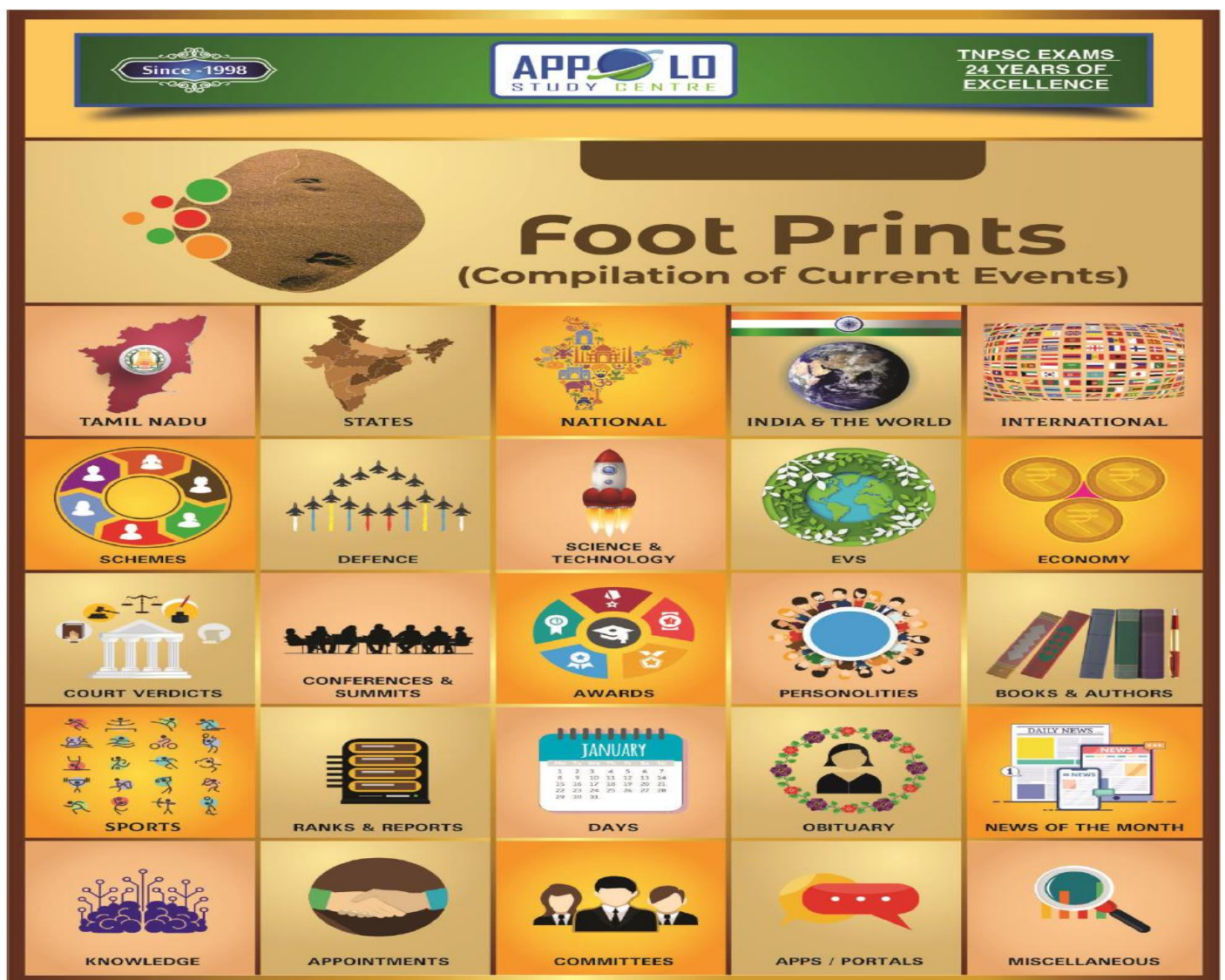




## OCTOBER CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2025



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# TAMIL NADU

## Tamil Nadu sanctions ₹1 crore for conservation of four lesser-known endangered species

The species are: the lion-tailed macaque, Madras hedgehog, striped hyena, and hump-headed mahseer



- The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned ₹1 crore for the protection of four lesser-known endangered species. Out of this, ₹48.5 lakh is dedicated to the lion-tailed macaque, a critically endangered primate endemic to the Western Ghats. The allocation aims to enhance habitat protection and support population recovery.
- The Madras hedgehog, native to semi-arid regions of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala, has been allocated ₹20.5 lakh for conservation. Measures include habitat preservation and awareness programs to prevent further decline.
- The near-threatened striped hyena, found in areas such as Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, has received ₹14 lakh. Conservation efforts focus on reducing human-wildlife conflicts and monitoring populations.
- The critically endangered hump-headed mahseer will receive ₹17 lakh to support recovery in the Moyar River. Programs include in situ culture and restocking to revive natural populations.

## Tamil Nadu education model - Journey Towards Inclusive Education

**Tamil Nadu has consistently demonstrated how education can act as a powerful instrument of social justice. The State's policies reflect the principle that learning should be accessible to all, not a privilege for the few.**

- The seeds of Tamil Nadu's educational revolution were sown as early as 1920, when a municipal school in Thousand Lights, Madras, introduced the first mid-day meal scheme in India.
- In 1921, the Justice Party took a landmark step with the Communal Government Order (G.O.). This decision ensured reservation in education for underprivileged and backward communities, making Tamil Nadu a pioneer in affirmative action.
- The mid-day meal scheme has evolved into one of the world's largest school feeding programs. In 2022, the Tamil Nadu government launched the Breakfast Scheme, targeting primary students across government schools.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio reflects inclusive growth
- Tamil Nadu's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is an impressive 47%, significantly higher than the national average of 28.4%. Among women, the figure stands at 47.3%, compared to the national average of 28.5%.

### **Tamil Nadu launches programme for inclusive education**

Tamil Nadu government will be working with Amar Seva Sangam

A State-wide joint programme for inclusive education by Amar Seva Sangam, an NGO working with disability management and the Tamil Nadu State Mission of Education for All - Samagra Shiksha - was launched by Tamil Nadu Government

## Wind energy generation picks up in Tamil Nadu

**Capacity utilisation of wind mills installed in Tamil Nadu is expected to be 29.6 % in 2025-2026 financial year, which is the highest since 2018-2019.**





- Tamil Nadu is a leader in wind energy in India, with over 10,000 MW of installed capacity. The state has consistently contributed a major share of the country's wind power. Wind energy forms a crucial part of Tamil Nadu's renewable energy portfolio.
- Wind energy generation in the state peaks between May and October annually. These months coincide with strong southwest and northeast monsoon winds. Efficient utilisation during this period ensures maximum energy production and stabilises the state's power grid.
- The capacity utilisation factor (CUF) for wind energy in Tamil Nadu is expected to reach 29.6% in 2025-2026, the highest since 2018-2019. This reflects improved turbine technology, better site selection, and enhanced grid integration.

### **Tamil Nadu Bans Coldrif Cough Syrup**

**Tamil Nadu has banned the sale of the cough syrup Coldrif from October 1, 2025.**



- Investigations suggest that toxic ingredients or contamination may have caused acute adverse reactions in children.
- Health authorities have issued advisories to monitor pediatric patients for cough and cold complications. The ban aims to prevent further casualties and ensure public safety.
- The Tamil Nadu Food and Drug Administration (TN FDA) has asked retailers to immediately withdraw Coldrif stocks.
- Officials are conducting inspections of medical stores and issuing notices against violations.
- Parents are advised to consult pediatricians before administering any cough syrup.

**The Tamil Nadu Drugs and Cosmetics Rules empower the state government to prohibit unsafe medicines under Section 26 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.**

## Tamil Nadu Launches Sports Technology Incubation Centre

**Tamil Nadu is set to establish its first sports-technology incubation centre in collaboration with German football club Borussia Dortmund.**

- The initiative aims to blend sports innovation with technological solutions to support budding startups in the state.
- The project will be implemented by Startup Tamil Nadu, the state's dedicated startup mission under the MSME Department.
- The initiative will provide infrastructure, mentorship, and funding support to startups working on sports technologies.
- The incubation centre will focus on sports analytics, wearable technology, and performance monitoring.
- It aims to nurture entrepreneurship among youth, providing access to both domestic and international expertise.

## Pink Patrol launched in the Nilgiris

**For the first time in the Nilgiris, the police have launched Pink Patrol (women-piloted patrol vehicles) to assist women and children in public spaces.**



- It provides a visible security presence in public areas and aims to build trust so victims can report offences without fear.
- The primary objective of Pink Patrol is to prevent crimes against women and children.
- Officers are trained to respond quickly to harassment cases and ensure that reporting mechanisms are accessible. The initiative also encourages community participation for safer public spaces.
- A total of ten pink patrol vehicles have been deployed across Udthagamandalam, Coonoor, Kotagiri, and Gudalur.

- These vehicles will operate in key areas where women and children are more vulnerable. Patrol teams will maintain regular rounds and ensure prompt action during emergencies.

## Tamil Nadu Global Startup Summit 2025

The Tamil Nadu Global Startup Summit (TNGSS) 2025 marked a major milestone in India's innovation landscape. Held in Coimbatore, it highlighted Tamil Nadu's transformation into a leading hub for entrepreneurship and technology-driven innovation.



- The event demonstrated the state's growing commitment to empowering **startups and investors** through collaboration and digital integration.
- Tamil Nadu's registered startups have witnessed a steep rise from 2,032 in 2021 to over 12,000 in 2025, showcasing one of the fastest growth rates in the country. The valuation of the ecosystem expanded dramatically – from \$3 billion to \$27.4 billion, reflecting investor confidence and favorable government policies.
- The summit was organized by the **Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN)**, a state agency under the Department of MSME. StartupTN plays a vital role in nurturing entrepreneurship, offering funding schemes, incubation facilities, and mentorship support to early-stage ventures.
- The launch of the TNGSS app during the event was a key highlight. Equipped with artificial intelligence-based matchmaking, event scheduling, and personalised networking tools, it created a seamless digital experience for entrepreneurs and investors alike.
- The 2025 summit was themed “**Disrupt to Rise,**” emphasizing the need for bold innovation and transformative ideas. The theme encouraged young

entrepreneurs to break conventional models and develop scalable, sustainable solutions that address real-world problems.

### **Co-Creation Fund Boosting Tamil Nadu's Startup Ecosystem**

- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced a ₹100 crore Co-Creation Fund during the Global Startup Summit held in Coimbatore. This initiative highlights the state's growing focus on entrepreneurship and innovation-driven development.
- The fund is designed to strengthen the state's startup ecosystem by channeling investments through credible venture capital networks.
- The Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN) will manage this new fund. It acts as the nodal agency for promoting startup culture across the state. By investing in venture capital funds, StartupTN ensures that Tamil Nadu-based startups gain access to early-stage funding and mentorship support.
- A dedicated budget allocation of ₹20 crore has already been approved for the current financial year, showing the government's immediate commitment to operationalizing the scheme.

### **Tamil Nadu Wild Elephant Census 2025**

**The Wild Elephant Survey 2025 revealed that Tamil Nadu recorded 3,170 wild elephants in May 2025.**





- This marks an increase of 107 elephants from the 2024 count of 3,063, showcasing a positive trend in elephant conservation efforts.
- The synchronised survey spanned 8,989.63 square kilometres across 26 forest divisions in the state. The exercise employed both direct (Block Count) and indirect (Dung Count) methods to ensure comprehensive coverage.
- The survey, conducted jointly by forest officials and wildlife experts, adopted a scientific synchronised approach.
- Teams were deployed simultaneously across forest divisions to avoid duplication and ensure accurate data.
- In the Block Count method, elephants are directly sighted and counted in a defined block, while the Dung Count method estimates population density based on dung samples collected over the area.
- The Nilgiri Elephant Reserve emerged as the state's largest elephant habitat, reporting 2,419 elephants (Block Count) and 3,163 elephants (Dung Count) – the highest in Tamil Nadu. This region remains a critical corridor connecting populations across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka.
- Adults formed 44% of the total population, while the sex ratio stood at 1 male to 1.77 females, indicating a healthy reproductive balance.

## 10 Chola-era inscriptions from Shiva temple in Mayiladuthurai district

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has recently documented 10 Chola-era inscriptions at the historic Vedapureeswarar Shiva Temple located in Therizhandhur, Mayiladuthurai district of Tamil Nadu.



- These inscriptions offer a deeper understanding of temple administration, royal endowments, and local governance during the Chola dynasty.
- Two significant inscriptions were found belonging to the 34th and 44th regnal years of Kulottunga Chola I (c. 1070–1122 CE). They record a grant of five gold coins to Brahmins for the lighting of lamps in the temple.
- This demonstrates the Chola emphasis on ritual continuity and religious endowments. Such inscriptions often mention the donors, the nature of the gifts, and the conditions under which they were to be used.
- Another set of inscriptions belong to Kulottunga Chola III (1178–1218 CE), one of the longest-ruling monarchs of the Chola dynasty.
- These records detail donations for Tirumanjanam (holy ablution rituals) and mention penalties imposed on defaulters who failed to maintain temple obligations. One inscription from the reign of Rajaraja II (1146–1173 CE) records donations for lighting the Nundavilakku, or eternal lamp, symbolizing spiritual continuity.
- This demonstrates that successive Chola rulers maintained the tradition of temple patronage as a matter of state policy.

### **Nagamalai hillock in Erode district notified as Tamil Nadu's fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site**

**The State government has already declared Arittapatti in Madurai district, Kasampatty in Dindigul district, and Elathur lake in Erode district as Biodiversity Heritage Sites**



- The Nagamalai Hillock in Erode district has been officially declared the fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) of Tamil Nadu.

- This recognition comes under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, which empowers states to conserve ecologically and culturally important landscapes.
- Spanning 32.22 hectares, the site supports a mosaic of habitats including deep waters, mudflats, shallow margins, and rocky outcrops that sustain diverse flora and fauna.
- Nagamalai Hillock stands out not only for its ecological diversity but also for its rich archaeological heritage.
- The region contains Iron Age cairn circles, ancient rock shelters, and a 400-year-old stone carving of Lord Anjaneya, signifying continuous human interaction with the site for centuries.

### **‘Namma Ooru, Namma Arasu’.**

**T.N. CM Stalin to virtually address 10,000 gram sabha meetings on October 11. The initiative is being undertaken under the theme ‘Namma Ooru, Namma Arasu’.**

- The aim was to strengthen **local governance** and ensure direct communication between the state government and citizens.
- After the CM’s address, each Gram Sabha discussed **16 pre-listed topics**. These topics focused on local development, welfare schemes, and community needs.
- The **resolutions passed prioritized the top three local requirements** identified by residents. Virtual Gram Sabha meetings allowed **mass participation** without logistical constraints.
- Citizens could voice their opinions, provide feedback, and ensure accountability of local officials. This initiative is especially crucial during periods when physical meetings are challenging.

