TNPSC MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

October 2026

1. NATIONAL NEWS

1.1 Energy Transmission and Vehicle Emission Norms

- PM-DHARA: The Union Cabinet approved PM-Developing Harmonized and Accelerated Renewable-energy Access to strengthen intra-State transmission; it aims to evacuate up to **135 GW** of renewable energy by FY 2032–33.
- Funding: Central Financial Support of ₹54,082 crore offsets intra-State transmission charges; 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) will be deployed.
- Green Energy Corridor Phase-III: Reported in the same period with the same 135 GW and 50 GWh targets, to be implemented by State Transmission Utilities (STUs).
- CAFE-III norms: Notified for passenger vehicles for 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032; the target tightens from 3.996 litres per 100 km (2027–28) to 3.3273 litres per 100 km (2031–32); each battery electric vehicle counts as **3 vehicles**.
- BS-VII (proposed): MoRTH proposed Bharat Stage VII for passenger cars from 1 April 2029, in three phases (April 2029, 2031 and 2035); EV batteries must retain at least 75% performance for 5 years or 100,000 km.

Learn Basics:

- Intra-State transmission: the power network inside a State that carries electricity from generation points to consumers.
- BESS (Battery Energy Storage System): stores surplus power and releases it when demand rises, helping manage the intermittency of solar and wind.
- CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency): a standard limiting the average fuel consumption of a manufacturer's fleet.
- **Exam point of view:** BS-VII is only a proposal, whereas CAFE-III has already been notified.

1.2 Social Welfare and Rural Governance Schemes

- National Social Assistance Programme: The Cabinet approved continuation for 2026–27 to 2030–31 with an outlay of ₹53,428 crore; it is renamed **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana** and will cover 3.20 crore beneficiaries.
- NSAP background: Launched on 15 August 1995 in line with Article 41; disability pension eligibility is widened from 80% to 40% benchmark disability, with central assistance of ₹375 per month up to age 79 and ₹625 from age 80.
- PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana: A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 2026–27 to 2030–31 with an outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore; digital tools include eGramSwaraj, PANCHAM (chatbot) and AuditOnline.
- VB-G RAM G: 375 permissible works notified, a 41% increase over the earlier 266; Water Security has the most works (128).
- PM-AJAY: 18,093 villages had been declared Adarsh Grams as of 8 September 2026; the scheme is run by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for Scheduled Caste communities.

Learn Basics:

- Article 41 is a Directive Principle that directs the State to secure the right to work, education and public assistance in cases such as old age, sickness and disablement.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme: funded jointly by the Centre and States, unlike a Central Sector Scheme, which the Centre funds fully.

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- Adarsh Gram: a village developed as a model village under PM-AJAY.
- **Exam point of view:** Article 41 belongs to the Directive Principles (Part IV), not the Fundamental Rights.

1.3 Transport, Logistics and Maritime Sector

- Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority: The Cabinet approved ITLA as a Special Purpose Vehicle; it will prepare a National Transport Master Plan (horizon of 10 years or more) and appraise projects costing **₹500 crore or more**.
- Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme: Approved on 28 October 2026 with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore up to FY 2039–40; it aims to raise annual capacity nearly 10-fold to 7.5 lakh TEUs.
- Mega ports: Four ports were notified under the Indian Ports Act, 2025: Deendayal (Kandla), Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Nhava Sheva), Paradip and Mundra; Mundra is the only one earlier classified as non-major.
- Mega-port criteria: A port needs 150 million tonnes of bulk cargo or 7.5 million TEUs of container cargo a year; the status is valid for 5 years.
- Blue bond: Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL), India's first maritime NBFC, will issue India's first blue bond to raise ₹600 crore through 10-year securities.
- NW-2 voyage: The first international cargo voyage from Dibrugarh (Assam) to Dhaka carried methanol from Assam Petro-Chemicals via National Waterway-2 and the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.

Learn Basics:

- TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit): the standard unit for measuring container cargo.
- Blue bond: a debt instrument that finances sustainable use and protection of oceans and water ecosystems.
- Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV): a separate entity created to carry out a specific project or function.
- **Exam point of view:** Seychelles issued the world's first sovereign blue bond in 2018.

1.4 Courts and Constitutional Rulings

- Candidate disclosures: The Supreme Court held that ordinary voters can file criminal complaints under **Section 125-A** of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 against candidates who give false information or conceal details in nomination affidavits.
- Children and the internet: The Court recognised children's right to access and use the internet under Articles 21 and 19(1)(a), observing that blanket bans may be disproportionate and recommending safeguards such as child-mode accounts.
- OBC quota in Andhra Pradesh: The Court rejected the State's plea to restore 34% reservation for Backward Classes in local bodies, leaving the High Court's decision in place.
- Judicial officers' retirement age: 14 States agreed to raise the retirement age of district judicial officers from 60 to **62**; seven States including Tamil Nadu must let eligible officers who retired on or after 31 March 2026 opt to rejoin.
- CAPF Act, 2026: The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026 came into force on 8 October 2026 while its validity is challenged in the Supreme Court; it concerns cadre management and IPS deputation to senior CAPF posts.

Learn Basics:

- Article 21: protection of life and personal liberty. Article 19(1)(a): freedom of speech and expression.

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- Section 125-A (inserted in 2002): penalises false information or concealment in election affidavits.
- Organised Group A Services: services recognised by the Supreme Court (23 May 2025) for CAPF Group A officers, with a gradual cut in IPS deputation.
- **Exam point of view:** Retirement ages: Supreme Court judges 65, High Court judges 62, district judicial officers 60 (62 proposed).

