Professor Academy

TNPSC
CURRENT AFFAIRS

JANUARY 2026 – SEPTEMBER 2026



Professor Academy

Congratulations to our

TNPSC ACHIEVERS



Muthu Krishnan



Vel Murugan



Abirami T

Professor Academy

TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS

JANUARY 2026 – SEPTEMBER 2026

CONTENTS

1	TAMIL NADU	1
2	NATIONAL	29
3	INTERNATIONAL	66
4	ECONOMY	85
5	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	92
6	ENVIRONMENT	106
7	REPORTS AND INDICES	126
8	STATES	135
9	GI TAGS	152
10	INITIATIVES, SCHEMES AND CAMPAIGNS	153
11	PERSONALITIES AND AWARDS	157
12	EVENTS AND SUMMITS	169
13	DEFENCE EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS	176
14	SPORTS	179
15	IMPORTANT DAYS	183
16	PRACTICE QUESTIONS	198

TAMIL NADU

- A three-member Pension Committee, headed by Gagandeep Singh Bedi, and the other members were K.R. Shanmugam and Pratik Tayal submitted its final report to the Tamil Nadu government in Chennai.
- An idol of Nathamunigal, the first Acharya of Sri Vaishnavism, was found near Gangaikonda Cholapuram (Sembodai) around the year 2000.

> **Learn Basics – Gangaikonda Cholapuram:** Capital founded by Rajendra Chola I in Ariyalur district. Its Brihadisvara temple is part of the UNESCO World Heritage "Great Living Chola Temples".

- Tamil Nadu experienced a normal northeast monsoon (October-December) in 2025, as against the forecast of above normal rainfall.
- Vehicle registrations in Tamil Nadu increased by 8.4% in 2025 compared to the previous year.
- Private Equity and Venture Capital (PE-VC) firms invested $3,513 million across 61 deals in Tamil Nadu-based companies during 2025.
- As of 2025–26, Tamil Nadu's outstanding debt is estimated at 26.1% of gross state domestic product (GSDP), down from 26.4% in 2024–25 and 26.6% in 2023– 24.
- The Tamil Nadu government introduced the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS), which broadly follows the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

> **Learn Basics – Old Pension Scheme (OPS):** A defined-benefit scheme paying a pension of about 50% of the last drawn basic pay. For central government employees joining after 1 January 2004 it was replaced by NPS.

- The Government of Tamil Nadu revised the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Rules to improve the use of DMF funds for areas and communities affected by mining.

> **Learn Basics – District Mineral Foundation:** A non-profit trust created in mining districts under the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015, funded by a share of royalties paid by mining firms, for the benefit of affected people.

- The English translation of the writings of U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer on musicians and music was released by The Music Academy.
- Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS), which will guarantee a pension equal to 50% of their last-drawn monthly salary is announced for state government employees and teachers.
- The Union government announced the setting up of a regional office of the National Turmeric Board (NTB) and an accredited turmeric testing laboratory in Erode, Tamil Nadu.
- Hatcheries for Olive Ridley Sea turtle nesting have been set up in Chennai for the 2025–26 nesting season at Neelankarai, Kovalam, and Pulicat.

> **Learn Basics – Olive Ridley turtle:** Famous for mass nesting (arribada) on the Odisha coast. Listed as Vulnerable by IUCN and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

- To strengthen women's welfare, gender equality, and inclusive development in Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UN Women in Chennai.
- The Tamil Nadu government has notified a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for regulating large public gatherings in the State.
- The Tamil Nadu government is launching a State-wide household survey called Ungal Kanavai Sollungal (Share Your Aspirations).
- The Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) has won appreciation from World Bank for Chennai's Urban Mobility Transformation.

> **Learn Basics – World Bank:** Headquartered in Washington, D.C.; its lending arm IBRD was created at the Bretton Woods conference in 1944.

- UNICEF has signed a landmark partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu as its first-ever sub-national government partner globally.
- Tamil Nadu has unveiled India's first dedicated Deep Tech Startup Policy at UmagineTN 2026 in Chennai.
- The Tamil Nadu government launched the "Namma Arasu" WhatsApp chatbot to provide government services to citizens through WhatsApp.
- The Tamil Nadu Government has implemented the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) for State government employees from January 1, 2026.
- The Tamil Nadu Government has decided to appoint two more State Information Commissioners in the Tamil Nadu Information Commission.

> **Learn Basics – Information Commissions:** Created under the Right to Information Act, 2005, to hear appeals and complaints. State Information Commissioners are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a committee led by the Chief Minister.

Professor Academy

- Tamil Nadu has released the State Indicator Framework (SIF) 2.0 to track progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has cleared nearly 50 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste out of a total of 90 lakh metric tonnes through the bio mining process.
- The Teynampet-Saidapet flyover in Chennai is the world's first road bridge constructed above a running metro tunnel.
- The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has released the Tamil Nadu Circular Economy Investment Policy, 2026, in Chennai.
- The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu released the Tamil Nadu Warehousing Policy, 2026, in Chennai.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu signed a MoU with Sarvam AI to set up India's first ₹10,000–crore Sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI) Park.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has launched Chennai Sangamam – Namma Ooru Thiruvizha 2026 in Chennai, to promote and celebrate Tamil Nadu's art and cultural heritage.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated a 'mani mandapam' built in memory of Immanuel Sekaran in Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram.
- The Tamil Nadu government extended the tenure of the Social Justice Monitoring Committee headed by Suba Veerapandian by two more years.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced annual literary awards in 7 languages– Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odiya, Bengali and Marathi.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin laid the foundation stone for the Mamallan reservoir on East Coast Road.
- TNWeSAFE Project of the Government of Tamil Nadu is going to organise the Global Woman Summit 2026 in Chennai.
- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi declined to read out his customary speech prepared by the State government on the floor of the State Legislative Assembly on January 20, and walked out of the House.

Learn Basics – Governor: Appointed by the President (Article 155) for a term of five years. Under Article 176 the Governor addresses the Legislative Assembly at the first session of each year.

- The Tamil Nadu Government has announced a three-day statewide Kuppai Thiruvizha (garbage collection drive) from 21 to 23 January 2026.
- The Northeast monsoon retreated from Tamil Nadu on 19 January 2026, as confirmed by the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai.
- A government school in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu has launched the Young Ambassadors of Change initiative.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has inaugurated a Special Veterinary Complex for community dogs in Ranipet district, focusing on villages and small towns.
- Tamil Nadu is organising the Tamil Nadu Global Tourism Summit 2026 in Mahabalipuram to promote tourism investment and growth in the state.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched Sprint 1 to make the property registration fully digital.
- The Tamil Nadu government tabled a Bill in the State Assembly to create a Special Area Development Authority.
- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has begun its first-ever study on the Madras Hedgehog in the Theri forests of Thoothukudi district.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched the Tamil Nadu Women Employment and Safety (TNWESafe) Project and the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme at a Tamil Nadu Global Women Summit 2026.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled the foundation for an integrated Multi-Modal Facility Complex (MMFC) with Kuralagam at Broadway, Chennai.
- At the India Global Education Summit 2026 in Chennai, the 872-acre Knowledge City is planned in the Tiruvallur district as an integrated academic-industrial ecosystem.
- The State government has notified the Tamil Nadu Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2026, Anand Marriages are solemnised according to Sikh marriage ceremonies, commonly known as Anand Karaj.

Learn Basics – Anand Marriage Act, 1909: Gives legal recognition to the Sikh marriage ceremony (Anand Karaj); states frame rules for registering such marriages.

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the Thiruvottiyur highway in Chennai would henceforth be called 'Vallalar Nedunchalai'.
- The DMK government plans to install a 125-foot statue of Chola king Raja Raja Chola at the Grand Chola Museum in Thanjavur.

Professor Academy

- In a first of its kind, the Madras High Court is set to use an artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted algorithm system called 'Super law Courts'.
- The Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST) won the first prize at the 38th Kerala State Science Congress.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister unveiled the statue of the late actor 'Kalaivanar' N.S. Krishnan in Chennai.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the State's first glow garden in Mamallapuram.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that a statue of former Premier (CM) of Madras presidency, Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar would be installed on the campus of the Government Medical College, Omandurar Government Estate, Chennai.
- 50 years ago, on February 1, 1976, the Tamil Nadu government was dismissed for the first time in history.
- The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the development of 15 archaeological sites Lothal, Dholavira, Rakhigarhi, Adichanallur, Sarnath, Hastinapur, and Leh Palace across the country into vibrant and experiential cultural destinations.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the renovated Poompuhar tourism complex at Poompuhar, Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil Nadu.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated an eco-park at Navalur Lake in SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited), Siruseri, Chengalpattu district.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the Tamil Biennale will be held in January 2027 at the Tamil Nadu Global Tourism Summit 2026 in Chennai.
- Tamil Nadu will receive 4.097% of the net proceeds of shareable Central taxes, as per the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission.

Learn Basics – Finance Commission: A constitutional body (Article 280), constituted every five years, that recommends how taxes are shared between the Centre and the States. The 16th Finance Commission is chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister will inaugurate Ranipet's first car manufacturing, at the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) complex in Panapakkam.
- The Tamil Nadu government informed the Madras High Court that it issued a Government Order (G.O.) on January 21, 2026, to abolish the police orderly system.
- Over 500 stone age tools have been discovered in Tiruchi, Pudukottai, and Namakkal districts, Tamil Nadu, suggesting Lower and Middle Palaeolithic habitation.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled Tamil Nadu's first statue of German philosopher and communist leader Karl Marx at the Egmore Museum complex in Chennai.
- V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority has become the first port in India to deploy an Anti-Drone System.
- Tamil Nadu is projected to become a $150 billion electronics hub by 2030.
- Tamil Nadu recorded the highest per capita income growth in India, increasing from 0.07% in 2020–2021 to 11.19%.
- Tamil Nadu recorded its highest-ever monthly deceased organ donations with 33 donors in January 2026.
- Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) reached ₹31.19 lakh crore in 2024–25, with real growth of 11.2%, the highest among major States.
- Tamil Nadu ranks first in the country in terms of the number of safe deliveries conducted in Government hospitals.
- Tamilnadu's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has dropped to 35 per lakh live births, and the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) stands at 12 per thousand live births.
- Tamil Nadu ranks first in the country with a higher education enrollment rate of 47 per cent, nearly double the national average.
- The foundation stone for the Rs 261-crore Global Sports City was laid by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai.
- The Tamil Nadu government signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹5,980 crore to promote semiconductor and aerospace manufacturing.
- The 2,300-year-old rock paintings at Kumittipathi village in Coimbatore district remain without protection despite being declared a protected monument in 2025.
- The Greater Chennai Corporation presented its ₹9,319 crore Budget for 2026– 2027.
- Tamil Nadu has launched its first 'Dark Sky Park' in Kolli Hills to promote astro- tourism and protect night sky visibility.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin released the Tamil Nadu Shipbuilding Policy 2026 to develop shipbuilding clusters and promote the manufacturing, repair, and recycling of ships in the State.

Professor Academy

- The Tamil Nadu government unveiled the Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy 2026 to promote sustainable agroforestry and encourage farmers to grow high-value tree species.
- StartupTN and TNWeSafe (Tamil Nadu Women Safety Project) launched the EmpowHer 1.0 programme to support women entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu.
- The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu launched the Tamil Nadu Integrated Drinking Water Grievance Redressal Centre – PUNAL (1916) in Chennai.
- The foundation stone for an International Bird Centre (IBC) was laid at Agaram Reserve Forest near Kazhuveli Wetland Bird Sanctuary (Villupuram District) by Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari was sworn in as the 55th Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- The Tamil Nadu Women Entrepreneur Empowerment Scheme (TWEES) was launched by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department to encourage 1 lakh women to become entrepreneurs in five years.
- The Tamil Nadu government has released the Tiruchirappalli Master Plan 2045 and the Thoothukudi Master Plan 2045 for urban development.
- Foundation stones were laid for a Mangrove Conservation Centre at Pichavaram, an International Migratory Bird Centre at Marakkanam, and a Nilgiri Tahr Conservation Centre in Coimbatore.

Learn Basics – Mangroves: Salt-tolerant coastal forests that protect shorelines and nurse fish. The Sundarbans is the largest mangrove forest; Pichavaram (Cuddalore) is a well-known mangrove in Tamil Nadu.

- The Tamil Nadu government nationalised the works of Periyarist V. Anaimuthu and writer Erode Tamilanban, and the royalty was handed over to their family members.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled a 14-point sector-wise blueprint, “Tamil Nadu 2030”, in Chennai.
- The Tamil Nadu Police launched a new website integrated with CCTNS 2.0 (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) to provide digital police services.
- Tamil Nadu Women Entrepreneur Empowerment Scheme (TWEES) was launched by CM of Tamil Nadu to promote women-led businesses.
- V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, set a national record by handling 147 windmill blades from a single vessel.
- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister also released the book 100-Year-Old Trees of Chennai, a comprehensive guide documenting centenarian trees in the city.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled the Katranai Thoorum Arivu statue at Marina Beach highlighting the significance of continuous learning.
- Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has been appointed to additionally discharge the functions of the Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- The Tamil Nadu government announced the AVGC-XR Policy 2026 to promote animation, visual effects, gaming, comics, and extended reality sectors.
- Union Minister of Civil Aviation announced that Tuticorin Airport will be renamed Thoothukudi Airport in English, replacing the earlier name “Tuticorin Airport.”
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has permitted the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology to conduct the 11th phase of excavations at Keeladi and seven other sites.

Learn Basics – Keeladi: A Sangam-age archaeological site in Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu, on the Vaigai river bank, excavated by the ASI and later the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology.

- Tamil Nadu has adopted a single-use haemodialysis policy to improve patient safety in government hospitals.
- Tamil Nadu has introduced a dedicated mental health policy for students in educational institutions.
- Dindigul launched “Dindu”, a Slender Loris, as an election mascot to promote voter awareness and participation in Assembly elections.
- Tamil Nadu has become India’s top textile exporter in the FY 2024–25 by surpassing Gujarat and Maharashtra in total export value.
- Tamil Nadu has increased the upper age limit for Home Guards from 58 to 60 years, and the rule was amended by the Tamil Nadu Home Department.
- The tenure of the 16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly is set to end on May 10, 2026, completing its five-year term.
- The Tamil novel Gopalapurathu Makkal by Ki. Rajanarayanan is released in English as People of Gopallapuram.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu launched an online portal for victims of usury to file complaints.
- Tamil Nadu recorded its highest polling percentage (84.69%) in an Assembly election on April 23, 2026.
- A study has confirmed that the fossil assemblage found at Panaiyur in Thoothukudi district dates back to the Holocene period (about 8,000–12,000 years ago).

Professor Academy

- Tamil Nadu ranks first in India for public healthcare usage, with the highest number of people receiving treatment in government hospitals.
- Tamil Nadu recorded a high real economic growth rate of 10.83% in 2025–26
- A prehistoric rock painting site called "Oor Pare", has been rediscovered in the Nilgiris district.
- Tamil Nadu recorded strong growth with 10.83% GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) in 2025-26 after 11.19% in 2024-25.
- Tamil Nadu recorded the highest marine fish landings in India in 2025 with about 6.85 lakh tonnes of fish, slightly higher than 6.79 lakh tonnes in 2024.
- A total of 4,87,98,833 voters out of 5,73,43,291 cast their votes on April 23 across 75,064 polling booths.
- The 16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly was dissolved by the Governor of Tamil Nadu with effect from 5 May 2026.
- In the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections total of 3,352 candidates lost their election deposit for failing to secure one-sixth of the valid votes polled in their constituencies.
- Chennai Metro Rail Limited won the Global Environmental Leadership Project of the Year 2026 award in the Metro Rail category at the GEEF (Global Energy and Environment Foundation) Global Environmental Excellence Awards 2026.
- India's first Urban Weather Testbed and Aerosol Observatory was launched in Chennai to improve weather forecasting and climate research in cities.
- C. Joseph Vijay, president of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), was sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- A National Sample Survey report found that Tamil Nadu recorded the lowest out- of-pocket medical expenditure (OOPME) for treatment in government hospitals among major States in India.
- Karuppaiah M.V. (Sholavandan MLA) sworn in as Pro-tem Speaker by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at Lok Bhavan.

> **Learn Basics – Pro-tem Speaker:** Appointed by the Governor to preside over the first sitting and administer the oath to members until a regular Speaker is elected.

- The elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) took oath in the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 11 May 2026.
- The Singappen Special Task Force was formed by the Tamil Nadu government to strengthen women's safety and preventive protection across the State.
- J.C.D. Prabhakar of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 12 May 2026.
- C. Joseph Vijay won the confidence motion in the Tamil Nadu Assembly with 144 votes during the 2026 floor test.

> **Learn Basics – Floor test:** A vote in the legislature to prove majority support. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly (Article 164).

- Around 83% of candidates in Tamil Nadu lost their election security deposit in the 2026 Assembly elections.
- India signed an MoU to set up the country's first Mega Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.
- The 1,100 MW Velimalai Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project in Kanniyakumari received Terms of Reference (ToR) clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

> **Learn Basics – Pumped storage hydropower:** Stores energy by pumping water to an upper reservoir when demand is low and releasing it through turbines at peak demand.

- The Tamil Nadu government announced a cooperative crop loan waiver scheme for for loans taken from cooperative banks between 1 May 2025 and 28 February 2026.
- The Tamil Nadu government has appointed Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal as the Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of the Police Force (HoPF), succeeding Sandeep Rai Rathore.
- Tamil Nadu's Child nutrition indicators improved, with stunting declining from 25.0% to 20.7% and severe wasting from 5.5% to 4.9%.
- The Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission's meeting was chaired by State Election Commissioner B. Jothi Nirmalasamy in Chennai.

> **Learn Basics – Delimitation:** The process of fixing constituency boundaries, done by a Delimitation Commission. Its orders have the force of law and cannot be questioned in any court.

- The Madras High Court declared that M. Appavu had won the 2016 Radhapuram Assembly election, setting aside the election of I.S. Inbadurai after nearly ten years.
- Tamil Nadu received more Cauvery water (330 TMC ft.) than its allocated share (177.25 TMC ft) during the water year 2025–26.

Professor Academy

- The Tamil Nadu government released the 'Vetri Tamizhagam Vision Document' during its first Cabinet meeting which contains 436 vision statements based on the government's election commitments.
- Tamil Nadu launched India's first State-level Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Cool Roof Coating Application
- Tamil Nadu recorded a modest growth of 6.8% in the State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) during 2025–26, despite registering 10.83% economic growth.
- TN Government hospitals contributed 64% of deceased organ donors in Tamil Nadu as of April 2026.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the Singappen Special Force on 9 June 2026 in Chennai.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu released the State Heat Action Plan (HAP) 2026 to reduce heat-induced illnesses and strengthen heatwave preparedness across the State.
- Tamil Nadu's first Pink Police Booth was inaugurated at Ponneri under the Avadi Police Commissionerate.
- The State Govt released the White Paper on the Fiscal Management of Tamil Nadu: An Examination of Public Finances 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The Tamil Nadu government approved five dedicated Renewable Energy Zones under the Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL), Their five zonal headquarters are located in Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, and Madurai.
- Tamil Nadu Police has designated Helpline as the official helpline of the Singappen Special Force (SSF).
- The Tamil Nadu Government has announced the Chief Minister's Police Medals for outstanding work in eradicating drug production and preventing illicit drug trafficking in the State since 2023.
- The Tamil Nadu Government has reconstituted the Curriculum Design Committee and appointed Mylswamy Annadurai as its new Chairman.
- The Tamil Nadu Government has notified the implementation of the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G) from July 1, 2026.
- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has launched a beekeeping initiative in the Pichavaram mangroves, Cuddalore, to improve the livelihood of the Irula tribal community.
- The Tamil Nadu Government has renamed the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department as the Social Justice Department.
- Kamarajar Port has become India's second major port with an 18-metre draft capability.
- Tamil Nadu recorded a 92% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the primary level
- The Tamil Nadu government has renamed the women's free bus travel scheme from "Magalir Vidiyal Payanam" to "Magalir Payanam".
- Tamil Nadu recorded the highest Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)- 52.3%, in higher education in India
- Tamil Nadu's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined to 1.3 in 2026, below the replacement level of 2.1 required for population stability.
- The Tamil Nadu Government has launched the Nalam TN integrated digital public healthcare portal in Chennai.
- The 12th-century Abathsahayeswarar Temple at Thukkachi, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu, received the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Distinction (2024) for heritage conservation.

> **Learn Basics – UNESCO:** The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, headquartered in Paris; it designates World Heritage Sites.

- The Union Government approved a six-month service extension for Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary M. Sai Kumar from 1 September 2026 to 28 February 2027.
- Kerala and Tamil Nadu decided to strengthen cooperation against drug trafficking through Operation Toofan, an anti-narcotics campaign.
- The 150th birth anniversary of Maraimalai Adigal was celebrated in Tamil Nadu in July 2026, remembering his contribution to the Tamil language and literature.
- VELS Institute of Science, Technology & Advanced Studies (VISTAS) inaugurated India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-integrated vertical university campus at Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai.
- The Tamil Nadu Government has decided to celebrate the State's history on both July 18 and November 1 every year.
- The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) unearthed over 1,000 artefacts from the Noyyal riverbed at Vellalore, Coimbatore
- Tamil Nadu's merchandise exports increased to US$58.95 billion in 2025–26 and remained the third-largest exporting State in India for the third consecutive year (since 2023–24).
- In 2025–26, Tamil Nadu accounted for 41.63% of India's electronics exports, 33.38% of motor vehicles and cars, 35.59% of leather and leather products, 23.13% of textiles and allied products, and 16.66% of engineering goods.

Professor Academy

- Tamil Nadu's share in India's electronics exports increased from 32.84% (2023– 24) to 38% (2024–25) and 41.63% (2025–26).
- Tamil Nadu recorded 38 deaths while cleaning sewers and septic tanks, making it the third-highest in the country after Maharashtra (58) and Haryana (47).
- The Tamil Nadu Government has renamed the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme as the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme.
- Killai in Cuddalore district has become Tamil Nadu's first fully operational Climate-Resilient Village (CRV).
- The Panchayat Union Primary School at Kondappanaickenpatti, Salem, became the first government primary school in Tamil Nadu to receive ISO 9001:2015 certification.
- Tamil Nadu will host the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting at Mamallapuram in August 2026.
- The Tamil Nadu Government has extended the tenure of the Seventh State Finance Commission under the chairmanship of K. Allaudin by four months, from 31 August 2026 to 31 December 2026.
- Tamil Nadu has constituted a Revenue Augmentation Committee under the chairmanship of Montek Singh Ahluwalia to strengthen the State's revenue base.
- Tamil Nadu accounts for 40% of all women directly employed in Indian factories.
- The Neyyar water-sharing issue is the long-pending legal dispute between Tamil Nadu and Kerala over Neyyar River water continues before the Supreme Court.
- Tamil Nadu has formed an Expert Advisory Committee to monitor and assess the possible impact of the El Niño weather phenomenon during 2026–27 and 2027– 28.

> **Learn Basics – El Niño and La Niña:** El Niño is warming of the central and eastern Pacific, often linked to a weaker Indian monsoon. La Niña is the cooling phase and is usually favourable for the monsoon.

- As of 27 July 2026, Tamil Nadu Cauvery delta region's Kuruvai cultivation covered 3.87 lakh acres, compared with 5.05 lakh acres during the same period in 2025.
- Tamil Nadu has decided to expand the Singapengal Entrepreneurship Credit Scheme by increasing cooperative lending and widening beneficiary coverage.
- Tamil Nadu has changed the name of "Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme" as the doorstep delivery of Public Distribution System (PDS) (ration) commodities for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.
- Tamil Nadu received the 'Best State' Award for organ donation at the 16th Indian Organ Donation Day event held in New Delhi.
- Tamil Nadu Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson presented the TVK-led government's first Budget for 2026–27 in the Legislative Assembly on 5 August 2026.
- Tamil Nadu's first Mangrove Conservation Centre is being established at Muzhukuthurai near Killai in Cuddalore district under the Tamil Nadu Shoreline Restoration Initiative (TN-SHORE).
- Tamil Nadu announced India's first dedicated Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Innovation City, named 'Arivagam', in the 2026–27 State Budget.
- Tamil Nadu Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister R. Vinoth presented the Agriculture Budget for 2026–27 in the Legislative Assembly.
- Tamil Nadu introduced a Bill, proposing an Environmental and Social Welfare Cess on the sale of alcoholic liquor.
- Tamil Nadu has created an Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) with ₹264 crore to strengthen action against drug-related crimes across the State.
- V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, became India's first major port to achieve Scope-2 Emission-Free status.

Current Affairs, Aug 11–20

Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave 2026

- **MoUs signed:** Tamil Nadu signed 97 MoUs worth over ₹67,542 crore at the State's first major investment conclave.
- **Key investors:** Titan: ₹1,000 crore in Hosur (watches/jewellery/electronics); Hinduja Group: ₹2,500 crore including 200 MW renewable energy; Saint-Gobain: ₹2,000 crore in Krishnagiri and Kancheepuram.
- **Space sector:** Agnikul Cosmos (₹400 crore) and Skyroot Aerospace (₹250 crore) to invest in space facilities in Thoothukudi.
- **Implementation:** Projects expected to be implemented within six months to one year and will generate employment across the State.

Professor Academy

> **Learn Basics – MoU (Memorandum of Understanding):** A non-binding agreement outlining intent to invest; actual investment depends on project completion.
>
> **Learn Basics – Thoothukudi (Tuticorin):** A major port city in southern Tamil Nadu; the space-sector investments signal its emerging role in India's private space economy.

Tamil Thai Vazhthu – Official State Song

- **Resolution:** The Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a resolution on August 10, 2026, and the Chief Secretary M. Sai Kumar issued a GO making Tamil Thai Vazhthu the State's official song.
- **History:** Tamil Thai Vazhthu was composed by Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai in 1891; the TN government declared it the State song on December 12, 2021.
- **Union trigger:** A Union MHA letter dated July 9, 2026, prompted the State Assembly to pass the formal resolution and issue the GO.

> **Learn Basics – Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai (1855-1897):** Tamil poet and scholar who composed the song as a prayer to 'Tamil Thai' (Mother Tamil); also wrote the Tamil play 'Manonmaniam'.
>
> **Learn Basics – State song vs National Anthem:** A State song is a cultural symbol with no constitutional status, unlike the National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana) which has statutory standing.

Madras HC – 15 New Judges, Highest Women Judges in India

- **Strength:** Fifteen new judges raised Madras HC's strength to 66 of a sanctioned 75.
- **Women judges:** Madras HC now has 13 women judges — the highest number of women judges in any High Court in India.

> **Learn Basics – High Court:** Constituted under Article 214; judges appointed by the President in consultation with the CJI, Governor and HC Chief Justice (collegium system).
>
> **Learn Basics – Sanctioned strength:** The total number of judgeships authorised for a court; actual (working) strength is typically lower due to vacancies.

Tamil Nadu Delimitation Resolution

- **Demands:** Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a resolution to retain 543 Lok Sabha seats, maintain a 2.2:1 Lok Sabha-Rajya Sabha ratio and implement 33% women reservation from the 2029 general elections.
- **Constitutional basis:** The 106th Constitutional Amendment Act 2023 (Women's Reservation Act) reserves one-third of Lok Sabha and State Assembly seats for women after delimitation.
- **TN concern:** TN fears that delimitation based on population will reduce its Lok Sabha seats, penalising States that have performed well in population control.

> **Learn Basics – Delimitation:** The redrawing of constituency boundaries based on updated census data; done by the Delimitation Commission under Article 82.
>
> **Learn Basics – 106th Constitutional Amendment (2023):** Also called the Women's Reservation Act; will take effect after the next delimitation exercise using post-2026 census data.

Tamil Nadu – Digital Property Registration

- **Launch:** Tamil Nadu CM launched compulsory 'Presence-less Registration' for the first-time registration of housing plots and apartments.
- **Process:** Buyers, sellers and witnesses submit documents online; Aadhaar of all parties is verified digitally; Registrars must register within 24 hours or send for correction/rejection.
- **Anti-fraud:** Each page carries a QR code and a changing five-colour endorsement to prevent document forgery.
- **Collection:** Digital documents are available in the beneficiary's login; certified copies can be collected after 60 days.

> **Learn Basics – Registration Act, 1908:** The central law governing registration of documents; property registration is compulsory under Section 17 for transactions above ₹100 involving immovable property.
>
> **Learn Basics – Aadhaar-based eKYC:** Authentication using Aadhaar biometrics or OTP to verify identity; used here to validate buyers/sellers without physical presence.

Tamirabharani River – Legal Person Status

- **Ruling:** The Madurai Bench of the Madras HC declared the Tamirabharani (Porunai) River a deity in July 2026 (Sivanupandian v. District Collector, Tirunelveli), conferring legal personality to protect it from pollution.
- **Impact:** Within three weeks, authorities collected about 90 tonnes of clothes, 2 tonnes of ash and 3 tonnes of other waste from the river.
- **Legal basis:** The ruling draws on Earth Jurisprudence principles; it differs from the Uttarakhand HC's 2017 Ganga/Yamuna order (later stayed by SC) by recognising the river as a 'deity' rather than a 'legal entity'.

Professor Academy

Learn Basics – Rights of Nature / Earth Jurisprudence: A legal theory granting natural entities (rivers, forests) rights similar to legal persons to enable environmental protection litigation.

Learn Basics – Tamirabharani (Porunai): A river originating in the Agasthyamalai hills of the Western Ghats and flowing through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts to the Gulf of Mannar.

Exam Point – Distinguish Tamirabharani (deity approach, Madras HC) vs Ganga/Yamuna (legal entity approach, Uttarakhand HC, later stayed by SC) — both grant legal personality but through different routes.

Tamil Nadu – 365-Day Maternity Leave for Third Child

- **New rule:** Tamil Nadu announced 365 days of maternity leave for women government employees for their third child, replacing the earlier 12-week limit introduced in March 2026.
- **Reason:** The reversal is driven by Tamil Nadu's concern over a declining fertility rate and an ageing population.
- **Fundamental Rule:** The original amendment was made to Fundamental Rule 101(A) in March 2026; the new decision effectively restores the longer leave.

Learn Basics – Maternity Benefit Act, 1961: Central legislation guaranteeing maternity leave; the 2017 amendment increased paid leave from 12 to 26 weeks for the first two children for private-sector employees.

Learn Basics – Fertility Rate (TFR): The average number of children a woman is expected to have; India's TFR is around 2.0 (near replacement level); Tamil Nadu is below replacement level at ~1.7.

Tamil Nadu Health Budget 2026 – Key Schemes

- **Elderly insurance:** Tamil Nadu will launch the CM's Elderly Health Insurance Scheme covering nearly 38 lakh senior citizens aged 70+ with no income ceiling.
- **Nalam 360:** Annual free health check-ups with 14 basic tests for everyone aged 30+ at 1,257 government health facilities.
- **Newborn screening:** About 4.5 lakh babies born in government hospitals will be screened for 7 rare genetic diseases (including congenital hypothyroidism and galactosemia) through a hub-and-spoke model.
- **Public health act:** The 87-year-old Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939 will be replaced with a modern Act; unsupervised home births will become a punishable offence.
- **TN Medicity:** A world-class integrated medical hub covering clinical services, research, medical tourism and AYUSH will be established.

Learn Basics – Peri-menopausal care: Medical attention to women typically aged 40-55 in the transitional phase before menopause; first-of-its-kind policy in Tamil Nadu.

Learn Basics – Irumbu Kanmani: TN's school anaemia prevention programme; 'Irumbu' means iron in Tamil — targets iron-deficiency anaemia in school children.

August 21–31, 2026

CM's Health Insurance Expansion

- **CMCHIS Hike:** Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme cover raised from ₹5 lakh to ₹25 lakh.
- **Transgender Care:** Stanley Medical College designated as specialised centre for transgender healthcare.
- **New Hospital:** ₹300 crore 400-bed hospital to be built in Perambur for North Chennai residents.
- **Elderly Cover:** 38 lakh senior citizens aged 70+ to be covered under CM's Elderly Health Insurance linked with AB-PMJAY.

Learn Basics – CMCHIS: Tamil Nadu government health insurance scheme providing cashless treatment at empanelled hospitals.

Learn Basics – AB-PMJAY (Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana): Central government health scheme covering ₹5 lakh per family.

Exam Point – CMCHIS is a state scheme; AB-PMJAY is central — both can co-exist; the TN scheme now exceeds PMJAY's coverage.

Tamil Nadu Road Safety Mission

- **Budget:** ₹500 crore per year earmarked for Tamil Nadu Road Safety Mission.
- **Technology:** ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras to be installed at accident-prone junctions.
- **Context:** Tamil Nadu records the highest number of road accidents among all Indian states.
- **Objective:** Reduce road fatalities by 50% over the mission period through enforcement and infrastructure.

Learn Basics – ANPR Cameras: Automated cameras that read vehicle registration plates; used for enforcement, toll collection, and traffic management.

Learn Basics – Road Safety Act 2019: Central legislation that mandated stricter penalties for traffic violations in India.

Professor Academy

SDAT Talent Research Wing

- **Budget:** ₹5 crore allocated to SDAT's Talent Research Wing to identify sporting talent aged 8–18.
- **Centres:** 10 Olympic Centres of Excellence to be set up at ₹15 crore each.
- **Reward Hike:** Gold medal reward raised from ₹3 crore to ₹5 crore for Commonwealth/Asian Games.
- **Agency:** SDAT (Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu) is the implementing agency.

> **Learn Basics – SDAT:** Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu — statutory body that promotes sports infrastructure and talent in the state.
>
> **Learn Basics – Olympics Centres of Excellence:** High-performance training facilities with scientific support for elite athletes.

Crop Loan Waiver Enhanced

- **Limit Raised:** Crop loan waiver ceiling raised from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000 per farmer.
- **Total Outlay:** ₹6,220 crore to benefit 13.34 lakh farmers across Tamil Nadu.
- **Source:** Funds disbursed through cooperative banks and land development banks.
- **Context:** Part of election manifesto commitments; implemented in the 2026–27 budget cycle.

> **Learn Basics – Crop Loan Waiver:** Government scheme that writes off outstanding agricultural loans up to a specified ceiling.
>
> **Learn Basics – Cooperative Banks:** Member-owned financial institutions that provide rural credit; play a key role in farm loan delivery in TN.

Tamil Nadu Cyber Crime Centre (TN-S4C)

- **Name:** Tamil Nadu Cyber Crime Centre designated as TN-S4C — state nodal agency for cybercrime response.
- **Focus:** Special emphasis on combating 'Digital Arrest' scams targeting citizens.
- **Function:** Coordinates with central agencies, ISPs, and banks for rapid cybercrime response.
- **Public Link:** Citizens can report cybercrimes at the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (cybercrime.gov.in).

> **Learn Basics – Digital Arrest Scam:** Fraudsters impersonate police/CBI/ED officers online and threaten fake 'digital arrest' to extort money.
>
> **Learn Basics – I4C (Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre):** Central body under MHA that coordinates cybercrime response at national level.

> **Exam Point –** TN-S4C is a state body; I4C is the national equivalent — exams may test which one handles which jurisdiction.

Tamil Nadu Vision 2031

- **Renewable Target:** Vision 2031 sets a goal of 50% renewable energy in Tamil Nadu's total electricity mix by 2031.
- **EV Charging:** 20,000 EV charging stations to be installed across the state.
- **Storage:** 1,000 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to be deployed for grid stability.
- **Agency:** TANGEDCO and TEDA to jointly execute Vision 2031 energy targets.

> **Learn Basics – BESS (Battery Energy Storage System):** Large-scale batteries that store excess renewable energy and supply it during demand peaks.
>
> **Learn Basics – TANGEDCO:** Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation — state electricity utility.

> **Exam Point –** TEDA (Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency) handles renewable energy promotion; TANGEDCO handles generation and distribution — they differ in mandate.

ADB-Chennai Water Project

- **Loan:** Asian Development Bank (ADB) to lend $230 million for Chennai's water supply upgrade.
- **Infrastructure:** Includes 170+ km of new water pipes and 7 water pumping stations.
- **Goal:** Improve water supply reliability and reduce non-revenue water losses in Chennai.
- **Agency:** CMWSSB (Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board) is the implementing body.

> **Learn Basics – ADB (Asian Development Bank):** Multilateral development bank headquartered in Manila, Philippines; funds infrastructure in Asia.
>
> **Learn Basics – Non-Revenue Water:** Water that is produced but lost before reaching the consumer — due to leaks, theft, or billing errors.

Madras Day 2026

- **Anniversary:** Madras Day 2026 marks the city's 387th founding anniversary.

Professor Academy

- **Founding Year:** Madras was founded in 1639 when the British East India Company obtained land from the Nayak of Chandragiri.
- **Renaming:** City renamed from Madras to Chennai on July 17, 1996.
- **Significance:** Madras is considered the oldest major city established by the British in India.

> **Learn Basics – Fort St. George:** First British fortress in India, built at Madras in 1644 — houses the TN Legislative Assembly today.
>
> **Learn Basics – East India Company:** British trading company that gradually acquired territory across India from the 1600s.

> **Exam Point –** Founded 1639, renamed July 17 1996 — both the founding year and renaming date are commonly tested.

Annapoorani Super Six LPG Scheme

- **Benefit:** Eligible families receive 6 free LPG cylinders per year under the Annapoorani Super Six scheme.
- **Cost:** State government to spend ₹4,000 crore per year on the scheme.
- **Launch Date:** Scheme to begin on Pongal Day, January 2027.
- **Eligibility:** Households with annual income below ₹2.5 lakh are eligible.

> **Learn Basics – Annapoorani Scheme:** TN's existing free rice scheme; the Super Six LPG add-on extends welfare to cooking fuel.
>
> **Learn Basics – LPG Subsidy:** Cash or in-kind subsidy on liquefied petroleum gas to reduce fuel burden on low-income households.

Vettri Payanam Free Bus Expansion

- **Expansion:** Free bus travel for women extended to express, LSS, and deluxe buses from October 2, 2026 (Gandhi Jayanti).
- **Cost:** State expenditure ₹6,000 crore per year to fund the expanded Vettri Payanam scheme.
- **Previous Scope:** Scheme was earlier limited to ordinary Tamil Nadu State Transport buses.
- **Impact:** Benefits lakhs of women commuters, including students and working women in urban areas.

> **Learn Basics – Vettri Payanam:** Tamil Nadu's free bus travel scheme for women, launched in 2021 — 'Vettri' means victory in Tamil.
>
> **Learn Basics – LSS Buses:** Limited Stop Service buses in Tamil Nadu — run fewer stops and are faster than ordinary buses.

> **Exam Point –** Expansion launches October 2 (Gandhi Jayanti), not Independence Day or Republic Day — the date is exam-testable.

TN-ARIVU AI Curriculum

- **Launch:** TN-ARIVU AI curriculum to be introduced from 2027–28 academic year across Tamil Nadu schools.
- **Tracks:** Three progressive tracks: Foundation, Discovery, and Edge for different grade levels.
- **Budget:** 31 initiatives worth ₹44,527 crore planned under the Tamil Nadu Skill and Knowledge Development Mission.
- **Objective:** Prepare Tamil Nadu students for AI-driven economy and position state as knowledge hub.

> **Learn Basics – ARIVU:** Tamil word meaning 'knowledge/intelligence' — the curriculum name reflects the AI-education focus.
>
> **Learn Basics – AI Curriculum:** Structured learning covering machine learning basics, data literacy, and AI ethics at school level.

Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram Scheme

- **Gift:** 1 gram 22-carat gold ring gifted to mothers of newborns from September 15, 2026.
- **Beneficiaries:** 4.41 lakh newborns expected to be covered; total cost ₹755.83 crore.
- **Purpose:** Celebrates motherhood and promotes institutional deliveries in government hospitals.
- **Condition:** Only for deliveries in Tamil Nadu government hospitals.

> **Learn Basics – Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram:** 'Mother's gold ring' scheme by Tamil Nadu government — a welfare incentive for new mothers.
>
> **Learn Basics – Institutional Delivery:** Birth that takes place in a hospital/health facility rather than at home — promoted to reduce maternal mortality.

Parandur Airport Dropped; Terminal 5 Planned

- **Decision:** Tamil Nadu government dropped the proposed Parandur Greenfield Airport project.
- **Alternative:** New Terminal 5 at Chennai Airport to raise capacity from 35 million to 55 million passengers per year.

Professor Academy

- **Reason:** Environmental concerns, farmer protests, and land acquisition hurdles led to scrapping Parandur.
- **Agency:** AAI (Airports Authority of India) will execute Terminal 5 construction at Chennai.

> **Learn Basics – Greenfield Airport:** A new airport built on undeveloped land — contrasted with brownfield expansion of existing airports.
>
> **Learn Basics – Chennai Airport (MAA):** India's 4th busiest airport; officially named Meenamabakkam Airport / Chennai International Airport.

Jewish Trade Links with Ancient Tamil Nadu

- **Discovery:** A 13th-century inscription discovered at Thanthondreeswarar Temple, Anandur, Krishnagiri records Jewish-Tamil trade ties.
- **Significance:** Provides evidence of ancient Jewish merchant communities trading in South India.
- **Context:** Jewish traders (Radhanites) operated across Indian Ocean trade routes in the medieval period.
- **Location:** Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu — historically a trade junction near Karnataka border.

> **Learn Basics – Radhanites:** Jewish medieval merchants who operated trade routes connecting Europe, Middle East, and Asia from 6th–11th centuries.
>
> **Learn Basics – Tamil Medieval Trade:** Tamil merchants (Vanigas) participated in global trade networks through ports like Mamallapuram, Poompuhar, and Nagapattinam.

5th-Century Hero Stone Discovered

- **Find:** A 5th-century hero stone (nadukal) found at Malayadipatti, Tenkasi district.
- **Script:** Inscription shows Tamil-Brahmi to Vattezhuthu script transition — important for paleography.
- **Significance:** Helps date the evolution of Tamil script from Brahmi characters to rounded Vattezhuthu forms.
- **Context:** Hero stones (nadukal) commemorate warriors who died in battle — common in early medieval South India.

> **Learn Basics – Hero Stone (Nadukal/Viragal):** Stone erected to honour fallen warriors; a key source of early South Indian history.
>
> **Learn Basics – Vattezhuthu:** A rounded script used in Tamil Nadu and Kerala from ~6th century CE, predecessor to modern Tamil script forms.

Current Affairs, September 2026

- Tamil Nadu government will seek Geographical Indication (GI) tags for 10 agricultural products, with ₹30 lakh allocated for the process.
  - The products include Kancheepuram Parimilagai, Poyyur Kathiri, Chidambaram Black Gram, Karumandurai Kadukkai, Thiruvaiyaru Elai Vazhai, Eraiyur Karunai Kilangu, Cuddalore Vettiver, Manapparai Brinjal, Ooty Garlic and Javvadhu Pei Sesame.
- Tamil Nadu will digitise historical property documents dating back to 1865 and birth and death records up to 2018.
  - The Registration Department plans to scan 11.14 crore pages, including 7.06 crore old Encumbrance Certificate (EC)/Index-2 records from 1865–1974 and 5.68 crore birth and death records, without re-scanning already digitised documents.
- The Tamil Nadu government has shortlisted Cheyyur in Chengalpattu district and Manellore near Gummidipoondi in Tiruvallur district as the possible sites for Chennai's second airport.
  - The move follows the State government's decision to drop the proposed greenfield airport at Parandur and identify alternative sites.
- Tamil Nadu's first government-built dedicated skate park was inaugurated at Buttfire near Udhagamandalam (Ooty), Nilgiris, on September 11, 2026.
- Tesla opened its sixth Experience Centre in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on September 25, 2026, joining its existing centres in Mumbai, Gurugram, Delhi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

Current Affairs, September 2026

TN Assembly - Mahamaham 2028

- Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Vinoth raised a question about preparations for the Mahamaham festival 2028 during Question Hour in the Assembly.
- Question Hour is the period in which Ministers answer questions raised by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) on matters related to government administration.

Professor Academy

- Normally, Ministers cannot raise questions during the Question Hour under the Tamil Nadu Assembly procedure; Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar made an exception in this case.
- The Heritage Committee had inspected temples for kumbabishekam, and the government planned to speed up related works.
- Mahamaham is a major festival held at Kumbakonam and is scheduled to take place in 2028.

Tamil Nadu Agriculture Measures 2026

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

Tamil Nadu's New Industrial Projects

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

Tiruchy Dry Port Project

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

Chennai Rain Futures Contract

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

Professor Academy

Wetland Development Bill in Tamil Nadu

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

Tamil Nadu Start Smart Seed Fund

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

Handloom and Textile Measures in Tamil Nadu

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

Vetri Kaivinai Kalaignargal Thittam

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

Vettri Karangal Scheme

- Tamil Nadu government launched 'Vettri Karangal' to provide international skill training to construction workers for overseas employment.
- Under the scheme, 1,000 registered construction workers will receive international-level skill training at a cost of ₹15 crore.
- Another 50,000 registered workers will receive seven-day training in masonry, carpentry, electrical work, plumbing and painting, with ₹800 per day as wage-loss compensation.
- The government will also double accident insurance cover for registered gig workers to ₹10 lakh and bear interest on bank loans for 1,000 gig workers buying e-bikes.
- 50 worker facilitation centres and temporary shelters for migrant construction workers will be established in Chennai and Coimbatore metropolitan areas.

Professor Academy

Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Commission Bill

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

Tamil Nadu Fishing Regulation

- The Supreme Court directed Tamil Nadu to frame rules for fishing vessels using purse seine nets to transit from territorial waters to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- Tamil Nadu must create a specified navigation channel under the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Rules, 2020 for vessels travelling to the EEZ.
- The EEZ Rules, 2025 provide for access passes to fishing vessels permitted to operate in the EEZ, while the 2020 State Rules regulate fishing within Tamil Nadu's territorial waters.
- The Court held that the Union and Tamil Nadu have co-equal and autonomous powers to regulate fishing in their respective areas and called for co-operative federalism.
- The Court directed Tamil Nadu to ensure timely clearance of applications for EEZ access passes.

Olympic City - Chennai

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

Madras High Court - Tamil language

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

Professor Academy

Fire and Rescue Services Act Amendment

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

Megalithic Burial Site - Kadamakuttai

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

New integrated Secretariat complex in Chennai

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay announced a plan to construct a new integrated Secretariat complex in Chennai, spread over 20 lakh sq. ft., at an estimated cost of ₹1,200 crore.
- At present, the State's Legislative Assembly and Secretariat are functioning on the historic Fort St. George campus near Marina Beach.
- The complex will comprise the Legislative Assembly and offices of the Chief Minister, Ministers, and various departments, with modern facilities, to ensure efficient governance and create world-class public administration infrastructure, intended to meet the requirements of the next 100 years.
- He was making a suo motu statement in the Assembly under rule 110.
- Recalling the history of Fort St. George, Mr. Vijay said its construction was begun in 1640 by the English East India Company on land acquired for its commercial operations and was completed in 1644.
- After being elevated to the status of a Presidency in 1652, it served as the official headquarters of British rule.
- After Independence, it continued to function as the Secretariat of the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- For nearly 400 years, it has served as the administrative centre of the State and as a symbol of its governance heritage.
- Of the 107-acre Fort St. George campus, only about four acres are being used by the Secretariat and are under the control of the Tamil Nadu government.
- As the remaining area is under the control of the Union Ministry of Defence and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), it has not been possible to expand or undertake development of the campus.
- At present, the Secretariat functions from two buildings. Fort St. George, known as the main Secretariat building, was originally constructed as the Governor's residence.
- It now houses the Legislative Assembly, the offices of the Chief Minister, Ministers and the Chief Secretary, the Finance Department and other important departments.
- The complex has a built-up area of 2.07 lakh sq. ft.
- To meet the expanding administrative requirements of the State government, Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai was constructed in 1978, with a ground floor and 10 floors, covering an area of 3.75 lakh sq. ft.
- Secretaries and officials of various departments, as well as more than 6,000 employees of over 30 government departments, work in these buildings.

Professor Academy

- Further, as the remaining areas within Fort St. George are Defence and ASI land, additional buildings cannot be constructed and development works cannot be undertaken.

Tamil Nadu Birth Rate Decline

- Tamil Nadu recorded 8.02 lakh births in 2025, about 45,000 fewer than the 8.47 lakh births recorded in 2024, marking a 5.3% decline.
- Tamil Nadu's total fertility rate (TFR) fell below the replacement level of 2.1 nearly 20 years ago, and population growth is now expected to decline after the effect of population momentum.
- The declining birth rate is expected to lead to a smaller working-age population and a larger elderly population in the future.
- The State may need to focus more on quality education, childcare, social security, elderly care, nutrition and employment opportunities rather than simply trying to increase births.

Restoration of Veera Vasantharayar Mandapam

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

Sustainable debt-GSDP ratio for Tamil Nadu

- The sustainable level of the debt-gross state domestic product (GSDP) ratio for the State is 23%.
- There is a demand for the reduction of the level from the existing 27%.
- The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee headed by former civil servant N.K. Singh, in its report prepared in 2017, prescribed 20% as the prudent limit for the States in general.
- An allowance of an additional three percentage points can be provided for Tamil Nadu, considering the progress of macroeconomic factors in the last five-odd years.
- Emphasising that borrowing, per se, is not an undesirable activity, it is one of the major sources of financing development projects.
- When borrowed funds are invested in productive assets and infrastructure that generate economic growth and future income, the government will be able to service its debt with increased income.
- However, when the debt-GSDP ratio exceeds the prudent level, it becomes unsustainable, and the burden of debt servicing becomes excessive for the future,
- It is crowding out productive expenditure and pushing the government into a debt trap.
- The debt trap is a situation that is "bad for growth, development and stability.
- The debt issue is widespread in the country and not confined only to Tamil Nadu.
- Only three States – Gujarat, Odisha, and Maharashtra – have debt-GSDP ratios below the 20% mark.
- While all others have crossed the threshold, nine States – Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal – have higher ratios than that of Tamil Nadu.
- Like in most other States, the debt-GSDP ratio in Tamil Nadu shot up in the COVID-19 pandemic year (2020-21), from which it has not been able to stage a comeback.
- In 2019-20, it was 22.78%.
- The next year, it rose to 28.67%.
- It has been hovering in the range of 28% to 26% since then.
- Though appreciative of Tamil Nadu for being able to keep its fiscal deficit at 3% of the GSDP, the revenue deficit (the excess of revenue expenditure over revenue receipts) is about 1.4% of the GSDP.
- It means that nearly 50% of the borrowed money is spent on consumption and not on investment.
- To reach the sustainable level of a debt-GSDP ratio of 23% around 2050-51, the State should achieve 15% nominal economic growth annually and keep the fiscal deficit at 3%.
- If it wants to attain the level faster, it should, at least, reduce the fiscal deficit.

Professor Academy

- For example, assuming the State is able to keep the fiscal deficit at 2.5% with 14% nominal economic growth, it can reach 23% by 2033-34.
- By strongly advocating expenditure rationalisation, the government should not hesitate to drop outdated and unproductive welfare schemes.

Tamil Nadu on Planning Commission

- The Tamil Nadu government is considering abolishing the State Planning Commission (SPC), which was formed about 55 years ago.
- The government has not filled the posts of Vice-Chairperson and full-time members after the previous team resigned.
- The government is considering subject-specific expert committees instead of a permanent Planning Commission for policy advice.
- The SPC was created in the early 1970s to assess State resources and prepare plans for their effective and balanced use.
- In 2017, the government proposed replacing the SPC with the State Development Policy Council (SDPC), which was formed in 2020 and renamed SPC in 2021.
- The Commission's "only contribution" is to provide policy inputs.
- In addition to the SPC, the services of the Department of Economics and Statistics (DoES) and the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR) are utilised by the government for policy advice.
- After M. Karunanidhi of the DMK came back to power in January 1989, the practice of naming the incumbent Chief Minister as the ex-officio head was revived.

Chola-Era Inscription

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

Poompuhar Underwater Exploration

- The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) launched the third phase of underwater archaeological exploration off the coast of Poompuhar (Kaveripoompattinam) in Mayiladuthurai district.
- Poompuhar, also known as Kaveripoompattinam, was an ancient port city of the Chola period.
- The exploration is aimed at tracing underwater structures and evidence of ancient maritime activity off the Poompuhar coast.
- The site is important for studying the maritime trade links of ancient Tamil Nadu with Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia and the West.
- The third phase follows the underwater survey conducted in September 2025.

Tamil Nadu Salt Reduction Mission

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

Professor Academy

Census Caste Enumeration in Tamil Nadu

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

Justice Gokuldas Commission Report

- The Justice B. Gokuldas Commission report on the 2024 Kallakurichi hooch tragedy was tabled in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on September 8, 2026.
- The Commission held the Police, Prohibition and Excise Department, and Revenue officials responsible for lapses that allowed illicit arrack containing methanol to circulate.
- It recommended departmental action against responsible officials and creating a separate Prohibition Enforcement Wing for the Kalvarayan Hills, identified as a major source of illicit arrack.
- The report recommended education, food and shelter for children orphaned by the tragedy and government jobs after completion of their education.
- It also suggested setting up industries in Kallakurichi to provide employment and upgrading the Kariyalur police station.

11 Bills passed by T.N. Assembly

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

CAG Report on Tamil Nadu 2026

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report on Tamil Nadu's State finances for 2024–25 was tabled in the State Assembly.
- Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew by 15.98%, compared with 13.34% in 2023–24.
- The State's total debt reached ₹8.53 lakh crore, with a debt-to-GSDP ratio of 27.38%.
- Tamil Nadu contributed 9.43% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and continued to have higher per capita income than the national average.
- Revenue deficit increased from ₹45,121 crore in 2023–24 to ₹45,840 crore in 2024–25.
- The Committed expenditure on salaries, pensions and interest payments was ₹1,76,676 crore, about 53.75% of revenue expenditure.
- Interest payments used nearly 21% of revenue receipts, while subsidies formed 16% of revenue expenditure.
- State failed to meet the Fifteenth Finance Commission (15th FC) projection of achieving a revenue surplus, despite the increase in GSDP.
- The State's committed expenditure - expenses on salaries and wages, pensions, and interest payments added up to ₹1,76,676 crore – making up almost 53.75 per cent of the Revenue Expenditure and 62.47 per cent of total Revenue Receipts respectively.
- the report said that the subsidies provided by the State made up for 16 per cent of total revenue expenditure, an increase by ₹14,854 crore (39.35 per cent) over the previous year.

Professor Academy

- This surge was mainly attributable to the schemes viz., Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme and subsidy extended to TNEB on behalf of farmers using farm pump sets during the year.
- The total debt ballooned to ₹8.53 lakh crore with debt-to-GSDP ratio being 27.38 per cent, falling within the target range of 28.90 per cent fixed by 15th Finance Commission and Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act.
- The official report by Comptroller and Auditor General of India's report titled "State Finances for the year 2024-25" was tabled in the State Assembly.

Archaeological Findings in Thanjavur

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

Staff for urban local bodies

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

New HRCE Department

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

Tamil Nadu New Assembly-Secretariat Complex

- Tamil Nadu government gave in-principle approval to construct a new Assembly– Secretariat complex at Pattinapakkam (Foreshore Estate), Chennai.
- The complex will be built on 25.55 acres of land under the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Greater Chennai Corporation and Revenue Department.
- The proposed complex will cover about 20 lakh sq. ft. and is estimated to cost ₹1,200 crore.

Professor Academy

- The Public Works Department (PWD) has been directed to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) within three months.
- At present, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Secretariat function from the historic Fort St. George campus.

State Party Status to TVK

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

Conditions for Recognition as a State Party

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

Conditions for Recognition as a National Party

- A political party is recognised as a National Party if it satisfies any one of these.
- Secures 6% of valid votes in 4 or more States in Lok Sabha/Assembly elections and wins at least 4 Lok Sabha seats.
- Wins at least 2% of total Lok Sabha seats, with its MPs elected from at least 3 States.
- Is recognised as a State Party in at least 4 States.

Tamil Nadu's decade of debt

- An audit of the State Finances for a single year – 2024-25 – by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, especially on fiscal sustainability, has given a few insights.
- According to the CAG report, the total outstanding public debt of the State increased significantly, by 309%, during the decade from 2015-16 to 2024-25, rising from ₹1,94,096 crore to ₹7,94,107 crore.
- During 2024-25 alone, the outstanding public debt increased by 15.16%, with internal debt constituting the major portion of the increase.
- Total liabilities of the State government typically constitute the Internal Debt of the State (market loans, ways and means advances from the RBI, special securities issued to the National Small Savings Fund and loans from financial institutions, etc.), loans and advances from the Central government, and Public Account Liabilities.
- In fact, the internal debt increased by nearly 3.69 times over the last 10 years, while the corresponding repayment increased by about 6.70 times during the same period.
- The increase in the repayment burden was attributable to moratoriums on loans availed of in previous years, coupled with the servicing of accumulated past debt.
- Further, it was observed that the interest paid during the year 2024-25 amounted to ₹48,852 crore, which exceeded the repayment of the principal amounting to ₹38,470 crore.
- This reflects the rising level of committed expenditure arising from the State's debt obligations.
- Borrowed funds should ideally be used to fund capital creation and developmental activities.
- Using borrowed funds for meeting current consumption and repayment of interest on outstanding loans is not a healthy trend.
- In the audited year, a substantive portion of borrowed funds (public debt) was utilised towards revenue expenditure (34%) and repayment of debt (28%), leaving less fiscal space for capital creation and developmental activities.
- That a large chunk of debt (around 43%) is scheduled for repayment within a relatively short to medium term (0-7 years) indicates increasing liquidity pressure on the State.

Professor Academy

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

Sangam-period Water Management Structure

- A brick structure exposed in the Kollidam riverbed at Koogur near Lalgudi, Tiruchi district, has been identified by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) as a Sangam-period water regulation structure.
- The structure is located about 100 m from the northern bank of the Kollidam, near the ancient Kallanai.
- Its bricks measure about 39–43 cm × 20–22 cm × 6–7 cm, similar to bricks found at Arikamedu, Keeladi, Mangulam and Poompuhar.
- The structure has been linked to Kurampu, an ancient water-management structure comparable to a check dam.
- It may have helped regulate the flow of Cauvery water into the Kollidam through the Ullar.

Tamil Nadu Police Manpower

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

Southern Railway Electrification

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

BRICS Summit - Rameswaram Temple

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed BRICS leaders against the backdrop of Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, during the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.
- Ramanathaswamy Temple is one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites and is dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Professor Academy

- It is the only southern Jyotirlinga among the 12 Jyotirlinga shrines in India; the other 11 are located in northern and central parts of India.
- Rameswaram is an important pilgrimage centre for both Shaivites and Vaishnavites, and the Kasi-Rameswaram Yatra traditionally begins at Kasi and ends at Rameswaram.
- The temple's 126-foot-high, nine-tiered eastern Rajagopuram was completed between 1897 and 1904 by the family of a Devakottai zamindar.
- According to the Tamil Nadu government, the historic shrine was under the care of a monk until the 10th century A.D.; later, the Sethupathi rulers of Ramanathapuram contributed to its construction and expansion.

Birth of British Hill Stations

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

New Mental Healthcare Regulations 2026

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

Reforming Local Body Finances

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

Tamil Nadu Private Universities Amendment Bill, 2026

- Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar sought clarifications from the State government on certain provisions of the Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Bill remains under his consideration.
- The Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019 required at least 100 acres of contiguous land and a ₹50 crore permanent endowment fund to establish a private university.

Professor Academy

- The amendment proposes reducing the land requirement to 12 acres in Greater Chennai Corporation, 18 acres in other municipal corporations/municipal councils, and 25 acres in other areas, while reducing the endowment requirement to ₹25 crore.
- The 2026 Budget Session passed 13 Bills; the Governor has given assent to the other 12 Bills, while the Private Universities Bill has not yet received assent.