## Tamil Nadu government issues guidelines to remove caste-based names from public spaces

- The Tamil Nadu government has taken a progressive step toward social equality by introducing guidelines to identify and rename caste-based or discriminatory place names across the state.
- This decision aligns with the Chief Minister's Assembly announcement to remove the word "Colony" from official records, promoting inclusivity in public nomenclature. The move targets names such as *Adidraavidar Colony*, *Harijan Colony*, *Vannankulam*, *Parayar Street*, and *Chakkiliar Salai*, which carry caste-based or derogatory connotations.
- These will be replaced with neutral and community-accepted alternatives, ensuring that public spaces reflect equality and dignity. Under the new policy, the Grama Sabha and Area Sabha will play a central role in approving any name changes. These local bodies must record valid reasons for retaining old names, ensuring transparency and community consensus.
- The final approval lies with the State Government, as per the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, and the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998.
- These laws empower the state to standardize local governance and maintain equity in administrative records.

## The Tamil Nadu Startup Ecosystem and the State Planning Commission (SPC) Report

State Planning Commission report on startups calls for simplifying funding processes. The report also called for strengthening the talent ecosystem and support systems, reinforcing social and spatial inclusion, and leveraging best practices.





The **State Planning Commission (SPC)** of Tamil Nadu recently submitted its report titled *“Start-Up Ecosystem in Tamil Nadu: Opportunities and Challenges”* to the Chief Minister. The report evaluates the current startup environment, identifying both opportunities and obstacles that affect growth. It aims to strengthen Tamil Nadu’s position as a major startup hub in India.

<b>Enhancing Accessibility and Funding Opportunities</b>	<p>The SPC emphasized the need to simplify application procedures for government funding schemes. Currently, many startups find it difficult to access available funds due to bureaucratic complexities and a lack of awareness about existing programs.</p> <p>It recommended digitized single-window systems for startup applications to increase participation, transparency, and efficiency in fund disbursement.</p>
<b>Strengthening Market Access and Procurement</b>	<p>A major concern highlighted in the SPC report is the low registration of startups in public procurement. This stems from limited awareness and complex procedural norms that discourage new entrants.</p> <p>To address this, the report suggests enabling priority procurement quotas for startups, offering training programs, and creating dedicated procurement awareness cells.</p>

<b>Building a Strong Talent and Support Ecosystem</b>	<p>The SPC stressed the importance of improving talent retention, academic incubation, and innovation networks. Academic institutions like IIT Madras, Anna University, and TIDEL Park incubators have played a crucial role in nurturing early-stage ventures.</p> <p>However, the report warns of challenges in retaining skilled professionals due to brain drain and limited infrastructure in tier-2 cities. It recommends policies to encourage regional innovation clusters and skill partnerships with universities.</p>
<b>Integrating Inclusion and Sustainability</b>	<p>The SPC underlined the need for social and spatial inclusion, ensuring that women, rural innovators, and marginalized communities are part of the startup ecosystem. It also called for embedding sustainability goals into startup strategies to align with Tamil Nadu's Green Economy Vision.</p>
<b>Regulatory Reforms and Acceptance of Failure</b>	<p>The report suggests streamlining regulatory procedures and introducing a "grace period" for startup failures to encourage risk-taking and experimentation. It advocates a simplified compliance framework to help startups focus on innovation rather than administration.</p>

## **Tamil Nadu First Supplementary Estimates 2025-26**

**The Tamil Nadu Finance Minister presented the First Supplementary Estimates for the financial year 2025-26, marking an important fiscal step in addressing the state's emerging financial needs.**

- The supplementary demand highlights allocations for public welfare, infrastructure improvement, and modernization of transport facilities. The supplementary estimates proposed a total allocation of ₹2,914.99 crore.
- These funds aim to strengthen development programs and ensure smooth execution of new government schemes. Such supplementary budgets are tabled to meet additional expenditure not covered in the original budget.
- A significant portion, ₹471.53 crore, has been sanctioned for the procurement of 3,000 Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) buses.

- This initiative aims to replace old and inefficient vehicles operating under state transport undertakings, ensuring better passenger comfort and lower emissions. Another key allocation of ₹469.84 crore has been made for implementing the Kalaigharin Kanavu Illam scheme.
- The project will be managed by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, focusing on providing quality housing facilities to the rural population.
- The First Supplementary Estimates act as a fiscal bridge between planned allocations and newly arising needs during the financial year.
- It demonstrates the state government's adaptability in responding to infrastructure and welfare priorities.

Supplementary demands for grants are presented under **Article 205 of the Indian Constitution** by the state governments.

### Thirumalapuram: Iron Age Site



- The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) conducted the first season of excavations at Thirumalapuram in the Tenkasi district.
- The site is located about 10 kilometres northwest of the present-day village. The burial ground spans nearly 35 acres between two seasonal streams near the Kulasegarapereri tank.
- Preliminary studies date the site to the early to mid-third millennium BCE, placing it within the Iron Age.
- Archaeologists have drawn comparisons with other prominent Iron Age sites such as Adichanallur and Sivagalai, indicating shared cultural traits.
- A total of 37 trenches were dug during the first excavation season. Excavators discovered a unique rectangular stone slab chamber designed for urn burials.

- The chamber consisted of 35 stone slabs and was filled with cobblestones up to 1.5 metres.

### **'Aran Illam' housing scheme for trans persons**



- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated Aran Illam, a dedicated shelter program for transgender persons.
- This initiative aims to provide safe living spaces and holistic support for transgender individuals, promoting social inclusion.
- In the first phase, two homes were opened: one in Shenoy Nagar, Chennai, and another in Anna Nagar, Madurai. These locations were selected to ensure urban accessibility and integration with local welfare services. Transgender individuals above 18 years holding an identity card from the State Transgender Welfare Board are eligible to stay. The shelter duration ranges from one month to three years, tailored to individual rehabilitation and social reintegration needs.

### **Tamil Nadu Siddha Bill 2025**

**The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a resolution rejecting the Governor's remarks on the Tamil Nadu Siddha Medical University Bill, 2025.**

- The Chief Minister stated that the remarks violated the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. The resolution clarified that only members of the Assembly have the right to suggest amendments during the Bill's consideration stage.
- The Chief Minister highlighted that the Bill falls under the category of a Finance Bill, which requires the Governor's recommendation under Article 207(3) of the Constitution. Instead of following this procedure, the Governor expressed views on specific provisions, which the Assembly considered unconstitutional.



- The Bill was drafted by the Health and Family Welfare Department and examined by the Law Department and the Minister for Health and Family Welfare. After preparation, it was sent to the Governor, who raised procedural objections rather than constitutional recommendations.
- The Tamil Nadu Siddha Medical University will be established in Chennai to provide instruction and training in Indian Medicine and Homeopathy. The Chief Minister will serve as the Chancellor, while the Minister for Health and Family Welfare will be the Pro-Chancellor.

### **Tenure Extension for Rural Special Officers in Tamil Nadu**

**The Tamil Nadu government has introduced a Bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, aiming to extend the tenure of Special Officers in rural local bodies up to January 5, 2026. This marks another year of extension after the current tenure, which was earlier prolonged by ordinance till January 5, 2025.**

- The extension has been proposed as the delimitation process of panchayat wards is still ongoing.
- The Madras High Court has directed that rural local body elections can only be held after the completion of delimitation. Hence, the functioning of local bodies continues under appointed Special Officers instead of elected representatives.
- This tenure extension applies to 9,624 village panchayats, 314 panchayat unions, and 28 district panchayats across 28 districts of Tamil Nadu. The structure ensures administrative continuity and governance in rural areas despite the absence of elected bodies.
- At the grassroots level, Block Development Officers (Village Panchayats) are designated as Special Officers for village panchayats.
- Similarly, Assistant Directors (Panchayats or Audit) serve as Special Officers for panchayat unions. For district panchayats, the positions are handled by Additional Directors, Additional Collectors, Joint Directors, or Project Directors.

### **Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence in Coimbatore**

- The Tamil Nadu Government has announced the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Coimbatore.

- This initiative will operate under a public-private partnership (PPP) model, emphasizing industry collaboration and skill-based education.
- The centre aims to make Coimbatore a major AI innovation hub in South India.

## Tamil Nadu Debt and Fiscal Trends 2025

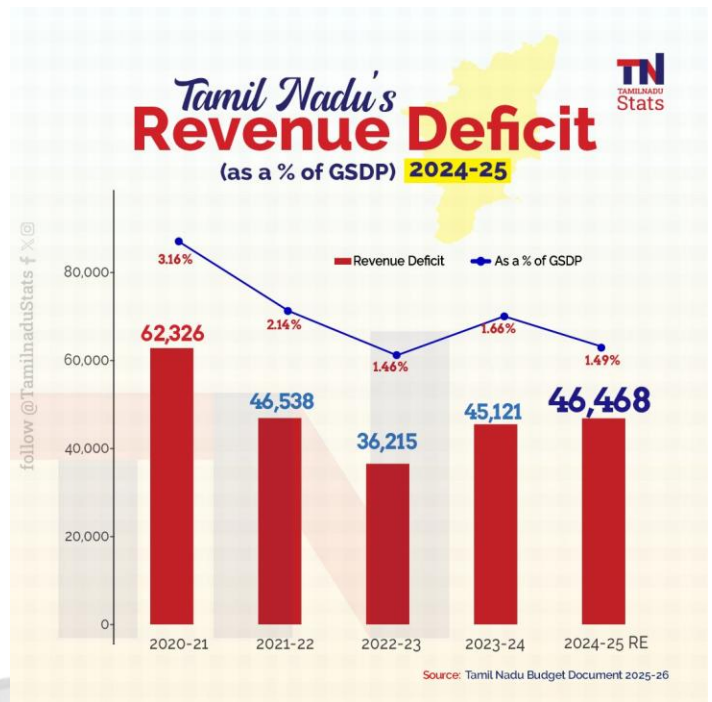
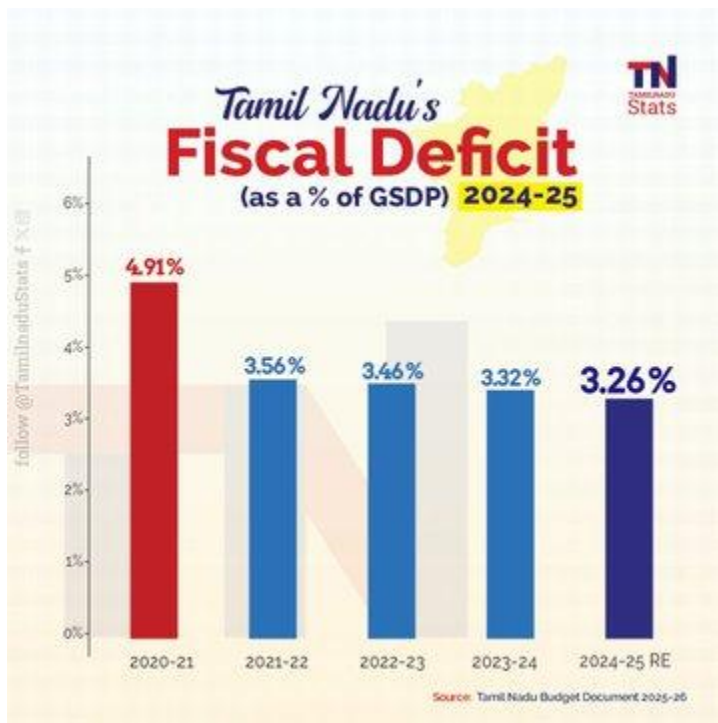
**The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) of India assessed Tamil Nadu's fiscal performance for 2023-24. The report highlighted that the State made progress in only one out of three fiscal targets.**

- The notable improvement was in the outstanding liability-Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio, which decreased from the target of 29.1% to 28%.
- From 2019-20 to 2023-24, the debt-GSDP ratio showed an upward trend initially, rising from 24.35% in 2019-20 to 28.83% in 2021-22. It marginally decreased to 28.39% in 2022-23 and finally stood at 28% in 2023-24, reflecting moderate fiscal consolidation. The debt figure also includes Off-Budget Borrowings (OBB).
- Despite the reduction in the debt-GSDP ratio, the Fiscal Deficit (FD) to GSDP ratio remained above target at 3.32% in 2023-24. This exceeds the ceiling set under the Tamil Nadu State Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, which aimed to achieve 3% FD-GSDP ratio by March 31, 2025.
- The revenue deficit worsened slightly in 2023-24, increasing by 0.15% of GSDP over the previous year. It rose from ₹36,215 crore in 2022-23 to ₹45,121 crore in 2023-24, which is 71.5% higher than the Medium-Term Fiscal Plan projections. The State's target is to eliminate revenue deficit by 2025-26, highlighting the need for stricter revenue management.
- Fiscal Targets and Progress

The CAG report set three primary fiscal targets:

1. **Elimination of revenue deficit by 2025-26**
2. **Achievement of fiscal deficit-GSDP ratio at 3% by March 2025**
3. **Reduction of debt-GSDP ratio to 29.1%**

Only the **debt-GSDP target** showed improvement, while **revenue and fiscal deficits** remained above the desired benchmarks.



## First Phase of Underwater Survey Off Poompuhar Coast



- The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) conducted a 12-day underwater survey along the Poompuhar coast.
- The focus was on exploring the remains of the ancient port city of Kaveripoompattnam, a significant trade hub during the Sangam period.
- The survey spanned the coastal stretch from Thirumullaivasal to Neithavasal, tracing locations first documented by archaeologist S. R. Rao.
- The project aimed to identify submerged structures and artifacts that could shed light on ancient maritime activities.

## Rising Subsidies in Tamil Nadu 2023-24

- Subsidies in Tamil Nadu surged from ₹20,114 crore in 2019-20 to ₹37,749 crore in 2023-24.

- This represents an annual growth rate of 27%, driven mainly by the launch of the Kalaigamar Magalir Urimai Thogai (KMUT) scheme.
- The KMUT scheme targets women beneficiaries and has become a key driver of state welfare expenditure.
- As a proportion of revenue receipts, subsidies increased from 11.54% to 14.27% over five years.
- Meanwhile, subsidies as a share of revenue expenditure rose from 9.57% to 12.19%, reflecting the state's priority on social welfare programs.

### Real-Time Flood Forecast System in Chennai



- Chennai has become the first Indian city to implement a Real-Time Flood Forecast and Spatial Decision Support System (RTFF & SDSS).
- The ₹107.2 crore project represents a significant leap in urban resilience and proactive disaster management, aiming to minimize the impact of monsoon floods on people and infrastructure.
- The RTFF & SDSS project spans an area of around 4,974 sq km, encompassing Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, and Ranipet districts.
- This extensive coverage ensures that both riverine and urban flooding patterns are closely monitored.

### T.N.'s first BRTS integrated elevated corridor proposed on GST Road, from Kilambakkam to Mahindra World City

**The proposed 18.4 km elevated corridor, with BRTS provision on GST Road, is an NHAI project to ease traffic in Chennai**





- The proposed 18.4 km-long elevated corridor from Urappakkam (Kilambakkam Terminus) to Chettipunyam (Mahindra City) on the Grand Southern Trunk (GST) Road will have a provision for a Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS).
- The width of the corridor, to be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹3300 crore, will now be 29 metres, and the facility will have additional lanes on either side.

