Current Affairs – Notes

9 October 2026

Notes PDF

11 news items · key facts · background · Tamil Nadu link

For TNPSC · UPSC · SSC · RRB · Bank exams

www.shanmugamiasacademy.in · இலவச quiz + தினசரி PDF

Shanmugam IAS Academy · Coimbatore · Madurai · Online · 99941 46662

Contents

1. World Mental Health Day, World Day Against the Death Penalty, World Homeless Day 2026 (10 October)
2. National Postal Day 2026 (10 October)
3. South Korea test-flies its first domestically developed hypersonic weapon
4. Wildlife populations fell 73% on average in 52 years – WWF Living Planet Report 2026
5. 'Pandharpur Wari' documentary named India's national winner at Asian Academy Creative Awards 2026
6. Israel to honour Indian pilot Smit Machchhar with its top civilian award
7. Jewar airport to be named 'Narendra Modi International Airport': Yogi Adityanath
8. TTD introduces 'Garuda Map' app to guide Tirupati pilgrims
9. Minister Ranjith Kumar launches wildlife ambulance in Chennai
10. Minister Rajeev opens help desk for the Online Consent Management and Monitoring System
11. NFDC-NFAI adds three Sivaji Ganesan films to the national collection

SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY
www.shanmugamiasacademy.in

1 World Mental Health Day, World Day Against the Death Penalty, World Homeless Day 2026 (10 October)

Important Days

News

Three world days fall on 10 October. World Mental Health Day 2026 theme (World Federation for Mental Health – WFMH): 'Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change'. The 24th World Day Against the Death Penalty theme: 'Stories for Life'. World Homeless Day has been observed since 2010 and has no yearly theme.

Key facts

World Mental Health Day	Since 1992 – WFMH; 2026: 'Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change'
Against Death Penalty	24th; World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (2002) – since 2003; 2026–27 theme 'Stories for Life'
Global (Amnesty)	113 countries have abolished it for all crimes
World Homeless Day	10 Oct since 2010; no annual theme

Background

- India's mental health: the Mental Healthcare Act 2017 – Section 115 presumes a person who attempts suicide was under severe stress, so they are not punished. National Mental Health Programme 1982; 'Tele-MANAS' 24-hour helpline 14416 (10 Oct 2022); National Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022.
- Death penalty in India: only in the 'rarest of rare' cases – Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980). Article 72 – the President's pardoning power; Article 161 – the Governor's. India executes by hanging.
- Homelessness: Census 2011 counted about 17.7 lakh homeless people in India. 'Shelter for Urban Homeless' (DAY-NULM); Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY, 2015). The Supreme Court held the right to shelter part of Article 21 (Chameli Singh case, 1996).
- The WFMH was founded in 1948; World Mental Health Day was first observed in 1992, with WHO support.

Tamil Nadu link: the Institute of Mental Health, Kilpauk, Chennai, began in 1794 – among India's oldest mental hospitals. The Supreme Court used Article 142 to release Perarivalan, jailed in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, on 18 May 2022.

2 National Postal Day 2026 (10 October)

Important Days

News

10 October is observed as National Postal Day to honour India Post's service of over 170 years. It falls within National Postal Week (9–15 Oct). Day-wise themes in 2026: 12 Oct – Fun with Philately Day; 13 Oct – Financial Inclusion Day; 14 Oct – Mails & Parcels Day; 15 Oct – Technology & Innovation Day.

Key facts

Date	10 Oct – National Postal Day; 9–15 Oct – National Postal Week
India Post	1 Oct 1854 – set up as a department under Lord Dalhousie
Ministry	Ministry of Communications – Department of Posts
Network	World's largest postal network – about 1.6 lakh post offices; 23 postal circles
New initiatives (2026)	N-Gen post offices, Jan Sewa Connect post offices, 'Dak Sewa' and 'Dak Mitra' apps

Background

- History: India's first all-India postage stamps came out in 1854. Speed Post – 1986; PIN code – 1972; India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) – 1 Sept 2018.
- Financial inclusion: post office schemes include Sukanya Samriddhi (2015), PPF, National Savings Certificates and Postal Life Insurance (1884 – India's oldest life insurance).
- Philately: the 'Deen Dayal SPARSH' scholarship scheme encourages stamp collecting among schoolchildren.
- Law: the Post Office Act 2023 (replacing the 1898 Act) ended the department's exclusive privilege over letters and empowers it to set addressing standards.

