Current Affairs – Notes

12 October 2026

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1 Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day 2026 – 9 October (80th year)

Important Days

News

9 October is observed every year as 'IFS Day' to mark the Government of India's creation of the Indian Foreign Service on 9 Oct 1946; in 2026 the service completes 80 years. On 12 Oct 2026 External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar interacted with IFS officers of the 2011 batch attending mid-career training.

Key facts

Date	9 Oct – the IFS was created (1946)
Observed	IFS Day observed since 2011
First batch	First batch recruited through UPSC in 1948
Training	Foundation course – LBSNAA, Mussoorie; then the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi
Minister	External Affairs Minister – Dr S. Jaishankar (since 2019)

Background

- History: K.P.S. Menon was independent India's first Foreign Secretary (1948–52). Nehru, the first PM, was also the first External Affairs Minister. The Foreign Service Institute was renamed the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service in 2020.
- Constitution: Article 51 (Directive Principle) – promote international peace and security; 'foreign affairs' is in the Union List.
- Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) – privileges of diplomats. Panchsheel – 1954, India–China.

Tamil Nadu link: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar comes from a Tamil family; his father, strategic analyst K. Subrahmanyam, was born in Tiruchirappalli. Jaishankar was Foreign Secretary in 2015–18.

2 International Day of the Girl Child 2026 (11 October)

Important Days

News

11 October is the International Day of the Girl Child. The 2026 theme (UN, UNICEF) is 'End child marriage and invest in girls' rights'. UNICEF says about one in five girls worldwide is married before 18, and over 12 million girls are married as children every year.

Key facts

Date	11 Oct – International Day of the Girl Child
2026 theme	End child marriage and invest in girls' rights
Resolution	UNGA resolution 66/170 – 19 Dec 2011; first observed 2012
India	National Girl Child Day – 24 Jan (since 2008)

Background

- Indian law: the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 – 18 for women, 21 for men; earlier the 'Sarda Act' (1929). POCSO Act 2012.

- 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' – 22 Jan 2015, Panipat (Haryana); the 'Sukanya Samriddhi' savings scheme began the same day.
- Globally, girls aged 15–19 are twice as likely as boys to be out of education, employment or training (UNICEF). Child marriage is highest in sub-Saharan Africa.

Tamil Nadu link: the 'Cradle Baby Scheme' began at Salem in 1992 to stop female infanticide; the 'Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme' came the same year. The 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme (5 Sept 2022) gives ₹1,000 a month to girls from government schools who go on to higher education.

3 Smriti Mandhana named UNICEF India Celebrity Advocate

Appointments

News

Indian women's cricket captain Smriti Mandhana was named UNICEF India 'Celebrity Advocate' on 11 Oct 2026, the International Day of the Girl Child. She will champion equal chances for girls to learn, play and thrive, adolescent girls' health and girls' participation in sport. UNICEF India Representative Cynthia McCaffrey called investing in girls' rights 'a nation's smartest investment'.

Key facts

Role	UNICEF India Celebrity Advocate – 11 Oct 2026
Focus	Girls' education, health and sport; empowering adolescent girls
Mandhana	Born in Mumbai in 1996; grew up in Sangli, Maharashtra; captain in all formats since 6 Oct 2026
Honours	Arjuna Award (2019); ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year (2018, 2021)
Other UNICEF India faces	Sachin Tendulkar (Regional Ambassador), Kareena Kapoor Khan, Ayushmann Khurrana (National Ambassadors), Keerthy Suresh (Celebrity Advocate)

Background

- UNICEF: the UN Children's Fund, set up on 11 Dec 1946, headquartered in New York; it won the 1965 Nobel Peace Prize.
- India has 253 million adolescents – a fifth of its population and 21% of the world's adolescents.
- Cricket: India's women won their first ICC Women's ODI World Cup in 2025, with Mandhana in the team. She holds the fastest ODI century by an Indian woman (50 balls, 2025).

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai-born actor Keerthy Suresh is also a UNICEF India Celebrity Advocate. Chennai's M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chepauk (1916), is one of India's oldest cricket grounds.

