Current Affairs – Notes

7 October 2026

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1 World Sight Day 2026 & World Octopus Day 2026 (8 October)

Important Days

News

World Sight Day falls on the second Thursday of October – 8 Oct in 2026. It is coordinated by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB); theme 'Love Your Eyes'. About 1 billion people worldwide have vision loss that could be prevented or treated. World Octopus Day is on the same date (8 Oct), raising awareness about this intelligent sea creature and ocean conservation.

Key facts

World Sight Day	2nd Thursday of October (2026: 8 Oct); IAPB
Theme	'Love Your Eyes'
Main causes	Cataract (leading cause of blindness), uncorrected refractive error, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy
World Octopus Day	8 October
Octopus	Phylum Mollusca, class Cephalopoda; 8 arms, 3 hearts, blue blood

Background

- World Sight Day was begun in 2000 by the Lions Clubs' 'SightFirst' campaign and joined WHO–IAPB's 'VISION 2020: The Right to Sight' (1999).
- India: the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) began in 1976 as a 100% centrally funded scheme; NPCBVI since 2017. Eye Donation Fortnight runs 25 Aug–8 Sep.
- Science – octopus: blood is blue because of copper-based 'haemocyanin' (humans have iron-based haemoglobin); 2 gill hearts + 1 main heart; camouflage by chromatophore cells; escapes by squirting ink.
- An octopus has about 500 million neurons, two-thirds of them in its arms – the most intelligent invertebrate. The blue-ringed octopus carries deadly tetrodotoxin.
- Cephalopods: octopus, squid, cuttlefish and nautilus. They are an important part of India's seafood exports.

Tamil Nadu link: the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Egmore, Chennai (1819) is Asia's oldest eye hospital; Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai (1976, Dr G. Venkataswamy); Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai (1978, Dr S.S. Badrinath). The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve (1989) is India's first marine biosphere reserve and home to octopus and other cephalopods; CMFRI has a regional centre at Mandapam.

2 Indian Air Force Day 2026 (8 October)

Important Days

News

The Indian Air Force marks its 94th anniversary on 8 Oct 2026. Theme: 'Indian Air Force – Infallible, Impervious and Precise'. The main parade and investiture are at Hindon Air Force Station near Ghaziabad (UP), reviewed by Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh; the multinational air exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2026' is also under way at Jodhpur.

Key facts

Anniversary	94th (founded 8 Oct 1932)
Theme 2026	Infallible, Impervious and Precise
Main venue	Hindon AFS, Ghaziabad (UP)
Motto	'Nabhah Sprisham Deeptam' – Bhagavad Gita (Ch. 11)
Current chief	Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh
Exercise	'Tarang Shakti 2026' (26 Sep–12 Oct, Jodhpur) – multinational air exercise

Background

- History: set up on 8 Oct 1932 under the Indian Air Force Act 1932 as an auxiliary of the Royal Air Force; the first squadron (No. 1) formed on 1 Apr 1933 at Drigh Road, Karachi, with four Westland Wapiti aircraft.
- For its World War II service it became the 'Royal Indian Air Force' in 1945; the prefix was dropped when India became a Republic in 1950.
- First Indian chief: Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee (1 Apr 1954) – 'Father of the Indian Air Force'. Arjan Singh is the only 5-star Marshal.
- Display teams: Suryakiran (1996, now Hawk Mk132 jets) and Sarang (ALH Dhruv helicopters). The motto 'Nabhah Sprisham Deeptam' means 'Touch the sky with glory'.
- Key operations: the 1971 Bangladesh war, 'Meghdoot' (Siachen, 1984), 'Safed Sagar' (Kargil, 1999), Balakot (2019) and 'Sindoor' (2025).

Tamil Nadu link: Sulur air base near Coimbatore hosts the first Tejas squadron, No. 45 'Flying Daggers' (raised 2016; at Sulur since 2018), and No. 18 'Flying Bullets' (2020); Tambaram has the Flying Instructors' School; Thanjavur has Su-30MKIs.