Tamil Nadu link: the Madras General Post Office opened on 1 June 1786 – among India's oldest; its present Rajaji Salai building dates from 1884. The Tamil Nadu Postal Circle is headquartered in Chennai.

3 South Korea test-flies its first domestically developed hypersonic weapon

Defence

News

South Korea flight-tested its first indigenous hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV), developed by the Agency for Defense Development (ADD), on 8 Oct 2026; President Lee Jae-myung watched the test. It adds the ability to strike key targets on the Korean Peninsula; the presidential office called it a 'key strategic asset capable of changing the course of the battlefield'. The President also inspected the high-yield 'Hyunmoo-5' missile.

Key facts

Weapon	Hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV) – South Korea's first indigenous one
Developer	Agency for Defense Development (ADD)
Date	8 Oct 2026; observed by President Lee Jae-myung
Speed	Hypersonic – over five times the speed of sound (Mach 5+)
Context	Lee pledges to take back wartime operational control (OPCON) from the US within his term (to 2030)

Background

- Science: hypersonic means above Mach 5 (sound travels about 343 m/s at sea level). An HGV is boosted by a rocket and then glides through the atmosphere; because it can manoeuvre, air defences find it hard to intercept. Hypersonic cruise missiles use 'scramjet' engines.

- India: DRDO's long-range hypersonic missile was tested on 16 Nov 2024 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha; the HSTDV scramjet test was in 2020; BrahMos (India–Russia) is a supersonic cruise missile.
- Others: Russia (Avangard, Kinzhal) and China (DF-17) have deployed hypersonic weapons; the US is developing 'Dark Eagle'; North Korea also claims hypersonic tests.
- Korea: the 1950–53 Korean War ended in an armistice; the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) near the 38th parallel divides the two Koreas. South Korea's capital is Seoul.

Tamil Nadu link: Rameswaram-born Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, 'India's Missile Man', led the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP, 1983); Odisha's Wheeler Island was renamed 'Abdul Kalam Island' in 2015. South Korea's Hyundai has made cars at Irungattukottai near Sriperumbudur since 1998.

4 Wildlife populations fell 73% on average in 52 years – WWF Living Planet Report 2026

Environment

News

WWF's Living Planet Report 2026 (7 Oct 2026) found that monitored vertebrate populations (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish) fell by an average of 73% over the 52 years from 1970 to 2022. The Living Planet Index (LPI), produced by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), tracked 35,803 population trends of 5,790 species.

Key facts

Average decline	73% (1970–2022)
Scope	5,790 species, 35,803 population trends
By ecosystem	Freshwater 85%, terrestrial 69%, marine 59%
By region	Latin America & Caribbean 95%, Africa 80%, Asia-Pacific 49%, North America 28%, Europe & Central Asia 23%
Hope	Recoveries in tigers, southern African elephants, green turtles, bluefin tuna
Note	An average proportional change – not the total number of animals lost

Background

- WWF was founded in 1961 in Switzerland (HQ Gland); its logo is the panda. The Living Planet Report has come out since 1998, usually every two years.
- Causes: habitat loss (mainly land converted to farming) leads; then overexploitation, invasive species, disease, climate change and pollution.
- Treaties: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992, Rio); the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022) with its '30x30' goal – protect 30% of land and sea by 2030.
- India: the Biological Diversity Act 2002 – National Biodiversity Authority (Chennai). India is one of 17 megadiverse countries with 4 biodiversity hotspots (Himalaya, Western Ghats, Indo-Burma, Sundaland). India's tigers: 3,682 (2022).

Tamil Nadu link: the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is in Chennai. Tamil Nadu has the most Ramsar wetlands of any Indian State; the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1986) was India's first.

5 'Pandharpur Wari' documentary named India's national winner at Asian Academy Creative Awards 2026

Awards

News

The 22-minute English documentary 'Pandharpur Wari – In the Footsteps of the Saints', made by Maharashtra's Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) with Warner Bros. Discovery, was named India's national winner in the 'Best Branded Programme' category of the Asian Academy Creative Awards (AACA) 2026. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis praised it.