1.5 Elections, Census and Constitutional Bodies

- Special Summary Revision: The Election Commission announced SSR in 14 States and 3 Union Territories with **1 January 2027** as the qualifying date; it resumes annual enrolment stalled by the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).
- Re-enrolment: Wrongly deleted voters can be re-enrolled using Form 6 without an ancestry declaration; searchable electoral rolls will be provided in text PDF format.
- Data points: In West Bengal 38 lakh appeals were filed (22 lakh by deleted voters); in Bihar the gender ratio in electoral rolls fell from 907 to 892 after the SIR.
- Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026: Modifies Rule 3 of the Census Rules, 1990 so private-school teachers and clerical staff of PSUs and banks can be appointed enumerators for the digital Census; enumerators have the legal status of public servants.
- 100 years of UPSC: The first Public Service Commission was set up on 1 October 1926; the Government of India Act, 1935 reorganised it as the Federal Public Service Commission and the Constitution (1950) gave it constitutional status.

Learn Basics:

- Qualifying date: the date on which a person must have turned 18 to be enrolled in that revision of the electoral roll.
- Form 6: the application form used to enrol as a new voter.
- Census Act, 1948: the law under which the Census is conducted.
- **Exam point of view:** SSR is the routine annual revision, different from the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

1.6 Health, Nutrition and Medical Regulation

- JOSH initiative: Joint Squad for Health teams (TB Mukt Bharat Teams) were launched to eliminate tuberculosis through youth participation; the first phase covers 55 districts in 11 States and UTs, and each team has **five MY Bharat volunteers and five NCC cadets**.
- eSanjeevani: India's National Telemedicine Service crossed 50 crore teleconsultations; it was launched in 2019 by the Health Ministry under Ayushman Bharat and developed by C-DAC.
- Anaemia Mukt Bharat: Launched in 2018 and revised to a 7×7×7 strategy (seven beneficiary groups, seven interventions); Double Fortified Salt carries iron and iodine.
- Medical device reuse: The DGHS directed public and private facilities to stop reusing devices labelled single-use because of cross-infection and malfunction risks.
- CERVAVAC: The WHO granted prequalification to CERVAVAC, the first Indian-made quadrivalent HPV vaccine to receive it.

Learn Basics:

- WHO prequalification: a WHO assessment that a medicine or vaccine meets quality, safety and efficacy standards, enabling UN agencies to buy it.
- Telemedicine: delivery of medical consultation remotely using digital technology.
- Double Fortified Salt: salt fortified with iron and iodine to prevent iron-deficiency anaemia.

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1.7 Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock

- Pashudhan Bima Portal: Launched in New Delhi as a single digital platform for livestock insurance (policy issue, claims); part of the National Livestock Mission.
- Fisheries: India recorded its highest-ever fish production of **19.8 million tonnes** in 2024–25; aquaculture contributes over 74%, and a target of 30 million tonnes is set for the next five years.
- Paraquat dichloride ban: The Agriculture Ministry banned this highly toxic herbicide after an expert review; the Insecticides Act, 1968 regulates such pesticides.
- Kufri Jamunia: ICAR's biofortified purple potato contains 42.75 mg vitamin C, 3.22 mg iron and 2.28 mg zinc per 100 g, plus anthocyanins.
- Female Farmer Worker Conference: India's first such conference was held in New Delhi, organised by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh.

Learn Basics:

- Aquaculture: farming of aquatic animals and plants such as carp and shrimp.
- Biofortification: breeding crops to raise their nutrient content.
- Contact herbicide: a weedkiller that acts on the plant parts it touches.

1.8 Defence and Security

- Land Warfare Doctrine 2026: Released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Army Commanders' Conference; it draws on the Russia–Ukraine conflict, the Iran–US conflict and Operation Sindoor and stresses AI, drones and multi-domain operations.
- IAF chief: Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit was appointed the **29th Chief of the Air Staff**, taking charge on 31 October 2026 from Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh.
- Nyoma firsts: An IAF IL-76MD landed at Nyoma airfield in Ladakh at 13,629 ft, and DRDO conducted the maiden live jump of the Advanced High-Altitude Parachute there.
- New ships: INS Samarthak, India's first indigenous multi-purpose vessel, was commissioned at Karwar; INS Mangrol, the third Mahe-class anti-submarine shallow-water craft, was commissioned in Mumbai.
- Exercises: Several bilateral and multilateral exercises were held during the month (see table).

Exercise	Partner / Venue
KONKAN 2026	Indian Navy – UK Royal Navy, off Plymouth
Mountain Guardian 2026 (3rd edition)	India–UAE, Chaubatia, Uttarakhand
AUSTRAHIND (5th edition)	India–Australia, Thiruvananthapuram
SIMBEX 2026 (33rd edition)	India–Singapore, Visakhapatnam
IBSAMAR (9th edition)	India–Brazil–South Africa, hosted by South Africa

Learn Basics:

- Doctrine: an official statement of principles guiding how military forces plan and fight.
- Multi-domain operations: coordinated action across land, air, sea, space and cyber domains.
- Chief of the Air Staff: the professional head of the Indian Air Force.

2. TAMIL NADU NEWS

2.1 Welfare Schemes and Concessions

- Vettri Payanam: Launched on 2 October 2026 at Koyambedu, Chennai, it expands the earlier Magalir Vidiyal Payanam (May 2021) to give no-fare travel to women and transgender

persons on Express, LSS, Deluxe and Mofussil buses beyond 40 km; SETC buses are excluded.