4 Economics Nobel 2026 – Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford

Awards

News

On 12 Oct 2026 the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced in Stockholm that the 2026 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences (Economics Nobel) goes to Robert E. Hall (Stanford University) and Michael Woodford (Columbia University), both of the USA, 'for microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation'. The prize of SEK 12 million is shared equally.

Key facts

Laureates	Robert E. Hall (Stanford), Michael Woodford (Columbia) – both American
Citation	For microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation
Contribution	Macro models built on forward-looking households and firms; Woodford's work underpins central banks' 'forward guidance'
Prize	SEK 12 million (raised from 2026); announced 12 Oct 2026
2025 winners	Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, Peter Howitt – innovation-driven growth

Background

- The economics prize is not in Alfred Nobel's will; Sweden's central bank (Sveriges Riksbank) founded it in 1968; the first prize (1969) went to Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen.
- Indian-origin laureates: Amartya Sen (1998 – welfare economics), Abhijit Banerjee (2019 – with Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer, on global poverty). Women: Elinor Ostrom (2009), Esther Duflo (2019), Claudia Goldin (2023).
- Macroeconomics deals with national output, inflation and jobs; microeconomics with individual and firm decisions. India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC, 2016) sets the repo rate; the inflation target is 4% (±2%).

Tamil Nadu link: Nobel laureates with Tamil roots – C.V. Raman (Physics 1930, born at Thiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli), S. Chandrasekhar (Physics 1983), Venkatraman Ramakrishnan (Chemistry 2009, Chidambaram). Navi Pillay, the 2026 Peace laureate, is also of Tamil descent.

5 'Project DRISHTI' – AI system to secure freight wagons, launched by Northeast Frontier Railway

Technology

News

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), a zone of Indian Railways, introduced 'Project DRISHTI', an artificial intelligence (AI) system developed with IIT Guwahati (launched 25 Sept 2026 at Maligaon, Guwahati). Trackside high-speed cameras let the AI read each wagon number on a passing freight train and check whether doors, locks and seals are intact; open doors, damage or pilferage are flagged to staff at once.

Key facts

System	Project DRISHTI – AI-based monitoring of freight-wagon locks and seals
Developed by	Northeast Frontier Railway + IIT Guwahati (Technology Innovation and Development Foundation)
Launch	25 Sept 2026, NFR HQ, Maligaon, Guwahati
Use	Helps the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and commercial staff; faster checks at night and in bad weather

Background

- Note: this is not an all-India Railways launch but an NFR zone project, with phased expansion planned. It is not a track-defect detection system either.
- Related: 'Kavach' – the indigenous automatic train protection (ATP) system developed by RDSO; Railway Protection Force Act 1957.

- India's first train ran on 16 Apr 1853 from Bombay to Thane (34 km). The Railway Budget was merged with the Union Budget in 2017.

Tamil Nadu link: Southern Railway, the first zone of Indian Railways, was formed on 14 Apr 1951 with headquarters in Chennai. The Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Perambur, Chennai, built the first 'Vande Bharat' train (2018).

6 PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY) completes a year; top districts named

Agriculture

News

The 'PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' (PM-DDKY), which aims to lift 100 low-productivity farm districts, completed one year on 11 Oct 2026. At a review led by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 12 Oct, Gaya (Bihar), Nagaur (Rajasthan) and Umaria (Madhya Pradesh) were named the top three districts. A 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' on soil health and balanced fertiliser use will run from 22 Oct to 30 Nov 2026.

Key facts

Launch	11 Oct 2025 – PM Modi, IARI Pusa (Cabinet approval 16 July 2025)
Scale	₹24,000 crore a year; 6 years; 100 districts (at least one per State)
Convergence	36 schemes of 11 ministries; about 1.7 crore farmers
Selection	Low productivity, low cropping intensity, low farm credit
Top three (2026)	Gaya (Bihar), Nagaur (Rajasthan), Umaria (Madhya Pradesh)

Background

- Model: NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme (2018). Six objectives – productivity, crop diversification, post-harvest storage, irrigation, credit and governance; 121 indicators, monthly ranking.
- Committees: chaired by the Collector at district level, the Chief Secretary at State level and the Union Agriculture Minister nationally.
- Related schemes: PM-KISAN (2019, ₹6,000 a year), Soil Health Card (2015, Suratgarh, Rajasthan), PM Fasal Bima Yojana (2016).

