- ❖ The survey covers Manufacturing, Trade and Other Services across rural and urban India.

India Electric Mobility Index 2025

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2025, with Delhi ranked the top performer among States and Union Territories (UTs).
- ❖ The second edition measures progress towards electric mobility goals across States and UTs.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chandigarh and Goa followed Delhi among the top performers.
- ❖ IEMI scores States and UTs out of 100 using 16 indicators under three themes: transport electrification, charging infrastructure and electric vehicle (EV) research and innovation.
- ❖ The top score improved from 77 in 2024 to 84 in 2025.

Global Gender Gap Index 2026

- ❖ India retained 131st rank in the Global Gender Gap Index 2026 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ❖ The index covered 145 economies, with Iceland (1st), Finland (2nd) and Norway (3rd).
- ❖ India's overall gender parity score was 64.5%, below the global average of 69.2%.
- ❖ India's Economic Participation and Opportunity parity score was 41.2%, while Educational Attainment stood at 96.6%.
- ❖ Political Empowerment was India's highest-ranked subindex, with 24.5% of the gap closed and a global rank of 67th.

Forests for food: Nourishing people, sustaining the planet

- ❖ The report, *Forests for food: Nourishing people, sustaining the planet*, was published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- ❖ It was developed jointly with the Landscape Alliance.
- ❖ It highlights the importance of forests in reducing hunger and poverty and calls on countries to include them into agri food system policies.
- ❖ The report highlighted regional differences in the contribution of forest foods to food security and nutrition (FSN).
- ❖ In parts of Africa, some communities obtain up to 80 per cent of their daily protein from wild meat.
- ❖ In the Amazon, fish account for 44 per cent of total food consumed by weight, alongside wild meat, Brazil nuts and acai berries.
- ❖ In Europe, a survey covering 28 countries found that 90 percent of respondents consume at least one forest food each year, while more than one-third eat game meat annually.
- ❖ In North America, wild meat is used more for recreation than subsistence.
- ❖ India's Indigenous communities are major users of wild forest foods.
- ❖ While studies have found that children living in areas with greater forest cover can have more diverse diets and lower rates of stunting.
- ❖ Another study in eastern India found that the consumption of wild foods (mostly from forests) was associated with higher dietary diversity scores among women, particularly during the lean season.

V-Dem Report on India

- ❖ The Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute's 2026 report says India's Electoral Democracy Index has reached its lowest level since 1975.
- ❖ V-Dem measures democracy through indicators covering elections, institutions, rights and freedoms.
- ❖ India's score has gradually declined since 2009, with declines in judicial accountability, corruption control, Election Management Body (EMB) autonomy and impartial public administration.
- ❖ The report also records declines in academic freedom, cultural expression and conditions for journalists.
- ❖ The findings came amid concerns raised by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN CERD) over voter exclusion during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

NITI Aayog Skilling Report

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the report 'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047' in August 2026, highlighting gaps between skill training and employment.
- ❖ The report notes that only around 3% of women are in formal jobs, while about 71% are in informal work or the Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) category.
- ❖ Key barriers for women include caregiving, safety concerns, lack of safe transport, limited mobility and limited access to finance and training.
- ❖ More than 7.67 crore people have been trained under various skilling programmes since 2014–15.
- ❖ The report proposes Digital Lifelong Learning Accounts, Skill Passports, skills-first hiring and greater use of the National Credit Framework (NCrF).
- ❖ It also suggests 'Back to School' for women's reskilling and 'Surakshit Saathi' for safe hostels and transport through public-private partnerships.

WMO Groundwater Report

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported persistent groundwater decline in India in its State of Global Water Resources 2025 report.
- ❖ Persistent groundwater deficits were observed in parts of India during 2022–2025, with over-extraction identified as an important cause.
- ❖ The decline indicates that more groundwater is being extracted than recharged in affected areas.
- ❖ Globally, 34% of groundwater observation stations recorded below-normal to much-below-normal levels in 2025, compared with 25% in 2024.
- ❖ Groundwater levels were compared with the 2001–2020 reference period.
- ❖ Northern India also recorded below-normal terrestrial water storage in 2025.

UN Gender Equality Report

- ❖ UN Women and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) released the Gender Snapshot 2026 report.
- ❖ One in three institutional mechanisms for gender equality had their institutional power reduced over the past two years.
- ❖ Around one in four such institutions faced budget cuts, while nearly one in 10 lost control over their budgets.
- ❖ Six in seven countries are led by men, while women hold only 6% of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) positions globally.

- ❖ Nearly nine in 10 defence ministers and more than eight in 10 finance ministers are men.
- ❖ The report states that none of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) indicators are currently on track to be achieved by 2030.

WHO-UNICEF WASH Report 2026

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released the "Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools 2015–2025" report under the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).
- ❖ WASH means access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation facilities and basic hygiene services.
- ❖ In 2025, 429 million school-age children lacked basic drinking water, 460 million lacked basic sanitation, and 362 million lacked basic hygiene services at school.
- ❖ In India, 50 million school-age children lacked any sanitation service at school in 2025; India is among 28 of 62 countries on track for universal basic drinking-water coverage by 2030.
- ❖ WASH supports Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 on health and SDG 6 on water and sanitation.

WEF Tourism Index 2026

- ❖ India ranked 31st in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2026, moving up nine places from 39th in 2024.
- ❖ The TTDI 2026 assessed 110 economies in collaboration with Zurich Insurance Group.
- ❖ Japan ranked first, followed by the United States, Spain, Australia and France.
- ❖ India's improvement was linked to cost-competitive travel, cultural resources, tourism infrastructure and business travel facilities.
- ❖ The index measures conditions supporting sustainable and resilient tourism development, not just tourist arrivals or spending.

Global Cities Index 2026

- ❖ Delhi ranked 268th among 1,000 cities in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index (GCI) 2026.
- ❖ The Global Cities Index is an annual report by Oxford Economics that evaluates cities on Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment and Governance.

- ❖ New York topped the index, followed by London, Paris, Seattle and San Francisco.
- ❖ Among Indian cities, Delhi (268) ranked highest, followed by Bengaluru (311), Mumbai (330), Chennai (381), Hyderabad (421) and Pune (427).
- ❖ Around 100 Indian cities were included, with 55 Indian cities among the world's 100 fastest-growing city economies.
- ❖ Bengaluru improved by 20 places and was listed as a "City to Watch", while Delhi ranked 13th globally in Human Capital.