Tamil Nadu Fiscal Capacity

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

Meenakshi Temple - The making of Madurai's greatest landmark

- Consecrated after a gap of 17 years, the Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple, built and expanded by successive dynasties, is one of India's architectural marvels.
- It boasts 14 gopurams, including four towering raja gopurams at its eastern, western, southern and northern entrances; gold-plated vimanas above the sanctums of Sundareswarar and Meenakshi; the famed Golden Lotus Tank; and a train of magnificent mandapams.
- Built of granite, these halls are grand edifices supported by massive pillars and adorned with life-size sculptures, intricate carvings, friezes, murals and, most importantly, inscriptions.
- Equally striking is the Indra Vimanam above Sundareswarar's sanctum, held aloft by eight silver-coated elephant sculptures.
- The Cholas, the Pandyas, the Vijayanagara rulers and the Nayaks contributed to transforming the Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple into the spectacular complex.
- The Nayaks, who presided over the temple's final great phase of architectural expansion, left the most visible imprint.
- Viswanatha Nayak, the dynasty's founder, Tirumalai Nayak and Rani Mangammal renovated and extended the temple, building several mandapams and introducing the distinctive composite pillars featuring yalis and human figures.
- The inscriptions recording the Cholas' contributions, however, were lost during later Nayak-era renovations.
- There was intense hostility between the Cholas and the Pandyas for about 200 years.
- One of the most striking features of the temple are its mandapams — Ashta Shakti, Meenakshi Nayak, Mudali Pillai, Unjal, Veerappa Nayak, Veera Vasantha Raya, Kalyana, 16-pillared, 1000-pillared, Sangathar, 63-Nayanmars, Nagara and Pudhu mandapams.
- The Ashta Shakti Mandapam, located on the eastern side, serves as the main entrance to the temple.
- Apart from featuring the sculptures of dwarapalakis and eight forms of Shakti, it also houses sculptures of Tirumalai Nayak and his two wives, Rudrapathi Ammal and Dhoni Ammal, who built the mandapam.
- The mandapam was built when the Shakti cult was dominant in Tamizhagam.
- There is no temple, other than this one, which has a mandapam dedicated to Ashta Sakti.
- The pillars on the northern corridor have intricate stone carvings of Sangam-age poets, holding palm leaf manuscripts and a stylus.
- It also features sculptures of Viswanatha Nayak, and Perumal, who built the corridor.
- On the western side of the tank is the Unjal Mandapam, built in 1653 by Chettiappa Nayak.
- Its ceiling and walls are decorated with exquisite murals, created during the rule of Rani Mangammal.

Professor Academy

- The paintings are based on three themes: The wedding of Meenakshi and Sundareswarar witnessed by Rani Mangammal, her minister Ramappaiyer and grandson Vijayaranga Chokkanathar; Rani Mangammal receiving the royal sceptre from the goddess; and Parvati's dik vijayam.
- The sanctum of Goddess Meenakshi was built in the 12th century CE during the reign of Kulasekhara Pandya.
- Until then, Meenakshi did not have a separate shrine.
- During the 7th century CE, when the famous Saivite saint Thirugnanasambandar visited and sang verses (Tevaram) praising the deity, Meenakshi did not have her own shrine.
- Instead, an idol of Angayarkanni (the one with fish-like eyes) was installed in the sanctum of Alavay Annal, as Sambandar called Chokkar or Shiva.
- The temple is believed to be about 1,800 years old.
- While Sangam-age works such as Madurai Kanchi and Purananooru, as well as the post-Sangam Paripadal, refer to a Shiva temple in Madurai, none mentions the present Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple.
- The Sangam era was extant from third century BCE to third century CE.
- It is Sambandar, who, in his Madurai decads (Madurai Padhigams) describes the temple's architectural layout, its location on the southern bank of the Vaigai river, and the long compound wall (neel madhil).
- He also talks about the Pandya king Ninraseer Nedumaran, his queen Mangayarkarasi and his minister Kulachirayar worshipping at the shrine of Alavay Annal.
- Tirunavukkarasar alias Appar, another revered Saivite saint and a contemporary of Sambandar, too has sung decads about this temple.
- To appreciate its grand architecture, mention should be made about the Kambathadi Mandapam, in front of Sundareswarar's sanctum.
- It was built by Nattukkottai Chettiars or Nagarathars in 1870.
- There are 25 sculptures of Shiva on these pillars representing his anugraha, samhara and nritta aspects.
- Their iconography is distinct from Nayak-period sculptures.
- The Kambathadi sculptures are heavily ornamented and characterised by cleft chins, razor-sharp shin bones and bulging kneecaps.
- The temple had faced debilitating vicissitudes from three Delhi Sultanate invasions by Malik Kafur in 1311, Khusroo Khan in 1314 and Ulugh Khan in 1323.
- Parakrama Pandya, who built the west raja gopuram, valiantly fought the invaders but fled to Kalaiyar Kovil during the third invasion.
- The invaders ransacked and looted the Madurai, Srirangam and Chidambaram temples.
- The Meenakshi-Sundareswar temple was shut down for 48 years from 1323 to 1371.
- The Vijayanagara army commander, Kumara Kampanna, arrived in Madurai in 1378 and drove out the invaders.
- Madurai was liberated and worship revived in the temple.

Tamil Nadu Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme

- Tamil Nadu launched the Tamil Nadu Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme in Chennai to encourage households to install rooftop solar plants.
- Consumers who applied from August 5 can get a combined Central and State subsidy of ₹35,000 for 1 kilowatt (kW), ₹70,000 for 2 kW and ₹1 lakh for 3 kW.
- The scheme has a target to install rooftop solar plants in 1 lakh households by March 2027.
- The State government has allocated ₹50 crore for the additional subsidy in the current financial year.
- Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDCL) launched a portal for applications, subsidy details and authorised solar vendors.
- The scheme supports the use of solar energy in residential households across Tamil Nadu.

New GCC Investment in Chennai

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

Professor Academy

Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme

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

Poompuhar Archaeological Survey

- A torpedo jar fragment, four ancient ring wells and over 250 ceramic pieces were found during underwater archaeological exploration off the Poompuhar coast, Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu.
- The torpedo jar, believed to have come from West Asia, was found about 10 metres deep and 2 km from the coast.
- Torpedo jars were tubular vessels used to transport liquids such as wine and oil by ship.
- The four ring wells had diameters of 60–65 cm and may indicate the presence of an ancient palaeochannel.
- Poompuhar, an ancient port city also known as Kaveripoompattinam, is being studied to understand its archaeological remains and changes caused by coastal erosion.

Tamil Nadu State Organ Donation Day 2026

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

Madras HC on Mekedatu Resolution

- The Madras High Court dismissed a plea challenging the amended Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly resolution on the proposed Mekedatu dam across the Cauvery River.
- The court held that legislators who were present during the amendment and did not object at the time cannot later challenge it based on their own silence.
- The amended resolution included a request to the Centre to constitute a tribunal to resolve the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka Mekedatu dispute.
- The court noted that the amended resolution was put to vote and passed unanimously, with no objection raised by the petitioner during the proceedings.
- Article 212 of the Constitution limits judicial examination of legislative proceedings on grounds of procedural irregularity.
- Rule 286 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules gives the Speaker power to decide questions of procedure arising in the House.

Madras HC on Resigned MLAs

- The Madras High Court dismissed a plea seeking a five-year ban on legislators who resign and re-contest in the resulting bypolls.

Professor Academy

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

De-addiction Programme - PAYANAM

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

Chola-Era Inscription at Medavakkam

- A rare 13th-century Chola-era inscription was found during desilting of the Medavakkam tank, Chennai, recording the construction of a sluice in 1268 CE for irrigation.
- The sluice was built during the 20th regnal year of Telugu Chola king Sri Vijaya Kanda Gopalan.
- The inscription shows the existence of an ancient water-management system in the region.
- Monavakkam, mentioned in the inscription, is the present-day Medavakkam.
- Ancient rulers including the Pallavas, Cholas and Vijayanagara kings developed many lakes in Thondai Mandalam, present-day northern Tamil Nadu.

Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam

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

Tirupattur MLA Election Case

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

Professor Academy

Madurai Museum Renovation

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

Vetri Magalir Thozhilmunaivor Membattu Thittam

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

Professor Academy

NATIONAL

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has established a 24×7 Passenger Assistance Control Room (PACR) for aviation passengers.
- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) highlighting the need for a uniform Anti– Terrorism Squad (ATS) structure across India at the Anti-Terrorism Conference– 2025, has prepared a common ATS framework and shared it with state police forces to improve coordination.
- Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications has released the National Frequency Allocation Plan 2025 for the management and allocation of radio-frequency spectrum in India.
- India ranks 3rd globally in rare earth reserves with about 6.9 million tonnes of Rare Earth Oxide (REO).

Learn Basics – Rare earth elements: A group of 17 metals (the lanthanides plus scandium and yttrium) essential for magnets, electronics, electric vehicles and defence equipment.

- India registered over 5.5 lakh domestic trademarks in Financial Year (FY) 2024– 25, the highest ever in a single year.
- The 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) was notified in November 2025 by the Government of India.

Learn Basics – Pay Commission: A Central Pay Commission is set up roughly every ten years to review salaries, allowances and pensions of central government employees. The 7th CPC reported in 2015 (effective 2016).

- To strengthen quality control, transparency, and safety in national highway projects National Test House (NTH) signed an MoU with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- The union minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, released IS 19262:2025 – Electric Agricultural Tractors: Test Code in New Delhi.
- By overtaking China, India has reached number one in the world in terms of rice production.
- The Central Government has banned manufacture, sale and distribution of oral formulations of nimesulide, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) containing more than 100 mg.
- In November 2025, India's broadband subscriber base crossed 100 crore (1 billion) users, marking the first time the country reached this milestone and representing a more than six-fold increase since November 2015.
- The Government of India has notified new excise duty and cess on tobacco and pan masala (will be taxed at 40 per cent under the Goods and Services Tax), effective from February 1, 2026.

Learn Basics – Goods and Services Tax (GST): Indirect tax on the supply of goods and services, introduced on 1 July 2017 by the 101st Constitution Amendment Act. The GST Council (Article 279A) is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) launched a nationwide Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi) service which allows users to make voice calls and send messages using a Wi-Fi network instead of mobile towers.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched a new logo based on the theme "Data for Development" and mascot named "Sankhyiki" (meaning Statistics).

Learn Basics – MoSPI: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Its National Statistical Office (NSO) releases GDP, CPI, IIP and PLFS data.

- The Supreme Court struck down the Bihar Registration Rules (2019) that made mutation proof compulsory for property registration in Samiullah vs State of Bihar on property registration and mutation rules.
- India and Pakistan exchanged lists of their nuclear installations on January 1, 2026.
- The Union government will conduct the National Drug Use Survey (NDUS) 2025– 26 to study substance use patterns across India.
- Blue Cross of India celebrated its 60 Years of service in Animal Welfare.
- India ranked 8th globally in contributions to pharmacovigilance (drug safety monitoring) under the WHO.
- India will conduct its first nationwide Adult Skill Assessment Survey in 2026, which aims to fill the data gap on actual skill levels, which is not covered by the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

Learn Basics – PLFS: The Periodic Labour Force Survey, conducted by NSO, measures employment and unemployment in India.

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released its first reader-friendly guide titled "Know Your Survey".
- Union Home Minister inaugurated an Integrated Command and Control Centre in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to integrate surveillance, communication, and coordination among multiple security and administrative agencies.
- The IITM Global Research Foundation was launched at IIT Madras to expand its global presence in research, education, innovation, and startups.

Professor Academy

- Prasar Bharati has started steps to resume live radio programmes in the Thadou language from All India Radio (Akashvani) Imphal.
- To improve digital integration and real-time data sharing in military operations, the Indian Army has declared the year 2026 as the Year of Networking & Data Centricity.
- To create India-specific standards and support pollution control programmes, India has inaugurated the world's second National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NESL) at CSIR – National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.
- India inaugurated the world's fifth National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration at CSIR – National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.
- India has launched a new e-Production Investment Business Visa (e-B–4) for Chinese nationals, allowing them to stay in India for up to six months.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set up the Live Events Development Cell (LEDC) to promote India's concert economy.
- The Ministry of Transport has proposed a unique Aadhaar-like identification system for electric vehicle (EV) batteries.
- India's oil imports from Russia rose to a six-month high in November 2025, while imports from the US also increased.
- The Government of India has removed the import restrictions on low-ash metallurgical coke under Coke Trade Policy.
- The Indian Army created a new modern warfare force named Bhairav.
- India is set to begin trial operations of its first hydrogen-powered train on the Jind to Sonipat route in Haryana.

Learn Basics – Green hydrogen: Produced by splitting water using renewable electricity (electrolysis). India's National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023) targets 5 million tonnes a year by 2030.

- India became the first country in the world to produce bio-bitumen commercially for road construction.
- The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) marked its 125th Foundation Day in 7th January.
- The first phase of Census 2027, called House Listing Operations, will be held from 1 April to 30 September 2026 in all States and Union Territories.

Learn Basics – Census: Conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner (Ministry of Home Affairs) under the Census Act, 1948. The first synchronous census was in 1881; the last completed census was in 2011.

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched the Aadhaar mascot Udai to help users understand Aadhaar update, authentication, offline verification, and secure data sharing.

Learn Basics – UIDAI and Aadhaar: The Unique Identification Authority of India is a statutory authority under the Aadhaar Act, 2016. It issues 12-digit Aadhaar numbers and is headquartered in New Delhi.

- The union home minister has inaugurated the National IED Data Management System (NIDMS), a national digital platform for storing and analysing Improvised Explosive Device (IED) data.
- Union Minister for Women and Child Development launched the PANKHUDI portal to improve ease of living for women and children in India.
- India's data centre addition capacity more than doubled in 2025, reaching 387 megawatts (MW) of information technology (IT) capacity, compared to 191 MW of IT in 2024.
- The National Sports Governance Act partially came into effect. It will set the ball rolling for the institution of an all-powerful National Sports Board (NSB) and a Tribunal to handle sporting disputes.
- iTNT Hub signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Germany-based XeedQ GmbH at Umagine 2026 to start quantum computing programmes in Tamil Nadu.
- India has reaffirmed that the Shaksgam Valley is part of its territory and rejected the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route passing through the area.
- As a part of digitalizing India's Dairy Sector more than 35.68 crore animals have been issued Pashu Aadhaar under the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM).
- Akasa Air, India's youngest airline, founded in 2020, has become a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- India has produced 524.62 lakh tonnes of fertilisers in 2025, meeting nearly 73 percent of domestic demand.
- India's Fish production has increased to 197.75 lakh tonnes in FY 2024–25.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) launched a data-driven Zero-Fatalities Program in 100 high-risk districts across 15 states, including Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
- India's Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy has attended the 16th Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Professor Academy

- India has introduced stricter Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) rules for cryptocurrency users.
- The Indian Army launched a new digital logistics platform called Depot Integration Management Edition (DIME).
- India participated in the Second Global Summit on "Blue Food Security: Sea the Future 2026" held in Eilat, Israel.
- The Indian Army signed a ₹168 crore contract for the Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System (MAPSS), India's first solar-powered surveillance drone.
- India is set to become a full member of the Pax Silica initiative, led by the United States Department of State, as early as February 2026.
- India ended the Consumer Price Index (CPI) series with 2012 as the base year and will start a new CPI series with 2024 as the base year.

Learn Basics – Consumer Price Index (CPI): Measures changes in retail prices of a fixed basket of goods and services. It is published by MoSPI (NSO). RBI's inflation target is 4% with a tolerance band of ±2%.

- Reliance Jio will launch a people-first artificial intelligence (AI) platform built in India, for India, and the world.
- India is hosting the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in New Delhi.
- India marked the 151st Foundation Day of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on 15 January 2026.

Learn Basics – India Meteorological Department: Founded in 1875; headquartered in New Delhi; functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

- India's non-fossil fuel installed capacity rose to 266.78 Gigawatt (GW) in 2025.
- India's Solar power capacity increased to 135.81 GW, and wind power capacity reached 54.51 GW in 2025.
- India's Bioenergy stood at 11.61 GW, small hydro power at 5.16 GW, and large hydro power at 50.91 GW.
- GAIL India Limited has partnered with the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for the National PNG Drive 2.0 initiative.
- India and Germany are celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2026.
- India has become the world's second-largest 5G subscriber base after China, with over 400 million 5G users.
- The Department of Financial Services launched the Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.
- The Supreme Court of India ruled that unreserved (general) category seats are open to all candidates based on merit.
- The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY– NRLM) has launched a National Campaign on Entrepreneurship to expand non- farm livelihood opportunities for rural women.
- India's bioeconomy reached USD 166 billion in 2024, as announced during the inauguration of a Biosafety Level–4 (BSL–4) biocontainment facility in Gujarat.
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) notified new regulations in January 2026 to prevent caste-based discrimination in higher education institutions.
- India's food prices slipped into deflation (–0.2%) in 2025 for the first time since 2014, contributing to a 12–year low retail inflation of 2.2%.
- The Indian government has registered two high-yielding synthetic cattle breeds, Karan Fries and Vrindavani.
- India's First Green Ammonia Project is being developed at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh
- India's coal-fired power generation declined year-on-year in 2025 for the first time in about 50 years.
- INS Sagardhwani, India's oceanographic research vessel, was flagged off from Kochi for the Sagar Maitri–5 initiative.
- Union Minister Jitendra Singh proposed using steel slag for road construction in hilly and Himalayan regions.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) until the financial year 2030–31.

Learn Basics – Atal Pension Yojana (APY): Government-backed pension scheme for unorganised-sector workers, launched in 2015. It gives a guaranteed monthly pension of ₹1,000–₹5,000 after age 60 and is administered by PFRDA.

- The National Legislative Index (NLI) was announced by Lok Sabha Speaker at the 86th All India Presiding Officers Conference.
- The 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) was held in Lucknow under the theme of "Strong Legislature-Prosperous Nation".
- The Ministry of Power released the Draft National Electricity Policy (NEP) 2026 for public consultation.

Professor Academy

- Mumbai will host India's first city-led climate action initiative, Mumbai Climate Week 2026, from February 17 to 19.
- India has started its first open-sea marine fish farming project in the Andaman Sea.
- India emerged as a global cooperative powerhouse, with over 8.5 lakh registered cooperatives as of 2025.
- The International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026 concluded with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2026 in New Delhi.
- The Government of India launched the Atlas of Climate Adaptation in Indian Agriculture (ACASA-India) to help farmers plan for climate challenges.
- President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated Granth Kutir, a book house, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- India is planning 100 gigawatts of hydro pumped storage by 2047.
- DRDO showcased the LR-AShM hypersonic glide missile system for the first time at the 77th Republic Day parade.

Learn Basics – Hypersonic missiles: Travel at more than Mach 5 (over about 6,000 km/h) and can manoeuvre in flight, making them hard to intercept.

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity targets for 208 additional high-emitting units.
- India reduced malaria cases by nearly 80% between 2015 and 2023 and is on track to meet its 2030 elimination target.
- India is reaching 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, five years ahead of the 2030 target.
- 77th Republic Day Parade was led by Parade Commander Lieutenant-General Bhavnish Kumar, General Officer Commanding of Delhi Area.
- The Government of India has notified Coking Coal as a Critical and Strategic Mineral under the MMDR Act, 1957 (Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act).

Learn Basics – MMDR Act, 1957: The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act governs mining; the Centre notifies the lists of critical and strategic minerals.

- The Census will be done in two phases, with the House listing and Housing Census (HLO) to be held from April to September 2026 and the PE in February 2027.
- India has launched its first AI-enabled university pilot at Chaudhary Charan Singh University (CCSU), Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to support the mineral- rich states of Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.
- The Supreme Court has ruled that the right to menstrual hygiene is an integral part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Learn Basics – Article 21: Protection of life and personal liberty: no person can be deprived of life or liberty except according to procedure established by law. Courts have read in rights such as privacy, dignity and a clean environment.

- Tap water coverage in urban areas has increased by 64% since 2011 under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and AMRUT 2.0.

Learn Basics – AMRUT: Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (2015) focuses on water supply and sewerage in cities. AMRUT 2.0 (2021) aims at universal tap water supply in towns.

- India became the world's second most optimistic consumer market in January 2026.
- Indian Railways commissioned 472.3 km of Kavach Version 4.0 safety system in a single day, the largest ever in the country.

Learn Basics – Kavach: Indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, developed by RDSO with Indian industry, to prevent train collisions and signal-passing.

- Union Budget 2026–27 announced a new scheme to develop a Buddhist Circuit in the Northeast, The scheme aims to preserve and develop Buddhist temples and monasteries in the northeastern States.

Learn Basics – Union Budget: Presented under Article 112 (Annual Financial Statement). The Economic Survey, prepared by the Chief Economic Adviser, is tabled a day before.

- The 2026 Delhi Declaration was adopted during the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi.
- Union Government signed an agreement with various stakeholders to establish the Bharat Container Shipping Line (BCSL) to strengthen maritime logistics.
- India and China recorded a historic bilateral trade of USD 155.6 billion in 2025, growing by about 12% during the year, Indian exports to China increased by 9.7% in 2025.

Professor Academy

- The Union Government released the first national data on waste-pickers under the NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme.

Learn Basics – NAMASTE scheme: National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem aims to end hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and to support sanitation workers.

- The Union Ministry for Railways announced the completion of second Mountain Tunnel MT-6 in Palghar, Maharashtra, for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project.
- India's first dedicated Glass Museum is being developed in Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh, known as the "Glass City of India".
- Indian Railways has launched India's first LNG-Diesel dual-fuel DEMU (Diesel Electric Multiple Unit) train at Sabarmati in Ahmedabad.
- The book Red Lines Redrawn: Operation Sindoor and India's New Normal, authored by Major General Bipin Bakshi (Retd), Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar (Retd), Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, and Brigadier Akhelesh Bhargava (Retd), details India's Operation Sindoor.

Learn Basics – Operation Sindoor: India's military operation of May 2025 against terror infrastructure, launched after the Pahalgam terror attack of April 2025.

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, replacing the SWM Rules, 2016, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the PAIMANA (Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-building) portal.
- The Union Department of Fisheries has sanctioned a Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Rajasthan is the largest wool-producing state in India, contributing 16,013.50 thousand kg (47.53% of total production).
- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) received the "Great Place to Work" certification for February 2026–February 2027.
- India participated as a Partner Country at Gulfood 2026 in Dubai for the first time, with participation led by APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority).
- India sent the Devnimori Buddha relics to Sri Lanka for a public exposition in Colombo from February 4–10, 2026.
- India is in talks with China to explore opening an additional route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, including Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh.
- India marked 50 years of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act (BLSA), 1976, which abolished bonded labour.

Learn Basics – Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976: Implements Article 23, which prohibits trafficking and forced labour.

- The Sawalkote Hydropower Project is being fast-tracked after the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty following the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.

Learn Basics – Indus Waters Treaty (1960): Treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank. India has rights over the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej); Pakistan over the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab).

- Indian Railways has deployed an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based system to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks.
- The SATYA Portal was launched under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- India has been designated Country of the Year at BIOFACH 2026, the world's largest organic trade fair held in Nuremberg, Germany, from 10–13 February 2026.
- India has proposed reforms in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme to improve the regulation of the global diamond trade.
- A new report by Zscaler has ranked India second globally in enterprise Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning usage.
- The Indian Army will host the first-ever International Military Adventure Challenge Cup (IMACC – International Military Adventure Challenge Cup) 2026 in the Eastern Himalayas.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved India's first underwater twin-tube road-cum-rail tunnel project in Assam.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched Kaushal Rath, a mobile Artificial Intelligence (AI) awareness initiative under the "Yuva AI for All" National AI Literacy Programme in February 2026.

Professor Academy

- India became the second-largest active smartphone installed base globally in 2025, with over 740 million smartphones in use, after China.
- Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh, has been selected as the pilot district under the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector.
- The Adani Group entered the nuclear power sector after the passage of the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, 2025.
- The Indian Prime Minister inaugurated the first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) in Northeast India at Moran Bypass in Dibrugarh, Assam.
- India's first National Cow Culture Museum will be established in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Assam Rifles plans to induct indigenous Tangkhul Hui and Kombai dog breeds into its dog squad and phase out foreign breeds by 2050.

Learn Basics – Assam Rifles: India's oldest paramilitary force (1835), administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs with operational control by the Army.

- The Indian Navy has assumed the command of Combined Task Force-154 (CTF- 154) for the first time.

Learn Basics – Combined Task Forces: Operated under the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) headquartered in Bahrain; for example CTF-150 handles maritime security and CTF-151 counter-piracy.

- The Government of India has launched White Revolution 2.0 to increase milk procurement by 50 % over the next five years.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the launch of the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) with ₹1 lakh crore central assistance.
- Union Home Minister has launched India's first Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based Public Distribution System (PDS) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Learn Basics – CBDC: A digital form of a country's legal tender issued by the central bank. India's digital rupee (e₹) pilots began in late 2022.

- Tamil Nadu reports the highest incidence of consanguineous marriages among peer States at 28%, according to estimates based on the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5).
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) partnered with NVIDIA to build India's first sovereign gigawatt-scale Artificial Intelligence (AI) factory infrastructure.
- The Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament P. Wilson introduced a private member's Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to provide reservation in judicial appointments.
- The Prime Minister presented the M.A.N.A.V. framework at the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, M.A.N.A.V. stands for Moral and Ethical Systems, Accountable Governance, National Sovereignty, Accessible and Inclusive Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Valid and Legitimate Systems.
- 'Bharat GI' is launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to promote India's GI tagged products globally under the tagline "A World Exclusive."

Learn Basics – GI tag: A sign on products with a specific geographical origin and qualities, under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian GI product.

- India has operationalised its first private-sector helicopter Final Assembly Line (FAL) for the H125 at Vemagal, Karnataka.
- The Delhi Declaration was formally adopted at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 held in New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has launched Phase-1 of Bharat VISTAAR in Jaipur, Rajasthan, during the AI Summit 2026.
- The President of India inaugurated the Centenary Celebration of the Ol Chiki script in New Delhi to mark 100 years of its invention.

Learn Basics – Ol Chiki script: Created by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925 for the Santali language, which was added to the Eighth Schedule in 2003.

- Prime Minister inaugurated the world's first commercial-scale Second-Generation (2G) bioethanol plant that uses bamboo as feedstock at Golaghat in Assam.

Learn Basics – Ethanol blending: Ethanol made from sugarcane and grains is blended with petrol to cut oil imports and emissions. India's target is 20% blending (E20).

- The 80th anniversary of the 1946 Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Revolt is observed on 18 February 2026.
- India assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) at the 9th Conclave of Chiefs held in Visakhapatnam.

Learn Basics – IONS: A voluntary initiative launched in 2008 to promote maritime cooperation among Indian Ocean littoral states.

Professor Academy

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched India's first Bee Corridors initiative along National Highways.
- The Indian Navy launched its first indigenously designed and built Cadet Training Ship (CTS) 'Krishna' at the L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai.
- The Prime Minister of India inaugurated India's first Namo Bharat Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS – Regional Rapid Transit System) on the Delhi-Meerut corridor connecting Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.

Learn Basics – RRTS: Regional Rapid Transit System, implemented by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC). The first corridor connects Delhi, Ghaziabad and Meerut.

- The union Health minister launched the Secure AI for Health Initiative (SAHI) and Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI (BODH) at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 to strengthen India's health AI ecosystem.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs has released India's first anti-terror policy, named PRAHAAR.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to address the Knesset Plenum (Parliament of Israel) during his two-day visit to Israel.
- Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh will host India's first Quantum Valley under the National Quantum Mission.

Learn Basics – National Quantum Mission: Approved in 2023 with an outlay of ₹6,003 crore (2023–24 to 2030–31) to build indigenous quantum technologies.

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan has released the updated Tamil and Gujarati editions of the Constitution of India at Uprashtrapati Bhavan.
- India remained the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in January 2026, according to data released by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).
- The Indian Navy will commission INS Anjadip at Chennai Port, and it is the third ship under the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) project.
- India established its first government-supported National Biobank dedicated to Lysosomal Storage Disorders.
- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has launched "SUJVIKA", an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Biotech Product Data Portal, on 25 February 2026, marking its 40th Foundation Day.
- The Union Minister for Education launched Teacher App 2.0 in New Delhi, an AI- driven digital tool that provides teaching tools, digital content, and performance dashboards to support schoolteachers and improve classroom learning.
- India launched the Zero Prize, its first results-based environmental award for the verified pollution reduction, The prize carries a total corpus of ₹5 crore, with ₹1 crore each for reduction in air, water and land pollution.
- MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) organised Him- CONNECT during TERI's (The Energy and Resources Institute) 25th World Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi, Him-CONNECT is a platform to connect researchers from the Indian Himalayan Region with start-ups, investors and policymakers.
- South Central Railway launched the Rail Parcel App at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad.
- Maruti Suzuki India Ltd's Gujarat in-plant railway siding has been registered as the World's First Modal Shift Transportation Project under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) of Verra, the global carbon credit registry.
- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog launched India's first State Innovation Mission (SIM) in Tripura.

Learn Basics – NITI Aayog: Replaced the Planning Commission on 1 January 2015. It is chaired by the Prime Minister and acts as the government's policy think tank.

- The Government of India has made it compulsory to sell 20% ethanol-blended petrol with a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) 95 across India from April 1, 2026.
- Union Minister of Railways launched the Rail Tech Policy 2026, the Rail Tech Portal, and the e-Railway Claims Tribunal (e-RCT) in New Delhi.
- India's total installed power capacity has crossed 520 gigawatts, with more than half coming from non-fossil fuel sources.
- India has removed the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) clause from its Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) with France.
- The Government of India launched a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) based Digital Food Currency pilot in Puducherry.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II) for the years 2024–25 to 2028–29, The scheme will help develop villages near India's International Land Borders (ILBs), except the northern border, which is already covered under VVP-I.

Learn Basics – Vibrant Villages Programme: Develops infrastructure and livelihoods in border villages. Phase I covers the northern border; Phase II covers other international land borders.

Professor Academy

- The Prime Minister launched a nationwide Human Papillomavirus vaccination drive for 14-year-old girls using Gardasil-4.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced the concept of Legacy Thrust Territories to prevent the return of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) after major success against Naxalism.
- The Government of India has notified the country's first standards for cloud computing, data centre performance, and Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Indian Navy warships deployed under Operation Sankalp have been placed on standby for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations due to rising tensions in West Asia.

Learn Basics – Operation Sankalp: Indian Navy's maritime security operation launched in 2019 in the Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf region to protect Indian shipping.

- India and Canada signed a $1.9 billion uranium supply agreement for 10,000 tonnes of uranium (2027–2035) to support India's nuclear power plants.
- Om Birla, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, nominated 15 members to the Committee of Privileges in 2026.
- The book "Mahatma: A Great Communicator", written by Dhiraj Kakadia, Additional Director General of Akashvani, was released in New Delhi.
- The Government of India launched the mascots Pragati and Vikas for Census 2027 to increase public awareness and participation.
- NITI Aayog and UNICEF India signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to improve nutrition and health outcomes in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks.

Learn Basics – Aspirational Districts Programme: Launched in 2018 to improve 112 backward districts in health, education, agriculture, financial inclusion and infrastructure; later extended to Aspirational Blocks.

- India will build its first riverine lighthouses on the Brahmaputra River along National Waterway-2.
- The Government of India invoked the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in March 2026 to ensure adequate supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) during a global energy crisis.

Learn Basics – Essential Commodities Act, 1955: Allows the Centre to regulate production, supply and distribution of essential commodities and to check hoarding and black-marketing.

- Prime Minister of India inaugurated India's first Ring Metro in Delhi.
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launched LaBL 2.0 (Lighting a Billion Lives 2.0) in New Delhi to expand decentralized renewable energy in India.
- The Supreme Court of India in the Pavini Shukla vs Union of India (UoI) case suggested implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) to address gender bias in personal laws.

Learn Basics – Uniform Civil Code: Article 44, a Directive Principle of State Policy, asks the State to secure a uniform civil code for all citizens across India.

- The Union Cabinet of India has approved a partial relaxation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rules under Press Note 3 (2020) for countries sharing land borders with India.

Learn Basics – Press Note 3 (2020): Requires prior government approval for foreign direct investment from countries that share a land border with India.

- The Supreme Court of India allowed withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment for Harish Rana, a 32-year-old man in a vegetative state since 2013, marking the first court-approved implementation of passive euthanasia in India.

Learn Basics – Passive euthanasia: Withdrawal or withholding of life-sustaining treatment. The Supreme Court permitted it, with safeguards, in Common Cause v. Union of India (2018).

- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a City Gas Distribution (CGD) network project by Bharat Petroleum in the Nilgiris district and the Erode district.
- The Government of India issued the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026, to prioritise natural gas allocation amid global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supply concerns.
- The no-confidence motion brought by Opposition parties against Om Birla was dismissed by a voice vote.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched Sujal Gaon ID, a unique digital identifier for rural drinking water supply schemes.
- The Union Government introduced a Bill to amend the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act in Parliament.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) withdrew the 2025 seismic code (IS 1893) after concerns raised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) became the first mining company in India to produce 50 million tonnes of iron ore in a single FY 2025– 26.
- India's data centre capacity increased from about 375 MW in 2020 to around 1500 MW in 2025.

Professor Academy

- India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare approved lifetime validity for licences issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- India is establishing the world's first Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district
- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) dismantled a pan-India darknet drug network called "Team Kalki"
- Indian Metro Network has become the world's third largest with over 1,143 km of operational metro lines.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme with an outlay of ₹2,584.60 crore for FY 2026–27 to 2030–31.
- Indian Navy has deployed P-8I aircraft for Exercise Sea Dragon, a US-led Anti- Submarine Warfare exercise near Guam in the Western Pacific Ocean.
- India Post launched "24 Speed Post", a next-day delivery service for faster and more reliable dispatch of urgent consignments under the Department of Posts.
- The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC) launched the Krishi Sakhi Initiative to empower women farmers.
- The Government of India established the National Dental Commission, replacing the Dental Council of India, to reform dental education and regulation.
- The Government of India launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions 2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0) with a corpus of ₹20,000 crore.
- Narendra Modi became India's longest-serving head of the government in March 2026.
- The Ministry of Education launched the SATHEE App in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur.
- India achieved 1 billion tonnes of coal production for the second consecutive year.
- Indian Railways launched the SHINE app (Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment) to enhance workplace safety.
- The Supreme Court of India ruled that only Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists can claim Scheduled Caste status.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Modified UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme to improve regional air connectivity.
- Union Cabinet approved extension of Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme for 5 years.
- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd operationalised India's first Port of Refuge (PoR) at Dighi and Gopalpur ports.
- Indian Navy received the indigenous stealth frigate INS Dunagiri under Project 17A, which is the fifth ship of the Nilgiri-class frigates.
- The National Statistics Office released the publication "Energy Statistics India 2026".
- The Supreme Court ruled that a person who converts to Christianity cannot claim Scheduled Caste status in the case of Chinthada Anand vs State of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Government notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, which will come into force from April 1, 2026.
- Three frontline naval platforms, namely Dunagiri, a missile warship, Sanshodhak, a survey vessel used for coastal and ocean research, and Agray, an anti submarine vessel, delivered to the Indian Navy.
- Indian Navy received Malwan, the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), an indigenously built warship designed for anti-submarine operations in shallow and coastal waters.
- India launched INS Shachi, the first Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) in, Goa, as part of a series of eleven such vessels.
- Indian Navy received Sanshodhak, the fourth and last Survey Vessel Large, which is used for hydrographic surveys and mapping sea and coastal areas.
- The Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot was unveiled by the Vice-President and the Minister of Law and Justice during the DISHA programme.
- India emerged as the global leader in issuing Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS).
- The Income Tax Act, 2025, came into effect from 1 April 2026, replacing the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Lok Sabha passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, to reform legal provisions.
- Election Commission of India (ECI) relaxed rules for Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) to retain common symbols under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) (Amendment) Order, 2026.

Professor Academy

- The government extended the National PNG (Piped Natural Gas) Drive 2.0 till 30 June 2026 to expand gas connections across the country.
- India record defence exports of ₹38,424 crore in FY (Financial Year) 2025–26.
- Union Defence Minister commissioned the advanced stealth frigate INS Taragiri in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, which is the fourth stealth frigate under Project 17A of the Indian Navy.
- INS Aridaman, India's 3rd nuclear-powered submarine, has been inducted into the Indian Navy.
- the Union Home Ministry simplified its classification of districts affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE). It replaced the old "most affected districts" category with three specific designations: LWE affected, districts of concern, and legacy and thrust districts.
- Border Roads Organisation celebrated the 47th Raising Day of Project Chetak in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- India achieved the highest-ever wind energy capacity addition of 6.05 gigawatt (GW) in FY2025–26, taking total installed wind power capacity to over 56 gigawatts (GW).
- National Statistical Office (NSO) launched the first-ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises for 2024–25.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development organised the 8th Poshan Pakhwada from 9th to 23rd April 2026 across India to improve nutrition outcomes.
- The National Highways Authority of India launched 'Arogya Van' for medicinal tree plantations along highways.
- India successfully demonstrated a 1,000 km quantum communication network under the National Quantum Mission.
- Vantara launched the world's first global university for wildlife and veterinary sciences in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation celebrates its 25th Foundation Day on 10 April in New Delhi.
- India recorded its highest-ever solar capacity addition of 45 gigawatts (GW) in FY 2025–26.
- Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the Constitution of India in the Sindhi language in 2026.
- The Supreme Court of India ruled that the right to vote and contest elections is a statutory right, not a fundamental right.
- India recorded a 30.2% rise in patent applications, reaching 1,43,729 in FY 2025– 26.
- The Government of India notified Startup India Fund of Funds (FoF) 2.0 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore.
- The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, proposed to expand the Lok Sabha and enable early women's reservation.
- The Lok Sabha rejected the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026 with 298 votes in favour and 230 against, out of 528 members present and voting.
- The Centre extended the tenure of the Commission of Inquiry led by K. G. Balakrishnan for the third time till June 10, 2026.
- India has launched a roadmap to achieve cocoa self-sufficiency by 2040 under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023 was brought into force by the Central Government from April 16, 2026.
- Samudra Sahas Sailing Expedition is organised from Marve, Mumbai by the Regiment of Artillery to mark its 200th anniversary.
- The Government of India has approved the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool with ₹12,980 crore guarantee.
- Union Cabinet extended Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) till March 2028.
- The Government of India has proposed to continue the River Basin Management (RBM) Scheme with an outlay of ₹2,183 crore for 2026–31.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) introduced a new deportation policy to speed up the identification and removal of illegal migrants.
- India has a total food stock of about 602 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), including 222 LMT wheat and 380 LMT rice.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation launched an AI chatbot, 'Abhay', an AI tool that helps citizens check if agency notices are real or fake and avoid online scams.
- India's seafood exports reached a record ₹72,325.82 crore in FY 2025–26.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare aims to establish at least one blood centre in every district by December 2026.
- India's textile exports increased by 2.1% to ₹3.16 lakh crore in FY 2025–26.
- IIT Ropar launched India's first fully integrated agricultural intelligence system.

Professor Academy

- INS Sudarshini made its maiden visit to Las Palmas, becoming the first Indian naval ship to reach the archipelago.
- The Supreme Court of India has ruled that safe travel on National Highways is part of the Right to Life under Article 21.
- The Supreme Court of India has set minimum standards for Intensive Care Units in hospitals across India.
- Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU), Pune, launched Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion & Skill Development.
- The Government of India has formed a panel headed by C. S. Setty to assess risks from the AI platform Mythos.
- The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India has made helpline 1855 operational nationwide for Census 2027.
- The Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India launched its first heritage designer collection, "Soul Threads".
- The Indian Army has raised the 16th Bhairav Battalion at the Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre in Belagavi
- India ranked 5th globally with military spending of $92.1 billion in 2025, showing an 8.9% increase from 2024.
- NITI Aayog launched the DPI@2047 roadmap to transform India into a developed economy.
- DRDO conducted the maiden salvo launch of NASM-SR (Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range) with the Indian Navy from a helicopter off the Odisha coast in the Bay of Bengal.
- Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is set to launch the E-PRAAPTI portal for EPF account management.
- The Government of India will launch Prashast 2.0 to identify 21 types of disabilities, support early screening of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) in schools, simplify certification, and link students to Samagra Shiksha.
- India launched its first official F1 Sim Racing India Open 2026 to connect esports with motorsport, organised by Formula 1 and Mumbai Falcons Racing Limited.
- National Medical Commission (NMC) removed the cap on MBBS seats in medical colleges.
- Ministry of Coal signed Coal Mine Development and Production Agreements for four coal blocks with UCG provisions.
- China has announced the reopening of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra for Indian pilgrims through Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim
- Lok Sabha Speaker reconstituted four major Parliamentary Committees - Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee, Committee on Public Undertakings, and Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for 2026– 27.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0 guidelines.
- India deployed the Aarogya Maitri system in Jamaica to strengthen health cooperation with Caribbean nations.
- The Union Cabinet has proposed amending the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, to extend legal protection to Vande Mataram, similar to the National Anthem.
- The Union Government announced that the South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR) will be officially notified on June 1, 2026.
- The Supreme Court of India expanded the definition of 'acid attack victims' under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, to include survivors of forcible acid ingestion.
- NCRB recorded 34,878 juvenile crime cases in 2024 compared to 31,365 cases in 2023.
- India recorded 58.86 lakh cognisable crimes in 2024, showing a 6% decline compared to 2023.
- The National Crime Records Bureau released the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI) 2024 report, which recorded 1,70,746 suicides in India during 2024.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, to increase the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court of India from 34 to 38 judges, including the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- India became the world's 3rd largest country in installed renewable energy capacity.
- The Union Cabinet approved the "Mission for Cotton Productivity" with an outlay of ₹5,659 crore for 2026–27 to 2030–31.
- Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has announced to constitute a high-powered committee headed by Supreme Court Justice Aravind Kumar to prepare a blueprint for the Modernisation of courts across the country.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care) digital platform during the National Summit on Best Practices.

Professor Academy

- The Government of India recently launched the Swasth Bharat Portal to create a unified digital health platform across the country.
- India's first hydrogen-powered shuttle bus service started in the Central Vista area of New Delhi.
- The Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women was reconstituted for 2026–27 by Lok Sabha Speaker under Daggubati Purandeswari.
- The Supreme Court of India expanded 12 weeks maternity leave benefits for adoptive mothers in the case Hamsaanandini Nanduri vs Union of India.
- President Droupadi Murmu promulgated the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026, to increase the number of judges of Supreme Court from 33 to 37.
- The Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Achal, a new-generation Adamya- class Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) and the fifth vessel in a series of eight ships, at Goa Shipyard Limited.
- The Government of India notified a 1% welfare cess on construction costs under the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs has amended Citizenship Rules, 2009 and notified Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026
- Bureau of Indian Standards notified new standards for E22, E25, E27, and E30 ethanol-blended petrol fuels under IS 19850:2026.
- India started work on new Chenab River hydropower projects amid the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.
- India has assumed the chairmanship of the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) for 2026 under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- the Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) launched Yard 3039 'INS Sanghmitra' for the Indian Navy in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Medha Vishram Kulkarni was appointed as the Chairperson of the Department- related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- Sudheer Gupta was appointed as the Chairperson of the Joint Committee on the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
- Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) Raghav Chadha was appointed as the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions of the Rajya Sabha in New Delhi.
- India's birth rate declined from 21 per 1,000 population in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024, while the death rate declined from 6.7 to 6.4.
- India's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), which measures infant deaths per 1,000 live births, declined from 39 in 2014 to 24 in 2024.
- India successfully tested the indigenous Vayu Astra loitering munition developed by Nibe Limited.
- Oil India Limited discovered a new natural gas zone in the Dandewala Field of Jaisalmer district, western Rajasthan
- India unveiled its first indigenous 300-km "Suryastra" Universal Rocket Launching System in Shirdi, Maharashtra.
- The Indian Army developed two Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based platforms, Kautilya and Q-FORCE, for command intelligence and logistics management.
- India's Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) forms nearly 50% of the Current Health Expenditure (CHE) in India.
- Government Health Expenditure (GHE) increased from 1.15% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2013-14 to about 1.48% in 2022-23.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the PM-AJAY Portal and AJAY Mobile App in New Delhi to strengthen Scheduled Caste (SC) welfare scheme implementation.
- Google announced "Google AI Educator Series (GES)", a free Artificial Intelligence (AI) training programme for school and higher education teachers in India.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) formed a High-Level Committee headed by retired Supreme Court Judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar.to study demographic changes caused by illegal immigration and abnormal migration patterns in India.
- The union home minister proposed the Four-Dimensional Grid Border Security Model to strengthen India's international border protection.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for India 2022-23.
- India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined to 1.9 children per woman in 2024, falling below the replacement level of 2.1.

Professor Academy

- The Supreme Court held that the right to trauma care is an integral part of the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- India ranked second in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region in operational data centre capacity as of May 2026.
- All emergency numbers, such as 100, 101, 108, 102, 1033, 1091, etc., will be merged into 112.
- India has signed a deal with Vietnam for the supply of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile
- Indian Railways has approved India's first indigenous 10-coach Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based train on the Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana
- India's first SkyCast System was inaugurated at Indira Gandhi International Airport by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) came into force on 1 June 2026.
- The Central Government approved the Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel Project in May 2026 in Himachal Pradesh.
- Indian Railways unveiled a new 18-star logo after the South Coast Railway (SCoR) became the country's 18th railway zone on 1 June 2026.
- The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) crossed the milestone of 90 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs) on 30 May 2026.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully flight-tested the indigenous RudraM-II, an air-to-surface anti-radiation missile (ARM) developed by the DRDO.
- Centre has launched 'Samadhan Didi', an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled voice chatbot under the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).
- India became the world's second-largest solar growth market in 2025, surpassing the United States in annual solar capacity additions.
- The Government launched E85 fuel across 48 retail outlets of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
- India's 7th Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) was inaugurated at Jammu.
- The first phase of the Viksit Vibrant Village Program (VVVP) 2026 was launched to strengthen youth engagement in border villages.
- The United States NASA officially ended the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) mission after losing contact with the spacecraft.
- The union home minister launched the Land Port Management System (LPMS) to digitise operations at India's land ports.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became India's longest-serving continuously elected Prime Minister on 10 June 2026.
- The Central Government is establishing Mega Leather, Footwear, and Accessories Clusters in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu with a total investment of about ₹898 crore.
- Indian farmers are set to begin large-scale cultivation of Imidazolinone-Resistant (IMI-Resistant) Mustard Hybrids during the 2026–27 rabi season.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued standards for tea bags for the first time, banning the use of epichlorohydrin and chlorine bleaching.
- The Government has revived the long-pending Kirthai-II Hydroelectric Project, a 930 Megawatt (MW) run-of-river hydropower project on the Chenab River in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Union Govt launched the BHAVYA Portal to accelerate the development of 100 industrial parks across India.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has released a new standard, IS 20201:2026, to improve the management of Community Seed Banks and protect indigenous crop varieties in India.
- The India-France ATL (Atal Tinkering Labs) Bridge was officially launched during the Bharat Innovates 2026 summit held in Nice, France.
- The Central Government announced a ₹1.25 lakh crore Viksit Bharat-GRAMG (VB-G RAM-G) rural development initiative, which will come into effect from 1 July 2026.
- India's first drone-based mail and parcel transmission service has been launched by the Department of Posts in Himachal Pradesh between Mandi Head Post Office and Rehardhar Branch Post Office
- The Indian Navy's INAS 330 ("The Harpoons") was decommissioned after 55 years of service, retiring its Sea King Mk 42B helicopters to be replaced by MH-60R Seahawks.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad will set up India's first Centre of Design Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (CODENE).
- India has set a target of 155 Gigawatt (GW) of installed wind energy capacity by 2035, with an interim target of 100 GW by 2030.

Professor Academy

- India's annual defence production reached a record ₹1.78 lakh crore in Financial Year 2025-26, the highest ever achieved by the country.
- June 18, 2026, marked the 75th anniversary of the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951.
- The Indian Coast Guard inducted its first indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV) hovercraft, designated H-561.
- The Supreme Court of India in Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz v. P. Ayyappan & Ors. held that the right to walk on safe and demarcated footpaths is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- The Union Home Minister launched the Abhigyan App to strengthen the use of crime-related data by law enforcement agencies.
- The Prime Minister of India launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCEM) in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh, to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047.
- The Indian Navy commissioned three indigenously built warships- INS Dunagiri, INS Agray and INS Sanshodhak in Kolkata.
- The Supreme Court in SaveLIFE Foundation & Anr. vs Union of India held that the right to trauma care is an integral part of the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been assigned to build a new Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) 2026 introduced the world's first dedicated standards for blood and blood components.
- India has set a target to achieve 100 GW pumped storage hydropower capacity by 2035-36 to strengthen energy storage and grid stability.
- The Madras High Court has ruled that a person who converts to Islam cannot claim Backwards Class (Muslim) status and declared the Tamil Nadu Government's 2024 Government Order (G.O.) unconstitutional.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched Nirbhay Chetna, the world's largest women's safety and gender sensitisation initiative.
- India's first Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue was launched at the 5th Indian Space Congress (ISC) held in New Delhi.
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has designated Haldia Seaport, West Bengal, as an Immigration Post.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) launched four new digital applications - Abhigyan, CrPI, e-Prosecution 2.0, and e-Forensics 2.0 to speed up investigation, prosecution, and forensic processes in the criminal justice system.
- According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), India continues to have the world's second-largest road network.
- India successfully tested 'Garudastra', India's heaviest indigenous 120-mm vehicle-mounted mortar system.
- The Union Government approved DISHA 2.0 (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) to improve access to legal aid through digital and AI- based systems.
- The Indian Army plans to operationalise its first Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) from 1 July 2026 under the XVII Corps (Mountain Strike Corps) at Panagarh, West Bengal.
- Akashvani launched Swar Prerna Veethika, a permanent photo gallery, to mark its 90th anniversary and the upcoming 100 years of radio broadcasting in India (2027).
- ICGS Akshay, a new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard (Bharatiya Tatrakshak) at Goa.
- India won five medals (3 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze) at the Global Skills Challenge 2026, held in Australia.
- Government of India established the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in 2026.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the Modified UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme for 2026–27 to 2035–36 with an outlay of ₹28,840 crore.
- The Ministry of Rural Development has launched LokOS (People Operating System), a digital platform for the end-to-end digitisation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs).
- India and Japan will celebrate 2027 as the 'India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons'.
- Prime Minister of India inaugurated India's first greenfield integrated refinery- cum-petrochemical complex at Pachpadra, Balotra district, Rajasthan.
- The National Commission for Women (NCW) has expanded its 24×7 Women Helpline – 14490 to provide support for women in distress.
- The Indian Navy will commission INS Mahendragiri (F38), the sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate, at Visakhapatnam.

Professor Academy

- IIM Bangalore will establish its first overseas campus at the Singhasari Special Economic Zone, Indonesia.
- Over 104 crore health records have been linked to more than 93 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) accounts.
- India's Female enrolment increased by 42% in a decade, rising from 1.57 crore (2014-15) to 2.24 crore (2023-24).
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified Navi Mumbai Airport, Maharashtra, as an authorised port for importing drugs.
- The Ministry of Education released the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) 2025–26 to assess the performance of school education across districts.
- India officially launched its campaign for election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028-29 term.

> **Learn Basics – UN Security Council:** Five permanent members (US, UK, France, Russia, China) with veto power, plus ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.

- The India-United Kingdom (UK) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) came into effect to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties.
- India led the adoption of seven Codex standards during the 49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49) held in Geneva.
- India launched the "Seafarer-First" emergency maritime safety plan after attacks on merchant vessels MT Al Bahiyah and MT Mombasa in the Strait of Hormuz.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 for Atmanirbhar Bharat (NIPU-2026).
- The Central Government has notified a ban on Paraquat Dichloride, a herbicide linked to poisoning-related deaths, under the Insecticides Act, 1968.
- India's first immersive language museum "Shabdalok (Museum of Word)" inaugurated at the National Library campus, Kolkata.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 to increase the Supreme Court of India's judge strength from 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India).
- The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) launched the E-Commerce Council of India (ECCI) in Bengaluru.
- India's first hydrogen-powered train flagged off between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana.
- India's first Space Exploration Gallery was inaugurated at the Regional Science Centre, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- India became the 123rd member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to accept the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies by submitting its Instrument of Acceptance to the WTO.
- The Government of India released a factsheet titled "White Gold: India's Cotton Story".
- Indian Air Force Ranked World's 3rd Strongest Air Force in WDMMA (World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft) 2026.
- DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of the 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Malvan, the second Mahe-class Anti- Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), to strengthen maritime security.
- India plans to develop and operationalise at least five indigenously designed Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033.
- India's Installed Wind Power Capacity reaches 57,443 MW as on June 30, 2026 and wind energy generation touched 106 billion units in FY 2025–26.
- A high-powered task force headed by technology expert Nandan Nilekani formed to suggest reforms in the examination system.
- India emerges as 2nd topper in Railway Electrification with 99.6% Broad Gauge Network Electrified after Switzerland.
- The Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- India approved the manufacture and use of anhydrous ammonia as a fertiliser for three years.
- India has reduced its undernourished population by 42% over the last two decades, outpacing global trends in its battle against hunger.
- The Madras High Court ruled that Hindu daughters who died before September 9, 2005 are not entitled to equal coparcenary rights in ancestral property.

Professor Academy

- The number of individuals reporting ₹100 crore or more income increased to 576 in AY 2025–26, compared to 142 in AY 2021–22.
- India contributes around 12.16% of the global seafaring workforce with about 3.11 lakh maritime professionals, ranking after the Philippines.
- The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) completed 150 years of its establishment on July 29, 2026.
- India and Nepal jointly inaugurated the restored Shree Gusthal Mahavihar and Agam of Prathamshree Mahavihar in Lalitpur, Nepal.
- The Supreme Court quashes the Centre's 2021 Office Memorandum on ex post facto environmental clearance.
- The Ministry of Finance has introduced a strict "One Officer, One Official Car" policy.
- India-China border trade through Nathu La Pass, Sikkim, resumed on 1 August 2026 after a six-year suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic and border tensions.
- The Indian Navy launched the fifth Diving Support Craft (DSC A24) at Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL), Kolkata.
- The Lok Sabha passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 to increase the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from 34 to 38.
- India's distributed solar capacity increased to 31.5 Gigawatt (GW) in Financial Year (FY) 2026, rising over 17 times from 1.8 GW in FY 2018.
- India's First Telecom Manufacturing Zone will be established in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- India has achieved near-universal banking coverage, with 99.92% of inhabited villages having a banking outlet within a 5-kilometre radius.
- The 'One Nation, One Fertilizer' initiative has improved fertilizer availability and distribution across India during the Kharif 2026 season.
- India's 1st Dedicated Department of Military Medicine was inaugurated at Command Hospital, Central Command, Lucknow
- Indian Navy launched Machilipatnam Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercraft (ASW SWC)
- The Indian Army introduced Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel; an indigenous fuel designed to operate in extreme cold conditions up to –42°C.
- Prakriti Gyan Dham, the first eco-educational centre of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), was inaugurated in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- Yard 3037 Shruti, an indigenously designed and built Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) of the Shachi class, was launched for the Indian Navy at Kolkata.
- India's first private, branded train, the Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express, will run as the 'Sprite' Tejas Express from August 19 to November 11, 2026.
- Prime Minister of India released former President Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography, "Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles," at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, covering his life journey, struggles and public service.
- The Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) have renewed the 'One Herb, One Standard' initiative for another three years.

[Aug 11–20] One Herb, One Standard Initiative – Extension

- **Renewal:** The Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) renewed the 'One Herb, One Standard' initiative for another three years through a fresh MoU between PCIM&H and IPC.
- **Phase I achievement:** In the first phase (2022 MoU), the two institutions developed 50 monographs on medicinal plants used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Unani and Homoeopathy.
- **Goal:** The initiative aims to align Indian standards with international quality requirements and improve global acceptance of traditional medicines.
- **Bodies:** PCIM&H (Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy) and IPC (Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission) are the two bodies partnering under MoHFW.

> **Learn Basics – Pharmacopoeia:** An official publication containing standards for pharmaceutical substances; IPC publishes the Indian Pharmacopoeia.
>
> **Learn Basics – Sowa-Rigpa:** Traditional medicine system of Ladakh and Himalayan regions, officially recognised as one of India's national systems of medicine in 2020.

- India has officially crossed 300 GW of installed non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation capacity, reaching 300.50 GW as of 2026.

Professor Academy

[Aug 11–20] India's 300 GW Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity

- **Milestone:** India crossed 300 GW of installed non-fossil fuel electricity generation capacity (300.50 GW as of 2026), accounting for over 54% of total capacity (~552 GW).
- **Solar dominance:** Solar power leads at 164.59 GW (up from 2.8 GW in 2014); followed by wind (58.14 GW), hydro (57.24 GW), bio-power (11.75 GW) and nuclear (8.78 GW).
- **Target trajectory:** India's stated goal is 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 under its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement.
- **Significance:** Fossil-fuel-based power has now fallen below the 50% mark for the first time, a key energy-transition benchmark.

Energy Source	Installed Capacity (GW)
Solar	164.59
Wind	58.14
Hydro (Large & Small)	57.24
Bio-power	11.75
Nuclear	8.78
Total Non-Fossil	300.50

Learn Basics – Non-fossil fuel: Electricity generated from solar, wind, hydro, nuclear and bio-power; excludes coal, gas and oil.

Learn Basics – NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution): Each country's self-set climate pledge under the Paris Agreement (2015); India targets 50% cumulative non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030.

Exam Point – The 300 GW milestone (not 300 GW target) and the 54% share figure are high-yield; note that nuclear is counted as non-fossil even though it is not renewable.

August 11–20, 2026

New Ganga Floodplain Rules 2026

- **Policy:** The Union government issued the New Ganga Floodplain Rules 2026, removing the earlier blanket 'construction-free zone' along Ganga banks.
- **Zones created:** The rules define three zones: active floodplain (highest flood risk), regulatory zone (1-in-5 to 1-in-25-year floods) and warning zone (1-in-25 to 1-in-100-year floods).
- **Purpose:** Ganga banks and floodplains must be maintained to reduce pollution and preserve natural groundwater recharge.
- **Significance:** The shift from blanket prohibition to zone-based regulation aims to balance development needs with ecological protection of the river corridor.

Learn Basics – Floodplain: The flat land beside a river that is naturally inundated during floods; critical for groundwater recharge, biodiversity and flood buffering.

Learn Basics – Ganga Action Plan: Launched in 1985 to reduce pollution in the Ganga; the Namami Gange Mission (2015) is the current comprehensive programme.

Exam Point – The three new zone names (active / regulatory / warning) and their flood-frequency thresholds are likely to be tested; do not confuse with general zoning under coastal regulation.

SC/ST Creamy Layer Debate

- **Context:** A batch of petitions in the Supreme Court of India seeks a creamy-layer exclusion within SC and ST reservation categories, as applied to OBCs.
- **Government stand:** The Union Ministry of Social Justice said creamy-layer principles 'do not apply to SCs and STs' and that modifying the policy requires a holistic empirical review.
- **Key judgment:** The 2024 seven-judge bench in State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh permitted sub-categorisation of SC/ST quotas and noted the government 'must' identify a creamy layer, though by criteria different from OBCs.
- **Parliamentary power:** Only Parliament can add or remove communities from SC/ST lists; the Executive may sub-categorise within existing lists.
- **M. Nagaraj case:** Earlier SC ruling had 'generally' referred to creamy-layer concept, but the Centre argues it was an observation limited to OBC context.

Professor Academy

Learn Basics – Creamy layer: An income/status threshold above which OBC individuals lose reservation benefits; currently does not apply to SCs/STs.

Learn Basics – Sub-categorisation: Dividing a reserved category into sub-groups to ensure the most backward among them get priority; upheld by Davinder Singh (2024).

Exam Point – Article 341 (SCs) and Article 342 (STs) give Parliament exclusive power to modify the lists; confusing Executive sub-categorisation with Parliamentary listing power is a common exam trap.

Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill 2026

- **Passage:** Parliament passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 — Lok Sabha on August 12 and Rajya Sabha on August 13, 2026.
- **Key provision:** The Bill restricts States' powers to levy taxes on mineral rights and mineral-rich lands; the Centre will regulate major minerals (coal, limestone, iron ore, copper, manganese) while States retain power over 49 minor minerals.
- **Revenue share:** States' share of overall mineral revenue rose from 65% (2014-15) to 85%; Centre receives about 11%.
- **Objective:** The government aims to ensure uniform mineral rates across India and maintain central control over key minerals critical for industrial use.