- Court challenge: The Madras High Court dismissed a writ petition that argued free travel on government buses only would violate Article 14.
- Annan Seer: Eligible brides get an **8-gram, 22-carat gold coin** and a silk sari; family income limit ₹2.5 lakh; ₹812 crore allocated; effective 5 October 2026.
- Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram: A 1-gram gold ring for babies born in government hospitals, launched on 28 September 2026; revised rules let women who moved out of the State after marriage qualify if both maternal grandparents are Tamil Nadu residents.
- Vetri 150: Sanctioned on 20 October 2026 with ₹100 crore; extends guaranteed employment from 125 to 150 days for vulnerable rural households under VB-G RAM G (funding shared 60:40 by Union and State).
- Free bus travel for persons with disabilities: From 28 October 2026, persons with over 40% disability and one companion travel free on eligible non-AC government buses using the UDID card.
- HIV/AIDS child support: From November 2026 monthly aid is ₹3,000 (both parents lost, child living with HIV), ₹2,000 (one parent lost) and ₹1,500 for other eligible children.

Learn Basics:

- Article 14: equality before law and equal protection of the laws.
- UDID (Unique Disability ID): a national identity card for persons with disabilities.
- Rule 110: a procedure in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly allowing a minister to make an announcement of a policy decision.

2.2 Courts, Assembly and Political Developments

- Assembly privilege case: On 6 October 2026 a seven-judge Supreme Court Bench headed by CJI Surya Kant disposed of the 2003 case over the Assembly's resolution against editors of The Hindu; it involved **Article 194** and Article 19(1)(a), and the larger questions were left open.
- MLA resignations: On 13 October 2026 the Madras High Court upheld the Speaker's acceptance of the resignations of six AIADMK MLAs who later joined TVK, and told the Speaker to decide pending disqualification of four MLAs within two months.
- AIADMK disqualification plea: The Supreme Court dismissed a plea against the Speaker dropping disqualification proceedings over the 13 May 2026 confidence vote; the case involved the Tenth Schedule.
- Conversion and reservation: The Supreme Court dismissed the State's appeal, holding that a Hindu Backward Class member does not automatically become a notified Backward Muslim on conversion.
- Right to travel: The Madras High Court held that loan default alone cannot bar foreign travel and that the right to travel abroad is protected under Article 21.
- Microplastics label: The Madras High Court dismissed FSSAI's review petition on its February 2026 order requiring warnings on plastic-packed drinking water, sugar and salt.

Learn Basics:

- Article 194: powers, privileges and immunities of State legislatures and their members.
- Tenth Schedule: the anti-defection law.
- Look Out Circular (LOC): a notice used to stop a person leaving the country.
- **Exam point of view:** Article 105 gives Parliament's privileges; Article 194 gives those of State legislatures.

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2.3 Governance, Administration and Local Bodies

- Governor: On 12 October 2026 President Droupadi Murmu appointed **Rajendra Arlekar** as Tamil Nadu's full-time Governor; he had held additional charge of Keralam.
- MLA emoluments: Monthly emoluments rose 71% from ₹1.05 lakh to ₹1.80 lakh from 1 October 2026 through an amendment to the Tamil Nadu Payment of Salaries Act, 1951.
- TNRERA: The authority was reconstituted with retired IAS officer K. Phanindra Reddy as chairperson.
- Model Registration Hubs: Five hubs sanctioned at ₹7.84 crore (Chennai North, Central, South, Chengalpattu, Coimbatore) letting citizens register property and marriages at any hub irrespective of jurisdiction.
- Rural local bodies: Special officers will administer rural local bodies till 19 April 2027 because 46 rural bodies are being merged with urban bodies and delimitation is pending.
- Amrit Bharat Stations: On 11 October 2026 the Prime Minister inaugurated five redeveloped stations (Ambasamudram, Palani, Namakkal, Paramakkudi, Vellore Cantonment), taking the total to 26 of 77 stations in the State.

Learn Basics:

- RERA: the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, which regulates real estate and protects homebuyers.
- Delimitation: redrawing of constituency or ward boundaries.
- Amrit Bharat Station Scheme: launched in 2022, a phased redevelopment of 1,309 stations nationwide.

2.4 Industry, Energy and Infrastructure

- Semiconductor Ecosystem Scheme 2026: Launched in Chennai to make the State a semiconductor and electronics hub; it complements Semicon India Programme 2.0, approved on 15 July 2026.
- BESS Policy 2026: Targets at least **2.5 GW (10 GWh)** of battery storage in its three-year validity, with a 10-year waiver of transmission and wheeling charges; new solar projects of 1 MW and above must add BESS of at least 10% of solar capacity.
- Wind energy: The State generated 12,256 million units in April–September 2026, which is 16.16% of its electricity consumption (17.87% a year earlier).
- Tuticorin terminal: Tuticorin International Container Terminal at VOC Port was declared a green terminal on 22 October 2026 after 100% of its operational equipment was electrified.
- GARC Chennai: The Global Automotive Research Centre, Oragadam is being upgraded with ₹221.13 crore under PM E-DRIVE.

Learn Basics:

- Wheeling charges: fees paid to use the distribution network to carry power from generator to consumer.
- Semiconductor value chain: chip design, wafer fabrication, equipment, materials and skills.
- PM E-DRIVE: Prime Minister Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement scheme.

2.5 Water, Climate and Environment

- Cauvery shortfall: Tamil Nadu received only **44.208 tmc ft** against the usual 123.14 tmc ft in the June–September 2026 monsoon, its lowest realisation in 14 years.
- Mettur and the delta: Mettur Dam held 36.639 tmc ft in October 2026; delta paddy coverage was 1.68 lakh acres by 5 October against 2.64 lakh acres a year earlier.

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- Rainwater harvesting: A statewide campaign was ordered to revive and create structures; the State made rainwater harvesting mandatory for buildings as policy in 2002.
- Forest conservation plan: ₹100.72 crore over 2026–27 to 2030–31, including a ₹60.58 crore forest-fire programme and 25 one-hectare nature parks.
- El Niño outlook: Tamil Nadu may receive heavy northeast monsoon rainfall, unlike much of India, in an El Niño year.