STATES

Sone River Water Pact

- ❖ Bihar and Jharkhand signed an MoU to share Sone River water, resolving a nearly 25-year-old inter-State water dispute.
- ❖ Sone River is an important right-bank tributary of the Ganga; it originates in the Maikal highlands near Amarkantak and finally joins the Ganga in Bihar near Patna.
- ❖ It flows through Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar, with important tributaries including Rihand, Kanhar and North Koel.
- ❖ The Indrapuri Barrage (Sone Barrage) in Rohtas district, Bihar, is an important irrigation structure on the river and was commissioned in 1968.
- ❖ The new agreement will support irrigation and drinking-water needs in Bihar's Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Arwal, Gaya and Patna, and Jharkhand's Palamu, Garhwa and other regions.

Census 2026 in Manipur

- ❖ The Centre defers Census operations in Manipur (Centre defers Census operations in Manipur).
- ❖ There are demands to first conduct the State's National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise with 1951 as the base year.
- ❖ A demand was raised by the people of Manipur, specifically Meitei, Pangals (Meitei Muslims), and Nagas, to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) before conducting the Census.
- ❖ The Meiteis, who are in the majority in Imphal Valley, opposed the Census 2027 exercise.

- ❖ The Manipur government has consistently backed the NRC.
- ❖ The petitions in Manipur High court sought directions to update the NRC using 1951 as the base year and to address concerns over illegal migration from Myanmar before the Census is carried out.
- ❖ Earlier, the influential Kuki-Zo Council dismissed the NRC demand and welcomed the Census exercise.
- ❖ The NRC, requiring the transfer of data from Census slips, was born out of independent India's first census in 1951.
- ❖ All States were mandated to compile an NRC, but it was done only in Assam.
- ❖ The census in India is conducted under the Census Act, 1948
- ❖ The Union Government holds the power to order a census via a notification in the official Gazette.
- ❖ The census comes under the Union List as per the 7th schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India handles the operations under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The name of the High Court of Kerala

- ❖ The name High Court of Kerala (HCK) would stay despite Kerala becoming Keralam.
- ❖ Kerala's name change to Keralam will leave no impact on the High Court of Kerala.
- ❖ The amendment process for the High Court has to be initiated by Parliament on a recommendation by the State executive and after ascertaining the views of the State Judiciary.
- ❖ The name change of the High Court can be made only through a High Court Name Amendment Act to be passed by Parliament.
- ❖ Though there were proposals for amending the names of the High Courts of Madras and Bombay in 2016, the amendment bills introduced in Parliament did not get passed and subsequently lapsed.
- ❖ Moreover, the judiciary is not part of the State government and has an independent footing as one of the three pillars of democracy.
- ❖ The name changes introduced by the State government need not reflect on the name or character of the High Court.
- ❖ Any such decisions may have to be initiated by Parliament.
- ❖ The judge also pointed out the instances of High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Orissa where the original names of the courts were retained despite the changes in the names of the respective States.

- ❖ The HCK was established on November 1, 1956, with its seat at Ernakulam following the formation of the State of Kerala as per the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, by merging the princely States of Travancore-Cochin State and the Malabar District of Madras State.
- ❖ While the State of Travancore had a High Court at Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin had its High Court at Ernakulam and Malabar District was under the jurisdiction of the Madras High Court.
- ❖ With the integration of the States of Travancore and Cochin on July 1, 1949, the High Court of Travancore-Cochin was formed with its seat at Ernakulam.

UNESCO List - Sivasagar Heritage

- ❖ The Rangpur-Sivasagar Historical Ensemble in Assam has been added to UNESCO's World Heritage Tentative List.
- ❖ India submitted its nomination dossier to UNESCO under cultural criteria (iii) and (iv).
- ❖ The ensemble includes Rang Ghar, Talatal Ghar, Namdang Stone Bridge, and the large tanks of Sivasagar, Joysagar and Gaurisagar.
- ❖ The Ahom dynasty ruled the Brahmaputra Valley from 1228 to 1826, with its political and ceremonial centre in the Sivasagar region.
- ❖ With this addition and three other properties, India's UNESCO Tentative List reached 73 properties.
- ❖ Charaideo Moidams, the royal burial mounds of the Ahoms, became India's 43rd UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2024.

Gollala Gudi National Monument - Telangana

- ❖ Gollala Gudi Temple in Palampet village, Mulugu district, Telangana, was declared a Monument of National Importance.
- ❖ The declaration was made through a Gazette notification by the Union Ministry of Culture and Tourism.
- ❖ The temple is a Trikutalaya, meaning it has three sanctums, and belongs broadly to the Kakatiya period (12th–13th centuries CE).
- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will take charge of its conservation, including addressing waterlogging and improving the visitor pathway.
- ❖ With its inclusion, the number of ASI-protected monuments in Telangana increased to 10.
- ❖ The temple is located near the Ramappa Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site associated with Kakatiya architecture.

Lakkundi Hidden Monuments – Karnataka

- ❖ Lakkundi in Gadag district, Karnataka, will undergo a technology-based survey to locate hidden monuments.
- ❖ Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage (DAMH) signed an MoU with the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru.
- ❖ Technologies include Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), Geographic Information System (GIS), remote sensing and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR).
- ❖ Drone surveys and photogrammetry will also be used to identify structures hidden under vegetation.
- ❖ Lakkundi was a major urban centre during the 10th–12th centuries CE under the Kalyana Chalukyas.
- ❖ Its temples display Vesara style, combining Nagara, Dravida and Bhumiya architectural styles.
- ❖ Karnataka is preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to propose Lakkundi for the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.

Zero Legacy Waste - Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ Depalpur in Madhya Pradesh became the first city under the Swachh Shehar Jodi initiative to achieve Zero Legacy Waste by treating 1,250 metric tonnes of old waste.
- ❖ The initiative was carried out under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) with support from Indore Municipal Corporation.
- ❖ Depalpur achieved 100% door-to-door waste collection with segregation into four categories.
- ❖ About 4.5 tonnes of plastic, metal and glass were recovered and sent to authorised recyclers.
- ❖ About 50–60 tonnes of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) were sent to the NEPRA plant in Indore for use in cement factories.
- ❖ More than 500 ragpickers from Indore participated in the waste-remediation process.

Rural Waste Management

- ❖ Majuli (Assam) and Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh) have developed community-based models for managing rural waste.
- ❖ In Majuli, waste is collected in 19 of 20 panchayats, sorted at Central Material Collection Facilities (CMCFs) and sent to recyclers.
- ❖ Since 2024, Majuli has collected 82.4 tonnes of waste, preventing it from reaching the Brahmaputra and the ocean.

- ❖ In Tawang, villagers conduct monthly Swachchata Divas (Cleanliness Day) and segregate waste into 22 categories before sending it to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs).
- ❖ 26 villages have collected 30 tonnes of waste, with over 20 tonnes sold to recyclers, generating ₹3.53 lakh.