Learn Basics – MMDR Act, 1957: The parent law governing mineral development and regulation in India; amended several times to attract investment and curb illegal mining.

Learn Basics – Minor minerals: Sand, gravel, clay and similar materials; States have regulatory authority over these under the Constitution's Seventh Schedule.

Exam Point – The distinction between major minerals (Central List) and minor minerals (State List) and the new restriction on States' taxing powers are likely test points.

India's Nuclear Energy Roadmap

- **Target:** India aims to achieve 100 GWe nuclear capacity by 2047 under the Nuclear Energy Mission.
- **SMRs:** The government plans at least five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033, backed by ₹20,000 crore; BARC is developing the 220 MWe 'Bharat SMR' and 55 MWe SMR-55.
- **Legal framework:** The SHANTI Act (Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Act) enables private participation and up to 49% FDI in the nuclear sector.
- **Technology transfer:** BARC is transferring SMR technology to Indian industries for domestic manufacturing.

Learn Basics – SMR (Small Modular Reactor): Reactors generating up to 300 MWe; modular construction makes them faster and cheaper to build than large conventional reactors.

Learn Basics – Atomic Energy Act, 1962: The foundational law governing nuclear energy in India; the SHANTI Act supplements it by opening the sector to private investment.

Exam Point – SHANTI Act – note the acronym and its 49% FDI cap; do not confuse with SHANTI Rules (draft August 14) which cover liability/insurance for nuclear operators.

FCRA Amendment Bill 2026 – JPC Referral

- **Referral:** The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) by Lok Sabha on August 12, 2026.
- **JPC composition:** A JPC includes members from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha; it can call witnesses and suggest changes, but its recommendations are not binding on the government.
- **Historical trend:** About 60% of Bills were referred to committees in the 14th Lok Sabha (2004-09), declining to about 16% in the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-24).
- **FCRA background:** The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, regulates receipt of foreign funds by NGOs, associations and individuals in India; an amendment in 2020 tightened several conditions.

Learn Basics – JPC vs Select Committee: A JPC draws members from both Houses; a Select Committee is formed from members of only one House.

Learn Basics – FCRA 2010: Governs receipt of foreign contributions; administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs; violations can result in cancellation of registration.

India's Lead in Coal Mine Proposals

- **Global pipeline:** Global coal mine proposals rose 11% to 2,521 Mtpa in 2025, according to the Global Coal Mine Tracker (GCMT) by Global Energy Monitor (GEM).
- **India's surge:** India nearly doubled its proposed coal capacity from 329 Mtpa to 638 Mtpa; China remains largest at 1,321 Mtpa.

Professor Academy

- **Top five:** China, India, Australia, Russia and South Africa together account for about 92% of proposed global coal mining capacity.
- **Composition:** India's pipeline is dominated by thermal coal (≈603 Mtpa, 94% of domestic pipeline); only 113 Mtpa of new capacity became operational globally in 2025.

> **Learn Basics – Mtpa (Million tonnes per annum):** A standard measure of coal mining production or proposal capacity.
>
> **Learn Basics – Thermal coal vs coking coal:** Thermal coal is burned in power plants; coking coal is used in steel-making. India's pipeline is 94% thermal.

National Security Guidelines for Renewable Energy Projects

- **Ban zone:** MHA issued guidelines banning solar, wind and hybrid projects within 1 km of the international border (LoC, LAC, IB).
- **Clearance zones:** Security clearance is required for projects up to 50 km from borders; projects within 20 km of LoC/LAC/IB also need an NOC from the Ministry of Defence.
- **Foreign staff:** Applicants must not engage engineers or workers from Pakistan, Bangladesh or China without prior MHA permission.
- **Single window:** All renewable energy project applications must be submitted through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

> **Learn Basics – LAC (Line of Actual Control):** The de facto boundary between India and China; not a formally agreed or demarcated boundary.
>
> **Learn Basics – LoC (Line of Control):** The effective boundary between India and Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir, established after the 1972 Simla Agreement.

Tribunals Reforms Bill 2026

- **Passage:** The Lok Sabha passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026, aimed at improving efficiency, independence and uniformity across India's tribunals.
- **NTC:** The Bill establishes a National Tribunals Commission (NTC) — chaired by a former SC Judge or HC Chief Justice, with two judicial and two technical members — to oversee selection, performance review and complaint inquiry.
- **Appointment timeline:** The Central government must make appointments within three months of NTC recommendations, addressing chronic vacancies.
- **Term of service:** Chairpersons: 5 years or age 70 (whichever earlier); Members: 5 years or age 67.
- **Data grid:** A National Tribunals Data Grid will provide a centralised digital repository for all case-related information across tribunals such as ITAT and NGT.

> **Learn Basics – Tribunal:** A quasi-judicial body established under statute to decide specific categories of disputes (tax, environment, company law, etc.); faster and more specialised than courts.
>
> **Learn Basics – L. Chandra Kumar v. Union of India (1997):** SC held tribunals can supplement but not replace HC/SC judicial review; power of judicial review under Arts. 226/227/32 is part of the Basic Structure.

> **Exam Point –** The NTC's composition (former SC Judge chairs; 2 judicial + 2 technical members) and the 3-month appointment deadline are exam-ready facts.

Professor Academy

Eleven New International E-Visa Ports

- **Notification:** The Union MHA notified 11 more international ports for e-visa holders — 9 land ports and 2 airports (Bhopal and Tirupati).
- **New land ports:** Darranga, Gede, Ghojadanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh and Attari (Road) are the newly notified land ports.
- **Total ports:** Total international ports for e-visa holders now stands at 88.
- **E-visa coverage:** E-visa facility is available to nationals of 172 countries, introduced in 2014 initially for 43 countries; India processes about 95% of e-visa applications within 72 hours.

> **Learn Basics – E-Visa (Electronic Travel Authorisation):** A digital visa issued online without an applicant visiting an Indian Mission; currently available in 17 sub-categories.
>
> **Learn Basics – Pakistan exclusion:** Citizens of Pakistan or of Pakistani origin cannot use e-visa; they must apply at an Indian Mission for a regular visa.

Sapta Dhara Framework

- **Announcement:** PM Narendra Modi introduced the Sapta Dhara (Shakti Ki Saptadhara) framework on 15 August 2026 during his Independence Day address, targeting Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- **Seven areas:** Manufacturing; agriculture and food processing; technology and innovation; Gati Shakti; defence self-reliance; green and blue economy; India's soft power.

- **AI skilling:** Under technology and innovation, the government plans to train 1 crore youth in AI over the next year.
- **Nuclear target:** India aims for 100 GW nuclear energy capacity by 2047, with 5 new reactors to become operational in the next 6-7 years.

> **Learn Basics – Viksit Bharat:** India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 (centenary of Independence); encompasses economic, social and governance dimensions.
>
> **Learn Basics – Gati Shakti:** National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity, integrating 16 ministries' infrastructure planning on a single digital platform.

Modern Civil Defence Volunteer Force

- **Announcement:** PM announced a 'massive, modern' Civil Defence volunteer force on 15 August 2026 at the Red Fort to strengthen civilian protection during security challenges and emergencies.
- **Legal basis:** India's Civil Defence system is governed by the Civil Defence Act and Rules, 1968; volunteers support warning, evacuation, rescue, first aid and critical infrastructure protection.
- **Related force:** Home Guards are a related auxiliary force under State control, assisting police, civil administration and disaster-response teams.

> **Learn Basics – Civil Defence Act, 1968:** The law governing India's civil protection volunteer system; differs from the National Disaster Management Act, 2005, which governs the NDRF.
>
> **Learn Basics – NDRF (National Disaster Response Force):** The specialised force under NDMA for disaster response; the new Civil Defence volunteer corps complements but is separate from it.

Census 2027 – 40 Questions Notified

- **New questions:** The Centre notified 40 questions for Census 2027 Phase 2, including 13 new ones compared to the 29 in Census 2011.
- **Historic first:** For the first time in independent India, caste will be recorded for all communities (not just SCs/STs); details on digital literacy, Aadhaar, voter ID and bank accounts are also new.
- **Timeline:** Population enumeration begins August/September 2026 in snow-bound areas and in February 2027 across most of India.
- **COVID addition:** New questions include place of COVID-19 vaccination, parents' particulars, spouse's name and nationality.

> **Learn Basics – Census of India:** Conducted every 10 years under the Census Act, 1948; administered by the Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI).
>
> **Learn Basics – Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011:** A separate earlier exercise that collected caste data; Census 2027 will be the first official census to include caste universally.

Cancer as Notifiable Disease

- **SC direction:** The Supreme Court directed 19 States/UTs to declare cancer a notifiable disease after finding that 17 of 36 States/UTs had already notified it.
- **Implication:** Notifiable status requires reporting of cancer cases to health authorities, improving data collection and enabling early detection measures.
- **Court query:** The SC asked the Central Government why mandatory guidelines had not been issued for all States and UTs on cancer notification.
- **Existing list:** Notifiable diseases commonly include TB, Dengue, Malaria, Cholera, Hepatitis, Measles, Leptospirosis and Polio.

> **Learn Basics – Notifiable disease:** A disease whose occurrence must be reported to public health authorities; enables epidemiological surveillance and timely response.
>
> **Learn Basics – Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897:** The central law under which States notify diseases; many States have their own public health acts specifying notifiable conditions.

Expansion of India's Farm Economy

- **GVA growth:** Agriculture and allied sector GVA rose from ₹20.94 lakh crore (2014-15) to ₹52.08 lakh crore (2025-26).
- **Foodgrain:** Foodgrain production rose from 265.05 million tonnes (2013-14) to 376.56 million tonnes (2025-26) per Third Advance Estimates.
- **Global ranks:** India leads in milk production (~25% of global output); ranks 2nd in egg production and 4th in meat production globally.
- **Workforce:** Agriculture provides livelihoods to about 46.1% of India's workforce.

Professor Academy

Learn Basics – GVA (Gross Value Added): Measures economic output by deducting intermediate consumption from gross output; used for sector-level economic analysis.

Learn Basics – PM-KISAN: A direct income support scheme of ₹6,000 per year (in three instalments) to all landholding farmer families.

Jal Jeevan Mission – 7-Year Milestone

- **Coverage:** JJM coverage rose from 16.72% in 2019 to 82.24% in 2026; 15.91 crore rural households now have tap-water connections.
- **Har Ghar Jal:** 2.04 lakh villages and 1.01 lakh Gram Panchayats have been certified as 'Har Ghar Jal'; 9.34 lakh schools and 9.73 lakh Anganwadis also connected.
- **Extension:** The Union Government extended JJM until December 2028; JJM 2.0 will focus on service delivery, water-source sustainability and community participation.
- **Launch:** Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on 15 August 2019 to provide safe drinking water to every rural household.

Learn Basics – Jal Jeevan Mission: Administered by the Ministry of Jal Shakti; aims at Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) for every rural household.

Learn Basics – Har Ghar Jal: A certification given to villages/GPs where 100% of households have functional tap-water connections meeting service-level benchmarks.

August 21–31, 2026

Buffalo Meat Exports Reach $5.1 Billion

- **Export Value:** India's buffalo meat exports touched $5.1 billion in 2025–26, a 25.6% rise year-on-year.
- **Abattoirs:** 83 APEDA-approved export abattoirs are operational across India.
- **Top Destinations:** Vietnam, Malaysia, and other South-East Asian countries are the primary buyers.
- **Regulatory Body:** APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) oversees quality certification.

Learn Basics – APEDA: A statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce that promotes export of agro-products including buffalo meat.

Learn Basics – : Buffalo meat (carabeef) is distinct from beef; India is the world's largest buffalo meat exporter.

Exam Point – APEDA is under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, not Ministry of Agriculture — a common confusion in exams.

Supreme Court Ruling on Election Money

- **Threshold:** The Supreme Court upheld a ₹10 lakh 'Shadow Statutory Threshold' (SST) for election expenditure monitoring.
- **Petitioner:** Case filed by Prathik Parasrampuria challenging opaque political funding norms.
- **Reporting Window:** Cash transactions above the threshold must be reported within 24 hours to the Election Commission.
- **Significance:** Ruling strengthens transparency in electoral finance without amending the RP Act.

Learn Basics – Representation of the People Act, 1951: Governs conduct of elections in India, including expenditure limits.

Learn Basics – Election Commission of India: Constitutional body under Article 324 that oversees free and fair elections.

Exam Point – The SST is a judicial construct, not a statutory provision — exams may test whether it is under RP Act or a court ruling.

PNG Connection Incentive Scheme Launched

- **Connections:** 1.74 crore new PNG connections targeted under the scheme from September 1, 2026.
- **Gas Type:** APM (Administered Price Mechanism) gas will be supplied at subsidised rates.
- **Launch Date:** Scheme starts September 1, 2026, administered by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- **Objective:** Extend piped natural gas to low-income urban and peri-urban households.

Learn Basics – PNG (Piped Natural Gas): Natural gas supplied directly to homes via pipelines; cleaner alternative to LPG cylinders.

Learn Basics – APM Gas: Gas priced by the government below market rate to keep domestic fuel affordable.

Exam Point – APM pricing is different from market-linked pricing used for commercial gas — a distinction often tested.

Professor Academy

SC Upholds Hanging as Capital Punishment

- **Ruling:** The Supreme Court reaffirmed hanging as a constitutionally valid method of execution.
- **Legal Basis:** BNSS Section 393(5) prescribes hanging; court held it does not violate Article 21.
- **Precedent:** The court referred to the Deena v. Union of India (1983) judgment which had earlier upheld hanging.
- **Context:** Petition challenged hanging as cruel and inhuman punishment; challenge was dismissed.

> **Learn Basics – Article 21:** Guarantees Right to Life and Personal Liberty; it does not prohibit the death penalty but mandates due process.
>
> **Learn Basics – BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita):** Replaced CrPC in 2023; Section 393(5) covers execution method.

> **Exam Point –** Deena v. UOI (1983) is the landmark case on hanging — exams may test the year or the provision it dealt with.

6th Positive Indigenisation List Released

- **Items Listed:** 405 defence items added to the 6th Positive Indigenisation List (PIL), banning their import.
- **Value:** Estimated domestic procurement value: ₹3,070 crore.
- **Portal:** Procurement channelled through the SRIJAN (Swayatt Raksha Udyog Jan Andolan) portal.
- **Objective:** Reduce defence import dependency and promote Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.

PIL Number	Cumulative Items
1st PIL	101 items
2nd PIL	108 items
3rd–5th PIL	Combined 300+ items
6th PIL (2026)	405 items (latest batch)

> **Learn Basics – Positive Indigenisation List:** Defence items which can only be procured from Indian manufacturers after a specified date.
>
> **Learn Basics – SRIJAN Portal:** Online platform for Indian defence MSMEs to express interest in manufacturing import-substitution items.

> **Exam Point –** PIL is an MoD initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat — not to be confused with Public Interest Litigation (PIL in courts).

10 Years of UPI

- **Launch:** UPI was launched in 2016 by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India).
- **Transactions:** 24,162 crore transactions processed cumulatively by 2026, making it the world's largest real-time payment system per IMF.
- **Global Reach:** UPI is operational in 11 countries including UAE, Singapore, France, and Bhutan.
- **Recognition:** IMF called UPI the world's largest real-time payment system.

> **Learn Basics – UPI (Unified Payments Interface):** Real-time payment system developed by NPCI that links bank accounts via mobile.
>
> **Learn Basics – NPCI:** Non-profit umbrella organisation for retail payments in India, set up by RBI and banks.

> **Exam Point –** UPI launched in 2016, not 2015 or 2017 — the launch year is a frequent MCQ target.

India Solar PV Manufacturing Hits 100 GW

- **Capacity:** India's solar PV manufacturing capacity reached 100 GW, with cell capacity at 25 GW and wafer capacity at 2 GW.
- **Export Dependency:** 97% of solar module exports go to the United States market.
- **Policy Driver:** PLI scheme for solar PV modules and cells has driven capacity expansion.
- **Gap:** Cell and wafer capacities lag behind module assembly — India still imports upstream components.

> **Learn Basics – Solar PV (Photovoltaic):** Technology that converts sunlight directly into electricity using semiconductor cells.
>
> **Learn Basics – Wafer → Cell → Module:** The three stages of solar manufacturing; India is strong in modules but weak at wafer stage.

Indian Railways Four-Laning Plan

- **Network:** 11,000 km High Density Network (HDN) identified for four-laning across 7 key routes.

Professor Academy

- **Traffic Share:** These routes carry 41% of total Indian Railways traffic.
- **Kavach:** Kavach 4.0 commissioned on 2,490 km of track — anti-collision technology for high-speed safety.
- **Objective:** Improve freight and passenger throughput on saturated corridors through network expansion.

Learn Basics – High Density Network (HDN): Selected railway routes that carry disproportionately high traffic volumes.

Learn Basics – Kavach: Indian Railways' indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system to prevent collisions.

Exam Point – Kavach version numbers matter — Kavach 4.0 is the version commissioned in 2026 after 2.0 and 3.2 earlier.

INS Mangrol Commissioned

- **Ship Type:** INS Mangrol is the 3rd of 8 Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) to be commissioned.
- **Builder:** Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) under the Make in India initiative.
- **Specifications:** Top speed 25 knots; operational range 200 nautical miles.
- **Mission:** Detects and neutralises enemy submarines in shallow coastal waters.

Learn Basics – ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare): Naval operations designed to detect, track, and neutralise enemy submarines.

Learn Basics – Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL): India's largest shipyard, located at Kochi, Kerala — a public sector undertaking.

Exam Point – ASW-SWC is different from destroyers or frigates — shallow-water craft operate in coastal zones, not deep ocean.

Buckingham Canal Restoration

- **Budget:** ₹876.35 crore allocated to restore 7.2 km of Buckingham Canal.
- **History:** Built in 1806 by Basil Cochrane; renamed Buckingham Canal in 1878 after the Duke of Buckingham.
- **Purpose:** Canal historically linked Chennai to Andhra Pradesh for inland navigation and flood management.
- **Current Status:** Encroachment and siltation have severely reduced its capacity; restoration aims to revive it.

Learn Basics – Buckingham Canal: A 796 km inland waterway running parallel to the Bay of Bengal coast from Vijayawada to Villupuram.

Learn Basics – Inland Waterways: Water transport using rivers, canals, and backwaters; regulated by IWAI in India.

Exam Point – Built in 1806 by Basil Cochrane, renamed in 1878 — both dates are exam-testable; the builder's name is often asked.

JN Port Fastest Growing Globally

- **Ranking:** Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JN Port) ranked 21st globally among container ports.
- **Throughput:** Handled 4.40 million TEUs with a 13.6% growth rate — the fastest growth among top-25 global ports.
- **Location:** JN Port is located at Nhava Sheva, Navi Mumbai — India's largest container port.
- **Significance:** Demonstrates India's growing position as a maritime trade hub.

Learn Basics – TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit): Standard unit for measuring container ship cargo capacity.

Learn Basics – JN Port (Jawaharlal Nehru Port): Largest container port in India; key gateway for EXIM trade.

CAA Citizenship Processing Expands

- **Coverage:** CAA citizenship processing now operational in 8 states and UTs.
- **Rules:** Citizenship (Amendment) 3rd Amendment Rules 2026 notified on August 19, 2026.
- **Eligibility:** CAA provides citizenship to persecuted religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan who arrived before December 31, 2014.
- **Excluded Religion:** Muslims are excluded from CAA protection; only Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians qualify.

Learn Basics – CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019): Grants Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim minorities from 3 countries.

Learn Basics – 3rd Amendment Rules 2026: Administrative rules enabling processing under CAA in expanded jurisdictions.

Exam Point – CAA does not revoke anyone's citizenship — it grants citizenship to a specific group, not strip it from others.

LPG Pipeline Network Expansion

- **New Length:** 1,800 km of new LPG pipeline to be built at a cost of ₹7,000 crore by GAIL.

Professor Academy

- **Total Network:** Existing 7,700 km → expanded to 9,500 km after completion.
- **Operator:** GAIL (India) Limited will execute and operate the expanded pipeline network.
- **Purpose:** Reduce road and rail transport of LPG cylinders; improve efficiency and reduce accidents.

> **Learn Basics – GAIL (India) Limited:** India's largest state-owned natural gas distribution company; operates pipelines and markets gas.
>
> **Learn Basics – LPG Pipeline:** Unlike PNG (piped to homes), LPG pipelines move liquid LPG in bulk to bottling plants.

India's First Superfine ATH Plant

- **Location:** India's first Superfine Aluminium Trihydrate (ATH) plant set up by Hindalco in Belagavi, Karnataka.
- **Capacity:** Production capacity of 30,000 tonnes per annum.
- **Product:** Superfine ATH is used as a flame retardant and filler in cables, plastics, and composites.
- **Brand:** Product marketed under the PPT ATH brand; previously India imported this grade.

> **Learn Basics – ATH (Aluminium Trihydrate):** A mineral filler that releases water vapour when heated, suppressing flames; used in cables and plastics.
>
> **Learn Basics – Hindalco Industries:** Flagship metals company of the Aditya Birla Group; world's largest aluminium rolling company.

September 2026

- The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched Jago, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot that provides information on tribal welfare schemes, policies, programmes and guidelines.
- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched India's first non-GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed at Musunuru in Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh.
  - The indigenous hybrid was developed for high-expansion popcorn production in association with Gourmet Popcornica.
- Samtel HAL Display Systems Limited (SHDS), a joint venture between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Samtel Avionics, inaugurated a new defence avionics manufacturing facility in Gurugram, Haryana.
  - SHDS is India's first public-private joint venture in defence avionics to indigenously design, qualify and serially produce multifunction displays (MFDs) for fighter aircraft.
- FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) ordered the recall of Shalimar's Chef-Coriander Powder, manufactured by M/s Nilgiri Oil & Allied Industries, due to unsafe pesticide residues, and Carrageenan, manufactured by M/s Aquagri Processing Pvt Ltd, due to unsafe cadmium levels.
  - The recall was ordered under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, in accordance with the Food Safety and Standards (Food Recall Procedure) Regulations, 2017.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to upgrade its 1033 National Highway Helpline using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and real-time location tracking.
  - The 1033 helpline, launched in 2018, operates 24×7 and covers more than 1.46 lakh kilometres of national highways.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) notified the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending the Passports Rules, 1980.
  - An ordinary passport for a child below 15 years will be valid for five years or until the child turns 18, whichever is earlier.
- Delhi's 160-year-old Chandni Chowk Town Hall complex will be redeveloped as a Global Heritage Centre under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 20 September 2026.
- The first meeting of the Sowa-Rigpa Working Group was held in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, to develop Sowa-Rigpa Pharmacopoeias and Formularies and support quality standards, regulatory requirements, and quality assurance of Sowa-Rigpa medicines.

National Mortuary Standards

- India has finalised its first uniform national standards for mortuary and post-mortem infrastructure.
- The standards were issued under the Clinical Establishments Act through the National Council for Clinical Establishments, functioning under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).
- Mortuaries must be on the ground floor, away from hospital waste areas, with separate entry points for body movement.
- Cold storage must maintain 4°C–8°C, with a minimum capacity of four bodies and unique serial numbers for identification.
- Medico-legal case bodies must be stored separately from non-medico-legal remains.

Professor Academy

Indian Standard Time Rules

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

Semicon India Programme 2.0

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

National Conference on Quantum Biotechnology 2026

- The National Conference on Quantum Biotechnology 2026 was held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay to promote quantum technology applications in life sciences and healthcare.
- It focused on applications in diagnostics, biomedical imaging, drug discovery, precision medicine, and biosensing.
- QMet Tech Foundation at IIT Bombay is the thematic hub for Quantum Sensing and Metrology under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- Key discussions included quantum biology, quantum biosensors, and the transition of biosensing technologies from laboratories to industry.

Solar PV Overcapacity Risk

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

Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031

- Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031, a Strategic Action Plan for ornamental fisheries development, in Agatti, Lakshadweep.
- The plan is implemented by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, to organise and scientifically develop India's ornamental fish sector.

Professor Academy

- It covers the complete supply chain, including breeding, hatcheries, production, quarantine, disease management, certification, transport, trade and exports.
- It aims to establish uniform operating procedures, quality assurance, biosecurity and traceability standards across the ornamental fish industry.
- The plan will improve the skills of farmers and traders, product quality and access to international markets, making the sector more competitive.
- Lakshadweep has been identified as a dedicated seaweed cluster, and its marine resources are also considered suitable for ornamental fish farming and other high-value fisheries activities.

National Accounts Statistics 2026

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

RAKSHA – Defence Diplomacy Framework

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

PCA and Indus Waters Treaty

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

Professor Academy

- The PCA is an independent intergovernmental organisation, not a United Nations (UN) agency, but it has Permanent Observer status at the UN General Assembly.

Article 142 - Limits and Powers

- The Supreme Court used Article 142 of the Constitution to quash criminal cases registered against NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) protesters.
- Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to pass orders necessary to "do complete justice" in any case before it, and such orders are enforceable throughout India.
- The power is very wide, but it cannot be used to pass an order that violates the Constitution or fundamental rights.
- The Supreme Court has held that Article 142 can supplement existing law, but normally cannot replace substantive law or affect the rights of people who are not parties to the case.
- In Shilpa Sailesh v. Varun Sreenivasan (2023), the Court held that Article 142 can allow departure from procedural or substantive law when necessary to achieve complete justice, subject to public policy.
- In High Court Bar Association, Allahabad v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2024), the Court reiterated that Article 142 cannot violate natural justice, including the right to be heard.

All India Judges Association v. Union of India

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

Population Enumeration 2027

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

Biotech Investment Platform

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

Small Modular Reactors in Andaman and Nicobar

- The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is assessing sites for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from September 4–8, 2026.

Professor Academy

- The assessment covers all three districts of the Union Territory: North & Middle Andaman, South Andaman and Nicobar.
- The SMRs are being considered to meet rising electricity demand from the Great Nicobar Project, including the International Container Transhipment Terminal (ICTT), greenfield airport and other infrastructure.
- The islands currently depend mainly on diesel-based power generation, making reliable local electricity important for future development.
- Great Nicobar is strategically important because of its proximity to the Strait of Malacca and major maritime routes.

Constitutional Safeguards for Ladakh

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

HPV Vaccination Milestone

- India has administered more than 80 lakh (8 million) Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine doses under the National HPV Vaccination Campaign since its launch in February 2026.
- The campaign provides free, voluntary, single-dose HPV vaccination with parental consent to 14-year-old girls at government health facilities.
- Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram achieved 100% coverage, while Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Assam crossed 90%.
- Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number, with more than 22 lakh adolescent girls vaccinated.
- The U-WIN digital platform is used to monitor vaccination coverage, identify gaps and track missed beneficiaries.

One Tag System for FASTag

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

Global 6G Network Initiative

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

Professor Academy

AASHVAST Lab for Drone Security

- The Indian Army set up AASHVAST at DG EME headquarters, New Delhi, to detect software threats and security vulnerabilities in military drones.
- AASHVAST stands for Assessment and Analysis of Electronic Systems Hardware for Vulnerabilities and Security Threats.
- It is an air-gapped, offline laboratory that checks drone firmware for backdoors, unauthorised components and hidden access tools.
- It can test drone responses to GPS spoofing and jamming, which are electronic warfare techniques.

India's Nuclear Arsenal

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

Indigenous Disaster Warning System

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

Alternative Fuel Vehicles in India

- For the first time, alternative-fuel passenger vehicles (CNG, LPG, hybrid and electric vehicles) together overtook petrol vehicles in India's retail passenger vehicle market in August 2026.
- Alternative-fuel vehicles captured 41.95% of passenger vehicle sales, compared with 40.85% for petrol vehicles.
- The combined share of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana and Karnataka fell from 59.9% in August 2025 to 53.7% in August 2026.
- The share of the rest of India increased from 40.1% to 46.3% during the same period.

Coal Sector CSR Framework

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

Green Hydrogen Hubs in India

- A World Resources Institute (WRI) India study identified Gujarat as India's most resource-ready state for developing green hydrogen hubs.

Professor Academy

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

SAF Flight in India

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

Global Vaccine Production

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

India's Data Centre Capacity

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

NMBA Nationwide Campaign

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

Professor Academy

GOBARdhan Central Sector Scheme Update

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

Integrated Fertilizer Management System

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

Tempest Programme - India

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

Periodic Labour Force Survey – August 2026

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

Shahzad Bhatti Network Under UAPA

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

Clean Energy Milestone of India

- India's coal-power generation recorded no growth for two years for the first time in more than 50 years, as clean-energy sources met the rise in electricity demand.
- Between H1 2024 (January-June 2024) and H1 2026 (January-June 2026), electricity generation increased by 7%, or about 63 terawatt-hours (TWh).

Professor Academy

- The entire increase was met by non-fossil sources such as solar, wind, hydropower and nuclear power.
- India added about 77 GW of solar, 11 GW of wind, 5 GW of hydropower and 0.6 GW of nuclear capacity during this period.
- Power-sector carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions in H1 2026 remained broadly at the same level as H1 2024 despite higher electricity demand.
- However, overall Indian emissions increased by 3.7% in H1 2026, mainly due to industries such as steel and cement.

New Climate Governance Platforms

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched the India Net Zero Portal and National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) Dashboard on 16 September 2026 in Mumbai, on World Ozone Day.
- The India Net Zero Portal allows Indian entities to voluntarily register their Net Zero commitments and report progress; Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions are encouraged, while Scope 3 reporting is voluntary.
- The NAPCC Dashboard provides a unified platform to monitor the implementation and progress of India's 8 National Missions under NAPCC, launched in 2008.
- India has set a target to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2070.
- The 8 missions include National Solar Mission, National Water Mission, National Mission for a Green India, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture and four other climate missions.
- World Ozone Day is observed annually on 16 September, marking the adoption of the Montreal Protocol (1987).

Surakshit Sagar Campaign

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

Soil Carbon Payments for Farmers

- India began its first direct benefit transfer payments for soil carbon credits to over 2,500 farmers in Punjab and Haryana.
- The payments totalled over ₹2.9 crore and were linked to verified carbon credits from regenerative farming.
- Farmers used Direct Seeded Rice, reduced tillage and crop-residue management during 2019–2022.
- The Aadi farmer carbon programme was launched in 2019 by Grow Indigo with technical guidance from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- The programme covers over 2 million acres and 1 lakh+ farmers across seven states.
- Farmers received about ₹3,000–₹15,000, while the programme also saved an estimated 45 billion litres of water and avoided over 2 lakh tonnes of crop-residue burning.

India - Japan strategic partnership

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

Professor Academy

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

Nasha Mukt Bharat Campaign

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

District-Level Labour Market Snapshot

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

National Formulary of India

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

G20 Energy Abundance Meet

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

Amendment to Inter-State Council Order, 1990

- President notifies amendment to Inter-State Council Order, 1990.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Inter-State Council (Amendment) Order, 2026.
- The amendment was made by the President under the powers conferred by Article 263 of the Constitution.
- It aims to provide for the participation of Governors and Lieutenant Governors in meetings of the Inter-State Council when specified constitutional or statutory provisions are in force in their respective States or Union Territories.

Professor Academy

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

11th Ayurveda Day 2026

- The 11th Ayurveda Day was observed on 23 September 2026 to promote awareness of Ayurveda and its role in health and wellness.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow".
- Ayurveda Day was first observed in 2016.
- From 2026, Ayurveda Day is observed every year on 23 September, after the Government fixed the date through a Gazette notification in 2025.
- The 2026 celebration was the first Ayurveda Day on the fixed date; earlier, it was observed on Dhanteras (Dhanwantari Jayanti), so the date changed each year.
- The Ministry of Ayush promotes Ayurveda through healthcare services, research institutions, education, quality standards and international cooperation.

Constitution Bench on EC

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

Supreme Court on Collegium

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

Professor Academy

- The Collegium is the system through which senior judges recommend appointments and transfers of judges to higher courts.

Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar 5.0

- The fifth edition of Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar was conducted from September 12–19, 2026, with coastal clean-up activities at 231 locations across 13 States and Union Territories.
- Around 15 lakh people took the Ocean Conservation Pledge during the campaign.
- It focused on coastal cleanliness and ocean conservation through nationwide clean-up activities.
- The campaign was reviewed during the Monthly Review Meeting of Scientific Ministries and Departments in New Delhi.
- The proposed Digital Library of Scientific Achievements is being developed with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) as the nodal institution.

Digital Communications Commission

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

Hepatitis Elimination by 2030

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

Telecom Security in India

- India's active wireless mobile subscriber base reached 1,204.01 million in July 2026, highlighting the need to protect mobile devices and International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers.
- IMEI is a unique 15-digit number that identifies a mobile device on a telecom network; the first 8 digits form the Type Allocation Code (TAC).
- Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) oversees TAC allocation, while manufacturers assign unique IMEIs to devices.
- Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, IMEI tampering and obtaining SIMs through fraud or impersonation are prohibited and can attract up to 3 years' imprisonment, a ₹50 lakh fine, or both.
- The Sanchar Saathi platform helps users verify device details and block lost or stolen mobile phones.

Modified UDAN 2026

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

Professor Academy

India-PIF Strategic Partnership

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

India-ASEAN Trade Partnership

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

India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers Meeting

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

First Ascent Mountaineering Expedition

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

Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) launched the Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform and mobile app to assess indoor digital connectivity across properties in India.
- The platform is administered by TRAI under the Ministry of Communications and follows the TRAI (Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity) Regulations, 2024, amended in May 2026.
- It assesses fibre readiness, 4G/5G coverage, Wi-Fi and in-building connectivity in areas such as common spaces, lifts and basements.

Professor Academy

- Registered Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies (DCRAs) use a mobile app to conduct on-site signal-strength and internet-speed tests.
- Aadhaar-based eSign verifies assessment reports, while QR-coded certificates allow public verification.
- It aims to make indoor digital connectivity a measurable property feature and encourage developers to include Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI) in buildings.

India's New UNESCO Tentative Sites 2026

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

Academic Freedom in India

- The Free to Think 2026 report by Scholars at Risk said India's academic freedom remained in the "severely restricted" category.
- India was placed in the "severely restricted" group along with Hong Kong, Indonesia, Pakistan, the West Bank and Ukraine.
- India's Academic Freedom Index (AFI) score fell from 0.41 in 2015 to 0.14 in 2026.
- The AFI measures factors such as campus integrity, academic expression, research and teaching freedom, and institutional autonomy.
- The report recorded 382 attacks in 59 countries and territories between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.
- India recorded the highest number of attacks, with 42 cases involving violence, imprisonment or loss of academic positions.
- The report said 50 of 179 countries experienced a significant decline in academic freedom over the past decade.

NIRF 2025 SDG Ranking

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

Professor Academy

INTERNATIONAL

- A Legionnaires' disease, a severe form of pneumonia outbreak has prompted a health alert in Australia.
- Archaeologists in China have unearthed a 2,200–year-old Qin Straight Road, a 900 km highway built by Emperor Qin Shi Huang.
- Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Khalifa Medical City became the first hospital in the world to administer ITVISMA gene therapy.
- Syria's interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa unveiled the country's new banknotes.
- In the country's first election since a military takeover in 2021, Guinea coup leader Mamady Doumbouya has been elected as the president.
- Turkmenistan formally legalised cryptocurrency mining and exchange operations.
- The United Nations (UN) has declared 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- Bulgaria officially adopted the euro, becoming the 21st member of the Eurozone.

Learn Basics – Eurozone: The group of European Union members that use the euro. The euro was launched in 1999 (notes and coins in 2002); the European Central Bank is in Frankfurt.

- The European Union (EU) has started the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) which imposes a carbon tax on imports of steel, aluminium, cement, chemicals, paper, glass, fertilisers, and power-sector goods.

Learn Basics – CBAM: The EU's carbon border tax on imports of carbon-intensive goods, meant to prevent "carbon leakage". Its transitional phase began in October 2023.

- Russia deployed the nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system in Belarus.
- India and Bangladesh started talks to renew the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty, which will expire in December 2026.
- Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Latvia and Liberia have begun two-year terms as non-permanent members.
- US President Donald Trump invoked the Monroe Doctrine to justify a US military operation in Venezuela.

Learn Basics – Monroe Doctrine (1823): US policy opposing European colonisation or interference in the Western Hemisphere.

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G20 countries agreed on a global minimum tax package.

Learn Basics – OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; 38 member countries; headquartered in Paris.

- Pakistani archaeologists have discovered rare coins and decorative stones at a UNESCO-listed site near Takshashila.
- The United Nations (UN) has declared 2026 as the International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- The United States announced its withdrawal from 66 international organisations under the Trump administration.
- The USA has focused on Venezuela's mineral-rich Orinoco Belt and Guiana Shield.
- Brazil has handed over the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) presidency to India for 2026.

Learn Basics – BRICS: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The group has expanded since 2024 (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE and later Indonesia). The New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai.

- Chile has formally backed India's aspiration for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- The United States (US) invited India and Australia to join the G7 finance ministers' talks on critical minerals in Washington in January 2026.
- India's External Affairs Minister participated in India's first-ever engagement with the Weimar Triangle, along with France, Germany, and Poland.
- The United Nations (UN) High Seas Treaty will officially come into force on 18 January 2026.
- Israel announced its withdrawal from seven United Nations (UN) agencies and affiliated bodies in January 2026.
- The Finke River has been recognised as the world's oldest flowing river based on geological evidence.
- The World Intellectual Foundation (WIF) will launch the Responsible Nations Index (RNI).
- China unveiled its most advanced ballistic missile submarine, the Type 096 Tang-Class.
- Spain has joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) by handing over the Declaration of Accession to India's External Affairs Minister.

Professor Academy

- India skipped the U.S. President Donald Trump-led "Board of Peace" charter announcement held in Davos.
- The United States formally exited the World Health Organization (WHO) on 23 January 2026, leaving unpaid dues of about 260 million US dollars.
- India skipped the BRICS Plus naval exercise "Will for Peace 2026", stating it is not an institutionalised BRICS activity.
- The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) commemorated its 80th anniversary on 23 January 2026.
- The European Union (EU) is considering the use of its trade 'Bazooka' (Anti– Coercion Instrument – ACI) for the first time to counter United States (US) tariff threats linked to Greenland tensions.
- India's digital payment system, called UPI (Unified Payments Interface), will start in Japan in 2026.

Learn Basics – UPI: Unified Payments Interface, a real-time payment system developed by NPCI and launched in 2016.

- The 6th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers' Meeting was held virtually with the theme of the event is "Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence."
- India and the European Union (EU) signed their first comprehensive Security and Defence Partnership.
- Researchers reported the world's oldest known cave artwork discovered in Indonesia.
- The India-European Union free trade agreement (FTA) is widely termed as the "mother of all deals", India allowed European Union (EU) banks to open 15 branches in the country over a four-year period.
- France's National Assembly backed legislation to ban children under 15 years old from social media.
- India has agreed to import goods worth about 100 billion US dollars annually from the United States for the next five years.
- Spain announced a nationwide ban on social media access for children under 16 years.
- India has joined the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies (BCIC) to strengthen manufacturing skills and industrial cooperation among BRICS countries.
- India backed the FORGE (Forum on Resource, Geostrategic Engagement) initiative at the Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington DC.
- A two-year-old, Jude Owens from Manchester (UK), set two Guinness World Records by becoming the youngest player to make a bank shot in pool and a double-pot shot in snooker.
- China commissioned the world's largest compressed-air energy storage (CAES) power plant in Jiangsu province, with a storage capacity of 2,400 megawatt hours (MWh) and a power generation capacity of 600 megawatts.
- India has paid $35.18 million to the United Nations (UN) Regular Budget for 2026, This makes India part of the 'honour roll' of 51 UN Member States who paid their dues in full and on time.
- US President Donald Trump announced Project Vault, a $12-billion initiative to build a strategic stockpile of critical minerals.
- India and the World Bank Group announced the New Country Partnership Framework (NCPF) for 2026–2031 to support India's development aligned with the Viksit Bharat vision.
- India and the United Kingdom signed a Social Security Agreement in New Delhi.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched the "Arctic Sentry" mission to strengthen security in the Arctic region after tensions related to Greenland.
- The World Economic Forum launched the Davos Compact on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in 2025 to support global action against drug-resistant infections.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0) with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore.
- The Union Government informed Lok Sabha that 8,630 complaints were received against sitting judges in the last 10 years.
- Cyclone Gezani made landfall in Toamasina, a major port city in Madagascar.
- A copper tool excavated in Egypt has been re-identified as a possible bow drill after fresh microscopic analysis.
- India and France launched the India-France Year of Innovation to promote cooperation in technology and research.
- Archaeologists discovered a 2,000-year-old Iron Age temple complex at Hedegaard in Denmark.
- The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) has launched the UNEP FI Impact Centre, The centre is a specialised platform to support impact management in financial institutions.
- India and France upgraded their ties to a "Special Global Strategic Partnership" during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India.
- The siege and capture of El-Fasher city in North Darfur, Sudan, has been reported to bear "hallmarks of genocide" following a United Nations-mandated independent fact-finding mission's investigation.

Professor Academy

- Charax Spasinou was an ancient city in southern Mesopotamia, near the Tigris River in present-day Iraq, recently rediscovered using advanced archaeological technology.
- Poland withdrew from the Ottawa Convention (Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty).
- After the India AI Impact Summit 2026, plans were announced for the next global AI summits in Geneva (2027) and the UAE in 2028.
- South Korea lodged a diplomatic protest against Japan's Takeshima Day event held on 22 February 2026 in Shimane Prefecture.
- China is the largest producer of bell pepper (capsicum) in the world.
- The discovery of the Lascaux Cave in 1940 revealed 17,000-year-old prehistoric paintings in southwestern France.
- The United Nations has approved the first carbon credits under the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM) of Article 6.4.

Learn Basics – COP and the Paris Agreement: COP is the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. The Paris Agreement (2015) aims to hold warming well below 2°C and pursue 1.5°C.

- Pakistan launched Operation Ghazab Lil Haq against the Afghan Taliban along the disputed Durand Line.
- The United Nations Road Safety Fund launched a Sustainable Road Safety Financing Project in Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Assam in partnership with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, WHO, and UNICEF.
- The Central Bank of the UAE has launched the world's first Sovereign Financial Cloud Services Infrastructure (SFCSI).
- A hand stencil discovered in Liang Metanduno cave in Sulawesi, Indonesia, has been dated to at least 67,800 years ago, making it the oldest known rock art.
- India has signed a five-year agreement with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to provide sustained rice supplies for global hunger relief.
- India has formally joined the Pax Silica Alliance, a US-led strategic coalition, by signing the Pax Silica Declaration.
- Chile has become the first country in the Americas and the second globally to be verified by the World Health Organization (WHO) for eliminating leprosy, also known as Hansen disease.
- Scotland became the first nation in the United Kingdom to legalise water cremation, also called alkaline hydrolysis.
- The United States conducted a test launch of the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, a land-based nuclear missile with an operational range of over 6,000 miles (about 13,000 km).
- Nepal's Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) won a majority in the 2026 general elections, and its leader, Balendra Shah, is set to become the next Prime Minister.
- An armed attack held on the headquarters of Upemba National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- The United States carried out air strikes on military targets on Kharg Island, the main oil export hub of Iran.
- Asia Africa Agri Alliance has been established to boost trade, agricultural cooperation, investment, and technology exchange between Asia and Africa.
- India and Indonesia partnered to restore the Prambanan Temple Complex to strengthen cultural ties.
- Argentina has formally withdrawn from the World Health Organization after notifying the United Nations on March 17, 2025.
- The Fujairah Port in the UAE was attacked amid the Iran-US-Israel conflict.
- Israeli airstrikes destroyed a key bridge over the Litani River of Lebanon
- The Philippines declared a national energy emergency due to tensions in West Asia affecting fuel supply.
- Romania has ratified the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and officially joined the alliance.
- A Russian drone strike damaged a residential building within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Lviv's Historic Centre in Ukraine, near the Bernardine Monastery.
- The Financial Action Task Force added Kuwait and Papua New Guinea to its increased monitoring list after its recent plenary meeting.
- The Global Action Plan for Steppe Eagle was adopted at CMS COP15 held in Brazil.
- Bangladesh has launched an emergency vaccination drive against a rapidly spreading measles outbreak.
- The Philippines joined the US-led Pax Silica to strengthen global semiconductor and technology supply chains.
- India and Russia have operationalised the RELOS (Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement) to boost defence cooperation.

Professor Academy

- The United Kingdom passed a tobacco and vapes law banning people born on or after 1 January 2009 from legally buying tobacco.
- Finland is preparing to operationalise the world's first permanent nuclear waste repository.
- Jordan has signed the Artemis Accords, becoming the 63rd country to join the global framework for responsible space exploration.
- The World Health Organization has prequalified the first malaria treatment for newborns and infants, artemether-lumefantrine, designed for babies weighing 2– 5 kg for safe dosing.
- The United Arab Emirates announced it will exit Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and OPEC+ from May 1, 2026.
- The United States ended the sanctions waiver on Chabahar Port on April 26, 2026.
- Finland launched Europe's first fully integrated lithium project near Kokkola.
- India was placed on the Priority Watch List of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in 2026.
- Jordan joined India-led global initiatives ISA, CDRI and GBA.
- UNESCO designated 12 new Global Geoparks and the total number of Global Geoparks increased to 241 sites in 51 countries.
- Mayon Volcano erupted in the Philippines, forcing the evacuation of nearly 1,500 families and restrictions on airspace near Manila.
- Canada became the first non-European country to attend a summit of the European Political Community (EPC).
- NASA scientists discovered a hidden 2.5-billion-year-old internal structure inside the Great Dyke of Zimbabwe using satellite imaging and geophysics mapping.
- The United States launched "Project Freedom", in the Strait of Hormuz.
- Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced that May 10 will be celebrated as 'Marka-e-Haq Day' annually.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) approved 48 new members globally, including five organisations from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean region.

> **Learn Basics – IUCN and the Red List:** IUCN (founded 1948, headquartered in Gland, Switzerland) publishes the Red List of Threatened Species. Categories: Extinct, Extinct in the Wild, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened, Least Concern, Data Deficient, Not Evaluated.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
- Indian War Memorial at Imjingak Park inaugurated near Seoul to mark the 75th anniversary of the Korean War.
- The UK government announced a free bus travel scheme for children in England under the "Great British Summer Savings" package, applicable in August 2026 on participating local bus services, allowing children aged 5–15 years free unlimited travel.
- The 79th World Health Assembly passed its first-ever resolution recognising stroke as a major public health priority in May 2026.
- Taiwan became the world's fifth-largest stock market, overtaking India in total market value.
- Russia and Kazakhstan signed an agreement to build Kazakhstan's first nuclear power plant
- The Quad countries unveiled the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework during the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi.
- The United Nations (UN) included Israel and Russia in its 2026 blacklist of parties suspected of conflict-related sexual violence.
- Kazakhstan has signed a $16.5 billion agreement with Russia's state nuclear company Rosatom to build the country's first nuclear power plant.
- India's National Security Adviser participated in the 1st International Security Forum (ISF) held in Moscow, Russia.
- India's seafood exports reached a record USD 8.46 billion (₹73,890 crore) in FY 2025–26.
- Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was elected President of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- Malaysia began enforcing a law from 1 June 2026 requiring social media platforms to verify users' ages and block children under 16 from creating accounts.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected five countries (Austria, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, Zimbabwe, and Kyrgyzstan) as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- India and the United Kingdom launched the India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory in New Delhi.

Professor Academy

- The COP31 co-presidency of Australia and Turkey has proposed the “35 by 35” target to increase electricity’s share of global final energy demand to 35% by 2035.
- The United Arab Emirates has fixed 15 years as the minimum age for social media use, becoming the first Arab country to introduce such a rule.
- Uzbekistan has joined the New Development Bank as its 10th member country and the first country from Central Asia to become a member.
- Bangladesh has approved the construction of the Padma Barrage Project on the Padma River in the Rajbari district.
- US President Trump renamed the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) back to the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM).
- The Mombasa Declaration was adopted by 15 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific to strengthen global efforts against illegal fishing.
- The European Union (EU) agreed to join the Pax Silica initiative, a United States- led framework on artificial intelligence supply chains and export controls.
- The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2823 (2026) to strengthen accountability for crimes against UN peacekeepers.
- Bolivia's Parliament approved a nationwide State of Emergency declared by President Rodrigo Paz to end a 50-day protest and highway blockade crisis.
- Bangladesh has signed an agreement with a Chinese state-owned company to develop the Mongla Port Economic Zone.
- The United States Supreme Court upheld birthright citizenship and rejected an executive order limiting citizenship for children born to undocumented or temporary immigrants in the United States (U.S.).
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the 2026 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS to accelerate efforts to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
- Italy has become the country with the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with a total of 61 protected sites.
- India and Seychelles signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Seychelles by the end of 2026.
- India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI), developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has been launched in Greece through Eurobank.
- Kazakhstan joined the AI for Good Global Commission as a founding member at the invitation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- BRICS nations adopted the Guwahati Declaration in Guwahati, Assam, to strengthen cooperation against illicit drug trafficking and organised transnational crime.
- At least 15 Indian tourists died after a speedboat capsized near May Rut Ngoai Islet, Phu Quoc, Vietnam.
- The French Parliament approved a bill creating a legal right to assisted dying for adults with incurable and life-threatening illnesses.
- The European Commission unveiled the Electrification Action Plan to raise the European Union’s electrification rate to 46% by 2040, aiming to make Europe the world’s first “electro continent”.
- The President of India completed the first-ever State Visit by an Indian Head of State to Moldova and North Macedonia.
- Spain declared a national emergency for the first time due to severe wildfires in Madrid and Ávila provinces.
- The US and Saudi Arabia have signed a deal that will reportedly allow the Gulf kingdom to develop a civilian nuclear programme.
- The United States (US) deployed the Dark Eagle Hypersonic Missile system in Guam for the first time.
- The IEA’s Electricity Mid-Year Update 2026 says global electricity consumption is projected to rise from 28,600 terawatt hours in 2025 to 30,700 terawatt hours by 2027.
- Pacific island nation Nauru officially changed its name to the Republic of Naoero after a constitutional amendment approved by its Parliament in May 2026.
- Venezuela has formally notified the United Nations of its “irrevocable” decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court.
- India and the Maldives have launched the Favara-Unified Payments Interface (UPI) cross-border payment corridor for real-time money transfers.
- Italy temporarily suspended Schengen free-movement rules with Spain from 1 August 2026 for one month after a large influx of irregular migrants into Ceuta.

Professor Academy

- Saudi Arabia and 13 other countries have established a maritime defence coalition to enhance maritime security, protecting freedom of navigation, securing international trade routes and energy supply lines.

[Aug 11–20] Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition (MMDC)

- **Formation:** Saudi Arabia launched the MMDC to protect the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandeb Strait and Gulf of Aden; 14 countries signed the declaration including Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Pakistan, Egypt and Bangladesh.
- **HQ and command:** MMDC is headquartered in Riyadh; Saudi Rear Admiral Abdullah bin Salem Al-Shehri was appointed its first commander.
- **Context:** Formed after attacks on commercial shipping from the Riyadh summit on July 30, 2026.

> **Learn Basics – Bab al-Mandeb:** The strait between Yemen and Djibouti connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden; a choke point for Europe-Asia shipping via the Suez Canal.
>
> **Learn Basics – MMDC vs Operation Prosperity Guardian (2023):** The US-led maritime coalition in the same waters; MMDC is an independent Muslim-majority coalition.

- A 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck near San José del Palmar, Chocó, Colombia, killing at least 164 people and causing major damage in Cali and Pereira.
- Lebanon's Parliament abolished the death penalty, making Lebanon the first Middle Eastern country to formally abolish capital punishment.

[Aug 11–20] Lebanon Abolishes Death Penalty

- **Historic:** Lebanon's Parliament abolished the death penalty, making it the first Middle Eastern country to formally abolish capital punishment.
- **Replacement:** The death penalty is replaced with life imprisonment and aggravated hard labour for the most serious crimes.
- **Context:** Lebanon had not carried out an execution since 2004; at least 85 people were on death row as of January 2026 (Amnesty International).
- **UN support:** The abolition follows Lebanon's support for UN resolutions calling for a moratorium on the death penalty.

> **Learn Basics – Abolitionist state:** A country that has removed the death penalty from its laws entirely; as of 2024, more than 100 countries are fully abolitionist.
>
> **Learn Basics – Amnesty International:** A global human rights NGO; it regularly tracks death row populations and advocates for abolition of the death penalty worldwide.

- Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan have signed a joint defence agreement to offer mutual defence guarantees.

[Aug 11–20] Mecca Joint Defence Agreement 2026 ('Sunni NATO')

- **Signatories:** Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan signed a joint defence agreement providing mutual defence guarantees — an attack on one is treated as an attack on all three.
- **Context:** The pact follows Iranian strikes on Saudi Arabia and Gulf states and disruption of the Strait of Hormuz after a US-Israeli attack on Iran on February 28.
- **Significance:** Pakistan is the world's only nuclear-armed Muslim-majority country; Turkey has NATO's second-largest military; Saudi Arabia is the Gulf's leading military power.
- **Broader alliance:** Kuwait also ratified a defence cooperation agreement with Pakistan in 2023; Yemen's Houthi rebels announced a maritime embargo against Saudi Arabia.

> **Learn Basics – Strait of Hormuz:** The narrow waterway between Iran and Oman linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman; about 20% of global oil trade passes through it.
>
> **Learn Basics – Collective defence (Article 5 NATO analogy):** The principle that an attack on one ally is treated as an attack on all; the Mecca pact mimics this for the three Muslim powers.

Current Affairs, Aug 11–20

First Indian Gasoline Shipment to Russia

- **Historic trade:** Russia imported gasoline from India for the first time as Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian refineries reduced domestic fuel production.
- **Shipment detail:** About 42,000 tonnes of gasoline was supplied by Nayara Energy from its Vadinar refinery in Gujarat; the cargo was transhipped at Damietta, Egypt.
- **Russia's refining crisis:** Russia's crude processing fell to about 3.6 million barrels/day in July — roughly one-third below normal seasonal level.

Professor Academy

Learn Basics – Nayara Energy: India's second-largest private refinery (Vadinar, Gujarat), partially owned by Rosneft (Russia); has processed significant Russian crude since 2022.

Learn Basics – Transhipment: Transferring cargo between vessels at an intermediate port before reaching the final destination; used here to mask the trade route.

Hormuz Shipping Route Agreement – Iran-Oman

- **Agreement:** Iran and Oman reached a shipping route map agreement for traffic through the Strait of Hormuz after bilateral maritime negotiations starting June 18, 2026.
- **IMO data:** The IMO reported 65 confirmed vessel incidents and 17 seafarer deaths in the Strait of Hormuz and broader Middle East by August 11, 2026.
- **Significance:** The Strait connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea and is vital for global oil tanker and commercial shipping.

Learn Basics – IMO (International Maritime Organization): A UN specialised agency headquartered in London; sets global safety, security and environmental standards for shipping.

Learn Basics – Gulf of Oman vs Persian Gulf: The Strait of Hormuz (about 33 km wide at narrowest) is the only sea passage connecting these two bodies; Iran and Oman share its northern and southern shores respectively.

August 21–31, 2026

BRICS vs EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

- **Meeting:** 12th BRICS meeting held in New Delhi discussed opposition to EU's CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism).
- **Sectors Covered:** CBAM applies to imports of iron, steel, aluminium, cement, fertilisers, and electricity.
- **BRICS Stand:** BRICS nations called CBAM a form of trade protectionism disguised as environmental policy.
- **Effective Date:** EU's CBAM transitional phase runs through 2025; full implementation from January 2026.

Learn Basics – CBAM: EU mechanism that charges importers for carbon emissions embedded in goods, levelling the playing field with EU's ETS (Emissions Trading System).

Learn Basics – BRICS: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa — expanded in 2024 to include UAE, Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia.

Exam Point – CBAM is an EU policy, not a UN or WTO policy — exams may test which body introduced it.

India–Japan Maritime Security MoA

- **Date:** India–Japan Maritime Security Memorandum of Agreement signed on August 20, 2026.
- **Areas:** Covers Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), Search and Rescue (SAR), and HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief).
- **Defence Transfer:** UNICORN system — Japan's first defence equipment transfer to India under the MoA.
- **Significance:** Deepens bilateral maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific amid regional security concerns.

Learn Basics – Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA): Ability to monitor and understand all activities in the maritime domain for security purposes.

Learn Basics – HADR: Military and civilian operations to provide rapid relief in disaster-affected areas — an important aspect of naval cooperation.

Kuril Islands Dispute

- **Putin Visit:** Russian President Putin visited Iturup Island (Kuril chain), claimed by Japan as 'Northern Territories'.
- **Dispute:** Japan claims 4 southern Kuril islands; Russia controls all Kurils since WWII end in 1945.
- **Treaty:** Treaty of Shimoda (1855) had earlier defined Japan–Russia maritime boundary in the Kurils.
- **Peace Treaty:** Japan and Russia have no formal peace treaty since WWII — Kuril dispute remains the core obstacle.

Learn Basics – Kuril Islands: A volcanic archipelago extending from Hokkaido (Japan) to Kamchatka (Russia); seized by USSR in 1945.

Learn Basics – Treaty of Shimoda (1855): First formal treaty between Japan and Russia defining territorial boundaries.

Exam Point – Japan calls these the 'Northern Territories'; Russia calls them 'South Kurils' — the naming itself is a political statement.

India–Brazil Digital Partnership

- **Areas:** Partnership covers AI, 5G, 6G, Open RAN, IoT, and LEO satellite collaboration.

Professor Academy

- **Open RAN:** India and Brazil agreed to jointly develop open-source radio access network (Open RAN) standards.
- **LEO Satellites:** Both nations expressed interest in collaborating on Low Earth Orbit satellite connectivity for rural areas.
- **Significance:** Partnership deepens South-South cooperation in emerging digital technologies.

> **Learn Basics – Open RAN:** An approach to mobile network architecture where different vendor equipment interoperates via open interfaces.
>
> **Learn Basics – LEO Satellites:** Satellites orbiting at 500–2,000 km altitude; provide low-latency internet connectivity (e.g., Starlink).

India–China Boundary Consensus

- **Meeting:** 25th Special Representatives' meeting between India and China reached 8-point consensus on boundary management.
- **LAC:** Both sides agreed to maintain tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- **Hotlines:** Two dedicated military hotlines established to prevent escalation at border flashpoints.
- **Context:** Meeting follows disengagement at LAC friction points since 2020 Galwan Valley clashes.

> **Learn Basics – LAC (Line of Actual Control):** De facto border between India and China — not a formally demarcated international boundary.
>
> **Learn Basics – Special Representatives:** Senior officials designated by both countries to conduct boundary talks — NSA level from India.

> **Exam Point –** LAC is different from LOC (Line of Control with Pakistan) — both are de facto borders but with different countries.

US–Venezuela Oil Deal

- **Scale:** US and Venezuela announced a $100 billion investment deal covering 17 oilfields over 100 years.
- **Reserves:** Venezuela holds an estimated 65 billion barrels of oil under the deal area.
- **Context:** US lifted oil sanctions against Venezuela in exchange for political concessions.
- **Significance:** Venezuela has world's largest proven oil reserves; deal revitalises its oil industry.

> **Learn Basics – :** Venezuela holds the world's largest proven oil reserves — ahead of Saudi Arabia — but has under-invested due to sanctions.
>
> **Learn Basics – Oil Sanctions:** Economic penalties that restrict oil trade; US had sanctioned Venezuela over governance concerns since 2017.

US Removes Syria from State Sponsors of Terrorism List

- **Action:** United States removed Syria from the State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) list in August 2026.
- **History:** Syria was listed on SSOT since 1979 — among the longest-listed countries.
- **Remaining Countries:** After Syria's removal, SSOT list has 3 countries: Cuba, Iran, and North Korea.
- **Context:** Removal follows the fall of Assad regime and new Syrian government's engagement with the West.