Learn Basics:

- tmc ft: thousand million cubic feet, the unit used to measure reservoir storage and river flow.
- El Niño: unusual warming of Pacific surface waters that alters global weather patterns.
- Firka: a revenue subdivision of a taluk in Tamil Nadu.

2.6 Public Health Achievements

- HIV 95-95-95: Tamil Nadu achieved the NACP-V target of 95-95-95 in September 2026: 95% know their status, 95% of those diagnosed are on ART and 95% of those treated are virally suppressed.
- Prevalence: HIV prevalence fell from 0.40% in 2010 to **0.19%** in 2023; the State aims to be HIV/AIDS-free by 2030 and has 1,63,151 people under treatment.
- TB-free panchayats: 2,390 Gram Panchayats were declared TB-free for 2025; the State's TB incidence fell from 192 per lakh (2015) to 171 per lakh (2024).
- JOSH teams: Thoothukudi, Tiruchi, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri and Theni were chosen for Phase I of the Joint Squad for Health teams.

Learn Basics:

- ART (Antiretroviral Therapy): drugs that suppress the HIV virus.
- Viral suppression: a level of virus in the blood so low that it cannot be detected or transmitted.
- NACP: National AIDS Control Programme.

2.7 History, Archaeology and Heritage

- Thelunganur: Near Mettur Dam in Salem district, the Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology found an intact black-and-red ware bowl with **five graffiti symbols** in sequence, the longest recorded in the State, hinting at an early writing system.
- Iron Age finds: The Thelunganur and Mangadu sites date to 1600–1200 BCE; finds include a 1.9-metre iron spear, swords, skeletal remains of two individuals and four burial types (pit, cist, urn, sarcophagus).
- Medavakkam inscription: A Chola-era stone inscription of 1268 CE, from the time of Telugu Chola king Vijaya Ganda Gopalan, was found at Nalla Thanneer Kulam, Chennai.
- Tranquebar: A model of the Danish frigate Elephant, which landed at Tharangambadi in 1620 under Admiral Ove Gedde, was donated to the Tranquebar Maritime Museum.
- Mudalur: Established in 1799 by David Sundaranandan in Tirunelveli district, it was the State's first exclusive Christian settlement.
- First confidence motion: After Congress lost the 1952 Aruppukottai bypoll, C. Rajagopalachari's government won the first confidence vote in an Indian legislature, **200–151**, on 4 July 1952.

Learn Basics:

- Graffiti marks: symbols scratched on pottery, studied as possible precursors of writing.
- Black-and-red ware: a type of pottery associated with Iron Age megalithic cultures.

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- Confidence motion: a vote in a legislature to test whether the government still commands majority support.

3. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

3.1 Regional Groupings and Multilateral Meetings

- BIMSTEC: The first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting and the 11th Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism were held; BIMSTEC has **seven members**: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- BRICS Parliamentary Forum: The 12th forum was held in New Delhi during India's 2026 BRICS Chairship; it reconvenes in 2027 under China's chairship.
- CICA: The 7th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia was held; India urged unity against all forms of terrorism.
- ADMM-Plus: The 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus was held in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairmanship, with 11 ASEAN states and 8 dialogue partners.
- SCO: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented India at the 25th SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Learn Basics:

- BIMSTEC: Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- CICA: a forum for security and confidence building among Asian states.
- ADMM-Plus: ASEAN's defence ministers' forum with eight dialogue partners.

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3.2 India's Trade and Diplomatic Partnerships

- India–New Zealand FTA: Came into force on **20 October 2026** and is India's 17th operational free trade agreement.
- Terms: New Zealand removed tariffs on 100% of Indian goods; India gives concessions on 70% of tariff lines; New Zealand committed to facilitate $20 billion FDI over 15 years.
- India–Switzerland: The Swiss Confederation's President held talks with India; both agreed to strengthen trade, investment and the Migration and Mobility Partnership.
- Costa Rica: India operationalised a resident diplomatic mission in San José, the capital of Costa Rica.
- ASEAN trade: ASEAN emerged as the fastest-growing export market; India's petroleum product exports to ASEAN rose 2.4 times to over US$6.1 billion.
- Excess capacity initiative: India joined the United States and 13 other economies in a joint statement on excess production and non-market practices in five sectors.

India–New Zealand FTA	Key details
Entry into force	20 October 2026
NZ tariff removal	100% of Indian goods
India's concessions	70% of tariff lines (about 95% of trade value)
NZ FDI commitment	US$20 billion over 15 years
Trade target	NZ$7 billion by 2030

Learn Basics:

- Free Trade Agreement (FTA): a pact in which countries reduce or remove tariffs on most trade between them.

- Tariff line: a product category in a country's tariff schedule.
- Resident diplomatic mission: an embassy based in the host country, rather than accredited from another country.

3.3 Global Governance, Security and Diplomacy

- Swiss neutrality referendum: On 27 September 2026 Swiss voters rejected the Neutrality Initiative, with **70.15%** against; all cantons rejected it, so it failed the double majority.
- UN sea-level declaration: The UN General Assembly adopted its first declaration on sea-level rise, stating that island nations do not automatically lose statehood if territory is submerged.
- IMF–World Bank chair: Pakistan will chair the Boards of Governors of the IMF and World Bank in 2027, for the first time since 1953.
- Badr MoU: Türkiye, Qatar, Pakistan and Indonesia signed the Badr Memorandum of Understanding in Doha for joint defence manufacturing; it is a cooperation framework, not a military alliance.
- El Alamein Declaration: Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia issued it, stressing sovereignty, Red Sea governance and Sudan's unity.
- Ukraine and NATO agency: Ukraine joined the NATO Support and Procurement Agency's Security Cooperation Programme, without becoming a NATO member.
- Energy: The G7 announced a coordinated release of 100 million barrels of oil and diesel through the International Energy Agency.