Chhattisgarh in Water Conservation

- ❖ Chhattisgarh ranked first nationally in the third phase of Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB), a Ministry of Jal Shakti initiative focused on community participation in rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.
- ❖ Under JSJB 3.0, the State registered 79,775 water-conservation structures, of which 77,719 were completed; five districts—Surajpur, Mahasamund, Balod, Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara and Kabirdham—featured among India's top 10 districts.
- ❖ JSJB was launched on 6 September 2024; its 2026 edition was expanded and integrated with Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain as JSJB: Catch the Rain (JSJB: CTR) from 1 June 2026.
- ❖ The initiative promotes low-cost water-storage and groundwater-recharge structures, revival of defunct borewells and locally suitable solutions through a Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh's Koriya district '5% Model' encourages farmers to voluntarily use about 5% of their agricultural land for rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.
- ❖ As of 3 September 2026, more than 1.58 crore artificial groundwater-recharge structures had been constructed across India under JSJB.

Zero Primary Dropout - Tripura

- ❖ Tripura recorded a zero per cent dropout rate in Classes 1–5 during the 2025–26 academic year, according to UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus) data.
- ❖ Tripura's primary school dropout rate declined from 2.21% in 2013–14 to 0% in 2025–26.
- ❖ The secondary-level dropout rate also declined from 25.51% to 10.40% during the same period.
- ❖ The state linked the improvement to initiatives including NIPUN Bharat Mission and Saharsha Tripura.
- ❖ Tripura plans to introduce Balvatikas (pre-primary classes) in all 2,048 primary schools within two years.

Elder-Friendly Office Certification – Kerala

- ❖ Kerala launched the Elder-Friendly Office Certification (EFOC) scheme to assess whether public offices and institutions are accessible and convenient for senior citizens.
- ❖ EFOC is the first government certification system of its kind in India, covering physical accessibility, service delivery, staff behaviour, communication and senior-citizen participation.
- ❖ Mandatory facilities include step-free access, a ground-floor toilet, a priority queue for senior citizens and a designated officer to address their needs.
- ❖ 14 offices, one in each district, will be selected for a pilot programme in the first six months; it will later expand to village, taluk and other government offices.
- ❖ Kerala is India's most rapidly ageing State, with about 16.5% of its population above 60 years in 2021, projected to reach 20.9% by 2031

Ganga Floodplain Demarcation – Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that physical demarcation of the 700-km Ganga floodplain from Unnao to Ballia has been completed across 13 districts.
- ❖ A total of 7,350 pillars were installed to mark the floodplain zone and help prevent encroachments and unauthorised construction.
- ❖ Floodplain delineation has also been completed for tributaries including the Yamuna, Ramganga, Betwa, Suvav, Tedhi, Budhi Ganga, Solani and Khokhri.
- ❖ Delineation of the Gomti, Ghaghra and Rapti rivers is targeted for completion by March 31, 2027.
- ❖ The work supports implementation of the River Ganga Authorities Order, 2016 and earlier NGT directions.

Blood Donation - Haryana

- ❖ Haryana has ranked first in India in blood donation for the third consecutive year.
- ❖ Haryana collected 5.89 lakh units of blood and organised 8,189 blood donation camps during 2025–26.
- ❖ Based on verified e-RaktKosh data, Haryana ranked first among States in blood donation per million population.
- ❖ The Government of India will honour Haryana on National Voluntary Blood Donation Day, October 1, at Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi.
- ❖ The data reflects blood donation activities supported by the state's blood transfusion infrastructure and digital system.

Hyderabad Liberation Day 2026

- ❖ A demand was made to include 17 September as Hyderabad Liberation Day in Telangana state textbooks.
- ❖ It marks the integration of Hyderabad into the Indian Union in 1948 after Operation Polo.
- ❖ Hyderabad was ruled by Mir Osman Ali Khan, the seventh Nizam, who did not initially accede to India after Independence.
- ❖ India and Hyderabad signed a Standstill Agreement on 29 November 1947, but political tensions and violence increased later.
- ❖ Operation Polo began on 13 September 1948, and Hyderabad State Forces surrendered on 17 September 1948.
- ❖ After integration, Hyderabad State was reorganised in 1956, and Telangana became a separate State on 2 June 2014.

Ladakh's First Heritage Village – Kumik

- ❖ Kumik village in Zaskar was declared Ladakh's first Heritage Village on 15 September 2026.
- ❖ Kumik is known for traditional mud houses, sacred spaces, agricultural practices and Buddhist traditions.
- ❖ The village has Kanjur manuscripts, a collection of canonical Buddhist texts in the Tibetan tradition.
- ❖ Zaskar is a high-altitude Himalayan region known for Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, manuscripts and oral traditions.
- ❖ Heritage Village status supports the conservation of traditional architecture, cultural practices and local heritage.

Devadurga Gold-Copper Exploration

- ❖ Telangana launched a gold and copper exploration programme at Lingadahalli village in Devadurga taluk, Raichur district, Karnataka.
- ❖ The Devadurga mineral block covers 199.13 sq km and was allotted through an auction by the Union Ministry of Mines.
- ❖ The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) entered gold and copper exploration for the first time through this project.
- ❖ An exploration agreement was signed on 6 August 2026 between the Karnataka Mines and Geology Department and SCCL.
- ❖ SCCL also proposed a joint venture with the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) related to coal supply for thermal power plants.

Tulu Language Recognition

- ❖ The Karnataka Cabinet approved Tulu as the second additional administrative language for Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.
- ❖ Tulu is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in the coastal Karnataka region.
- ❖ The decision will allow its use in official work, translation and staff training in the two districts.
- ❖ The government allocated ₹82 lakh annually for Tulu-related translation and training.
- ❖ The decision applies only to Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, not to the entire state of Karnataka.

Meghalaya Rainfall Deficit

- ❖ Meghalaya recorded India's highest rainfall deficit in 2026, with 59% less rainfall than normal as of 15 September.
- ❖ Meghalaya, known as the "Abode of the Clouds," has 10 of its 11 districts facing deficient or highly deficient rainfall.
- ❖ West Jaintia Hills recorded the highest deficit at 79%, while East Khasi Hills recorded 53% less rainfall.
- ❖ About 80% of villages depend heavily on springs for drinking water and irrigation, making the dry monsoon a concern for farming and water supply.
- ❖ India Meteorological Department (IMD) data also shows a significant declining trend in Meghalaya's monsoon rainfall from 1989 to 2018.