### **Tamil Talents Plan to Empower Global Tamil Researchers**

- Tamil Talents Plan to Empower Global Tamil Researchers: The Tamil Nadu Government launched the Tamil Talents Plan to bring together Tamil-origin researchers working abroad.
- The initiative focuses on harnessing their expertise to strengthen research and innovation within the state. It aligns with Tamil Nadu's goal of becoming a global hub for knowledge-driven industries.
- Under the plan, overseas Tamil scholars will receive competitive salaries, startup research grants, relocation assistance, and fast-tracked visa processing.
- This makes Tamil Nadu one of the first Indian states to offer comprehensive incentives to attract global Tamil researchers back to their homeland.

### **T.N. gets new Sainik School in Namakkal district**

**This brings the number of schools in the State for the consideration of candidates appearing in the AISSEE 2026 to 5**

- The Sainik School Society, functioning under the Union Ministry of Defence, has recently announced the inclusion of a new institution in Namakkal district.

- The SRRI SPK Public Senior Secondary School has been added to the list of schools eligible for students appearing in the All India Sainik Schools Entrance Examination (AISSEE) 2026.
- This inclusion marks a significant expansion of the Sainik School network in Tamil Nadu, bringing the total number of schools under consideration to five.
- Sainik Schools aim to prepare students for entry into the National Defence Academy (NDA) and other defence services. The model promotes discipline, leadership, and national pride through academic and physical training.
- By introducing a Sainik School in Namakkal, the government continues to expand opportunities for rural and semi-urban students to access military-oriented education. This aligns with the national objective of producing youth equipped with patriotism and leadership qualities.

### Iridium scam



- The Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID) of Tamil Nadu recently uncovered a large-scale Iridium scam, arresting 57 individuals involved in fraudulent activities.
- The scam revolved around claims of possessing or selling iridium metal at exorbitant prices, often misleading investors and the public with false promises of its high market value.
- Such scams typically exploit public ignorance about rare metals. The accused misrepresented iridium, a legitimate industrial element, as a scarce and high-return investment material.
- The CB-CID investigation aims to trace the financial network and prevent further fraudulent circulation.

## Copper Plates Unearthed at Sirkazhi Temple



- The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) has started a detailed study of 483 copper plates recently unearthed at the Thoniappar (Sattainathar) Temple in Sirkazhi, located in Mayiladuthurai district.
- These plates are engraved with sacred Thevaram hymns, representing a significant archaeological and spiritual discovery in Tamil Nadu.
- Each copper plate contains 10 to 12 lines of Tamil hymns, inscribed on both sides by various scribes. The inscriptions do not follow a specific sequence, indicating that they may have been recorded over an extended period by multiple temple scholars.
- The Thevaram hymns form a vital part of Shaiva Siddhanta literature, which glorifies Lord Shiva.
- These hymns were composed by the Nayanmar saints—Thirunavukkarasar (Appar), Thirugnanasambandhar, and Sundarar—during the 7th to 9th centuries CE. Their devotional works were instrumental in the Bhakti movement of Tamil Nadu, transforming temple worship and spiritual expression.
- The Sirkazhi discovery is particularly significant because these hymns are believed to have originated in the same region. Thirugnanasambandhar, one of the principal Nayanmars, was born in Sirkazhi, making this find deeply connected to Tamil Shaivite heritage.

# NATIONAL

## Children in India 2025 Report Insights

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the 4th issue of the Children in India 2025 Report.

- The **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** has seen a consistent decline, falling from **44 in 2011** to **25 in 2023** per 1,000 live births. Similarly, the **Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR)** decreased from **30 in 2022** to **29 in 2023**.
- The report highlights major gains in school retention. Between 2022-23 and 2024-25, dropout rates fell sharply:
  - Preparatory stage: 8.7% to 2.3%
  - Middle level: 8.1% to 3.5%
  - Secondary level: 13.8% to 8.2%
- The Gender Parity Index (GPI) reached parity across all education stages in 2024-25, reflecting balanced access for boys and girls.

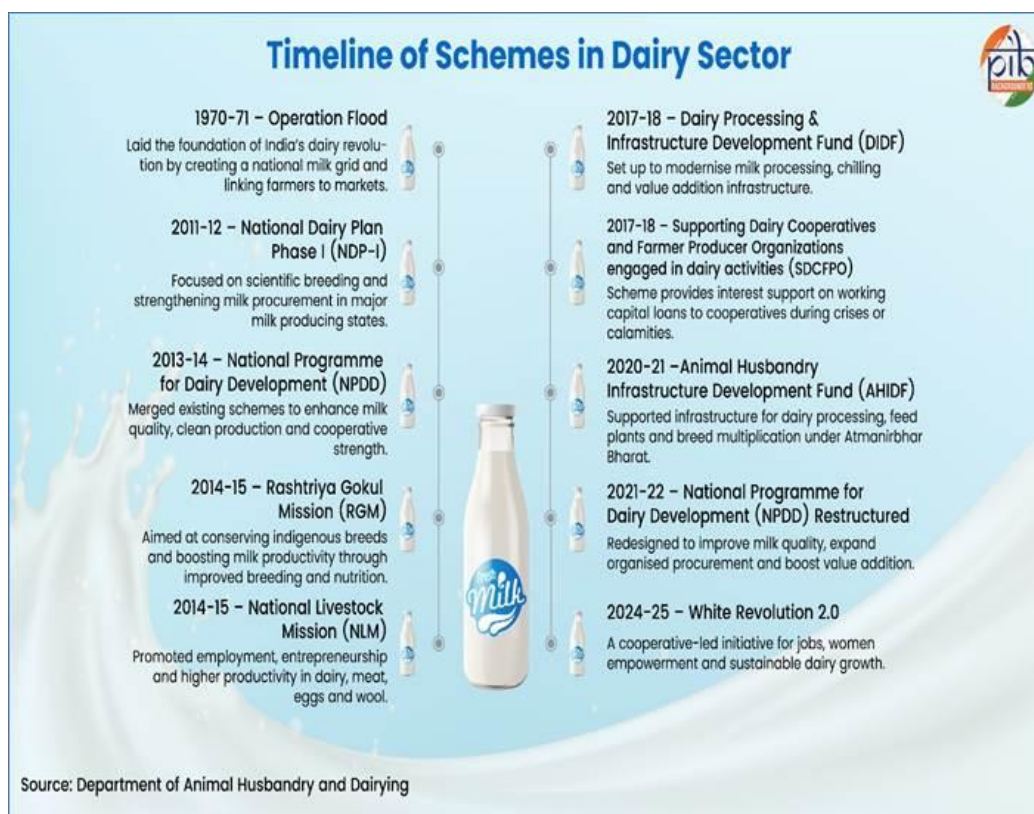
## India's dairy sector fastest growing in the world, expanded 70% in 11 years

India's dairy sector has registered record growth in the last decade. Milk production rose from 146 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 239 million tonnes in 2023-24, making India the fastest-growing dairy market globally.

- The sector expanded by nearly 70 percent during this period, showing the strength of policies promoting farmers and cooperatives.
- The government has focused on improving **indigenous cattle breeds**, raising their milk output from 39 million tonnes to 50 million tonnes. **Milk processing capacity currently stands at 660 lakh litres per day**, with a target to reach **100 million litres by 2028-29**.
- Per capita milk availability has risen from 124 grams daily in 2014 to 471 grams in 2024.
- The **Ministry of Cooperation** has pushed for rapid cooperative expansion. More than 75,000 new dairy cooperatives will be formed by 2029, while 46,000 existing units will be strengthened. In 2024 alone, **33,000 cooperatives were**



**registered**, ensuring that every Panchayat will have at least one society by 2029.



## India's Only Mud Volcano Erupts After 20 Years In Andamans

- The Baratang mud volcano in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands erupted on 2 October 2025, ending more than two decades of dormancy.
- The eruption created a 3-4 metre high mound and spread mud across nearly 1,000 square metres. Baratang Island lies in the North and Middle Andaman district, about 150 km from Port Blair.
- This island hosts the only mud volcano in India, making it a rare geological site.

## 150th Anniversary of Vande Mataram

**On 1st October the Cabinet approved country-wide celebrations for the 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram' to foster an impactful movement to connect citizens, especially our youth and students with the song's original, revolutionary spirit.**



- “Vande Mataram” was composed in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and first appeared in the novel *Anandamath* in 1882. Its verses celebrated the motherland in poetic terms, becoming a central cultural symbol during colonial resistance.
- The song gained prominence in 1896 when Rabindranath Tagore rendered it at the Indian National Congress session. It soon became a rallying cry for the freedom movement, inspiring protest marches, revolutionary literature, and nationalist slogans.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a countrywide commemoration for the sesquicentennial of Vande Mataram. The plan includes cultural events, public recitals, academic programmes, and exhibitions across states and Union Territories. The government highlights the song’s role in inspiring the freedom struggle, reaffirming its place in national heritage.

## India’s first Cooperative-Run Compressed Bio-Gas

### India’s first Cooperative-Run Compressed Bio-Gas and Potash Granule Project Launched at Kopergaon



- The new facility is designed to produce both CBG as a clean fuel substitute and potash granules for fertilizers using by products from sugar processing and organic waste.
- The cooperative model ensures farmers and local stakeholders have ownership and benefit share.
- The goal is to diversify beyond ethanol production and encourage circular economy practices within agro industries
- The plant will produce 12 tons of CBG daily and 75 tons of potash from jaggery/molasses, reducing imports.
- **Compressed Biogas (CBG):** It is a renewable fuel produced from biomass and organic waste (agricultural residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, sewage) via anaerobic decomposition (breakdown of organic matter by bacteria in the absence of oxygen).

### Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR)

- In a significant step toward strengthening data-driven governance and evidence-based policymaking, **NITI Aayog** in collaboration with the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, inaugurated the Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR) and announced the winners of the Use Case Challenge Awards under the NITI for States initiative.
- The Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR) at LBSNAA has been established as a dynamic governance hub designed to foster analytical thinking, innovation, and data-based decision-making among India's future administrators.
- The initiative is an extension of NITI Aayog's central Strategy Room, which integrates data from multiple development sectors for real-time monitoring, planning, and decision support.

## Status of Elephants in India



- The Synchronous All India Elephant Estimation (SAIEE) 2021–25 marks India's first DNA-based count of elephants, conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) under Project Elephant of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- This method utilizes dung DNA sampling to ensure higher accuracy and prevent double-counting.
- The report estimates India's Asian Elephant population at 22,446, making the country home to nearly 60% of the global population.
- Wild elephants primarily inhabit the Himalayan foothills, Northeastern states, East-central India, and the Western and Eastern Ghats, with a small feral group in the Andaman Islands.
- Among all regions, the Western Ghats host the largest population, followed by the Northeastern Hills and the Brahmaputra Flood Plains.
- At the state level, Karnataka records the highest elephant population, followed by Assam, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.

## BioNEST Incubation Centre Strengthens India's Green Innovation Drive





- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the BioNEST Incubation Centre (BIC) at IIT Dharwad, marking a significant step in India's sustainable innovation ecosystem.
- The centre has been launched in collaboration with the Research and Technology Incubator dhaRti, focusing on promoting biotechnology-based startups and eco-friendly industrial solutions.
- The BioNEST initiative supports early-stage entrepreneurs working on green technologies, renewable energy, and bio-based solutions.
- It provides mentorship, infrastructure, and funding assistance to nurture innovation in line with India's climate commitments.

### **Sundarbans Aquaculture Model Gains Global FAO Recognition**



- The Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) model, developed by the Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS), has received Global Technical Recognition from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- This recognition highlights India's growing role in promoting sustainable and ecosystem-based aquaculture practices. The SAIME initiative is an important

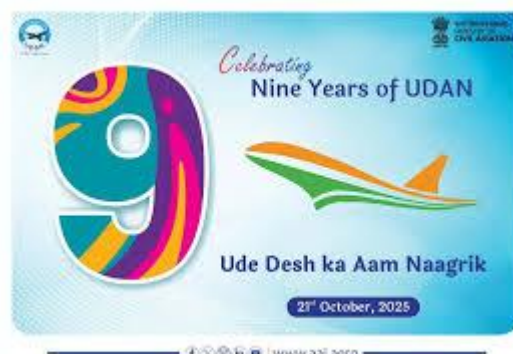
step toward integrating livelihood generation with climate conservation in fragile ecosystems.

- The SAIME initiative is a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) designed to transform shrimp farming into a sustainable, climate-adaptive practice.
- In the Sundarbans region, it aims to build a resilient aquaculture model that combines brackish water farming with the conservation of mangrove habitats.
- The model focuses on the black tiger shrimp, a native species suited for the region's brackish water, ensuring ecological balance and income stability for local farmers.

### **Bathou religion code: bodo faith gets national census recognition**

- The Bathou religion, the traditional faith of the Bodo community, has been granted a separate code in the upcoming census, marking a significant cultural recognition.
- This move acknowledges the indigenous identity and unique religious practices of one of Assam's oldest ethnic groups.
- The decision is expected to strengthen the preservation of tribal heritage and ensure accurate demographic representation in future policy planning.

### **Nine Years of UDAN**



- The UDAN Scheme (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), launched on 21 October 2016 under the National Civil Aviation Policy, has completed nine successful years.
- Implemented by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, it aims to make air travel affordable and to link unserved and underserved regions across India.

- Over the years, the initiative has enabled 1.56 crore passengers through 3.23 lakh flights, symbolizing a new era of regional inclusivity. At the 9th anniversary celebration in New Delhi, Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha termed UDAN a “transformational initiative.”
- The scheme has operationalized 649 routes, connecting 93 airports, 15 heliports, and 2 water aerodromes.
- It has democratized air travel while boosting tourism, employment, and regional economic growth.
- Since inception, over ₹4,300 crore has been disbursed as VGF, and ₹4,638 crore has been invested in airport infrastructure. These figures underscore UDAN’s critical role in supporting India’s ambition of balanced regional development.

## Operation Chakra-V



- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) launched Operation Chakra V to dismantle organised cyber-fraud networks that exploit digital infrastructure and target citizens across borders.
- The drive aims at bringing cybercriminals to justice and safeguarding citizens from digital exploitation.
- Major operations have spanned multiple states, uncovering complex fraud infrastructure. The CBI conducted coordinated searches at 42 locations across eight states such as Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- These raids revealed a vast network of unauthorised SIM cards, point-of-sale agents and mule bank accounts used for fraud.

- In one phase, operation uncovered around 8.5 lakh mule accounts opened via over 700 bank branches, utilised for scams involving impersonation, investment fraud and UPI misuse.

## India Launches Online National Drug Licensing System

- In response to a series of cough syrup-related deaths, India has introduced the Online National Drug Licensing System (ONDLS) to monitor pharmaceutical solvents.
- The system, launched by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), enables real-time tracking of ingredients used in medicine production.
- It aims to ensure that only verified batches of solvents enter the pharmaceutical supply chain.

## UIDAI's SITAA Programme Strengthens Aadhaar Innovation and Security



- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched a pioneering programme – SITAA (Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar) – to promote innovation, research, and collaboration within India's digital identity ecosystem.
- The initiative focuses on making Aadhaar-based systems more secure, efficient, and technologically advanced through partnerships with startups, academia, and tech enterprises.
- The primary goal of SITAA is to strengthen the identity technology framework of India by developing indigenous, future-ready solutions. It aims to encourage privacy-centric, accurate, and user-trusted Aadhaar services using cutting-edge innovations.