Learn Basics:

- Double majority: in Swiss referendums, a proposal needs a majority of voters and a majority of cantons.
- Statehood: in international law, a state is defined by territory, population, government and capacity to enter relations.
- NSPA: the NATO agency that handles joint procurement and logistics.

3.4 Politics and Elections Abroad

- Brazil: Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won the 2026 presidential election, securing a fourth term after defeating Flávio Bolsonaro.
- Morocco: Ezzahra El Mansouri was appointed Morocco's **first woman Prime Minister** by King Mohammed VI.
- Alberta, Canada: About 76% voted to remain in Canada and 24% backed a binding separation vote in a non-binding referendum.
- Greece: Parliament approved a law on 23 October 2026 restricting social media use by children under 15, to begin on 1 January 2027.
- France and Italy: Cost-of-living protests on 17–19 October led to 2,513 people being taken into custody in France; at least 270 were detained in Milan.

Learn Basics:

- Referendum: a direct vote on a specific proposal.
- Non-binding vote: one whose result does not legally compel the government to act.
- Prime Minister of Morocco: head of government appointed by the King.

3.5 Global Health Developments

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- Ebola Bundibugyo: Nigeria reported its first imported Bundibugyo virus disease case, becoming the **fifth country** to report it in the 2026 outbreak after Uganda, the DRC, South Sudan and Kenya.
- Virus origin: The Bundibugyo virus was first identified in Bundibugyo District, Uganda, in 2007; the WHO supported the Tumaini trial in the DRC testing whether the Ervebo vaccine protects against it.
- Bangladesh measles: The world's worst outbreak of 2026, with over 2.02 lakh suspected cases and 1,147 deaths since mid-March; about 94% of deaths were children below five.
- WHO Hub: The WHO announced a five-year strategy for its Berlin-based Pandemic Intelligence Hub, set up in 2021.

Learn Basics:

- Ebolavirus: a genus of viruses causing severe haemorrhagic illness, spread by contact with blood or body fluids.
- Measles: a highly contagious viral disease spread through the air; vaccination coverage must stay high to prevent outbreaks.
- Ervebo: a vaccine approved against the Zaire ebolavirus.

3.6 Global Reports and Indices

- Global Innovation Index 2026: WIPO ranked 139 economies; Switzerland was first for the 16th year, and India ranked **38th**, first among 36 lower-middle-income economies.
- Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2026: UNDP and Oxford; India had over 238 million multidimensionally poor people in 2024.
- Global Hunger Index 2026: The global score was 18.1 (moderate); eight countries were in the alarming category; South Asia scored 23.5.
- Henley Passport Index (October 2026): India ranked 84th with visa-free access to 55 destinations; Singapore was first with 193.
- Rule of Law Index 2026: The World Justice Project placed India 88th of 143 (down from 86th); Denmark, Norway and Finland were the top three.
- Emissions Gap Report 2026: UNEP said limiting warming to 1.5°C without significant overshoot is no longer possible; global GHG emissions were 58.4 $GtCO_2e$ in 2025.

Index (2026)	India / headline result
Global Innovation Index	38th of 139; Switzerland 1st
Henley Passport Index	84th; Singapore 1st (193 destinations)
Rule of Law Index	88th of 143; Denmark 1st
Global Hunger Index	Global score 18.1 (moderate)

Learn Basics:

- WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization, a UN agency.
- Multidimensional poverty: measured by 10 indicators across health, education and standard of living.
- Overshoot: temporarily exceeding a temperature limit before bringing warming back down.

4. ENVIRONMENT NEWS

4.1 Climate Change and El Niño

- Pacific Pre-COP31: The meeting began in Nadi, Fiji, co-hosted by **Fiji, Tuvalu and Australia** with participants from more than 50 countries; a leaders' event was held in Tuvalu.

- Super El Niño warning: The WMO warned El Niño could become very strong; Copernicus reported a record September global sea surface temperature of 21.05°C.
- Glaciers and sea ice: Switzerland's Aletsch Glacier recorded its biggest annual loss; Antarctic sea ice reached its third-lowest winter maximum, about 1 million sq km below average.
- Carbon credits: At least 130 civil society organisations urged the UN carbon market body on Article 6.4 mechanism integrity.
- Early warning: The IMD launched an interactive, WebGIS-based Cyclone Warning System with location-specific warnings.

Learn Basics:

- COP: Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- El Niño: warming of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific that can cause droughts, floods and heat extremes.
- Article 6.4 (Paris Agreement): a UN-supervised mechanism for generating carbon credits.

4.2 Wildlife Conservation: Big Cats and Mammals

- Asiatic lions: Gujarat's 2026 census recorded **891 lions** (674 in 2020); lions returned naturally to Barda after 143 years, making it a second habitat.
- Snow leopards: India's first Snow Leopard Population Assessment estimated 718 animals, including 477 in Ladakh; the species is Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- Cheetahs: Indian-born cheetah KJP21 gave birth to five cubs at Kuno; Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve will become the third cheetah habitat in Madhya Pradesh.
- Tiger reserves: The 6th Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEE-TR 2026) began; Assam's Nameri received CA|TS recognition.
- Reintroductions: Madhya Pradesh released eight wild water buffaloes (Endangered) into an enclosure; a Royal Bengal tigress was moved to Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal's first tiger reintroduction.