Tamil Nadu link: four Tamil Nadu districts are in the scheme – Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar (mostly rain-fed, dry southern districts). No Tamil Nadu district was among the 2026 award winners.

7 Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses completes one year (11 Oct 2026)

Agriculture

News

The 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses', launched by PM Modi at Pusa (IARI), New Delhi, on 11 Oct 2025, completed one year on 11 Oct 2026. With an outlay of ₹11,440 crore over six years (2025–26 to 2030–31), it targets 350 lakh tonnes of pulses by 2030–31. In its first year (2025–26) output rose to 274.09 lakh tonnes, and pulse imports fell 31.52% by value.

Key facts

Launch	11 Oct 2025 – PM Modi, IARI Pusa (Cabinet approval 1 Oct 2025)
Outlay	₹11,440 crore; 2025–26 to 2030–31
Targets (2030–31)	Output 350 lakh tonnes; area 310 lakh ha; yield 1,130 kg/ha
Procurement	Tur, urad, masoor – 100% bought at MSP through NAFED and NCCF for 4 years
Year one	Output 274.09 lakh tonnes; imports down 31.52% by value

Background

- India is the world's largest producer, consumer and importer of pulses. Chickpea (gram) is the biggest pulse crop. Imports come from Canada and Australia (lentils, peas), Myanmar and Mozambique (tur).
- Science: 'Rhizobium' bacteria in the root nodules of pulse crops fix atmospheric nitrogen and enrich the soil.
- 2016 was the UN International Year of Pulses; 10 Feb is World Pulses Day. NAFED dates from 1958; purchases are made under PM-AASHA's Price Support Scheme.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's National Pulses Research Centre is at Vamban, Pudukkottai district – the Union Agriculture Minister praised its varieties. In the Cauvery delta, black gram and green gram are grown on rice-fallow land after the paddy harvest.

8 Draft National Steel Policy – Vision 2047: 604 MT capacity target by 2047

Industry

News

The Union Ministry of Steel released the 'Draft National Steel Policy – Vision 2047' for comments (Oct 2026). It will replace the National Steel Policy 2017. By 2047 it targets raising crude steel capacity from about 220 million tonnes (MT) to 604 MT (about three times), per-capita steel consumption from about 116 kg to 302 kg, and cutting CO2 emissions from 2.54 to 1.54 tonnes per tonne of steel.

Key facts

Capacity	604 MT (2047) – about 220 MT now
Production / use	Production 531 MT; finished-steel consumption 505 MT
Per capita	302 kg (about 116 kg now)
Emissions	2.54 → 1.54 t CO2 per tonne (39% cut)
Earlier policy	NSP 2017 – 300 MT capacity and 160 kg per capita by 2030–31

Background

- India is the world's second-largest crude steel producer after China. About 92% of its coking coal is imported.
- History: TISCO – 1907, Jamshedpur (Jamsetji Tata). The Second Five-Year Plan set up Bhilai (USSR), Rourkela (West Germany) and Durgapur (Britain) steel plants.
- Green steel: green-hydrogen-based direct reduced iron (DRI) and carbon capture (CCUS); India's 'Green Steel Taxonomy' grades steel by emissions. There is a PLI scheme for specialty steel.

Tamil Nadu link: SAIL's Salem Steel Plant makes stainless steel; Kanjamalai in Salem district has iron ore (magnetite). Tamil Nadu's automobile industry is a major user of steel.

9 Forest Rights Act 2006 – second regional review conference, Kolkata

Governance

News

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs held the second regional review conference on implementing the Forest Rights Act 2006 in Kolkata on 9 Oct 2026, opened by Secretary Ranjana Chopra. Eight States took part – West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Nationally (as of 31 Aug 2026) over 54 lakh claims have been received and about 25 lakh titles distributed; about 11 lakh are pending.