> **Learn Basics – SSOT (State Sponsors of Terrorism):** US designation that imposes comprehensive sanctions and restrictions on a country.
>
> **Learn Basics – Remaining SSOT Countries (2026):** Cuba, Iran, North Korea — after Syria's removal.

> **Exam Point –** Syria listed since 1979 is a common data point; the remaining 3 countries after removal are now the exam-testable fact.

India–US Javelin Missile Deal

- **System:** India signed FMS (Foreign Military Sales) deal for FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank guided missiles with the US.
- **Manufacturers:** RTX (Raytheon) and Lockheed Martin jointly produce Javelin.
- **Co-Production:** BDL (Bharat Dynamics Limited) to co-produce Javelin with US firms in India.
- **Use:** Man-portable fire-and-forget missile system; used for destroying tanks and fortified positions.

> **Learn Basics – FMS (Foreign Military Sales):** US government-to-government arms transfer programme — differs from Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) where companies sell directly.
>
> **Learn Basics – BDL (Bharat Dynamics Limited):** Indian PSU that manufactures guided missiles, torpedoes, and allied equipment.

> **Exam Point –** FGM-148 is the Javelin missile model number — exams may test the full designation or the manufacturers.

Professor Academy

September 2026

- Uzbekistan conferred its highest state honour, the Order of Oliy Darajali Dustlik, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) partnered with Uzbekistan's National Interbank Processing Centre (NIPC) to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) merchant payments in Uzbekistan.
  - Uzbekistan becomes the 11th country to accept UPI, after Singapore, United Arab Emirates, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Greece.
- Giorgia Meloni's government has become Italy's longest-serving government since World War II (WWII), surpassing the previous record of 1,412 consecutive days.
  - Meloni became Italy's first woman Prime Minister after her party, Brothers of Italy, won the 2022 general election.
- Malaysia declared an emergency in Serian, Sarawak, Malaysia (Borneo), after Air Pollution Index (API) reached 519 due to Indonesian forest-fire haze.
  - The emergency covers a 20-km radius, with smoke crossing into Sarawak from Indonesia.
- Anak Krakatau volcano in Indonesia erupted, disrupting nearly 3,000 flights and leaving over 340,000 passengers stranded.
  - Anak Krakatau, meaning "Child of Krakatoa", is located in the Sunda Strait, between Java and Sumatra, about 150 km from Jakarta; it emerged from the sea in the caldera formed after the 1883 eruption of Mount Krakatoa.
- The Badingilo-Boma Migratory Landscape was inscribed as South Sudan's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2026.
  - It includes Boma National Park and Badingilo National Park and forms part of the Great Nile Migration Landscape (GNML).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted Russian President Vladimir Putin a Russian translation of Thirukkural during their bilateral meeting in New Delhi, ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit.
- The first road bridge connecting Russia and North Korea has opened across the Tumen River, linking the border cities of Khasan (Russia) and Rason (North Korea).
- UK, the US and the Netherlands issued a joint advisory on CHOSEN BRICK, spyware linked to Iranian state actors and used through spear-phishing campaigns on WhatsApp and Telegram.
  - The spyware can steal emails, messages and contact lists, capture screens, access social media accounts and use a device's microphone.
- Denmark has started operations at the European Union's (EU) first full-scale carbon dioxide (CO_2) storage facility, the Greensand project, which stores CO_2 under the seabed near an old oil platform in the North Sea.
- Bangladesh has sought International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) support to speed up electricity supply from the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Pabna, Bangladesh, to the national grid.
  - The meeting discussed peaceful use of nuclear technology, nuclear safety and security, and international cooperation.
- The U.S. Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration's expanded Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system to be used for checking the citizenship status of registered voters.
  - The modified SAVE system uses Social Security numbers and federal records and allows states to conduct bulk voter-status checks.
- The United States and China agreed in Washington, D.C., to establish an Artificial Intelligence (AI) incident communication channel and a U.S.-China Super Intelligence Dialogue.
  - The AI incident channel will provide direct communication between the two countries during AI-related safety or security incidents.

September 2026

Africa Health Workforce Plan 2035

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

Professor Academy

- The agenda was adopted at the 76th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa in Addis Ababa.

India-Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership

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

India-Russia Fuel Trade

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

EU Membership - Iceland

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

SCO Summit 2026

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

Artemis Accords - Turkey

- Turkey became the 71st country to join the Artemis Accords, a framework for safe and peaceful space exploration.
- The Artemis Accords were launched in 2020 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Department of State.
- The agreement promotes safe, transparent and peaceful exploration of the Moon, Mars and beyond, based on the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.
- Signatories commit to sharing scientific data, assisting astronauts during emergencies and promoting interoperability of space systems.

Professor Academy

- Turkey is the seventh West Asian country to join the Accords, after the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan and Israel.
- Turkey is developing its first uncrewed lunar mission, AYAP-1, and aims to strengthen its capabilities in space exploration.

Bishkek Declaration 2026

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) adopted the Bishkek Declaration at its 26th Summit, held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- The declaration strongly condemned terrorism in all forms and said that double standards in combating terrorism are unacceptable, while calling for action against terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens.
- SCO members called for the United Nations (UN) to play a central role in combating terrorism through implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
- The declaration opposed the use of terrorist, separatist and extremist groups for political purposes and stressed cooperation against the use of the internet for such activities.
- On West Asia, the SCO expressed concern over the conflict and supported a political and diplomatic solution, while reaffirming respect for Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's three pillars for the SCO — Security, Connectivity and Opportunity — and stressed that conflicts should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.
- India has launched initiatives under the SCO framework, including the SCO Start-up Forum, Young Authors' Conclave and Young Scientists' Forum, while the first SCO Civilizational Dialogue Forum is to be held in India in 2026.
- The SCO has 10 member countries: China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; India became a full member in 2017.

SCO Cultural Capital - Lahore

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

India-Uzbekistan Uranium Deal

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

Trump US dollar 1 Commemorative Coin

- The United States Mint launched a $1 commemorative coin featuring President Donald Trump to mark the country's 250th anniversary of independence.
- Trump became the first living U.S. president to appear on a U.S. coin since Calvin Coolidge in 1926.
- The coins are collectibles and are not issued for daily circulation, but they are legal tender.

Professor Academy

- The coin has a golden colour but contains no actual gold; it is mainly made of copper, with zinc, nickel and manganese brass.
- The 1926 half-dollar featuring President Calvin Coolidge was the previous instance of a living U.S. president appearing on a U.S. coin.

UN Adopts Africa-Accurate Map

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

Child Marriage Elimination Day - November 27

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

Kharg Island Tanker Attack

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

Vostok Oil Pipeline

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

G20 Innovation Ministers Meeting 2026

- The G20 Innovation Ministers' Meeting was held on 1–2 September 2026 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA.
- G20 Ministers adopted the Innovation Ministerial Statement covering six areas, including pro-innovation policies, emerging technologies, skilled workforce, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Intellectual Property (IP), and industrial innovation.
- The meeting reached consensus on the Carolina Principles for Emerging Technologies, AI Prosperity Objectives and AI Prosperity Compact.

Professor Academy

- India discussed cooperation with the European Union, France, Germany, the African Union and the US in AI, digital technologies, semiconductors, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and research.
- The meeting highlighted cooperation in AI, semiconductors, robotics, Digital Public Infrastructure and other emerging technologies.

G20 FMCBG Meeting 2026

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

Dili Declaration on Health

- The 79th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia (RC79) adopted the Dili Declaration on Human Resources for Health: Equity in Specialized Care in Dili, Timor-Leste.
- The declaration focuses on reducing health workforce shortages and unequal distribution of specialists, especially in rural, remote and underserved areas.
- Member States committed to better recruitment, deployment, retention and training of specialist health workers, along with stronger referral systems and telemedicine.
- India's medical colleges increased from 387 to 858 since 2014; MBBS seats rose from 51,348 to 1,42,464 and PG seats from 31,185 to 86,287.
- India is establishing 157 new nursing colleges, creating about 15,700 nursing graduates annually, and plans to create 1 lakh allied and healthcare professionals over five years.
- India received two WHO South-East Asia Regional awards for sustaining elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus and for leadership in controlling noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) through primary healthcare.

Bangladesh Measles Outbreak

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

World's First Energy Island

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

Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)

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

Professor Academy

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

BRICS Summit 2026 – New Delhi Declaration

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

BRICS Mental Health Network

- The 18th BRICS Summit's New Delhi Declaration supports a network of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) for mental health, with NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences), Bengaluru, as the coordinating centre.
- The network will promote collaborative research, policy dialogue, exchange of best practices and evidence-based mental health strategies among BRICS countries.
- Representatives from each BRICS member country will jointly govern the network to support the integration of mental well-being into primary healthcare.
- The Declaration also endorsed the BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle and the BRICS Roadmap for Healthy Lifestyle Promotion (2026–29).
- BRICS also proposed an Expert Working Group on TCIM (Traditional and Complementary/Integrative Medicine) under the BRICS Health Track.

BRICS Education Agenda 2026

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

Houthi Control of Mayyun Island

- Iran-backed Houthi rebels captured Mayyun Island and expanded their control over Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab al-Mandab Strait.
- Mayyun Island lies on Yemen's side of the Bab al-Mandab Strait, the southern gateway to the Red Sea and Suez Canal.
- The Houthis also captured Greater Hanish and Lesser Hanish islands, the neighbouring Red Sea coastline, and the Yemeni port city of Mocha.

Professor Academy

- These areas strengthen their position around the Bab al-Mandab Strait, an important international maritime route.
- Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has relied on the Red Sea route after Iran's Strait of Hormuz blockade disrupted shipments through the Gulf.
- India condemned the attack on commercial vessel MT El Gaia off the coast of Oman, in the Arabian Sea, near the Strait of Hormuz.

India-MERCOSUR Trade Pact

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

Antelope Reef Base - China

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

Historic Pact Among Three Nations

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

Orbital Weapons by USA

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

Professor Academy

ATLAS Nuclear Initiative

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

EU-Canada Associate Membership

- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has backed proposals for Canada to become the EU's first "associate member".
- The proposed status would deepen EU-Canada cooperation in technology, AI, defence, energy, critical minerals and economic security.
- "Associate membership" is not currently an EU membership category and could take years to establish.
- Canada has sought a "unique alliance" with the EU amid trade tensions with the US.
- Von der Leyen also proposed a European Security Council involving partners such as Canada, the UK and Ukraine.

India-Oman Port Cooperation

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

Djibouti in Artemis Accords

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

US Drug Transit List 2027

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

Professor Academy

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

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

About BIMSTEC

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

Year of India and Vietnam Friendship – 2027

- India and Vietnam have agreed to observe next year as the "Year of India-Vietnam Friendship" to mark the 55th anniversary of their bilateral diplomatic relations.
- Vietnam for India is a key partner in India's Act East Policy, in India's Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) in outlook of the Indo-Pacific.
- Vietnam is equally an important partner in the framework of our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).
- Both countries elevated their relationship to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Vietnam is the first country in the region with which we have bilateral ties at that level.
- India announced that it had signed a deal with Vietnam to supply BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.
- The bilateral joint military exercise between India and Vietnam is named Exercise VINBAX.

World Circular Economy Forum 2026

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

Oman Strategic Port

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

SCO Trade Ministers Meet

- The 25th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Ministers responsible for foreign economic and foreign trade activities was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Professor Academy

- The meeting discussed sustainable economic growth, trade development, reducing trade barriers, and transport and logistics connectivity.
- A Joint Statement and the 2026–2030 Action Plan on multilateral trade and economic cooperation were adopted.
- The SCO, founded in 2001, has 10 member states, including India, China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran.
- The next SCO economic and foreign trade ministers' meeting is scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan in 2027.

Greenland Security Deal

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

L.69 Group and UNSC Reform

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired the L.69 Consultative Ministerial Interaction on United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform with Saint Lucia's Foreign Minister Alva Baptiste in New York.
- The L.69 Group is a cross-regional coalition of over 30 developing countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific, including Small Island Developing States.
- It works for comprehensive and urgent reform of the UNSC to make the Council more representative and effective.
- The C-10 (Committee of Ten) is an African Union group of 10 countries that promotes the Common African Position on UNSC reform.
- India said that the UNSC's inability to address ongoing conflicts and threats to international peace and security highlights the need for reform.
- India, L.69 and C-10 continue to coordinate their efforts on UNSC reform; India also works with the G4 (India, Brazil, Germany and Japan) on the issue.

Partners for Multilateralism

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

Global Pesticide Review

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

V4+India Foreign Ministers' Meeting

- The first V4+India Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.

Professor Academy

- The meeting brought together India with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, which form the Visegrád Group (V4).
- External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar participated in the meeting under the Slovak Presidency of the V4.
- Discussions covered trade, investment, technology, innovation, defence, security, connectivity, education and mobility.
- The V4+India format provides an additional platform for dialogue and cooperation between India and the Visegrád Group.

OneSCD Global Partnership

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

Enemy State Clauses in UN Charter

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

UN Shipping Safety Group

- India and Liberia jointly launched the Group of Friends on Safety and Security of Shipping and Seafarers (GoF on S4) during the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York.
- India and Liberia are the co-chairs of the group, which includes 25 member countries.
- Liberia has the world's largest open ship registry, while India is the second-largest supplier of seafarers, with around 2.5 lakh active Indian seafarers.
- The group aims to protect seafarers, improve maritime security and coordinate responses to piracy and attacks on ships.
- It promotes the safe evacuation, medical treatment and repatriation of seafarers trapped in conflict zones.
- Over 80% of global trade by volume is transported by sea, making safe Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) important for international trade.

UN Cybercrime Convention 2026

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

Professor Academy

ECONOMY

- India became the world's fourth-largest economy in 2025, overtaking Japan, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of $4.18 trillion.

Learn Basics – GDP: The total value of final goods and services produced within a country in a year. India's financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March.

- The RBI has started a review of the Scale-Based Regulation (introduced in 2022) framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

Learn Basics – NBFC: A Non-Banking Financial Company provides loans and credit but does not hold a banking licence. NBFCs are registered under the Companies Act and regulated by RBI.

- Growth in the Index of Industrial Production surged to a 25–month high of 6.7% in November 2025.

Learn Basics – Index of Industrial Production (IIP): Measures short-term changes in the volume of industrial output; released monthly by NSO.

- The first meeting of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) was held in Mumbai.
- India imported $6.4 billion of refined silver in 2024, making it the world's largest consumer of finished silver.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified the Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) Regulations, 2026.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will implement the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) 2026 from July 1, 2026.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has formed a high-level Committee chaired by MS Sahoo to design a framework for assured payouts under the National Pension System (NPS).

Learn Basics – PFRDA and NPS: PFRDA regulates the National Pension System (NPS). NPS began in 2004 for government employees and was opened to all citizens in 2009; it is a defined-contribution scheme.

- India is the world leader in the number of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) and ranks third globally by IPO value.
- India is projected to become an upper-middle income country by 2030 and the third largest economy by 2028.
- India's electronics exports crossed $47 billion (₹4.15 trillion) in 2025, driven by the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for smartphone exports.
- Indian banks' credit-to-deposit (CD) ratio reached a record 81.75% in 2025, showing strong lending demand.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has formed Narayan Ramachandran Committee to modernise National Pension System investment rules.
- The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released details of a new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series, The base year of CPI has been revised from 2011–12 to 2023–24.
- The National Statistics Office (NSO) will conduct a nationwide Migration Survey from July 2026 to June 2027.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank became the first bank in India to issue a fully digital Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) licence.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) became the largest overseas destination for Indian blue-collar workers in 2025, surpassing Saudi Arabia.
- India's gross NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) of scheduled commercial banks fell to a historic low of 2.15% in September 2025.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced a revision of the base year for key economic indicators, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) will have a new base year of 2022- 23, while the Consumer Price Index (CPI) base year is revised to 2024.
- India's retail inflation was recorded at 2.75% in January 2026 under the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series (Base: 2024 = 100).
- The Government of India revised the base year of India's merchandise trade indices from 2012–13 to 2022–23.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released a new series of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates with a base year of 2022–23.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0 in New Delhi.
- SEBI used the Sudarshan Artificial Intelligence (AI) system to remove over 1.2 lakh misleading posts by financial influencers on social media.

Learn Basics – SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India: the securities market regulator, statutory since 1992; headquartered in Mumbai.

- India's trade deficit with China crossed $100 billion for the first time, reaching about $102 billion in FY 2025–26 (April-February).

Professor Academy

- India's sports industry crossed $2 billion in 2025, reaching a value of ₹18,864 crore as per a report by WPP Media.
- India has overtaken China to become the largest supplier of cotton products to the United States in 2025.
- RBI made Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) mandatory for all digital payments from 1 April 2026 to improve transaction security.
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) retained LIC, GIC Re and New India Assurance as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SII) for FY 2025–26.
- India has emerged as the world's 2nd-largest fish-producing nation after China, contributing about 8% of global fish production.
- Retail inflation increased from 3.21% in February 2026 to 3.4% in March 2026.
- The International Monetary Fund stated that India became the 6th largest economy in 2025 based on global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rankings.
- China became India's largest trading partner in FY 2025–26, surpassing the United States, with total trade at USD 151.1 billion and a record trade deficit of USD 112.6 billion.
- India expanded the RELIEF (Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) scheme to include Egypt and Jordan.
- India and New Zealand signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India operationalised the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA).
- Reserve Bank of India launched Mission SAKSHAM for Urban Cooperative Banks.
- India allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the insurance sector under the automatic route through amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) Rules, 2019.
- National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR) trading in 2026.
- Indian Agri-Exports surpassing $50 billion in FY 2025–26
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India proposed GARUDA, a green-channel mechanism for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- India remains the world's largest producer of jaggery (gur), contributing over 70% of global production.
- The Ministry of Commerce revised the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for processing Foreign Direct Investment approvals to improve transparency and efficiency.
- India became the second-largest trading partner of Bangladesh, surpassing the United States, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).
- National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched India's first SEBI -approved weather derivative contract called RAINMUMBAI.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved its highest-ever surplus transfer of ₹2.86 lakh crore to the Central Government for the Financial Year (FY) 2025–26.
- The RBI formed an 8-member expert committee called Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE) under Professor Anil Prabhakar of IIT Madras.
- India surpassed the United Kingdom (UK) to become Sri Lanka's second-largest export destination during January-April 2026.
- Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited plans to launch India's first Blue Bond in FY 2026–27.
- The Reserve Bank of India is exploring a universal 'Kill Switch' mechanism and 'Switch On/Switch Off' facility for digital payment channels.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has revised the base year of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) from 2011–12 to 2022– 23.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will release the revised WPI with 2022–23 as the new base year, replacing the 2011–12 series.
- India slipped to the 7th position in global stock market capitalisation rankings after being overtaken by South Korea.
- NPCI International Payments Limited and ACLEDA Bank launched cross-border UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments in Cambodia through the KHQR platform.
- Tamil Nadu-Andaman & Nicobar Islands-Puducherry (TAP) region Special Economic Zones (SEZs) achieved their highest-ever exports in 2025–26.
- A rare Yellow Puffball Mushroom was documented in Zedua village, Longding district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- India became the world's largest digital wallet market in 2025 with more than 440 million app downloads.

Professor Academy

- India became the world's third-largest domestic aviation market in April 2024, surpassing Brazil and Indonesia, and ranking behind only the United States and China.
- President Droupadi Murmu approved the merger of REC Limited with Power Finance Corporation (PFC) to create a larger power sector financing institution.
- India received over USD 100 billion in workers' remittances in FY 2025-26
- Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI became India's 130th unicorn after raising $234 million in a Series B funding round.
- RBI has launched "Reelathon 2026" in India to spread awareness on cybersecurity and the prevention of financial fraud among digital users.
- NSE Indices Limited in India has launched 11 new sector-specific indices, expanding its total sectoral indices count to 34.
- Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) became India's 28th Nav ratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- India became the world's largest ship recycling nation in 2025, accounting for 35.4% of global ship recycling.
- India contributed about 9% of global aquatic animal production in 2024, ranking second after China.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will launch the Index of Services Production (ISP) in July 2026 on a trial basis.
- As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data for FY26, India's external debt increased to $762.8 billion, along with a rise in the debt-to-GDP ratio to 20.8%.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched three key surveys – Inflation Expectations Survey of Households, Rural Consumer Confidence Survey, and Urban Consumer Confidence Survey.
- The United States (US) imposed a 10% tariff on imports from India and 16 other countries over concerns related to forced labour in supply chains.
- India will launch its first domestic benchmark-based Natural Gas Futures Contract through the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- The Reserve Bank of India is reviving plans to introduce polymer (plastic) currency notes, starting with a pilot project for ₹10 and ₹20 denominations.

[Aug 11–20] Polymer Currency Trial in India

- **Approval:** The government approved the introduction of 1 billion polymer banknotes each of ₹10 and ₹20 for field trials, proposed under Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934.
- **Process:** The polymer notes will be issued alongside existing paper notes; regular issuance will depend on successful field trial completion.
- **Purpose:** Polymer banknotes are being tested as a more durable alternative to paper-based currency; no exact launch date or cost fixed as procurement is at an initial stage.

> **Learn Basics – Polymer banknote:** Printed on a synthetic polymer substrate (biaxially oriented polypropylene) instead of cotton-rag paper; more durable, harder to counterfeit, and recyclable.
>
> **Learn Basics – Section 25 of RBI Act, 1934:** Governs the design, form and material of banknotes; proposals for currency changes require RBI recommendation and government approval.

- State Bank of India (SBI) is set to become the first Indian bank in 2026 to issue Basel III-compliant Additional Tier-I (AT-1) Perpetual Bonds.
- India climbed from 82nd in 2010 to 57th in 2023 in the Market Distortions Performance Index, according to the Competere Foundation report.
- Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index from 2012=100 to 2024=100.
- India became the world's leading ship recycling nation, increasing its global share from 30.1% in 2024 to 35.4% in 2025.
- The government has proposed a ₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS) to increase domestic container production and reduce import dependence.

August 11–20, 2026

India – Global Leader in Number of IPOs

- **Ranking:** India retained the top position globally in the number of IPOs; ranked 3rd in funds raised (after the US and Hong Kong) according to SEBI's Annual Report.

Professor Academy

- **Market trends:** Corporate bond mobilisation declined 8.4% to ₹9.1 lakh crore (first fall in four years); FPI ownership fell to a 15-year low while DIIs reached a record 17% equity holding by March 2026.
- **Retail participation:** Monthly SIP contributions touched a record average of ₹16,400 crore+; 62% of retail investors are influenced by financial influencers on social media.
- **CAS:** SEBI introduced a new Closing Auction Session (CAS) to improve price discovery and align with global standards.

> **Learn Basics – IPO (Initial Public Offering):** The first sale of a company's shares to the public on a stock exchange; regulated by SEBI's ICDR Regulations.
>
> **Learn Basics – FPI vs DII:** Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) invest from abroad; Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) include mutual funds, insurance companies and pension funds. DII dominance reduces market volatility linked to foreign outflows.

RBI Second List of Upper Layer NBFCs 2026-27

- **List:** RBI released a list of 17 Upper Layer (UL) NBFCs for 2026-27, including Tata Sons, REC, Power Finance Corporation, Bajaj Finance, Shriram Finance and LIC Housing Finance.
- **UL criteria:** NBFCs in the Upper Layer have assets of ₹1,00,000 crore and above; once classified as UL, they face bank-equivalent enhanced regulation for at least 5 years.
- **Scale-based tiers:** RBI's Scale Based Regulation divides NBFCs into Base Layer (BL), Middle Layer (ML), Upper Layer (UL) and Top Layer (TL).
- **NBFC basics:** NBFCs provide banking-like services (loans, credit, investments) but cannot accept demand deposits, issue self-drawn cheques or offer government-insured deposits.

> **Learn Basics – NBFC vs bank:** Banks have a full RBI licence and accept demand deposits (DICGC-insured up to ₹5 lakh); NBFCs operate under the RBI Act, 1934 but cannot accept demand deposits.
>
> **Learn Basics – Tata Sons NBFC status:** Despite being a holding company, Tata Sons' large financial assets put it in the upper layer; UL status requires mandatory listing within 3 years.

US Becomes India's Largest LPG Supplier

- **Shift:** The US now accounts for 67% of India's LPG imports following diversification after West Asia supply disruptions.
- **Earlier dependence:** Before the West Asia conflict, India imported about 60% of LPG requirements, of which approximately 90% came via the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Crude diversification:** India also expanded crude supply sources from 27 to 41 countries; the government approved a ₹84,000 crore 'Samudra Manthan' programme for deepwater oil and gas exploration.

> **Learn Basics – LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas):** A mixture of propane and butane; used as cooking gas (bottled gas) in households; subsidised in India under the PM Ujjwala Yojana.
>
> **Learn Basics – Samudra Manthan:** India's ₹84,000 crore deepwater oil and gas exploration programme to boost domestic energy production and reduce import dependence.

August 21–31, 2026

India FDI Record $30.7 Billion

- **Record:** India received $30.7 billion FDI in April–June 2026 quarter — a 15-year high.
- **Top Sources:** Singapore, Netherlands, US, and Canada together accounted for 74% of total FDI.
- **Sectors:** Manufacturing, IT, and infrastructure attracted the largest FDI flows.
- **Significance:** Reflects improved investor confidence following sustained economic growth.

Source Country	FDI Share
Singapore	Largest single source
Netherlands	2nd largest
USA + Canada	Combined major contributor
Singapore+Netherlands+US+Canada	74% total

> **Learn Basics – FDI (Foreign Direct Investment):** Investment by a foreign entity in a business with a lasting interest — at least 10% equity stake.
>
> **Learn Basics – DPIIT (Dept for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade):** Tracks and promotes FDI in India under Commerce Ministry.

Professor Academy

Exam Point – FDI differs from FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investment) — FDI involves long-term ownership stake, FPI is short-term capital market investment.

India Forex Reserve Hits Record $729.3 Billion

- **Record:** India's foreign exchange reserves touched $729.3 billion for the week ending August 21, 2026.
- **Components:** Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) rose by $9.4 billion; gold reserves up $2.8 billion.
- **Managed By:** RBI (Reserve Bank of India) manages India's foreign exchange reserves.
- **Significance:** Provides ~12 months of import cover; cushions rupee from exchange rate volatility.

Learn Basics – Forex Reserves: Foreign currency, gold, SDRs, and reserve tranche position at IMF held by a country's central bank.

Learn Basics – FCA (Foreign Currency Assets): Largest component of India's forex reserves; held in foreign government bonds and bank deposits.

Regional Rural Banks Loan Growth

- **Portfolio:** RRB loan book reached ₹5.78 lakh crore with a 10.3% year-on-year growth rate.
- **Priority Sector:** 91.7% of RRB loan portfolio meets Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms under Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC).
- **Mandate:** RRBs serve rural and semi-urban areas; primarily fund agriculture, MSME, and low-income borrowers.
- **Sponsors:** RRBs are co-sponsored by Central Government (50%), State Government (15%), and a sponsor commercial bank (35%).

Learn Basics – RRB (Regional Rural Bank): Specialised rural banks set up in 1975 (under RRB Act) to serve agricultural and rural credit needs.

Learn Basics – PSL (Priority Sector Lending): RBI mandate requiring banks to direct a minimum share of loans to agriculture, MSMEs, education, housing, and weaker sections.

Exam Point – RRB ownership split: 50% Centre, 15% State, 35% Sponsor Bank — this exact ratio is commonly tested.

September 2026

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the export of 18 metric tonnes (MT) of NPOP-certified ethnic rice from Tripura to Austria and the Netherlands.
- India’s foreign exchange (forex) reserves reached a record high of US$740.8 billion in the week ended August 28, 2026.
- Talabira II & III coal mine in Odisha recorded its highest-ever annual coal production of 19.14 million tonnes (MT) in FY 2025–26.
  - The open-cast mine is located in Sambalpur and Jharsuguda districts, Odisha, and is operated by NLC India Ltd.
- India ranked No. 1 among 41 global markets in the Global Business Climate Survey 2026 by Business Sweden and Swedish Chambers of Commerce.
- Premier Energies commissioned India’s largest 7 GW N-type TOPCon (Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact) solar cell facility at Naidupeta, Andhra Pradesh, raising its total solar cell manufacturing capacity to 10.6 GW, the highest in India.
- Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, is set to host Asia’s first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) with an estimated investment of ₹5,500 crore.
- Foundation stone laid for Adani Power’s ₹48,000-crore, 3,200 MW Ultra- Supercritical Thermal Power Plant at Chapar, Dhubri, Assam—the largest power plant in Northeast India.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) discovered natural gas in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin off Odisha under the Samudra Manthan initiative, marking its first exploration drill in the basin.
- Microsoft opened its India South Central data centre region in Telangana, its fourth cloud region in India.

September 2026

India’s Coconut Exports Rise

- India’s coconut product exports increased 62% in FY 2025–26, reaching ₹7,038.35 crore (USD 794.70 million) from ₹4,349.03 crore in the previous fiscal year.
- India remained the world’s largest coconut producer, contributing 31.24% of global coconut production.
- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh together account for 91.11% of India’s coconut production.

Professor Academy

- Major value-added exports include virgin coconut oil, coconut milk, coconut water and activated carbon, used in food, cosmetics and industrial applications.
- The Coconut Development Board (CDB) is the statutory body for coconut-sector development; it had 8,700 registered coconut product exporters as of 31 July 2026.
- The Union Budget 2026–27 introduced the Coconut Promotion Scheme with an allocation of ₹350 crore; the sector supports nearly 30 million livelihoods in India.

GDP Methodology and Q1 Estimates

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

RBI Forex Swap Facility

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

Direct Tax Buoyancy

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

Coastal Local Area Bank - Scheduled Bank Status

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

EPFO Wage Ceiling

- Union Cabinet has approved raising the Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) wage ceiling from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month.

Professor Academy

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

IT Resilience Index - SEBI

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

India's first Tokenized Corporate Bond

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

FDI Inflow in India 2026

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

Global Rank - GIFT City

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

Professor Academy

- Since the researchers at the National University of Defence Technology (NUDT), China, accelerated a maglev (magnetic levitation) test vehicle to 700 km/h in just two seconds, it is described as the fastest superconducting electric maglev system in the world so far.
- China unveiled the YJ–20 hypersonic anti-ship missile, which was launched from a Type 055 large destroyer.
- The DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR–120) at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.

Learn Basics – Pinaka: Indigenous multi-barrel rocket launcher system developed by DRDO.

- DRDO carried out a salvo launch test of two indigenous Pralay missiles from the same launcher.

Learn Basics – Pralay: Indigenous short-range, surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile developed by DRDO.

- The Ministry of Science and Technology has developed new open-source software, Path Gennie, for fast tracking of drug discovery.
- The Indian Army has successfully carried out India's first 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent.
- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first oral pill called Mitapivat for treating anaemia in adult thalassemia patients.
- India's first government hospital-based Artificial Intelligence (AI) clinic was launched at the Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Greater Noida.
- India has developed indigenously made Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) using 3D-printing technology under Mission Mausam.
- Scientists have detected cetacean morbillivirus, a highly infectious virus that affects whales, dolphins, porpoises, and pilot whales in Arctic waters for the first time.
- The Wolf Supermoon appeared in the sky on January 3, 2026, marking the first full Moon of the year.
- The DRDO has developed a portable desalination system to provide drinking water to soldiers in remote and water-scarce areas.
- Pakistan Air Force has successfully conducted a flight test of the Taimoor air- launched cruise missile with a range of 600 kilometres.
- The Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samudra Pratap, the first indigenously designed Pollution Control Vessel built by Goa Shipyard Limited, is also the largest ship in the ICG fleet and was commissioned in Goa.
- Scientists have created the first three-dimensional (3D) images of Mexico's Popocatépetl volcano to better understand its internal magma movement.
- NASA has, for the first time, studied the internal structure of a white dwarf system in detail.
- Researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) used supercomputers to simulate ice formation and confirm the Mpemba Effect.
- ISRO reported that cosmic dust hits Earth's atmosphere every 16 minutes.
- Financial Software and Systems has become the first payments company in India, the Middle East, Asia Pacific, and South Africa to get ISO IEC 42001 Certification Lead status.
- NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has discovered a starless gas cloud called Cloud 9 near the galaxy Messier 94.
- Raman Research Institute (RRI) has developed a new technique to measure cold atoms without disturbing them.
- NASA has brought four astronauts back early from the International Space Station (ISS) due to a medical concern affecting one crew member.
- The asteroid 2025 MN45 is the fastest-spinning asteroid of its size ever observed.
- The National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Japan, achieved the world's first 2 terabits per second (Tbit/s) free-space optical (FSO) communication.
- The DRDO successfully flight-tested the indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).
- SCORP, A legged mobile manipulator was developed by xTerra Robotics, which is incubated at the IIT Kanpur.
- Chennai-based OrbitAid Aerospace launched AyulSAT onboard ISRO's PSLV– C62 to demonstrate in-orbit satellite refuelling.
- Earth's ocean heat content (OHC) has set a new record in 2025 by absorbing an additional ~23 zettajoules (ZJ) of heat.
- DRDO successfully conducted a long-duration ground test of an actively cooled full-scale scramjet combustor, which demonstrated sustained performance for over 12 minutes.

Professor Academy

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) organised the BHASHINI Samudaye workshop to strengthen India's Language Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem in New Delhi.
- Scientists discovered two new frog species – Soman's Slender Arm Frog (Leptobrachium soman) and Mechuka Slender Arm Frog (Leptobrachium mechuka).in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) marked its 5th Foundation Day in January 2026.
- Scientists have developed an efficient large-scale method to produce tagatose, a healthier alternative to regular sugar and artificial sweeteners.
- Scientists inaugurated the world's first global repository of mountain ice cores at Concordia Research Station on the Antarctic Plateau.
- Google has launched Translate Gemma, an artificial intelligence (AI) based open translation model built on Gemma 3 architecture, supporting 55 global languages, including high- and low-resource languages.
- NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft, launched in 1977 is expected to reach a distance of one light-day from Earth.
- Scientists have discovered a 5,200–year-old wooden boat beneath Lake Mendota in the United States, revealing details of early human life and advanced woodworking skills.
- The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Zycubo for the treatment of children with Menkes disease.
- The Sun released its most powerful solar radiation storm in over two decades, reaching Earth in January 2026.
- Scientists have discovered a new ginger species named Parakaempferia alba of Zingiberaceae family in the Siang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR) conducted India's first full-system safety assessment of a hydrogen compressor-dispenser.
- ASC ARJUN is a humanoid robot designed for advanced research and industrial applications.
- Microsoft launched the Maia 200 AI chip, offering 30% higher performance per dollar, and deployed it in U.S. data centres for Microsoft 365 Copilot and cloud AI services.
- Indian startup Akashlabdhi is preparing to launch the country's first inflatable space habitat, named AntarikshHAB.
- The Atomic Scientists set the Doomsday Clock at 85 seconds to midnight on January 27, 2026, the closest it has ever been.
- The DRDO successfully demonstrated Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) missile technology.
- DRDO successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable Agni-3 ballistic missile (surface-to-surface missile) off the Odisha coast.
- The Indian Air Force's Pechora surface-to-air missile system has been fully digitised to improve air defence capability.
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) released ExoMiner++, an open-source artificial intelligence model to detect exoplanets.
- Google DeepMind launched AlphaGenome, an artificial intelligence tool that predicts how genetic mutations affect gene regulation and human diseases.
- A rare red aurora was observed over Hanle, Ladakh, after a powerful solar flare triggered a geomagnetic storm.
- The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) discovered the most distant galaxy named MoM-z14.
- Azista Space achieved India's first in-orbit imaging ("in-orbit snooping") capability by capturing images of the International Space Station (ISS) using an indigenous satellite.
- ISRO's Space Applications Centre identified a safe landing site near Mons Mouton on the Moon for Chandrayaan-4.
- Moltbook is an AI-only social networking platform created by Matt Schlicht, CEO of OctaneAI, designed for artificial intelligence (AI) agents to post, comment, and interact without human prompts or moderation.
- Researchers from India – Australia have developed a flexible and economical biosensor capable of rapidly detecting myoglobin, a critical cardiac biomarker linked to the early stages of a heart attack.
- iLive Connect was introduced as the world's first doctor-led Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered home healthcare ecosystem.
- Haven-1 is expected to become the world's first private space station, planned for launch in 2027.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) signed an agreement to produce Superjet-100 (SJ-100) aircraft in India.
- Recently, the European Space Agency (ESA) has released a high-resolution image of the 2026 Winter Olympic venues in northern Italy using the Copernicus Sentinel-2 mission.

Professor Academy

- Scientists from Stanford University created the first global map of rare continental mantle earthquakes.
- The AIIMS, New Delhi, conducted the first remote real-time ultrasound on a patient at India's Maitri research station in Antarctica.
- Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI has unveiled two Artificial Intelligence (AI) language models at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi.
- VoicERA, an open-source Voice Artificial Intelligence (AI) stack, was launched at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 on the BHASHINI National Language Infrastructure.
- Gnani.ai has launched Vachana Text-to-Speech (TTS) and Speech-to-Text (STT) models, which are trained on more than one million hours of Indian voice data.
- BharatGen unveiled PARAM 2 17B, a 17-billion-parameter multilingual Mixture- of-Experts (MoE) foundational model.
- IIT Madras Global Research Foundation launched its first Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Centre at Dubai CommerCity, UAE.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) launched the Global AI-for-Energy Mission at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi.
- The Sun produced an X8.3 solar flare on 1 February 2026, the strongest solar flare recorded this year.
- Thirteen Class XI students of Ariyakudi Government Higher Secondary School in Sivagangai district, Tamil Nadu, successfully launched a 600-gram mini satellite named Vikko Sat-1, Vikko Sat-1 was designed to detect fungal spores in the stratosphere using five specialised sensors.
- Iran has launched ballistic missiles, including its Khorramshahr-4 (also called "Kheibar"), in retaliation after coordinated strikes by the United States and Israel.
- China's Zhurong rover, part of the Tianwen-1 mission, discovered evidence of ancient beaches on Mars.
- Moonshot Project was launched by the IISc to develop brain co-processors combining neuromorphic hardware and Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms.
- Skyroot Aerospace is preparing to launch Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket.
- Japan has approved the world's first stem-cell therapy for treating Parkinson's Disease, which uses Induced Pluripotent Stem (iPS) Cells to replace damaged dopamine-producing neurons in the brain.
- Scientists at the University of Waterloo in Canada have found a way to turn plastic waste into acetic acid (vinegar) using only sunlight.
- The PrSM (Precision Strike Missile) was reportedly used by the United States Army during strikes in the West Asia conflict involving Iran.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) lost contact with the Coronagraph satellite of the Proba-3 mission due to a power failure.
- DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully tested the ADC-150 (Air Droppable Container-150) from a Boeing P-8I Poseidon aircraft near Goa.
- India is testing Sheshnaag-150, a long-range swarming attack drone by Newspace Research Technologies, Bengaluru.
- The Scientists are studying Devon Island in Nunavut, Canada, as a natural site to test technologies and survival methods for future Mars missions.
- Avataar amphibious drone, India's first amphibious drone, was launched by Aqua AirX Autonomous Systems.
- Iran has reportedly deployed the Sejjil Ballistic Missile for the first time in active combat during a military operation against positions linked to the United States and Israel.
- Minor Planet Centre (under the auspices of the International Astronomical Union) announced the discovery of 15 new moons in the Solar System, including 4 around Jupiter and 11 around Saturn.
- CERN announced the discovery of a new particle called Xi-cc-plus.
- The atomic clock in the IRNSS-1F satellite failed, affecting India's navigation system NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has started the Vayu Baan project to develop India's first helicopter-launched drone system.
- Scientists identified desert moss Syntrichia caninervis that may support future life on Mars.
- Japan discovered a massive deep-sea rare earth deposit under the Pacific Ocean near Minamitorishima Island.
- Scientists have discovered a huge water reservoir nearly 700 km below Earth's surface inside the mantle.
- The European Space Agency launched two Celeste satellites named Celeste IOD- 1 and IOD-2 to improve navigation systems.

Professor Academy

- Astronomers have discovered a new planetary system with two Earth-like planets about 120 light-years away from Earth.
- India's PFBR (Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, achieved criticality.
- The United Arab Emirates launched the world's first 10G (10 Gigabit) U6GHz internet network.
- "Bhavasagara" Referral Centre at CMLRE (Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology) in Kerala and Agharkar Research Institute in Maharashtra was designated as a National Repositories under the Biological Diversity Act 2002.
- NASA's Artemis II mission set a new record for the farthest distance travelled by humans in space.
- Artemis II, the first crewed lunar mission since the Apollo astronauts safely returned to Earth after a historic Moon flyby.
- US plans to deploy nuclear reactors in space by 2028 and on the Moon by 2030 under the "National Initiative for American Space Nuclear Power"
- The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, Built by NASA has completed assembly and entered final testing before its 2026 launch.
- Chinese scientists discovered a new Moon mineral named Cerium-Magnesium Changesite, marking the 11th lunar mineral identified so far.
- Astronomers have mapped the massive Vela Supercluster (Vela-Banzi) for the first time which is located about 800 million light-years away.
- China developed the world's first coal-based fuel cell that can generate electricity with near-zero carbon emissions.
- China unveiled the Atlas drone swarm system of the People's Liberation Army, an AI-based platform that can launch and control up to 96 drones for surveillance and attack.
- DRDO launched the Vikram VT 21 project for advanced armoured vehicles.
- India successfully tested a long-range hypersonic anti-ship missile developed by the DRDO with a strike range of over 1,500 km and speeds up to Mach 10.
- India's first privately developed orbital rocket, Vikram-1, was flagged off which has been developed by Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace.
- The University of Oxford and Serum Institute of India have partnered to develop the next-generation R78C malaria vaccine, which targets Plasmodium falciparum.
- GalaxEye launched Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite and India's largest privately developed Earth observation satellite.
- Pixxel and Sarvam are developing India's first orbital data centre satellite, Pathfinder, a 200 kg-class satellite expected to be launched in Q4 2026.
- India conducted the maiden test of a nuclear-capable Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) from Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
- India successfully tested the Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology under Mission Divyastra.
- An international panel has renamed Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) as Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS) to better reflect its biological complexity.
- DRDO and the Indian Air Force successfully conducted the maiden flight trial of TARA (Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation), India's first indigenous glide weapon system
- Roche launched India's first under-the-skin (subcutaneous) immunotherapy drug, Tecentriq SC, for lung cancer treatment.
- Scientists proposed the existence of a hidden ancient dwarf galaxy named "Loki" inside the Milky Way.
- Sweden joined India's Venus Orbiter Mission "Shukrayaan" through scientific collaboration with ISRO.
- Scientists discovered diverse microbial communities living beneath Antarctica's Ross Ice Shelf without sunlight.
- DRDO successfully completed the final development trials of the indigenous ULPGM-V3 missile.
- Scientists using data from MAVEN have observed the Zwan-Wolf effect deep in Mars' atmosphere for the first time.
- Scientists developed "Plant-OpenCRISPR1," the world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-designed genome-editing platform for crops.
- The European Space Agency and the Chinese Academy of Sciences launched the SMILE (Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer) mission, their first fully joint space mission.
- India successfully launched Mission SANA, the country's first indigenous stratospheric super-pressure balloon mission, from Vijayawada by Red Balloon Aerospace.

Professor Academy

- China successfully performed the world's first simultaneous pig liver and pig kidney transplant into a human patient.
- The Indian Army conducted an operational demonstration of the indigenous Divyastra Mk-1 tactical loitering munition in Jodhpur on 1 June 2026.
- The James Webb Space Telescope detected methane on the interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS, marking the first direct detection of methane on an object originating outside the Solar System.
- A rare Blue Moon-Micromoon event was observed on 31 May 2026, making it an uncommon lunar phenomenon.
- Microsoft unveiled the Majorana 2 quantum chip at Build 2026, reporting a major improvement in qubit stability, with an average qubit lifetime of 20 seconds and peaks of up to 60 seconds.
- NASA announced the four-member crew- Randy Bresnik (United States), Luca Parmitano (Italy), Andre Douglas (United States), and Frank Rubio (United States) for the Artemis III mission.
- The IIT Madras has released ANCHOR (Atlas of Neurochemical Characterization of the Human Brainstem with 3D Reconstruction), the world's most detailed 3D atlas of the human brainstem.
- India validated Truenat HR-HPV-Plus, the country's first indigenous Human Papillomavirus (HPV) screening test for cervical cancer, developed by Molbio Diagnostics.
- IIT Bhubaneswar has developed ArsenSafe, a portable device that rapidly detects arsenic contamination in drinking water without laboratory facilities.
- India has approved Pluvicto, the country's first radioligand therapy (RLT) for treating advanced prostate cancer.
- The first Made-in-India C-295 military transport aircraft successfully completed its maiden test flight in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- INS Agray, the fifth Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), was delivered to the Indian Navy
- China’s LineShine supercomputer, ranked first in the TOP500 list (June 2026 edition).
- Canada signed a $2.5 billion agreement with Australia and BAE Systems Australia to acquire an Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar (A-OTHR) system.
- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) inaugurated the world’s first hydrogen production facility using nuclear process heat at IGCAR, Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- ISRO successfully conducted a 175-tonne hot test of the Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA) at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- DRDO launched a project to deploy an indigenous Underwater Fibre Optic Sensing System (UFOSS) for seabed-based submarine surveillance in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Scientists identified Parrot bornavirus 4 (PaBV-4) in India for the first time.
- IIT Guwahati (IITG) researchers developed a biological material using cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) to remove lead from contaminated water.
- Mission Drishti, the world’s first OptoSAR (Optical + Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite, lost communication due to an anomaly caused by a geomagnetic solar storm.
- NASA launched the Swift Boost Mission, the first satellite servicing mission to extend the life of the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory.
- India launched the Airship-based High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (AS-HAPS) programme for indigenous long-endurance surveillance airships.
- China successfully tested a sea-based reusable rocket booster recovery system using the Long March 10B rocket.
- Astronomers using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) discovered a new giant exoplanet, Beta Pictoris d, in the Beta Pictoris system.
- The Boomerang Nebula has been identified as the coldest known naturally occurring object in the universe, with a temperature of about -272°C, near absolute zero.
- Scientists discovered that the Sun’s upper atmosphere rotates faster than its visible surface.
- Researchers discovered a previously unknown metal alloy inside glass-like hiros himaites recovered from Hiroshima Bay, Japan, formed after the 1945 atomic bomb blast.
- ICAR - National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal developed India’s first indigenous MA-104 cell line-based Live Attenuated African Swine Fever (ASF) Vaccine for pigs.
- IIT Guwahati developed “E-Eye”, a low-cost portable optical sensing device for rapid detection of toxicants and cancer-causing heavy metals.
- Bengaluru-based Astrobase Space Technologies unveiled EVEREST, India’s first privately built 800-kilonewton (kN) Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) rocket engine.

Professor Academy

[Aug 11–20] EVEREST Rocket Engine – India's First Private FFSC Engine

- **Milestone:** Astrobase Space Technologies (Bengaluru) developed EVEREST, India's first private rocket engine using Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) technology, with 800 kN thrust.
- **FFSC advantage:** FFSC achieves the highest thermodynamic efficiency among rocket engine cycles by routing all propellants through pre-burners before the main combustion chamber, reducing propellant waste.
- **Global context:** Only SpaceX's Raptor engine uses FFSC technology among current operational rocket engines; EVEREST marks a significant private-sector milestone for India.

> **Learn Basics – Staged combustion:** Rocket propellant is first burned in a pre-burner (generating gas to drive turbopumps) and then completely burned in the main chamber; 'full-flow' means all propellant goes through pre-burners.
>
> **Learn Basics – kN (kilonewton):** A unit of thrust force; 800 kN is approximately 81.5 tonnes-force, suitable for medium-lift launch vehicles.

- Param Pragya, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered high-performance computing facility inaugurated at IIT Delhi Sonipat Campus.

Current Affairs, Aug 11–20

Agni-4 Missile Test

- **Test:** India successfully test-fired the Agni-4 Medium Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- **Specifications:** Agni-4: 2-stage solid-fuel missile, 4,000 km range, 1,000 kg payload capacity; operated by Strategic Forces Command (SFC).
- **SFC:** The Strategic Forces Command manages India's nuclear delivery systems; Agni-4 falls within India's nuclear triad capability.

Agni Variant (Type)	Range
Agni-I (SRBM)	700–1,200 km
Agni-II (MRBM)	2,000–3,500 km
Agni-IV (MRBM)	4,000 km
Agni-V (ICBM-class)	5,000+ km

> **Learn Basics – MRBM (Medium Range Ballistic Missile):** Range 1,000-3,500 km; Agni-4 at 4,000 km overlaps with Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) territory (3,000-5,500 km).
>
> **Learn Basics – Strategic Forces Command (SFC):** Tri-service command of the Indian Armed Forces responsible for managing and administering nuclear weapons delivery systems.

> **Exam Point –** Agni-4 range (4,000 km) and its solid-fuel / two-stage design are tested facts; contrast with Agni-5 which is often described as ICBM-class (5,000+ km).

Anil Menon – First Spacewalk by Indian-Origin NASA Astronaut

- **Achievement:** Indian-origin NASA astronaut Anil Menon completed his first spacewalk (US Spacewalk 96) with Jessica Meir, spending 6 hours 27 minutes outside the ISS.
- **Task:** The astronauts prepared the ISS 3B power channel for future upgrades to install International Space Station Roll-Out Solar Arrays (IROSA) for additional power.
- **EVA:** A spacewalk (EVA – extravehicular activity) is any time an astronaut operates outside a spacecraft in the vacuum of space; spacesuits provide oxygen, temperature control and protection.

> **Learn Basics – ISS (International Space Station):** A multinational low Earth orbit space laboratory; currently operated by NASA, Roscosmos, ESA, JAXA and CSA.
>
> **Learn Basics – IROSA (ISS Roll-Out Solar Arrays):** Flexible solar panel arrays that roll out to generate additional power for the ageing ISS; important for sustaining station operations until planned deorbit.

Glueball Discovery at BESIII Experiment

- **Discovery:** Scientists at the BESIII experiment (Beijing) identified X(2370) as a glueball — a particle made entirely of gluons with no quarks.
- **QCD:** Glueballs are predicted by Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) but had not been conclusively confirmed before; their discovery validates a key prediction of the Standard Model.

> **Learn Basics – Gluon:** The particle mediating the strong nuclear force (one of the four fundamental forces); gluons 'glue' quarks together inside protons and neutrons.

Professor Academy

> **Learn Basics – Standard Model:** The theoretical framework describing fundamental particles and three of the four fundamental forces (excluding gravity).

AI Cancer Framework – ACSCeND

- **Developers:** Researchers from S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS) and Ashoka University developed ACSCeND (AI-based Cancer Stem-like Cell Profiler and Neoplasm Deconvoluter).
- **Capability:** ACSCeND analyses conventional bulk tumour RNA sequencing across 25,000+ tumour samples from TCGA and PRECOG databases to identify three developmental states of cancer stem-like cells.
- **Clinical value:** Tumours with highly potent pluripotent-like cancer stem cells were associated with poorer survival and reduced immunotherapy response; the framework helps identify high-relapse-risk patients.

> **Learn Basics – Cancer stem cell:** A subset of cancer cells with self-renewal ability and tumour-initiating capacity; linked to treatment resistance and metastasis.
>
> **Learn Basics – RNA sequencing:** A technique to measure gene expression; bulk RNA-seq averages across all cells in a tumour sample; single-cell sequencing looks at individual cells.

Two-Stage Microalgae CO_2 Capture – IIT Guwahati

- **Process:** IIT Guwahati developed a two-stage microalgae process: Stage 1 uses 15% CO_2 for rapid growth; Stage 2 uses 5% CO_2 with calcium and phosphorus.
- **Outcomes:** Achieved 25.7% higher biomass and 35.4% higher CO_2 fixation than conventional methods; calcium promoted self-flocculation recovering 98.46% of biomass with low energy.
- **Applications:** The process produces biomass (food/feed supplement) and bioenergy (biodiesel) while simultaneously capturing atmospheric CO_2.

> **Learn Basics – Microalgae:** Microscopic photosynthetic organisms that fix CO_2 during growth; high lipid content makes them suitable for biodiesel production.
>
> **Learn Basics – Flocculation:** The aggregation of small particles into larger clusters (flocs) that settle out of solution, enabling energy-efficient biomass recovery.

Unusual Black Hole Discovery with JWST

- **Discovery:** Using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), scientists found an unusual black hole from when the universe was 660 million years old, classified as a 'Little Red Dot' (LRD).
- **Mechanism:** The black hole is surrounded by a dense hydrogen gas cocoon (100 billion particles per cubic centimetre) extending millions of km, which may explain its rapid early growth.
- **Significance:** The discovery may answer how supermassive black holes formed so quickly in the early universe, a long-standing astrophysics puzzle.

> **Learn Basics – JWST:** Launched December 25, 2021; successor to the Hubble Space Telescope; observes in infrared, enabling it to see very distant (early-universe) objects.
>
> **Learn Basics – Little Red Dots (LRDs):** A class of compact, red-coloured objects discovered by JWST in the early universe; many are thought to be actively growing black holes.

August 21–31, 2026

India's First Commercial EO Satellite Constellation

- **Approval:** IN-SPACe approved India's first commercial Earth Observation (EO) constellation of 12 satellites by 2029.
- **Companies:** Allied Orbits, Pixxel, Dhruva Space, PierSight, and SatSure are the participating startups.
- **Investment:** Total investment: ₹1,200 crore from government and private sources.
- **Use Cases:** Applications include agriculture monitoring, disaster management, urban planning, and defence.

> **Learn Basics – IN-SPACe:** Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre — regulates and promotes private space activities in India.
>
> **Learn Basics – EO (Earth Observation) Satellite:** Satellite that images the Earth for scientific, commercial, or surveillance purposes.

> **Exam Point –** IN-SPACe is a regulator, not an operator — ISRO operates satellites; IN-SPACe authorises private operators.

BAS-01: Bharatiya Antariksha Station

- **Design:** Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS-01) to weigh 52 tonnes with 5 modules; orbit at 400–450 km LEO.
- **Crew:** Station will accommodate 3–4 astronauts at a time.
- **Timeline:** Full station deployment targeted by 2035.

Professor Academy

- **Predecessor:** BAS-01 follows India's Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission scheduled for 2026–27.

> **Learn Basics – LEO (Low Earth Orbit):** Orbit at 160–2,000 km altitude; used by ISS and most crewed spacecraft for proximity to Earth.
>
> **Learn Basics – Space Station:** Habitable artificial satellite where crews can live and conduct experiments for extended periods.

> **Exam Point –** BAS-01 is the space station; Gaganyaan is the crewed capsule mission — they are sequential but distinct programmes.

GISAT-1A Mission

- **Launch:** GISAT-1A to be launched on GSLV Mk-II in September 2026.
- **History:** Replaces EOS-03 (earlier GISAT-1) lost during failed GSLV-F10 launch in August 2021.
- **Purpose:** Geo Imaging Satellite for rapid disaster monitoring from geostationary orbit.
- **Orbit:** Will be placed in GEO (Geostationary Orbit) at 36,000 km for continuous India coverage.

> **Learn Basics – GISAT:** Geo Imaging Satellite — ISRO satellite for near-real-time Earth imaging from geostationary orbit.
>
> **Learn Basics – GSLV Mk-II:** India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle; capable of placing 2.5-tonne payloads to GTO.

> **Exam Point –** EOS-03 = GISAT-1 (lost 2021) and GISAT-1A is the replacement — exams may test the failed mission year.

Fastest Star S301 Discovered

- **Speed:** Star S301 orbits Sagittarius A* at 25,000 km/s — 8% the speed of light.
- **Orbital Period:** S301 completes one orbit around the Milky Way's central black hole in just 8.7 years.
- **Instrument:** Discovered using VLTI (Very Large Telescope Interferometer) at the European Southern Observatory.
- **Significance:** Fastest star orbit observed; validates general relativistic effects near a black hole.

> **Learn Basics – Sagittarius A*:** Supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way galaxy; mass ~4 million solar masses.
>
> **Learn Basics – VLTI:** Very Large Telescope Interferometer — European Southern Observatory instrument in Chile combining four 8-metre telescopes.

IIT Madras Rotating Detonation Engine

- **Achievement:** IIT Madras developed a 5 kN air-breathing Rotating Detonation Engine (RDE) with aerospike nozzle.
- **Significance:** India's first indigenous RDE — more fuel-efficient than conventional jet engines.
- **Application:** Potential use in hypersonic missiles and next-generation aircraft propulsion.
- **Nozzle:** Aerospike nozzle self-adjusts to altitude pressure changes — improves efficiency across flight regimes.

> **Learn Basics – Rotating Detonation Engine (RDE):** Engine that uses detonation (supersonic combustion) instead of deflagration — more thermodynamically efficient.
>
> **Learn Basics – Aerospike Nozzle:** Rocket/jet nozzle that maintains near-optimal expansion at varying altitudes; altitude-compensating design.

Mega Earth Planet GJ 523b

- **Discovery:** Planet GJ 523b confirmed as a 'Mega Earth' with 2.55x Earth's radius and 23.5 Earth masses.
- **Density:** Density of 7.8 g/cm³ — denser than Earth (5.5 g/cm³), confirming rocky composition.
- **Instruments:** Discovered using NASA's TESS satellite and NEID spectrograph.
- **Significance:** Challenges planet formation models; rocky super-Earths of this size are theoretically unlikely.

> **Learn Basics – Mega Earth:** A rocky exoplanet significantly larger than Earth but not so large as to be a gas dwarf — unlike super-Earths which may have thick atmospheres.
>
> **Learn Basics – TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite):** NASA mission that discovers exoplanets by detecting the dimming of stars during transits.

FWD Supreme Lite: India's First AI-Piloted Fighter Demonstrator

- **Aircraft:** FWD Supreme Lite by Flying Wedge Defence (FWD) is India's first AI-piloted fighter demonstrator, weighing 250 kg.
- **Location:** Unveiled in Bengaluru at the aerospace event.
- **Technology:** Fully autonomous flight using onboard AI navigation and decision-making systems.
- **Significance:** Marks India's entry into the autonomous combat aviation sector, previously US, China, and EU led.

Professor Academy

Learn Basics – UCAV (Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle): Autonomous or remotely piloted aircraft designed for combat operations.

Learn Basics – Flying Wedge Defence (FWD): Indian private aerospace company developing unmanned combat aircraft.

September 2026

- NASA astronaut Anil Menon and ESA astronaut Sophie Adenot installed a new Ku-band antenna on the International Space Station (ISS) for high-speed communication with ground stations.
- India inaugurated its first-of-its-kind Green Forge Complex at the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council-National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (BRIC-NABI), Mohali, Punjab.
- IIT Madras-incubated Bodhan AI, in partnership with AI4Bharat, launched four open-weight AI models for Indian languages.
  - The models cover speech recognition, speech generation, machine translation and Optical Character Recognition (OCR).
- Hyderabad-based Apollyon Dynamics developed Ahuti Mk II, India's fastest multirotor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), with a certified top speed of 498 km/h.
  - Ahuti Mk II is an electric interceptor drone designed to chase and neutralise hostile drones and loitering munitions.
- Google has launched India's first agricultural Artificial Intelligence (AI) models through its Google DeepMind AnthroKrishi team, including Agricultural Landscape Understanding (ALU) for mapping agricultural fields and land analysis.
  - Agricultural Monitoring and Event Detection (AMED) tracks crop conditions, land-use changes and agricultural events at scale.
- AstraZeneca's breast cancer drug camizestrant (Etcamah) failed to significantly improve progression-free survival in a late-stage trial involving 1,371 patients with advanced hormone-receptor-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer.
- Google DeepMind introduced AlphaGenome Atlas, a database predicting the effects of single genetic changes across the human genome.
  - It uses the AlphaGenome Artificial Intelligence (AI) model to predict the regulatory effects of all 9 billion possible single-nucleotide variants, creating a 1-petabyte dataset.
- India launched the Ocean Research Vessel (ORV) Sagar Manthan at Rishi Bankim Shipyard, Kolkata, strengthening domestic ocean research capabilities.
- Bengaluru-based Astrogate Labs unveiled India's first indigenous Optical Inter- Satellite Link (OISL) terminal at the Bengaluru Space Expo.
  - OISL uses laser beams for direct, high-speed communication between satellites, reducing dependence on ground stations.
- Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)'s facility in Takwe, Pune, received National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation for high-pressure cylinder testing.
  - ARAI was established in 1966, while NABL is India's national accreditation body for testing and calibration laboratories.
- MG Hector Tomahawk is India's first mainstream Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) SUV.
  - A PHEV combines a petrol engine and electric motor with an externally chargeable battery, allowing it to run on electric power alone for longer distances than conventional hybrids.
- ICAR-CIBA (Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture) has introduced a deboning technology to improve the marketability and consumer acceptance of milkfish.
- CSIR-NIScPR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research) is using SARAL AI, an Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) initiative, to convert research papers into short videos for wider dissemination of scientific knowledge using artificial intelligence (AI).
- India's 51st Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) was inaugurated at Sambalpur, Odisha, using radio waves to track the location, movement and intensity of rainfall and severe weather.
  - Odisha now has three DWRs at Sambalpur, Gopalpur and Paradip.
- The foundation stone for ISRO's Advanced Radar Research Centre under Project NETRA (Network for Space Object Tracking and Analysis) was laid at Chandrapur near Guwahati, Assam.
- India's first approved dengue vaccine, Qdenga, received Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) approval in July 2026 for people aged 4–60 years and is expected to be available in the private market in the first half of 2027.
- National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar is set to become the first NIT in India with a dedicated campus-based observatory.