3 IOC confirms India among seven countries bidding for the 2036 Olympics

Sports

News

On 6 Oct 2026 the IOC confirmed that seven countries are in continuous dialogue to host the 2036 Summer Olympics and Paralympics: India, Qatar, South Africa, Germany, Hungary, Turkey and South Korea. India's proposed host city is Ahmedabad. The deadline to declare interest is 31 Oct 2026, and the IOC Executive Board will draw up a shortlist in March 2027.

Key facts

7 countries	India, Qatar, South Africa, Germany, Hungary, Turkey, South Korea
Indian city	Ahmedabad (Gujarat) – also hosts the 2030 Commonwealth Games
Timeline	31 Oct 2026 – interest deadline; Mar 2027 – shortlist
IOC President	Kirsty Coventry (Zimbabwe)
Next Games	2028 – Los Angeles; 2032 – Brisbane

Background

- IOC: founded by Pierre de Coubertin in Paris on 23 June 1894 (Olympic Day – 23 June); HQ Lausanne, Switzerland. Kirsty Coventry is the 10th president – the first woman and first African (June 2025).

- Major events India hosted: Asian Games 1951 and 1982 (Delhi); Commonwealth Games 2010 (Delhi); 2030 Commonwealth Games (Ahmedabad, centenary edition). The 141st IOC Session was in Mumbai (Oct 2023).
- India's Olympic story: first appearance 1900 (Norman Pritchard); 8 hockey golds; individual golds – Abhinav Bindra (2008) and Neeraj Chopra (2020). Six medals at Paris 2024.
- Ahmedabad has the world's largest cricket ground – the Narendra Modi Stadium (Motera) – on the Sabarmati, and the planned Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave.
- Olympic symbol: five rings (blue, yellow, black, green, red) for five continents; motto 'Citius, Altius, Fortius – Communiter' ('Together' added in 2021).

Tamil Nadu link: the 44th Chess Olympiad (2022) was held at Mamallapuram – the first in India ('Thambi' mascot). Chennai's Bhavani Devi was India's first Olympic fencer (Tokyo 2020). Chennai hosted the 1995 South Asian (SAF) Games.

4 2026 Chemistry Nobel to Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai for 'mirror-image' molecules

Awards

News

On 7 Oct 2026 the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Henri B. Kagan of France (95, Université Paris-Saclay, Orsay) and Kenso Soai of Japan (76, Tokyo University of Science) 'for the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis'. The prize is 12 million Swedish kronor.

Key facts

Laureates	Henri B. Kagan (France, b. 1930); Kenso Soai (Japan, b. 1950)
Kagan	1986 – 'non-linear effect' in asymmetric catalysis; DIOP ligand; samarium iodide (SmI_2) reagent
Soai	1995 – the 'Soai reaction': asymmetric autocatalysis, the product speeds up its own formation
Significance	Making the right 'hand' of drugs; origin of life's homochirality
Prize	SEK 12 million; presented in Stockholm on 10 Dec

Background

- Chirality: from Greek 'cheir' = hand. Mirror-image molecules that cannot be superimposed, like left and right hands, are 'enantiomers'; they rotate plane-polarised light in opposite directions.
- Louis Pasteur first observed molecular chirality in 1848 by separating tartaric acid crystals.
- The thalidomide tragedy (1957–61): one form eased morning sickness while its mirror form caused birth defects – showing why the right form must be made.
- Related Nobels: 2001 – Knowles, Noyori, Sharpless (asymmetric catalysis); 2021 – List, MacMillan (organocatalysis). Kagan's omission in 2001 was debated; he won the 2001 Wolf Prize.
- Nobel Prize: from Alfred Nobel's will (1895); first awarded in 1901; the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences chooses chemistry and physics; the economics prize was added in 1968.

Tamil Nadu link: Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, born at Chidambaram (Cuddalore district), won the 2009 Chemistry Nobel for ribosome structure. C.V. Raman (born Thiruvanaikaval, Trichy) won the 1930

Physics Nobel; S. Chandrasekhar (Presidency College, Madras) the 1983 Physics Nobel.