- The focus areas include Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), biometric devices, and data security frameworks.
- These technologies are crucial to maintaining public confidence in Aadhaar's authentication systems and preventing misuse or duplication.

### **First fully digitised National Marine Fisheries Census 2025 launched**

- India has entered a new digital era in fisheries governance with the launch of the first fully digitised National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025.
- The initiative was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, George Kurian, at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi, Kerala.
- This marks a transformative move towards data-driven decision-making in the marine sector.
- The census will be conducted over 45 days, from November 3 to December 18, 2025, encompassing 1.2 million fisher households across 4,000 marine fishing villages in nine coastal states and four Union Territories.
- Trained field staff equipped with digital tools will ensure comprehensive and accurate enumeration, marking a shift from manual data collection to technology-based real-time monitoring.

## STATE

### **Maharashtra to Observe August 7 as Sustainable Agriculture Day Honouring Dr. M.S. Swaminathan**



- Maharashtra government has announced August 7 will be celebrated annually as “Sustainable Agriculture Day” to mark the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, the architect of India’s Green Revolution.
- This annual observance aims to promote environmentally responsible agricultural practices and spread awareness about sustainable food systems.

### **India’s First Semiconductor Innovation Museum in Hyderabad**

- India took a major leap in its technological evolution with the inauguration of its first Semiconductor Innovation Museum on October 12, 2025, in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The initiative was led by the Technology Chip Innovation Program (T-Chip) to promote innovation, public awareness, and investment in the semiconductor ecosystem.
- The museum serves multiple purposes: to showcase India’s semiconductor capabilities, act as a hub for collaboration, and inspire the next generation of engineers, developers, and policymakers.
- It aims to build a vibrant innovation and research ecosystem by hosting monthly demo days, global showcases, and investor networking events.

## Google to invest ₹87,520 crore in AI Data Centre in Visakhapatnam

The data centre will have a capacity of one gigawatt and will be connected via subsea cable links to Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, and 12 other countries, positioning Visakhapatnam as a global connectivity hub



- In a landmark move, Google has announced a \$15 billion investment to establish a world-class Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Centre in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The project will unfold over five years (2025–2030) and is expected to create 1.88 lakh jobs, both direct and indirect.
- This will be Google's biggest-ever investment in India and one of its largest AI ventures outside the United States, reaffirming India's position as a strategic hub in the global AI ecosystem. The data centre will begin with an initial capacity of 1 gigawatt, expandable to multiple gigawatts in later phases.
- It will play a critical role in enhancing India's AI and cloud computing capabilities, driving innovations across healthcare, fintech, and education sectors.
- This initiative supports India's broader Digital India and AI Mission Bharat programmes, which aim to position India as a global digital powerhouse.

## Dzukou Valley Nominated as Global Tourism Destination



- At the National Conference of State Tourism Ministers held in Udaipur, Temjen Imna Along, Nagaland's Minister for Tourism and Higher Education, proposed the nomination of Dzükou Valley as the state's official entry under the national programme.
- The state government aims to transform the valley into a model for eco-friendly global tourism.
- The Dzükou Valley, situated at an altitude of about 2,452 metres, lies between Nagaland and Manipur.
- It is famous for its Dzükou lily, seasonal wildflowers, and breathtaking landscapes. The valley's name translates to "Cold Water Valley," and it has deep cultural significance among the local tribes.
- The proposal highlights eco-tourism principles, encouraging responsible travel and ensuring the preservation of the fragile ecosystem.
- The Ministry of Tourism has launched an ambitious plan to develop 50 world-class tourist destinations across India.
- The goal is to enhance infrastructure, promote sustainable tourism, and preserve both cultural and natural heritage.
- Each state has been invited to nominate potential global-standard sites that can attract international tourists and boost regional economies.

### **Kerala Becomes India's First Extreme Poverty-Free State**

- Kerala is set to create history by becoming the first Indian state to be declared free from extreme poverty on November 1, 2025.
- The declaration will be made by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at the Central Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram.
- This milestone showcases Kerala's consistent focus on inclusive growth and welfare-oriented governance, making it a model for other Indian states.

### **Kerala's First Underwater Tunnel Connecting Vypin and Fort Kochi**





- Kerala has announced a groundbreaking project – the state's first underwater tunnel connecting Vypin and Fort Kochi under the Arabian Sea.
- The ₹2,672 crore project, part of Kerala's Coastal Highway Development Plan, aims to revolutionize connectivity in Kochi, one of India's most vital maritime hubs.
- The project will slash the travel distance between Vypin and Fort Kochi from 16 km to just 3 km, offering a faster, safer, and more sustainable transport alternative.



# SCHEMES

## Aspirational Agriculture Districts Boost National Farming

The Central Government has identified 100 Aspirational Agriculture Districts (AADs) across 29 states and UTs.

### Greener fields

The PMDDKY aims at enhancing **agricultural productivity**, increasing adoption of **crop diversification** and **sustainable agricultural practices**, and augmenting **post-harvest storage**

**₹ 24,000 cr.**

to be allocated yearly for six years for the scheme

■ States and private sector to **partner with the Centre** to implement the scheme

**100 districts** to come under the scheme which will begin this financial year

■ Districts to be identified based on 3 key indicators: **low productivity**, **low cropping intensity**, **less credit disbursement**

**Helping hand:** Nearly 1.7 crore farmers will benefit from the scheme. PTI



- Selection is based on three main factors: **low productivity**, low crop intensity, and **below-average access to credit**.
- Each district is expected to show targeted improvements under the scheme. The initiative is implemented under the **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)**.
- It draws inspiration from **NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme**, which focuses on the 112 most underdeveloped districts in the country.
- PMDDKY aims to accelerate agricultural growth and reduce regional disparities in productivity.

## PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs)

It is a landmark initiative to modernize vocational education and link skills with employability. The scheme will be implemented under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.



- PM-SETU is a centrally sponsored scheme with an outlay of ₹60,000 crore. It aims to transform 1,000 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into industry-aligned, modern training centres. This marks a major investment in strengthening India's skilling ecosystem.
- The scheme will follow a hub and spoke model, where 200 hub ITIs will be linked to 800 spoke ITIs. The hubs will have innovation centres, production units, advanced infrastructure, and placement facilities. The spokes will act as outreach centres to expand access.

## Expansion of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)

On October 8, 2025, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare announced the addition of 9 new commodities, bringing the total number of tradable items on e-NAM to 247. This move strengthens digital agri-trade access and supports fair pricing mechanisms.

### New Commodities Added

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Tea</li> <li>• Tea</li> <li>• Aswagandha Dry Roots</li> <li>• Mustard Oil</li> <li>• Lavender Oil</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentha Oil</li> <li>• Virgin Olive Oil</li> <li>• Lavender Dried Flower</li> <li>• Broken Rice</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

### e-NAM (National Agriculture Market)

It is India's premier digital trading platform for agricultural commodities, launched in 2016. The platform integrates multiple mandis across states, enabling farmers, traders, and buyers to transact transparently and efficiently. The platform primarily aims to reduce intermediary dependency, enable quality-based pricing, and increase market access for farmers, fostering a unified national market.

## 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) and the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses on October 12, 2025, marking a milestone in India's pursuit of agricultural transformation. These twin initiatives, with a combined investment exceeding ₹42,000 crore, aim to strengthen agricultural productivity and ensure food security in 100 underperforming districts.



- The PMDDKY, with an outlay of ₹24,000 crore over six years, seeks to transform 100 agriculturally lagging districts. It integrates 36 existing schemes across 11 ministries, forming a unified agricultural development framework.

The scheme prioritizes:

- Irrigation infrastructure improvement
- Crop diversification and soil health management
- Access to agricultural credit and insurance
- Post-harvest management and warehousing
- Each district will prepare a District Agriculture Plan tailored to its local needs, ensuring community participation. Monthly reviews through digital dashboards will track outcomes using 117 district-level indicators for transparency and accountability.

## New Agricultural Missions

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two major agricultural missions – PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses – with a combined investment of Rs 35,440 crore.



- These initiatives aim to modernize Indian agriculture, improve farmers' income, and promote sustainable growth across 100 selected districts.
- The PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana integrates 36 existing government schemes to create a unified approach toward crop diversification, irrigation efficiency, credit availability, and post-harvest storage.
- The scheme promotes climate-resilient and market-driven agriculture, ensuring long-term sustainability.
- The Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses emphasizes self-reliance in pulse production. It targets the expansion of cultivation area, improved procurement, and better processing infrastructure – directly benefiting over two crore farmers across India.

### Revamped Sugamya Bharat App

- The Government of India relaunched the revamped Sugamya Bharat App at the Purple Fest in Goa under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).
- This initiative aims to ensure universal digital accessibility for persons with disabilities (PwDs).
- The app serves as a comprehensive digital solution, bridging the accessibility gap between technology and social inclusion.
- Originally introduced under the **Accessible India Campaign**, the app's purpose has now evolved to include broader accessibility functions.
- The revamped version not only focuses on infrastructure accessibility but also integrates employment, education, and social participation.
- It provides access to government schemes, scholarships, and a dedicated grievance redressal platform for PwDs.

#### The Accessible India Campaign(Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)

It is a nationwide initiative launched by the Indian government on December 3, 2015, to achieve universal accessibility for persons with disabilities (PwDs). It aims to create an inclusive, barrier-free environment across three main domains: the physical and built environment, the transportation system, and the information and communication ecosystem

### PM GatiShakti Four Years of Integrated Infrastructure Progress

**On 13th October 2025, India marked four years of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, launched in 2021.**

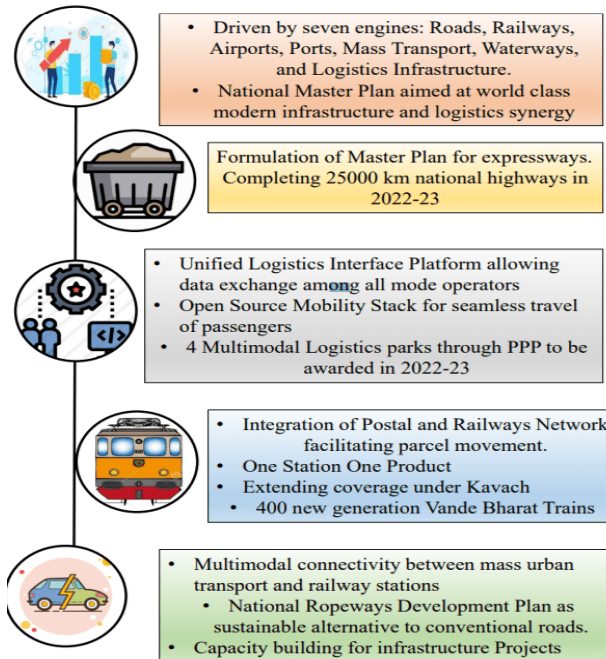


- The initiative has redefined infrastructure governance by creating a unified, data-driven ecosystem that links ministries, states, and projects through one digital platform.
- The GatiShakti framework aims to integrate multiple modes of transport—road, rail, port, and air—for seamless movement of goods and people. It connects 44 Central Ministries and 36 States/UTs via a GIS-based digital platform, ensuring synchronized planning and implementation.
- By eliminating isolated project planning, the initiative enhances time and cost efficiency, ensuring faster delivery and minimal duplication.
- The **key objectives** of GatiShakti include:
  - Achieving **seamless multimodal connectivity** across India.
  - Reducing **logistics costs** from around **13-14% to 8-9% of GDP**.
  - Promoting **data-driven infrastructure planning** and monitoring.
  - Facilitating **faster project approvals** through inter-ministerial coordination.
  - Integrating environmental sustainability into project design and execution.

In its four-year journey, PM GatiShakti has transformed infrastructure planning into a **collaborative, transparent, and technology-enabled process**.

- Over **44 ministries** and all **States/UTs** are now using the **National Master Plan (NMP)**
- Real-time data on **roads, railways, ports, airports, and power networks** enable quicker decision-making.
- Coordination between ministries has **reduced project delays** and improved fund utilization.
- The initiative has supported the **National Logistics Policy (NLP)** and strengthened **freight corridors**.

## PM GATISHAKTI



## Jal Jeevan Mission transforms rural India with tap water for over 15.72 crore households

**In a remarkable stride towards universal water security, the Jal Jeevan Mission has provided safe tap water to over 15.72 crore rural households across India, covering more than 81 per cent of rural homes as of October 22.**

- Launched on August 15, 2019, the mission has connected an additional 12.48 crore households since its inception, when only 3.23 crore households had access to tap water, marking one of the fastest infrastructure expansions in rural India. With a central outlay of ₹2.08 lakh crore, the initiative is reshaping lives by ensuring clean drinking water and fostering socio-economic development.
- The mission has not only addressed water accessibility but also alleviated the centuries-old burden of water collection, particularly for women, saving an estimated 5.5 crore hours daily, with women bearing three-quarters of this load, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The WHO also projects that universal access to safely managed drinking water could prevent nearly 4 lakh diarrheal deaths annually and avert 14 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs), yielding potential health cost savings of up to ₹8.2 lakh crore.

## We Rise Initiative

**NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and DP World launched the 'We Rise – Women Entrepreneurs Reimagining Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises' initiative**



- The We Rise: Women Entrepreneurs Reimagining Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises programme has been jointly launched by NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and DP World.
- This flagship initiative aims to empower women-led Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India to expand globally through trade facilitation, mentorship, and strategic collaboration.
- The main goal of the We Rise initiative is to identify and support high-growth potential women-led MSMEs across India.
- These enterprises will receive tailored mentorship and guidance to meet international standards. Selected entrepreneurs will get the opportunity to display their products at Bharat Mart, located in Jebel Ali Free Zone, Dubai, a major trade hub connecting Indian businesses with global buyers.
- The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), established by NITI Aayog in 2018, became a public-private partnership in 2022.
- It serves as a one-stop aggregator for women entrepreneurs, focusing on six critical areas – access to finance, training and skill development, market linkages, legal compliance, networking, and business growth.
- The platform currently supports over 90,000 women entrepreneurs and collaborates with 47 partner organisations to build an inclusive ecosystem.



## **‘Kapas Kranti Mission’ to promote high-yield, long-staple cotton cultivation**

The Government of India has launched the ₹600 crore Kapas Kranti Mission to revolutionize cotton farming and enhance long-staple cotton yield across major producing states.

The Kapas Kranti Mission aims to promote High-Density Plantation (HDP) techniques that increase cotton yield per hectare. It emphasizes:

- Promoting **scientific cultivation** and efficient water use
- Introducing **technology-driven platforms** for cotton sale and procurement
- Strengthening **farmer training and exposure programs**
- Ensuring higher income stability for cotton growers through fair market systems

## **New Helpline Number for POSHAN and PMMVY**

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has announced a change in the toll-free helpline number for POSHAN and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) to make it easier for citizens to remember and access support services.
- The new helpline number 1515 will be live from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025, replacing the existing number 14408.