Professor Academy

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi researchers developed India's first working indigenous micro-GPU (Graphics Processing Unit), which is used to process images and graphics.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is establishing an Advanced Radar Research Facility at Chandrapur, Assam, under Project NETRA to strengthen India's Space Situational Awareness (SSA).

September 2026

Vacuum Birefringence

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

Nancy Grace Roman Telescope

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

Quantum-Safe Communication Products

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

EOS-05 Earth Observation Mission

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

Heat to Electricity Breakthrough

- Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), University of Sydney and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) developed a crystal that produces nearly 1,000 times higher thermoelectric voltage than the textbook limit.

Professor Academy

- They used scandium nitride (ScN) thin films doped with magnesium to create a heavily doped, highly compensated semiconductor.
- The discovery challenges the long-accepted limit of the Seebeck effect, which converts a temperature difference into electrical voltage.
- The material can support ultrasensitive temperature sensors, heat detectors and quantum sensing devices.
- The films were confirmed to be single-crystalline and epitaxial using X-ray diffraction and atomic-resolution electron microscopy.

Rabies Elimination - Bhutan

- Bhutan has become the first country in the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region to eliminate dog-transmitted rabies as a public health problem.
- Rabies is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system and is almost always fatal once clinical symptoms appear.
- It is mainly transmitted through the saliva of infected animals, especially through bites.
- Dogs are the main source of human rabies deaths, accounting for about 99% of human rabies cases globally.
- Globally, rabies causes about 59,000 human deaths every year, with about one-third occurring in India.
- India aims to bring human rabies deaths to zero by 2030 under the National Rabies Control Programme.

Coffee Husk Innovation - CLRI

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

BAM-H24 Rocket Fuel

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

New Tokamaks in India

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

Professor Academy

Hanle Dark Sky Reserve

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

Tata Steel Green Technology

- Tata Steel has commissioned India's first Coke Oven Gas (COG) injection project at its Meramandali plant in Odisha.
- COG is a hydrogen-and hydrocarbon-rich by-product gas generated during coke production.
- The cleaned gas is injected into the blast furnace through tuyeres to partly replace conventional fossil fuels.
- Its hydrogen content helps reduce the use of coke and coal and lower carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions.
- It aims to improve resource efficiency, operational flexibility and low-carbon ironmaking.

Artificial Sun Project - India

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

New Study on Mercury

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

Gallium Nitride MMIC Technology

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

Elias 2-24 b Planet

- Astronomers confirmed Elias 2-24 b as the youngest known planet, aged less than 1 million years.
- It orbits Elias 2-24, about 450 light-years from Earth, and has a mass similar to Jupiter.
- The planet lies in a gap in its protoplanetary disk and is still gathering material from it.

Professor Academy

- Its confirmation used observations from W. M. Keck Observatory, Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) and Very Large Telescope (VLT).
- It was first inferred from a disk gap in 2017, before being confirmed later.

Stem Cell Therapy Guidelines

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

Plastic Waste to Fuel Technology

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

Biovigilance Programme of India

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

Bio-Based PLA Plastics

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

Rapidly Shrinking Binary - eRASSU J0608

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

Professor Academy

- NASA NICER, Einstein Probe and European Space Agency (ESA) XMM-Newton observations were used to study the system for about 3.5 years.

Bat Evolution Study

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

Professor Academy

- A rare Eastern Imperial Eagle (Aquila heliaca) was spotted in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) during the winter migratory season.
- The Government of India has declared the Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary in Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh, as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).

Learn Basics – Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ): An area around a protected area notified by MoEFCC under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to act as a shock absorber; usually extending up to 10 km.

- Amazonian stingless bees became the first insects in the world to receive legal rights.
- India recorded the deaths of 166 tigers in 2025 (highest annual tiger mortality since Project Tiger), according to the latest data released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Learn Basics – Project Tiger and NTCA: Project Tiger began in 1973. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and the All-India Tiger Estimation is held every four years.

- Karnataka has recorded its first sighting of the Sandalwood Leopard, a rare pale reddish-pink morph of the Indian leopard, in Vijayanagara district.
- Seven of the world's rarest galaxy frogs (Melanobatrachus indicus) in Kerala's Western Ghats have vanished and are presumed dead.
- A new non-venomous reed snake named Calamaria mizoramensis was discovered in Mizoram.
- For over sixty years, a small olive-green bird in Bolivia's Beni savannas was misclassified, but new research confirmed it as a distinct species.
- Satellite tagging of sea turtles began on Chennai beaches as a first-of-its-kind initiative in the city.
- The Tamil Nadu government notified 100 forest blocks as Reserved Forests during 2021–2025.
- Three new meadow katydid species, named Conocephalus usmanii, Conocephalus nagariensis, and Conocephalus ganderbali were discovered in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The MSTrIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers: Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) app is being used for the All-India Tiger Estimation Survey 2026 in Anamalai Tiger Reserve.
- A rare sighting of Smooth-coated otter was recently recorded in the Adyar River.
- The Kashmir markhor (Capra falconeri cashmeriensis), India's rarest wild goat, is facing local extinction with only 200–300 individuals left.
- Tamil Nadu's first Vulture Safe Zones will be created around the Moyar River Valley in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.

Learn Basics – Biosphere Reserve: A UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) designation. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1986) was India's first.

- The latest crocodile census showed an increase in crocodile numbers (84) in Similipal National Park, Odisha.
- The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has launched a Indian Skimmer conservation project under the National Mission for Clean Ganga at Dehradun.
- Berkeley Earth's annual temperature report found that 2025 was the warmest La Niña year on record.
- Scientists have discovered a 300–400–year-old giant black coral measures about 13 feet in height and 15 feet in width in the deep waters of Fiordland, New Zealand.
- Tamil Nadu scheduled its first State-wide raptor assessment on January 31 and February 1, 2026.
- Scientists discovered Indiaphonte bijoyi, a new tiny crustacean species in the Kavaratti lagoon of Lakshadweep.
- Brandt's hedgehog (Paraechinus hypomelas) has been discovered in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change declared Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).
- Scientists have discovered two new extremely rare species of ant flies named Metadon ghorpadei and Metadon reemeri in Delhi and the Western Ghats.
- The Indian scientists have discovered a new blind caecilian species named Gegeneophis valmiki in the northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra.
- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched India's second pan-India dolphin population survey from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Gandak River in Bihar has become India's second-largest habitat for gharials, after the Chambal River.
- Wild animal attacks caused 685 human deaths in Tamil Nadu during the last 10 years (2015–2025).

Professor Academy

- Patna Bird Sanctuary in Etah district, Uttar Pradesh and Chhari-Dhand in Kutch district of Gujarat have been added to India's Ramsar network.

> **Learn Basics – Ramsar Sites:** Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention (1971). India became a party in 1982. World Wetlands Day is observed on 2 February.

- Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Odisha's Nuapada district, it was recently declared Maoist-free status.
- The United States is officially out of the Paris Agreement under the administration of President Donald Trump.
- The Al-Jawf region of Saudi Arabia recorded snowfall in its interior desert areas for the first time in recorded history in late 2025.
- A pair of peacocks was spotted at about 6,000 ft near Manali in Himachal Pradesh, which is unusual for this species.
- A faunal survey conducted in Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala, recorded several new species in the sanctuary.
- Volcán de Fuego (Volcano of Fire), one of the most active volcanoes in Central America, erupted recently in Guatemala.
- The dugong population in Tamil Nadu has been estimated at 270 individuals.
- The foundation stone for Tamil Nadu's first Sea Turtle Conservation Centre was laid at Guindy in Chennai.
- Goa became the second Indian state, after Kerala, to publish a state-level Bird Atlas.
- Researchers discovered a new mushroom species named Hemileccinum indicum in the Indian Himalayas.
- Researchers discovered two new marine worm species along the West Bengal coast in the northern Bay of Bengal, The species are Namalycastis solenotognatha and Nereis dhritiae.
- A reticulated python (Malayopython reticulatus) was discovered in Sulawesi, Indonesia, It has been recognised by the Guinness World Records as the longest measured snake in the world.
- Colyttus bilineatus, a rare jumping spider belonging to the family Salticidae, was recorded for the first time in India in Assam.
- Researchers discovered a new orchid species named Diplozentrum papillosum in the Idukki district of Kerala, belonging to the Diplozentrum genus endemic to the southern Western Ghats.
- A Rusty-spotted Cat was recorded alive in Shergarh Sanctuary in Baran district of Rajasthan.
- The 16th Tamiraparani water bird survey recorded over 21,000 water birds in southern Tamil Nadu.
- A new flowering plant species, "Dicliptera pakhalica," has been discovered in Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary, Telangana.
- Recently, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) achieved captive breeding of the mangrove clam Geloina erosa.
- Researchers have discovered a new dragonfly species named Lyriothemis keralensis in Kerala.
- A recent study reported a rise in lion-tailed macaque populations in human- dominated landscapes of the Anamalai Hills in the Western Ghats.
- The Sangtam tribal body in Nagaland passed a resolution to protect pangolins and stop illegal hunting and trade.
- A mud volcano recently erupted in Diglipur in the Andaman Islands.
- The Indian Grey Hornbill was voted as the 'Bird of Tirupattur' district in a public poll conducted by the Forest Department.
- The Chhattisgarh Forest Department has started six "hornbill restaurants" in Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve for the Malabar Pied Hornbill.
- The wetlands in Murshidabad district, called the "kidneys of South Bengal," are shrinking quickly at about 2.1 % per year.
- Three new cubs were born at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, increasing India's total cheetah population to 38.
- The Philippine eagle is one of the largest and rarest eagles in the world and is popularly known as the "monkey-eating bird."
- Palamu Tiger Reserve has launched the 'Vanjeevi Didi' initiative to promote community-based wildlife conservation.
- Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India have discovered a new species of Diplura named Lepidocampa sikkimensis in the eastern Himalayas.
- Gentoo penguins have become the first bird species confirmed to be infected with H5N1 avian influenza in an Australian territory.
- A new dinosaur species named Spinosaurus mirabilis has been discovered in the Sahara Desert of Niger.

Professor Academy

- Lake Mai-Ndombe and Lake Tumba in the Democratic Republic of Congo are releasing ancient carbon stored in nearby peatlands.
- The Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) released a report titled "Healing Soils in India: For Better Crop Health and Human Nutrition."
- Slender Loris Conservation Centre was inaugurated in Dindigul district, the first such facility in India.
- Tajikistan and Uzbekistan proposed to include the Striped Hyena in Appendix I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
- The Government of India has announced the standards for Green Ammonia and Green Methanol under the National Green Hydrogen Mission to promote trade in green hydrogen derivatives.
- The cheetah population in India reached 53 after Jwala gave birth to five cubs at Kuno National Park, increasing the number of Indian-born cheetah cubs to 33.
- The sambar deer (Rusa unicolour) was recorded for the first time at high-altitude protected areas in Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh.
- Scientists discovered two new fruit fly species — Acidoxantha paratotoflava and Hemilea suneriae — in the Himalayan foothills of the Solan region, Himachal Pradesh.
- A rare marine amphipod, Stenothoe lowryi, was discovered for the first time in India at Arjyapalli Beach, Ganjam district, Odisha.
- Scientists released India's first comprehensive checklist of fireflies, identifying 92 species across 27 genera from records between 1881–2025.
- Myiophanes kempi, a rare cave-dwelling assassin bug of the Reduviidae family, has been rediscovered in the Andaman Islands after nearly 100 years.
- Osbeckia zubeengargiana, a new plant species of the Melastomataceae family, was discovered in the grasslands of Manas National Park in Assam and named after Zubeen Garg.
- A rare Blue-and-White Flycatcher (Muscicapidae family) was spotted at Pavagadh Hill in Gujarat.
- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered two new lichen moth species (Caulocera hollowayi and Asura buxa) in the eastern Himalayas.
- A new parasitic wasp species, Chelonus (Carinichelonus) mahadeb, was discovered in Assam tea estates and belongs to the Braconidae family known for parasitoid behaviour.
- The rare plant Henckelia monophylla has been rediscovered in Arunachal Pradesh after about 189 years and is an endemic species of the Gesneriaceae family, first collected in 1836.
- A new earthworm species, Drawida vazhania, was discovered in Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary in Thrissur district and belongs to the genus Drawida and family Moniligastridae, playing an important role in soil fertility and nutrient cycling.
- Researchers discovered a rare case of gynandromorphy in a freshwater crab species in Silent Valley National Park, Kerala.
- Kalinjar Hill was declared a National Geo-Heritage Site by Geological Survey of India.
- Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India discovered a new wild kiwi species named Actinidia indica near Ziro Valley in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Zoological Survey of India discovered a new cockroach species, Neoloboptera peninsularis, using DNA-based taxonomy in Pune, Maharashtra.
- Bank of Baroda became the first bank in India to issue domestic Green Infrastructure Bonds worth ₹10,000 crore.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (VDTR) in Madhya Pradesh has been developed as India's third designated site for cheetah reintroduction under Project Cheetah.
- Forest Survey of India (FSI) has stopped issuing alerts from the AI-based Anavaran deforestation system since early 2026.
- Bhavasagara Referral Centre has been designated as a National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna by the Government.
- Snowy owl (Bubo scandiacus) has been given international protection under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
- Freshwater fish fossils, including gourami, were discovered for the first time in the Shivalik foothills near Dehradun.
- The European Union (EU) has added PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) to its water pollution monitoring list.
- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered two new marine species off the coast of Tamil Nadu.

Professor Academy

- A Sanderling was spotted in Narcondam Island after a long-distance migration.
- The Salween River, also known as the Nu River in China, shows high arsenic contamination above safe limits.
- Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary, a freshwater wetland from Uttar Pradesh, was designated as India's 99th Ramsar Site.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued a draft notification to declare an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.
- Scientists have discovered a new underground-dwelling blind fish species named Gitchak nakana in Assam.
- Tamil Nadu has conducted the third synchronized survey of Nilgiri Tahr, a state animal, under Project Nilgiri Tahr.
- The 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster was marked on 26 April 2026.
- Rare sea slug Discodorid cebuensis has been recorded for the first time in India at Haji Ali, Mumbai.
- A new "fanged frog" species named Limnonectes motijheel has been discovered in Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- India submitted updated NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) for 2031– 35 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change under the Paris Agreement.
- Two new jumping spider species belonging to the Salticidae family, Mogrus shushka and Mogrus pune, have been discovered in India. Mogrus shushka was found in the dry regions of Rajasthan and Gujarat, while Mogrus pune was found in urban parks in Maharashtra.
- Scientists have discovered "cleaner ants" in the Arizona, United States desert that groom much larger harvester ants without attacking them.
- The United Nations (UN) expanded the Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) to include the coal and waste sectors.
- Around 1.65 lakh Olive Ridley Sea turtle hatchlings were released into the sea along the Tamil Nadu coast during the 2026 nesting season.
- Scientists discovered a rare giant tree species named Daturodendron in the Andes Mountains, belonging to the Solanaceae family, which grows up to 20 metres tall in the cloud forests of Colombia and Peru.
- In 2025, India recorded 166 tiger deaths, the highest annual figure since 1973
- India's first satellite-tagged Ganges Soft-shell Turtle was released in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve on Endangered Species Day 2026.
- A new plant species named Cyphostemma Annamalaii belonging to the Vitaceae family was discovered on Sanjeevi hill in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu in the southern Eastern Ghats.
- India's first Integrated Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) Field Laboratory Facility was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay under Bharat Innovates 2026.
- The 'Lion' Species Spotlight Programme was launched at Sasan Gir, Gujarat, ahead of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit 2026.
- Scientists discovered a new freshwater fish species named Labeo kaage in the Cauvery River basin of Karnataka.
- The Supreme Court directed Jharkhand to notify 31,468.25 hectares of Saranda Forest as a wildlife sanctuary.
- The Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat, India, has been officially designated as the second natural habitat for Asiatic lions.
- India's first solar-powered "Algae Tree" was installed in Bhopal to help control air pollution.
- Two Amur Falcon birds named Apapang and Alang, tagged with satellite transmitters in Manipur in November 2025, are returning from Southern Africa to East Asia during spring migration.
- Saudi Arabia became the 26th member nation of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- A rare blueberry relative named Vaccinium piliferum was rediscovered in the Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh after 188 years.
- India became the world leader in issuing Internationally Recognised Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) under the Nagoya Protocol.
- The Kopra Reservoir emerged as a biodiversity model under the 2026 International Day for Biological Diversity theme, "Local Action, Global Impact."
- India has recorded 191 species of cockroaches, with over 60% endemic to the country.
- The Rusty-Spotted Cat was recorded for the first time in the National Chambal Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh.
- Scientists discovered a new evergreen tree species named Humboldtia nairiana in the riparian forests of Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary.

Professor Academy

- The Yellow-throated Marten (Martes flavigula) has been recorded for the first time in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam.
- Mesalina bishnoi, a newly identified lizard species belonging to the genus Mesalina, has been recorded in India for the first time from an open semi-desert habitat near Gajner, Bikaner district, Rajasthan.
- Marine researchers have documented the giant Pavona clavus (Potato Patch) coral colony near Kadmat Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago.
- The latest synchronised survey found that the population of the Nilgiri Tahr, Tamil Nadu's State animal, has increased to 1,364.
- Scientists discovered a new frog species, Amolops kamal (Nagaland Cascade Frog), in Kiphire district, Nagaland, near the Myanmar border.
- Tamil Nadu's first-ever comprehensive state-wide raptor assessment recorded 5,712 sightings belonging to 51 raptor species across the state
- A total of 798 bird species were recorded across the state, including 397 wetland species and 401 terrestrial species during the Tamil Nadu Synchronised Bird Estimate 2025
- A rare caracal was recorded during a wildlife survey in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Uttar Pradesh has been declared India's 100th Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Convention.
- Scientists have reported that the fourth global coral bleaching event, the fastest and most widespread on record, likely ended in mid-2025.
- Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) released a new bush-type green chilli variety, KAU Thejaswini, suitable for year-round cultivation in Kerala.
- The United Nations has issued the first-ever carbon credits under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement for a clean-cooking project in Myanmar.
- SHAN (Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature) Conservation Society was approved in Ladakh by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh as a dedicated body to protect snow leopards and cold desert ecosystems.
- Turkey's Presidency of the UNFCCC COP31 and the Food and Agriculture Organization have launched the Turquoise Nexus Initiative (TNI).
- India's first 3D-printed artificial reef modules are set to be deployed off the Ramanathapuram coast in Tamil Nadu under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- Jonathan, a Seychelles giant tortoise living on St Helena Island, is the world's oldest living land animal and has been officially recognised as a Guinness World Records ICON.
- The Meghalaya State Zoo recorded the first successful birth of a Stump-tailed Macaque (Macaca arctoides) in June 2026.
- Bangladesh became the 27th member country of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved US$1.26 million for a new conservation initiative led by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Niokolo-Koba National Park.
- A new herpetological study reported the first confirmed record of the Sistan sand boa (Eryx sistanensis) in India.
- An Omega Block weather pattern is driving the deadly heatwave across Western Europe, with temperatures crossing 40°C in parts of France and Spain.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has given in-principle approval to resume the tiger reintroduction project in Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Odisha.
- Van Mahotsav 2026 is being observed across India from 1 July to 7 July 2026 as the annual "Festival of Forests."
- ZSI's Animal Discoveries–2025 reports 709 additions to India's fauna, including 483 new species and 226 species recorded for the first time in India, taking the total faunal diversity to 105,953 species.
- ZSI's Plant Discoveries–2025 records 353 additions to India's flora, including 221 taxa new to science and 132 new distribution records for India.
- The Borjuli Wetland in Assam has been officially notified as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) to protect the wild rice species Oryza rufipogon.
- Himalayan pangolin (Manis aurita) is a distinct extant species, separate from the Chinese pangolin (Manis pentadactyla).
- A banyan tree in Munger, Bihar, has been scientifically identified as the world's oldest accurately dated banyan tree, with an estimated age of about 700 years.
- The Natural History Museum (NHM), Mizoram, was notified as India's 21st Designated Repository under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Professor Academy

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released the updated Red List of Threatened Species 2026, with 175,909 species, of which 49,505 species are threatened with extinction.
- The rhino population in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh, increased to 53 after the fourth rhino census conducted from 25–27 June 2026.
- The rare Laudankia Vine Snake (Ahaetulla laudankia) was documented in the Ubeshwar wildlife area of Udaipur, Rajasthan, after nearly 30 years.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is preparing India's first standard for mangrove ecosystem restoration titled "Restoration of Mangrove Ecosystem — Guidelines."
- The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) discovered a new deep- sea fish species named Cyttopsis indica from the Arabian Sea off southern Kerala.
- The rare alpine flower Cyananthus hookeri was rediscovered in Arunachal Pradesh after 158 years.
- Scientists identified Likweli, a new monkey species in the rainforests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with the scientific name Colobus cenogenesis.
- Researchers discovered two new solitary bee species in the Siang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The world's largest iceberg, A23a, has broken into smaller fragments in the South Atlantic Ocean after drifting for nearly 40 years.
- Scientists discovered Lestes paloti, a new species of spreadwing damselfly, in the Western Ghats of Kerala.
- Scientists documented two new spider species — Simonia lawbah and Hamataliwa papikonda from Meghalaya and Andhra Pradesh.
- Scientists have discovered a new species of porcelain crab named Pachycheles ravichandrani in the Lakshadweep Islands.
- Researchers from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, discovered five new species of Allographa (lichen-forming fungi) in the Western Ghats: Allographa keralensis, A. nayakae, A. paraconsanguinea, A. persistinspersa, and A. semicarbonisata.
- The world's first successful scientific reintroduction of tigers into a landscape of local extinction took place at the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, India.
- The Indian rhinoceros population in Uttar Pradesh's Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) has risen to 53
- The Supreme Court has cleared the Kukrail Night Safari project in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- A new species of ginger lily, Hedychium zubeengargianum, has been named after late Assamese music legend Zubeen Garg.
- India's first AI-powered bird sanctuary is being developed at the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (TCFS) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The Malvi camel (White Camel) has been classified as endangered after its population declined to 102 animals, according to the 2019 Livestock Census.
- Uzbekistan released 672 Houbara bustards (Chlamydotis macqueenii) in Karakalpakstan to restore biodiversity in the Aral Sea region.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) identified the Kawal Tiger Reserve in Telangana as a priority recipient site for tiger recovery.
- Varayattumudy in Idukki district, Kerala, has emerged as a major habitat for the endangered Nilgiri tahr, with its population increasing significantly.
- Scientists discovered two new fruit fly species, Zeugodacus umiam and Zeugodacus nasivittatus in Ri-Bhoi district, Meghalaya.
- A new freshwater catfish species, Pseudolaguvia khairii, was discovered in the Budhabalanga River, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha.
- India is home to the world's largest wild tiger population, accounting for nearly 70% of all wild tigers globally.
- Scientists discovered a new species of blind, blood-red eel named Rakthamichthys anchi in underground aquifers connected to dug-out wells in Goalpara district, Assam.
- Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh has been designated as India's 101st Ramsar Site, becoming the state's first Ramsar Site.
- Scientists confirmed Charles Darwin's 150-year-old prediction that the plant Saxifraga candelabrum is an insect-eating (carnivorous) plant.
- A new species of stream-loving catfish, Pseudecheneis likimroensis, has been discovered in the fast-flowing Likimro River in Nagaland.
- The Supreme Court ruled that a 10-km mining buffer applies to all notified wetland reserves, even when a separate buffer has not been notified.

Professor Academy

- Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) announced the completion of the National Catalogue of Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths), the final volume was published in Zoo Taxa.
- Global sea surface temperatures (SST) outside the polar regions reached a record high (20.96°C) in July 2026.
- Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the United States, reached its lowest-ever water level at about 1,040.3 feet (317.1 m) above sea level.
- A 72,600 sq. yard man-made lake, called Blue Heart, is being developed at By the Waters, a 100-acre residential estate about 35 km from Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Pteris madhusoodananii, a new fern species belonging to the genus Pteris and family Pteridaceae, was discovered in Kolli Hills, Tamil Nadu.
- Scientists have discovered three new cascade frog species in Northeast India - Ammachi's Cascade Frog (Amolops ammachi) from Tripura, Sendenyu Cascade Frog (Amolops sendenyu) from Nagaland and Beautiful Cascade Frog (Amolops bella) from West Bengal.
- The rare solitary Himalayan bee Colletes bhutanicus was recorded in India for the first time in Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh.

August 11–20, 2026

16th Asiatic Lion Population Estimation 2026

- **Count:** Asiatic lion population reached 891 individuals in 2026 — a 32% rise from 674 in 2020 and a 70% rise over a decade from 523 in 2015.
- **Project Lion:** Project Lion 2020 covers approximately 60,000 sq km of the Saurashtra landscape; the core habitat is Gir Wildlife Sanctuary (declared 1965).
- **Scientific name:** Panthera leo persica (Asiatic/Persian lion); classified as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.
- **Significance:** Gir is the world's only home of the Asiatic lion; all 891 individuals are distributed within and around the Gir landscape in Gujarat.

Year	Asiatic Lion Count
2015	523
2020	674
2026	891

Learn Basics – Asiatic vs African lion: Asiatic lion (Panthera leo persica) has a more prominent belly fold, a less developed mane, and exists only in Gir; African lion (Panthera leo leo) is distributed across sub-Saharan Africa.

Learn Basics – Gir Wildlife Sanctuary: Established in 1965 in Gujarat; the core of Gir National Park is a no-entry zone; it is India's first National Park under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Exam Point – The population counts (523-674-891) and the 70% decade-growth figure are frequently tested; do not confuse with tiger census data.

World's First Release of Captive-Bred Slender-Billed Vultures

- **Record:** Assam recorded the world's first-ever release of captive-bred slender-billed vultures (Gyps tenuirostris) — five birds bred at the BNHS conservation facility were released at Kaziranga's Jatayu Soft Release Centre.
- **IUCN status:** The slender-billed vulture is Critically Endangered since 2002; Indian Gyps vulture populations have declined by 99% over 20 years due to veterinary painkiller use.
- **Banned drugs:** Four NSAIDs banned for veterinary use: diclofenac, aceclofenac, ketoprofen and nimesulide; pesticide poisoning remains a continuing threat.
- **BNHS:** Bombay Natural History Society (founded 1883) — one of India's largest NGOs for conservation and biodiversity research; BirdLife International's partner in India.

Learn Basics – Gyps tenuirostris: The slender-billed vulture; found along the Gangetic plain northward; nests in trees (unlike the Indian vulture, which nests on cliffs south of the Ganges).

Learn Basics – Diclofenac-Vulture link: Diclofenac (an NSAID used in livestock) caused fatal kidney failure in vultures feeding on treated carcasses; its veterinary use was banned in India in 2006.

Exam Point – The four banned NSAIDs (diclofenac, aceclofenac, ketoprofen, nimesulide) and the distinction between slender-billed and Indian vulture habitats are common test points.

Professor Academy

Kaziranga Eco-Sensitive Zone Reduction

- **Proposal:** Assam plans to reduce the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve from 10 km to 1 km, in line with SC guidelines.
- **SC orders:** SC ordered in June 2022 that at least 1 km ESZ must surround all protected areas; in April 2023 it modified the blanket rule, citing human-wildlife conflict concerns, but kept the 1 km minimum and prohibited mining within 1 km.
- **Kaziranga profile:** Kaziranga is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Assam); an important habitat of the endangered one-horned rhinoceros (Rhinoceros unicornis).

> **Learn Basics – Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ):** A buffer area around protected forests/national parks/sanctuaries notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; activities like mining and major construction are restricted.
>
> **Learn Basics – One-Horned Rhinoceros:** Rhinoceros unicornis; IUCN Vulnerable; protected under Schedule I of WPA, 1972; Kaziranga hosts about two-thirds of the world's population.

UNCCD COP17 – Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

- **Venue:** The 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) of the UNCCD began in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, focusing on a global drought framework.
- **Land target:** Countries pledged to restore about 1 billion hectares of degraded land; 1.5-2 billion hectares are estimated to be degraded globally.
- **Mongolia:** Mongolia reports 77% of its land is affected by desertification and land degradation.
- **Previous COP:** COP16 was held in Riyadh; no legally binding drought deal was agreed there.

> **Learn Basics – UNCCD:** United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (1994); focuses on drylands and land degradation; one of the three Rio Conventions (alongside UNFCCC and CBD).
>
> **Learn Basics – Land degradation neutrality (LDN):** Commitment by countries to balance land degradation with restoration, ensuring no net land loss; a key target under UNCCD.

Heatwaves and Lightning Added to India's Notified Disasters

- **Expansion:** India added heatwaves and lightning to its notified natural disasters list, bringing the total to 14 categories.
- **Previous 12:** Earlier 12: cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack and frost/cold wave.
- **SDRF/NDRF access:** States can now draw on the full SDRF and NDRF for heatwave and lightning relief; earlier, States could spend only up to 10% of SDRF for heatwave relief.
- **Authority:** New operational guidelines issued by MHA for SDRF and NDRF for 2026-31, based on 16th Finance Commission recommendations.

> **Learn Basics – SDRF (State Disaster Response Fund):** Primary State-level fund; Centre contributes 75% for general States and 90% for special category States/UTs.
>
> **Learn Basics – NDRF (National Disaster Response Fund):** Supplements SDRF for severe disasters; both established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, replacing the National Calamity Contingency Fund in 2010.

> **Exam Point –** The total count (14 notified disasters) and the two new additions (heatwave + lightning) are exam-ready; the previous list had 12.

Blackbuck Rewilding in Banni Grasslands, Gujarat

- **Translocation:** Twenty blackbucks (15 females, 5 males) were rewilded in Banni Grasslands, Kutch, Gujarat, after translocation from Vantara, Jamnagar.
- **Species:** Blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra): a South Asian grassland antelope; IUCN status – Least Concern (LC); protected under Schedule I of WPA, 1972 in India.
- **Programme:** Gujarat's broader conservation programme targets 500 blackbucks and 100 chinkaras to restore native herbivore populations.

> **Learn Basics – Banni Grasslands:** Located in Kutch district, Gujarat; one of Asia's largest seasonally flooded grasslands; also home to the Maldhari pastoralists.
>
> **Learn Basics – Schedule I WPA, 1972:** Provides absolute protection to listed species; hunting or trade is a cognizable offence with severe penalties.

August 21–31, 2026

India's First Grasslands Guide at UNCCD COP17

- **Event:** India's first grasslands management guide released at UNCCD COP17 held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Professor Academy

- **Context:** COP17 coincided with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026.
- **Significance:** Guide provides the first standardised framework for managing India's 12% grassland-covered land.
- **Threat:** Indian grasslands face encroachment by agriculture, afforestation, and invasive species.

> **Learn Basics – UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification):** 1994 Rio convention focused on land degradation and dryland ecosystems.
>
> **Learn Basics – COP (Conference of Parties):** Annual meeting of UNCCD signatory nations to review progress and adopt new commitments.

> **Exam Point –** COP17 was in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) — don't confuse with UNFCCC or CBD COPs held in different locations.

New Himalayan Plant Species: Impatiens nimspurjai

- **Discovery:** New plant species Impatiens nimspurjai discovered in Myagdi district, Nepal at 2,800–2,900 m altitude.
- **Named After:** Species named in honour of Nimsdai Purja, Nepali mountaineer who summited all 14 eight-thousanders.
- **Family:** Belongs to Balsaminaceae family — the family of touch-me-nots and busy lizzies.
- **Habitat:** Found in moist, shaded slopes of the Himalayas.

> **Learn Basics – Impatiens:** Genus of flowering plants in family Balsaminaceae; some species are called 'touch-me-not' (not related to Mimosa).
>
> **Learn Basics – Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot:** Eastern Himalayas is one of 36 global biodiversity hotspots; high endemism in its flora.

ICAR-NRCB New Banana Varieties

- **Kaveri Thangam:** Kaveri Thangam variety has 10x higher Vitamin A content and a 15-day shelf life.
- **Kaveri Nadan:** Kaveri Nadan yields 75 tonnes per hectare — among the highest for banana varieties.
- **Centre:** Developed by ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) located in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.
- **Significance:** Varieties address nutrition security (Vitamin A) and commercial production efficiency.

> **Learn Basics – ICAR-NRCB:** National Research Centre for Banana under ICAR; located in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu — India's primary banana research institute.
>
> **Learn Basics – Vitamin A Biofortification:** Developing crop varieties with enhanced nutritional content to address hidden hunger.

Neelakurinji Conservation

- **Species:** Strobilanthes kunthiana (Neelakurinji) — a rare flowering shrub that blooms only once every 12 years.
- **Localities:** Neelakurinji found in 34 distinct localities across the Western Ghats.
- **Region:** Predominantly found in the Nilgiris, Eravikulam, Munnar, and Kodaikanal areas.
- **Threat:** Tourism surge during its once-in-12-years bloom threatens soil and habitat.

> **Learn Basics – Strobilanthes:** A genus of flowering plants in family Acanthaceae; known for their mass flowering spectacle at long intervals.
>
> **Learn Basics – Western Ghats:** UNESCO World Heritage Site; one of eight 'hottest hotspots' of biodiversity globally.

> **Exam Point –** Neelakurinji blooms every 12 years (not 7, not 10); last major bloom was in 2018 in the Nilgiris.

Three Elephant Corridors in Tamil Nadu

- **Location:** Three elephant corridors identified in the Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary area, Tamil Nadu.
- **Lengths:** The three corridors measure 18.50 km, 20.90 km, and 2.20 km respectively.
- **Purpose:** Corridors enable elephant movement between fragmented forest patches without entering human settlements.
- **Protection:** Designated under Project Elephant to ensure safe passage and reduce human-elephant conflict.

> **Learn Basics – Wildlife Corridor:** A strip of land linking fragmented habitats, allowing animals to move safely between them.
>
> **Learn Basics – Project Elephant:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 1992 to protect elephants, their habitats, and migration routes.

Professor Academy

India's First Soil Texture Map

- **Developer:** NBSS&LUP (National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning) released India's first hectare-level soil texture map.
- **Location:** NBSS&LUP is based in Nagpur under ICAR.
- **Use:** Helps precision farming by identifying optimal soil types for different crops at field level.
- **Coverage:** Map covers entire India at unprecedented 1-hectare spatial resolution.

> **Learn Basics – Soil Texture:** Refers to the proportion of sand, silt, and clay in soil — determines water retention, drainage, and fertility.
>
> **Learn Basics – NBSS&LUP:** ICAR institute in Nagpur that conducts soil surveys and produces soil maps for agricultural planning.

Madras Crocodile Bank Trust 50th Year

- **Anniversary:** Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (MCBT) celebrated its 50th year of conservation in 2026.
- **Founder:** Founded by American herpetologist Rom Whitaker in 1976.
- **Location:** Located on a 8.5-acre plot on ECR (East Coast Road), 40 km south of Chennai.
- **Collection:** Houses 400+ crocodiles and 47 gharials — important for gharial conservation in India.

> **Learn Basics – Gharial (Gavialis gangeticus):** Critically Endangered freshwater crocodilian endemic to India's river systems; different from mugger crocodile.
>
> **Learn Basics – MCBT:** Premier crocodilian conservation centre in Asia; also runs research on turtles, snakes, and other reptiles.

> **Exam Point –** Rom Whitaker founded MCBT (1976) — different from Romulus Whitaker Crocodile Park — exams may test the founder or the year.

Dehing Patkai Butterfly Survey

- **Findings:** Survey recorded 165 butterfly species in Dehing Patkai National Park, including 37 endangered species.
- **Park:** Dehing Patkai spans 234.26 sq km across Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam.
- **Ecosystem:** The park is called 'Amazon of the East' — part of the wet evergreen forest of Assam.
- **Significance:** Survey establishes Dehing Patkai as a biodiversity hotspot for Lepidoptera in Northeast India.

> **Learn Basics – Dehing Patkai NP:** National Park in Assam declared in 2020; known for elephants, tigers, and rich insect biodiversity.
>
> **Learn Basics – Lepidoptera:** Scientific order comprising butterflies and moths — important biodiversity indicators for forest health.

Periyar Kullan Cow Breed Registered

- **Registration:** Periyar Kullan cattle breed registered as Kerala's 2nd GI-equivalent breed by ICAR-NBAGR.
- **Predecessor:** First registered Kerala breed was Vechur cow — the world's smallest cattle breed.
- **Habitat:** Periyar Kullan found in the Western Ghats region of Kerala, near the Periyar river ecosystem.
- **Significance:** Registration protects native germplasm and enables conservation breeding programmes.

> **Learn Basics – ICAR-NBAGR:** National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources in Karnal, Haryana — registers indigenous livestock breeds.
>
> **Learn Basics – Vechur Cow:** World's smallest cattle breed; native to Vechur, Kottayam district, Kerala — first registered Kerala breed.

> **Exam Point –** Periyar Kullan is the 2nd Kerala breed registered (after Vechur) — the order matters in exam questions.

September 2026

- A new freshwater flowering plant species, Ammannia telanganensis, discovered in Telangana, is an annual, herbaceous, semi-aquatic plant belonging to the Lythraceae family.
- Arunachal Pradesh recorded the first verifiable photographic evidence of the spoon-tailed duskhawker (Gynacantha basiguttata) in Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, adding the species to India’s dragonfly list.
- Rare blue-violet flowers resembling Neelakurinji have bloomed along trekking trails in Kudremukh, Chikkamagaluru district, Karnataka.
  - Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana) is a Western Ghats flowering plant famous for mass flowering, typically at a 12-year interval.

Professor Academy

- Researchers discovered and formally described a new scorpion species, Liocheles gracilipalpus, from the Shivalik Hills of Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir.
  - It belongs to the Hormuridae family and was discovered at an elevation of 1,655 metres above sea level.
- Scientists discovered a new species of stingless honey bee named Tetragonula nagalandensis in the Medziphema region of Nagaland.
  - The species was named nagalandensis in honour of Nagaland, where it was first discovered, taking the total number of known stingless bee species in India to 19.
- A rare Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Calidris acuminata) was recently spotted in Chandu village, Gurgaon.
  - Its International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List status is Vulnerable.
- Scientists have identified the new flowering plant Osbeckia ulotricha of the Melastomataceae family in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve of the Western Ghats.
- A new frog species, Amolops ammachi, was discovered in the Jampui Hills of Tripura and named after Padmini Varkey (Ammachi) by a team led by S. D. Biju of the University of Delhi, the 'Frogman of India'.
  - Amolops ammachi belongs to the Cascade Frog genus Amolops.
- Gegeneophis chandgadi, a new legless amphibian (caecilian), was discovered in Buzawade village, Kolhapur, Maharashtra; it belongs to the genus Gegeneophis.
  - It was named after the Chandgadi dialect of Marathi spoken in the region.
- Five young orangutans were rescued from a casuarina plantation in the Udayapur-Talsari forest area of Balasore district, Odisha.
  - Orangutans are Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and are naturally found in the forests of Indonesia and Malaysia, not India.
- Buellia maharajensis, a new rock-growing (saxicolous) lichen species, was discovered at about 1,351 metres elevation in Mathikettan Shola National Park, Idukki, Kerala.
  - The species was named in honour of Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, marking its 150th anniversary.
- The Researchers have identified two new-to-science frog species in Mizoram — Duttaphrynus phawngpui and Ingerana aizawl.
  - Duttaphrynus phawngpui was found above 2,000 metres in Phawngpui National Park and was named after Mizoram's highest peak, Phawngpui.
- A healthy Badri female calf was successfully born in Uttarakhand using Ovum Pick-Up and In Vitro Fertilization (OPU-IVF) technology.
  - Badri cattle are an indigenous breed adapted to the mountainous regions of Uttarakhand.
- A rare philomela form of the Common Wanderer butterfly (Pareronia hippia) was recorded for the first time at Poothurai in Villupuram district.
  - Till date, the butterfly species has been historically associated more often with north eastern India and adjoining regions.
- Ophiopogon japonicus was recorded in India for the first time from West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh; it is commonly called dwarf lilyturf or mondo grass and is an evergreen perennial.
  - Its tuberous roots, known as Ophiopogonis Radix (Maidong), are used in traditional Chinese medicine.
- Schizopygopsis waddellii was recorded in India for the first time from Pangkang Teng Tso Lake, Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.
  - It is a cold-adapted freshwater fish of the Cyprinidae family, belonging to the snowtrout group.
- Scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI) identified a new eel species from the Arabian Sea.
  - The new species was named Ariosoma cmfriense after CMFRI.
- India's cheetah population has reached 56 after India-born cheetah KGP12, daughter of South African cheetah Gemini, gave birth to four cubs at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- The rare ghost flower orchid Gastrodia keyiensis, locally called "Oram Opuh" in the Nyishi dialect, was recorded in Keyi Panyor district, Arunachal Pradesh, and is classified as Data Deficient.
- A new flowering plant species, Begonia neelamorum, has been found in Keyi Panyor district, Arunachal Pradesh.
  - The species is named after the Neelam clan of the Nyishi community and is locally called "kobiirhopu baabrai."

Rare Migratory Duck - Mergellus albellus

- The rare migratory Smew (Mergellus albellus) was sighted for the first time at Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.
- The Smew is a small diving duck belonging to the family Anatidae.

Professor Academy

- It breeds in northern Eurasia and migrates south to ice-free water bodies during winter.
- It is listed as Least Concern on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Nagaon district.

Global Drought Framework

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

Elephant Habitat Restoration in Assam

- A two-hectare area in Khalingduar Reserve Forest, Udalguri district, Assam, has been selected for elephant habitat restoration using biochar made from invasive plants.
- The project is supported by the International Elephant Foundation (IEF) to restore degraded habitats and increase native vegetation.
- Invasive plants such as Lantana camara, Chromolaena odorata and Mikania micrantha will be used to produce biochar through controlled heating with limited oxygen.
- The biochar will help improve soil quality and support the regeneration of native vegetation, strengthening elephant habitats.
- The project follows a circular approach by converting invasive plant biomass into a useful soil amendment.
- Improved food availability in forests may help reduce human-elephant conflict by reducing elephants' dependence on agricultural fields.

16 New Indigenous Animal Breeds

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

Global Ocean Temperature

- The global daily average sea surface temperature reached a record 21.104°C on August 22, 2026, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).
- The extra-polar ocean (60°S–60°N) recorded the temperature, slightly exceeding the previous record of 21.09°C set on March 1, 2024.
- The August record is unusual because global ocean temperatures normally peak during March and April; the previous highest August value was 20.98°C in 2023.
- The El Niño developing in the tropical Pacific is adding heat to oceans already warmed by long-term human-driven climate change.
- On August 22, 1979, the same ocean region averaged 20.15°C, nearly 1°C cooler than in 2026.
- Warmer oceans can contribute to sea-level rise, marine heatwaves, coral and seagrass damage, stronger rainfall and storms, and reduced ocean absorption of carbon dioxide (CO_2).

Professor Academy

Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation

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

El Niño Emergency - Ecuador

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

India's Open Natural Ecosystems

- India launched its first Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems of India at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- The guide recognises grasslands, savannas, deserts, scrublands, ravines and rocky plateaus as important ecosystems instead of "wastelands".
- It covers ecosystems such as the Thar Desert, Banni grasslands, Deccan savannas, Aravalli scrublands, Yamuna-Chambal ravines and Tamil Nadu's Theri Kaadu.
- It was developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with institutions including the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The guide highlights biodiversity, soil carbon, hydrology and pastoral livelihoods, including communities such as Raikas, Dhangars, Gujjars and Bakarwals.
- It stresses that tree planting is not always suitable, as species such as the Great Indian Bustard and Blackbuck depend on open habitats, which also store significant below-ground carbon.

Coral Bleaching Threat

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

Striped Hyena Conservation

- The conservation status of the striped hyena (Hyaena hyaena) in India has highlighted the need for better population data and conservation efforts.

Professor Academy

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

Eight Building Blocks of Birdsong

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

Pichavaram Mangrove Value

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

41 elephant Corridors in Tamil Nadu

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

Vulture Reintroduction – Maharashtra

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

High Risk Glacial Lakes - Sikkim

- Sikkim has identified 40 high-hazard glacial lakes, including 16 in the highest-risk Category A for possible Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).
- Glacial lakes form from melting glaciers and accumulated meltwater; GLOFs occur when these lakes suddenly burst due to triggers such as excess water or earthquakes.

Professor Academy

- Shako Chho Lake has been identified as the most vulnerable to a GLOF; Sikkim is preparing mitigation measures for it.
- Sikkim's Department of Science and Technology has been the nodal department for GLOF hazard assessment and mitigation since February 2025.
- Sikkim is working on what could be India's first dedicated GLOF Risk Mitigation Protocol, while satellite imagery, remote sensing and early-warning sensors are being used for monitoring.

Pallikaranai Bird Population Record

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

Myristica Swamps issue

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

Kākāpō Conservation Recovery

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

Peat Fires – Indonesia

- Indonesia’s peat fires are intensifying in 2026 due to severe drought and strengthening El Niño, with underground fires producing heavy pollution.
- Peat fires burn slowly underground in dried wetland soils and can continue for months, making them difficult to extinguish.
- Indonesia contains about 36% of the world’s tropical peatlands, mainly in Kalimantan, Sumatra and Papua.
- Peat fires can produce about 3 times more fine particulate matter and 2 times more methane and carbon monoxide than other tropical forest fires.
- MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) and VIIRS (Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite) satellites are used to monitor fires, but thick smoke can hide the worst fires.
- About 90% of Indonesia received little or no rainfall in early August 2026, while the SiPongi system recorded 946 hotspots on August 31.

UN Climate Week in Azerbaijan

- The fourth United Nations Climate Week opened in Baku, Azerbaijan, ahead of COP31.
- The meeting is being held from 7–11 September 2026 to discuss climate action, finance, adaptation and transparency.

Professor Academy

- Discussions focus on the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement, including reporting on emissions, adaptation and climate support.
- COP29 (Azerbaijan), COP30 (Brazil) and COP31 (Türkiye) presidencies are participating in the dialogue.
- Key issues include carbon markets, just transition, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), adaptation and climate finance.
- Baku Climate Action Week 2026 is being held alongside the UN Climate Week, bringing together investors, businesses and civil society groups.

Teak Plantation Initiative

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

Pygmy Hog Conservation Mission - Assam

- The population of the endangered pygmy hog (Porcula salvania) in Assam has increased from 6 in 1996 to 194 through a captive breeding programme.
- The pygmy hog is the world's smallest and rarest wild pig; the IUCN Red List classifies it as Critically Endangered (CR).
- The Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP) began after six pygmy hogs were captured from Manas National Park, Assam, in 1996.
- Conservationists began reintroducing pygmy hogs into the wild in 2008; they are now found in Manas, Orang, Sonai-Rupai and Bornadi protected areas.
- The programme aims to increase the population to 300 by 2040, with the Assam Forest Department, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, IUCN Wild Pig Specialist Group, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and other organisations involved.

State of World's Birds Report

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

Antarctic Ozone Hole 2026

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

Professor Academy

- The ozone hole forms annually over Antarctica during August-November, with recent years showing smaller and shorter-lived holes.

Rhino Population in Assam

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

Cheetah Reintroduction Programme

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

Climate-Resilient Moth Bean

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

New cat species 'Tilcayo'

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

Professor Academy

International Workshop on Tiger Landscapes

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

Pichavaram Mangrove Restoration

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Forest Department have created a new 25-hectare mangrove patch in Pichavaram, Cuddalore district, at a cost of ₹1.97 crore.
- Mangroves are salt-tolerant coastal plants that protect shorelines from erosion, storms and tidal waves, provide nursery grounds for fish and other marine life, and help store carbon.
- Over 75,000 Rhizophora apiculata saplings were raised in a Forest Department nursery and planted using a modified fish-bone method.
- The plantation was planned to compensate for mangrove loss during the widening of the East Coast Road and National Highway (NH)-332A; the actual damage at Marakkanam Estuary was reduced to 0.15 hectares and just over 100 trees.
- Three sites—Vandalmunai, MGR Thittu and Kottumunai—were selected in the Pichavaram mangrove region after suitable land was not available in Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts.

Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary Mapping

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

Karanjia Sal Borer Crisis

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

Agasthyamalai Plant Diversity

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

Professor Academy

INCOIS Marine Litter Project

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

WWF Global Conservation Conference

- The WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Global Conservation Conference was inaugurated in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- WWF is an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1961 that works on wildlife conservation, habitat protection, climate action and sustainable use of natural resources.
- India's protected areas increased from around 750 to more than 1,000 in the last decade, while tiger reserves increased from 47 to 58 and elephant reserves from 30 to 33.
- India's Ramsar sites increased from 24 to 101; Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, 1971.
- India's cheetah reintroduction programme aims to restore the species in protected landscapes after its local extinction in the 20th century.

Botswana Cheetah in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary

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

Hazaribagh Vulture Conservation

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

Tamil Nadu Palm Seed Drive 2026

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

Cyclone Arnab 2026

- A deep depression over the Bay of Bengal crossed the coast near Kalingapatnam, between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur, and later weakened into a depression over Odisha and adjoining Chhattisgarh.
- The system was near Nuapada, Odisha, and moving north-northwestward.
- It was not classified as a cyclonic storm and was expected to weaken into a well-marked low-pressure area.

Professor Academy

- "Arnab" means ocean in Bengali, and the name was contributed by Bangladesh to the regional cyclone naming system.
- Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and parts of West Bengal experienced heavy rainfall, strong winds, rough seas and local flood/landslide risks.

Pallikaranai Bird Breeding Record

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

Tamirabharani River Biodiversity

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

Typhoon Dujuan

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

Professor Academy

REPORTS AND INDICES

- The Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) India – National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB) released the "Carbon Uptake by Concrete" report during the 63rd Foundation Day of NCB on 26 December 2025.
- The RBI released the Trends and Progress of Banking in India 2023–24 report, highlighting emerging risks in the banking sector.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has released the Dynamic Groundwater Resource Assessment Report 2025 to evaluate India's groundwater status.
- According to World Weather Attribution Annual Report 2025, Although 2025 did not surpass the global temperature record set in 2024, it will rank among the hottest years ever recorded.
- The RBI released its Financial Stability Report (FSR), a biannual publication on January 2, 2026.
- The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has released a report on climate funding for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India released the second edition of the 'State Finances 2023–24' report.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released the Arctic Report Card 2025.
- NITI Aayog has prepared the report "A Comprehensive Framework to Promote Affordable Housing" with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2026 was produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, released the second edition of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0 rankings
- NITI Aayog released the 5th edition of "Trade Watch Quarterly" for Quarter I of FY 2025–26 (April-June 2025) on January 6, 2026.
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has released the report "India's PV Manufacturing & Its Strategic Inflection Points" at the Bharat Climate Forum 2026.
- The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has released the Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2025.
- According to the 2025 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR 2025), global wildfires caused about USD 106 billion in total economic losses.
- The World Bank released the Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report, published twice yearly to assess global growth.
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the Global Risks Report 2026.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) released the Employment and Social Trends Report 2026.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report "State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2025–26" highlights demographic transition in India.
- NITI Aayog and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) released a report on e-waste and lithium-ion battery recycling.
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released the report Global Investment Trends Monitor for 2024.
- The World Nuclear Association released the World Nuclear Outlook Report 2026.
- The United Nations published a landmark report on global water bankruptcy in January 2026, titled "Global Water Bankruptcy: Living Beyond Our Hydrological Means in the Post-Crisis Era.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) released the Global Appeal 2026 Report.
- The World Bank released the 2025 report "A Breath of Change" on air pollution in the Indo-Gangetic Plains and Himalayan Foothills.
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) released the Electricity 2026 report on global electricity markets.
- NITI Aayog released 11 reports on "Scenarios Towards Viksit Bharat and Net Zero."
- NITI Aayog released the sixth edition of "Trade Watch Quarterly" for Quarter 2 of FY 2025–26 (July-September 2025) in New Delhi.
- NITI Aayog released a report titled "Revitalising Apprenticeship Ecosystem: Insights, Challenges, Recommendations and Best Practices".

Professor Academy

- The Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2026 was released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
- A new report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember highlighted that Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan are leading in electric vehicle (EV) adoption and green hydrogen promotion.
- The IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) of UNESCO released the Integrated Ocean Carbon Research (IOC-R) Report.
- The World Bank released the Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2026 report, highlighting gaps in the implementation of women's economic rights.
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released its State of Energy Innovation 2026 report.
- UN Women has released the report titled "Ensuring and Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls."
- NITI Aayog released the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026 to assess the financial health of Indian states.
- The report "Reducing Methane Emissions from Landfills: The potential of biocover systems" was released by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition.
- The United Nations Environment Programme has released the "Safe Disposal of Unused Medicines" report.
- The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) released the India BioEconomy Report (IBER) 2026 in New Delhi.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the report titled "Delivering Prosperity at Scale: India's Economic Transformation through the SDGs".
- The Consumer Justice Report 2026 was released by India Justice Report, assessing India's consumer dispute redressal system.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the "Planet in Focus" report on environmental sustainability under SDGs recently.
- The United Nations Water released the World Water Development Report 2026 titled "Water for All People: Equal Rights and Opportunities."
- The World Meteorological Organization released the State of the Global Climate 2026 Report, warning that Earth's climate is "flashing red".
- The International Institute for Environment and Development released the IIED Food Security Index.
- NITI Aayog released a report titled "Empowering Farmers: Natural Farming Training Toolkit & Best Practices Guide."
- NHAI released the first National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI) 2025–26 in collaboration with ISRO's NRSC(National Remote Sensing Centre).
- PLFS (Periodic Labour Force Survey) is released by NSO (National Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- A global analysis published in The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women's Health reported maternal mortality data for 2023.
- The Global Education Monitoring Report 2026, titled "Access and Equity: Countdown to 2030", was released by UNESCO.
- A new report titled "Under the Weather: India's Climate-Health Intersections and Pathways to Resilience," released by Dasra
- NITI Aayog released a report titled "From Borrowers to Builders: Women and India's Evolving Credit Market."
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) released a report titled "Universal social protection in changing labour markets: Protecting workers in all types of employment".
- The first national report, "State of India's Bats (2024–25)", highlights threats to bat species in India.
- Indian Space Situational Awareness Report (ISSAR) 2025 was released by the ISRO.
- The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific released its 2026 Economic Survey
- The FAO and WMO jointly released the report "Extreme Heat and Agriculture" on April 22, 2026 (Earth Day).
- The 10th Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) was released by the Global Network Against Food Crises with support from the European Union.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj released Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 for FY 2023–24 to assess rural local bodies.
- NITI Aayog released the report "Moving Towards Effective City Government: A Framework for Million-Plus Cities".

Professor Academy

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) released the 13th edition of the World Migration Report 2026.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released the Prison Statistics India (PSI) 2024 report on prison conditions in India.
- UN Trade and Development released the report "Invisible Barriers: The Costs of Non-Tariff Measures", stating that Non-Tariff Measures now cost more than tariffs for most countries.
- NITI Aayog released a policy report titled 'School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement'.
- The LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2025 report by DPIIT ranked Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, and Delhi as "Exemplars" in logistics performance.
- The Global Forest Goals (GFG) Report 2026 was released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) released the World Health Statistics Report 2026, an annual compilation of global health indicators published since 2005.
- The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2026 report was released by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council.
- The report "A New Geopolitics of Food" was released by the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food).
- The United Nations Environment Programme released the report titled 'Sand and Sustainability: An Essential Resource for Nature and Development'.
- UN-Habitat released the World Cities Report 2026 at the World Urban Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- The United Nations Environment Programme has released the 10th edition of the "Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction 2025–2026".
- The World Bank Group released the 13th edition of the "State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2026" report.
- The Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2026–2035 was released by the World Meteorological Organization
- The State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) 2026 report has been released by the ICRIER-Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy.
- NITI Aayog released the report "Future of India's Semiconductor Industry", outlining India's Semiconductor Vision 2035.
- The UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) released the report "Environmental Cost of AI's Energy Use: Carbon, Water and Land Footprints".
- The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026 has been released published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- The Planetary Climate Vital Signs Report 2026 was released during the Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB64).
- The UNICEF Children's Climate Risk Report 2026 highlights that around 392 million children in India (92%) are exposed to extreme heat, with 89 million children facing recurrent heatwaves.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) released the Hunger Hotspots Report 2026
- Bengaluru was ranked as the second-best Artificial Intelligence (AI)-native startup cluster in Asia in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026.
- The Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026 was released by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with Accenture.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2026 report under the theme "Blue Transformation: Turning Vision into Impact".
- India ranked 13th globally in AI-economy readiness in the QS World Future Skills Index 2027, released by QS Quacquarelli Symonds.
- The World Hydropower Outlook 2026, released by the International Hydropower Association (IHA).
- The World LNG Report for 2026 was released recently by the International Gas Union (IGU).
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released the World Investment Report 2026.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has released the Global Status Report on Cancer 2026.
- The Ministry of Education released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 report for 2022–23 and 2023–24, assessing the performance of States and Union Territories (UTs) in school education.

Professor Academy

- The World Intangible Investment Report 2026, launched by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Luiss Business School.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the Global Liveability Index 2026, ranking 173 cities based on living conditions and urban resilience.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update July 2026 titled "Global Economy in Crosscurrents of War and Technology".
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) released the Lives, Choices and Futures — Demographic Futures Survey 2026, analysing youth aspirations, relationships and family decisions.
- The Ministry of Coal released 'AAROH – Annual Report on Mine Closure', India's first report on scientific mine closure and repurposing practices.
- 2nd edition of the Digital Threat Report 2025-26 was released by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), along with CERT-In, CSIRT-Fin, and SISA
- NITI Aayog released the first ever report on "Investment Friendliness Index".
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the report "No Transition Without Justice".
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) released the "Roadmap for Active Management of Tigers in India" report based on the 2022 All India Tiger Estimation.
- Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026 was developed by Institutes of Yale and Columbia University, along with support from the McCall MacBain Foundation.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) released the Peat-Emit Report 2026 to improve the accuracy of greenhouse gas emission estimates from peatlands.
- The World Bank released the World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) released the Research and Development (R&D) Statistics 2025–26 report. Report Organization Top Bottom India's position

August 21–31, 2026

Global Gas Report 2026

- **Record:** Global natural gas consumption hit 4,202 bcm in 2025 — a new record per the Global Gas Report 2026.
- **Authors:** Report published jointly by IGU (International Gas Union), Snam, and Rystad Energy.
- **India Peak:** India's power demand hit 271 GW peak in May 2026 — gas plays an increasing role.
- **Trend:** LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) trade grew significantly as countries diversify energy sources.

> **Learn Basics – BCM (Billion Cubic Metres):** Unit for measuring natural gas volume; 1 bcm ≈ 1 billion m³ of gas at standard conditions.
>
> **Learn Basics – IGU (International Gas Union):** Global trade body representing gas industry; headquartered in Oslo, Norway.