Swamitva Yojana 2026

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh became the first State to offer free registration of rural properties under the Swamitva Adhikar Abhilekh Nispadan Evam Panjiyan Yojana-2026.
- ❖ The scheme covers around 50 lakh rural properties and aims to provide ownership records to rural residents.
- ❖ The scheme was launched in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan.
- ❖ Free registration is being carried out across more than 23,000 villages.
- ❖ The initiative is linked to the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme, which uses technology for rural property mapping and property records.

Regenagri Programme for South Indian Tea Estates

- ❖ The Regenagri programme will be implemented in South Indian tea estates to promote regenerative agriculture and improve environmental sustainability.
- ❖ Around 50–60 tea gardens in India, including 10 in South India, are part of the programme; it is being implemented with the United Planters Association of Southern India (UPASI).
- ❖ Launched for tea estates in December 2024, the programme generally runs for three years.
- ❖ It promotes soil health, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and better water and energy management.
- ❖ Regenagri-certified farmers have reported 10–20% higher yields, while Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) help reduce input costs through bulk purchases.
- ❖ The programme includes land certification, traceability and decarbonisation, with carbon credits providing additional income to farmers.
- ❖ Regenagri is also being implemented for cotton in Maharashtra, where it helps farmers move towards more sustainable farming practices.

AFSPA Extension 2026

- ❖ The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) has been extended for another six months from 1 October 2026 in specified areas of Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ In Manipur, AFSPA continues across the State except in 13 police station jurisdictions in five Valley districts.
- ❖ In Nagaland, it continues in 9 districts and areas under 21 police stations in 5 other districts.
- ❖ In Arunachal Pradesh, it covers Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts and specified areas of Namsai district.
- ❖ Under Section 3, AFSPA allows armed forces, subject to the Act, to arrest without warrant, search premises without warrant and use force in specified circumstances.
- ❖ Both Central and State governments can declare an area as a “disturbed area” under Section 3.
- ❖ AFSPA was enacted in 1958 to deal with insurgency and serious internal security problems; it has been withdrawn from some Northeast areas, including Tripura (2015) and Meghalaya (2018).

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

King Oyo of Tooro Demise

- ❖ King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, the traditional ruler of the Tooro Kingdom in western Uganda, died at the age of 34.
- ❖ He became King of Tooro in 1995 at just three years old after the death of his father and was formally crowned at 18 in 2010.
- ❖ Guinness World Records listed King Oyo as the world's youngest reigning monarch.
- ❖ The Tooro Kingdom, founded in the early 19th century, follows a hereditary system and has no political power under Uganda's elected government.
- ❖ King Oyo was the 13th monarch of Tooro and ruled over more than two million people.

New LG of Andaman Islands

- ❖ Dinesh Sharma, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (MP), was appointed Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ He previously served as the Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ He is also the Vice-Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, and his Rajya Sabha term was scheduled to end on November 25, 2026.
- ❖ The Lieutenant Governor is the Administrator of the Union Territory (UT) and is appointed by the President of India under Article 239 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The LG administers the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on behalf of the President and exercises powers and functions assigned by the President and the Central Government.
- ❖ The Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a Union Territory without a Legislative Assembly, so its administration is directly under the Union Government through the LG.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the nodal ministry for Union Territory administration, including matters relating to the appointment of LGs and Administrators.

Krishna Achuta Rao Demise

- ❖ Renowned climate scientist and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi professor Krishna Achuta Rao died at 62 on September 4, 2026.
- ❖ He contributed to identifying the human influence on climate change, including temperature changes across Indian sub-regions.

- ❖ He worked on climate event attribution, such as heat waves, and applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) in climate and monsoon research.
- ❖ He served as Head of the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences and Dean (Faculty) at IIT Delhi and helped establish its Centre of Excellence for Climate Change Adaptation.
- ❖ He was a member of the World Climate Research Programme's Joint Scientific Committee from 2025.

Ig Nobel Prize 2026

- ❖ The 36th Ig Nobel Prize ceremony was held on 3 September 2026 in Zurich, Switzerland, recognising unusual scientific research.
- ❖ The prizes are organised annually by Annals of Improbable Research for research that “makes people laugh, then think.”
- ❖ Indian researchers from inStem, Bengaluru, were part of the Chemistry Prize-winning team for studying energy-rich protein crystals from cockroach milk.
- ❖ The Technology Prize recognised research using mosquito mouthparts as ultra-fine 3D-printing nozzles.
- ❖ The Soil Science Prize recognised researchers who buried cotton underwear in more than 25 countries to study soil health.

Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards 2026

- ❖ The 5th Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards 2026 were conferred during Swachh Vayu Diwas 2026, recognising the best-performing cities and wards under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ❖ Lucknow ranked first among cities with a population above 10 lakhs, followed by Indore and Jabalpur.
- ❖ Rourkela (Odisha) topped the 3–10 lakh category, while Kalinganagar (Odisha) topped the below 3 lakh categories.
- ❖ The survey covers 130 NCAP cities and assesses measures such as road-dust control, waste management and vehicular/industrial emissions.
- ❖ In 2025–26, 108 of 130 cities recorded reduced Particulate Matter 10 (PM10) levels; 26 cities achieved over 40% reduction.

New Appointments in NCSK

- ❖ Bhagwat Prasad Makwana has been appointed Chairperson, and Kaishab Bihari as Vice-Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK).

- ❖ NCSK was constituted on 12 August 1994 under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993 and became a non-statutory body after the Act lapsed in 2004.
- ❖ It works under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the welfare, dignity, rights and rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis and manual scavengers.
- ❖ It monitors implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
- ❖ The present 10th Commission has tenure up to 31 March 2028.

Asian Pacific Postal Union - Vinaya Prakash Singh

- ❖ Vinaya Prakash Singh, a senior Indian Postal Service (IPoS) officer, was re-elected unopposed as Secretary-General of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) for a second four-year term (2027–2030).
- ❖ APPU is an intergovernmental organisation of 32 Asia-Pacific countries and a regional union under the Universal Postal Union (UPU).
- ❖ It is headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand, and aims to improve postal cooperation among member countries.
- ❖ APPU originated as the Asian-Oceanic Postal Union (AOPU) in 1962 and became APPU in 1981.
- ❖ It promotes postal cooperation, cross-border logistics, e-commerce and technical capacity building in the region.

UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2026

- ❖ UNESCO awarded the International Literacy Prizes 2026 to six literacy initiatives from six countries for their contribution to advancing literacy.
- ❖ The UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize was awarded to initiatives from Colombia, the Netherlands and Nigeria for promoting multilingual and mother-language-based literacy.
- ❖ The UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy was awarded to initiatives from Lebanon, Mexico and Thailand, focusing on displaced youth, community literacy and multilingual learning.
- ❖ Each of the six laureates receives US\$30,000, a medal and a diploma for their contribution to literacy.
- ❖ The prizes have been awarded since 1967.