# COURT VERDICT

## Appointment of District Judges

**Supreme Court opens the door for young talents to be appointed District Judges  
The Bench directs States to reframe their service rules in consultation with the respective High Courts within three months**

- In a bid to infuse young talent into the upper echelons of the district judiciary, a Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on October 9, 2025 held that judicial officers with seven years in the Bar before their recruitment to the subordinate judicial service are entitled to be appointed as District or Additional District Judges.
- This ruling widens the scope of **Article 233** of the **Indian Constitution**, ensuring equal consideration for both **in-service officers** and **practicing advocates**.
- Article 233 deals specifically with the appointment of District Judges in India. The Governor of the State, in consultation with the High Court, has the authority to make these appointments.
- The Court clarified that the term “advocate” under Article 233(2) includes those who have shifted to judicial service but retain prior advocacy experience. This interpretation prevents unnecessary exclusion of meritorious candidates who transition from law practice to judicial service.

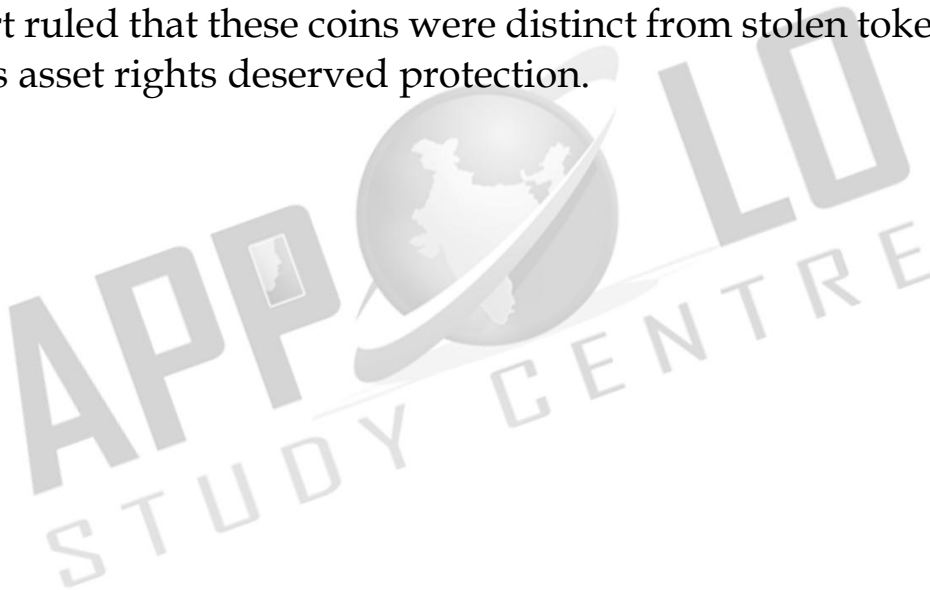
## Supreme Court Permits Limited Use of Green Crackers in Delhi NCR

**The Supreme Court of India has temporarily allowed the limited use of green crackers in the Delhi-NCR region.**

- This relaxation slightly eases the existing blanket ban, which was imposed to curb pollution during festive seasons. The order emphasises strict adherence to the guidelines laid down by environmental authorities.
- As per the Court’s direction, only NEERI-approved green crackers are permitted for sale. Their use is confined to specific days and time slots decided by local authorities.
- Crackers containing banned chemicals such as barium nitrate remain strictly prohibited. Furthermore, online sale of firecrackers through e-commerce platforms is not allowed.

## Madras High Court Recognises Cryptocurrency as Property Under Indian Law

- In a landmark judgment, the Madras High Court held that cryptocurrencies qualify as property capable of ownership, enjoyment, and being held in trust under Indian law.
- The court clarified that although intangible, cryptocurrency fulfils key features of property such as transferability and exclusive control.
- The ruling emerged from the case *Rhutikumari v. Zanmai Labs Pvt. Ltd.*, involving the crypto exchange WazirX, where an investor's 3,532.30 XRP coins were frozen following a major cyberattack in 2024.
- The Court ruled that these coins were distinct from stolen tokens and that the investor's asset rights deserved protection.



# INTERNATIONAL

## India elected to UN Human Rights Council for seventh time



- India has been elected unopposed to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the 2026–2028 term, marking its seventh tenure at the Council.
- The election took place at the UN General Assembly, reaffirming the global community's confidence in India's commitment to protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN, P Harish, expressed gratitude to all member states for their overwhelming support. He emphasized that India would continue promoting dialogue, inclusivity, and cooperation in addressing global human rights challenges.

### UN Human Rights Council

The UNHRC is the main intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for safeguarding human rights worldwide. It consists of 47 member states, elected by the UN General Assembly through a secret ballot. Each country serves a three-year term and cannot hold more than two consecutive terms.

Established in 2006, the Council replaced the UN Commission on Human Rights, which had existed since 1946. Its core responsibilities include conducting the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to assess the human rights records of all member states, investigating violations, and making policy recommendations.



# INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

## India, Bhutan Approve First Rail Links Projects

India and Bhutan clear first cross-border rail link projects (Kokrajhar-Gelephu & Banarhat-Samtse) aimed at boosting trade and connectivity.

- The Kokrajhar-Gelephu railway will connect Assam's Kokrajhar district with Gelephu in Sarpang, Bhutan.
- With an estimated cost of ₹3,456 crore, this 70-kilometre line includes six stations and nearly 100 bridges.
- Gelephu is being developed into a "Mindfulness City", and this project will provide direct access to Indian ports and markets.

## India Mongolia Diplomatic Ties Reach New Heights



- India and Mongolia marked 70 years of diplomatic relations on October 14, 2025, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosting President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa in New Delhi.
- The two nations signed 10 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) covering diverse sectors such as humanitarian aid, heritage restoration, immigration cooperation, and mineral exploration.
- In 2015, during PM Modi's visit to Ulaanbaatar, the bilateral relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership.
- The 2025 meeting thus celebrated 10 years of strategic partnership alongside 70 years of diplomatic friendship.
- The countries reaffirmed their commitment to peace, development, and regional stability through enhanced economic and cultural exchanges.

## Resetting India-Canada Ties

**India and Canada have agreed on a series of measures to restore bilateral relations, as announced in a joint statement titled 'Renewing Momentum Towards a Stronger Partnership' by their foreign ministers.**

- After nearly two years of diplomatic tension, India and Canada have agreed on a new roadmap to rebuild trust and strengthen bilateral ties.
- The breakthrough came following talks between their foreign ministers, focusing on cooperation in energy, technology, and sustainable growth.
- The strained relationship stemmed from allegations made by a former Canadian Prime Minister, linking India to the killing of a Sikh separatist leader. This controversy caused a major diplomatic freeze, suspending trade and dialogue mechanisms for months.
- A key outcome of the renewed engagement is the decision to re-establish the Canada-India Ministerial Energy Dialogue (CIMED). This platform will promote two-way trade in LNG and LPG and investments in oil, gas, and clean energy technologies.
- Both countries aim to enhance cooperation in Exploration and Production (E&P) sectors while encouraging private investment in sustainable projects.

## Ramanujan Junior Researchers Programme Strengthening India UK Scientific Collaboration

- India and the United Kingdom have launched the Ramanujan Junior Researchers Programme, a visionary initiative designed to nurture India's brightest young scientists.
- Named after Srinivasa Ramanujan, the self-taught mathematical genius from India, this fellowship aims to deepen ties in theoretical physics and mathematics between the two nations.
- Announced during UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's 2025 visit to India, the collaboration symbolizes a modern continuation of the historic 1913 link between Ramanujan and G.H. Hardy – one that changed the landscape of world mathematics. Both countries aim to enhance cooperation in Exploration and Production (E&P) sectors while encouraging private investment in sustainable projects.

## **Strengthening Ties Between India and ASEAN in the 22nd Summit**

- The 22nd ASEAN-India Summit was held in Malaysia in 2025, marking another milestone in regional diplomacy.
- India and ASEAN reaffirmed their shared commitment to peace, prosperity, and inclusivity in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Both sides elevated their ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2022, deepening cooperation in multiple areas.
- The summit emphasized joint efforts under the ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2026–2030). Leaders adopted the ASEAN-India Joint Leaders’ Statement on Sustainable Tourism, underscoring the importance of green and inclusive growth. Another major highlight was the declaration of 2026 as the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation, reinforcing India’s maritime diplomacy focus.
- A significant cultural initiative was the proposal to establish a Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at Nalanda University, reflecting India’s historical linkages with Southeast Asia.
- The announcement of the East Asia Summit Maritime Heritage Festival to be held in Lothal, Gujarat, further showcased India’s maritime heritage and outreach to ASEAN nations.

## **India and U.S. Strengthen Strategic Defence Partnership**

- India and the United States have entered a new phase of defence cooperation by signing a 10-year Framework for the U.S.-India Major Defence Partnership.
- The agreement, finalized on October 31, 2025, aims to expand military collaboration, enhance technological innovation, and reinforce mutual security commitments in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The landmark agreement was signed during the ASEAN-India Defence Ministers’ Informal Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was concluded after a meeting between India’s Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and U.S. Defence Secretary Peter Hegseth.
- Both ministers described the discussions as “fruitful”, emphasizing that the framework marks the beginning of a new era of strategic trust and cooperation.

# CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

## AeroDefCon 2025 - Chennai

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated AeroDefCon 2025 at the Chennai Trade Centre.



- It highlights the state's growing role in technological innovation and strategic industry development.
- The event is organised by **TIDCO** (Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation), AIDAT (Aerospace Industry Development Association of Tamil Nadu), and BCI Aerospace of France.
- It receives active support from the Ministry of Defence, ensuring alignment with national defence priorities.
- AeroDefCon 2025 focuses on indigenisation, self-reliance, and integration into the global supply chain.
- The event showcases innovations in aerospace technology, defence equipment, and collaborations with international firms. It supports India's Atmanirbhar Bharat mission by promoting domestic production capabilities.

## India Mobile Congress 2025

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the ninth edition of the India Mobile Congress 2025, Asia's largest telecom, media, and technology event at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi.





- MC 2025 emphasizes Atmanirbhar Bharat in the telecom and digital space. The spotlight is on 6G research through the Bharat 6G Alliance, cybersecurity measures, satellite communication advancements, and the role of artificial intelligence and Internet of Things (IoT) in network transformation.
- The event also highlights domestic telecom manufacturing to strengthen India's position as a global digital hub.

### Second International Bharat 6G Symposium at IMC 2025

The International 6G Symposium 2025, held during the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025, marked a significant milestone in India's journey towards next-generation communication technologies.

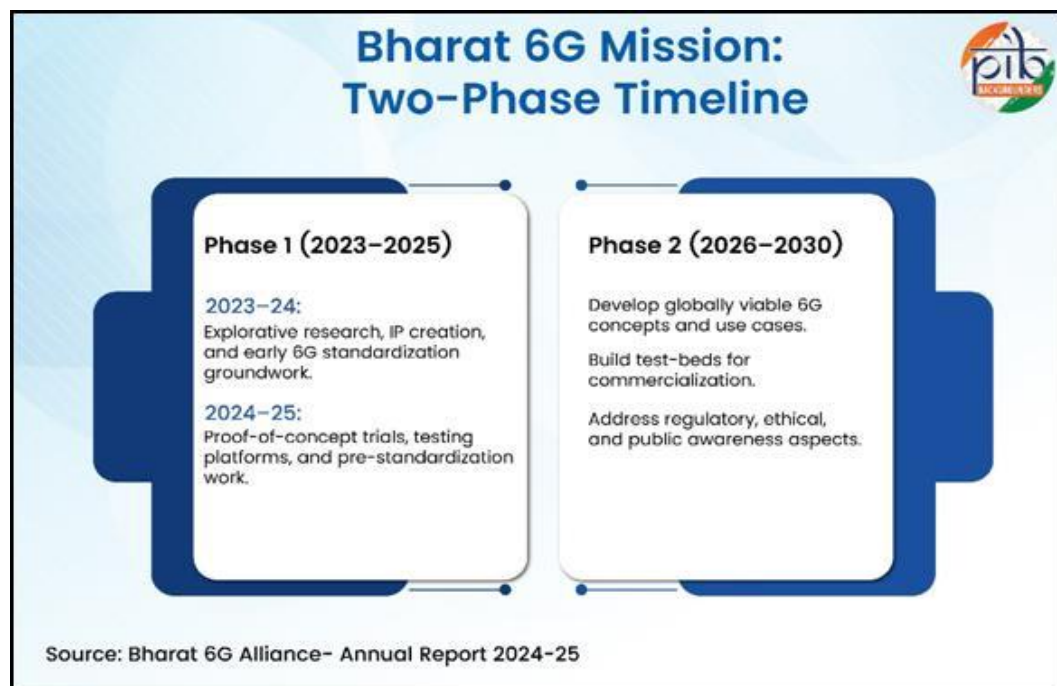


The event highlighted the nation's growing strength in telecom innovation, indigenous R&D, and global digital leadership.

### Advancing India's Technological Self-Reliance

- India's **Made-in-India 4G stack** was showcased as a landmark achievement in the country's drive toward technological self-reliance and export readiness.

- This indigenous development forms the foundation of the '**India 6G Vision 2030**', aimed at creating future-ready, secure, and scalable telecom networks.
- India's 6G roadmap envisions the sector contributing nearly **USD 1.2 trillion to the national GDP by 2035**.
- The country is targeting **10% of global 6G patents**, underscoring its emergence as a hub for innovation in telecom technologies.
- In parallel, the **satellite communications market** is projected to **triple by 2033**, strengthening India's space-linked connectivity ecosystem.



### Key Announcements and Releases

The event featured several important outcomes aimed at accelerating India's 6G readiness:

- A **Joint Declaration on 6G Principles** was released on **October 10, 2025**.
- The **Bharat 6G Alliance** signed **two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)**: one with **NASSCOM** and another with the **European Space Agency** to promote collaborative research and innovation in 6G and allied technologies.
- The Bharat 6G Alliance also unveiled **four whitepapers**, providing strategic direction for the sector:
  1. *Spectrum Roadmap for 6G in India*
  2. *Powering Next-Gen Telecom*
  3. *AI and Network Evolution to 5G*
  4. *6G Architecture, Security and Exposure Framework for RF Sensing*

### The New Delhi Declaration

At the International **Bharat 6G Symposium 2025**, leading global alliances, including Bharat 6G, 6G-IA, ATIS' Next G Alliance, and others, issued a Joint Statement to shape 6G as a global public good.