Global HIV Population 2026 (Lancet Study)

- **Finding:** 11.5 million people aged 50+ are living with HIV in 2025; projected to reach 20.2 million by 2040, per Lancet journal.
- **Proportion:** By 2040, over 50% of all HIV-positive people globally will be aged 50 or above.
- **Source:** Study published in The Lancet — a peer-reviewed medical journal published since 1823.
- **Implication:** Healthcare systems need to address geriatric HIV care alongside traditional prevention.

> **Learn Basics – HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus):** Virus that attacks the immune system; untreated leads to AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome).
>
> **Learn Basics – Ageing HIV Population:** As antiretroviral therapy (ART) extends HIV-positive lifespans, older patients with comorbidities present new care challenges.

Report	Organization	Top	Bottom	India's position
India's Investments in FY26	–	Andhra Pradesh – India's top investment destination (25.3%)	Uttar Pradesh (2.7%) and Karnataka (2.1%) –lower shares	–

Professor Academy

Report	Organization	Top	Bottom	India's position
Organ Donations in 2025	Jeevasarthakathe – State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO)of Karnataka	Karnataka– highest-ever number of organ donors (198)	–	–
UN DESA Report 2025	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	–	–	India – fourth largest economy
Henley Passport Index 2026	–	Singapore	–	80th
Responsible Nations Index 2026	–	Singapore	–	16th
Numbeo Safety Index 2026	–	Qingdao in China – ranked as the safest city in the world. Mangaluru in Karnataka – emerged as the safest city in India. Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, and Haiti – among the least safe countries.	–	–
Numbeo Global Safety Index 2026	–	Abu Dhabi	–	–
Asia Manufacturing Index (AMI) 2026	–	China	–	6
Artificial Intelligence (AI) investment	World Economic Forum (WEF)	United States (US) and Singapore	–	8
Global Soft Power Index 2026	Brand Finance	United States, China, and Japan	–	32
Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Tripura	–	–
QS Europe Rankings 2026	–	The University of Oxford	–	–
Global Biomass Energy Production Rankings 2026	–	United States	–	5
QS 2026 – Most Affordable City for International Students	–	Delhi	–	–
Global LEED Certifications	US Green Building Council (USGBC)	United States	–	2
Global Innovation Index	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	China	–	7
Network Readiness Index 2025	–	–	–	45
Women, Peace and Security Index 2025–26	–	Denmark	–	131
Corruption Perceptions Index 2025	–	Denmark	–	91
The Global AI Brain Race Report 2026	–	United States	–	6
Global Residence Program Index 2026	–	Greece	–	–
Innovators Business Environment Index	StartupBlink	United States	–	54th

Professor Academy

Report	Organization	Top	Bottom	India's position
Global arms imports	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute	Ukraine	–	2nd
Global Capital Flows Report 2025	Colliers	–	–	4th
World Happiness Report 2026	Wellbeing Research Centre	–	–	116
Global Trade Outlook 2026	World Trade Organization	–	–	
Global Terrorism Index 2026	Institute for Economics and Peace	Pakistan	–	13
World Air Quality Report 2025	IQAir	Pakistan – most polluted country	–	6
World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders	Norway	–	157
Henley Passport Index 2026	Henley & Partners	Singapore	–	78
SDG Index 2026	UN SDSN	–	–	94th
Global Passport Index (GPI) 2026	Global Citizen Solutions	Sweden	–	125th
Henley Passport Index 2026	Henley	Singapore	–	81st

September 2026

World Soil Resources Report 2026

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

Work From Anywhere Index 2026

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

Professor Academy

UN Report on Warming Overshoot

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

CVC Annual Report 2025

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

India's Unincorporated Sector Data

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

India Electric Mobility Index 2025

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

Global Gender Gap Index 2026

- India retained 131st rank in the Global Gender Gap Index 2026 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- The index covered 145 economies, with Iceland (1st), Finland (2nd) and Norway (3rd).

Professor Academy

- India's overall gender parity score was 64.5%, below the global average of 69.2%.
- India's Economic Participation and Opportunity parity score was 41.2%, while Educational Attainment stood at 96.6%.
- Political Empowerment was India's highest-ranked subindex, with 24.5% of the gap closed and a global rank of 67th.

Forests for food: Nourishing people, sustaining the planet

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

V-Dem Report on India

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

NITI Aayog Skilling Report

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

WMO Groundwater Report

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported persistent groundwater decline in India in its State of Global Water Resources 2025 report.
- Persistent groundwater deficits were observed in parts of India during 2022– 2025, with over-extraction identified as an important cause.
- The decline indicates that more groundwater is being extracted than recharged in affected areas.

Professor Academy

- Globally, 34% of groundwater observation stations recorded below-normal to much-below-normal levels in 2025, compared with 25% in 2024.
- Groundwater levels were compared with the 2001–2020 reference period.
- Northern India also recorded below-normal terrestrial water storage in 2025.

UN Gender Equality Report

- UN Women and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) released the Gender Snapshot 2026 report.
- One in three institutional mechanisms for gender equality had their institutional power reduced over the past two years.
- Around one in four such institutions faced budget cuts, while nearly one in 10 lost control over their budgets.
- Six in seven countries are led by men, while women hold only 6% of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) positions globally.
- Nearly nine in 10 defence ministers and more than eight in 10 finance ministers are men.
- The report states that none of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) indicators are currently on track to be achieved by 2030.

WHO-UNICEF WASH Report 2026

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

WEF Tourism Index 2026

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

Global Cities Index 2026

- Delhi ranked 268th among 1,000 cities in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index (GCI) 2026.
- The Global Cities Index is an annual report by Oxford Economics that evaluates cities on Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment and Governance.
- New York topped the index, followed by London, Paris, Seattle and San Francisco.
- Among Indian cities, Delhi (268) ranked highest, followed by Bengaluru (311), Mumbai (330), Chennai (381), Hyderabad (421) and Pune (427).
- Around 100 Indian cities were included, with 55 Indian cities among the world's 100 fastest-growing city economies.
- Bengaluru improved by 20 places and was listed as a "City to Watch", while Delhi ranked 13th globally in Human Capital.

Professor Academy

- The West Bengal Police registered a Zero FIR at Suti police station, regardless of the place of crime.

> **Learn Basics – Zero FIR:** A First Information Report that can be registered at any police station regardless of jurisdiction and later transferred to the concerned station.

- The Batadrava Than Redevelopment Project (birthplace of Shankaradeva) was inaugurated in Assam.
- Rohtasgarh Fort, also called Rohtas Fort, one of the largest forts in India and the world is located on the banks of the Sone River in Bihar.
- The Delhi government has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to develop an AI-based grievance redressal system called Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS).
- The Karnataka Strategic & Intelligence Unit, will integrate APIs from universities, colleges, training institutions, and government databases.
- The Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC), Ahmedabad, in Gujarat completed 500 kidney transplants in 2025, becoming the only public sector hospital in India to achieve this milestone in a single year.
- Assam has become the first state in India to constitute the 8th State Pay Commission on 1 January 2026.
- Surat is set to become India's first fully slum-free city through planned urban development and housing programmes.
- Tripura State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) has received ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification.
- Assam will procure a proton therapy machine for cancer treatment; thus, it will become the first state in India to offer proton therapy in the public health system.
- Maharashtra and Karnataka have the highest farmer suicide rates in India, about 2.5 times the national average.
- Haryana recorded a Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) of 923 in 2025, which is the highest in the last five years.
- Kerala has introduced the Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025 to protect private sector employees from work communication after office hours.
- The Bhoramdev Corridor Development Project was launched at Bhoramdev Dham in Kabirdham district, Chhattisgarh.
- The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) has recommended the environmental clearance for the 1,200–megawatt (MW) Kalai-II hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Telangana Legislative Assembly has passed a Bill abolishing the two-child norm for contesting local body elections.
- India has launched its first commercial tropical Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) based rainbow trout farm in Telangana.
- Lucknow is set to get India's first urban night safari at the Kukrail Forest Area on the northern outskirts of the city.
- The Jharkhand Cabinet approved rules under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996, to empower Gram Sabhas in the State.
- Gujarat is the leading okra producer in India, with cultivation spread across 93,955 hectares in 2023–24, producing 11.68 lakh tonnes.
- Uttar Pradesh has opened its first Braille library dedicated to visually impaired persons.
- The Delhi Government signed a historic MoU with the RBI, which brings Delhi under the RBI's full banking, cash, and debt management framework for the first time.
- The Tripura government identified 10 river sites to generate about 185 megawatts of power using hydrokinetic turbine technology.
- Keyi Panyor district in Arunachal Pradesh is set to become India's first Bio-Happy District.
- Bengaluru was ranked the best city for women in India in 2025 with the highest City Inclusion Score of 53.29, based on social and industrial inclusion.
- The Union Home Ministry has approved Amaravati as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- West Bengal has started a 5 km long bridge over the Muriganga River to connect Sagar Island with the mainland.
- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), commissioned the world's first Liquid Conversion-Maximum (LC-Max) unit at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- The Kalpetta judicial district in Kerala's Wayanad district has become India's First Fully Paperless District Court in the country.
- The Kerala government has officially renamed the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary the Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary.

Professor Academy

- The Indian Navy is set to establish a new base in West Bengal's Haldia, about 100 kilometres from Kolkata.
- Puri in Odisha officially became India's first city where tap water is safe to drink directly, without boiling or filtering.
- Bamanwas Kankar panchayat in Rajasthan has become the first village body in the State to be certified as fully organic.
- The Public Investment Board has approved the Kamala Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, ranked fifth in India for attracting international students.
- The Regional Office of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was inaugurated at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- The month-long festival "Boda Tyohar", was commenced in Nahan, Himachal Pradesh.
- The 2,000–year-old Zehanpora Buddhist stupa complex in Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, has been scientifically excavated.
- Chhattisgarh has topped in implementing the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) system by generating 50,60,941 IDs for students as of January 7.
- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) with a budget of Rs 74,427 crore, is one of the largest spending authorities in the country.
- Kathputli, meaning wooden doll (kath = wood, putli = doll), is one of Rajasthan's oldest folk-art forms.
- The Kerala Legislative Assembly has passed the Malayalam Language Bill, 2025, making Malayalam the sole official language of the State.
- The 3rd Indian Lighthouse Festival was inaugurated at Visakhapatnam to develop historic lighthouses as tourism hubs to boost local economies.
- Bamanwas Kankar gram panchayat in Rajasthan became the State's first fully organic panchayat.
- Odisha will become the first Indian state to launch a comprehensive chronic kidney disease (CKD) registry by March 31, 2026.
- Tripura Gramin Bank became the first Regional Rural Bank (Gramin Bank) in India to introduce a solar-powered ATM van.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), has launched a National Capacity Building Programme for Tribal Healers in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Kerala recorded the highest personal four-wheeler electric vehicle (EV) adoption in 2025 among Indian states.
- Maharashtra's State Election Commission has decided to revert to traditional indelible ink for zilla parishad and panchayat samiti elections after complaints that marker-pen ink could be wiped off.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister announced a new spaceport at Hope Island.
- The issue of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status of the Lambada community also called Banjaras in Telangana has reached the Supreme Court again.
- A Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), a rare neurological disorder outbreak has been reported in Manasa town, Neemuch district, Madhya Pradesh recently.
- The Odisha government announced a complete ban on gutkha, pan masala, and all tobacco and nicotine products on 23 January 2026.
- Delhi will introduce a single emergency number, 112, for police, fire, ambulance, and disaster services.
- The Prime Minister attended the Bagurumba Dwhou 2026 cultural programme in Guwahati, Assam.
- Gujarat laid the foundation stone for India's first integrated private satellite manufacturing unit at Sanand (Khoraj), Gujarat.
- Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the ₹6,957–crore, 34.5 km Kaziranga Elevated Corridor on NH–715 in Assam.
- Kerala has officially declared Bacillus subtilis as its State Microbe and dedicated the Centre of Excellence in Microbiome (CoEM) to the public.
- Recent excavations at Kote Veerabhadreshwar Temple in Lakkundi village, Gadag district, Karnataka, have uncovered Neolithic-era artefacts.
- NLC India Limited (NLCIL) has commissioned its full 300–Megawatt (MW) Barsingar Solar Power Project in Rajasthan.
- Maharashtra has started India's first menopause clinics in government hospitals and urban health facilities.
- The Economic Survey 2025–26 reported that Karnataka leads India's generative artificial intelligence startup ecosystem.

Professor Academy

- India nominated Meghalaya's living root bridges for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List 2026–27.
- Uttar Pradesh made Aadhaar-based authentication mandatory for property registration from 1 February 2026.
- The Kerala Government has announced free education up to the graduate level for Arts and Science students in the State Budget 2026–27.
- Odisha's Buddhist Diamond Triangle has been added to India's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.
- The Kerala State becomes India's First to Provide Free Graduation Education and School Student Insurance.
- Chittoor district enters the Guinness World Records as CM Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh distributes 5,555 e-cycles.
- Ahmedabad City Crime Branch has become the first police force in India to integrate Aadhaar verification with PATHIK software.
- Karnataka has set up the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers Welfare Development Board in January 2026.
- Dhamtari in Chhattisgarh became the first district in India to collect property tax through the SAMARTH Panchayat portal.
- Gujarat has emerged as India's top renewable energy state with 42.58 GW capacity, contributing 16.5% of the national total.
- Madhya Pradesh will observe 2026 as the 'Year of Agriculture', theme for the year is "Prosperous Farmers – Prosperous State."
- Andhra Pradesh launched the Pilloo AI which is a voice-based accounting app designed for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- A review meeting on the development of the Matabari Tourism Circuit in Tripura was chaired by the Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region.
- A rare early 8th-century CE Telugu inscription has been discovered at Pitikayagulla in Andhra Pradesh.
- Andhra Pradesh signed a MoU with FICCI-FLO to establish an exclusive women's industrial park.
- Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB) launched India's first Regional Rural Bank (RRB) co- branded RuPay credit card to expand digital banking services and financial inclusion in rural and semi-urban areas.
- NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) is going to develop India's first large-scale green urea production ecosystem at the Pudimadaka Green Hydrogen Hub near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Alwar district (Rajasthan) became the first district in India to achieve 100% insurance coverage under the "Insurance for All by 2047" roadmap.
- NITI Aayog released a draft plan to make Andhra Pradesh a clean energy hub by 2035.
- Kerala became the first Indian state to announce a dedicated Elderly Budget for FY27.
- The Centre signed a tripartite MoU to create the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA).
- The First Women-Led Industrial Park was inaugurated at Gowribidanur, Karnataka, by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) Bangalore.
- Airbus inaugurated a Centre of Excellence (CoE) at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) in Vadodara, Gujarat, to promote sustainable aviation research, innovation, and skill development in the aerospace sector.
- The Chief Minister of Odisha inaugurated India's first Flat Rolled Products (FRP) aluminium manufacturing unit at the Aditya Aluminium complex in Sambalpur district.
- Andhra Pradesh will formally launch the Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV) project.
- Odisha announced the development of the National UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) Test and Innovation Corridor at Rangeilunda during Wings India 2026.
- Adampur Airport in Punjab was renamed Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj Ji Airport, during Guru Ravidas' birth anniversary event in Jalandhar.
- Cochin International Airport (CIAL) in Kerala will become the first airport in India to operate hydrogen-powered buses for passenger transport to reduce emissions in airport transportation.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of the Sharda River Corridor Project at Tanakpur in Champawat district to promote tourism, infrastructure development, and employment generation.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister launched 'Padhai with AI' in Bilaspur district, The initiative uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide digital learning, exam- oriented study material, and personalized support.
- Kerala launched NeophyteID, an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered mobile application to detect invasive plant species.
- Uttar Pradesh presented its first Economic Survey 2025–26 in the State Legislative Assembly.

Professor Academy

- Mumbai Coastal Road introduced India's first musical road on the northbound lane from Nariman Point to Worli on the Mumbai Coastal Road.
- The Delhi Metro Rail's Magenta Line will become the longest corridor in the Delhi Metro network, stretching about 89 kilometres.
- Odisha recorded its highest marine dolphin population in five years, with 765 dolphins counted in the 2026 census.
- The government of Uttar Pradesh presented a Budget of ₹9.12 lakh crore for the financial year 2026–27 in the State Assembly.
- Goa is set to release its first biodiversity and cultural features map, developed by WWF India (World Wide Fund for Nature India), to promote environmental awareness among students.
- The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly introduced an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based digital attendance system for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in 2026.
- The Indian Prime Minister inaugurated the Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu and the Northeast's first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) in Assam.
- Kerala became the first State in India to approve a comprehensive Urban Policy.
- Bihar presented an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered remote e-voting system at the India AI Impact Summit held in New Delhi.
- The Kerala government has declared tidal flooding as a State-specific disaster.
- Kerala has approved India's first comprehensive Graphene Policy to promote research, development and manufacturing of graphene.
- The Bihar state cabinet approved the construction of a new international airport at Sonepur in Saran district.
- Losar Festival 2026 is celebrated from 18–20 February in McLeod Ganj, Himachal Pradesh, marking the Tibetan New Year and the start of the Fire Horse Year.
- Delhi Chief Minister inaugurated the CM Shri School at Sarojini Nagar, marking India's first AI-driven comprehensive education model.
- The Maharashtra government, led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, has revoked a decade-old 5% reservation for socially and educationally backward sections of the Muslim community.
- The 1,750-megawatt (MW) Demwe Lower Hydel Project in Arunachal Pradesh has received an 11-year extension of environmental clearance till 2037.
- Bela Gram Panchayat from Bhandara district, Maharashtra, was showcased at Mumbai Climate Week 2026 as India's first net-zero Panchayat.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Uttar Pradesh government to change the Suav's status from "drain" to "river" in official records, Suav (also called Suwawan) is a tributary of the Rapti River in Balrampur district, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Jammu and Kashmir government is considering diversion of Ravi river water to the Jammu region and revival of the Tulbul Navigation Barrage Project after the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (1960).
- Saundala village in Maharashtra declared itself a caste-free village on 5 February 2026 through a Gram Sabha resolution.
- A 12th-century multi-lingual Hoysala inscription was discovered at K. Bettahalli village in Mandya district, Karnataka.
- The Haryana government announced the launch of CM Shri Schools during the Budget Session of the State Assembly.
- The North East Spring Festival 2026 began in Dimapur and is being held along with the Madhya Dakshini Festival 2026 to promote cultural exchange between regions.
- The Sikkim Chief Minister announced that Pakyong Airport will be renamed as Trilochan Pokhrel Airport to honour the freedom fighter Trilochan Pokhrel.
- The Rajasthan Cabinet has removed the rule that barred candidates with more than two children from contesting Panchayati Raj and urban local body elections.
- Goa is hosting the fourth edition of the World Ocean Science Congress 2026 at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Panaji, which focuses on ocean health, climate resilience and sustainable blue economy.
- The Rajasthan government has renamed Mount Abu as Aburaj, while Kaman has been renamed Kamvan, and Jahazpur has been renamed Yagyapur.
- The Government of Assam launched Mission Basundhara 3.0 in Dhemaji district to distribute land pattas to indigenous landless families, benefiting 1,06,905 people across the state.
- Bihar has been declared Naxal-free after the surrender of the last armed Maoist.

Professor Academy

- The Kerala Nativity Card Bill has been referred to the Subject Committee on Land Revenue and Devaswom by the Kerala Assembly.
- Varanasi entered the Guinness World Records by planting over 2.5 lakh saplings in one hour.
- The second edition of the Indian Bison Fest will be held on 8 March 2026 at Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Odisha.
- Assam's GI-tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger was exported to London for the first time, with a trial consignment of 1.2 metric tonnes.
- The Karnataka government announced a ban on social media access for children under 16 years in the 2026–27 state budget.
- The Andhra Pradesh government announced a ₹25,000 financial incentive for couples having a second or third child.
- Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation deployed the AI robot G-SPIDER at Amayizhanchan canal under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 to clean debris and avoid manual scavenging.
- The Karnataka High Court ordered a halt to all ground-level activities in the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary and its Eco-Sensitive Zone.
- The Chhattisgarh government approved the Freedom of Religion Bill 2026 to prevent illegal religious conversions.
- The Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill 2026 was passed by the Maharashtra Assembly to curb forced religious conversions.
- Chapchar Kut, the spring festival of Mizoram, was celebrated in March 2026.
- Sarhul is a major tribal festival celebrated recently mainly in Jharkhand and parts of Odisha, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh.
- The Government of Assam signed peace agreements with Kuki militant groups and the Hmar People's Convention-Democratic.
- Uttar Pradesh launched Project GANGA to provide high-speed internet connectivity to rural households and boost digital infrastructure.
- Telangana State Government announced a Cabinet sub-committee for the Musi River Rejuvenation Project in 2026.
- Gujarat became the second state after Uttarakhand to pass the Uniform Civil Code Bill 2026, creating a common law for all communities.
- Kerala launched 'MLATrack.com', India's first digital platform to track the legislative performance of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
- Meghalaya became the 12th state to sign reform-based MoU under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0.
- Gujarat launched the Lake and Air Watch initiative to monitor and improve lake health and air quality across cities.
- India's first microalgae-based air tower was installed in New Delhi to reduce air pollution from vehicles.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has started new excavation work in 2026 at the historic Balirajgarh site, Bihar.
- Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 was passed by the Lok Sabha to declare Amaravati as the sole capital from June 2, 2024.
- Meghalaya signed an MoU with Starlink to boost satellite internet services.
- For the 1st time in India Regional Passport Office Bhopal launched Braille and sign language services for passport applicants.
- The Telangana government declared cancer as a notifiable disease through a new government order.
- Unique polling stations and a humanoid robot 'Nila' were used during the Puducherry Assembly Elections 2026 to attract voters.
- The Indian Army launched Sikkim's first border village community radio station named "Sikkim Sundari."
- Gujarat launched the Sports Genomics Programme to create an athlete genome database before the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

[Aug 21–31] India's First Sports Genomics Programme

- **Location:** Launched in Gujarat by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC).
- **Programme:** Called G-AGD (Gujarat Athlete Genomics for Development) — India's first sports genomics initiative.
- **Purpose:** Identifies genetic markers to select and train athletes more efficiently for competitive sports.

Professor Academy

- **Method:** DNA analysis of athletes to map traits like endurance, muscle fibre composition, and injury risk.

Learn Basics – Sports Genomics: Application of genetic science to identify athletes' innate physiological and performance potential.

Learn Basics – GBRC: Government biotechnology research body in Gujarat; previously known for COVID genomic surveillance.

- Meghalaya approved the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026 to give official language status to Khasi and Garo, along with English.
- Women's quota law came into effect in the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Puducherry from 17 April 2026.
- Kankaria Coaching Depot in Ahmedabad became India's first 'water neutral' railway depot.
- Bhubaneswar, Odisha will host the ground-breaking of India's first Advanced 3D semiconductor chip packaging unit.
- India's first large-scale private gold mining project is set to start operations in Andhra Pradesh in May 2026.
- Odisha became the first state to launch a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP).
- The foundation stone of India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park was laid in Ladakh, on the banks of the Indus River
- The Forest Department in Prayagraj launched the Dolphin Friends volunteer network to conserve the endangered Ganges River dolphin.
- Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) won the 4th Gender Equality Mobilisation (GEM) Award in 2026.
- Uttar Pradesh received India's first integrated recycling facility for lithium-ion batteries and rare earth magnets at Sikandrabad
- Andhra Pradesh has launched its first Mushroom Mission with an investment of ₹13,000 crore.
- A new excavation at Virli Khandar, Maharashtra revealed unique burial structures and artefacts.
- West Bengal recorded the highest-ever voter turnout of 92.47% in the 2026 Assembly elections since Independence.
- Gujarat Police developed NARIT AI, the first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tool in India for narcotics investigation.
- The 17th Old Seed Festival was held in Araku Valley, Andhra Pradesh, to promote tribal biodiversity and traditional farming.
- India's first green methanol production plant is being set up in Gujarat.
- Sikkim has become the first state in India to adopt a fully paperless judiciary, marking a major milestone in digital justice delivery.
- Karnataka launched India's first dedicated digital grievance redressal system for gig workers, marking a major labour welfare reform initiative in the country.
- Bengaluru City Police introduced an AI-powered multilingual upgrade to the Namma 112 emergency system.
- Bengaluru was ranked the world's fastest-growing major city till 2035 in Savills' Growth Hubs Index.
- Karnataka launched India's first State-led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology in Bengaluru.
- Puducherry Assembly Election Result 2026 was announced on 4 May 2026, with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) securing a majority of seats.
- Hazaribag in Jharkhand became India's first pearl farming cluster under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- Mizoram launched the 'Khuarel' mobile application in 2026 to strengthen real- time disaster reporting and response.
- Telangana recorded the highest number of human trafficking cases in India in 2024, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- Odisha recorded the highest violent crime rate in India in 2024, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report.
- Suvendu Adhikari took oath as Chief Minister of West Bengal, leading the first BJP government in the State after the 2026 Assembly elections.
- Himanta Biswa Sarma took oath as the Chief Minister of Assam for a second consecutive term on 12 May 2026, becoming the first non-Congress leader to serve consecutive terms in the post.
- Odisha became the top-performing state in house completions under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 as of 8 May 2026.
- Jharkhand recorded a 0% primary school dropout rate in 2024–25
- Bengaluru recorded 17,561 cybercrime cases in 2024, the highest among metropolitan cities in India

Professor Academy

- The foundation stone for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme facility was laid at Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh.
- The West Bengal government launched the Annapurna Bhandar Scheme to give ₹3,000 per month on 14 May 2026 to strengthen women-centric welfare measures in the state.
- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the Bhimmandali Eco Heritage Site in Sambalpur district, Odisha.
- Karnataka launched India's first integrated digital portal to monitor Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) medicines and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) drug sales.
- The Ministry of Coal announced the start of coal production from the Urtan and Dhirauli coal mines in Madhya Pradesh.
- Centre has launched the ₹175-crore "Coffees of Nagaland" Mission to develop Nagaland as a global speciality coffee destination.
- A 12th-century Hoysala Veeragallu (hero stone) was discovered in Maniyur village of Mandya district, Karnataka.
- Kerala became the first Indian state to create a dedicated cabinet-level Artificial Intelligence (AI) portfolio.
- Maharashtra has become the top state in India with the highest number of central government projects.
- Kumbhalgarh Fort of Rajasthan was recognised in a UNESCO survey for having the world's second longest continuous wall after the Great Wall of China.
- Archaeologists discovered evidence of a 3,200-year-old settlement in Hazaribag district in the Mohane river basin of Chauparan block, Jharkhand.
- Odisha launched a revival plan titled "Revival of Languishing Products (Cotton Bomkai Saree)" to protect the original Bomkai weaving tradition in Ganjam district.
- Jharkhand will establish India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Human- Elephant Conflict Research Centre in the Palamu Tiger Reserve.
- The Assam Assembly passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026, to create a common civil law framework in the State.
- Kerala launched "Project Zero" as a state-level anti-corruption initiative through the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB).
- Telangana inaugurated India's first solar power projects operated by women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the Indira Mahila Shakti Scheme.
- Sikkim has been declared India's fifth fully literate State under the ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) programme.
- Kerala's 'Project Menstrual Dignity' proposes up to three days of menstrual leave per month for schoolgirls in Kerala.
- Siddaramaiah is the 18th Chief Minister of Karnataka and now holds the record for the longest cumulative tenure in the State's history.
- The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) launched Mission Senehjori to promote Assam's Muga silk as a global luxury brand.
- The National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) 2023–24 reported high levels of child malnutrition in Madhya Pradesh.
- The National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) 2023–24 recorded a decline in child stunting in Meghalaya.
- Kerala launched HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel) as India's first judiciary- integrated digital system for wildlife offence management.
- Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, has been selected for the state's first semiconductor project under the India Semiconductor Mission.
- The West Bengal Legislative Assembly signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).
- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands recorded India's lowest TFR (Total Fertility Rate) in NFHS-6 (National Family Health Survey-6).
- The APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) facilitated India's first-ever sea shipment of botanical-infused ready-to- cook millet functional foods from Karnataka to New Zealand.
- The Madhya Pradesh Government has withdrawn the two-child norm that restricted eligibility for government jobs and service benefits.
- The Kerala Cabinet has approved the Priyadarshini Scheme, which provides free travel for women and transgender persons on Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) ordinary bus services from 15 June 2026.

Professor Academy

- The Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has secured trademark protection for the Nilachakra logo and the terms Patitapabana and Ananda Bajara, becoming the first Indian shrine to obtain such protection.
- Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, became the first city in India to be integrated into the Easy Connect model for international travel.
- India's first 8-lane tunnel beneath the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan, is set to open on 20 June 2026 as part of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway project.
- Telangana launched its Breakfast and Milk Scheme when schools reopened after the summer vacation.
- The Jonnagiri Gold Mine in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, began commercial operations and is operated by Geomysore Services India Pvt Ltd, making it India's only private-sector primary gold mine since Independence.
- Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana, became the first university in India to receive four International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certifications simultaneously, awarded by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- The Hemis Festival 2026 began at Hemis Monastery in Leh, Ladakh.
- Dree Festival 2026 is the major agricultural festival of the Apatani tribe in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Gujarat is constructing its first two air-filled rubber dams across the Heran River in Chhota Udepur district and the Ambika River in Tapi district.
- Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra governments reached an agreement on pending issues related to the Narmada Project.
- Uttarakhand became India's sixth fully literate state under the Ullas – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme).
- Delhi launched the Mission 70 Lakh Tree Plantation Campaign and Delhi Ridge Rejuvenation Campaign under the Green Action Plan 2026–27.
- Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang launched the "Mission: Million Oak Trees by 2047" initiative to restore Himalayan oak forests.
- Ahmedabad, Gujarat, created a Guinness World Record by planting 3.61 lakh saplings in one hour on 12 July 2026 at Bhadaj.
- ONGC completed drilling its second geothermal well in Puga Valley, Ladakh, in July 2026.
- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) identified thorium-bearing mineral deposits in Gundlupet taluk, Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka.
- Odisha has recognised 10 habitat rights claims covering 8 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
- Maharashtra became the first Indian state to enact the Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Act, 2026, giving legal recognition to women farmers.
- The union home minister laid the foundation stone for the world's largest curd production plant under the Amul Bengal Dairy Project in Howrah, West Bengal.
- Scientists have identified the Pichhore orbicular granite in Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh as the second-oldest known orbicular rock in the world, dating back about 2.56 billion years.
- India Commissions First Geothermal Wells at Puga Valley in Ladakh.
- Bihar Chief Minister inaugurated the 68.80 km Belwa-Minapur Link Channel (Belwadhar) in Sheohar, Bihar.
- Karnataka leads all Indian states with the highest number of medical seats, boasting 15,395 MBBS seats.
- Andhra Pradesh secured second place among Indian States under the MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes) scheme for mangrove restoration.
- Assam exported its first international consignment of Purabi Ice Cream to Bhutan, marking a milestone for the state's dairy sector.
- Ladakh will begin the second phase of Census 2027 on August 17, 2026, and will be among the first areas to record caste details.

Current Affairs, Aug 11–20

Survey of India Maps 27 Arunachal Pradesh Locations

- **Action:** India officially updated the Survey of India map to formally identify and mark 27 key locations in Arunachal Pradesh with standard Indian names, countering China's repeated renaming exercises.
- **Key places:** Locations include Long Ju (flashpoint in 1959), Thag La (1962 battle site), Bisa village, Dzo La, Riza La, Pukur La and Jairampur (logistics hub near Myanmar frontier).
- **India's stand:** India described China's renaming as 'vain and preposterous' and asserted that Arunachal Pradesh 'was, is, and will' remain an integral part of India.

Professor Academy

Learn Basics – Survey of India: India's national mapping agency, established in 1767; the oldest scientific department of the Government of India.

Learn Basics – Long Ju: A village in Arunachal Pradesh along the LAC; site of one of the earliest India-China tensions in 1959, a year before the formal 1962 war.

Parichha Weir Gains ICID World Heritage Irrigation Status

- **Recognition:** The 140-year-old Parichha Weir (Jhansi, UP), built in 1886 across the Betwa River, was selected as a World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS) by ICID.
- **History:** Roots go back to 1855 when Captain Strachey proposed a canal system for Bundelkhand; the weir forms the headworks of the Betwa Canal System.
- **ICID:** ICID (International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage), established in 1950, recognises structures >100 years old that continue to serve their original purpose.
- **Betwa River:** A 590 km right-bank tributary of the Yamuna; rises in the Vindhya Range (Raisen district, MP) and joins the Yamuna near Hamirpur (UP).

Learn Basics – WHIS (World Heritage Irrigation Structure): A programme under ICID recognising historically significant irrigation structures that are still operational.

Learn Basics – Bundelkhand: A plateau region straddling Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh; drought-prone; the Betwa Canal and Parichha Weir have been critical for irrigation here.

Microsoft's Fourth India Cloud Region – Hyderabad

- **Expansion:** Microsoft opened its largest India data centre in Hyderabad (Azure cloud), expanding its India footprint to four cloud regions (Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai, Mumbai), making it the country's largest cloud infrastructure provider.
- **Competitors:** AWS, Google and Oracle are also expanding through owned cloud regions and colocation partnerships in India.
- **Context:** India's data centre sector is driven by cloud adoption, AI-led computing demand and enterprise digitalisation.

Learn Basics – Cloud region: A geographic cluster of data centres from a cloud provider; multiple regions provide redundancy and low-latency access for local customers.

Learn Basics – Azure: Microsoft's cloud computing platform; competes with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Google Cloud in India's growing cloud market.

Ayushman Bharat – West Bengal Completes Nationwide Coverage

- **Completion:** West Bengal became the 36th and final State/UT to implement AB-PMJAY (Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana), completing national coverage.
- **Coverage:** The scheme provides health cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year; 36,000+ hospitals empanelled; 44 crore Ayushman cards issued; 12 crore+ treatments worth ₹1.82 lakh crore since launch.
- **Administrator:** National Health Authority (NHA) manages AB-PMJAY; MoU signed between NHA and West Bengal Government.

Learn Basics – AB-PMJAY: World's largest government-funded health insurance scheme; launched in 2018; targets the bottom 40% of India's population (50 crore beneficiaries).

Learn Basics – NHA (National Health Authority): The apex body for implementing AB-PMJAY; established in 2019 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

CBDC-Based Food Subsidy Transfer – Chandigarh & DNH

- **Pilot:** Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli became the first UTs to provide food subsidy transfers through CBDC-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) via Digital Rupee (₹e₹) wallets.
- **Process:** Subsidies transferred to e₹ wallets; payments via QR codes (smartphones) or OTPs (feature phones); first large-scale CBDC use in a Central Government welfare programme.
- **PMGKAY link:** The initiative improves transparency and traceability in food subsidy delivery under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

Learn Basics – CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency): Sovereign digital currency issued by RBI; the Digital Rupee (e₹) is issued in retail (e₹-R) and wholesale (e₹-W) forms.

Learn Basics – DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer): A government mechanism to transfer subsidies directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts, reducing leakage; CBDC extends this to digital wallets.

Professor Academy

Lithium and Gallium Exploration in Andhra Pradesh

- **MoU:** The Andhra Pradesh government signed an MoU with CSIR-NGRI for exploration of lithium and gallium deposits in the Vempalle area of Kadapa Basin.
- **Concentrations:** Lithium concentration estimated at up to 1,000 ppm; gallium at up to 250 ppm.
- **NGRI:** The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), established 1961 under CSIR, is a geoscientific research organisation.
- **Kadapa Basin:** Also known as the Cuddapah Basin; a large crescent-shaped sedimentary basin in Andhra Pradesh with ancient Proterozoic formations and massive mineral wealth.

> **Learn Basics – Lithium:** Critical mineral for lithium-ion batteries (electric vehicles, energy storage); India's domestic reserves (also found in Rajasthan, J&K) can reduce import dependence.
>
> **Learn Basics – Gallium:** A by-product of bauxite processing; used in semiconductors, LEDs and solar cells; a critical mineral for electronics.

Centre of Excellence for Eri Silk Weaving – Meghalaya

- **Launch:** Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma inaugurated a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Eri silk weaving at Nongpoh, Ri-Bhoi district.
- **Eri silk:** Eri silk (also called Ryndia) is a traditional handwoven textile of Meghalaya; known for its handwoven colours, patterns and cultural identity.

> **Learn Basics – Eri silk:** Produced from the Samia ricini silkworm; unlike mulberry silk, eri is a 'peace silk' as the pupa is not killed; primarily produced in Assam and Meghalaya.
>
> **Learn Basics – GI (Geographical Indication) tag:** A sign used on products with a specific geographical origin and qualities attributable to that origin; many Indian silk varieties hold GI tags.

Current Affairs, Aug 21–31

Kerala Manuscript Digitization MoU

- **MoU:** CCRAS-NIIMH and SEMIRI signed an MoU to digitize 30,000 manuscripts on Ayurvedic knowledge from Kerala.
- **Content:** Manuscripts cover Ayurveda, classical Sanskrit and Malayalam texts on medicine and philosophy.
- **Agencies:** CCRAS: Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences; NIIMH: National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage; SEMIRI: Sree Rama Educational Management and Industrial Research Institute.
- **Significance:** Preserves traditional Indian medical knowledge for research and practice.

> **Learn Basics – CCRAS:** Government body under Ministry of Ayush that promotes scientific research in Ayurveda.
>
> **Learn Basics – Manuscript Digitization:** Converting physical manuscripts to digital format for preservation and global access.

Maharashtra Snakebite Notifiable Disease

- **Action:** Maharashtra declared snakebite a Notifiable Disease — 1.29 lakh cases and 655 deaths recorded from April 2023 to March 2026.
- **Data Systems:** Cases now to be reported through HMIS (Health Management Information System) and IDSP (Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme).
- **Significance:** India has the world's highest snakebite mortality; Maharashtra's step aims to improve data and response.
- **Context:** WHO identified snakebite as a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) in 2017.

> **Learn Basics – Notifiable Disease:** A disease that must be reported to health authorities by healthcare providers — enables epidemiological tracking.
>
> **Learn Basics – IDSP:** Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme under National Health Mission — monitors disease trends across India.

Tilapia Exports from Chhattisgarh

- **First:** Chhattisgarh became India's first inland state to export Tilapia fish — 382 tonnes exported to the United States.
- **Scheme:** Fisheries development funded under PMMSY (Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana) with ₹900 crore allocation.
- **Fish:** Tilapia (Nile Tilapia) is a freshwater fish popular in aquaculture due to fast growth and hardy nature.
- **Significance:** Demonstrates potential for inland state aquaculture to participate in international fish trade.

Professor Academy

Learn Basics – PMMSY: Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana — Rs 20,050 crore scheme for fisheries development launched in 2020.

Learn Basics – Tilapia: A group of cichlid fish native to Africa; widely farmed in tropical climates for food; adaptable to freshwater systems.

Exam Point – Chhattisgarh is landlocked yet became first inland state to export Tilapia — the 'first inland state' fact is the key exam point.

Karnataka Bans Analogue Paneer

- **Ban:** Karnataka imposed a 1-year ban (August 17, 2026 – 2027) on the manufacture and sale of analogue paneer.
- **Legal Basis:** Action taken under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- **Definition:** Analogue paneer is made from vegetable fat (palm oil) instead of dairy milk; often mislabelled as real paneer.
- **Consumer Impact:** Protects consumers from nutritionally inferior and potentially adulterated milk-substitute products.

Learn Basics – Analogue Dairy Products: Products that resemble traditional dairy foods (cheese, paneer) but are made with non-dairy fats/proteins.

Learn Basics – FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India): Apex food regulator under the FSSA 2006; sets quality and safety standards for all food products.

Meghalaya Uranium Mining Controversy

- **Reserves:** Meghalaya holds 9.22 million tonnes of uranium — approximately 16% of India's total reserves.
- **Opposition:** Meghalaya Legislative Assembly passed a resolution opposing uranium mining in the state.
- **Sixth Schedule:** Meghalaya is protected under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution — tribal autonomous areas have special governance rights.
- **Concern:** Tribal communities oppose mining citing environmental impact, health risks from radiation, and land rights.

Learn Basics – Sixth Schedule: Constitutional provision (Articles 244 and 275) providing special autonomy to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

Learn Basics – Uranium Mining: Uranium ore is the raw material for nuclear fuel; India's deposits are primarily in Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.

Exam Point – Sixth Schedule applies to North-Eastern tribal areas — Fifth Schedule applies to tribal areas in the rest of India; exams test which state falls under which.

Mission Samriddh Gaon (Madhya Pradesh)

- **Launch:** Mission Samriddh Gaon piloted in Budni, Sehore and Khategaon, Dewas districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Objective:** Integrated rural development mission for holistic village prosperity — covering livelihoods, health, and infrastructure.
- **Approach:** Convergence of multiple central and state schemes at the village level for comprehensive impact.
- **Model:** Aims to create model villages (Adarsh Gram) that can be replicated across MP.

Learn Basics – Convergence Approach: Combining multiple government schemes at a single delivery point for integrated development impact.

Learn Basics – SANSAD Adarsh Gram Yojana: Central scheme for MP members to adopt and develop model villages — different from Mission Samriddh Gaon.

Himachal Pradesh Merino Sheep Programme

- **Import:** 240 Merino sheep imported in 2021 under ₹6 crore scheme to improve wool quality in Himachal Pradesh.
- **Quality Gain:** Wool fineness improved from 27 to 21–22 microns (finer is better for premium wool).
- **Production Target:** HP aims to increase wool production from 1,500 to 3,000 tonnes by 2027.
- **Origin:** Merino sheep are originally from Spain; known worldwide for ultra-fine, soft wool.

Learn Basics – Merino Wool: Among the finest natural fibres; measured in microns — lower micron count = finer, softer, more valuable wool.

Learn Basics – Wool Board of India: Central body under Ministry of Textiles that promotes wool production and marketing in India.

Professor Academy

Current Affairs, September 2026

- Andhra Pradesh has approved India's first dedicated Quantum and Artificial Intelligence (AI) University campus in Amaravati, to be developed by the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT).
- Andhra Pradesh approved AM AI Factory's ₹31,387-crore, 512-megawatt green Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centre at Amanam village in Visakhapatnam.
- Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that teachers in the State can use the prefix "Tr." (Teacher) before their names from Teachers' Day, September 5, 2026.
  - The prefix is intended as a mark of respect and recognition for the contribution of teachers to society.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari launched 'Arjun Vahini', a 200- member specialised disaster response squad modelled on the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), on 1 September 2026.
- The President's Colour was presented to the Goa Police at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Taleigao, Goa.
  - Goa Police became the fifth State Police force in India to receive the President's Police Colour.
- India set a Guinness World Record for the world's longest steel slag road, measuring 1.85 km, at Raigarh, Chhattisgarh.
- Karnataka made September 15 an official Engineers' Day event and allowed engineers to use the prefix "Er.", marking the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya, born on September 15, 1861.
- Keralam will introduce a mandatory Hazard Perception Test (HPT) for driving licence applicants, for the first time in India, using 10 one-minute videos based on international standards to test their ability to identify road hazards and take timely action.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the first phase of the Veligonda Irrigation Project.
  - The project diverts Krishna River water from the Srisailam Reservoir to the Nallamala Sagar Reservoir through gravity.
- Ladakh inaugurated twin flower fields at Choglamsar and Stakna in Leh district, at an altitude of 10,600 feet (3,265 metres).

Sone River Water Pact

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

Census 2026 in Manipur

- The Centre defers Census operations in Manipur (Centre defers Census operations in Manipur.
- There are demands to first conduct the State's National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise with 1951 as the base year.
- A demand was raised by the people of Manipur, specifically Meitei, Pangals (Meitei Muslims), and Nagas, to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) before conducting the Census.
- The Meiteis, who are in the majority in Imphal Valley, opposed the Census 2027 exercise.
- The Manipur government has consistently backed the NRC.
- The petitions in Manipur High court sought directions to update the NRC using 1951 as the base year and to address concerns over illegal migration from Myanmar before the Census is carried out.
- Earlier, the influential Kuki-Zo Council dismissed the NRC demand and welcomed the Census exercise.
- The NRC, requiring the transfer of data from Census slips, was born out of independent India's first census in 1951.
- All States were mandated to compile an NRC, but it was done only in Assam.
- The census in India is conducted under the Census Act, 1948
- The Union Government holds the power to order a census via a notification in the official Gazette.

Professor Academy

- The census comes under the Union List as per the 7th schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India handles the operations under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The name of the High Court of Kerala

- The name High Court of Kerala (HCK) would stay despite Kerala becoming Keralam.
- Kerala's name change to Keralam will leave no impact on the High Court of Kerala.
- The amendment process for the High Court has to be initiated by Parliament on a recommendation by the State executive and after ascertaining the views of the State Judiciary.
- The name change of the High Court can be made only through a High Court Name Amendment Act to be passed by Parliament.
- Though there were proposals for amending the names of the High Courts of Madras and Bombay in 2016, the amendment bills introduced in Parliament did not get passed and subsequently lapsed.
- Moreover, the judiciary is not part of the State government and has an independent footing as one of the three pillars of democracy.
- The name changes introduced by the State government need not reflect on the name or character of the High Court.
- Any such decisions may have to be initiated by Parliament.
- The judge also pointed out the instances of High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Orissa where the original names of the courts were retained despite the changes in the names of the respective States.
- The HCK was established on November 1, 1956, with its seat at Ernakulam following the formation of the State of Kerala as per the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, by merging the princely States of Travancore-Cochin State and the Malabar District of Madras State.
- While the State of Travancore had a High Court at Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin had its High Court at Ernakulam and Malabar District was under the jurisdiction of the Madras High Court.
- With the integration of the States of Travancore and Cochin on July 1, 1949, the High Court of Travancore-Cochin was formed with its seat at Ernakulam.

UNESCO List - Sivasagar Heritage

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

Gollala Gudi National Monument - Telangana

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

Lakkundi Hidden Monuments – Karnataka

- Lakkundi in Gadag district, Karnataka, will undergo a technology-based survey to locate hidden monuments.

Professor Academy

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

Zero Legacy Waste - Madhya Pradesh

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

Rural Waste Management

- Majuli (Assam) and Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh) have developed community-based models for managing rural waste.
- In Majuli, waste is collected in 19 of 20 panchayats, sorted at Central Material Collection Facilities (CMCFs) and sent to recyclers.
- Since 2024, Majuli has collected 82.4 tonnes of waste, preventing it from reaching the Brahmaputra and the ocean.
- In Tawang, villagers conduct monthly Swachchata Divas (Cleanliness Day) and segregate waste into 22 categories before sending it to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs).
- 26 villages have collected 30 tonnes of waste, with over 20 tonnes sold to recyclers, generating ₹3.53 lakh.

Chhattisgarh in Water Conservation

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

Zero Primary Dropout - Tripura

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

Professor Academy

Elder-Friendly Office Certification – Kerala

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

Ganga Floodplain Demarcation – Uttar Pradesh

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

Blood Donation - Haryana

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

Hyderabad Liberation Day 2026

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

Ladakh's First Heritage Village – Kumik

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

Devadurga Gold-Copper Exploration

- Telangana launched a gold and copper exploration programme at Lingadahalli village in Devadurga taluk, Raichur district, Karnataka.

Professor Academy

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

Tulu Language Recognition

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

Meghalaya Rainfall Deficit

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

Swamitva Yojana 2026

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

Regenagri Programme for South Indian Tea Estates

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

AFSPA Extension 2026

- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) has been extended for another six months from 1 October 2026 in specified areas of Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- In Manipur, AFSPA continues across the State except in 13 police station jurisdictions in five Valley districts.

Professor Academy

- In Nagaland, it continues in 9 districts and areas under 21 police stations in 5 other districts.
- In Arunachal Pradesh, it covers Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts and specified areas of Namsai district.
- Under Section 3, AFSPA allows armed forces, subject to the Act, to arrest without warrant, search premises without warrant and use force in specified circumstances.
- Both Central and State governments can declare an area as a "disturbed area" under Section 3.
- AFSPA was enacted in 1958 to deal with insurgency and serious internal security problems; it has been withdrawn from some Northeast areas, including Tripura (2015) and Meghalaya (2018).

Professor Academy

GI TAGS

GI Tag	Place
Ponduru Khadi	Andhra Pradesh
Nagauri Ashwagandha	Rajasthan
Pithora Painting	Gujarat
Chandannagar's Jalbhara Sandesh, Janai's Manohara, and Balagarh's Traditional Wooden (Dingi) Boats	West Bengal
Bhagaiya Silk, Kuchai Silk, Munda Jewellery, and Bamboo Craft	Jharkhand
Stringed musical instrument – Tripura Sarinda	Tripura
Assam Bihu Pepa, Assam Bamboo Crafts, and Deuri Handloom Products	Assam
Mojari craft	Jodhpur
Khurasani Imli	Madhya Pradesh
Indori Malwi Potato (Indore), Garadu (a tuber) and Balam Kakdi (cucumber) from Ratlam, and Mandu's iconic Baobab tree fruit (Dhar)	Madhya Pradesh
Spiti Seabuckthorn (Chharma), Salooni Safed Makka (White Maize), Chamba Metal Art, Sirmauri Loiya, Kinnauri Topi, Sepuvadi of Mandi, Kinnauri Apple, and Kinnauri Jewellery	Himachal Pradesh
Sirsa Kinnow	Haryana

Professor Academy

INITIATIVES, SCHEMES AND CAMPAIGNS

Name	Ministry/Organization	Aim
Twin Cities Partnership	Madurai and Camberley	Promoting cooperation in education and research, culture and heritage, tourism, economic development, and urban governance and sustainability
VijAIpatha labs initiative	Karnataka government	Equipping government school students with future-ready skills in AI, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), robotics, coding and digital innovation
Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) - Phase III	Union Government	To strengthen domestic electronics component manufacturing in India
Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention	Government of India	To promote export diversification and improve the global competitiveness of Indian exports
Export Promotion Mission (EPM)	Government of India	Two pilot schemes– Interest Subvention Scheme– 2.75% interest support on rupee export credit for selected exporters Collateral Support Scheme – credit guarantees up to ₹10 crore through the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)
National Digital Land Initiative – Land Stack	Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)	To improve transparency and accessibility in land record management
'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' initiative	Tamil Nadu government	Free laptop distribution to the students from Government and Government– aided colleges, and eligible private college students
Musi Riverfront Development project	Telangana government	To rejuvenate the Musi River in Hyderabad, Telangana
Sanskaar Shaala	Assam government	To teach Indian cultural traditions, discipline, and social responsibility at an early age (4 to 14 years)
Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom Scheme	Tamil Nadu Government	Promotes green manuring, where specific crops are grown and mixed into the soil to improve soil health
Global Governance Initiative	China	To make global governance more inclusive, representative, and people– centred
BHARATI initiative	Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)	Supports agri-food and agri-tech startups and helps them reach global markets
International Spice Routes Heritage Network	Kerala Government	To revive historic spice trade routes connecting Kerala with global markets
Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026	Indian government	To integrate science diplomacy into India's Raisina Dialogue, the country's premier conference on geopolitics and geo-economics
Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign	Indian government	To reduce child marriage by 10% by 2026 and eliminate it nationwide by 2030
Textiles Transformation (DLTT) initiative	Ministry of Textiles	To transform 100 high-potential districts into Global Export Champions and develop 100 Aspirational Districts into self-reliant hubs
SHINE Scheme	Bureau of Indian Standards	To place women at the centre of India's quality journey
The Akka Pade Scheme	Karnataka	To enhance the safety of women and children.
'Aame Padhiba Aama Bhasare' Scheme	Odisha government	To provide early childhood education in the mother tongue for children aged 3– 6 years.
Kalaignar Kanavu Illam Scheme	Government of Tamil Nadu.	It aims to provide permanent concrete houses to poor and homeless families in rural areas.
Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative	–	The initiative aims to improve global market linkages and branding support for khadi and related products.

Professor Academy

Name	Ministry/Organization	Aim
Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana	–	Will provide customised, industry- relevant training to Divyangjans in Information Technology (IT), AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics), Hospitality, and Food & Beverages sectors.
Divyang Sahara Yojana	–	Aims to ensure timely access to high- quality assistive devices for eligible Divyangjans.
SBI CHAKRA Initiative	–	It aims to build institutional capability to assess and finance sunrise and high- technology sectors.
Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0	–	The campaign aims to achieve saturation of 5 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in 112 Aspirational Districts and 6 KPIs in 513 Aspirational Blocks across India.
Fuel-conservation campaign	–	The SAKSHAM (Sanrakshan Kshamata Mahotsav) 2026 was launched in Chandigarh and is observed from February 1 to February 15, 2026.
Yuva Sahakar Scheme	The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)	Newly formed cooperative societies with innovative ideas
SabhaSaar Initiative	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	It aims to make Gram Sabha and Panchayat meetings easier to document by automatically converting audio and video recordings into text summaries.
Tamil Nadu Urban Greening Policy 2026	–	The aim is to develop climate-resilient, sustainable, and liveable cities by increasing urban green cover.
JALAJ Livelihood Centres	Union Minister of Jal Shakti	The initiative aims to link river conservation with sustainable livelihoods in the Ganga River basin.
NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme	Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)	It aims to integrate health-related financial benefits with the National Pension System (NPS).
Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana	–	The aim is to strengthen rural governance and infrastructure in villages.
Mukhya Mantrir Eti Koli Duti Paat Scheme	Government of Assam	The initiative aims to support the tea tribe and the indigenous communities of Assam.
Pudhumai Penn scheme	–	Under the scheme, ₹1,000 per month is provided to girl students studying in colleges.
Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana	Delhi government	The scheme will begin on 1 April 2026 and provides financial assistance totalling ₹56,000 during a girl's schooling and higher education, which is expected to grow to around ₹1 lakh with interest.
Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Campaign	Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	India aims to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027 under Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG-3).
PM RAHAT Scheme PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment)	–	The scheme provides cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh per road accident victim for 7 days from the date of the accident.
Baby Care Kit Scheme	Government of Tamil Nadu	to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) among low birth weight (LBW) babies.
Lakhpati Didi Scheme	The Government of India	The initiative aims to increase income opportunities and promote rural women's entrepreneurship.
Sthree Suraksha Scheme	Kerala government	To provide financial support to unemployed women and transwomen from economically weaker sections.
'Anbu Karangal' Scheme	–	Provides monthly financial assistance of Rs.2,000 to protect children who have lost their parents, and to ensure that they continue their schooling up to the age of 18 without dropping out.
Anbu Cholai	–	To alleviate the difficulties faced by the elderly, day-care centers.
'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar College Development Scheme'	–	To improve the infrastructure in arts and science, engineering and polytechnic colleges.

Professor Academy

Name	Ministry/Organization	Aim
'Kalloori Kanavu' Scheme	–	Implemented to guide students who have completed their school education in selecting higher education courses aligned with their interests.
'Vetri Nichayam' Scheme	–	Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, to equip youth with skill training and prepare them for employment.
'Ungal Thoguthiyil Muthalamaichar' Scheme	–	To fulfill ten priority demands arising from the long-standing grievances of people.
The 'Kalaignar Kaivinai Thittam'	–	The objective of providing financial assistance, skill training, and comprehensive infrastructure support for the development of artisans engaged in 25 categories of handicrafts.
Neithal Restoration Movement'	–	The Government is undertaking mangrove restoration across 3,733 hectares.
'Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme'	–	The infrastructure facilities in the Adi Dravidar and Tribal habitations is being improved.
'Tholkudi' Scheme	–	To enhance infrastructure facilities in tribal habitations.
'Annal Ambedkar Overseas Scholarship for Higher Education Scheme'	–	To reduce the financial burden on students pursuing postgraduate or research studies.
'Chief Minister's Adi Dravidar and Tribal Socio-Economic Development Scheme' (CM ARISE)	–	With the objective of empowering persons belonging to the Adi Dravidars and Tribal communities as entrepreneurs.
Mobile Bidi Pustaka Hidi' campaign	The Karnataka Government	The campaign aims to develop a reading habit and improve concentration and academic performance among students.
Rah-Veer Scheme	The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	The scheme aims to reduce road accident deaths and promote a culture of helping others without fear.
Project HANUMAN	Andhra Pradesh	To address the rising human-wildlife conflict
herSTART 5.0 Program	Gujarat	To support women entrepreneurs.
Nirbhaya Nisha Initiative	Kerala Police	Night-time safety of women across Kerala
"Say No to Proxy Sarpanch" campaign	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	To curb the 'Sarpanch Pati' practice
Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	To achieve the target of "Lakshya Zero Dumpsites" by September 2026.
Gaudham Yojana	Chhattisgarh	To establish about 1,460 shelters for stray and abandoned cattle
Dirghavadhi Krishak Punji Sahakar Yojana	National Cooperative Development Corporation	To strengthen long-term credit for cooperatives
IOS SAGAR initiative	Indian Navy	To strengthen regional maritime ties
RISA Timeless Tribal Scheme	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	To promote tribal crafts and textiles
Reform Express Initiative	Ministry of Railways	To modernize Indian Railways and improve efficiency in cargo and passenger services
Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA)	Union Govt	To boost industrial infrastructure in India.
National AI Skilling Initiative	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	To train 15,000 professionals in the AVGC
MyWAVES platform	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	To supports Indian creators in multiple languages
Advanced Electronic Programme Guide	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	Digital access in remote areas
Atoms4NetZero	International Atomic Energy Agency	To support countries in using nuclear energy for achieving net zero emissions
Mission MITRA	ISRO	To test astronauts for the Gaganyaan mission
e-SafeHER Initiative	MeitY	Cyber Security Awareness

Professor Academy

Name	Ministry/Organization	Aim
Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages (VAANI 3.0)	AICTE	To promote technical education, research, and learning in Indian languages
Global Maritime Security Initiative	UK France &	Safe navigation in the Strait of Hormuz
Vishwa Sutra Initiative	Ministry of Textiles	To promote Indian handlooms globally
One Case One Data' initiative	Supreme Court	Integrate judicial information
Su Sahay' chatbot	Supreme Court	Legal and data aid
New Country Strategic I Opportunities I Programme (COSOP) A	India and the International Fund for Agricultural Development	Strengthening rural livelihoods
Mission Arunachal Kiwi	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	Promote organic kiwi
SHATAYU Geriatric Caregiver Dashboard	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	Strengthen caregiving services for senior citizens
JEEVAN App	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	Improve the safety, healthcare access, welfare, dignity, and social inclusion
Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme	UNEP & GEF	Strengthen monitoring of hazardous chemicals globally
SUMAN Roadmap 2030	Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare
Integrated Child Health Programme - SSBSK	Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Newborn and child healthcare
Gramodyam Program	NABARD	Promote rural entrepreneurship
Aastha Van Sanrakshan Yojana	National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority	Conservation and restoration of nearly 15,000 sacred groves
PARIVARTAN Scheme	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	Reduce transport-related air pollution
Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan	Union Government	For Chemical Parks
Mission "Golden Spice"	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	Enhancee Lakadong turmeric and position
Samudra Manthan	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Explore offshore hydrocarbon resources
Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana	Solar Energy Corporation of India	Develop Floating Solar Photovoltaic
DAANVEER Initiative	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Close the immediate computer gap in the Gram Panchayats
'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan campaign	–	Anti-drug awareness
GOBARdhan scheme	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	for Compressed Biogas

Professor Academy

PERSONALITIES AND AWARDS

Personalities	Associated fields	Remarks
Smriti Mandhana	–	Second India player and fourth player to go Past 10,000 runs in women's internationals
Rakesh Agarwal	IPS officer	Interim Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)
Khaleda Zia	Former Bangladesh PM (first female Prime Minister of Bangladesh)	–
Divya Arul	Puducherry	Summited Mount Elbrus (5,642 metres), Russia - highest peak in Europe
Kaamya Karthikeyan (Mumbai)	18 year-old Indian mountaineer	The youngest Indian and the second– youngest woman in the world to ski to the South Pole
Rahul Sankrityayan (1893–1963)	Indian writer	From Volga to Ganga Translated into Tamil for the seventh time
Warren Buffett	–	Retired as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Berkshire Hathaway
Zohran Mamdani	New York Mayor	First time a Mayor of New York City has used Islam's holy text, Quran to take oath
Rajendra Singh	Water conservationist	Commissioner to study pollution in the Thamirabarani River
Delcy Rodriguez	–	Interim President of Venezuela
Suresh Kalmadi	Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister	–
Fatima Abdulrahman Al Awadhi	–	Youngest Arab to summit Mount Vinson in Antarctica
Siddaramaiah	–	Longest-serving CM of Karnataka
D.B. Venkatesh Varma	A former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer	Nominated to chair the UN Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters for the 2026–27 term.
Aaryan Varshney (Delhi)	–	India's 92nd Chess Grandmaster
Revati Mohite Dere	–	The first woman Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.
Praveen Vashista	–	Appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)
Sunita Williams	–	After worked for 27 years retired from NASA on 27th December 2025
Saina Nehwal	–	Olympic medallist has announced her retirement from competitive badminton in January 2026.
Yash Anil Rashiya	Roll Ball athlete	won the gold medal at the 7th Roll Ball World Cup 2025 held in Dubai.
Novak Djokovic	Serbian tennis player	the first player to achieve 400 singles match wins at Grand Slam tournaments.
Lieutenant K M Sudha	–	the first person from India's Northeast to win a gold medal at a National Cadet Corps (NCC) officers' training event.
Simran Bala	–	the first woman from the Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir to become a CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) officer.
D. Gnanasundaram	Tamil Scholar	Deputy Director of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil.
Ajit Pawar's	Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister	He was sworn in as Maharashtra's deputy chief minister for a sixth time.
Roshini	Class 9 student from Ranipet	Won a gold medal at the 29th All India National Championship 2026 for Traditional Martial Arts, held in Goa.
Captain Hansja Sharma	–	First woman officer of the Indian Army qualified to fly the Rudra Armed Helicopter
Sunetra Pawar	–	The first Woman Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra
Sir Mark Tully	A former BBC journalist	He was knighted in 2002 and awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2005.
S.S. Rajagopalan	Eminent educationist	He was a member of the committee that formulated Samacheer Kalvi and served on the technical committee of the All-India Forum for Right Education.
Elon Musk	–	The first person in history to cross a net worth of $800 billion
Yumnam Khemchand Singh	New CM of Manipur	–
Soraya Aghaei Hajiagha,	An Iranian badminton player	The first female member from Iran to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck	Queen Mother of Bhutan	22nd Upendra Nath Brahma 'Soldier of Humanity' Award 2025.
Samrat Rana and Suruchi Singh	–	Won a silver medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the Asian Shooting Championship 2026 held in New Delhi.