Solomon Pappaiah Demise

- ❖ Veteran Tamil scholar and orator Solomon Pappaiah passed away at the age of 90.

- ❖ He served at The American College, Madurai, from 1961 to 1994 and headed its Department of Tamil.
- ❖ Under his leadership, the Undergraduate Tamil programme was upgraded into a Postgraduate Department in 1986.
- ❖ He was widely known for Pattimandram (Tamil debate) and conducted more than 12,000 Pattimandrums, promoting Tamil literature and culture.
- ❖ He received the Kalaimamani Award in 2000 and the Padma Shri in 2021 for contributions to literature and education.

India's BRICS Sherpa 2026 - Sudhakar Dalela

- ❖ Sudhakar Dalela, Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is India's BRICS Sherpa as India holds the BRICS Chair in 2026.
- ❖ He is currently Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and coordinates India's position, negotiations and summit preparations within BRICS.
- ❖ He previously served as Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington, D.C., and Consul General in Chicago.
- ❖ A BRICS Sherpa is the senior official who represents a member country in diplomatic preparations, negotiations and consensus-building before BRICS summits.
- ❖ The first Sherpa/Sous-Sherpa meeting for India's 2026 BRICS Chairship was held in New Delhi in February 2026, with Dalela as India's Sherpa.
- ❖ BRICS Chair refers to the country holding the rotating chairmanship, while the Sherpa is the senior official representing an individual member country.

Sansad Ratna Awards 2026

- ❖ The Jury Committee selected 10 Lok Sabha MPs, 2 Rajya Sabha MPs and 4 Parliamentary Standing Committees for the Sansad Ratna Awards 2026.
- ❖ The award recognises parliamentary performance based on questions, debates, private member bills, committee work and attendance.
- ❖ P. P. Chaudhary was selected for the award for the fourth time.
- ❖ The 12 individual awardees include MPs from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- ❖ Four committees were also selected: Agriculture, Finance, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, and Coal and Mines.
- ❖ The Sansad Ratna Award was instituted in 2010 by the Prime Point Foundation, inspired by former President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

Tenzing Norgay Awards 2024

- ❖ The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced four recipients of the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2024.
- ❖ Baljeet Kaur (Himachal Pradesh) received the Land Adventure award for becoming the first Indian to scale five 8,000-metre peaks in a single season.
- ❖ Skalzang Rigzin (Ladakh) received the Land Adventure award for summiting Mount Everest without supplemental oxygen or Sherpa support.
- ❖ Rimo Saha (West Bengal) received the Water Adventure award for achievements in national and international para-swimming competitions.
- ❖ Shiv Prasad Chamoli (Uttarakhand) received the Lifetime Achievement award for contributions to winter sports and adventure sports promotion.

Cool Leaders Award 2026

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-led Cool Coalition launched the first Cool Leaders Award during the Global Cooling Pledge Assembly 2026 in Singapore.
- ❖ The award recognises leadership, policy innovation, technology and practical actions in sustainable cooling and climate resilience.
- ❖ It is administered by the Cool Coalition with Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)
- ❖ The award supports the Global Cooling Pledge, promoting passive cooling, nature-based solutions and energy-efficient cooling systems.
- ❖ 2026 winners: Singapore, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Dong Mingzhu of Gree Electric Appliances, recognised for passive cooling, urban greenery, district cooling and ultra-efficient cooling technologies.

SPORTS

World Humanoid Robot Games 2026

- ❖ China's humanoid robot Tiangong Ultra ran 100 metres in 9.39 seconds, faster than Usain Bolt's 9.58-second men's world record.
- ❖ It was developed by the Beijing Humanoid Robot Innovation Centre and won its preliminary heat at the World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing.
- ❖ Another humanoid robot, Lightning, built by smartphone company Honour, completed the race in 9.47 seconds.
- ❖ Tiangong Ultra improved from 21.50 seconds in 2025 to 9.39 seconds in 2026 and had also won the world's first humanoid half-marathon in 2025.
- ❖ The games featured 51 events, including football, dancing and industrial tasks, with 2,056 robots from 666 teams across 16 countries.

World Nomad Games 2026

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India attended the opening ceremony of the 6th World Nomad Games in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ The World Nomad Games (WNG) were established through the 2012 Bishkek Declaration and were first held in 2014 to promote the traditions and cultural heritage of nomadic peoples.
- ❖ The 2026 Games feature traditional sports such as Kok Boru, Kurash, Goresh, Mongol Bokh, archery and Toguz Korgool.
- ❖ Kok Boru, a traditional Kyrgyz horseback game similar to polo, was recognised by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2017.
- ❖ The World Nomad Games are held biennially.

World Archery Para Series 2026

- ❖ India wins 15 medals at the World Archery Para Series Stage III in Ahmedabad.
- ❖ India won four gold, three silver and eight bronze medals.
- ❖ Sheetal Devi won women's compound gold; Toman Kumar and Shyam Sunder Swami won men's compound doubles gold.
- ❖ Harvinder Singh and Vijay Sundi won men's recurve doubles gold; Bhawna and Harvinder Singh won recurve mixed-team gold.
- ❖ Bhawna and Pooja won recurve doubles silver; Swati Chaudhary and Adil Ansari won W1 mixed-team silver; Tanvi Ingale won visually impaired archery silver.
- ❖ India's bronze winners competed in compound, recurve, W1 (Wheelchair 1) and visually impaired archery events.

Asian Games 2026 Opening Ceremony

- ❖ The Asian Games 2026 officially opened at the Mizuho Park Athletics Stadium in Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ Emperor Naruhito of Japan formally declared the Games open.
- ❖ The opening ceremony highlighted the theme of unity and oneness, with the concept "Harmonic Heart Beat."
- ❖ Pawan Sehrawat and Manu Bhaker led the Indian contingent during the parade of nations.
- ❖ The heart-shaped cauldron was lit by Shigenobu Murofushi, accompanied by his son Koji Murofushi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Small Industry Day 2026 - August 30

- ❖ The day aims to recognise the contribution of small industries to India's economic and industrial development.
- ❖ It was formally recognised in 2000 after the Government introduced a comprehensive policy package for small-scale industries.
- ❖ From April 1, 2025, a small enterprise can have investment up to ₹25 crore and annual turnover up to ₹100 crore.
- ❖ MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) contribute 31.1% of India's GDP, 35.4% of manufacturing output and 48.58% of exports.
- ❖ Government support includes TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System), Udyam Registration, credit guarantees, public procurement support and the CHAMPIONS portal.