Learn Basics:

- IUCN Red List: the global inventory of species' extinction risk (e.g. Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered).
- CA|TS (Conservation Assured Tiger Standards): a framework assessing tiger reserve management.
- Reintroduction: releasing a species into an area where it once lived.
- **Exam point of view:** Do not confuse Vulnerable (snow leopard) with Endangered (wild water buffalo).

4.3 Birds, New Species and Biodiversity Records

- Great Indian Bustard: Captive-bred GIBs were released for the first time; the species is **Critically Endangered**, the wild population is only 120–150 birds, and Project GIB began in 2013.
- Migratory birds: At least 5,568 waders and shorebirds were counted at the Muttukadu estuary; a rare Japanese Sparrowhawk was sighted at Adyar Estuary, Chennai.
- IUCN assessment: India began assessing 1,211 regularly occurring bird species with ZSI and partners.
- New plants: Ceropegia tamilnaduensis was discovered in Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary, and Begonia rajvikramanii in Rosemala, Kollam.
- Global conservation: Re:wild and the Bezos Earth Fund launched the Phoenix Species Project covering 100 species across 30 countries.

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Learn Basics:

- Wader/shorebird: birds that feed along shores, mudflats and estuaries.
- Schedule I (Wildlife Protection Act, 1972): the highest legal protection for listed species.
- Captive breeding: breeding endangered animals under human care to build up numbers for release.

4.4 Forests, Biodiversity Governance and Policy

- CBD COP17: The 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity began in **Yerevan, Armenia**; it reviews the Kunming–Montreal Framework (2022) with 23 targets for 2030, including '30 by 30'.
- Western Ghats ESA: A seventh draft notification of 27 July 2026 covers six States (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu); Karnataka rejected it and the expert committee's tenure runs to July 2027.
- PRAMAAN: India's first PRAMAAN sustainable forest certificates were handed over under the India Forest and Wood Certification Scheme.
- Ramsar sites: Sukhna Wetland (Chandigarh) and Sauj Jheel (Uttar Pradesh) were added to India's Ramsar list.
- Living Planet Report 2026: WWF and ZSL found a 73% decline in monitored wildlife populations; freshwater populations fell most (85%).
- Kerala Red List: Kerala launched India's first State-level Red List assessment of ecosystems.

Learn Basics:

- Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: a 2022 global agreement with 23 targets, including protecting 30% of land and oceans by 2030.
- Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA): an area where activities are restricted to protect the ecosystem, notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Ramsar Convention (1971): a treaty on wetlands of international importance.

5. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

5.1 Space and Astronomy

- Gaganyaan: ISRO completed Crew Module–Service Module separation tests at **VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram**, to verify safe separation before re-entry.
- Aditya-L1: Its Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) produced Doppler velocity images of the solar corona, helping study plasma motion and coronal mass ejections.
- TAPAS-1: Satleo Labs launched India's first commercial private thermal-imaging payload on SpaceX's Transporter-18 mission.
- Perseverance: NASA's rover set a record for longest distance driven on Mars at 45.22 km, surpassing Opportunity, on its 2,006th sol.
- Other missions: ESA's JUICE gained about 12,606 km/h in an Earth gravity assist; Japan's MMX targets Mars's moon Phobos; a new dwarf planet 2026 ED138 was announced; Starship reached Earth orbit and deployed 26 Starlink satellites.

Learn Basics:

- Coronagraph: an instrument that blocks the Sun's disc to study its faint outer atmosphere.
- Gravity assist: using a planet's gravity to change a spacecraft's speed or direction.
- Sol: one Martian day.

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5.2 Quantum, Artificial Intelligence and Telecom

- Quantum communication: India crossed **1,000 km** of quantum-secure communication, more than half of the National Quantum Mission's eight-year target; a 5.56 km free-space QKD link linked BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar.
- Nuclear clock: Scientists from Europe and China reported the first working nuclear clock, using the thorium-229 isotope.
- AI models: OpenAI unveiled GPT-6.1 Sol and Dots agents at DevDay 2026; Google DeepMind launched Gemini 4 Argon.
- India Mobile Congress: The 10th edition was held in New Delhi under the theme 'Scale Without Boundaries'; the 3rd International Bharat 6G Symposium concluded at Dwarka.
- AI reports: The World Bank reported 23% of Indian firms use some form of AI; MeitY launched the World Development Report 2026 on AI.

Learn Basics:

- QKD (Quantum Key Distribution): sharing encryption keys using quantum properties so eavesdropping can be detected.
- Nuclear clock: a clock using transitions in an atomic nucleus, expected to be more precise than atomic clocks.
- 6G: the planned sixth generation of mobile networks.

5.3 Defence Technology and Indigenous Development

- Kaveri engine: India's indigenous Kaveri dry engine reached a peak dry thrust of **48.5 kN** in trials in Russia; it is developed by DRDO for the Ghatak UCAV.
- HAPS: DRDO successfully tested an indigenous High-Altitude Platform, a lighter-than-air system for long-endurance surveillance in the stratosphere.
- Akash exports: India exported the Akash air defence system to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- Loitering munitions and missiles: The Army is receiving Nagastra-2 anti-tank loitering munitions; IG Defence tested rocket motors for the JWALA-MK1 short-range surface-to-air missile.
- Navy ROVs: The Navy received two indigenous TROUT remotely operated vehicles built by Kerala-based EyeROV.

Learn Basics:

- UCAV: Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle.
- Dry thrust: engine thrust produced without afterburner.
- Loitering munition: a weapon that loiters over an area before striking a target.