Professor Academy

Kabak Yano from Arunachal Pradesh	Indian mountaineer	Successfully summited Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.
Devika Sihag	A badminton player from Haryana	Won her first Badminton World Federation (BWF) Super 300 title at the Thailand Masters 2026.
Meghana Sajjanar	–	Won individual bronze medal in the Asian Rifle and Pistol Shooting Championships 2026, held in New Delhi.
Aditya Pandya	–	17 years, became India's youngest male analogue astronaut after completing a lunar- habitat simulation mission at Dholavira in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.
Smaran Sarvesh	Indian archer	Won the gold medal in the Recurve Under-18 Men's category at the NIMES Archery Tournament 2026 held in France.
Thanya Nathan C	–	Became the first visually challenged woman in Kerala to top the Judicial Service disability merit list for Civil Judge Junior Division recruitment.
Anahat Singh	Indian squash player	Entered the world top 20 rankings after winning her first Professional Squash Association PSA Bronze title at the Squash on Fire Open 2026 in Washington, USA
Ritu Tawde	Mumbai Mayor	The first Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mayor of Mumbai in 44 years.
Aalin Sherin Abraham, a 10-month-old baby	–	Became Kerala's youngest organ donor after she died in accident.
Lucas Pinheiro Braathen	–	won Brazil's first-ever Winter Olympics gold medal in alpine skiing at the giant slalom event during the 2026 Winter Olympics.
David J. Farber	Grandfather of the Internet	He was an American computer scientist who contributed to the development of early computer networking and the expansion of ARPANET, the precursor to the Internet.
Sanae Takaichi	–	Japan's first woman PM
Ranvir Sachdeva	–	Youngest speaker at the India AI Impact Summit 2026
cue sports player	Pankaj Advani	Won the Liber Win Champions Cup 2026 and was named Indian Brand Ambassador for Liber Win.
Rob Jetten	–	Became the youngest Prime Minister of the Netherlands.
Retired IAS officer Atulya Misra and retired IPS officer Abhay Kumar Singh	State Information Commissioners in the Tamil Nadu Information Commission.	–
R. Nallakannu	–	R. Nallakannu was a leader of the CPI and served as the Tamil Nadu State Secretary for three terms from 1992.
Jatinder Mehra	–	He had served as Vice Chairman of the Metals and Mining Division at the Essar Group.
Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari	–	The next Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
Droupadi Murmu	–	Became the first Indian President to undertake a sortie in the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand near the India– Pakistan border in Rajasthan.
Sachin Tendulkar	–	Global Champion for Road Safety by the United Nations (UN).
Greece's Stefanos Sakellaridis	–	Won the Delhi Open 2026 men's singles title.
T.K. Oommen	–	He received the Padma Bhushan in 2008 and authored around 20 books and many research articles.
RM Nachammai . .	–	The first woman to head a working nuclear power
A. Vijayaram	–	New Tamil Nadu State Information Commissioner
Mayank Chakraborty	–	India's 94th Chess Grandmaster
Imayam (V.Annamalai)	Vice-Chairperson of TN State Commission for SC/ST	Take over the responsibilities of Tamil Nadu State Commission for SC/ST
Niranjan Jyoti	–	Assumed charge as Chairperson of NCBC
Kiran Umesh Mahalle	–	Assumed charge as Member of NCBC
R.K. Raghavan's	Former CBI Director	Autobiography - A Road Well Travelled
Menaka Guruswamy	–	India's first openly queer MP
Harivansh Narayan Singh	–	Nominated Rajya Sabha member
Samrat Choudhary	–	New Chief Minister of Bihar
Roman Gofman	–	New head of Mossad in Israel
Harivansh	–	Elected unopposed for a third consecutive term as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
Aronyak Ghosh	–	India's 95th Grandmaster
Upendra Dwivedi	The third Indian Army Chief to receive this honour	Inducted into the International Hall of Fame of the US Army War College
M.M. Naravane	Former Army Chief	Authored "The Curious and the Classified".

Professor Academy

R. Rithika Sri	Cricket	India's first transgender cricket umpire from Tamil Nadu
Joram Aniya and R. Balasubramaniam	–	New full-time members of NITI Aayog
Rohit Jain	–	Appointed as Deputy Governor of RBI
P.V. Sindhu	Badminton	Chair of the Athletes' Commission
NS Raja Subramani	Lieutenant General Retd	New CDS
Vijay Narayan	–	Advocate General of Tamil Nadu
Praveen Sood	CBI Director	one-year extension of Term
Nepal's Kami Rita Sherpa	Mount Climber	Climbed Mount Everest for the 32nd time
Cecily	–	Tamil Nadu's first woman police constable
K. Arumugam	Hockey Historian	Authored a book India's First Olympic Gold
Ajay Kochhar	Vice Admiral	48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff
V. Mohana	Senior Advocate	Second woman to be directly elevated from the Bar to the Supreme Court
N.S. Raja Subramani	–	New CDS
P. Sumathi	Secretary to the TN Law Department	First woman to hold the post
Krishna Swaminathan	Admiral	27th Chief of the Naval Staff
R. Praggnanandhaa	Chess	First Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess 2026 title
Vinod Rai	Former CAG	Authored the book 'When Audit Matters: CAG Interventions That Made a Difference'
Elon Musk	–	World's first trillionaire
Vivek Aggarwal	–	First Indian as VP of FATF
Prof. Bimal N. Patel	Indian jurist	Elected as a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
Tushar Mehta	–	Reappointed as the Solicitor General of India
General Dhiraj Seth	–	31st Chief of the Army Staff
Teejan Bai	Renowned exponent of Pandavani	Chhattisgarh
Girish Bharadwaj	–	Bridge Man of India
V.T. Valluvan	–	UN FAO 'Soil Hero Guardian'
singer S. Janaki	–	Nightingale of South India
Harjit Singh Grewal	–	Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities
Viswanathan Anand	Former Chess Champion	Interim President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE)
Anurag Jain	–	CEO of NITI Aayog
Varsha Ashok Aglawe	Palaeontologist	First woman Director General (DG) of the Geological Survey of India
Felix Gerald	–	Chairman of the TN State Minorities Commission
D. Krishnakumar	Former Manipur High Court Chief Justice	Chairman of the reconstituted TN State Law Commission.
A. S. Rajeev	–	Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner
Prize/Awards	Awardee	Remarks
The Israel Prize for Peace	Donald Trump	US President
Nritya Kalanidhi award	Urmila Satyanarayanan	Bharatanatyam dancer
IFFCO Sahitya Samman 2025	Maitreyi Pushpa (Hindi writer)	Contribution to Hindi literature, especially writings related to rural life
IFFCO Young Literary Award 2025	Ankita Jain	–
Dairy Titan Award	Aavin	For its leadership in promoting sustainability in the dairy sector and farmers' welfare
70th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2025	100 railway officials	One among the Highest honours in Indian Railways
SKOCH Gold Award	NLC India Limited (NLCIL)	Financial performance for its financial management, operational efficiency, and value creation
2025 Nobel Peace Prize	Machado	For her work promoting democratic rights and peaceful transition in Venezuela
IREDA Excellence Award	IREDA (Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited)	–
Tamil Nadu State Awards 2026	Thiruvalluvar Award 2026 – Dr. Sathiyavel Muruganar. Kamarajar Award 2025 – Idhayathulla Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award 2025 – Nellai Jayantha Pavendhar Bharathidasan Award 2025 – Yugabharathi Thamizh	–

Professor Academy

	Thenral Thiru. Vi. Ka. The Award 2025 – Iraiyanbu Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Award – M.P. Sathiyavel Muruganar Thanthai Periyar Award – A. Arulmozhi Annal Ambedkar Award – M. Sinthanai Selvan Perarignar Anna Award – Duraimurugan	
The UN Secretary General's Award 2025	Major Swathi Shantha Kumar	–
Tamil Nadu's diaspora awards 2026	Tamil Mamani award – Dr. Annamalai Kaniyan Poongundranar awards: Mohamed Haniffa bin Abdullah (Education) Saravanan Padmanabhan and Senthilkumar Ramalingam (Community Development) Gokilavani Prakashdevan (Women) Ansari Wahid (Trade) Thirumalaisamy Velavan (science and Technology) Kabilan Dharmarajan (Medicine) Best Cultural Ambassador Award–Depa Rani	–
Ati Vishisht Rail Sewa Puruskar	Chandana Sinha (RPF inspector)	For her exceptional work in preventing child trafficking and rescuing children.
Tyler Prize	Toby Kiers (American biologist)	For Environmental Achievement for her research on mycorrhizal fungal networks.
United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's Award 2025	Swathi Shantha Kumar	Indian Army Major
Padmapani Award	Ilaiyaraaja,	Veteran music composer
The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025	Graca Machel	Mozambican Rights Activist
Padma Vibhushan	N. Rajam and Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	–
Padma Bhushan	Alka Yagnik, Mammootty, and Uday Kotak	–
Padma Shri	Krishnan Vijay Kumar A.E. Muthunayagam	Veteran space scientist
Anna Medal for Gallantry 2026	Peter Johnson V. Sankar, S. Rameshkumar, and P. Suresh	–
Ashoka Chakra Award 2026	Shubhanshu Shukla (Astronaut)	–
Kottai Ameer Award	M. Kalimula	–
Narayanasamy Naidu Paddy Productivity Award	Farmer G. Veeramani	–
Gandhi Adigal Police Medals	Inspector P. Natarajan, sub– inspectors M.Sathianandan, S. Manikandan, K. Natarajan, and constable V.P. Kannan	–
Republic Day Parade 2026	Best Marching Contingent- Indian Navy Best Marching Contingent - The Delhi Police The top three Tableaux from States and Union Territories- Maharashtra (Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta), Jammu & Kashmir (Handicrafts	–

Professor Academy

	and Folk Dances), and Kerala (Water Metro and 100% Digital Literacy: Aatmanirbhar Kerala for Aatmanirbhar Bharat). The Best Tableau from Central Ministries and Departments -(Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation). Ministry of Culture	
State Film Awards – 2016/2022	Best actor awards - Vijay Sethupathi, Keerthy Suresh, Karthi, Nayanthara, Dhanush, Jyothika, Suriya, Aparna Balamurali, Arya, Lijomol Jose, Vikram Prabhu, and Sai Pallavi Best film awards - Maanagaram, Aram, Pariyerum Perumal, Asuran, Koozhangal, Jai Bhim, and Gargi The best director awards - Lokesh Kanagaraj, Pushkar–Gayathri, Mari Selvaraj, R. Parthiban, Sudha Kongara, T.J. Gnanavel, and Gautham Ramachandran	–
Best State for Promotion of Aviation and Ecosystem	Uttarakhand	–
President's Police Colour Award	Sikkim Police	–
Padma Bhushan	S.K.M. Maeilanandhan K.R. Palaniswamy	–
Padma Shri	H.V. Hande, Ranjani, Gayathri, Punnia murthy, Natesan, Rajastapathi Kaliappa Goundar, V. Kamakoti, K. Ramasamy for science and technology Othuvaar Thiruthani Swaminathan for art Thiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam for art and writer Sivasankari	–
Grammy Awards 2026	Dalai Lama - Best Audio Book, Narration and Storytelling Recording. Best Music Film - Steven Spielberg	–
First Prize at the Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025	Paradip Port Authority of Odisha was named Cleanest Port of the Year	–
Global Teacher Prize 2026	Indian teacher Rouble Nagi	–
Poompuhar State Awards 2025-26	K. Venkatesh, C. Sangeetha, A. Babu, K. Reeta, M.Shabana, S. Murugan, A. Raj, A. Gavvabeevi, T. Celine Mary and M. Kumar	–
Kalaignar Ninaivu Kalaithurai Vithagar Award	Veteran actor M.N. Rajam (2024) and veteran filmmaker S.P. Muthuraman (2025)	–
"Most Proactive State" award under RCS-UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh ka Aam	Uttar Pradesh	–

Professor Academy

Nagrik) in the Non- Priority Area category.		
Wiley Research Heroes Prize 2025	Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya (an Indian public health expert)	He became the first Indian to receive this global research recognition.
Crafoord Prize 2026	Veerabhadran Ramanathan (Indian-origin climate scientist)	Veerabhadran Ramanathan is known for research on greenhouse gases (GHGs) and global warming.
Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026	Dr. Haripriya Aravind and Dr. R. Venkatesh	Senior ophthalmologists
Outstanding Service for Prevention of Blindness Award 2026	Mohan Rajan (Ophthalmologist)	–
Freestyle Chess World Championship	Magnus Carlsen	–
BBC Awards 2025	Smriti Mandhana - BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025 Divya Deshmukh - Emerging Player of the Year award for winning the FIDE Women's World Cup. Preethi Pal – Para-Sportswoman of the Year Anjali Bhagwat - Lifetime Achievement Award for her career in shooting	–
The Award of Merit at the 2025 UNESCO Asia- Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation	475-year-old Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Vasai, Maharashtra	–
The 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award for Best Airport at Arrivals	Mangaluru International Airport	–
Asia-Pacific's Best Airport for Departures	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport	–
BAFTA 2026	Manipuri-language Indian film Boong - Best Children's and Family Film	–
Chicago Alumni Award	K.V. Subramanian	First Indian economist
PSU National Award	Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation	For Dhwani Spandana initi ative
Jnanpith Award 2026	Vairamuthu	–
Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025	Sa. Tamilselvan	Wrote Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal (literary criticism)
Stockholm Water Prize 2026	Kaveh Madani	Water Research and Policy
Mark Lynton History Prize 2026	William Dalrymple	For The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World book
Honorary Knighthood of UK	N. Chandrasekaran	Chairman of the Tata Group
Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award	Kalpana Soren	Jharkhand MLA
National Award for Outstanding Performance	Karnataka Grameen Bank	Outstanding Performance in Self- Help Group Bank Linkage for 2024–25
M.S. Swaminathan Award	Dr. Cherukumalli Srinivasa Rao	Director of IARI
Sukumar Azhikode Birth Centenary National Award 2026	Medha Patkar and Perumal Murugan	Society and literature
Whitley Awards	Parveen Shaikh & Barkha Subba	Environmentalist
Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2026	Raghav Das Gaiha	Social Scientist
Elizabeth Adiseshiah Award 2026	Kanika Mahajan	Social Scientist

Professor Academy

UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize	Sudanese Journalists Syndicate	Journalism
Pulitzer Prize	R.K. Anand and Suparna Sharma	Journalists
Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross		From Sweden
Agricola Medal of FAO		-
Order of the White Double Cross, First Class	Prime Minister Narendra	Highest State honour of Slovakia
Guardian of the Blue Horizon	Modi	From Seychelles
Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia'		From Indonesia
Speaker of the Knesset Medal Award		The highest parliamentary honour of Israel, in Jerusalem.
International Booker Prize	Taiwan Travelogue book -	By Yáng Shuāng-zǐ, translated into English by Lin King
L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards	Liesl Zühlke (South Africa), Felice Jacka (Australia), Sarah A Teichmann (UK), Raquel Lia Chan (Argentina), Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic (US)	For contributions to life and environmental sciences
Goddard Astronautics Award	ISRO's Chandrayaan-3	–
UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award	Major Abhilasha Barak	–
FAO Soil Farmer Hero	Valluvan	Farmer
The Earth Prize	Vivaan Chhawchharia Ariana Agarwal, and Avyana Mehta	For developing Plas-Stick, a biodegradable water filtration innovation
2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports	Lionel Messi	Football Player
Wolf Prize in Physics 2026	Physicist Jainendra K. Jain	First Indian-origin scientist
IMO Prize 2026	Meteorologist Dr Florence Rabier	Contributions to Numerical Weather Prediction
Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) 2026	Financial Intelligence Unit- India	Runner-up
60th Jnanpith Award (2025)	R. Vairamuthu	–
Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026	Ajit Doval	National Security Adviser
Bharat Samman 2026	Dr. Nandini Azad	For Women's Empowerment
Fields Medal 2026	Yu Deng (China), John Pardon (USA), Hong Wang (China), and Jacob Tsimerman (Canada)	Highest honour in mathematics
COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026	Annapurni Subramaniam	Astrophysicist
Environment Protection Award 2026	Pechiyammal and Govindhammal	Contributions to environment protection
Dirac Medal 2026	Deepak Dhar	Indian physicist
Suraj Kumar Chand		Won the first Indian gold at the FISU World Squash Championship (Somaiya Vidyavihar, Maharashtra).
Sant Kabir Handloom Awards 2025		22 awards presented; Sant Kabir Award to Ram Meher (Odisha), Runima Chetiya (Assam) and Shah Muhammad Ansari (UP) among recipients.
Shrilakshmi Venkatraman		Won an individual gold at the International Linguistics Olympiad 2026, Bucharest, Romania, along with 3 bronze medals.
Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026		Presented on August 13 during World Elephant Day in Visakhapatnam; seven mahouts from Jaldapara NP, West Bengal, awarded for elephant and rhino rescue during floods.
Bhawana Kanth		IAF Squadron Leader became India's first woman Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) after completing the prestigious FCL course at TACDE, Gwalior; commissioned June 2016 as part of India's first women fighter pilot batch.

Professor Academy

M. Krishnasamy		Former TNCC president selected for Thagaisal Thamizhar Award 2026 (₹10 lakh + citation); award instituted in 2021 to honour contributors to Tamil welfare.
Sumit Sarkar		Eminent historian, died at 87; taught at Delhi University (1974-2004); known for 'Modern India' and 'Swadeshi Movement in Bengal'.
National Sports Awards 2025		No athlete selected for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna; Arjuna Award to 17 athletes including Vidit Gujarathi and Divya Deshmukh (chess), Tejaswin Shankar (athletics), Gayatri Gopichand & Treesa Jolly (badminton); Dronacharya to Parveer Singh, Chhote Lal Yadav, Neha Nandkumar Chavan, Dharmendra Singh Yadav and Virender Kumar.
NITI Aayog School Education Quality Index 2026		Punjab ranked No. 1, overtaking Kerala.
National Anubhav Awards 2026		15 government officials/services recognised for innovative citizen service delivery, including Passport Seva Kendras.
PMIS Award		POWERGRID received PMIS (Programme Management Information System) Recognition; Mahindra & Mahindra won 'Overall Industry Champion'; IBM India won 'Innovation in Programme Implementation'.
UN Medal		210 Indian peacekeepers with UNMISS (UN Mission in South Sudan) received UN Medal; India deploys 4,200 peacekeepers globally.
Lakshmanan Meyyappan		16-year-old (aged 16 years 141 days) from Dubai became the world's youngest male Chartered Accountant as per Guinness World Records.
Pranesh M		Indian chess grandmaster won the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) 2026, defeating Fabiano Caruana 15–13 in St. Louis.
Aisha Wahab		Became the first Afghan-American elected to the US Congress via a California special election.
Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir		Sworn in as the 23rd President of Bangladesh on August 21, 2026.
Kaziah Liz Mejo		Crowned Miss Universe India 2026 at the event held in Jaipur.
Norway King Harald V		Passed away aged 89; succeeded by his son King Haakon VIII who inherited the throne.
Sophie Adenot		French ESA astronaut became the first French woman to perform a spacewalk.
Inaiya Tamil Chemmal Award		National-level award of ₹25,000 for promoting Tamil language through digital media.
Nammazhvar Awards 2025–26		C. Nallasivam, A. Subramanian, and Sadhana received the award (₹2 lakh + medal) for organic farming and natural living contribution.
Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak 2025		Awarded posthumously to P.S. Gowrishankar Raja for exceptional bravery in lifesaving.
RBI Board		Somanath Sreedhara Panicker appointed as new member; Anand Gopal Mahindra re-appointed to the RBI Central Board.

Professor Academy

Current Affairs, September 2026

- Apple Inc. announced a leadership change on September 1, 2026, with Tim Cook becoming Executive Chairman after serving as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) since 2011, and John Ternus becoming the new CEO.
- Singai G. Ramachandran has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM).
- Adobe has announced Anil Chakravarthy as its next President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective December 1, 2026.
- Sanjukta Parashar, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and known as the "Iron Lady of Assam", became the first woman officer to head the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)'s elite CoBRA commando unit as Inspector General (IG).
- Tata Sons Board has reappointed N. Chandrasekaran as Executive Chairman for another five-year term, from February 2027 to February 2032.
- Chennai-born scientist Sethuraman Panchanathan has been named the 2026 recipient of the IEEE Robert Bosch Bueche Award, becoming the first Indian- American to receive the honour.
  - The Bueche Award recognises outstanding contributions to technology and public policy.
- Nobel Prize-winning economist Michael Kremer was appointed World Bank Group Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics on September 16, 2026.

  - Kremer shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences with Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo for using experiments to study poverty.
- Veteran Kannada actor Anant Nag will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024 at the National Film Awards ceremony in Kevadia, Gujarat.
- Kishor Makwana, Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), received the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Award 2026.
- Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dipak Misra received the Kalinga Ratna Award 2026 in Cuttack, Odisha.
- Warren Buffett stepped down as chairman of Berkshire Hathaway and became chairman emeritus, while his son Howard Buffett became the non-executive chairman.
- Luke Lindberg, a senior United States agricultural official, was appointed the next Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP).
- Nagaland-set film Angh, directed by Theja Rio, won the Platform Prize at the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).
- Mizoram farmer ZT Lalrithangi, also known as Pi Mari-i, has been selected for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) 100 Women Heroes in Agri food Systems and Rural Development Award.

King Oyo of Tooro Demise

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

New LG of Andaman Islands

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

Krishna Achuta Rao Demise

- Renowned climate scientist and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi professor Krishna Achuta Rao died at 62 on September 4, 2026.
- He contributed to identifying the human influence on climate change, including temperature changes across Indian sub-regions.
- He worked on climate event attribution, such as heat waves, and applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) in climate and monsoon research.
- He served as Head of the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences and Dean (Faculty) at IIT Delhi and helped establish its Centre of Excellence for Climate Change Adaptation.
- He was a member of the World Climate Research Programme's Joint Scientific Committee from 2025.

Ig Nobel Prize 2026

- The 36th Ig Nobel Prize ceremony was held on 3 September 2026 in Zurich, Switzerland, recognising unusual scientific research.

Professor Academy

- The prizes are organised annually by Annals of Improbable Research for research that "makes people laugh, then think."
- Indian researchers from inStem, Bengaluru, were part of the Chemistry Prize-winning team for studying energy-rich protein crystals from cockroach milk.
- The Technology Prize recognised research using mosquito mouthparts as ultra-fine 3D-printing nozzles.
- The Soil Science Prize recognised researchers who buried cotton underwear in more than 25 countries to study soil health.

Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards 2026

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

New Appointments in NCSK

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

Asian Pacific Postal Union - Vinaya Prakash Singh

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

UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2026

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

Solomon Pappaiah Demise

- Veteran Tamil scholar and orator Solomon Pappaiah passed away at the age of 90.
- He served at The American College, Madurai, from 1961 to 1994 and headed its Department of Tamil.
- Under his leadership, the Undergraduate Tamil programme was upgraded into a Postgraduate Department in 1986.

Professor Academy

- He was widely known for Pattimandram (Tamil debate) and conducted more than 12,000 Pattimandrams, promoting Tamil literature and culture.
- He received the Kalaimamani Award in 2000 and the Padma Shri in 2021 for contributions to literature and education.

India's BRICS Sherpa 2026 - Sudhakar Dalela

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

Sansad Ratna Awards 2026

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

Tenzing Norgay Awards 2024

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

Cool Leaders Award 2026

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

Bhupen Hazarika Birth Centenary

- The 100th birth anniversary of Bhupen Hazarika was commemorated on 8 September.

Professor Academy

- Bhupen Hazarika was born on 8 September 1926 at Sadiya, Assam, and was a singer, composer, lyricist, filmmaker and cultural icon.
- He studied at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and earned a doctorate from Columbia University, USA, in 1952.
- His famous works include Bistirno Parore, Moi Eti Jajabor, Manuhe Manuhor Babé and Buku Hom Hom Kore.
- He was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan (2012) and Bharat Ratna (2019), India's highest civilian award.
- He died on 5 November 2011 in Mumbai.

150 Years of Saratchandra Chattopadhyay

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

Professor Academy

EVENTS AND SUMMITS

- The Centenary celebrations of the Ol Chiki script of the Santhali Language were held at Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
- The exposition of the sacred Piprahwa Relics, believed to be associated with the mortal remains of Lord Buddha was hosted in Delhi.

Learn Basics – Piprahwa: A site in Uttar Pradesh linked with the relics of the Buddha and the ancient city of Kapilavastu.

- The 150th international convention, celebrated under the theme of 'One World, One life – The spirit of new humanity', at the Adyar.
- Arunachal Pradesh hosted its first-ever New Year Sunrise Festival at Dong village in Anjaw district in 2026.
- A three-day international Spice Routes Conference will be held in Kochi, Kerala, to strengthen cultural and heritage tourism and position Kerala as a global heritage destination.
- The 50th meeting of PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), a technology-enabled platform was held in New Delhi.
- Tamil Nadu's first jallikattu event of 2026 will be held at Thatchankurichi village in Pudukottai district.
- The Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) celebrated the 9th Siddha Day at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai.
- The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) began a two-day national seminar titled 'Aeronautics 2047' in Bengaluru, marking 25 years of successful flight of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.
- As the year 2026 marks 1,000 years since the first recorded attack on the Somnath Temple in 1026 AD by Mahmud of Ghazni, Prime Minister published an article titled "Somnath: 1,000 years of unbroken faith".
- UmagineTN 2026, the 4th edition of Tamil Nadu's flagship global technology and innovation summit was held in Chennai.
- Rajasthan will host the Regional Artificial Intelligence Impact Conference in Jaipur.
- The Election Commission of India will host the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026 in New Delhi.
- National Textiles Ministers Conference 2026 was held in Guwahati, organised by the Ministry of Textiles in collaboration with the Government of Assam.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Foundation Day is celebrated on 6th January, 2026.
- The Third International Conference on Indian Languages was held in New Delhi.
- The 9th Apex-Level Meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) was held in New Delhi.
- The 16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi.
- The 83rd Annual Golden Globe Awards were held in California, USA, recognizing excellence in films and television released in 2025.
- Union Home Minister inaugurated the 3rd International Kite Festival 2026 in Baansera Park, New Delhi.
- The India Global Education Summit (IGES) 2026 is being held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting was held in Davos, Switzerland.
- The Global Democracy Conference (GDC) is going to be held in USA with a theme of Confronting Public Support for Anti-Democratic Leaders.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India (AAI), and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) was organized a major civil aviation conference and exhibition named Wings India 2026 in Hyderabad.
- India will host the World Seafood Congress (WSC) 2026 for the first time in Chennai.
- The World Governments Summit 2026 was held in Dubai, UAE.
- The 25th edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav, the world's largest international theatre festival, will be held in Rohtak, Haryana.
- PLASTINDIA 2026, one of the world's largest plastics exhibitions, is held in New Delhi.
- The Black Swan Summit India 2026 was held in Bhubaneswar Odisha under the Bharat Netra initiative.
- The 5th Rüsoma Orange Festival began at Rüsoma village near Kohima, Nagaland, promoting horticulture-led rural development and orange cultivation. The festival is held under the theme "Abundance of Rüsoma."
- A World Radio Day Conclave 2026 was hosted by Akashvani Raipur in collaboration with UNESCO in Chhattisgarh.

Professor Academy

- India hosted the first BRICS Sherpa and Sous-Sherpa Meeting in New Delhi as part of its 2026 chairmanship of BRICS, The theme of India's chairmanship is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- The Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026, organised by the Ministry of Education in New Delhi, focused on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve school education, including literacy, teaching, governance, and multilingual learning.
- The Rajasthan desert city of Jaisalmer will host the country's first Jain Chadar Mahotsav from 6 to 8 March 2026.
- A national conference on "Emerging Trends, Technologies, and Artificial Intelligence in Veterinary Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities" began in Chennai.
- Tamil Nadu celebrated five years of sporting achievements at the 'Champions of Tamil Nadu' event in Chennai.
- The International Conference on Dam Safety (ICDS) 2026 concluded in Bengaluru.
- The 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union was held in Addis Ababa, Capital of Ethiopia.
- Mumbai will host the Earthshot Prize 2026, founded by Prince William, for the first time during Mumbai Climate Week.
- The 23rd edition of BioAsia 2026, an international life sciences summit, has started in Hyderabad with a focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI), automation, drug discovery, and biologics development, The theme of the summit is "TechBio Unleashed – Artificial Intelligence (AI), Automation, and Revolutionary Changes in Life Sciences."
- Mobile World Congress 2026, the world's largest event for the mobile and technology industry, is being held in Barcelona, Spain.
- The Indian Orchid Festival 2026 concluded in Pakyong district of Sikkim under the theme of "Orchids for Beauty & Prosperity.
- The 12th Asian and Pacific Regional Prosecutors Conference was held in New Delhi.
- Bharat Tex 2026, the world's largest integrated textile fair, was launched by the Union Minister of Textiles and will be held in July 2026 in New Delhi.
- Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted the Purple Fest, organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, to celebrate the achievements of Divyangjan (persons with disabilities) and promote inclusivity by recognising their talent, achievements, and aspirations.
- The International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) 2026 was inaugurated at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.
- The International Malaria Conference (IMC) 2026 was held in New Delhi 2026.
- The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) concluded its 70th session in 2026
- The Ministry of Mines organised the National DMF (District Mineral Foundation) Summit 2026 held in New Delhi
- The International Conference on Carbon Markets, "Prakriti 2026," was held in New Delhi under the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems 2026 started in New Delhi with the theme "Driving Progress, Attaining New Heights".
- One Health Summit 2026 is held in Lyon, France, under the G7 Presidency.
- India hosted the first BRICS Health Working Group meeting in New Delhi to discuss global health cooperation.
- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Global Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network (GAIIN) conference was held in New Delhi.
- India participated in the World Border Security Congress 2026 held in Vienna.
- The 9th India International Water Week (IIWW-2026) was launched in New Delhi with the theme "Climate Resilient Water Management".
- Colombia and the Netherlands will host the first conference on transitioning away from fossil fuels in Santa Marta, Colombia.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where India highlighted its stand on terrorism.
- Union Health Minister inaugurated the 10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity in Public Health.
- India created a Guinness World Record by unfurling the largest underwater national flag at Radhanagar Beach in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Kalam & Kavach 3.0 was held in New Delhi at the Manekshaw Centre under the theme of "Taking JAI Forward With I²".

Professor Academy

- The BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting 2026 was held in New Delhi to discuss multilateral cooperation and global issues.
- India hosted the 10th edition of the Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) in New Delhi under the theme "Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World".
- India hosted the Kimberley Process (KP) Intersessional Meeting 2026 in Mumbai as the Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2026.
- The 3rd India-Nordic Summit was held in Oslo, Norway.
- The 26th Central Zonal Council meeting was held in Jagdalpur (Bastar region, Chhattisgarh) under Union Home Minister.
- The 68th Session of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Governing Body Meeting was held in New Delhi.
- India participated in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council 2026 meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The Panzath Nag Spring Conservation Festival was recently observed in the Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Global Water Summit 2026 held in Madrid, Spain.
- India's first National AI and Digital Water Summit held in Bengaluru.
- India chaired the first BRICS Tourism Working Group (TWG) Meeting under its BRICS 2026 Chairship in virtual mode.
- The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) celebrated the 150th anniversary of its establishment in 2026.
- Education World Forum 2026 concluded in London with major discussions on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education and future learning skills.
- The second BRICS Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting was held in Varanasi
- The first in-person technical meeting of the BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Working Group under India's BRICS Presidency began in Puri, Odisha.
- The 64th Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB64) of the UNFCCC are being held in Bonn, Germany.
- The BRICS Agriculture Meeting 2026 was held in Indore under India's BRICS Chairmanship to discuss key issues in the global agriculture sector.
- The National Mango Festival 2026 was inaugurated in Rayapettai, Chennai.
- The 114th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) was held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The 52nd G7 Summit began in Évian-les-Bains, France, on 15 June 2026, hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron.
- The 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum concluded in New Delhi
- Ambubachi Mela 2026 is held at Kamakhya Temple, Assam.
- India, as the BRICS Chair for 2026, hosted the 16th BRICS National Security Advisers' (NSA) Meeting in New Delhi under the chairmanship of National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval.
- The BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) Meeting 2026 was held in Bengaluru under India's chairmanship.
- India hosted the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting in Gurugram, Haryana.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Women's Forum 2026 was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.
- The Hamburg Sustainability Conference (HSC) 2026, held in Hamburg, Germany
- The 16th India-Japan Annual Summit was held in New Delhi
- The inaugural United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance was held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The two-day BRICS Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies' Meeting 2026 was held in Guwahati, Assam
- India has been appointed as the Chair of the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The 2026 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Summit was held in Ankara, Türkiye.
- The 3rd BRICS Transport Working Group (TWG) Meeting began in Nagpur, Maharashtra, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
- The BRICS Women's Ministerial Meeting 2026 concluded in Kochi, Kerala
- The 15th BRICS Trade Union Forum (BTUF) Summit 2026 concluded in Hyderabad with the adoption of the Hyderabad Declaration.

Professor Academy

- India hosted the 12th BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting (LEMM) in Hyderabad under its BRICS Chairship 2026 under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability (BRICS)".
- India hosted the 5th Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardisation Bodies (NSBs) in Bengaluru under its BRICS Chairship 2026.
- The BRICS Ministerial Declaration 2026 was adopted during the third BRICS Transport Ministers' Meeting held in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- India hosted the 8th BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services Meeting organised by the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice.
- 28th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC28) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was held in Geneva, Switzerland
- IIT Tirupati hosted the 5th BRICS Working Group Meeting on Geospatial Technologies and its Applications.
- World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization has been launched at World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC), Shanghai, China.
- India hosted the International Governing Board (IGB) meeting of the BRICS Network University (BRICS NU) and the conference on Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems under its BRICS Presidency 2026.
- India is hosting the 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting in Chandigarh to strengthen cooperation in global health priorities.
- Bharat Tex 2026, India's Largest Global Textile Event, held in Delhi.
- India hosted the 3rd BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in New Delhi, where member countries adopted a Joint Statement.
- The BRICS Science Academies Forum 2026 concluded at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad.
- The 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting concluded in Chandigarh
- India hosted an international conference marking the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).
- The 28th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA28) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) concluded in Nairobi, Kenya.
- India hosted the Second BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting and Second BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery Meeting in Hyderabad.
- The GI & Beyond 2.0 Summit was held in New Delhi to promote India's Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged handloom and handicraft products.
- The 16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
- The 10th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
- The 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting was held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
- The 11th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting concluded in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, with the adoption of the Bhopal Declaration.

Professor Academy

August 11–20, 2026

BRICS ICT Working Group Meeting 2026

- **Venue:** Pune hosted the 7th BRICS Working Group for ICT Cooperation under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship.
- **Agenda:** Discussions on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), digital skills, ICT startups and inclusive digital environments.
- **Upcoming:** The Digital BRICS Forum and Expo was scheduled for August 20, 2026, ahead of the 12th Communications Ministers Meeting.

> **Learn Basics – BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa):** Intergovernmental grouping expanded to include Iran, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia from 2024.
>
> **Learn Basics – DPI (Digital Public Infrastructure):** Open and interoperable digital systems for identity (Aadhaar), payments (UPI) and data exchange (DPDP) that underpin public and private services.

CBD SBI-7 Meeting – Nairobi 2026

- **Meeting:** The 7th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 7) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Nairobi, Kenya, August 4-12, 2026.

- **GBF review:** SBI-7 considered the global midterm review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and prepared recommendations for CBD COP17.
- **COP17:** CBD COP17 will be held in Yerevan, Armenia, in October 2026; key issues included resource mobilisation, synthetic biology, protected areas and finance.

> **Learn Basics – CBD:** Convention on Biological Diversity (1992, Rio); three objectives: conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use and fair benefit-sharing; secretariat in Montreal.
>
> **Learn Basics – Kunming-Montreal GBF (2022):** A landmark biodiversity framework with 23 targets, including the '30x30' target to protect 30% of land and oceans by 2030.

September 2026

- India hosted the three-day BRICS Chief Justices' Forum in New Delhi, ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit, inaugurated by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Surya Kant.
  - The forum discussed modern jurisprudence, Artificial Intelligence (AI) in judicial administration, international commercial mediation, sustainable development and cross-border enforcement of arbitral awards.
- India secured a record 9 medals at the 19th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) 2026 held in Italy.
  - The Indian team won 4 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals among participants from 39 countries.
- India launched 'Agni Kawach', its first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered safety platform, at the 6th International Climate Summit (ICS-2026) in New Delhi.
  - The platform uses AI to support industrial safety processes, strengthen industrial safety, and build a global industrial safety ecosystem.
- The 6th All India Official Language Conference was held in Mumbai on 14 September 2026, along with Hindi Diwas 2026.
  - The conference discussed the development of Hindi, coordination among Indian languages, technology, translation and literature.
- The 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) is being held in Cape Town, South Africa, under the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to discuss parliamentary democracy, legislative practices and inter-parliamentary cooperation.
  - The theme is "Strengthening International Law and Parliamentary Democracy in a Changing World Order: Commonwealth Leadership."
- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan addressed the 25th anniversary of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) as an Institution of National Importance in New Delhi on September 15, 2026.
  - ICWA was established to promote the study and understanding of international affairs and India's foreign relations.
- The 27th World Knowledge Forum was held in Seoul, South Korea, organised by Maekyung Media Group.
  - With the theme "The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order," it focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI), global economic change, national security, quantum computing and cybersecurity.
- The International Conference on "The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics" was held in New Delhi by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), focusing on climate change, environmental protection, development and environmental justice.
- India has sent its largest-ever contingent of 70 skilled competitors to the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai, China.
  - India's global skills ranking improved from 29th in 2015 to 13th in 2024; India also secured 8th rank at WorldSkills Asia 2025.
- The 9th India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026 was inaugurated at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, focusing on water security, climate-resilient water management, policy dialogue, technology exchange and global cooperation.
  - IIWW 2026 is organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti from 22–26 September 2026 with the theme "Climate Resilient Water Management."
- India and the Netherlands signed two Tripartite Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) during the 9th India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026 in New Delhi to advance the Kalpasar Project in Gujarat.
  - The Kalpasar Project aims to create a freshwater reservoir using runoff from the Sabarmati, Mahi and Dhadhar rivers, along with water from the Narmada River.

Western Zonal Council Meet

- Union Home Minister chairs the 28th meeting of the Western Zonal Council in Panaji, Goa.
- Zonal Councils are statutory bodies created under the State's Reorganisation Act, 1956, to promote cooperation and discuss issues between States and the Centre.
- India has 5 Zonal Councils — Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern.

Professor Academy

- The Western Zonal Council consists of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and the Union Territory (UT) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- The Council includes the Chief Ministers and two ministers from each State; representatives of the UT and senior officers from the Centre and States also participate.
- The meeting is organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

e-FAST India Summit 2026

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

Global Fintech Fest 2026

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

National Water Summit 2026

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

SEMICON India 2026

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

3rd ANTF Conference

- The 3rd national conference of chiefs of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) is being held in New Delhi.
- The two-day conference is organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and focuses on the Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026–29).
- ANTFs are specialised units of States and Union Territories that coordinate action against narcotics offences.
- The conference covers drug trafficking networks, demand reduction, rehabilitation, synthetic drugs, illicit cultivation, darknet and cryptocurrency investigations.

Professor Academy

- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 is the main law governing narcotics control in India.
- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) was established in 1986 as India's central drug law enforcement agency.

Professor Academy

DEFENCE EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS

Name	Countries/ Organization Involved	Venue
Justice Mission 2025	Chinese Army (PLA)	Taiwan
Sanjha Shakti	The Indian Army	Maharashtra
DOSTI–17	India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives	Maldives
Joint Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) response drill	Indian Coast Guard and Japan Coast	Mumbai
Operation Megaburu	–	A large-scale anti-Maoist counter-insurgency operation conducted against the Communist Party of India Maoist in the Saranda forest area of West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand.
Agni Pariksha	Indian Army and Indo- Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	Arunachal Pradesh
KHANJAR-XIII	India-Kyrgyzstan	Assam
Vayu Shakti-2026	Indian Air Force (IAF)	Rajasthan
Exercise MILAN	Indian Navy	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
Exercise Vajra Ghaat	The Indian Army	Rajasthan
Exercise Vajra Prahar	The Indian Army and the United States Army	Himachal Pradesh.
Agni Varsha 2026	The Indian Army	Rajasthan
Kalari Leap	Indian Air Force	Lakshadweep and Minicoy archipelago
'Vayu Shakti'	The Indian Air Force	Rajasthan
Dharma Guardian	The Indian Army and the Japan	Uttarakhand
Operation Epic Fury	Israel and USA	Iran
Operation Lion's Roar	Israel	Iran
Operation True Promise 4	Iran	Israel and nearby regional military sites
Exercise LAMITIYE-2026	India and Seychelles	Seychelles
Freedom Shield exercise	US and South Korea	US
Cold Response 2026 Arctic military exercise	NATO	Norway
Operation Urja Suraksha	Indian Navy	Strait of Hormuz
Exercise Kakadu	Multinational Naval Exercise	Australia
IONS Maritime Exercise TTX 2026	Indian Navy	Kochi
Exercise Dweep Shakti	Tri-Service of India	–
Exercise Cyclone IV -	India and Egypt	Egypt
Exercise Brahmastra	Indian Army	Rajasthan
Operation Him Setu	Indian Army	North Sikkim
Exercise DUSTLIK VII	India and Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan
DIVEX 2026	India-Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
Exercise "Pragati"	Indian Army + 11 Countries	Meghalaya
IN-SLN DIVEX 2026	India and Sri Lanka	Colombo
Balikatan 2026	Philippines and US	Philippines
CINBAX-II	Cambodia-India	Cambodia
Operation RAGEPILL	Narcotics Control Bureau	–
Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2026	Multilateral peacekeeping drill	Mongolia
Operation Amistad	Indian Army field hospital	Earthquake-hit Venezuela

Professor Academy

Name	Countries/ Organization Involved	Venue
Valiant Shield 2026	USA, Japan, Australia, Canada and New Zealand	West Pacific Ocean
Resolute Dragon 26	USA, Japan	West Pacific Ocean
RIMPAC 2026 Multinational Naval Exercise	USA	Hawaii
Tiger Lightning	USA & Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Operation Southern Readiness 26-2	Indian Navy & 40 Nations	Kochi
Exercise Pitch Black 2026	Australia + 19 nations	Australia
Operation Trishul	Indian Govt	Bring back 274 fugitives from 36 countries
Exercise ROTOR CLAP III	Indian Air Force	Rajasthan
Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026	India-US Navy	Kochi

September 2026

- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) handed over ICGS Ajit to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) for coastal surveillance, fisheries protection and anti-smuggling operations.
- The Indian Navy received 'Samarthak', its first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at Kattupalli, near Chennai.
- Super Garuda Shield 2026 began in Indonesia as a joint military exercise involving the United States, Indonesia, and 13 other troop-contributing nations.
- The Indian Navy commissioned Nipun, the second indigenous Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel (DSV), at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- Shakti Sharma has become the first woman officer from the non-medical branch of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal.
- The Indian Air Force successfully conducted a drop trial of the indigenously designed Khagantak-243, a long-range glide bomb.
- The India-Japan bilateral air exercise Veer Guardian-2026 is being conducted at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- Stanzin Tsangyang became the first woman officer from Kargil district to be commissioned into the Indian Army at the Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai.
  - She is also the first person from Zanskar district of Ladakh to be commissioned as an officer in the Indian Army.
- The 22nd edition of Yudh Abhyas, the annual India-US bilateral Army exercise, is being conducted in a two-theatre format at Bikaner, Rajasthan and Auli, Uttarakhand.
- INS Mysore arrived at Lumut, Malaysia, to participate in the 4th edition of Exercise Samudra Laksamana, a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN).
- A new DRDO weapon and missile testing range is proposed at Junput, Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal.
  - Junput will become the third major DRDO testing hub, after the Chandipur facilities and the proposed testing centre in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) launched its first Dronathon-2026 at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, to test surveillance, reconnaissance, autonomous operations, swarm technologies, electronic warfare and Counter- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CUAS).
- India, represented by the Indian Air Force (IAF) Sarang Helicopter Display Team, participated in Egypt's second El Alamein International Air show, showcasing military, commercial and private aircraft along with defence, space and advanced aviation technologies.
- India and Sri Lanka have begun the 13th edition of SLINEX-26, a bilateral naval exercise, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The keel of the Indian Navy's first Next Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV) was laid at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi.
- The DRDO is developing a 30 kilowatt (kW) directed-energy weapon (DEW) under the Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDD&IS) Mk-II(A) to counter drones and surveillance sensors up to 5 km, demonstrated at the National Open Air Range (NOAR), Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- The 18th edition of Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT, an annual India-Mongolia bilateral military exercise, began in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

Professor Academy

- India’s first indigenous long-range One-Way Attack (OWA) drone, KAL, was successfully flight-tested at Pokhran, Rajasthan, in September 2026.
  - An OWA drone is a one-way unmanned aircraft designed to reach a designated target and strike it without returning to its launch point.
- DRDO signed its first high-value deep-tech project agreement under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme with Rajasthan-based start-up Zero mK India Private Limited.
- The second edition of Tarang Shakti, a multinational air exercise of the Indian Air Force (IAF), is being held in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, with eight countries—Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Greece, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States (USA)—participating with air assets.
- The Indian Navy’s INS Trishul arrived at Toulon, France, to participate in the 24th edition of Exercise VARUNA, an annual bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the French Navy.
- India hosted the QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission 2026, with Indian Coast Guard Ship Shaunak sailing from Chennai to Perth, Australia.
  - QUAD comprises India, Australia, Japan and the United States.

Professor Academy

SPORTS

- Indian chess players Koneru Humpy and Arjun Erigaisi won bronze medals at the FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) World Rapid Chess Championships 2025 was held in Doha, Qatar.

Learn Basics – FIDE: Fédération Internationale des Échecs, the international chess federation (founded 1924).

- Amieyra Khoslla clinched the gold medal in the Youth Girls (Under–17) category at the 29th National Sport Climbing Championship 2025.
- The Indian women's hockey team signed off 2025 with a silver medal at the Women's Asia Cup.
- The 44th Junior National Kho Kho Championship began in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The 72nd National Volleyball Tournament is being held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Virat Kohli regained the number one spot in the International Cricket Council (ICC) One Day International (ODI) batter rankings.
- Karnataka emerged as the overall champion of the Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) 2026.

Learn Basics – Khelo India: The national programme for developing sport at the grassroots, launched in 2018 under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

- The National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship was inaugurated in Roorkee, Uttarakhand.
- Vidarbha cricket team won their first "Vijay Hazare Trophy" title by victory over two-time champions "Saurashtra".

Learn Basics – Domestic cricket: The Ranji Trophy is India's premier first-class tournament; the Vijay Hazare Trophy is the domestic 50-over (List A) tournament.

- Scotland replaced Bangladesh in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 after Bangladesh withdrew from the tournament.
- Carlos Alcaraz of Spain defeated Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the 2026 Australian Open men's singles final, Novak Djokovic became the oldest man in the Open Era to reach an Australian Open final.
- Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan clinched her second Grand Slam title by defeating world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the 2026 Australian Open women's singles final.

Learn Basics – Grand Slams: The four major tennis tournaments: Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.

- India won the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2026, defeating England in the final at Harare, Zimbabwe.
- The Winter Olympics 2026/ Milano Cortina 2026 will be held in February 2026 in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.
- India finished first in the medal table at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026, held at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi.
- Jammu and Kashmir won the Ranji Trophy cricket 2025–26 title in their maiden final appearance after 67 years.
- The first edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 will be held in Chhattisgarh from 26 March to 6 April 2026.
- India won the ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup 2026 by defeating New Zealand in the final Match, held at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Chandrika Pujari of India won a gold medal at the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- National Para Athletics Championship 2026 will be held from March 19–21, 2026, at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Jammu and Kashmir won its first Ranji Trophy, India's premier domestic cricket tournament, after nearly 70 years.
- Sheetal Devi was named Para Archer of the Year 2025 by World Archery for her outstanding performance.
- Khelo India Tribal Games concluded in Chhattisgarh, where Karnataka emerged as the overall champion in the medal tally.
- Payal Nag became the world's first quadruple amputee to win an international archery gold medal at the World Para Archery Series Final held in Bangkok.
- Sarun Payasingh won the men's long jump at the Indian Athletics Series in Ranchi with a jump of 7.46 metres.
- Sawan Barwal broke India's oldest marathon record at the Rotterdam Marathon by finishing in 2:11:58, surpassing Shivnath Singh's 1978 record of 2:12:00.
- Sujeet Kalkal (65 kg freestyle category) and Abhimanyu Mandwal (70 kg freestyle category) won gold medals at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2026 held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- Ayush Shetty won a silver medal at the Badminton Asia Championships 2026 held in Ningbo, China.

Professor Academy

- Mitchell Starc (Australia) and Deepti Sharma (India) were named Leading Cricketers in the World for 2025 by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.
- At the 2026 Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Sujeet Kalkal and Abhimanyu Mandwal won gold in the men's freestyle 65 kg and 70 kg categories.
- Vishvanath Suresh won gold in the men's 50 kg category at the 2026 Asian Boxing Championships held in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia),
- Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali won the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 and became the challenger for the Women's World Chess Championship.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras introduced OmegaBall, a new three-team football format, in 2026.
- For the first time in Central Asia, The13th edition of World Para Athletics Championships 2027 will be held in Tashkent.
- The SAFF Women's Championship 2026 will be hosted by India in Goa, marking its first time hosting since 2016 in Siliguri, West Bengal.
- India topped the medal tally at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 held in Cairo, Egypt.
- London Marathon 2026 saw Sebastian Sawe from Kenya become the first athlete to run a sub-two-hour marathon in an official race, finishing in 1 hour 59 minutes 30 seconds.
- The National Rifle Association of India launched the MyNRAI athlete app during its 75th anniversary celebrations.
- Indian sprinter Gurindervir Singh became the fastest Indian runner after clocking 10.09 seconds in the men's 100 metre race at the Federation Cup in Ranchi, becoming the first Indian to enter the 10.0-second range.
- Indian shooter Esha Singh won the gold medal with a world record score in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2026, Munich, Germany.
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) won the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 title by defeating the Gujarat Titans (GT).
- The 125th edition of the French Open concluded in Paris, France, with Alexander Zverev (Germany) winning the Men's Singles title and Mirra Andreeva (Russia) winning the Women's Singles title.
- India topped the medal tally at the inaugural World Yogasana Championship 2026 held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- India won the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Women's Championship 2026 by defeating Bangladesh 3–1 in the final held in Goa.
- Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva won the 3rd edition of the Norway Chess Women's Tournament 2026.
- India won the Men's U18 Asia Cup 2026 title by defeating Japan 4–1 in the final at Kakamigahara, Japan.
- Cristiano Ronaldo became the first football player in history to score in six FIFA World Cups, having scored in the 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, and 2026 editions.
- Harmanpreet Kaur, India's women's cricket team captain, became the first cricketer in the world (men's and women's) to play 200 Twenty20 International (T20I) matches during the Women's T20 World Cup 2026 against South Africa in Manchester.
- India topped the medal tally at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship 2026 with 25 medals, including 7 gold, 8 silver, and 10 bronzes.
- Indian Army personnel, Havildars Lakshay and Ujjwal Kumar Singh, won India's first World Rowing Cup gold medal at Lucerne, Switzerland, in the Lightweight Men's Double Sculls (LM2x) event.
- Ethan Vaz and Harshavardhan G.B. have been recognised as India's newest Chess Grandmasters (GM), marking India's 96th and 97th GMs.
- Indian badminton player Kidambi Srikanth won the silver medal in the men's singles event at the US Open in 2026.
- Kerala's Ancy Sojan broke Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old Indian women's long jump national record with a 6.88 m jump at the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships 2026
- Australia clinch 7th Women's T20 World Cup by defeating England
- Aswath S from Kanyakumari became India's 98th Chess Grandmaster (GM)
- Mayur was unveiled as the official mascot for the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026, Delhi.
- India Deaf Women's Cricket Team won its first-ever Women's T20I Deaf Cricket Series by defeating Sri Lanka 5–0 in the debut tournament held at Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
- India secured joint first rank at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 after all five team members won gold medals in Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Professor Academy

- P.V. Sindhu became the first Indian badminton player to win the Japan Open Super 750 women's singles title in July 2026 after defeating Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, a former world champion, in the final.
- Spain won the 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup, defeating Argentina 1–0 in the final.
- Lionel Messi (Argentina) became the first player to start three Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup finals during the 2026 FIFA World Cup final.
- Indian squash player Anahat Singh became the first Indian to win the World Junior Squash Individual Championship 2026 in New Delhi.
- Asmita Dey (women's 48 kg category) and Harsh Singh (men's 60 kg category) won India's first-ever judo gold medals at the 2026 Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow, Scotland.
- India finished 4th at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2026 in Glasgow with 39 medals (13 Gold, 17 Silver, 9 Bronze).

Wimbledon 2026 Winners
Jannik Sinner (Italy) Men's singles title
Linda Nosková (Czechia) Women's singles title
Harri Heliövaara (Finland) and Henry Patten (United Kingdom) Men's doubles title
Guo Hanyu (China) and Kristina Mladenovic (France) Women's doubles title
Marcelo Arévalo (El Salvador) and Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia) Mixed doubles title

September 2026

- Lionel Messi of Argentina announced his retirement from international football on August 31, 2026, after leading Argentina to the 2026 FIFA World Cup final.
- Joheirry Mola of the Dominican Republic is crowned Miss World 2026 at the grand finale in Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa, Vietnam.
- Satwiksairaj Ranki reddy and Chirag Shetty won the China Masters men's badminton doubles title by defeating He Jiting and Ren Xiangyu of China held in China.
- Tanya Chaudhary won gold at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, with a 68.35-metre throw, setting a new Indian national record in women's hammer throw at the Indian Athletics Series Final.
- Alexander Zverev (Germany) and Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) won the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the 2026 US Open in New York.
  - Zverev defeated Ben Shelton (USA) to win his first US Open title, while Rybakina defeated Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) to win her first US Open title and third Grand Slam title.
- India defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the Women's Twenty20 (T20) Asia Cup 2026 final in Dubai to win a record-extending eighth title.
- India's Dhiraj Bommadevara became the first Indian male recurve archer to win World Cup Final gold at Saltillo, Mexico.
- Ganges Grandmasters won their maiden Global Chess League (GCL) title in Bengaluru by defeating defending champions Alpine APL Pipers.
- Four mountaineers from Munnar became the first group from Kerala to summit Ramjak, a 6,318-metre peak in Himachal Pradesh.
  - Ramjak is located in the remote Lahaul region of Himachal Pradesh.
- Elavenil Valarivan wins silver in women's 10m air rifle at Asian Games 2026, held in Toyota City, Aichi, Japan.
- Savita Punia became India's most-capped women's hockey player after making her 321st international appearance at the Asian Games 2026 in Japan.
- Suchika Tariyal won bronze in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) at the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, becoming India's first Asian Games medallist in MMA.
- India won its first-ever mixed team medal in skeet shooting at the Asian Games 2026 in Nagoya, Japan.
  - Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Parinaaz Dhaliwal won the bronze medal in the mixed team skeet event.
- India won its first-ever Asian Games medal in soft tennis after Jay Meena reached the men's singles semi-finals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026, held in Japan.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced a ₹50 lakh cash reward each for athletes Vithya Ramraj and Vishal T.K. after they won silver at the 2026 Asian Games held in Nagoya, Japan.
- Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal in women's 49 kg weightlifting at the Asian Games 2026 in Nagoya, Japan.

Professor Academy

- India's Baranica Elangovan won a bronze medal in the women's pole vault at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan.