Key facts

Organiser	Ministry of Tribal Affairs; Secretary Ranjana Chopra
Date & venue	9 Oct 2026, Kolkata; first conference – Bengaluru (10 Sept 2026, southern States)
National figures	Claims 54 lakh+; titles about 25 lakh; pending about 11 lakh; rejected 18 lakh+ (31.08.2026)
Directions	Action plans for Gram Sabhas; Community Forest Resource (CFR) management plans; entering rights in revenue and forest records; National FRA portal and app

Background

- Law: the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, in force from 31 Dec 2007. Individual rights (up to 4 hectares), community rights, minor forest produce, Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights and PVTG habitat rights.
- Eligibility: occupation of forest land before 13 Dec 2005; 'Other Traditional Forest Dwellers' must prove 75 years (three generations) of residence. The Gram Sabha starts the claim process; then the Sub-Divisional and District Level Committees.
- Constitution: Fifth Schedule (Article 244) – Scheduled Areas; PESA Act 1996 empowers Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas. Article 338A – National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's 6 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are the Todas, Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas, Paniyas and Kattunayakans (mostly in the Nilgiris). The first regional conference, for the southern States, was held in Bengaluru.

10 India's first synchronised nationwide Sarus Crane survey (BNHS)

Environment

News

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) held India's first synchronised nationwide Sarus Crane survey on 10–11 Oct 2026 (10 Oct was World Migratory Bird Day). Under BNHS's Central Asian Flyway programme, led by Director Kishor Rithe and Deputy Director Dr P. Sathiyaselvam, State Forest Departments, farmers, colleges and citizen scientists took part. It aims to set a baseline count, map breeding sites and identify power lines that kill the birds.

Key facts

Run by	Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) – citizen-science method
Dates	10–11 Oct 2026
Earlier estimate	International Crane Foundation (2026): about 23,255 in India; Uttar Pradesh 19,918
Sarus	World's tallest flying bird (about 1.5 m); Antigone antigone
Status	IUCN Vulnerable; Wildlife Act Schedule I; CITES Appendix II

Background

- Sarus crane: the only crane species that breeds as a resident in India; pairs stay together for life, making it a symbol of marital fidelity; it is Uttar Pradesh's State bird.
- Range: Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana. Threats: wetland loss, pesticides, power-line collisions, egg theft.
- BNHS: a non-government research body founded in Mumbai in 1883; Dr Salim Ali, the 'Birdman of India', was associated with it.
- Note: this is not an official government 'census' but a citizen-science 'survey' run by BNHS; results are not yet out.

Tamil Nadu link: the Sarus crane does not normally occur in Tamil Nadu. BNHS runs a 'Bird Migration Study Centre' at Point Calimere (Kodiakkarai), Nagapattinam district. Vedanthangal is India's oldest bird sanctuary.

11 Gujarat's Ambaji temple 'Mohanthal' prasad gets GI tag

History & Culture

News

'Ambaji Mohanthal', the prasad sweet of the Ambaji temple in Banaskantha district, Gujarat, has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The applicant is Shree Arasuri Ambaji Mata Devsthan Trust; application No. 1228 (filed 18 Apr 2024); certificate dated 1 Oct 2026. On 11 Oct 2026, the first day of Navratri, Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks Prof. Unnat P. Pandit handed over the certificate.

Key facts

Product	Ambaji Mohanthal – sweet of gram flour, ghee and sugar; Class 30 (foodstuffs)
Applicant	Shree Arasuri Ambaji Mata Devsthan Trust
Timeline	Filed 18 Apr 2024; certificate 1 Oct 2026; handed over 11 Oct 2026; valid to 17 Apr 2034
Ambaji	Banaskantha district; Arasur hills (Aravallis); one of the 51 Shakti Peethas; the 'Visa Yantra' is worshipped instead of an idol

Background

- Law: the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, in force from 2003; registration lasts 10 years and is renewable. It fulfils India's obligation under the WTO's TRIPS Agreement.

- India's first GI – Darjeeling Tea (2004–05). The GI Registry is at Guindy, Chennai, under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Other Gujarat GIs: Patan Patola, Kutch embroidery, Jamnagari Bandhani, Gir Kesar mango, Bhalia wheat.
- Temple prasad with GI: Tirupati Laddu (2009), Palani Panchamirtham (2019).

Tamil Nadu link: the GI Registry is in Chennai. Panchamirtham of the Palani Murugan temple (Dindigul district) got a GI in 2019 – Tamil Nadu's first temple prasad with a GI. Srivilliputhur Palkova and Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai are other GI-tagged Tamil Nadu sweets.