Key facts

Film	Pandharpur Wari – In the Footsteps of the Saints (22 min, English)
Category	Best Branded Programme – India national winner
Makers	Maharashtra IPRD + Warner Bros. Discovery; aired worldwide on Discovery channels
Next	International round; grand gala – 3 Dec 2026, Capitol Theatre, Singapore
Other Indian winners	Anil Kapoor – Best Actor ('Subedaar'); 'Bison Kaalamaadan' – Best Feature Film

Background

- Pandharpur Wari: a roughly 700-year-old pilgrimage in which Warkari devotees walk about 250 km over 21 days to the Vitthal (Vithoba) temple at Pandharpur for Ashadhi Ekadashi (June–July). Sant Dnyaneshwar's palanquin starts from Alandi and Sant Tukaram's from Dehu.
- Geography: Pandharpur is in Solapur district on the Bhima river (called 'Chandrabhaga' here).
- Bhakti movement in Maharashtra: Dnyaneshwar ('Dnyaneshwari', 13th c.), Namdev, Eknath and Tukaram ('abhangs') – a message of equality across caste.
- Asian Academy Creative Awards (AACA): held in Singapore since 2018 for TV, streaming and film from Asia-Pacific – first country-wise 'national winners', then regional 'grand' winners.

Tamil Nadu link: the Bhakti movement began in Tamil Nadu in the 6th–9th centuries through the Alvars (Vishnu) and Nayanmars (Shiva) and spread north. 'Bison Kaalamaadan', chosen Best Feature Film, is a Tamil film directed by Mari Selvaraj (Neelam Studios).

6 Israel to honour Indian pilot Smit Machchhar with its top civilian award

Awards

News

Israeli President Isaac Herzog announced (8 Oct 2026) that Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar will receive Israel's highest civilian award, the Presidential Award for Civil Heroism. On flydubai flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv (30 Sept 2026), the co-pilot sent the plane into a steep dive; the injured captain regained control and the crew and passengers restrained the co-pilot. The aircraft made an emergency landing at Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

Key facts

Award	Presidential State of Israel Award for Civil Heroism – reported as its highest civilian award
Announced by	Israeli President Isaac Herzog – Jerusalem
Flight	flydubai FZ1073 (Boeing 737 MAX 8), Dubai → Tel Aviv; 30 Sept 2026
Emergency landing	Tabuk, Saudi Arabia
Smit Machchhar	Ex-SpiceJet; flydubai captain since 2022; grew up in Ghatkopar, Mumbai; family roots in Rajkot district, Gujarat
Gujarat honour	CM Bhupendra Patel announced the 'Vishisht Gujarat Garima' award (1 Oct)

Background

- India–Israel: India recognised Israel in 1950 and set up full diplomatic relations in 1992. Narendra Modi became the first Indian PM to visit Israel in 2017.
- Indian bravery awards: Ashoka Chakra (highest peacetime gallantry), Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra; 'Jeevan Raksha Padak' awards for saving lives. Flight attendant Neerja Bhanot, killed in the 1986 Pan Am hijacking, is the youngest Ashoka Chakra recipient.
- Aviation safety: the 'two-person rule' keeps two crew in the cockpit at all times (widespread after the 2015 Germanwings crash). The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) – Montreal, under the 1944 Chicago Convention.
- Geography: Tabuk is in north-west Saudi Arabia; Dubai is in the UAE; Israel declares Jerusalem its capital, while many embassies are in Tel Aviv.

Tamil Nadu link: J.R.D. Tata flew India's first commercial airmail service on 15 Oct 1932 from Karachi via Bombay to Madras (Tata Air Services), giving Madras a key place in Indian aviation history.

7 Jewar airport to be named 'Narendra Modi International Airport': Yogi Adityanath

Infrastructure

News

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced on 9 Oct 2026 that the State Cabinet approved a proposal to name Noida International Airport at Jewar, Gautam Buddh Nagar district, 'Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida–Jewar'. The Cabinet also congratulated Modi on 25 years as head of government. He said it will be the State's largest airport.

Key facts

Current name	Noida International Airport, Jewar (IATA: DXN)
Proposed name	Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida–Jewar
District	Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh
Opened	By PM Modi – 28 March 2026
Developer	Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd – subsidiary of Zurich Airport (Switzerland)

Background

- Constitution: 'airways' and aerodromes are in the Union List (Entry 29), so the State proposes and the Centre (Civil Aviation Ministry / Union Cabinet) must approve an airport's renaming.
- National Capital Region: the second big airport after Delhi's Indira Gandhi International; a greenfield airport.
- Other 'Modi' names: Ahmedabad's Motera stadium was renamed 'Narendra Modi Stadium' in 2021 – the world's largest cricket ground.
- Aviation schemes: 'UDAN' (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik, 2016) for regional connectivity; India is the world's third-largest domestic aviation market.
- Geography: Jewar lies near the Yamuna, along the Yamuna Expressway.