World Humanoid Robot Games 2026

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

World Nomad Games 2026

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

World Archery Para Series 2026

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

Asian Games 2026 Opening Ceremony

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

Professor Academy

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Important Day	Theme
January 04	World Braille Day	–
January 05	National Bird Day	–
January 06	World Day of War Orphans	–
January 08	Earth's Rotation Day	–
January 09	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)	–
January 10	World Hindi Day	–
January 11–12	W o rld Tamil Diaspora Day	Thamizhaal Inaivom, Tharanil Uyarvom
January 12	National Youth Day/Yuva Diwas	–
January 11/17	National Road Safety Week	Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha" (Road Safety, Life Safety)
January 16	National Startup Day 2026	–
January 16	Global Interventional Radiology Day 2026	–
January 16	Lokpal Day 2026	–
January 19	Kokborok Day 2026/Tripuri Language Day 2026	–
January 19	National Disaster Response Force Raising Day 2026	–
January 21	Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya Foundation Day	–
January 23	Parakram Diwas 2026	–
January 24	National Girl Child Day 2026	–
January 24	International Day of Education 2026	The power of youth in co-creating education
January 25	National Tourism Day 2026	–
January 25	National Voters Day 2026	My India, My Vote
January 25	World Leprosy Day 2026	Leprosy is curable, the real challenge is stigma
January 26	International Customs Day 2026	Customs protecting society through vigilance and commitment
January 26	Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh 2026	–
January 26	International Day of Clean Energy 2026	–
January 27	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust 2026	Holocaust Remembrance for Dignity and Human Rights
January 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	–
January 28	Data Privacy Day	–
January 30	Martyrs' Day / Shaheed Diwas / Sarvodaya Day 2026	–
January 30	World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day 2026	"Unite. Act. Eliminate"
February 01	Indian Coast Guard Day 2026	–
February 02	World Wetlands Day 2026	"Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage"
February 02	Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day 2026	–
February 04	World Cancer Day 2026	"United by Unique"
February 04	International Day of Human Fraternity 2026	"Dialogue Over Division"
February 06	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation 2026	Towards 2030: No End To FGM Without Sustained Commitment and Investment
February 10	International Epilepsy Day 2026	EpilepsyPledge
February 10	National Deworming Day 2026	–
February 10	World Pulses Day 2026	–

Professor Academy

Date	Important Day	Theme
February 10	International Day of the Arabian Leopard 2026	–
Every year on the second Tuesday of February (February 10, 2026)	Safer Internet Day	"Smart Tech, Safe Choices: Exploring the Safe and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)".
February 11	World Unani Day 2026	"Innovation and Evidence in Unani Practice"
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026	"From Vision to Impact: Redefining STEM by Closing the Gender Gap"
February 12	International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism 2026	"Preventing Violent Extremism in the Age of New and Emerging Technologies"
February 12	National Productivity Day 2026	"Clusters as Growth Engine: Maximizing Productivity in MSMEs"
February 13	World Radio Day	"Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice"
February 13	National Women's Day 2026	–
February 15	International Childhood Cancer Day 2026	Demonstrating Impact — From Challenge to Chang."
February 17	Global Tourism Resilience Day	"Tourism Resilience in Action: From Crisis Response to Impactful Transformation"
February 18	International Asperger Syndrome Day	–
February 20	Mizoram Foundation Day 2026	–
February 20	Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day 2026	–
February 20	World Day of Social Justice 2026	"Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice"
February 20	Zomi National Day	
February 21	International Mother Language Day 2026	"Youth Voices on Multilingual Education"
February 21	World Pangolin Day 2026	–
February 22	100th World Thinking Day 2026	"Our Friendship"
February 23	World Peace and Understanding Day	–
February 24	Central Excise Day 2026	–
February 27	World NGO Day 2026	"Restoring Dignity Through Inclusion"
February 28	National Science Day 2026	"Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat"
February 27	As International Polar Bear Day	–
February 27	National Protein Day	–
March 01	World Seagrass Day	"Seagrasses Enrich Ocean Biodiversity and Fisheries."
March 01	Zero Discrimination Day	People First
March 03	World Wildlife Day 2026	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods."
March 03	World Hearing Day	"From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children".
28 February (or 29 February in leap years)	Rare Disease Day	"More Than You Can Imagine".
March 04	National Safety Day	Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety
March 04	World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development	Smart engineering for a sustainable future through innovation and digitalization
March 10	International Day of Women Judges	–

Professor Academy

Date	Important Day	Theme
March 11	No Smoking Day	–
March 12 (second Thursday of March)	World Kidney Day	Kidney Health for All – Caring for People, Protecting the Planet
March 14	International Day of Action for Rivers 2026	Protect Rivers, Protect People
March 14	Pi Day/ International Day of Mathematics	Mathematics and hope
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day	Safe Products, Confident Consumers
March 16	National Vaccination Day	Immunization for All is Humanly Possible
March 17	World Social Work Day	Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society
March 13/2026 Friday before the March equinox	World Sleep Day	Sleep Well, Live Better
March 18	Global Recycling Day	Don't Think Waste. Think Opportunity!
March 20	International Day of Happiness	Caring and Sharing
March 20	World Oral Health Day	A Happy Mouth is a Happy Life
March 21	World Sparrow Day	I Love Sparrows
March 21	World Day for Glaciers	–
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Mobilizing Political Will: 60 Years of Commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 21	International Day of Forests	Forests and Economies
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day	Together Against Loneliness
March 21	World Puppetry Day	–
March 22	World Water Day	Water and Gender
March 23	World Meteorological Day	Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow
March 23	Shaheed Diwas 2026	–
March 24	World Tuberculosis Day	Yes! We Can End TB: Led by countries, powered by people
March 27	World Theatre Day	Theatre and a Culture of Peace
April 01	RBI Foundation Day	–
April 04	NATO Day	–
April 04	International Day for Mine Awareness	Invest in Peace; Invest in Mine Action
April 05	National Maritime Day	Maritime India – Empowering Progress
April 05	International Day of Conscience	Together for Peace: From Conscience to Collective Action
April 06	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
April 07	World Health Day	Together for health. Stand with science
April 1-7	Prevention of Blindness Week	Uniting for a Glaucoma-Free World
April 10	World Homoeopathy Day	Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health
April 11	World Parkinson's Disease Day	Bridge the care gap
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	Equity in Maternal Healthcare: Leaving No Mother Behind
April 12	International Day of Human Space Flight	–
April 12	International Day for Street Children	Protect, not Punish
April 14	Equality Day/ Bhim Jayanti	–
April 14	National Fire Service Day	Safe School, Safe Hospital & Fire Safety Aware Society Together for Fire Prevention

Professor Academy

Date	Important Day	Theme
April 17	World Hemophilia Day	Diagnosis: First Step to Care
April 18	International Day for Monuments and Sites	Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters
April 19	World Liver Day	Solid Habits, Strong Liver
April 21	Civil Services Day	Holistic Development – Saturation of Government Schemes
April 23	World Book and Copyright Day	–
April 23 (4th Thursday of April)	International Girls in ICT Day	AI for Development: Girls shaping the digital future
April 24	National Panchayati Raj Day	–
April 25	World Malaria Day	Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must
April 25	International Delegate's Day	–
April 25	World Veterinary Day	Veterinarians: Guardians of Food and Health
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day	IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate
April 28	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Good psychosocial working environments: A pathway to thriving workers and strong organizations
May 01	International Labour Day	Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment
May 03	World Press Freedom Day	Shaping a Future of Peace: Promoting Press Freedom for Human Rights, Development, and Security
May 03	International Leopard Day	–
May 04	International Firefighters' Day	–
May 05 first Tuesday of May	World Asthma Day	Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need
May 05	International Day of the Midwife	One Million More Midwives
May 05	World Hand Hygiene Day	Action saves lives
May 04 – 10	Fire Safety Week	Safe Schools, Safe Hospitals, and a Fire-Safety Aware Society: Together for Fire Prevention
May 07	World Athletics Day	Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
May 08	World Thalassemia Day	Hidden No More: Finding the Undiagnosed, Supporting the Unseen
May 08	World Ovarian Cancer Day	No Woman Left Behind
09 May and 10 October	World Migratory Bird Day	Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter
May 10	World Lupus Day	Make Lupus Visible
May 11	National Technology Day	–
May 12	International Nurses Day	Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives
11 May to 17	Mental Health Awareness Week	Action
May 16	International Day of Light	Light for a Sustainable Future
May 16	National Dengue Day	Community Participation for Dengue Control: Check, Clean and Cover
May 17	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Digital lifelines: Strengthening resilience in a connected world
May 18	International Museum Day	Museums Uniting a Divided World
May 18	International Day for Women in Maritime	From Policy to Practice: Advancing Gender Equality for Maritime Excellence

Professor Academy

Date	Important Day	Theme
May 20	World Bee Day	Bee together for people and the planet – A partnership that sustains us all
May 20	World Metrology Day	Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity	Acting locally for global impact
May 23	World Turtle Day	–
May 24	Commonwealth Day in India	Unlocking Opportunities Together For A Prosperous Commonwealth
May 25	World Thyroid Day	Closing the Gap between Symptom Onset and Timely Diagnosis
May 28	World Hunger Day	The End of Hunger is in Our Hands
May 29	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	Invest in Peace
May 29	International Everest Day	–
May 29	World Digestive Health Day	Chronic Diarrhea: Don't Flush the Signs Away
May 31	World No Tobacco Day	Unmask the Appeal: Countering Tobacco and Nicotine Addiction
June 01	World Milk Day	Celebrating Women Farmers
June 01	Global Day of Parents	Together for Parents
June 02	World Peatlands Day	–
June 05	World Environment Day	Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future
June 06	World Pest Day	Defending Health Across Borders: The Global Power of Pest Management
June 07	World Food Safety Day	From Burden to Solutions – Safe Food Everywhere
June 08	World Oceans Day	Reimagine: Beyond the World We Know, a New Relationship with Our Ocean
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour	Red card to child labour: Fair play for children, decent work for adults
June 13	International Albinism Awareness Day	Proudly in my skin – celebrating all skin tones
June 15	Global Wind Day	Our wind, our community
June 17	World Crocodile Day	Legacy in Every Scale
June 19	World Sickle Cell Day	Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease
June 19	National Reading Day	–
June 20	World Refugee Day	Solidarity with Refugees
June 21	World Hydrography Day	Transforming how ocean data is shared
June 21	International Day of Yoga	Yoga for Healthy Ageing
June 23	International Olympic Day	You Can Do This! Let's Move
June 27	International Day of Deaf Blindness	Connected by Touch: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges
June 29	International Day of the Tropics 2026	–
June 30	International Asteroid Day	Planetary Defence and Asteroid Impact Hazards
July 01	GST Day 2026	–
June 26 to July 2	National Electricity Safety Week	Today’s Awareness, Tomorrow’s Prevention
July 01	Chartered Accountants (CA) Day	–
July 02	World Sports Journalists Day	Championing Fair Play: Reporting with Integrity and Impact
July 05	International Day of Cooperatives	Cooperatives for a Peaceful World
July 06	World Zoonoses Day	One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses
July 06	World Rural Development Day	Financing the First Mile of Food Systems

Professor Academy

Date	Important Day	Theme
July 07	World Bioproduct Day	Bioproducts are everywhere – often without us even noticing
July 10	National Fish Farmer's Day	–
July 11	World Population Day 2026	Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future
July 12	International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms	From Source to Impact: Protecting Land and Life from Sand and Dust Storms
July 15	World Plastic Surgery Day	Changing lives with Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
July 15	World Youth Skills Day	Skills for a shared future
July 16	World Snake Day	Respect, Don't Fear: Protecting Nature's Silent Guardians
July 22	World Brain Day	Brain Health: Access For All
July 23	National Broadcasting Day	–
July 25	World Drowning Prevention Day	Unite to turn the tide
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas	–
July 28	World Hepatitis Day	Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down
July 29	International Tiger Day	Securing the Future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the Heart
July 30	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	Trapped Behind the Scam
August 1–7	World Breastfeeding Week	Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works
August 03	Indian Organ Donation Day	–
August 04	International Clouded Leopard Day	–
August 04	National Bone and Joint Day	Healthy Bones, Healthy Joints, Healthier India
August 07	National Handloom Day	–
August 07	National Javelin Day	–
August 08	Quit India Movement Day	Commemorates the launch of the Quit India Movement on August 8, 1942, by Mahatma Gandhi at Gowalia Tank Maidan, Mumbai; 'Do or Die' call.
August 09	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being
August 10	World Lion Day	–
August 10	World Biofuel Day	–
August 11	World Steelpan Day (UN)	Celebrates the steelpan musical instrument originated in Trinidad & Tobago. Theme 2026: 'Rhythm and Rise: Youth. Discipline. Culture. Community.'
August 12	World Elephant Day	Bringing the world together to help elephants
August 12	International Youth Day (UN)	Theme 2026: 'Different Contexts, Common Aspirations.'
August 13	International Left-Handers Day	Observed annually to celebrate left-handed individuals and raise awareness of challenges they face.
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	Observed to raise awareness about organ donation, clear misconceptions and encourage voluntary donation.
August 14	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day	Declared by the Government of India in 2021 to remember victims of the 1947 Partition; Lord Mountbatten announced the Partition Plan on June 3, 1947; boundaries drawn by the Radcliffe Commission.

Professor Academy

Date	Important Day	Theme
August 15	Independence Day (India)	India’s 80th Independence Day 2026; PM Modi delivered the 79th address from the Red Fort and launched the Sapta Dhara framework.
August 20	World Mosquito Day	Commemorates Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that Anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria; Ross won the Nobel Prize in 1902. Theme 2026: 'Preventing Malaria: Accelerating the Clock.'
August 21	World Senior Citizens Day	Observed to raise awareness about elderly welfare and ageing issues.
August 21	International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism	Theme 2026: 'Healing through Memory.'
August 22	International Day Commemorating Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	Adopted by UN to prevent religious-based violence.
August 23	National Space Day	Commemorates Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander touching down on the lunar south pole on August 23, 2023. Theme 2026: 'Towards Viksit Bharat through Space Innovation.'
August 27	World Lake Day	Designated by UNGA; first observed in 2025 to highlight freshwater lake conservation.
August 28	World Sanskrit Day (Vishwa Samskrit Divas)	Observed on Shravana Purnima; celebrated in India since 1969.
August 29	National Sports Day	Birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand (1905–1979), the hockey legend. Theme 2026: 'Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat.'
August 29	International Day against Nuclear Tests	UNGA designated this date in 2009, marking the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in Kazakhstan on August 29, 1991. CTBT opened for signature in 1996.
August 30	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	2026 slogan: 'Victims first. Actions now.'
August 30	International Whale Shark Day	Celebrates Rhincodon typus, the world's largest fish; listed as Endangered by IUCN; India's Gujarat coast has one of the largest aggregations globally.
August 30	National Small Industry Day	The day aims to recognise the contribution of small industries to India’s economic and industrial development.
September 01	National Nutrition Week (NNW)	National Nutrition Week (NNW) 2026 is being observed in India from September 1 to 7, 2026, to create awareness about healthy eating and proper nutrition.
September 02	World Coconut Day	The day aims to highlight the agricultural, economic and everyday importance of coconut.
September 03	World Skyscraper Day	World Skyscraper Day is observed annually on September 3 to celebrate the engineering and architecture behind the world’s tallest buildings.
September 04	National Wildlife Day	The day aims to raise awareness about wildlife and encourage conservation.
September 05	National Teachers Day	India observes Teachers’ Day every year on 5 September to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.
September 05	International Vulture Awareness Day	International Vulture Awareness Day 2026 was observed on September 5, the first Saturday of September, to raise awareness about the ecological importance of vultures and promote their conservation.

Professor Academy

Date	Important Day	Theme
September 05	International Day of Charity	The International Day of Charity is observed every year on 5 September to encourage people, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders to help others through volunteering and charitable activities.
September 07	World Duchenne Awareness Day	The day raises awareness about Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a rare progressive genetic disorder and one of the most common paediatric genetic rare diseases.
September 07	International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies	International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was observed annually on 7 September 2026 to raise awareness and promote action for better air quality.
September 07	International Day of Police Cooperation	International Day of Police Cooperation was observed annually on 7 September to highlight the importance of international cooperation among police and law-enforcement agencies.
September 08	International Literacy Day	The 60th anniversary of International Literacy Day will be marked in 2026, with the global celebration hosted in Mexico.
September 08	World Physiotherapy Day	World Physiotherapy Day is observed every year on 8 September to raise awareness about the importance of physiotherapy and its role in rehabilitation, mobility, pain management and improving quality of life.
September 09	Himalaya Diwas	The day highlights the importance of the Himalayan ecosystem and its conservation.
September 09	National Fluorosis Day	The day aims to focus on the prevention and control of fluorosis.
September 09	International Day to Protect Education from Attack	The International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed every year on 9 September to highlight the need to protect education during armed conflicts.
September 09	World EV Day	World EV Day is observed every year on 9 September to promote electric mobility and sustainable transport.
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	World Suicide Prevention Day is observed every year on 10 September to raise awareness about suicide as a public health concern and promote prevention efforts.
September 11	National Forest Martyrs Day	The day aims to honour forest personnel who lost their lives protecting forests and wildlife.
September 11	Digvijay Diwas	The day commemorate Swami Vivekananda's historic address at the World's Parliament of Religions, Chicago, in 1893.
September 11	International Day for South-South Cooperation	The day aims to promote cooperation and knowledge-sharing among developing countries.
September 12	World First Aid Day	World First Aid Day is observed on the second Saturday of September every year; in 2026, it was observed on 12 September to raise awareness about the importance of first aid in saving lives during emergencies.
September 14	National Hindi Diwas	14 September marks the day in 1949 when the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union under Article 343 of the Constitution.
September 15	World Lymphoma Awareness Day	The day aims to raise awareness about lymphoma and the lymphatic system.
September 15	International Day of Democracy	The day aims to promote and strengthen the principles of democracy.

Professor Academy

Date	Important Day	Theme
September 15	National Engineers Day	National Engineers' Day is observed on September 15 to mark M. Visvesvaraya's birth anniversary.
September 16	World Ozone Day	The day aims to raise awareness about protecting the ozone layer.
September 16	International Day for Interventional Cardiology	The United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed the day in 2022 to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases and interventional cardiac procedures.
September 16	International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South	The International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South is observed annually on 16 September to promote science, technology and innovation (STI) for sustainable and inclusive development in the Global South.
September 17	Social Justice Day	Tamil Nadu observed Social Justice Day on September 17, marking the birth anniversary of social reformer E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar).
September 17	National Pharmacovigilance Week	The 6th National Pharmacovigilance Week (NPW) will be observed from 17–23 September 2026 to promote the safe and rational use of medicines.
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	World Patient Safety Day is observed annually on 17 September, focusing in 2026 on safe care for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases.
September 18	World Bamboo Day	The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of bamboo.
September 18	International Equal Pay Day	International Equal Pay Day is observed every year on 18 September to promote equal pay for work of equal value.
September 18	World Water Monitoring Day	World Water Monitoring Day is observed annually on 18 September to raise awareness about monitoring and protecting water quality.
September 19	International Red Panda Day	International Red Panda Day 2026 was observed on September 19, the third Saturday of September, to raise awareness about red panda conservation and threats such as habitat loss, deforestation and poaching.
September 19	International Coastal Cleanup Day	International Coastal Cleanup Day 2026 was observed on September 19, the third Saturday of September, to raise awareness about marine pollution and encourage people to clean beaches, rivers and other waterways.
September 19	International Snakebite Awareness Day	International Snakebite Awareness Day is observed annually on 19 September to raise awareness about snakebite envenoming and its health impacts.
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	The day aims to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and dementia.
September 21	International Day of Peace	International Day of Peace is observed annually on 21 September to promote peace, non-violence and cooperation.
September 22	World Rhino Day	The day aims to raise awareness about protecting the five remaining rhino species.
September 22	World Rose Day	World Rose Day is observed on 22 September 2026 to support cancer patients with hope, care and encouragement.
September 22	World Car Free Day	World Car Free Day is observed annually on 22 September to promote travel without private cars and encourage cleaner and safer transport.

Professor Academy

Date	Important Day	Theme
September 23	International Day of Sign Languages	The day highlights the importance of recognising, protecting and promoting the human rights of deaf people through national sign languages.
September 24	National Service Scheme Day	The day aims to mark the establishment of the NSS in India.
September 24	World Maritime Day	World Maritime Day is observed on 24 September annually to highlight the importance of international shipping and maritime safety, security and environmental protection.
September 25	World Pharmacists Day	The day aims to recognise the role of pharmacists in healthcare and safe medicine use.
September 25	World Lung Day	The day aims to raise awareness about lung health and respiratory diseases.
September 26	International Day for the Total Elimination of nuclear weapons	The day was declared by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2013 and has been observed since 2014.
September 26	CSIR Foundation Day	The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) completed 85 years in 2026.
September 27	World Tourism Day	World Tourism Day is observed annually on 27 September to promote the importance of tourism in connecting cultures, supporting development and highlighting its economic and social benefits.
September 29	World Heart Day	The day aims to raise awareness about cardiovascular health and encourage prevention of heart disease.
September 30	International Translation Day	International Translation Day is observed annually on 30 September to recognise the role of language professionals in connecting nations, promoting dialogue and strengthening international cooperation.

September 2026

National Small Industry Day 2026 - August 30

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

World Coconut Day 2026 - September 02

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

National Wildlife Day 2026 - September 04

- The day aims to raise awareness about wildlife and encourage conservation.

Professor Academy

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

National Teachers Day 2026 – September 5

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

International Literacy Day 2026 - September 08

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

World Duchenne Awareness Day 2026 – September 07

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

Himalaya Diwas 2026 - September 09

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

National Fluorosis Day 2026 - September 09

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

Professor Academy

- The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF) works on surveillance, prevention, early diagnosis and management of fluorosis.

National Forest Martyrs Day 2026 - September 11

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

Digvijay Diwas 2026 - September 11

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

International Day for South-South Cooperation 2026 - September 11

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

National Hindi Diwas 2026 - September 14

- 14 September marks the day in 1949 when the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union under Article 343 of the Constitution.
- Hindi Diwas has been observed annually since 1953 to remember the 1949 decision and promote the use and development of Hindi.
- Article 351 of constitution directs the promotion and development of Hindi as a medium of expression for India's composite culture.
- Hindi is not the National Language of India; the Constitution does not declare any language as the national language, while English is also used for official purposes under the Official Languages Act, 1963.
- Hindi Diwas is observed on 14 September, while World Hindi Day is observed on 10 January, linked to the First World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur in 1975.

World Lymphoma Awareness Day 2026 - September 15

- The day aims to raise awareness about lymphoma and the lymphatic system.
- It was initiated by the Lymphoma Coalition in 2004.
- Lymphoma is a blood cancer affecting lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell.
- The two main types are Hodgkin lymphoma and Non-Hodgkin lymphoma.
- The lymphatic system includes lymph nodes, spleen, thymus gland and bone marrow.

Professor Academy

- Common symptoms include painless swollen lymph nodes, fever, night sweats, fatigue and unexplained weight loss.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Navigating Lymphoma and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL) Together."

International Day of Democracy 2026 - September 15

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

National Engineers Day 2026 - September 15

- National Engineers' Day is observed on September 15 to mark M. Visvesvaraya's birth anniversary.
- Visvesvaraya was born in 1861 in Muddenahalli, Karnataka.
- He served as the Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918 and worked on infrastructure projects.
- He contributed to irrigation, water management and flood protection systems.
- He wrote books including Planned Economy for India and Reconstructing India.
- He received the Bharat Ratna in 1955, India's highest civilian award, and died in 1962.

World Ozone Day 2026 - September 16

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

Social Justice Day 2026 - September 17

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

International Day for Interventional Cardiology 2026 – September 16

- The United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed the day in 2022 to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases and interventional cardiac procedures.
- September 16 marks the date of the first coronary angioplasty, performed by Dr. Andreas Grüntzig in 1977.
- Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are a leading cause of death globally and include diseases affecting the heart and blood vessels.
- Interventional cardiology includes procedures such as balloon angioplasty, which uses a small balloon to open blocked arteries.
- The day also promotes awareness of prevention, treatment, complications and access to appropriate cardiac care.

World Bamboo Day 2026 - September 18

- The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of bamboo.

Professor Academy

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

World Alzheimer's Day 2026 - September 21

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

World Rhino Day 2026 - September 22

- The day aims to raise awareness about protecting the five remaining rhino species.
- The five species are White Rhinoceros, Black Rhinoceros, Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, Javan Rhinoceros and Sumatran Rhinoceros.
- Around 27,000 rhinos remain in the wild, compared with nearly 5 lakh a century ago.
- India is home to the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, with nearly 4,000 in India and Nepal.
- The theme for the year 2026 is "Keep the Five Alive".

National Pharmacovigilance Week 2026- September 17/23

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

International Day of Sign Languages 2026 - September 23

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

World Pharmacists Day 2026 - September 25

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

Professor Academy

World Lung Day 2026 - September 25

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

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

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

National Service Scheme Day 2026 – September 24

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

CSIR Foundation Day 2026 - September 26

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

World Heart Day 2026 - September 29

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

Professor Academy

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

All questions are based on facts in this January to September CA. The answer and a one-line explanation follow each question.

Q1. The Union Cabinet extended the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) until which financial year? [Policy]

(a) 2027–28
(b) 2028–29
(c) 2030–31
(d) 2035–36

Answer: (c) 2030–31. The Cabinet approved extension of APY until FY 2030–31.

Q2. Who was sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu? [Tamil Nadu]

(a) C. Joseph Vijay
(b) M.K. Stalin
(c) O. Panneerselvam
(d) Edappadi K. Palaniswami

Answer: (a) C. Joseph Vijay. TVK president C. Joseph Vijay became the 15th Chief Minister and won the floor test with 144 votes.

Q3. Which country became the 21st member of the Eurozone? [International]

(a) Croatia
(b) Romania
(c) Poland
(d) Bulgaria

Answer: (d) Bulgaria. Bulgaria officially adopted the euro and became the 21st Eurozone member.

Q4. How many tiger deaths did India record in 2025, according to the NTCA? [Environment]

(a) 126
(b) 166
(c) 146
(d) 186

Answer: (b) 166. 166 tiger deaths in 2025 was the highest annual tiger mortality since Project Tiger.

Q5. Where was the maiden flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR-120) conducted? [Science & Technology]

(a) Pokhran
(b) Sriharikota
(c) Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur
(d) Kochi

Answer: (c) Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur. DRDO conducted the maiden flight test at ITR, Chandipur.

Q6. India became the world's fourth-largest economy in 2025 by overtaking which country? [Economy]

(a) Japan
(b) Germany
(c) United Kingdom
(d) France

Answer: (a) Japan. India's GDP of $4.18 trillion overtook Japan in 2025.

Q7. Who won the 2026 Australian Open men's singles title by defeating Novak Djokovic in the final? [Sports]

(a) Jannik Sinner
(b) Daniil Medvedev
(c) Alexander Zverev
(d) Carlos Alcaraz

Answer: (d) Carlos Alcaraz. Carlos Alcaraz beat Djokovic, who became the oldest man in the Open Era to reach an Australian Open final.

Professor Academy

Q8. Who won the 2026 Australian Open women's singles title by defeating world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka? [Sports]

(a) Iga Swiatek
(b) Elena Rybakina
(c) Coco Gauff
(d) Madison Keys

Answer: (b) Elena Rybakina. Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan clinched her second Grand Slam title.

Q9. Which state became the first in India to constitute the 8th State Pay Commission (1 January 2026)? [States]

(a) Gujarat
(b) Kerala
(c) Assam
(d) Karnataka

Answer: (c) Assam. Assam was the first state to constitute the 8th State Pay Commission.

Q10. The House Listing Operations phase of Census 2027 will be held during which period? [National]

(a) 1 April to 30 September 2026
(b) January to March 2026
(c) October 2026 to March 2027
(d) February 2027 only

Answer: (a) 1 April to 30 September 2026. HLO runs from 1 April to 30 September 2026; population enumeration follows in February 2027.

Q11. The Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) guarantees a pension equal to what share of the last-drawn monthly salary? [Tamil Nadu]

(a) 40%
(b) 60%
(c) 100%
(d) 50%

Answer: (d) 50%. TAPS guarantees 50% of the last-drawn monthly salary and applies from 1 January 2026.

Q12. Who was unanimously elected Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 12 May 2026? [Tamil Nadu]

(a) Karuppaiah M.V.
(b) J.C.D. Prabhakar
(c) N. Marie Wilson
(d) R. Vinoth

Answer: (b) J.C.D. Prabhakar. J.C.D. Prabhakar of TVK was elected Speaker; Karuppaiah M.V. served as Pro-tem Speaker.

Q13. The Indian Navy assumed command of which Combined Task Force for the first time? [Defence]

(a) CTF-150
(b) CTF-151
(c) CTF-154
(d) CTF-153

Answer: (c) CTF-154. The Navy took command of Combined Task Force-154 (CTF-154) for the first time.

Q14. Which country holds the BRICS presidency for 2026? [International]

(a) India
(b) Brazil
(c) Russia
(d) China

Answer: (a) India. Brazil handed the BRICS presidency to India for 2026.

Q15. Glaw Lake, designated as India's 101st Ramsar Site, is located in which state? [Environment]

(a) Assam
(b) Nagaland
(c) Sikkim
(d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: (d) Arunachal Pradesh. It is Arunachal Pradesh's first Ramsar Site.

Professor Academy

Q16. Who received the Wolf Prize in Physics 2026? [Awards]

(a) Deepak Dhar
(b) Jainendra K. Jain
(c) Avi Loeb
(d) Ashoke Sen

Answer: (b) Jainendra K. Jain. Physicist Jainendra K. Jain won the Wolf Prize in Physics 2026.

Q17. Who received the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports? [Awards]

(a) Cristiano Ronaldo
(b) Rafael Nadal
(c) Lionel Messi
(d) Roger Federer

Answer: (c) Lionel Messi. The award went to footballer Lionel Messi.

Q18. What was the theme of National Science Day (28 February) in 2026? [Important Days]

(a) Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat
(b) My India, My Vote
(c) United by Unique
(d) Dialogue Over Division

Answer: (a) Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat. The 2026 theme was "Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat".

Q19. What was the theme of National Voters' Day (25 January) in 2026? [Important Days]

(a) Women in Science
(b) Smart Tech, Safe Choices
(c) Caring and Sharing
(d) My India, My Vote

Answer: (d) My India, My Vote. The 2026 theme was "My India, My Vote".

Q20. India's first hydrogen-powered train is set to begin trial operations on which route? [National]

(a) Kalka to Shimla
(b) Jind to Sonipat
(c) Mumbai to Pune
(d) Chennai to Katpadi

Answer: (b) Jind to Sonipat. The trials are planned on the Jind–Sonipat route in Haryana.

Q21. How many kilometres of Kavach Version 4.0 did Indian Railways commission in a single day, the largest ever? [National]

(a) 272.3 km
(b) 372.3 km
(c) 472.3 km
(d) 572.3 km

Answer: (c) 472.3 km. Indian Railways commissioned 472.3 km of Kavach 4.0 in a single day.

Q22. Tamil Nadu's first Dark Sky Park was launched in which location? [Tamil Nadu]

(a) Kolli Hills
(b) Yercaud
(c) Kodaikanal
(d) Javadu Hills

Answer: (a) Kolli Hills. It is Tamil Nadu's first Dark Sky Park, meant to promote astro-tourism.

Q23. The Teynampet–Saidapet flyover in Chennai is the world's first road bridge built above what? [Tamil Nadu]

(a) A railway yard
(b) A river
(c) A harbour channel
(d) A running metro tunnel

Answer: (d) A running metro tunnel. It is the world's first road bridge constructed above a running metro tunnel.

Professor Academy

Q24. Which port became the first in India to deploy an Anti-Drone System? [Tamil Nadu]

(a) Chennai Port
(b) V.O. Chidambaranar Port
(c) Kamarajar Port
(d) Visakhapatnam Port

Answer: (b) V.O. Chidambaranar Port. VOC Port Authority became the first port in India with an Anti-Drone System.

Q25. India won the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2026 by defeating which team in the final at Harare? [Sports]

(a) Australia
(b) South Africa
(c) England
(d) Pakistan

Answer: (c) England. India defeated England in the final at Harare, Zimbabwe.

Q26. Which team won the Ranji Trophy 2025–26 in its maiden final appearance after 67 years? [Sports]

(a) Jammu and Kashmir
(b) Vidarbha
(c) Karnataka
(d) Saurashtra

Answer: (a) Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir won the title in its first final.

Q27. Which team won its first Vijay Hazare Trophy by beating two-time champions Saurashtra? [Sports]

(a) Karnataka
(b) Tamil Nadu
(c) Mumbai
(d) Vidarbha

Answer: (d) Vidarbha. Vidarbha won its first Vijay Hazare Trophy title.

Q28. The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) imposes a carbon tax on imports of which goods? [International]

(a) Textiles and leather only
(b) Steel, aluminium, cement, chemicals, paper, glass, fertilisers and power-sector goods
(c) Agricultural produce only
(d) Electronics only

Answer: (b) Steel, aluminium, cement, chemicals, paper, glass, fertilisers and power-sector goods. CBAM covers carbon-intensive imports such as steel, aluminium and cement.

Q29. Which IPS officer was named interim Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)? [Personalities]

(a) Sadanand Date
(b) Dinkar Gupta
(c) Rakesh Agarwal
(d) Praveen Sood

Answer: (c) Rakesh Agarwal. Rakesh Agarwal was appointed interim DG of the NIA.

Q30. Which insects became the first in the world to receive legal rights? [Environment]

(a) Amazonian stingless bees
(b) European honeybees
(c) Monarch butterflies
(d) Fireflies

Answer: (a) Amazonian stingless bees. Amazonian stingless bees became the first insects to receive legal rights.

Q31. Who headed the three-member Pension Committee that submitted its final report to the Tamil Nadu government? [Tamil Nadu]

(a) K.R. Shanmugam
(b) Pratik Tayal
(c) Sandeep Rai Rathore
(d) Gagandeep Singh Bedi

Answer: (d) Gagandeep Singh Bedi. The committee was headed by Gagandeep Singh Bedi with K.R. Shanmugam and Pratik Tayal as members.

Professor Academy

Q32. India and Canada signed a uranium supply agreement worth how much, for 10,000 tonnes (2027–2035)? [National]

(a) $0.9 billion
(b) $1.9 billion
(c) $2.9 billion
(d) $5 billion

Answer: (b) $1.9 billion. The agreement is worth $1.9 billion.

Q33. Karnataka recorded its first sighting of which rare big cat morph, in Vijayanagara district? [State]

(a) Snow leopard
(b) Golden tiger
(c) Sandalwood Leopard
(d) Black panther

Answer: (c) Sandalwood Leopard. It is a rare pale reddish-pink morph of the Indian leopard.

Q34. What is the name of the first anti-terror policy released by the Ministry of Home Affairs? [National]

(a) PRAHAAR
(b) SURAKSHA
(c) KAVACH
(d) SANKALP

Answer: (a) PRAHAAR. MHA released India's first anti-terror policy, named PRAHAAR.

Professor Academy

AUGUST 11–20, 2026

Q1. The New Ganga Floodplain Rules 2026 define three zones along the Ganga. Which of the following correctly matches the flood-frequency definitions?

(a) Active zone: 1-in-25 to 1-in-100-year floods; Regulatory zone: 1-in-5 to 1-in-25-year floods
(b) Regulatory zone: 1-in-5 to 1-in-25-year floods; Warning zone: 1-in-25 to 1-in-100-year floods
(c) Warning zone: 1-in-5 to 1-in-25-year floods; Active zone: 1-in-25 to 1-in-100-year floods
(d) Active zone: 1-in-25 to 1-in-100-year floods; Warning zone: 1-in-5 to 1-in-25-year floods

Answer: (b). The Regulatory zone covers 1-in-5 to 1-in-25-year floods and the Warning zone covers 1-in-25 to 1-in-100-year floods. The Active zone is the highest-flood-risk area (not defined by those frequency bands). Options (a), (c) and (d) mix up these definitions.

Q2. India officially crossed 300 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity in 2026. Which energy source contributes the MOST to this installed capacity?

(a) Wind power
(b) Nuclear power
(c) Solar power
(d) Large hydropower

Answer: (c). Solar power leads with 164.59 GW, far ahead of wind (58.14 GW), hydro (57.24 GW), bio-power (11.75 GW) and nuclear (8.78 GW). A common distractor is wind or hydro, but solar has grown from 2.8 GW in 2014 and now dominates the non-fossil mix.

Q3. Consider the following statements about the Asiatic Lion Population Estimation 2026: 1. The 2026 count stands at 891 individuals, a rise of 32% from the 2020 figure. 2. Project Lion 2020 covers approximately 60,000 sq km of the Saurashtra landscape. 3. The Asiatic lion is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List. Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is incorrect: the Asiatic lion (Panthera leo persica) is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List, not 'Vulnerable'. The African lion subspecies may be listed as Vulnerable, making this a classic exam trap.

Q4. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 restricts States' powers regarding:

(a) Granting mining leases for minor minerals
(b) Levying taxes on mineral rights and mineral-rich lands
(c) Setting royalty rates for coal and iron ore
(d) Constituting District Mineral Foundations

Answer: (b). The Bill restricts States from levying taxes on mineral rights and mineral-rich lands, aiming for uniform mineral rates across India. States retain power over 49 minor minerals (option a is wrong). Royalty rates are set by the Central Government under the MMDR Act (option c is a power already with the Centre). DMFs (option d) were established by an earlier 2015 amendment and are not altered by this Bill.

Q5. The Tamirabharani River was granted the status of a legal person by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court. What makes this ruling distinct from the Uttarakhand High Court's 2017 Ganga-Yamuna order?

(a) The Tamirabharani ruling grants the river rights under a specific environmental act, whereas the Uttarakhand order used common law
(b) The Tamirabharani was recognised as a 'deity' to confer legal personality, while the Ganga and Yamuna were declared 'legal entities'; the SC later stayed the Uttarakhand order
(c) The Tamirabharani ruling was upheld by the Supreme Court, whereas the Ganga-Yamuna order was never challenged
(d) Both rulings used identical legal reasoning under the Earth Jurisprudence framework

Answer: (b). The Madras HC recognised the Tamirabharani as a 'deity' to grant it legal personality, which is a different legal route than the Uttarakhand HC's 2017 approach of declaring the Ganga and Yamuna 'legal entities'. The Supreme Court later stayed the Uttarakhand order citing practical and administrative difficulties. Options (a), (c) and (d) are factually incorrect.

Professor Academy

Q6. Which of the following statements about India's Agni-4 missile is CORRECT?

(a) It is a liquid-fuelled, three-stage missile with a range of 2,000 km

(b) It is a solid-fuelled, two-stage missile with a range of 4,000 km, operated by the Strategic Forces Command

(c) It is a cruise missile tested from the INS Arihant submarine

(d) It is an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a range exceeding 5,000 km

Answer: (b). Agni-4 is a two-stage, solid-fuelled MRBM with a range of 4,000 km and a 1,000 kg payload; it is operated by the Strategic Forces Command. Option (a) confuses the fuel and stage count; option (c) describes a submarine-launched cruise missile (that would be the K-series); option (d) describes Agni-5 (5,000+ km, ICBM-class).

Q7. India added heatwaves and lightning to its list of notified natural disasters, bringing the total to how many categories?

(a) 12

(b) 13

(c) 14

(d) 15

Answer: (c). Before the addition, India had 12 notified disaster categories (cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost/cold wave). Adding heatwaves and lightning brings the total to 14. Option (a) is the old count; options (b) and (d) are distractors.

Q8. The Slender-Billed Vulture (Gyps tenuirostris) was released into the wild for the first time from captivity. Which of the following statements is CORRECT about this species?

(a) It nests on cliffs south of the Ganges and is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List

(b) It nests in trees along and north of the Ganges and has been Critically Endangered since 2002

(c) It is found only in the Western Ghats and is the same species as the Indian Vulture

(d) Its population decline is linked to drought and habitat loss, not pharmaceutical drugs

Answer: (b). The slender-billed vulture nests in trees (unlike the Indian vulture, which nests on cliffs south of the Ganges) and is found along and north of the Ganges; it has been classified as Critically Endangered since 2002. Indian vulture populations collapsed due to veterinary NSAIDs (diclofenac etc.), not drought (option d is wrong). The two species are distinct (option c is wrong).

Q9. The Parichha Weir, which received ICID World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS) recognition, is located on which river?

(a) Chambal River

(b) Son River

(c) Betwa River

(d) Ken River

Answer: (c). The Parichha Weir (1886) is located on the Betwa River in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, forming the headworks of the Betwa Canal System. The Betwa is a right-bank tributary of the Yamuna rising in Madhya Pradesh. The Chambal (option a), Son (b) and Ken (d) are other MP/UP rivers often confused with the Betwa.

Q10. Lebanon's abolition of the death penalty makes it the first country in which region to formally do so?

(a) Africa

(b) South Asia

(c) Middle East

(d) Southeast Asia

Answer: (c). Lebanon's Parliament abolished the death penalty, making Lebanon the first Middle Eastern country to formally end capital punishment. The Middle East as a region had retained the death penalty across all its countries until this historic legislation.

Q11. The SHANTI Act (Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Act) is significant because it:

(a) Bans private participation in nuclear energy, reserving the sector for public sector units

(b) Provides the legal framework for private participation and up to 49% FDI in India's nuclear sector

(c) Establishes the National Nuclear Regulatory Authority to replace the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

(d) Mandates India's exit from all international nuclear agreements

Answer: (b). The SHANTI Act enables private sector participation and allows up to 49% foreign direct investment in India's nuclear sector. This is a landmark shift from the earlier purely state-controlled nuclear sector under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962. Options (a), (c) and (d) contradict the stated purposes of the Act.

Professor Academy

Q12. Consider the following about the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement 2026: 1. It was signed by Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan. 2. Pakistan is described as the world's only nuclear-armed Muslim-majority country. 3. Turkey has the largest military in NATO. Which of the above is/are CORRECT?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is incorrect: Turkey has NATO's SECOND-largest military, not the largest (the US has the largest). This distinction is a common exam trap when questions combine the NATO context with the Mecca pact.

Q13. The EVEREST engine developed by Astrobase Space Technologies is India's first private rocket engine of which type?

(a) Gas generator cycle
(b) Expander cycle
(c) Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC)
(d) Pressure-fed cycle

Answer: (c). EVEREST is India's first private rocket engine using Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) technology, producing 800 kN thrust. FFSC routes all propellants through pre-burners for maximum efficiency and is also used by SpaceX's Raptor engine. Gas generator (option a) and expander (option b) cycles are less efficient older technologies.

Q14. The Tribunals Reforms Bill 2026 establishes a National Tribunals Commission (NTC). What is the prescribed time limit for the Central Government to process NTC recommendations and make appointments?

(a) One month
(b) Two months
(c) Three months
(d) Six months

Answer: (c). The Tribunals Reforms Bill 2026 mandates that the Central Government must process NTC recommendations and make appointments within three months. This provision directly addresses the chronic vacancy problem in India's tribunals. Options (a), (b) and (d) are distractors with different time periods.

Q15. Which of the following correctly describes the Sapta Dhara framework announced on Independence Day 2026?

(a) A seven-point environmental action plan under the Paris Agreement
(b) A seven-area national development framework aiming at Viksit Bharat by 2047, covering manufacturing, agriculture, technology, Gati Shakti, defence self-reliance, green/blue economy and India's soft power
(c) A seven-ministry coordination mechanism for implementing the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan
(d) A seven-year financial plan equivalent to the erstwhile Five-Year Plans

Answer: (b). Sapta Dhara (Shakti Ki Saptadhara) is the seven-area national development framework announced on 15 August 2026 targeting Viksit Bharat by 2047. It covers exactly the seven areas listed in option (b). Options (a), (c) and (d) mischaracterise it as environmental, coordination or financial planning frameworks.

Q16. West Bengal's joining of AB-PMJAY is significant because it:

(a) Made West Bengal the first State to implement the scheme under a special dispensation
(b) Completed nationwide coverage with West Bengal becoming the 36th and final State/UT to join
(c) Introduced a new ₹10 lakh coverage limit specifically for West Bengal
(d) Replaced the existing West Bengal government's Swasthya Sathi scheme with AB-PMJAY entirely

Answer: (b). West Bengal became the 36th and final State/UT to implement AB-PMJAY, completing nationwide coverage of the world's largest government-funded health insurance scheme. The standard coverage is ₹5 lakh per family per year (option c is wrong). Option (d) is not stated; option (a) mischaracterises the basis of the joining.

Q17. India's first release of captive-bred slender-billed vultures was done at which location?

(a) Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, Rajasthan
(b) Jatayu Soft Release Centre, Kaziranga National Park, Assam
(c) Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Karnataka
(d) Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan

Answer: (b). The five captive-bred slender-billed vultures were released at the Jatayu Soft Release Centre in the Biswanath Division of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam. The BNHS's conservation breeding facility in Assam raised these birds. Options (a), (c) and (d) are bird sanctuaries in other states unrelated to this event.

Professor Academy

Q18. The Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme (FAST-DS) 2026 was introduced under:

(a) Chapter IV of the Finance Act, 2026, allowing eligible small taxpayers to disclose undisclosed foreign assets by paying specified tax

(b) Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934, allowing NBFCs to disclose overseas holdings

(c) Chapter II of the Black Money Act, 2015, for retrospective disclosure

(d) The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana as a one-time amnesty for small farmers

Answer: (a). FAST-DS is a one-time voluntary disclosure scheme introduced under Chapter IV of the Finance Act, 2026, notified by the CBDT on August 16, 2026, with a deadline of December 31, 2026. Option (b) confuses it with the polymer currency provision; options (c) and (d) cite unrelated laws.

Q19. India's first major investment conclave in Tamil Nadu resulted in how many MoUs worth what total value?

(a) 75 MoUs worth over ₹50,000 crore

(b) 97 MoUs worth over ₹67,542 crore

(c) 120 MoUs worth over ₹1 lakh crore

(d) 54 MoUs worth over ₹30,000 crore

Answer: (b). Tamil Nadu signed 97 MoUs worth over ₹67,542 crore at the State's first major investment conclave. Notable investors include Titan (₹1,000 crore), Hinduja Group (₹2,500 crore) and Saint-Gobain (₹2,000 crore). The other options contain incorrect figures.

Q20. The RBI's Scale Based Regulation (SBR) framework for NBFCs comprises four layers. Which of the following is the CORRECT order from lowest to highest regulatory requirement?

(a) Top Layer → Upper Layer → Middle Layer → Base Layer

(b) Base Layer → Middle Layer → Upper Layer → Top Layer

(c) Middle Layer → Base Layer → Upper Layer → Top Layer

(d) Base Layer → Upper Layer → Middle Layer → Top Layer

Answer: (b). RBI's SBR framework has four ascending tiers of regulatory requirements: Base Layer (NBFC-BL) → Middle Layer (NBFC-ML) → Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) → Top Layer (NBFC-TL). NBFCs in the Upper Layer face bank-equivalent enhanced regulation. Options (a), (c) and (d) give incorrect orderings.

Professor Academy

AUGUST 21–31, 2026

Q1. Which agency operates the SRIJAN portal for India's Positive Indigenisation List in defence procurement?

(a) DRDO
(b) Ministry of Defence
(c) ISRO
(d) BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited)

Answer: (b). The SRIJAN portal is managed by the Ministry of Defence to enable Indian MSMEs to express interest in manufacturing items on the Positive Indigenisation List. DRDO conducts R&D, BEL is a manufacturer, and ISRO is unrelated to defence procurement lists.

Q2. UPI was launched in 2016 by which organisation?

(a) RBI (Reserve Bank of India)
(b) NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)
(c) SEBI
(d) Ministry of Finance

Answer: (b). UPI was developed and launched in 2016 by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India). RBI regulates NPCI but did not develop UPI. SEBI and Ministry of Finance play no role in payment system development.

Q3. The Buckingham Canal was originally built in 1806 by which individual?

(a) Lord Cornwallis
(b) Basil Cochrane
(c) Arthur Wellesley
(d) Lord Dalhousie

Answer: (b). The Buckingham Canal was built by Basil Cochrane in 1806. It was renamed the Buckingham Canal in 1878 after the Duke of Buckingham. Lord Cornwallis and Wellesley are associated with different British India administrative and military events.

Q4. Which BNSS section prescribes hanging as the method of execution in India?

(a) Section 302
(b) Section 393(5)
(c) Section 84
(d) Section 151-A

Answer: (b). BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita) Section 393(5) prescribes hanging as the method of execution. The Supreme Court upheld this provision as not violating Article 21 in August 2026. Section 302 was in the old IPC and related to murder as an offence, not execution method.

Q5. Tamil Nadu's Vettri Payanam free bus scheme for women was extended to which additional bus categories from October 2, 2026?

(a) AC buses and metro trains
(b) Express, LSS (Limited Stop Service), and deluxe buses
(c) Mini-buses and share autos
(d) Interstate buses only

Answer: (b). Vettri Payanam was expanded from October 2 (Gandhi Jayanti) 2026 to include Express, Limited Stop Service (LSS), and Deluxe buses. The scheme was previously limited to ordinary TNSTC buses. AC buses and metro trains are not part of this extension.

Q6. The Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram scheme provides which benefit to mothers of newborns in Tamil Nadu government hospitals?

(a) ₹5,000 cash incentive
(b) 1 gram 22-carat gold ring
(c) Free LPG cylinder
(d) Free health insurance for 1 year

Answer: (b). The Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram scheme gifts 1 gram of 22-carat gold ring to mothers delivering in Tamil Nadu government hospitals. The scheme covers 4.41 lakh expected newborns. The other options relate to different schemes.

Professor Academy

Q7. Madras was founded in 1639 and renamed Chennai on which date?

(a) August 15, 1947
(b) January 26, 1950
(c) July 17, 1996
(d) November 1, 1956

Answer: (c). Madras was renamed Chennai on July 17, 1996 under the DMK government. The city was founded in 1639. August 15 is Independence Day; January 26 is Republic Day; November 1 is Reorganisation of States Day — none related to Chennai's renaming.

Q8. How many countries remain on the US State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) list after Syria's removal in 2026?

(a) 5 countries
(b) 4 countries
(c) 3 countries
(d) 2 countries

Answer: (c). After Syria's removal in 2026 (it had been listed since 1979), three countries remain on the SSOT list: Cuba, Iran, and North Korea. Syria was removed following the fall of the Assad regime and engagement by the new Syrian government with the West.

Q9. Japan calls the disputed Kuril Islands by what name?

(a) Southern Sakhalin
(b) Northern Territories
(c) Eastern Islands
(d) Etorofu Islands

Answer: (b). Japan refers to the four southernmost Kuril Islands (Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan, and the Habomai group) as its 'Northern Territories', claiming them as an inalienable part of Japan. Russia controls all Kuril Islands since 1945. The Treaty of Shimoda (1855) had earlier defined the boundary.

Q10. The CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) applies to imports of which group of products?

(a) Automobiles, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals
(b) Iron, steel, aluminium, cement, fertilisers, and electricity
(c) Textiles, clothing, footwear, and rubber
(d) Food, beverages, tobacco, and cosmetics

Answer: (b). The EU's CBAM currently covers iron, steel, aluminium, cement, fertilisers, and electricity. The mechanism charges importers for embedded carbon emissions in these carbon-intensive sectors. BRICS nations criticised CBAM as trade protectionism.

Q11. Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana) is notable because it blooms once every how many years?

(a) 7 years
(b) 10 years
(c) 12 years
(d) 15 years

Answer: (c). Neelakurinji blooms once every 12 years, creating a mass purple flowering spectacle in the Western Ghats. The last major bloom was in 2018 in the Nilgiris. It is found in 34 localities and is under conservation pressure from tourism.

Q12. India's first Soil Texture Map at hectare-level resolution was released by which ICAR institute?

(a) ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
(b) ICAR-NRCB, Tiruchirappalli
(c) NBSS&LUP, Nagpur
(d) ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai

Answer: (c). The NBSS&LUP (National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning) based in Nagpur under ICAR released India's first hectare-level soil texture map. ICAR-IARI is in New Delhi (crops research); NRCB is in Tiruchirappalli (banana research); CIFE is fisheries research.

Q13. Which of the following statements about the Dehing Patkai National Park is INCORRECT?

(a) It is located in Assam, spanning Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts
(b) It is sometimes called the 'Amazon of the East'
(c) The recent butterfly survey recorded 165 species
(d) It is located in Arunachal Pradesh, not Assam

Answer: (d). Dehing Patkai National Park is located in Assam (Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts), not Arunachal Pradesh. It spans 234.26 sq km and is called the 'Amazon of the East' for its dense wet evergreen forests. The butterfly survey recorded 165 species including 37 endangered ones.

Professor Academy

Q14. What is the planned mass of India's Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS-01)?

(a) 25 tonnes
(b) 38 tonnes
(c) 52 tonnes
(d) 70 tonnes

Answer: (c). BAS-01 (Bharatiya Antariksha Station) is designed to weigh 52 tonnes with 5 modules, orbiting at 400–450 km LEO, and accommodating 3–4 crew members. Full deployment is targeted by 2035. 25 tonnes and 38 tonnes are incorrect; 70 tonnes is also not the planned mass.

Q15. Consider the following statements about GISAT-1A: 1. It replaces EOS-03, which was lost in a GSLV-F10 launch failure in August 2021. 2. It will be launched on GSLV Mk-III. 3. It is meant to be placed in Geostationary Orbit for continuous India monitoring. Which statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (b). Statement 1 is correct — GISAT-1A replaces EOS-03 (GISAT-1) lost in the GSLV-F10 failure on August 12, 2021. Statement 3 is correct — GISAT-1A will be placed in geostationary orbit. Statement 2 is INCORRECT — the launch vehicle is GSLV Mk-II, not Mk-III.

Q16. India's foreign exchange reserves reached a record $729.3 billion for the week ending August 21, 2026. Which is the LARGEST component of India's forex reserves?

(a) Gold reserves
(b) Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)
(c) Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)
(d) Reserve Tranche Position at IMF

Answer: (c). Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) are the largest component of India's forex reserves, typically accounting for 85–90% of the total. Gold, SDRs, and IMF reserve tranche form much smaller shares. The record FCA rose by $9.4 billion in the August 21 week.

Q17. What is the ownership split (Centre : State : Sponsor Bank) of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)?

(a) 50% : 25% : 25%
(b) 60% : 20% : 20%
(c) 50% : 15% : 35%
(d) 40% : 30% : 30%

Answer: (c). The RRB ownership is split as 50% Central Government, 15% State Government, and 35% Sponsor Commercial Bank. RRBs serve rural credit needs and are governed by the RRB Act, 1976. The 91.7% PSL compliance is among the highest in the banking sector.

Q18. Chhattisgarh's Tilapia fish export to the US made it historically significant because:

(a) It is the first state to export marine fish
(b) It became the first inland state to export Tilapia fish internationally
(c) It is the largest fish exporter in India
(d) Tilapia was declared India's national fish

Answer: (b). Chhattisgarh became India's first landlocked/inland state to export Tilapia fish internationally — 382 tonnes were shipped to the United States. This was enabled through PMMSY (Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana) funding. India's national fish is Rohu/River Dolphin, not Tilapia.

Q19. Meghalaya's opposition to uranium mining is protected under which constitutional provision?

(a) Fifth Schedule — tribal areas in peninsular India
(b) Sixth Schedule — tribal areas of North-East India
(c) Article 370 — special status provisions
(d) Article 371 — special provisions for certain states

Answer: (b). Meghalaya's tribal areas are protected under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (Articles 244 and 275), which grants autonomous district councils special governance rights in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. The Fifth Schedule applies to tribal areas elsewhere in India. Article 370 has been abrogated.

Professor Academy

Q20. Lakshmanan Meyyappan made news in August 2026 for becoming:

(a) The youngest Indian chess grandmaster at age 14

(b) The world's youngest male Chartered Accountant as per Guinness World Records

(c) The first Indian to complete all 14 eight-thousanders

(d) The youngest Member of Parliament in India

Answer: (b). Lakshmanan Meyyappan, aged 16 years 141 days and based in Dubai, became the world's youngest male Chartered Accountant as recorded by Guinness World Records. Pranesh M is the chess grandmaster who won the Grand Chess Tour; Nimsdai Purja completed all 14 eight-thousanders (he is Nepali, not Indian).

Professor Academy

SEPTEMBER 2026

Q1. Which country conferred its highest state honour, the Order of Oliy Darajali Dustlik, on PM Narendra Modi?

(a) Kyrgyzstan
(b) Uzbekistan
(c) Kazakhstan
(d) Tajikistan

Answer: (b) Uzbekistan. Reported in the September 2026 quick bytes.

Q2. Who was crowned Miss World 2026 at the finale in Nha Trang, Vietnam?

(a) Opal Suchata (Thailand)
(b) Krystyna Pyszkova (Czechia)
(c) Emma Morrison (Canada)
(d) Joheirry Mola (Dominican Republic)

Answer: (d) Joheirry Mola (Dominican Republic). Joheirry Mola of the Dominican Republic won the 2026 title.

Q3. India's forex reserves hit a record high of US$740.8 billion in the week ended August 28, 2026. What was the previous weekly record noted in this compilation?

(a) US$729.3 billion
(b) US$700.0 billion
(c) US$715.5 billion
(d) US$735.0 billion

Answer: (a) US$729.3 billion. The weekly update of Aug 2026 recorded US$729.3 billion; September update raised it to US$740.8 billion.

Q4. India won the Women's T20 Asia Cup 2026 final against which team, extending its record to eight titles?

(a) Pakistan (by 72 runs)
(b) Bangladesh (by 40 runs)
(c) Sri Lanka (by 72 runs)
(d) Sri Lanka (by 8 wickets)

Answer: (c) Sri Lanka (by 72 runs). The final was played in Dubai; India won by 72 runs.

Q5. Who became the first Indian male recurve archer to win World Cup Final gold, at Saltillo, Mexico?

(a) Atanu Das
(b) Dhiraj Bommadevara
(c) Tarundeep Rai
(d) Rahul Banerjee

Answer: (b) Dhiraj Bommadevara. Dhiraj Bommadevara made history at the Archery World Cup Final.

Q6. The 22nd edition of the India–US Army exercise Yudh Abhyas is being held at which place?

(a) Auli, Uttarakhand
(b) Pune, Maharashtra
(c) Jodhpur, Rajasthan
(d) Bikaner, Rajasthan

Answer: (d) Bikaner, Rajasthan. It is conducted in a two-theatre format.

Q7. Exercise Veer Guardian-2026 is a bilateral air exercise between India and which country?

(a) Japan
(b) France
(c) Australia
(d) Egypt

Answer: (a) Japan. Held at Air Force Station Jodhpur between the IAF and JASDF.

Q8. SLINEX-26, the 13th edition of a bilateral naval exercise, is held at which port?

(a) Kochi
(b) Mumbai
(c) Visakhapatnam
(d) Chennai

Answer: (c) Visakhapatnam. It is an India–Sri Lanka naval exercise.

Professor Academy

Q9. Exercise Nomadic Elephant (18th edition) is an annual military exercise between India and which country?

(a) Kazakhstan
(b) Mongolia
(c) Nepal
(d) Uzbekistan

Answer: (b) Mongolia. Began in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

Q10. India's cheetah population reached 56 after which India-born cheetah gave birth to four cubs?

(a) Gemini
(b) Jwala
(c) Nabha
(d) KGP12

Answer: (d) KGP12. KGP12 is the daughter of South African cheetah Gemini.

Q11. Tata Sons reappointed N. Chandrasekaran as Executive Chairman for a five-year term beginning in which month?

(a) February 2027
(b) April 2026
(c) October 2026
(d) January 2028

Answer: (a) February 2027. The term runs from February 2027 to February 2032.

Q12. Nobel-winning economist Michael Kremer was appointed to which post at the World Bank Group?

(a) President
(b) Managing Director
(c) Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics
(d) Chief Executive Officer

Answer: (c) Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics. Reported in the September 2026 quick bytes.

Q13. Who became Executive Chairman of Apple Inc. in the leadership change announced on September 1, 2026?

(a) Jeff Williams
(b) Tim Cook
(c) Luca Maestri
(d) Craig Federighi

Answer: (b) Tim Cook. Tim Cook moved from CEO to Executive Chairman.

Q14. World Tourism Day is observed annually on which date?

(a) 21 September
(b) 24 September
(c) 30 September
(d) 27 September

Answer: (d) 27 September. International Day of Peace is 21 Sept, World Maritime Day 24 Sept, International Translation Day 30 Sept.

Q15. Which Ocean Research Vessel was launched at Rishi Bankim Shipyard, Kolkata?

(a) Sagar Manthan
(b) Sagar Kanya
(c) Sindhu Sadhana
(d) Sagar Nidhi

Answer: (a) Sagar Manthan. It strengthens India's domestic ocean research capability.

Q16. Which is the Indian Navy's first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel, built by L&T at Kattupalli?

(a) Nipun
(b) Nistar
(c) Samarthak
(d) Shaunak

Answer: (c) Samarthak. Nipun is the second Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel.

Professor Academy

Q17. Which city is set to host Asia's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (₹5,500 crore)?

(a) Hyderabad, Telangana
(b) Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
(c) Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu
(d) Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (b) Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. Reported in the September 2026 quick bytes.

Q18. Which Indian State will introduce a mandatory Hazard Perception Test for driving licence applicants – a first in India?

(a) Tamil Nadu
(b) Karnataka
(c) Goa
(d) Keralam

Answer: (d) Keralam. Reported in the September 2026 quick bytes.

Q19. Veteran actor Anant Nag will receive the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for which year?

(a) 2024
(b) 2023
(c) 2025
(d) 2026

Answer: (a) 2024. To be presented at the National Film Awards ceremony.

Q20. Which team won the maiden Global Chess League (GCL) title in Bengaluru?

(a) Alpine APL Pipers
(b) Triveni Continental Kings
(c) Ganges Grandmasters
(d) Mumbai Masters

Answer: (c) Ganges Grandmasters. They defeated the defending champions Alpine APL Pipers.

Professor Academy