12 Sunil Bharti Mittal conferred France's Legion of Honour (Chevalier)

Awards

News

French President Emmanuel Macron conferred on Sunil Bharti Mittal, founder-chairman of Bharti Enterprises, the rank of 'Chevalier' (Knight) of the Legion of Honour (Légion d'honneur), France's highest order (announced Oct 2026). It recognises his work strengthening India–France economic ties and his contribution to telecom and digital infrastructure. The insignia will be presented on 28 Oct 2026 at the Embassy of France, New Delhi.

Key facts

Award	Legion of Honour – rank of Chevalier (Knight)
Conferred by	French President Emmanuel Macron
Ceremony	28 Oct 2026, French Embassy, New Delhi; Ambassador Thierry Mathou
Mittal	Founder-chairman, Bharti Enterprises (Airtel); Ludhiana, Punjab
Other honours	Padma Bhushan (2007); honorary KBE from the UK (2024)

Background

- Legion of Honour: founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802; France's highest order (civil and military). Five grades (lowest to highest): Chevalier, Officier, Commandeur, Grand Officier, Grand-Croix – Mittal received the first grade.
- India–France: strategic partnership since 1998; 'Horizon 2047' roadmap (2023); Rafale fighters; the International Solar Alliance (ISA, 2015 – launched by India and France, HQ Gurugram).
- Indian civilian awards (highest first): Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri.

Tamil Nadu link: Puducherry was French territory – de facto transfer on 1 Nov 1954, de jure on 16 Aug 1962. Sivaji Ganesan (1995) and Kamal Haasan (2016) received France's 'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres' – a different order from the Legion of Honour.

13 INS Trishul reaches Plymouth, UK, for India–UK naval exercise KONKAN-26

Defence

News

INS Trishul, an Indian Navy guided-missile stealth frigate, reached Plymouth, UK, for the India–UK naval exercise KONKAN-26. The exercise runs on 8–15 Oct 2026 off Plymouth in a harbour phase and a sea phase – air, surface and anti-submarine drills, cross-deck helicopter landings and firing.

Key facts

Exercise	KONKAN-26 – India–UK naval exercise; 8–15 Oct 2026
Venue	Plymouth, UK
Ship	INS Trishul (F43) – Talwar-class frigate; built in Russia; commissioned 25 June 2003
Since	KONKAN exercise held since 2004
KONKAN 2025	First combined carrier strike group drill – INS Vikrant and HMS Prince of Wales

Background

- India–UK: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership; 'Vision 2035' roadmap; the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed in July 2025.
- Other India–UK exercises: 'Ajeya Warrior' – army; 'Indradhanush' – air force.
- 'Trishul' is Lord Shiva's trident. In March 2024 INS Trishul rescued 23 Pakistani crew from a hijacked Iranian fishing vessel near Socotra.
- Geography: Plymouth is on England's south-west Devon coast on the English Channel; the 'Mayflower' sailed from here to America in 1620.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's waters come under the Eastern Naval Command; INS Adyar is the naval base in Chennai. (INS Vikrant, which took part in KONKAN 2025, was built in Kochi.)

14 AI misuse and nuclear war could threaten humanity by 2100, warns Lancet Commission

Indices & Reports

News

The Lancet Commission on 21st-Century Global Threats to Health released its report on 11 Oct 2026 at the World Health Summit in Berlin. It lists 17 threats to human health for 2025–2100. Two of them – malicious use of artificial intelligence (including making biological weapons) and nuclear war ('nuclear famine') – could end humanity in the most extreme scenarios. But the Commission calls their likelihood 'low' and says severe outcomes are 'not inevitable'.

Key facts

Report	Lancet Commission on 21st-Century Global Threats to Health
Released	11 Oct 2026, World Health Summit, Berlin
Co-chairs	Christopher Murray (IHME, University of Washington), Natalia Kanem (former UNFPA Executive Director)
Extinction-level	Malicious AI use; nuclear war – likelihood 'low'
Major catastrophic	Air pollution, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), child malnutrition, climate change

Background

- DALY (disability-adjusted life years) = years of life lost to early death + years lived with disability. IHME runs the 'Global Burden of Disease' (GBD) study.
- The Lancet: a British weekly medical journal founded by Thomas Wakley in London in 1823; editor Richard Horton.
- Nuclear winter: soot from nuclear war blocks sunlight in the upper atmosphere, crops fail and famine follows. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT, 1968) – India has not signed it.
- AMR: microbes becoming resistant to medicines; India's National Action Plan on AMR – 2017.