5.4 Health Technology and Materials Science

- CAR-T therapy partnership: Nucelion Therapeutics (a Bharat Biotech subsidiary) and VeGen Bio announced a technology transfer for CAR-T therapy VL-2511, which targets BCMA and CD19.
- Diamondiyne: Swedish scientists synthesised diamondiyne, a porous 3D carbon material proposed theoretically about 35 years ago.
- Hydrogen storage: IISER researchers reported a compound, magnesium hydridomethylzincate, that releases hydrogen on heating.
- Mars-like sites: University of Kerala scientists identified melanterite at Neyveli and gypsum in the Tiruchirappalli Badlands (and Chile's Atacama) as Mars-like environments.

Learn Basics:

- CAR-T therapy: a treatment where a patient's own T cells are modified to attack cancer cells.

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- Carbon allotrope: a different structural form of carbon, such as diamond or graphite.
- Hydrous sulphate minerals: minerals containing water in their structure, useful for tracing past water.

6. ECONOMY NEWS

6.1 Growth Forecasts and Economic Data

- OECD forecast: The OECD raised India's 2026–27 growth forecast to **7.1%** from 6.3%, and expects 6.5% in 2027–28.
- Other agencies: S&P Global raised its forecast to 7%, Fitch to 6.9% and Moody's to 7%.
- Core industries: The Index of Core Industries grew 7.9% in September 2026, the highest since the new series began in April 2024; fertiliser contracted 11.7% for the seventh straight month.
- Annual Survey of Industries 2024–25: Registered manufacturing establishments rose to 2.67 lakh; GVA grew 9.59%.
- IMF outlook: The IMF projected global growth at 3.1% in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027, warning of risks from the Iran war and energy prices.

Agency	India 2026–27 forecast
OECD	7.1%
S&P Global	7.0%
Moody's	7.0%
Fitch	6.9%

Learn Basics:

- GVA (Gross Value Added): the value of output minus the value of inputs.
- Index of Core Industries: tracks eight core sectors – coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.
- OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

6.2 Banking, Finance and Markets

- RBI leverage ratio: New leverage ratio rules apply from 1 April 2027: **4%** for D-SIBs and 3.5% for other banks; RBI refused banks' request for more time.
- Paytm Payments Bank: RBI removed it from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934, after cancelling its licence in April 2026.
- WASH social bond: NABKISAN Finance listed India's first social bond exclusively for water, sanitation and hygiene, raising ₹180 crore for five years.
- NDEX and FINNDEX: NCDEX is preparing two indices, to be launched in Q1 of FY 2027–28 and calculated by NSE Indices.
- GST Standing Committee: Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu will be permanent State members of the 12-State committee.
- Silver Refinery Scheme: BIS will certify and hallmark silver bullion and coins in purity grades 999.9, 999.5 and 999.0.

Learn Basics:

- Leverage ratio: a bank's core capital divided by its total exposure, without risk weighting.
- D-SIB: Domestic Systemically Important Bank, one whose failure would disrupt the financial system.
- Social bond: a bond whose proceeds fund projects with social benefits.

6.3 Trade, Energy and Commodities

- Trade with China: India's trade deficit with China crossed **US$105.93 billion** in January–September 2026; bilateral trade rose 25.4% to US$144.45 billion.
- Oil imports: Russia, the US and UAE supplied a record 66.8% of India's oil imports in August 2026; Russia's share was 44.3%.
- Defence exports: Defence exports reached a record ₹38,424 crore, making India the third-largest exporter of defence goods to Europe.
- Clean energy: India crossed 300 GW of non-fossil capacity; wind capacity stood at 59.20 GW on 30 September 2026; renewable generation passed 100 billion units in a quarter for the first time.
- Gas discovery: Oil India discovered natural gas in the KG Basin; the Godavari-1 well peaked at 200,000 SCMD.

Supplier (August 2026)	Share of India's oil imports
Russia	44.3%
UAE	17.4%
United States	5.1%

Learn Basics:

- Trade deficit: the excess of a country's imports over its exports.
- SCMD: standard cubic metres per day, a measure of gas flow.
- Non-fossil capacity: power capacity from sources such as solar, wind, hydro and nuclear.

7. STATE NEWS

7.1 Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

- Statehood resolution: The J&K Assembly passed a resolution on 28 September 2026 seeking restoration of statehood, moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; about 60 of 90 members supported it and 29 BJP members opposed.
- LAHDC amendment: The President promulgated amendments to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council regulation, approved by the Cabinet on 14 October 2026.
- High Court bench: Ladakh got a bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in Leh.
- Organic UT: Ladakh was declared India's first **100% organic** Union Territory; Sikkim became the first fully organic State in 2016.
- Map names: The Government standardised the names of 28 geographical features in Ladakh.

Learn Basics:

- Article 370 gave the former State special status; the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 created the UTs of J&K and Ladakh.
- NPOP: National Programme for Organic Production, which sets India's organic standards.
- Hill Development Council: an autonomous body for local governance in hill districts.

7.2 Literacy, Governance and Development across States

- Uttarakhand literacy: Declared India's **6th fully literate State** under ULLAS, joining Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Goa and Tripura; the threshold is at least 95% literacy.

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- Lakshadweep: Declared 100% literate under ULLAS after all 1,113 identified learners cleared the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test.
- Andhra Pradesh: Laid the foundation of the ₹1 lakh-crore Global Horticulture Hub at Madanapalle, also called Rayalaseema Rising.
- Kerala: Approved Co-Keralam, proposed as India's first cooperative-sector airline.
- West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh: West Bengal proposed renaming the State 'Paschim Banga'; the UP Cabinet approved renaming Noida International Airport as Narendra Modi International Airport.
- Odisha: Launched India's first dedicated digital portal for MICE incentives.