5 Mahesh Kakde wins the 2026 Ramanujan Prize

Awards

News

Prof. Mahesh Kakde of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has been named winner of the 2026 ICTP Ramanujan Prize for his work in algebraic number theory – especially non-commutative Iwasawa theory and the Gross–Stark and Brumer–Stark conjectures, which bear on Hilbert's 12th problem.

Key facts

Prize	ICTP Ramanujan Prize 2026 – US$10,000
Given by	ICTP (Trieste, Italy) + International Mathematical Union; funded by India's DST
Eligibility	Mathematicians under 45 working in developing countries
Education	ISI Bengaluru (B.Math); Cambridge PhD (2008)
Career	Princeton, UCL, King's College London; IISc since 2019
Earlier honours	Infosys Prize (2022); ICM speaker (2022)

Background

- Srinivasa Ramanujan: born 22 Dec 1887 at Erode; grew up in Kumbakonam; wrote to G.H. Hardy in 1913; went to Cambridge in 1914; elected FRS in 1918; died on 26 Apr 1920, aged 32.
- 1729 is the 'Hardy–Ramanujan number' (smallest number expressible as a sum of two cubes in two ways). National Mathematics Day is 22 Dec (announced at Chennai in Dec 2011; 2012 was National Mathematics Year).
- ICTP (Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics) was founded in 1964 at Trieste, Italy; the Ramanujan Prize has been given since 2005.
- Hilbert's 23 problems were posed by David Hilbert at the 1900 International Congress of Mathematicians in Paris.
- Maths honours: the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize (2005, for those aged 32 or under – Ramanujan's age at death); Manjul Bhargava (2014) and Akshay Venkatesh (2018) won the Fields Medal.

Tamil Nadu link: Ramanujan was born at Erode, studied at Kumbakonam and worked as a clerk at the Madras Port Trust. SASTRA University, Kumbakonam, gives the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize. Chennai-born S.R.S. Varadhan won the Abel Prize in 2007.

6 Coast Guard's SAREX-2026 search-and-rescue exercise off Paradip

Defence

News

The Indian Coast Guard's National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise 'SAREX-2026' is held off Paradip, Odisha. Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth inaugurated it on 7 Oct 2026; the sea phase was on 8 Oct. 32 observers from 30 friendly countries took part. (Note: SAREX is not a missile drill; it is a life-saving search-and-rescue exercise.)

Key facts

Full form	Search and Rescue Exercise
Place	Paradip, Odisha (Bay of Bengal)
Opened by	Sanjay Seth, MoS Defence – 7 Oct 2026
Observers	32 from 30 countries
Assets	15 ICG ships, 2 Dornier, 3 ALH, 1 Chetak, IAF C-130J and Mi-17, 2 Navy ships
Scenario	Airliner with 228 people ditches at sea and collides with a cargo ship
Also	24th NMSAR Board meeting chaired by ICG DG Paramesh Sivamani

Background

- Indian Coast Guard: set up on an interim basis on 1 Feb 1977 (ICG Day); Coast Guard Act of 18 Aug 1978; under the Defence Ministry; motto 'Vayam Rakshamah' (We Protect).
- India's maritime search-and-rescue region covers about 4.6 million sq km; three Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs): Mumbai, Chennai and Port Blair.
- Sci-tech: satellite-aided SAR has moved from LEOSAR to GEOSAR to MEOSAR, and the MEOLUT system is fully operational. India's Mission Control Centre (INMCC) is in Bengaluru.
- Geography: Paradip port – Odisha, Jagatsinghpur district, at the Mahanadi mouth; made a major port in 1966, the first on the east coast after Independence.
- SAREX is held every two years; the previous edition, SAREX-24, was held at Kochi (Nov 2024).

Tamil Nadu link: the Coast Guard's Eastern Region headquarters and an MRCC are in Chennai; there are ICG stations at Thoothukudi and Mandapam.

7 RBI raises repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50%

Economy

News

On 7 Oct 2026 the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) led by Governor Sanjay Malhotra unanimously raised the repo rate by 25 basis points from 5.25% to 5.50% – the first hike since February 2023. The stance moved from 'neutral' to 'calibrated tightening'. Reasons: volatile crude prices after the West Asia conflict flared up again, and energy- and food-driven inflation.