The *New Delhi Declaration* affirms that 6G networks will be designed to be:

- Trusted and Secure
- Resilient and Reliable
- Open and Interoperable
- Inclusive and Affordable
- Sustainable and Globally Connected

Sustainability is placed at the core, with a focus on energy efficiency and universal coverage through the integration of terrestrial and non-terrestrial (satellite, high-altitude platform) networks. **The declaration highlights the need for continual skills development and calls upon all stakeholders, governments, industry, academia to work together so 6G uplifts societies and leaves no one behind.**

The **International 6G Symposium 2025** reaffirmed India's commitment to advancing indigenous telecom capabilities while fostering global collaboration. With a focus on innovation, affordability, and inclusivity, India continues to pave the way for a **connected, self-reliant, and future-ready 6G ecosystem** aligned with its vision for '**India 6G Vision 2030**'.<sup>1</sup>

### UNTCC chiefs' conclave 2025

**India has taken a major diplomatic step by hosting the UN Troop Contributing Countries' (UNTCC) Chiefs' Conclave from 14 to 16 October 2025 in New Delhi.**

- The event unites senior military leaders from 32 countries to strengthen global peacekeeping efforts under the United Nations.
- This initiative reflects India's unwavering commitment to international peace, security, and multilateralism.
- The three-day conclave focuses on operational challenges, strategic cooperation, and technological advancements in peacekeeping missions. The core discussions revolve around:
  - Enhancing interoperability among participating nations.
  - Improving logistical and tactical frameworks.
  - Sharing best practices and training modules.
  - Promoting bilateral and multilateral defence cooperation.
- The conclave also embodies the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, emphasizing India's vision that the world is one family.

## East Timor Becomes 11th Member of ASEAN

- East Timor (Timor-Leste) has officially become the 11th member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) after a 14-year wait.
- East Timor applied for ASEAN membership in 2011, was granted observer status in 2022, and achieved full membership in 2025 after a 14-year wait.
- The last country to join ASEAN was Cambodia in 1999.





# COMMITTEES

## Supreme Court Committee for National Equal Opportunity Policy for Transgender Persons

**Bench of the top court forms a committee headed by former Delhi High Court judge Justice Asha Menon to draft an equal opportunity policy for transgender persons**

- The Supreme Court of India has set up a Committee to frame a National Equal Opportunity Policy for Transgender Persons.
- The decision came during the case *Jane Kaushik v. Union of India & Ors.*, highlighting continued discrimination and administrative lapses in implementing the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- The Court stressed that equality and dignity are constitutional guarantees under Articles 14, 15, and 21, which must extend fully to the transgender community.

## Akkai Padmashali Joins Supreme Court Committee



- Transgender rights activist Akkai Padmashali has created history by becoming the first transgender member of a Supreme Court-appointed committee formed to frame an Equal Opportunity Policy for the protection and advancement of transgender persons.
- This appointment represents a major breakthrough in India's long struggle for representation, inclusivity, and social justice.
- The inclusion of Akkai Padmashali marks a representation milestone for the transgender community.
- It signifies not only formal recognition but also active participation in shaping national policy. This move aligns with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of equality and dignity for all marginalized groups.

# DEFENCE

## Commissioning of INS ANDROTH

The Indian Navy commissioned INS Androth, the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), on 06 Oct 2025. in a ceremonial event held at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.



- INS Androth is a shining symbol of a maritime '*Aatmanirbhar Bharat*' with over **80% indigenous** content, INS Androth underscores Indian Navy's sustained efforts in constantly enhancing indigenous content through homegrown solutions and innovative technologies.
- At **77m** in length and displacing about **1500 tonnes**, INS Androth is specially designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal and shallow waters.
- The vessel, a state-of-the-art submarine hunter, is fitted with advanced weapons, sensors, and communication systems, enabling it to detect, track and neutralise sub-surface threats with precision.
- It can sustain prolonged operations in shallow waters and is equipped with technologically advanced machinery and control systems.

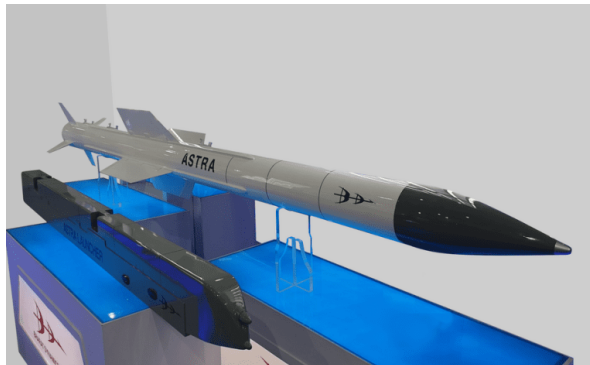
## Indigenous 'SAKSHAM' Anti-Drone Grid To Boost Air Defence

The Indian Army has unveiled **SAKSHAM** – Situational Awareness for Kinetic Soft and Hard Kill Assets Management – an indigenous Anti-Drone Grid that enhances real-time control over Indian airspace.

- This advanced system represents a milestone in the country's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and marks a decisive move toward self-reliant military technology.
- The SAKSHAM system has been developed by the Indian Army in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Ghaziabad.

- Operating on the Army Data Network (ADN), it ensures secure communications between command centres and field units.
- This indigenous platform offers a unified Recognised Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Picture across the Tactical Battlefield Space (TBS), covering up to 3,000 meters (10,000 feet) above ground level.

### **DRDO to extend Astra Mark 2 missile's range to 200 km**



- India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has advanced its air combat capabilities by extending the Astra Mark 2 missile range to beyond 200 kilometres.
- This major upgrade marks India's entry into an elite group of nations with cutting-edge long-range BVR missile technology.
- The extended range enables Indian fighter jets to engage adversaries from greater distances, improving pilot safety and operational advantage. The Astra Mark 2 builds upon the success of Astra Mark 1, which had an operational range exceeding 100 km.
- Over 50 Indian organisations, including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and private defence manufacturers, have collaborated with DRDO in this project.
- This synergy aligns with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' mission and India's defence self-reliance goals by reducing dependence on foreign weapon systems.

### **5th edition of the Samudra Shakti Naval Exercise**

- India and Indonesia commenced the 5th edition of the Samudra Shakti Naval Exercise at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, from October 14-17, 2025.
- This joint initiative underscores the deepening maritime cooperation between the two nations under India's Act East Policy and the vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

- The exercise, launched in 2018, has become a vital component of the Indo-Pacific security architecture, aimed at improving operational coordination, mutual trust, and strategic partnership.

### **India's Historic Entry into Spain's Ocean Sky 2025**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first non-NATO nation to take part in Exercise Ocean Sky 2025, held from October 20 to 31, 2025, at Gando Air Base, Spain.
- The exercise, led by the Spanish Air Force, focuses on advanced air combat training and multinational interoperability.
- India's inclusion highlights its growing role in global defence collaboration and its emergence as a key aerospace power.





# ECONOMY

## Eleven Years of Make in India - initiative boosted growth and entrepreneurship



- On **25 September 2014**, Government of India launched **Make in India** with the aim of making India a global hub for manufacturing and investment. The programme was designed to reduce dependence on imports, strengthen job creation, and enhance industrial competitiveness.
- The three major targets were to raise the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP from 16% to 25%, generate **100 million jobs by 2022**, and attract higher **foreign direct investment**.
- The initiative identified **25 priority sectors**, including defence, electronics, textiles, automobiles, and pharmaceuticals.
- Over 11 years, India's merchandise exports expanded significantly. By FY2024, exports crossed **\$450 billion**, led by engineering goods, chemicals, and electronics. The **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes** played a vital role in boosting investment in electronics, semiconductors, and pharmaceuticals.

## Central, state co-op banks brought under ambit of RBI's Ombudsman scheme



- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has brought **Central and State Co-operative Banks** under the ambit of the **Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2021**.
- This decision was taken under **Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, empowering the RBI to issue directions in the public interest.
- This move ensures that customers of co-operative banks now have access to the same **grievance redress mechanism** available to other financial institutions regulated by the RBI.

### **Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021**

The RB-IOS, 2021 was launched to offer customers of regulated entities a speedy, cost-effective, and impartial redressal mechanism. It is a unified platform that simplifies complaint handling across multiple financial entities.

The scheme initially covered:

- All Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
- Scheduled and Non-Scheduled Urban Co-operative Banks with deposit size of ₹50 crore or more
- Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) having customer interface and asset size of ₹100 crore or above
- System Participants under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- Credit Information Companies (CICs)

### **India Witnesses Rise in Female Workforce Participation, Reaches 42% in 2023-24**

- India has witnessed a remarkable increase in the female workforce participation rate. The Labour and Employment Ministry said the female labour force participation rate has increased from 23 per cent in 2017-18 to around 42 per cent in 2023-24.
- According to World Bank Data, over the past decade, India has recorded the most significant rise in women's labour force participation among the BRICS nations.
- The Ministry said, this upward trajectory reflects country's rapid transformation in women's economic inclusion, driven by targeted policy initiatives that expand access to skills, credit, and formal employment.

- The government has taken various women-centric initiatives to promote inclusivity in the workplace, workplace wellness and holistic wellbeing of female employees in government service. These measures include exemption of fee from competitive examinations, grant of 730 days Child Care Leave, Posting of husband and wife at the same station and grant of 180 days maternity leave.
- A range of employment and skill development initiatives have also been launched by the government across Ministries to enhance women's participation in the workforce and equipping them with market-relevant skills.
- One Stop Centres have been established to provide comprehensive support to women facing violence, offering medical assistance, legal aid, psychological counselling, and shelter services under one roof. As India moves towards the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, the empowerment of women at work is not just a priority but it is a defining force of national progress.

### India's Gold Reserves Surpass \$100 Billion Landmark



- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's gold reserves have reached \$102.3 billion, marking the first time the country has crossed the \$100 billion threshold.
- The share of gold in total foreign reserves has almost doubled – from around 7% a decade ago to nearly 15% in 2025.
- The RBI has been steadily increasing its gold holdings as part of its reserve diversification strategy.
- This move helps reduce dependence on the US dollar, supporting global trends of de-dollarization.

## Restructuring of GST highlights challenges in fiscal health of states

With the latest restructuring of Goods and Services Tax (GST), GST Compensation Cess stands abolished, raising concerns over states' revenue loss and fiscal autonomy. GST Compensation Cess aimed at providing compensation to states for loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of GST.

### Fiscal Challenges for States After GST Restructuring

- **Erosion of States' fiscal autonomy:** GST effectively shifted taxation powers from states to GST council in which the Centre has a dominant role.
- **Expenditure-Resource Mismatch:** States bear major responsibilities like **law & order, health, education, etc.** and post-GST introduction, revenue-raising power is largely centralised while expenditure responsibility remains largely with states creating fiscal imbalance.
- **Declining Devolution Share:** Actual tax devolution to states as a percent of Gross Tax Revenue has fallen short due to increasing cesses and surcharges, which are not part of shareable pool.
- **Penalising tax sharing criteria:** There are grievances regarding the tax sharing criteria of Finance Commission, which often penalizes progressive states.
- **Dependence on Central Transfers:** Central transfers account for **44% of States' revenue**, with higher dependence in some States (e.g., Bihar 72%), affecting **liquidity management** and may cause **political friction** in Opposition-ruled States.

### RBI's New Digital Financial Reforms

- The Unified Lending Interface (ULI) has been conceptualized as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It is designed to aggregate data from multiple sources, allowing lenders to make more accurate and efficient credit assessments.
- ULI aims to simplify and speed up the delivery of credit by integrating borrower information digitally. This is expected to enhance financial inclusion, especially for small businesses and individuals who face challenges accessing formal credit.



- The RBI has also launched the CBDC Retail Sandbox to promote innovation in the Central Bank Digital Currency ecosystem. The sandbox will allow fintech firms to test and refine solutions for retail transactions using the Digital Rupee.
- The CBDC, or Central Bank Digital Currency, represents a digital version of fiat currency issued directly by the central bank. Unlike cryptocurrencies, CBDC is regulated, providing the benefits of digital payments while maintaining monetary stability.



# APPOINTMENT

## Shirish Chandra Murmu was appointed as deputy governor of the RBI



- Shirish Chandra Murmu has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), effective October 9, 2025, for a three-year tenure.
- He succeeds Rajeshwar Rao, whose term ends on October 8, 2025.
- Murmu is currently serving as an Executive Director at RBI.
- He brings extensive experience in banking supervision, regulation, and financial policy formulation. Known for his administrative expertise, Murmu is expected to play a crucial role in steering RBI's policy direction amid evolving economic challenges.

## Vivek Menon Leads IUCN Species Survival Commission



- Indian conservationist Vivek Menon has become the first Asian Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), a milestone in the organization's 75-year history.

- The SSC, a global network of over 11,000 volunteer experts, plays a central role in protecting species and maintaining biodiversity. This achievement highlights India's growing influence in global conservation leadership.
- The SSC serves as a bridge between science and policy, developing strategies for species recovery and protection. It assesses threats through the IUCN Red List, which categorizes species based on extinction risk. Its recommendations guide UN policies and national biodiversity programs.

## Chief Justice of India

### Justice Surya Kant appointed as 53rd Chief Justice of India



- Justice Surya Kant will be the next Chief Justice of India. In a social media post, Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal congratulated him and said that President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Justice Surya Kant as the next Chief Justice.
- His appointment will be effective from 24th of next month. Justice Surya Kant will be the 53rd Chief Justice.
- He will succeed Chief Justice BR Gavai, whose tenure will end on the 23rd of next month.

# AWARDS

## India Conferred with Prestigious ISSA Award 2025

India has been honoured with the ISSA Award 2025 for expanding social security coverage to a record 64.3% of the population, benefiting more than 940 million citizens



- The recognition came at the World Social Security Forum (WSSF) 2025 held in Kuala Lumpur, attended by delegates from 163 countries.
- A central driver of this growth has been digital public infrastructure. The e-Shram portal has registered over 310 million unorganised sector workers, offering them access to multiple welfare schemes in local languages.
- The National Career Service (NCS) platform, integrated with e-Shram, connects skilled youth with employers, allowing them to secure global opportunities while retaining their social security benefits.

## Nobel Prize 2025 Winners List

Category	Winner	Given Award For
Physiology or Medicine	Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi	For their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance.
Physics	John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis	For the discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit.
Chemistry	Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M. Yaghi	For the development of metal-organic frameworks

<b>Literature</b>	<b>László Krasznahorkai</b>	For his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art.
<b>Peace</b>	<b>Maria Corina Machado</b>	For her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy
<b>Economic Sciences</b>	<b>Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt</b>	For having explained innovation-driven economic growth" With one half to Mokyr "for having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress" and the other half jointly to Aghion and Howitt "for the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction."

### Kenton R. Miller Award

In a proud moment for India, the Director of Kaziranga National Park has become the first Indian to receive the prestigious IUCN Kenton R. Miller Award.

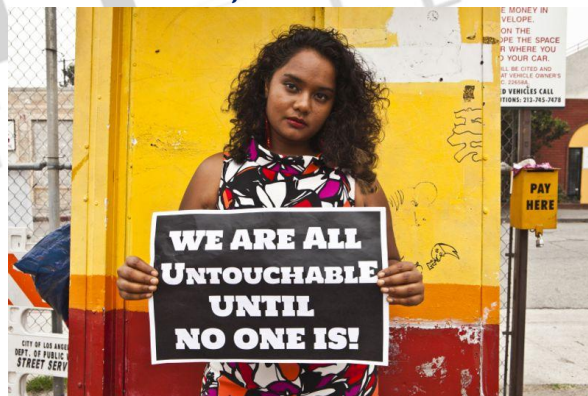




- This global recognition celebrates innovation and leadership in managing national parks and protected areas.
- Kaziranga, located in Assam, is already world-famous for its one-horned rhinoceros and rich biodiversity. Now, with this award, the park's conservation model has earned international applause.
- The recognition is not just a personal achievement – it is a tribute to India's growing commitment to protecting nature and wildlife.
- The Kenton R. Miller Award is one of the most respected honors in global conservation. Established in 2006, it is presented biennially (every two years) by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The award is named after Dr. Kenton R. Miller, a pioneering global figure known for his work in protected area management. His ideas shaped modern approaches to conservation by combining scientific knowledge, technology, and local participation.