World Coconut Day 2026 - September 02

- ❖ The day aims to highlight the agricultural, economic and everyday importance of coconut.
- ❖ The day was first observed in 2009, with September 2 marking the founding day of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), now called the International Coconut Community (ICC).
- ❖ Coconut is called the "Tree of Life" because its fruit, water, flesh, oil, husk, shell, leaves and wood are used for different purposes.
- ❖ Coconut is an important tropical crop and supports farmers, small businesses, local markets and coconut-based industries in many countries.
- ❖ Major coconut-growing countries include India, Indonesia and the Philippines, along with other countries in Asia and the Pacific region.

National Wildlife Day 2026 - September 04

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about wildlife and encourage conservation.
- ❖ National Wildlife Day was first celebrated in September 2005 and was established by animal behaviourist and philanthropist Colleen Paige.
- ❖ It is observed twice a year, on February 22 and September 4; September 4 was added in honour of Steve Irwin.
- ❖ The day highlights threats to wildlife such as climate change, habitat destruction, hunting and commercial exploitation.
- ❖ It promotes the protection of wild animals and their natural habitats.

National Teachers Day 2026 – September 5

- ❖ India observes Teachers' Day every year on 5 September to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.
- ❖ Dr. Radhakrishnan was born on 5 September 1888 at Tiruttani, Tamil Nadu, and was a philosopher, scholar and educationist.
- ❖ He served as India's first Vice President (1952–1962) and second President (1962–1967).
- ❖ He served as India's Ambassador to the Soviet Union (1949–1952) before becoming Vice President.
- ❖ He received the Bharat Ratna in 1954 and was also awarded the Order of Merit in 1963 by the United Kingdom.

International Literacy Day 2026 - September 08

- ❖ The 60th anniversary of International Literacy Day will be marked in 2026, with the global celebration hosted in Mexico.
- ❖ UNESCO proclaimed International Literacy Day in 1966 during its 14th General Conference, following the 1965 Tehran conference on eradicating illiteracy.
- ❖ The first observance was held in 1967, while the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) endorsed the observance the same year.
- ❖ UNESCO's International Literacy Prizes include the King Sejong Literacy Prizes and Confucius Prizes for Literacy, with six awards presented annually.
- ❖ In India, ULLAS promotes adult literacy along with digital literacy, financial literacy, life skills and lifelong learning.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity".

World Duchenne Awareness Day 2026 – September 07

- ❖ The day raises awareness about Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a rare progressive genetic disorder and one of the most common paediatric genetic rare diseases.
- ❖ DMD is caused by mutations in the DMD gene on the X chromosome, leading to a deficiency of the dystrophin protein that protects muscles.
- ❖ It mainly affects males and causes progressive muscle weakness, eventually affecting movement, breathing and heart function.
- ❖ The disease is named after Dr Duchenne de Boulogne, who described it in detail in the 1860s.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Family: the heart of care".

Himalaya Diwas 2026 - September 09

- ❖ The day highlights the importance of the Himalayan ecosystem and its conservation.
- ❖ It was first declared in Uttarakhand in 2015 to promote Himalayan conservation, sustainable development and community participation.
- ❖ The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) is an important source of water for major rivers such as the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra.
- ❖ The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) Snow Update 2026 reported 27.8% lower snow persistence than average, with 10 of 12 major river basins showing below-normal snow persistence.
- ❖ Glacier retreat can reduce long-term natural water storage and increase risks such as Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).

National Fluorosis Day 2026 - September 09

- ❖ The day aims to focus on the prevention and control of fluorosis.
- ❖ Fluorosis is caused by long-term excessive intake of fluoride, mainly through contaminated drinking water.
- ❖ High fluoride exposure can affect the teeth, bones and joints.
- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) safe fluoride limit in drinking water is 1–1.5 milligrams per litre (mg/L).
- ❖ The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF) works on surveillance, prevention, early diagnosis and management of fluorosis.

National Forest Martyrs Day 2026 - September 11

- ❖ The day aims to honour forest personnel who lost their lives protecting forests and wildlife.
- ❖ The day commemorates the 1730 Khejarli sacrifice in Rajasthan, where the Bishnoi community resisted the felling of Khejri trees.
- ❖ The movement was led by Amrita Devi Bishnoi, and more than 360 people died during the sacrifice.
- ❖ The Khejarli incident is associated with community-based conservation and protection of nature.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Remembering Martyrs, Protecting Forests.”

Digvijay Diwas 2026 - September 11

- ❖ The day commemorate Swami Vivekananda’s historic address at the World’s Parliament of Religions, Chicago, in 1893.

- ❖ Swami Vivekananda, born Narendranath Datta, was born on 12 January 1863 in Kolkata.
- ❖ He was a chief disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and became a leading exponent of Vedanta and Yoga.
- ❖ He addressed the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago on September 11, 1893, representing Hinduism.
- ❖ His opening words, "Sisters and Brothers of America," became associated with his historic Chicago address.
- ❖ His Chicago speeches highlighted religious tolerance, universal acceptance, harmony and peaceful coexistence.
- ❖ He founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897, based on the ideals of spiritual development and service to humanity.
- ❖ His birthday, 12 January, is observed in India as National Youth Day.
- ❖ He passed away on 4 July 1902 at the age of 39.

International Day for South-South Cooperation 2026 - September 11

- ❖ The day aims to promote cooperation and knowledge-sharing among developing countries.
- ❖ The 2026 observance marked the launch of the Global Alliance for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, a voluntary United Nations (UN)-facilitated platform convened by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).
- ❖ South-South Cooperation enables developing countries to exchange knowledge, technology, skills, resources and successful development solutions.
- ❖ Triangular Cooperation brings together developing countries with developed countries or international organisations to provide additional technical, financial or institutional support.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Solidarity Rising: Global Alliance for Inclusive and Innovative Development."

National Hindi Diwas 2026 - September 14

- ❖ 14 September marks the day in 1949 when the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union under Article 343 of the Constitution.
- ❖ Hindi Diwas has been observed annually since 1953 to remember the 1949 decision and promote the use and development of Hindi.
- ❖ Article 351 of constitution directs the promotion and development of Hindi as a medium of expression for India's composite culture.

- ❖ Hindi is not the National Language of India; the Constitution does not declare any language as the national language, while English is also used for official purposes under the Official Languages Act, 1963.
- ❖ Hindi Diwas is observed on 14 September, while World Hindi Day is observed on 10 January, linked to the First World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur in 1975.