Key facts

Repo rate	5.25% → 5.50%
SDF	5.25%
MSF / Bank Rate	5.75%
Stance	Neutral → calibrated tightening
Vote	Unanimous (6–0)
FY27 projections	GDP growth 7.1%; CPI inflation 5.2%

Background

- Repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends short-term to banks against government securities. SDF is the rate at which it absorbs banks' surplus without collateral (floor of the corridor); MSF is emergency borrowing (ceiling).

- 1 basis point = 0.01%, so 25 bps = 0.25%. A repo hike raises loan rates and EMIs, cools demand and curbs inflation (contractionary policy).
- MPC: RBI Act 1934, Section 45ZB (2016 amendment); 6 members – 3 from the RBI including the Governor and 3 external members named by the Centre; the Governor has a casting vote; at least 4 meetings a year.
- Inflation target: CPI 4% (±2%), set by the Central Government in consultation with the RBI.
- History: on the Hilton Young Commission's (1926) advice the RBI began on 1 April 1935, first in Kolkata and in Mumbai from 1937; nationalised on 1 Jan 1949. Sanjay Malhotra is the 26th Governor (Dec 2024).

Tamil Nadu link: Dr C. Rangarajan, born in Tiruchirappalli, was RBI Governor (1992–97) and later chaired the PM's Economic Advisory Council. The RBI has a regional office in Chennai.

8 World Bank ranks India among top 10 in AI readiness

Indices & Reports

News

The World Bank report 'India and Artificial Intelligence: Seizing the Development Opportunity' (6 Oct 2026) placed India among the top 10 emerging markets in AI readiness. Private AI investment in India more than tripled, from $1.2 billion in 2024 to $4.1 billion in 2025.

Key facts

Report	India and Artificial Intelligence: Seizing the Development Opportunity
Private AI investment	$1.2 bn (2024) → $4.1 bn (2025)
GCC jobs	1.9 million → 2.36 million
AI adoption	About 23% of Indian firms (US about 43%)
Strengths	Tech workforce, global IT sector, digital public infrastructure
Growth forecast	FY27 GDP growth 7.1% (World Bank)

Background

- IndiaAI Mission: approved in March 2024 with ₹10,371.92 crore; run by MeitY; thousands of GPUs for shared compute.
- AI summits: Bletchley Park (UK, 2023), Seoul (2024), Paris (2025) and the 'India AI Impact Summit' in New Delhi (Feb 2026) – the first in the Global South.
- Digital public infrastructure (DPI): Aadhaar, UPI (2016), DigiLocker and ONDC form the base for AI use in India.
- Science: John McCarthy coined 'Artificial Intelligence' at the 1956 Dartmouth conference; Alan Turing proposed the 'Turing test' in 1950.
- World Bank Group: IBRD (loans to middle-income countries), IDA (concessional loans to the poorest), IFC, MIGA and ICSID. The IMF and World Bank were born at Bretton Woods in 1944.

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai and Coimbatore are major hubs for Global Capability Centres; IIT Madras hosts the Centre for Responsible AI (CeRAI); Tamil Nadu released a 'Safe and Ethical AI Policy' in 2020.

9 Indian Navy receives indigenous military-grade ROVs

Defence

News

Kochi-based EyeROV (IROV Technologies) handed over two 'TROUT' systems – India's first indigenous military-grade underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) – to the Indian Navy on 7 Oct 2026. Five systems are on order; they work down to 300 m. TROUT was built under the iDEX DISC-7 'SPRINT' challenge; the contract is worth about ₹47 crore.