### Vaikom Award for Social Justice

**Tamil Nadu government to confer Vaikom Award for Social Justice to activist Thenmozhi Soundararajan** Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will present the award which carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a citation and a medal.



- The Tamil Nadu government has announced the Vaikom Award for Social Justice 2025, recognizing individuals or organizations dedicated to uplifting marginalized sections of society.
- The award is a tribute to those who promote social equality, empowerment, and justice across diverse communities.
- For the year 2025, the award will be conferred upon Thenmozhi Soundararajan, a prominent Dalit civil rights activist based in the United States.

- She has been widely known for advocating caste equity, women's empowerment, and digital inclusivity on global platforms. Her work bridges activism, art, and technology to amplify the voices of the oppressed.

## **Ravindra Korisettar Honoured with Rajyotsava Award for Archaeological Excellence**

**Veteran archaeologist Prof. Ravindra Korisettar from Dharwad, Karnataka, has been chosen for the Rajyotsava Award 2025, one of the highest civilian honours of the state. This recognition celebrates his four-decade-long contribution to archaeology, education, and the preservation of India's prehistoric heritage.**



- Born in 1951, Prof. Korisettar pursued Archaeology and Quaternary Studies at Poona University and later received advanced training at INQUA (International Union for Quaternary Research) in Beijing, China.
- His exceptional academic career led him to become a UGC Emeritus Fellow in the Department of History and Archaeology at Karnatak University, Dharwad.
- He has also held prestigious international fellowships such as the Charles Wallace-AIIT Fellowship at the University of Cambridge and the Fulbright Visiting Scholarship at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

# PERSONALITIES

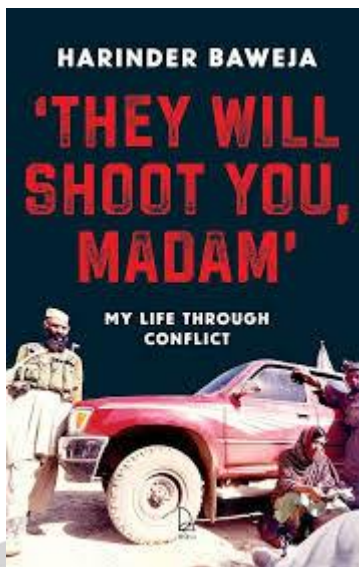
## Legacy of Dr K Mathangi Ramakrishnan in Burn Care and Plastic Surgery



- Dr K Mathangi Ramakrishnan, a trailblazing plastic and reconstructive surgeon, transformed the landscape of burn care in South India.
- Her passing in Chennai marks the end of a remarkable era in Indian medical history. She was instrumental in shaping modern burn management systems and surgical reconstruction methods that have saved countless lives.
- She founded the Department of Plastic Surgery and the Burns Unit at the Government Kilpauk Medical College (KMC), Chennai.
- This department became one of India's most advanced centers for comprehensive burn and plastic surgery care.
- Her leadership ensured that patients received both physical and psychological rehabilitation after severe burn injuries.

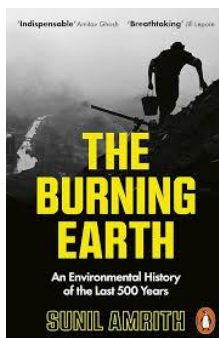
## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### They Will Shoot You, Madam: My Life Through Conflict, veteran journalist Harinder Baweja



- Veteran journalist Harinder Baweja has released her memoir *They Will Shoot You, Madam: My Life Through Conflict* in Delhi on October 1, 2025.
- The book spans her 40 years of reporting from conflict zones such as Punjab, Kashmir, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Malaysia.
- The title reflects the risks she undertook in pursuit of truth and fearless reporting. Her career took shape during Operation Blue Star, when she narrowly escaped danger with help from Captain Amarinder Singh.
- This incident became a turning point, marking the beginning of her work in sensitive regions. Over the decades, Baweja built her reputation by covering insurgencies, terror attacks, and underworld networks.

### The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years.



- Renowned Indian-origin historian Sunil Amrith has been awarded the 2025 British Academy Book Prize for his groundbreaking book *The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years*.
- The prestigious award, valued at £25,000, celebrates exceptional non-fiction works that deepen understanding of global history, culture, and society.
- Amrith's book stood out for its ability to connect environmental history with the broader human experience.
- It examines how human actions over five centuries have reshaped nature and society, offering a profound lens on the origins of today's climate challenges.





# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

## India's Dugong Conservation Reserve gains global recognition

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has officially recognized India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve at its World Conservation Congress 2025.



- This decision highlights India's leadership in marine biodiversity protection and calls for replicating the model in other parts of the Indian Ocean.
- The reserve was set up in **2022** by the **Tamil Nadu government** under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**. It spreads across **448.34 sq. km. in northern Palk Bay**, an ecologically rich region with over **12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows**.
- These habitats serve as a crucial feeding ground for dugongs and support numerous other marine species.

## India Launches National Red List Roadmap to Strengthen Biodiversity Conservation

In a historic step for biodiversity conservation, India will unveil its first-ever Red List of Endangered Species at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, to be held in Abu Dhabi, UAE from October 9-15, 2025.



- The Red List, tailored for India's unique biodiversity, will highlight species at risk and strengthen national conservation priorities
- IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025: Held every four years, the IUCN Congress is one of the most influential global gatherings on conservation and sustainable development. It brings together,

## GIS Mapping Accelerates Jal Jeevan Mission Implementation

- The Union Government has integrated the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with the PM Gati Shakti platform, leveraging advanced Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.
- This integration ensures that every drinking water asset is digitally mapped for improved monitoring, transparency, and decision-making. The move supports the government's goal of building a unified national infrastructure ecosystem.
- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) has signed an agreement with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N).
- This collaboration provides technical expertise for mapping, data analysis, and infrastructure visualization. BISAG-N, operating under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, plays a crucial role in integrating water and sanitation projects with national-level digital infrastructure.

### Jal Jeevan Mission

Launched in 2019, the Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide 55 litres per capita per day of safe drinking water to every rural household. So far, 6.41 lakh schemes have been approved at a cost of ₹8.29 lakh crore, with ₹3.91 lakh crore already utilized. The mission has reached 12.74 crore households, transforming rural water accessibility.

## The Wildlife Week 2025 celebration

**he Wildlife Week 2025 celebrations were held at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun, highlighting India's commitment to human-wildlife harmony.**

### New National Conservation Projects

Five key projects were launched:

1. **Project Dolphin (Phase II)** focuses on monitoring river and marine cetaceans.
2. **Project Sloth Bear** provides a national conservation framework.
3. **Project Gharial** introduces a dedicated species conservation plan.

4. **Centre of Excellence for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management** at **SACON** will lead research and policy.
5. **Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves Initiative** addresses tiger-human conflicts in non-protected areas using technology and community engagement.

Four national programmes were revealed:

- **Second Cycle of River Dolphin and Cetacean Estimation** with a new field guide.
- **All India Tiger Estimation Cycle-6**, with guides in eight regional languages.
- **Action Plan for Snow Leopard population estimation.**
- Progress reports on **Great Indian Bustard** and **Lesser Florican** population studies.

### India's First Bullet Train to Run by August 2027

India is stepping into a historic phase of modernization with the announcement that the country's first bullet train will begin operations by August 2027.



- The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR), popularly known as India's bullet train project, spans approximately 508 kilometers, connecting the financial hub Mumbai in Maharashtra with Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
- The train will operate at speeds reaching 320 km/h, drastically cutting travel time between the two major cities to nearly two hours.

### NITI Aayog Unveils Groundbreaking Roadmap on AI for Inclusive Societal Development - Mission Digital ShramSetu

**Placing India's 490 Million Informal Workers at the Heart of Viksit Bharat 2047**



- **NITI Aayog** today released a pioneering study, *AI for Inclusive Societal Development*, a first-of-its-kind effort to systematically explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and frontier technologies can be harnessed to transform the lives and livelihoods of **India's 490 million informal workers** – the **backbone of the nation's economy**.
- To address this, NITI Aayog has called for Mission Digital ShramSetu – a proposed national mission to create the roadmap and ecosystem that will make AI accessible, affordable, and impactful for every worker.
- The mission will harness AI, blockchain, immersive learning, and other frontier technologies to dismantle structural constraints – ranging from financial insecurity and limited market access to lack of skilling and social protection – and empower informal workers with tools and platforms that amplify their skills, increase productivity, and ensure dignity in work.
- This proposed mission emphasises on building inclusion requires human intent, coordinated action, and collaboration across government, industry, academia, and civil society.
- Only then can AI serve as a true equalizer – lifting the millions at the margins into the mainstream of India's growth story and turning the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 into reality.

## India's Rising Non-Communicable Disease Burden

The **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Report**, released by the **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)** at the **World Health Summit in Berlin**, reveals that **India's health landscape has undergone a significant transformation. From 1990 to 2023, the dominance of infectious diseases has declined, giving way to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) as the leading causes of death in the country.**



- This shift marks a critical public health milestone for a nation that once grappled with communicable epidemics such as tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV/AIDS.
- The GBD Report (2025) identifies several major contributors.
- Air pollution remains among India's top three causes of early death and disability, while unhealthy diets, tobacco use, physical inactivity, and stress also play pivotal roles.
- Between 2013 and 2023, mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression recorded a sharp increase. The growing urban lifestyle, longer working hours, and reduced physical activity have worsened India's disease profile.

### **Maitri II, India's new research station in east Antarctica.**

**Maitri II is India's upcoming and fourth research station in Antarctica, scheduled to be completed by January 2029.**



- It will be India's fourth Antarctic research base, expected to become operational by January 2029. Designed as a green research facility, Maitri II will operate on solar and wind power and be equipped with automated scientific instruments.
- Antarctica is often described as the Earth's natural laboratory, helping scientists understand the global climate and ocean systems. Its massive ice sheets store crucial data about climate change and atmospheric evolution.
- The continent holds around 75% of the planet's freshwater reserves and is home to edible algae and over 200 fish species. Mineral traces such as iron and copper further enhance its scientific interest.

#### **India's Journey in Antarctic Research**

India's polar research program began with the establishment of Dakshin Gangotri in 1983–84, which served until 1990. The second base, Maitri, was commissioned in 1989, followed by Bharati Station in 2012. These stations support research in atmospheric sciences, glaciology, and oceanography.



The missions are managed by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) based in Goa, operating under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

## Three Major Indian Ports Recognised as Green Hydrogen Hubs Under National Mission

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has formally recognised three major ports as Green Hydrogen Hubs under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.



- These ports are **Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority in Tamil Nadu and Paradip Port Authority in Odisha.**
- The Ministry said in a statement that this recognition marks a significant step towards creating an integrated hydrogen ecosystem and advancing India's transition towards clean energy.
- Welcoming the development, Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, this recognition marks a defining moment in India's maritime journey.
- He added that government is working towards building an ecosystem of sustainable development that will power India towards realising the vision of becoming net zero by 2070.
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to position India as a global hub for the production, utilisation, and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives.
- The Mission promotes the development of large-scale hydrogen hubs to serve as focal points for production and consumption.



## Mission Drishti

Space-tech firm GalaxEye to launch world's first multi-sensor EO satellite in 2026  
Weighing 160 kg, Mission Drishti is India's largest privately built satellite and also the highest-resolution satellite developed in the country

- Indian start-up GalaxEye has announced the launch of Mission Drishti, the country's first multi-sensor Earth observation satellite, scheduled for early 2026.
- The mission marks a major breakthrough in India's private space industry by integrating Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and high-resolution optical sensors on a single platform.
- This innovation pushes India into a new era of AI-driven satellite analytics and strengthens its global position in advanced space observation systems.
- Mission Drishti weighs 160 kg and offers 1.5-metre resolution imagery, making it India's largest privately built satellite.
- It provides continuous imaging in all weather and lighting conditions, addressing the limitations of traditional optical-only systems.
- The satellite is capable of delivering real-time observation data to support both civil and strategic applications.

## Ola Electric Launches Ola Shakti for Energy Storage Solutions

Ola Electric unveils Ola Shakti, a new battery energy storage system (BESS) built on Bharat 4680 cells to power homes, businesses, and grid-scale systems.

- Ola Electric has announced a major leap in India's clean energy landscape with the launch of Ola Shakti, a new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Known for leading the electric two-wheeler revolution, Ola is now venturing into energy infrastructure to support homes, businesses, and grid-scale applications. This strategic move aligns with India's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and its transition toward sustainable energy independence.
- Ola Shakti is powered by Bharat 4680 lithium-ion cells, a technology developed and produced at the Ola Gigafactory. These cells are designed for high energy density, faster charging, and long life cycles, marking a step toward domestic manufacturing of advanced battery technologies.
- The modular architecture of Ola Shakti allows flexible configuration for multiple uses — from residential solar power storage to industrial and utility-scale applications. Its design enables efficient load management, cost optimization, and support for renewable grid integration.
- By integrating scalable modules, Ola can cater to varying power needs — making it adaptable for both urban infrastructure and rural electrification projects.

## Secret Mountain

**A.R. Rahman teams up with OpenAI's Sam Altman for AI-driven musical metaverse 'Secret Mountain'. Rahman first introduced the concept of 'Secret Mountain' in a video released in February 2024. The animated preview featured a fictional character named Luna who travels into a virtual world and interacts with various musical personas drawn from different cultures**

- The visionary composer **AR Rahman** has joined hands with **Google Cloud** to unveil *Secret Mountain*, an innovative AI-driven entertainment venture that blends music, art, and technology.
- This initiative introduces a **digital metahuman band** composed of six ultra-realistic synthetic avatars designed to perform and interact with fans in real time.
- Each avatar embodies a unique cultural identity and musical genre, highlighting Rahman's global artistic vision.
- Among the leading avatars are *Cara*, an Irish singer-songwriter; *Zen Tam*, a Tamil rapper; and *Blessing*, an African percussionist and vocalist.

## India develops first indigenous antibiotic, achieves breakthrough in gene therapy

**India has developed its first indigenously discovered antibiotic, Nafithromycin, marking a significant milestone in the country's pursuit of self-reliance in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. The antibiotic, effective against resistant respiratory infections, is particularly beneficial for cancer patients and those with poorly controlled diabetes.**

- The antibiotic was conceptualised, developed, and clinically validated entirely in India, marking the first time such a breakthrough has been achieved without foreign collaboration.
- It was developed through a partnership between the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Wockhardt, a leading pharmaceutical company.
- Nafithromycin is designed to combat resistant respiratory infections, which pose a high risk to cancer patients and those with uncontrolled diabetes.
- This development reinforces India's commitment to combating the global threat of antimicrobial resistance while enhancing its pharmaceutical autonomy.
- India also achieved a scientific milestone with its first indigenous gene therapy trial for hemophilia, a genetic disorder that prevents normal blood clotting.
- The trial, conducted at Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, and supported by the Department of Biotechnology, recorded a 60–70% correction rate and zero bleeding episodes among participants.
- The study's publication in the New England Journal of Medicine marked global recognition of India's progress in precision medicine.
- With this, India joins an elite group of nations capable of developing and testing gene-based therapies within their borders.