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai airport's domestic terminal is named after Kamaraj and its international terminal after Anna. Tamil Nadu's international airports are Chennai, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli (Madurai is a customs airport); a second greenfield airport for Chennai is planned at Parandur.

8 TTD introduces 'Garuda Map' app to guide Tirupati pilgrims

Technology

News

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) introduced 'Garuda Map', a digital guide app that helps pilgrims reach places in Tirumala–Tirupati without help (Oct 2026). Users can search by typing or speaking; it shows walking/vehicle distance, travel time and alternative routes. It comes ahead of the Navaratri Brahmotsavam on 12–20 Oct.

Key facts

App	Garuda Map – TTD
Search	By typing or voice; e.g. 'Kalyana Katta' (tonsure halls)
Listings	Darshan entries, queue complexes, laddu counters, lodging, free annaprasadam, water, medical and emergency centres
Routing	Walking/vehicle distance, time, faster alternatives
Festival	Navaratri Brahmotsavam 12–20 Oct; lakhs expected on Garuda Vahana Seva day; VIP break darshan and arjitha sevas cancelled

Background

- Geography: Tirumala is in the Seshachalam range of the Eastern Ghats (seven hills – 'Ezhumalai'), in Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati district (formed 2022). Seshachalam is a biosphere reserve (2010), famous for red sanders.
- TTD: an autonomous trust set up in 1932 under a Madras Government Act; one of the world's richest temple bodies. The Tirupati laddu got a GI tag in 2009.
- Garuda Vahana Seva: Garuda is the mount of Lord Vishnu; it is the holiest day of the Brahmotsavam.
- Technology: GPS is American; India's own navigation system is 'NavIC' (IRNSS, ISRO).
- Devotional literature: the Alvars sang of Lord Venkateswara; Tallapaka Annamacharya (15th c.) composed thousands of kirtanas.

Tamil Nadu link: when Andhra State was formed in 1953, Tirupati went to Andhra; after the 'northern border struggle' led by Ma. Po. Sivagnanam, Tiruttani joined Tamil Nadu on 1 April 1960. In Sangam literature, Venkatam marked the northern boundary of the Tamil land ('Vadavenkatam Thenkumari').

9 Minister Ranjith Kumar launches wildlife ambulance in Chennai

Tamil Nadu

News

At the Wildlife Week closing ceremony at the Guindy Children's Nature Park, Chennai, Forest Minister R.V. Ranjith Kumar flagged off a 'wildlife ambulance' to give immediate treatment to injured wild animals in and around Chennai (Oct 2026). He released an SOP book on monitoring and releasing sea turtles and gave kits to snake-rescue volunteers registered on the 'Naagam' app.

Key facts

Event	Wildlife ambulance launch – Wildlife Week closing
Venue	Guindy Children's Nature Park, Chennai (1959)
Minister	R.V. Ranjith Kumar – Forests
Also	Sea-turtle SOP book; kits for 'Naagam' app snake rescuers; prizes for painting, quiz, photo contests
Minister said	Elephant and Nilgiri tahr numbers in Tamil Nadu have risen considerably

Background

- Guindy National Park is one of the very few national parks inside a city (declared in 1976), known for blackbuck and spotted deer. The Children's Park opened in 1959.
- Law: Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 (amended 2022); Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960. Article 48A (State) and 51A(g) (citizen's duty of compassion for living creatures); the 42nd Amendment moved 'Forests' and 'wild animals' to the Concurrent List.
- Sea turtles: Olive Ridleys nest on Tamil Nadu's coast from Chennai to Cuddalore and Nagapattinam in December–March; the Forest Department hatches eggs in hatcheries and releases the young. Odisha's Gahirmatha sees mass nesting (arribada).
- Wildlife Week: 2–8 October; the 2026 week began on 2 October.
- Green cover: the National Forest Policy 1988 targets 33% of land under forest/tree cover; Tamil Nadu also aims for 33% green cover.

Tamil Nadu link: the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur (begun in Chennai in 1855), is among India's oldest public zoos; Vedanthangal is India's oldest bird sanctuary.