Key facts

Company	EyeROV (IROV Technologies), Kochi – Johns T. Mathai (CEO), Kannappa Palaniappan (CTO)
Name	TROUT – underwater ROV
Number	5 ordered; first 2 delivered
Depth	Up to 300 m
Programme	iDEX DISC-7 SPRINT; cleared by DQA (Naval)
Uses	Hull and port-infrastructure inspection, harbour security, surveillance, search and recovery

Background

- An ROV is tethered to a ship and piloted from the surface; an AUV runs untethered on a pre-programmed mission.
- iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) was launched by the Defence Ministry in 2018 and is run by the Defence Innovation Organisation set up by HAL and BEL. SPRINT (2022) aimed at 75 indigenous technologies for the Navy.
- The Deep Ocean Mission (2021, Ministry of Earth Sciences) includes 'Samudrayaan', where NIOT Chennai is building 'Matsya-6000' to carry 3 people to 6,000 m.
- Naval commands: Western (Mumbai), Eastern (Visakhapatnam), Southern (Kochi – training). Navy Day is 4 Dec (1971 'Operation Trident').
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat: 'positive indigenisation lists' bar imports of listed defence items so they are made in India.

Tamil Nadu link: the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT, 1993) is at Pallikaranai, Chennai – it built the 'ROSUB 6000' ROV and is building 'Matsya-6000'. INS Rajali at Arakkonam is India's largest naval air station; L&T's Kattupalli shipyard is near Chennai.

10 Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit named next Chief of the Air Staff

Appointments

News

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, now Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS), was appointed the 29th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force (7 Oct 2026). He takes over on 31 Oct 2026, when Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh retires.

Key facts

Post	29th Chief of the Air Staff; from 31 Oct 2026
Predecessor	Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh (28th)
Commissioned	6 Dec 1986 – fighter stream
Experience	Test pilot; 3,500+ flying hours – Mirage 2000, MiG, Jaguar, Tejas, Hawk, Kiran, IL-78
Operations	Safed Sagar (Kargil 1999), Rakshak, Sindoor
Awards	PVSM (2026), AVSM (2023), VSM (2011), VM (2006)
Training	NDA Khadakwasla; DSSC (Bangladesh); National Defence College

Background

- Constitution: Article 53(2) vests the supreme command of the Defence Forces in the President. Service chiefs are selected by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC – PM and Home Minister).
- IAF set-up: HQ Vayu Bhawan, New Delhi; 7 commands – Western (Delhi), South Western (Gandhinagar), Central (Prayagraj), Eastern (Shillong), Southern (Thiruvananthapuram), Training (Bengaluru), Maintenance (Nagpur).
- Ranks: Air Chief Marshal is a 4-star rank. The only officer made 5-star 'Marshal of the Air Force' is Arjan Singh (2002).
- Sci-tech: the Tejas light combat aircraft is designed by ADA and built by HAL; Dixit once commanded the flight-test squadron at ASTE, Bengaluru.
- History: 'Operation Safed Sagar' was the IAF's role in the 1999 Kargil war; 'Operation Sindoor' was in May 2025.

Tamil Nadu link: Thanjavur air base hosts the BrahMos-armed Su-30MKI 'Tigersharks' (No. 222 Squadron, 2020); Sulur has Tejas squadrons; Tambaram has the Flying Instructors' School.

11 Union Cabinet resolution on Modi's 25 years as head of government

Governance

News

On 6 Oct 2026 the Union Cabinet passed a resolution marking PM Narendra Modi's completion of 25 years as head of government (Gujarat CM + PM) on 7 Oct 2026. Citing a 'Nation First, Citizen First' approach, it listed 60 crore Jan Dhan accounts, capital spending rising from ₹2 lakh crore to over ₹12 lakh crore, and 'Operation Sindoor' (2025), among others (these are the government's own claims).

Key facts

Gujarat CM	7 Oct 2001 – 22 May 2014
Prime Minister	Since 26 May 2014; third term from 9 June 2024
Record	22 Mar 2026 – India's longest-serving elected head of government (passed Pawan Chamling)
Born	17 Sept 1950, Vadnagar (Mehsana, Gujarat)
Lok Sabha seat	Varanasi (UP)

Background

- Pawan Kumar Chamling was Sikkim's CM for over 24 years (1994–2019, 8,930 days); Modi passed this on his 8,931st day.
- Longest-serving PM: Jawaharlal Nehru (16 years 286 days). Modi passed Indira Gandhi's continuous tenure (4,077 days) in July 2025.
- Constitution: Art. 74 – Council of Ministers to aid and advise the President; 75(1) – President appoints the PM; 75(3) – collective responsibility to the Lok Sabha; 78 – duties of the PM; 164 – State Chief Minister.
- 91st Amendment (2003): ministers may not exceed 15% of Lok Sabha strength. The word 'Cabinet' appears in the Constitution only in Article 352 (44th Amendment, 1978).
- Schemes: Jan Dhan (2014), PM-KISAN (2019, ₹6,000 a year), Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (106th Amendment, 2023 – 33% seats for women in legislatures).