### **ChatGPT Atlas Browser**

**OpenAI has launched the ChatGPT Atlas Browser, marking a transformative leap in human-AI interaction. Designed to compete directly with Google Chrome, this browser embeds ChatGPT into the internet experience, enabling users to perform searches, automate tasks, and manage workflows – all within one interface.**

- ChatGPT Atlas is a full-fledged AI-integrated web browser that eliminates the need to switch tabs or copy content.
- It allows seamless interaction with ChatGPT across any webpage. Acting as a super-assistant, Atlas delivers conversational browsing and productivity enhancement for both individuals and organizations.
- Currently, Atlas is available on macOS for Free, Plus, Pro, and Go users. Business users have access to the beta version, while releases for Windows, iOS, and Android are expected soon.



## 'Future Farming in India: AI Playbook for Agriculture'

The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (OPSA) has released a report titled '*Future Farming in India: AI Playbook for Agriculture*' under the AI for India 2030 initiative.



- This initiative is led by the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) India, in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF). It aims to build a responsible and inclusive AI ecosystem that empowers Indian agriculture through innovation and scalability.
- The report identifies major **AI-driven use cases** that can revolutionize Indian agriculture:
  - **Intelligent Crop Planning:** AI tools analyze soil health, weather trends, market prices, and import-export data to recommend optimal cropping patterns.
  - **Smart Farming:** Technologies such as **satellite monitoring**, **pest prediction**, **rapid soil analysis**, and **automated machinery** improve efficiency and reduce input costs.
  - **Farm-to-Fork Solutions:** These ensure **traceability**, improve **supply chain management**, and enhance **fintech adoption** for market linkage and price prediction.



## India Sets New Standards for NavIC Navigation Systems

- The Government of India has introduced new standards for Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) receivers, aiming to establish a unified and efficient satellite-based navigation framework.
- The move comes under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to enhance reliability, accuracy, and interoperability of NavIC-enabled devices across multiple sectors.
- These standards outline parameters such as signal acquisition, tracking capability, positioning accuracy, and timing precision.
- They also ensure performance consistency across industries like transportation, agriculture, and disaster management, enabling wider application of indigenous navigation technology.

## 2 Million Deaths in India Linked to Air Pollution in 2023

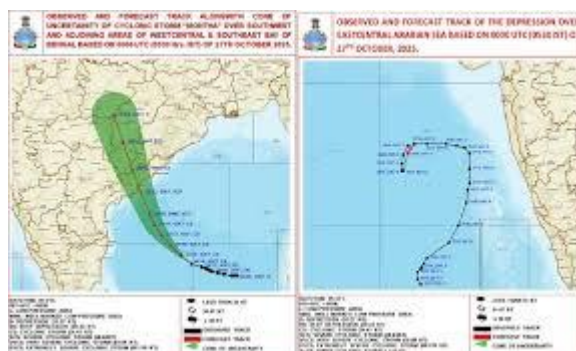
- According to the State of Global Air 2025 (SoGA) report by Health Effects Institute (HEI) and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), India recorded about **2 million deaths** in 2023 due to air-pollution related diseases.
- The figure marks a roughly **43 % increase** from about 1.4 million in 2000. Nearly **nine in ten** of the deaths were caused by **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** such as heart disease, lung cancer, diabetes and dementia.
- The report finds the air-pollution death rate in India at around **186 deaths per 100,000 people**, compared to about **17 per 100,000** in high-income nations. States like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Bihar and West Bengal each recorded over 100,000 deaths.

The report attributes:

- ~7 in 10 deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) to polluted air in India.
- ~1 in 3 lung-cancer deaths linked to air-pollution exposure.
- ~1 in 4 heart-disease deaths and ~1 in 5 diabetes deaths attributed to air pollution.

## Cyclone Montha

**Cyclone Montha, formed over the Bay of Bengal, is set to hit India's east coast near Kakinada on 28 Oct 2025, bringing heavy rain, strong winds and coastal flooding.**



- Cyclone Montha emerged from a well-marked low-pressure area over the southeast Bay of Bengal on about 24 October 2025, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- By 26 October, it had intensified into a deep depression, with wind speeds rising to 80-100 km/h and the likelihood of developing into a severe cyclonic storm by 28 October.
- The IMD forecast it would make landfall near the coastal area between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam, close to Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, possibly on the evening or night of 28 October.
- Wind gusts may reach up to about 110 km/h, while sea conditions are labelled “very rough to high”, with storm-surge risk along low-lying zones.

## MAHA-MedTech Mission



- The **Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) – MedTech** Mission was launched jointly by the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and the **Gates Foundation**.
- The initiative marks a major step in promoting **medical technology innovation** within India and reducing dependence on expensive imports.
- The mission provides **milestone-linked funding** ranging from ₹5 crore to ₹25 crore per project, and up to ₹50 crore in exceptional cases. It supports **academic institutions, hospitals, startups, MSMEs, and the MedTech industry**.

In addition to financial support, the mission includes initiatives such as:

- **Patent Mitra** for intellectual property protection and technology transfer.

- **MedTech Mitra** for regulatory and clearance guidance.
- **Clinical Trial Network** for validation and evidence generation.

### Super-Earth GJ 251 c



- Astronomers have announced the discovery of GJ 251 c, a new super-Earth located just 20 light-years from Earth.
- The finding marks a major stride in the search for Earth-like exoplanets capable of supporting life.
- The research team, led by scientists from Penn State University, confirmed the planet's detection using cutting-edge spectroscopic methods.
- The discovery highlights how rapidly exoplanet science is advancing, allowing astronomers to identify smaller and more Earth-like planets in nearby star systems.

### FSSAI Bans Misuse of 'ORS' Label



- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has prohibited manufacturers from using the term "Oral Rehydration Solution" (ORS) for non-medicinal drinks. This move aims to prevent misleading health claims and protect consumers, particularly children, from deceptive marketing by commercial beverage companies.

- Prohibition on using the term "ORS" in product names, labels, trademarks, or as a prefix/suffix by non-medicinal products.
- Only medical ORS products adhering to WHO standards, sold in pharmacies, can use the term.



# SPORTS

## Mirabai Chanu Wins Silver, Sets Two National Records at World Weightlifting 2025



- Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu clinched a silver medal in the 48kg division at the World Weightlifting Championships 2025 in Forde, Norway.
- She achieved a total lift of 199kg in the competition.
- She also set the new national records in both Clean & Jerk with 115 kg and in total lift with 199 kg.
- This is her 3rd World Championship medal.

## Grandmaster P Iniyan Wins 62nd National Chess Championship



- In Chess, Grandmaster P Iniyan of Tamil Nadu won the 62nd National Chess Championship in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, yesterday.
- He clinched the title by remaining unbeaten in over 11 rounds, with 7 wins and 4 draws.

## India Shines with Record Medal Haul at Para Athletics 2025

**India registers its best-ever performance at the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, winning 18 medals – including six golds, seven silvers, and five bronzes.**





- Six Indian athletes clinched gold medals, showcasing skill and resilience. Notable winners included Simran Sharma (100m T12), Nishad Kumar (High Jump T47), Sumit Antil (Javelin F64), Sandip Sargar (Javelin F44), Rinku Hooda (Javelin F46), and Shailesh Kumar (High Jump T63).
- Among them, Simran Sharma emerged as a star performer, claiming both gold in 100m T12 and silver in 200m T12, underlining her sprinting dominance.
- Two athletes stood out for winning multiple medals.
  - Simran Sharma: Gold in 100m T12, Silver in 200m T12
  - Preeti Pal: Silver in 100m T35, Bronze in 200m T35

### **Ahmedabad set to host 2030 Commonwealth Games as city earns recommendation from governing body**

- In a historic development, the Commonwealth Sport Executive Board has officially recommended Ahmedabad as the host city for the 2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG).
- The final decision will be taken on November 26, 2025, at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow, Scotland.
- If approved, Ahmedabad will become the second Indian city to host the CWG after New Delhi 2010, marking India's grand return to the global sporting stage after two decades.
- Hosting the 2030 CWG would be a defining moment for India's sports diplomacy.
- It would underline the country's ability to manage mega international events beyond the capital and signal its growing role in global sports governance.

- The event also strengthens India's bid for the 2036 Olympic Games, also proposed for Ahmedabad, positioning the city as a hub for future international sporting events.

## **Neeraj Chopra Receives Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Rank in Territorial Army**



- Neeraj Chopra, India's celebrated javelin thrower and two-time Olympic medallist, has achieved yet another milestone.
- He has been conferred the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army for his outstanding contributions to Indian sports and national pride.
- This honour highlights the seamless connection between sporting excellence and defence values in India's national fabric.

## **Rohit Sharma Creates History in ODI Cricket**

- Indian skipper Rohit Sharma has etched his name deeper into cricketing history by overtaking Sourav Ganguly to become India's third-highest run-scorer in ODIs.
- The landmark came during his composed knock of 73 runs against Australia in the second ODI of the ongoing series. With this achievement, Rohit now stands at 11,249 runs, trailing only behind Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli.

## **D Gukesh and Divya Deshmukh Create History with Double Gold at European Club Cup**



- India's young chess prodigies D Gukesh and Divya Deshmukh made history by winning individual gold medals at the European Chess Club Cup 2025, marking a double triumph for Indian chess.
- Their victories come as a morale booster ahead of the FIDE Chess World Cup 2025, set to take place in Goa.



# REPORT

## India Falls 5 Places In Passport Index

- The Henley Passport Index 2025 ranks Singapore as the world's most powerful passport, granting visa-free access to 193 destinations.
- This ranking reflects global trends in mobility, diplomacy, and international relations. The index, prepared by Henley & Partners, uses data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to assess how freely citizens can travel worldwide.
- India's passport fell five spots to Rank 85 in 2025, allowing visa-free access to 59 destinations. The drop is linked to evolving security concerns and limited reciprocal visa agreements. India's best-ever performance came in 2006 when it ranked 71.

## State Mining Readiness Index

- The Ministry of Mines has introduced the State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI) to evaluate how effectively Indian States contribute to the national mining ecosystem.
- It is designed to encourage reforms and competitiveness within the mining sector by ranking States based on their readiness and performance.
- The primary objective of the SMRI is to assess a State's relative contribution to developing India's mining industry.
- It promotes transparent policy frameworks, efficient resource utilization, and sustainable mining practices. The index serves as a benchmarking tool for both policymakers and investors to gauge a State's potential for mineral development.

## State of Global Air (SoGA) 2025 Report

- The State of Global Air (SoGA) 2025 Report, released by the Health Effects Institute (HEI) and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in the United States, provides an alarming global assessment of air quality and health impacts.
- The report highlights that air pollution continues to be a leading cause of premature deaths globally, with India accounting for over half of global pollution-related mortality.
- The report reveals that India recorded approximately 2 million deaths in 2023 due to air pollution.

- This represents a 43% increase since 2000, marking a serious escalation in health-related risks. India now contributes 52% of the total global deaths linked to polluted air, underlining the severity of the crisis.

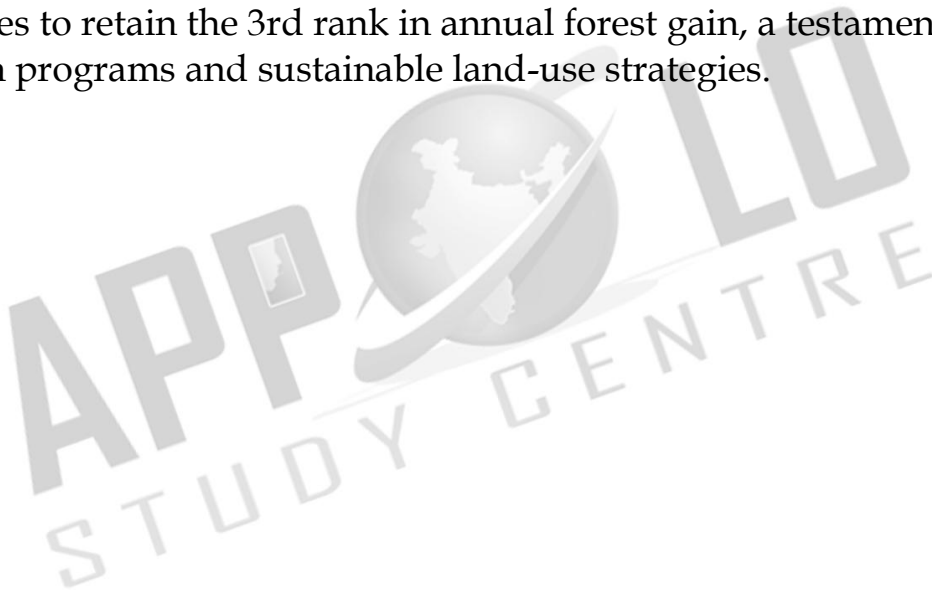




# RANKING

## India Climbs to 9th Globally in Forest Area

- India has achieved a significant milestone by securing the 9th rank globally in total forest area and 3rd rank in annual forest gain, as per the Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025 released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bali.
- This advancement marks India's steady progress in expanding its green cover through a mix of policy reforms and citizen-driven efforts.
- According to the GFRA 2025, India has moved up from the 10th to the 9th position in total forest area, demonstrating effective reforestation efforts.
- It continues to retain the 3rd rank in annual forest gain, a testament to its robust plantation programs and sustainable land-use strategies.



# IMPORTANT DAYS

## OCTOBER 2025

Date	Day	Theme
October 01	International Day of the Older Persons	"Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being and Our Rights"
October 02	Gandhi Jayanti/ International Day of Non-Violence	Building peace through dignity
October 02-08	National Wildlife Week 2025	"Human-Wildlife Coexistence"
October 04	World Animal Welfare Day	Save Animals, Save the Planet
October 05	World Teachers' Day	"Recasting teaching as a collaborative profession"
October 06	World Cerebral Palsy Day	"Unique and United," or #UniqueANDUnited.
October 08	Indian Air Force Day	"Operation Sindoor"
October 10	National Post Day	#PostForPeople: Local Service. Global Reach."
October 10	World Mental Health Day	"Access to Services: Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies".
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	"The girl I am, the change I lead: Girls on the frontlines of crisis"
October 13	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	"Fund Resilience, Not Disasters"
October 15	World Students' Day	"Empowering Students as Agents of Innovation and Change"
October 16	World Food Day	"Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future."
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	"Ending social and institutional maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families"

<b>October 20</b>	<b>World Statistics Day</b>	"Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone"
<b>October 24</b>	<b>United Nations Day</b>	"Building Our Future Together"
<b>October 27 to November 02</b>	<b>Vigilance Awareness Week</b>	'Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility'
<b>October 27 - 31</b>	<b>India Maritime Week (IMW) 2025</b>	"Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision"
<b>October 31</b>	<b>Rashtriya Ekta Diwas / National Unity Day</b>	"Ek Bharat, Aatmanirbhar Bharat" (One India, Self-Reliant India)