Tamil Nadu link: the 'Chennai Declaration' (2012) by Indian medical societies to tackle antimicrobial resistance. India's largest nuclear power plant is at Kudankulam (Tirunelveli district), built with Russia; Kalpakkam hosts the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR).

15 Record warmth in the Pacific as El Niño strengthens: WMO

Environment

News

According to the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) Global Seasonal Climate Update (8 Oct 2026), sea-surface temperatures in the central-eastern equatorial Pacific (Niño 3.4) are forecast to be about +3.7°C above normal in Oct–Dec 2026, beating the previous peak of +2.6°C (Nov 2015 – Jan 2016). In early October the Niño 3.4 sea temperature crossed 30°C for the first time. This may be one of the strongest El Niños since 1950, with a near-100% chance of lasting to Feb 2027.

Key facts

Report	WMO Global Seasonal Climate Update – 8 Oct 2026
Forecast	Niño 3.4 Oct–Dec +3.7°C above normal; previous peak +2.6°C (2015–16)
Measured	Niño 3.4 sea temperature above 30°C for the first time in early Oct
Indian Ocean	Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) – positive, peaking in October
WMO head	Secretary-General Celeste Saulo (Argentina) – first woman SG

Background

- El Niño: unusual warming of the central-eastern equatorial Pacific, every 2–7 years. Spanish for 'the boy / Christ child', as Peruvian fishermen noticed it around Christmas. The opposite phase is La Niña; together they form ENSO (El Niño–Southern Oscillation).
- Impact on India: El Niño usually weakens the southwest monsoon; a positive IOD can partly offset it.

- WMO is a UN specialised agency in Geneva; its Convention came into force on 23 March 1950, hence World Meteorological Day on 23 March. India Meteorological Department (IMD) – 1875.
- 2024 was the hottest year on record, about 1.55°C above pre-industrial (1850–1900). The Paris Agreement (2015) aims to limit warming to 1.5°C.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu gets most of its rain from the northeast monsoon (Oct–Dec), which tends to be normal or above normal in El Niño and positive-IOD years – e.g. the 2015 Chennai floods during the strong 2015 El Niño (a tendency, not a fixed rule).

16 Transgender doctor Dr Ruth John Paul completes MD, joins ESI hospital

Health

News

Dr Koyyala Ruth John Paul, a transgender woman from Khammam district, Telangana, completed her MD in Emergency Medicine at ESIC Medical College, Hyderabad, and joined ESI Hospital, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad, as a senior resident (Oct 2026). In 2023 the media described her as the first transgender person admitted to a medical PG course.

Key facts

Doctor	Dr Koyyala Ruth John Paul – Khammam, Telangana
MBBS	2018 – Malla Reddy Institute of Medical Sciences
MD	Emergency Medicine – ESIC Medical College, Hyderabad (admitted 2023 on a third-gender seat after a High Court interim order)
Now	Senior resident, ESI Hospital, Sanathnagar
Earlier	2022 – among Telangana's first transgender government doctors, at Osmania General Hospital

Background

- Supreme Court – NALSA v. Union of India (15 Apr 2014): recognised transgender persons as the 'third gender' with rights under Articles 14, 15, 16, 19 and 21.
- The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 bans discrimination and set up a National Council for Transgender Persons; the 'SMILE' scheme (2022) supports rehabilitation.
- ESIC – Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESI Act 1948), under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- Note: the Oct 2026 report does not itself claim 'India's first transgender PG doctor'; the 'first' label was used at her 2023 admission.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu set up India's first Transgender (Aravani) Welfare Board in 2008; 15 April is 'Transgender Day' in Tamil Nadu. K. Prithika Yashini became India's first transgender police Sub-Inspector (2017, Tamil Nadu).