Learn Basics:

- ULLAS: Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society, the adult-literacy programme.
- Article 3: empowers Parliament to alter a State's name, area or boundaries.
- MICE: Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions.
- **Exam point of view:** A State's name can be changed by Parliament under Article 3; the State legislature's views are only referred to, not binding.

IMPORTANT DAYS (September 25 - October 31, 2026)

Why Important Days Matter: TNPSC exams regularly test dates, observing bodies, and specific themes.

- September 25: Antyodaya Diwas, observed on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- September 28: World Rabies Day. Theme: 'Stronger Together'.
- October 1: National Voluntary Blood Donation Day. Theme: 'One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives.'
- October 1: International Day of Older Persons (UNGA first observed it in 1990); India's UPSC completed 100 years.
- October 2: International Day of Non-Violence.
- October 4: World Animal Day. Theme: 'See the World Through Their Eyes'. World Space Week runs October 4–10. Theme: 'Rocket Revolution'.
- October 5: World Habitat Day (first Monday of October). Theme: 'Adequate Housing for All'. World Teachers' Day and World Architecture Day (Theme: 'Housing is a Human Right. Build It.') are also observed.
- October 6: World Cerebral Palsy Day. Theme: 'Unique and United'.
- October 9: World Post Day. Theme: 'One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities'.
- October 10: World Mental Health Day. Theme: 'Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change'. World Migratory Bird Day theme: 'Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter!'. World Day Against the Death Penalty. Theme: 'Stories for Life'.
- October 11: International Day of the Girl Child. Theme: 'End child marriage and invest in girls' rights!'
- October 12: World Arthritis Day. Theme: 'Achieve Your Dreams'.
- October 13: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. Theme: 'Resilience Starts at Home'.
- October 15: Global Handwashing Day. Theme: 'Be a Handwashing Hero'. International Day of Rural Women. Theme: 'Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature'.

  Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary.
- October 16: World Food Day. Theme: 'Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.'

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- October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty; World Trauma Day. Theme: 'Building a Safer Future with Trauma Care'.
- October 18: World Menopause Day. Theme: 'Chronic Pain at Midlife'.
- October 20: World Statistics Day and World Osteoporosis Day. National Solidarity Day is also observed.
- October 21: Police Commemoration Day and Global Iodine Deficiency Disorder Prevention Day.
- October 23: International Day of the Snow Leopard.
- October 24: United Nations Day; World Polio Day (Theme: 'Together, We End Polio'); Raising Day of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police; World Development Information Day.
- October 26 – November 1: Vigilance Awareness Week. Theme: 'Probity for Prosperity'.
- October 27: Indian Infantry Day (80th, Shaurya Diwas); World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. Theme: 'Your Window to the World'.
- October 29: World Stroke Day; International Day of Care and Support. Theme: 'Building Sustainable Care and Support Systems through Decent Work'.
- October 31: National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas). Theme: 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

PERSONS & AWARDS

- Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026: Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel, for light-gated ion channels and optogenetics.
- Nobel Prize in Physics 2026: Francis Halzen, for the IceCube neutrino observatory and high-energy astrophysical neutrinos.
- Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026: Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai, for non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis.
- Nobel Prize in Literature 2026: Anne Carson (Canada); Nobel Peace Prize 2026: Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay (South Africa), of Indian Tamil origin, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 2008–2014.
- Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences 2026: Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford, for the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation.
- Sakharov Prize 2026: the International Criminal Court (India is not a State Party to the Rome Statute).
- Ballon d'Or 2026: Harry Kane (first English winner in 25 years); Women's Ballon d'Or: Alexia Putellas (third time). Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2026: Lionel Messi.
- Ramanujan Prize 2026: Prof. Mahesh Kakde (IISc); SASTRA-Ramanujan Award 2026: Sarah Peluse; Oskar Klein Medal 2026: Ashoke Sen (first Indian physicist to receive it).
- Asian Games 2026 (20th, Aichi-Nagoya): India finished 4th with 85 medals (24 gold, 29 silver, 32 bronze); China topped the table with 341 medals.
- Vithya Ramraj: ran 54.75 s in the women's 400 m hurdles, the first Indian woman under 55 s, beating P. T. Usha's 55.42 s (1984); first Tamil Nadu athlete with three medals at one Asian Games.
- Neeru Dhanda: first Indian to win an individual Asian Games gold in women's trap; India also won its first Asian Games women's recurve team gold.
- Bodhana Sivanandan (age 11): youngest-ever Woman Grandmaster and youngest female International Master, breaking a 38-year-old record held by Judit Polgar.
- Pankaj Advani: 29th career world title at the WBL World Billiards Championships. PV Sindhu: elected Chairperson of the IOA Athletes' Commission (2026–2030).

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- Governors appointed on 12 October 2026: Rajendra Arlekar (Tamil Nadu), Sudha Yadav (Karnataka; second woman Governor of the State), Om Prakash Mathur (Keralam), Braj Mohan Ram (Odisha), Dhal Singh Bisen (Uttarakhand), Dushyant Gautam (Sikkim).
- Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit: 29th Chief of the Air Staff from 31 October 2026. Ezzahra El Mansouri: first woman Prime Minister of Morocco.
- Sunil Bharti Mittal: conferred France's Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour. Dr. Ramya Anche: Principal Investigator of NASA's PUFFINS mission.
- Deaths: Guruvayur Dorai (mridangam artiste, 92); Jeffrey Archer (British author, 86); Cheruvayal Raman ('Nellachan', Padma Shri, paddy conservationist); Vummidi Ethiraj (craftsman of the 1947 Sengol).

Learn Basics:

- Optogenetics: a technique using light to switch selected nerve cells on or off.
- Woman Grandmaster / International Master: FIDE titles awarded for achieving norms and a minimum rating.

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