World Lymphoma Awareness Day 2026 - September 15

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about lymphoma and the lymphatic system.
- ❖ It was initiated by the Lymphoma Coalition in 2004.
- ❖ Lymphoma is a blood cancer affecting lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell.
- ❖ The two main types are Hodgkin lymphoma and Non-Hodgkin lymphoma.
- ❖ The lymphatic system includes lymph nodes, spleen, thymus gland and bone marrow.
- ❖ Common symptoms include painless swollen lymph nodes, fever, night sweats, fatigue and unexplained weight loss.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Navigating Lymphoma and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL) Together.”

International Day of Democracy 2026 - September 15

- ❖ The day aims to promote and strengthen the principles of democracy.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly established the day in 2007 through a consensus resolution, and the first observance was held in 2008.
- ❖ The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted the Universal Declaration on Democracy in September 1997, affirming democratic principles.
- ❖ Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) protects freedom of opinion and expression, including the right to seek, receive and share information.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “When every voice counts, democracy delivers”.

National Engineers Day 2026 - September 15

- ❖ National Engineers’ Day is observed on September 15 to mark M. Visvesvaraya’s birth anniversary.
- ❖ Visvesvaraya was born in 1861 in Muddenahalli, Karnataka.
- ❖ He served as the Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918 and worked on infrastructure projects.

- ❖ He contributed to irrigation, water management and flood protection systems.
- ❖ He wrote books including *Planned Economy for India* and *Reconstructing India*.
- ❖ He received the Bharat Ratna in 1955, India's highest civilian award, and died in 1962.

World Ozone Day 2026 - September 16

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about protecting the ozone layer.
- ❖ The ozone layer protects Earth by reducing harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation reaching its surface.
- ❖ The day commemorates the Montreal Protocol, an international agreement adopted in 1987 to reduce ozone-depleting substances.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established World Ozone Day in 1994, and it was first observed in 1995.
- ❖ The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol promotes sustainable cooling and helps reduce the climate impact of refrigerants.

Social Justice Day 2026 - September 17

- ❖ Tamil Nadu observed Social Justice Day on September 17, marking the birth anniversary of social reformer E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar).
- ❖ E.V. Ramasamy, popularly known as Periyar, was born on September 17, 1879, in Erode.
- ❖ He started the Self-Respect Movement in 1925, focusing on social equality, dignity and self-respect.
- ❖ Periyar participated in the Vaikom Satyagraha, which opposed untouchability and caste-based discrimination.
- ❖ He advocated rationalism, women's rights, education and social equality through speeches, writings and public campaigns.
- ❖ In 2026, Tamil Nadu observed his 147th birth anniversary, with the Social Justice Day pledge.

International Day for Interventional Cardiology 2026 – September 16

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed the day in 2022 to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases and interventional cardiac procedures.
- ❖ September 16 marks the date of the first coronary angioplasty, performed by Dr. Andreas Grüntzig in 1977.

- ❖ Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are a leading cause of death globally and include diseases affecting the heart and blood vessels.
- ❖ Interventional cardiology includes procedures such as balloon angioplasty, which uses a small balloon to open blocked arteries.
- ❖ The day also promotes awareness of prevention, treatment, complications and access to appropriate cardiac care.

World Bamboo Day 2026 - September 18

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of bamboo.
- ❖ Bamboo is a fast-growing grass, and some species can grow up to 36 inches (91 cm) in 24 hours.
- ❖ There are more than 1,500 bamboo species worldwide, with uses in construction, furniture, food, musical instruments and other products.
- ❖ The day was declared on September 18, 2009, during the 8th World Bamboo Congress in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ The date coincides with Royal Thai Forestry Day.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Bamboo Beyond Borders”.

World Alzheimer’s Day 2026 - September 21

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.
- ❖ The day was first observed in 1994 and is organised by Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI).
- ❖ Alzheimer’s disease is the most common cause of dementia and mainly affects memory and thinking abilities.
- ❖ The day promotes early diagnosis, caregiver support, dementia awareness and reducing stigma.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “The Earlier You Know, The More You Can Do: A Dementia Diagnosis Matters.”

World Rhino Day 2026 - September 22

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about protecting the five remaining rhino species.
- ❖ The five species are White Rhinoceros, Black Rhinoceros, Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, Javan Rhinoceros and Sumatran Rhinoceros.
- ❖ Around 27,000 rhinos remain in the wild, compared with nearly 5 lakh a century ago.

- ❖ India is home to the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, with nearly 4,000 in India and Nepal.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Keep the Five Alive”.

National Pharmacovigilance Week 2026- September 17/23

- ❖ The 6th National Pharmacovigilance Week (NPW) will be observed from 17–23 September 2026 to promote the safe and rational use of medicines.
- ❖ It is hosted by the National Coordination Centre for Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (NCC-PvPI) in Ghaziabad and aligns with World Patient Safety Day (17 September).
- ❖ The 2026 theme is “Promoting Rational Use of Medicines through Pharmacovigilance – A Step Towards Safer Healthcare.”
- ❖ Pharmacovigilance focuses on detecting and reporting Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) and other adverse events linked to medical products.
- ❖ The campaign has been a regular national initiative under the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI) since 2021.

International Day of Sign Languages 2026 - September 23

- ❖ The day highlights the importance of recognising, protecting and promoting the human rights of deaf people through national sign languages.
- ❖ 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and 20 years of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
- ❖ More than 70 million deaf people live worldwide, using over 300 different sign languages.
- ❖ The day was first celebrated in 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Declaring Deaf People’s Human Rights.”

World Pharmacists Day 2026 - September 25

- ❖ The day aims to recognise the role of pharmacists in healthcare and safe medicine use.
- ❖ Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) awareness and responsible use of antibiotics are also important focuses in 2026.
- ❖ In India, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is observing the day with the mission “Swastha Bharat: Combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).”
- ❖ The PCI is a statutory body established under the Pharmacy Act, 1948, to regulate pharmacy education and professional standards in India.

- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Empowering pharmacists for healthier futures.”

World Lung Day 2026 - September 25

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about lung health and respiratory diseases.
- ❖ Major lung-related diseases include asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), lung cancer, tuberculosis (TB) and respiratory infections.
- ❖ Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) created the idea of World Lung Day during the 2016 FIRS Kyoto Assembly.
- ❖ Lung diseases are linked to major risk factors such as smoking, air pollution, second-hand smoke and harmful environmental exposure.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “A Lifetime of Lung Health.”

International Day for the Total Elimination of nuclear weapons 2026 - September 26

- ❖ The day was declared by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2013 and has been observed since 2014.
- ❖ It aims to increase public awareness about the threat posed by nuclear weapons and promote their total elimination.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly’s first resolution in 1946 identified nuclear disarmament as a major UN goal.
- ❖ In 2026, the high-level plenary meeting will be held on 29 September in New York.
- ❖ An estimated 12,187 nuclear weapons remained worldwide in 2026, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

National Service Scheme Day 2026 – September 24

- ❖ The day aims to mark the establishment of the NSS in India.
- ❖ The National Service Scheme (NSS) was launched on 24 September 1969 by Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, the then Union Education Minister.
- ❖ Its launch coincided with the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi (1869–1969).
- ❖ The NSS works under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), and its motto is “Not Me But You.”
- ❖ The scheme helps students develop teamwork, leadership and social responsibility through community service.