Tamil Nadu link: M. Karunanidhi served longest as Tamil Nadu CM (5 terms, about 19 years). The Kashi Tamil Sangamam (from 2022, Varanasi) and the Sengol installed in the new Parliament (2023, from Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam) link to Tamil Nadu.

12 World Bank praises Tamil Nadu's 'Thozhi' working women's hostels

Tamil Nadu

News

A World Bank article titled 'More Than a Roof: How Safe Housing is Unlocking Women's Path to Education and Jobs in Tamil Nadu' praised Tamil Nadu's 'Thozhi' hostels and said other States and countries could adopt the model. Former Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin welcomed it on 7 Oct 2026. 'Thozhi' means 'female friend'.

Key facts

Run by	Tamil Nadu Working Women's Hostels Corporation (TNWWHCL)
Launch	July 2023 – first 11 hostels in 9 districts
Operating	25 hostels, 2,282 beds; about 5,300 women served
Expansion	22 under construction (+2,540 beds); 27 more planned; at least one in each of 38 districts
Average rent	Chennai ₹5,400; elsewhere ₹3,850 (monthly)
Finance	World Bank and ADB loans, State equity; 'Tamil Nadu Shelter Fund'

Background

- Economy: India's female labour-force participation is about 35%; the World Bank estimates that raising it to 50% could add about 1 percentage point to annual GDP growth. Tamil Nadu is above the national average.
- Model: government-owned buildings run through public–private partnership; biometric entry, 24-hour CCTV, Wi-Fi and online booking.
- Central scheme: the working women's hostel scheme is now 'Sakhi Niwas' under the 'Samarthya' arm of 'Mission Shakti' (2022).
- Constitution: Article 15(3) – special provisions for women; Article 39(d) – equal pay for equal work; Article 42 – maternity relief.

- World Bank: created at the 1944 Bretton Woods conference; headquarters Washington DC; President Ajay Banga (since 2023).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu has the largest number of women factory workers in India. 'Pudhumai Penn' (Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme, 2022) gives ₹1,000 a month to girls who studied Classes 6–12 in government schools and go on to higher education.

13 Wind energy conference in Chennai – 'Windergy India 2026'

Energy

News

The 8th 'Windergy India 2026' conference and trade fair, organised by the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) with PDA Ventures, is held on 7–9 Oct 2026 at the Chennai Trade Centre (Nandambakkam). Theme: 'Wind – Powering India's Energy Resilience'. It is supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), with companies from 30+ countries.

Key facts

Edition / dates	8th; 7–9 Oct 2026
Organisers	IWTMA + PDA Ventures; MNRE support
India wind capacity	58.52 GW (Aug 2026)
Record	6.05 GW added in 2025–26 – highest ever
Target	100 GW wind by 2030
Manufacturing	24 GW of turbines a year

Background

- Wind power converts the wind's kinetic energy into electricity; the power available is proportional to the cube of the wind speed.
- Tamil Nadu's wind corridors: the south-west monsoon (June–Sept) funnels through the Palghat, Shencottah and Aralvaimozhi gaps, so wind farms cluster in Coimbatore–Tiruppur, Theni, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari.
- Muppandal (Kanyakumari) is one of India's largest onshore wind farms. The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE, formerly C-WET, 1998) is in Chennai.
- State ranking: Gujarat is first and Tamil Nadu second in installed wind capacity. Globally India ranks fourth (after China, the USA and Germany).
- Offshore wind: under the Viability Gap Funding scheme for 1 GW, 500 MW is earmarked off Tamil Nadu and 500 MW off Gujarat; the Gulf of Mannar–Palk Strait zone has high potential.
- Economy: 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030 is one of India's 'Panchamrit' pledges at COP26 (Glasgow); Global Wind Day is 15 June.