10 Minister Rajeev opens help desk for the Online Consent Management and Monitoring System

Tamil Nadu

News

Dr V.K. Rajeev, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, opened the help desk for the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board's (TNPCB) Online Consent Management and Monitoring System (OCMMS) on 9 Oct 2026 at the Board's head office, 76 Mount Road, Guindy, Chennai. It guides factories and entrepreneurs in filling consent and authorisation / Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) applications online and uploading documents.

Key facts

System	Online Consent Management and Monitoring System (OCMMS)
Body	Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)
Minister	Dr V.K. Rajeev – Environment and Climate Change
Venue	TNPCB HQ, 3rd floor, Mount Road, Guindy, Chennai
Contact	044-43722000; helpdesk@tnpcb.gov.in; working days 10 am–5.45 pm; walk-in on Fridays
Aim	Cut delays and office visits; simplify procedures

Background

- Pollution control boards: the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) was set up in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act; TNPCB was formed in 1982. Air Act 1981; Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (after the Bhopal gas tragedy).
- Consent types: 'Consent to Establish' (CTE) before building a unit; 'Consent to Operate' (CTO) before production. CPCB categories: Red, Orange, Green, White – White-category units need no consent.
- EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) makes the maker or importer responsible for collecting and recycling the waste from its products – under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, E-Waste Rules 2022 and Battery Waste Rules 2022.
- Constitution: Article 48A – environmental protection as a Directive Principle; Article 51A(g) – citizens' Fundamental Duty (42nd Amendment, 1976). The Water Act was passed under Article 252 with the States' consent.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT, 2010) hears environmental cases; its Southern Zone bench sits in Chennai.

Tamil Nadu link: TNPCB is headquartered at Guindy, Chennai, as is the NGT Southern bench. Tamil Nadu's 'Manjappai' campaign (2021) promotes cloth bags over single-use plastic.

11 NFDC-NFAI adds three Sivaji Ganesan films to the national collection

Tamil Nadu

News

The NFDC–National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Pune, added 35 mm prints of three Sivaji Ganesan films – 'Thiruvilayadal' (1965), 'Thiruvarutchelvar' (1967) and 'Thillana Mohanambal' (1968) – to its national collection (8 Oct 2026). All three were directed by A.P. Nagarajan. FTII film research officer Aparna Subramanian acquired and donated the prints.

Key facts

Films	Thiruvilayadal (1965), Thiruvarutchelvar (1967), Thillana Mohanambal (1968)
Director	A.P. Nagarajan (all three)
Donor	Aparna Subramanian, FTII research officer; collected in Chennai on 13 Sept 2026
Note	'Thiruvarutchelvar' was not held in any format before; the other two are second copies
Archive	NFAI, Pune – set up in 1964

Background

- Sivaji Ganesan: born V.C. Ganesan (Chinnaiah Manrayar Ganesamoorthy) on 1 Oct 1928 at Villupuram; Periyar called him 'Sivaji' after his role as Shivaji in a 1946 play. His first film was 'Parasakthi' (1952); he died on 21 July 2001.
- Honours: Best Actor at the 1960 Afro-Asian Film Festival, Cairo, for 'Veerapandiya Kattabomman' – the first Indian actor to win it; France's 'Chevalier' (1995); Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1996); Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.
- Thiruvilayadal is based on Paranjothi Munivar's 'Thiruvilayadal Puranam' – Lord Shiva's 64 divine plays at Madurai; Nagesh's 'Dharumi' role is famous. Thillana Mohanambal comes from Kothamangalam Subbu's serial in Ananda Vikatan – the story of a nadaswaram player and a dancer.
- NFAI was set up at Pune in 1964 under the I&B Ministry; in 2022 Films Division, NFAI, the Directorate of Film Festivals and CFSI were merged into the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). The 'National Film Heritage Mission' (NFHM) restores and digitises old films.
- Science: dyes in old colour prints break down, causing 'magenta fading'; cold, low-humidity storage is essential.

Tamil Nadu link: Sivaji Ganesan was born at Villupuram; 'Thiruvilayadal' draws on the sacred lore of Madurai's Meenakshi–Sundareswarar temple. The Sivaji Ganesan memorial (Manimandapam, 2017) stands at Adyar, Chennai.

What next? Get the questions PDF for the same day, the free daily quiz and monthly compilations at www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/free-pdf-download · TNPSC / UPSC classroom & online coaching (Coimbatore · Madurai): 99941 46662