CSIR Foundation Day 2026 - September 26

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) completed 85 years in 2026.
- ❖ CSIR was established on 26 September 1942 as an autonomous body for scientific and industrial research in India.
- ❖ It functions as a nationwide research network with 37 national laboratories working in areas such as aerospace, chemicals, biotechnology, environment and ocean science.
- ❖ CSIR headquarters is at Anusandhan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ❖ CSIR was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ❖ Its research supports healthcare, energy, agriculture, environment, materials, aerospace and emerging technologies.

World Heart Day 2026 - September 29

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about cardiovascular health and encourage prevention of heart disease.
- ❖ The campaign highlights three areas: see the signs, protect your heart and demand action.
- ❖ The day is led by the World Heart Federation (WHF).
- ❖ Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), including heart attacks and strokes, are among the leading causes of death worldwide.
- ❖ Major risk factors include high blood pressure, tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, high cholesterol and obesity.
- ❖ The campaign theme for the year 2026 is "Don't Miss a Beat".

MISCELLANEOUS

Bhupen Hazarika Birth Centenary

- ❖ The 100th birth anniversary of Bhupen Hazarika was commemorated on 8 September.
- ❖ Bhupen Hazarika was born on 8 September 1926 at Sadiya, Assam, and was a singer, composer, lyricist, filmmaker and cultural icon.
- ❖ He studied at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and earned a doctorate from Columbia University, USA, in 1952.
- ❖ His famous works include Bistirno Parore, Moi Eti Jajabor, Manuhe Manuhor Babé and Buku Hom Hom Kore.

- ❖ He was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan (2012) and Bharat Ratna (2019), India's highest civilian award.
- ❖ He died on 5 November 2011 in Mumbai.

India's New UNESCO Tentative Sites 2026

- ❖ Four Indian cultural heritage sites were added to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, taking India's total to 73 sites.
- ❖ The four sites are Rangpur-Sivasagar Historic Ensemble (Assam), Colonial Penal Settlement (Andaman Islands), Nicobarese Cultural Continuity (Nicobar Islands) and Painted Haveli Towns of Shekhawati (Rajasthan).
- ❖ Sivasagar was the capital of the Ahom Kingdom, while Shekhawati is known for painted frescoes on havelis.
- ❖ A site must remain on the Tentative List for at least one year before it can be nominated for World Heritage inscription.

150 Years of Saratchandra Chattopadhyay

- ❖ Bengali writer Saratchandra Chattopadhyay was remembered on his 150th birth anniversary.
- ❖ Born on 15 September 1876 in Debanandapur, Bengal, he was a Bengali novelist and short-story writer.
- ❖ His notable works include Devdas, Srikanta, Parineeta, Choritrohin and Pather Dabi.
- ❖ His works portrayed 19th-century India, especially rural Bengali society, and highlighted social issues and women's rights.
- ❖ He lived in Burma (Myanmar) for 13 years and returned to Calcutta in 1916 to become a full-time writer.
- ❖ Pather Dabi, published in 1926, was banned by the British Government of India because of its revolutionary theme.
- ❖ He received the Jagattarini Gold Medal from the University of Calcutta and a Doctor of Literature (honoris causa) from the University of Dhaka.

Academic Freedom in India

- ❖ The Free to Think 2026 report by Scholars at Risk said India's academic freedom remained in the "severely restricted" category.
- ❖ India was placed in the "severely restricted" group along with Hong Kong, Indonesia, Pakistan, the West Bank and Ukraine.

- ❖ India's Academic Freedom Index (AFI) score fell from 0.41 in 2015 to 0.14 in 2026.
- ❖ The AFI measures factors such as campus integrity, academic expression, research and teaching freedom, and institutional autonomy.
- ❖ The report recorded 382 attacks in 59 countries and territories between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.
- ❖ India recorded the highest number of attacks, with 42 cases involving violence, imprisonment or loss of academic positions.
- ❖ The report said 50 of 179 countries experienced a significant decline in academic freedom over the past decade.

Global Rank - GIFT City

- ❖ GIFT City ranked 37th globally in the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 40, released in September 2026.
- ❖ GIFT City moved up 9 places to 37th, while Mumbai rose 3 places to 49th.
- ❖ It was the only Indian financial centre among the top 15 Asia-Pacific hubs.
- ❖ GIFT City ranked 26th in FinTech, moving up 3 places.
- ❖ GFCI 40 assessed 139 financial centres using 144 quantitative measures and 39,531 professional assessments.
- ❖ The index is published by Z/Yen Partners and the China Development Institute; the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) regulates financial services in GIFT City.

NIRF 2025 SDG Ranking

- ❖ The latest official National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) ranking places Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras first, followed by Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI).
- ❖ The SDG category was introduced in NIRF 2025, increasing the total ranking categories from 16 to 17.
- ❖ It evaluates energy efficiency, water management, waste disposal, SDG-related research, community outreach, and social inclusion.
- ❖ The ranking covers institutions' contributions to all 17 SDGs under the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Bat Evolution Study

- ❖ A large study of bat genomes and fossils found that bats likely originated in Europe about 65 million years ago, during the late Palaeocene.
- ❖ The study involved 137 scientists from 64 countries under the Bat1K consortium and analysed 103 bat species from all 21 living bat families.
- ❖ Scientists concluded that bats spread from Europe to Africa, and then to Asia, the Americas and Australia, but not Antarctica.
- ❖ Flight and echolocation developed near the beginning of bat evolution, helping bats spread widely across the world.
- ❖ Bats play important ecological roles such as pollinating plants, controlling insect pests and dispersing seeds.

Typhoon Dujuan

- ❖ Typhoon Dujuan battered Tokyo and eastern Japan, causing record rainfall, strong winds and landslides, including 832 mm of rain in 48 hours on Izu Oshima Island, Tokyo, Japan.
- ❖ Izu Oshima is a volcanic island in the Izu Islands of Tokyo, Japan, in the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ Dujuan formed over the North western Pacific Ocean and became Japan's 25th named storm of the season.
- ❖ Warm ocean waters and rising moist air helped strengthen the tropical cyclone, while the Coriolis effect caused its rotation.
- ❖ Interaction with Japan's autumn rain front (Akisame zensen) intensified rainfall, flooding and landslides.