Tamil Nadu link: over 7 GW of the State's older turbines are due for repowering, and Chennai and Coimbatore are key hubs for wind-component manufacturing.

14 DSP passing-out parade: CM Vijay presents medals

Tamil Nadu

News

On 7 Oct 2026 the passing-out parade of the 14th batch of directly recruited Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) was held at the Tamil Nadu Police Academy, Oonamancheri, near Vandalur (Chengalpattu district). 25 officers (14 men, 11 women) completed 52 weeks of training. Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay reviewed the parade and gave the Chief Minister's Cup, sword of honour and medals to the best trainees.

Key facts

Batch	14th batch – direct-recruit DSPs
Strength	25 (11 women)
Training	52 weeks
Venue	Tamil Nadu Police Academy, Oonamancheri (near Vandalur)
Modules	Intelligence, cybercrime, forensics, jungle training, deep-sea swimming, army attachment at Wellington
Police chief	DGP Mahesh Kumar Agarwal

Background

- Constitution: 'Police' and 'Public order' are in the State List (List II, Entries 2 and 1) of the Seventh Schedule, so policing is a State responsibility.
- In Tamil Nadu, direct DSPs are recruited through the TNPSC Combined Civil Services Exam – Group I (along with Deputy Collectors). Sub-Inspectors and constables are recruited by TNUSRB (1991).
- Police reform: the Prakash Singh case (2006) directed a State Security Commission, a minimum 2-year tenure for the DGP, a Police Establishment Board and Police Complaints Authorities.
- IPS officers train at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad. Wellington (Nilgiris) hosts the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC).
- Women in police: India's first all-women police station opened at Kozhikode (Kerala) in 1973; Tamil Nadu's first opened at Thousand Lights, Chennai, in 1992.

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai city police dates back to 1659, among the oldest city police forces. 11 of the 25 officers in this batch are women; Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in women's participation in policing.

15 3,000-year-old rock paintings found near Denkanikottai

Tamil Nadu

News

Rock paintings about 3,000 years old were found on the 'Vedankal' rock at Choolakunda village in Denkanikottai taluk, Krishnagiri district. History students of Government Men's Arts College, Krishnagiri, led by Prof. Venkateswaran, studied them for Periyar University, Salem's professional training / PG research. The paintings appear in three clusters on one rock, and megalithic dolmens lie on the southern part of the same rock (reported 7 Oct 2026).

Key facts

Place	Vedankal rock, Choolakunda, Denkanikottai taluk, Krishnagiri
Age	About 3,000 years – Iron Age / Megalithic
Team	Govt Men's Arts College, Krishnagiri students (Periyar University study) – Prof. Venkateswaran
Motifs	Dancers holding hands, armed men, grids (fields), circles (sun / time-wheel), raised-hand ritual figures
Also found	Dolmens (megalithic burial markers)

Background

- Types of rock art: painted (pictographs) and engraved (petroglyphs). Red comes from iron oxide (ochre / haematite); white from lime or kaolin clay.
- India's best-known rock-art site is Bhimbetka (Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh), discovered by V.S. Wakankar in 1957 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2003.
- Rock-art sites in Tamil Nadu: Kilvalai and Sethavarai (Villupuram), Mallapadi (Krishnagiri), Karikkiyur (Nilgiris). Megalithic burial types: dolmen, stone circle, menhir, urn burial.
- Iron Age in Tamil Nadu: the 'Antiquity of Iron' report (Jan 2025) dated iron from Sivakalai (Thoothukudi) to about 3345 BCE; the Adichanallur urn burials are also well known.
- History: the Krishnagiri–Hosur tract was called 'Baramahal'; after the Third Anglo-Mysore War, Tipu Sultan ceded it to the British by the Treaty of Seringapatam (1792).
- Geography: Krishnagiri district was carved out of Dharmapuri on 9 February 2004; it borders both Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and is known for mangoes.

Tamil Nadu link: the find is evidence of Krishnagiri's Iron Age and megalithic heritage. Nearby Mallapadi also has ancient rock paintings. Periyar University, Salem, was founded in 1997.

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