17 INS Mangrol, third Mahe-class anti-submarine warfare craft, commissioned in Mumbai

Defence

News

INS Mangrol, the third Mahe-class 'Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft' (ASW-SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard (CSL), was commissioned on 12 Oct 2026 at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, in the presence of Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. It has over 80% indigenous content and is named after Mangrol port in Gujarat.

Key facts

Ship	INS Mangrol – Mahe-class ASW-SWC (third from CSL)
Builder	Cochin Shipyard Ltd, Kochi
Specs	About 78 m long; 25 knots; DRDO 'Abhay' sonar
Name	Mangrol port, Junagadh district, Gujarat; revives the old minesweeper INS Mangrol (served till 2004)
Programme	16 ASW-SWCs – 8 by GRSE (Arnala class) + 8 by CSL (Mahe class)

Background

- Role: hunting submarines in shallow coastal waters, laying mines, search and rescue; they replace the old 'Abhay'-class corvettes.
- Earlier ships of the type: Arnala (June 2025, the first ASW-SWC), Androth, Mahe, Anjadip (Feb 2026, Chennai) and Malvan (July 2026, Kochi).
- Naval Commands: Western – Mumbai; Eastern – Visakhapatnam; Southern – Kochi (training). Cochin Shipyard built INS Vikrant, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (commissioned 2 Sept 2022).
- Geography: Mangrol is on Gujarat's Saurashtra coast (Arabian Sea), in Junagadh district.

Tamil Nadu link: INS Anjadip, a ship of the same type, was commissioned at Chennai Port on 27 Feb 2026. INS Rajali at Arakkonam is one of Asia's largest naval air stations.

18 IIT Madras's Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre dedicated to the nation

Science

News

On 11 Oct 2026 PM Narendra Modi dedicated the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre (SGBC) at IIT Madras to the nation, with CM C. Joseph Vijay present. He launched a global mission to build 3D cellular-resolution atlases of more than 100 human brains, from foetus to old age, and released 'C-STROKE', described as the world's first 3D atlas of a brain affected by ischaemic stroke.

Key facts

Centre	Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre (SGBC), IIT Madras – started 2022
Funding	Kris Gopalakrishnan (Infosys co-founder) and Sudha Gopalakrishnan; Prem Watsa
C-STROKE	World's first 3D atlas of a stroke brain; 1,000+ sections; processed on 'Param Shakti' supercomputer
DHARANI	2024 – 3D atlas of the human foetal brain (5,132 sections)
Partners	CMC Vellore, NIMHANS, Saveetha Medical College and others

Background

- Science: the cerebrum, the largest part, handles thought and memory; the cerebellum keeps balance; the medulla controls involuntary actions like heartbeat and breathing. The neuron is the basic unit of the nervous system.
- Stroke: blocked blood flow to the brain causes 'ischaemic' stroke; a burst blood vessel causes 'haemorrhagic' stroke.
- Supercomputing: India's first supercomputer 'PARAM 8000' (1991, C-DAC Pune); National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) – 2015. 'Param Shakti' is at IIT Kharagpur.
- IIT Madras was founded in 1959 with West German assistance; it has repeatedly topped the NIRF rankings.

Tamil Nadu link: the centre is at IIT Madras; CMC Vellore and Saveetha Medical College in Tamil Nadu are partners. On the same visit the PM opened a Chennai Metro Phase II stretch (item 17).

19 CERVAVAC – India's first indigenous HPV vaccine gets WHO prequalification

Health

News

On 5 Oct 2026 the World Health Organization (WHO) granted 'prequalification' to CERVAVAC, Serum Institute of India's (Pune) vaccine against cervical cancer and India's first indigenous HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine. UN agencies such as UNICEF and GAVI can now buy and supply it to other countries. It is the Serum Institute's 32nd WHO-prequalified product.

Key facts

Vaccine	CERVAVAC – quadrivalent HPV vaccine: types 6, 11, 16, 18
Maker	Serum Institute of India, Pune; DBT–BIRAC support
DCGI approval	July 2022; launched 1 Sept 2022
Age group	Girls and boys aged 9–26; 2 doses at 9–14 years
WHO status	Prequalified – 5 Oct 2026

Background

- Science: HPV 16 and 18 are high-risk types behind most cervical cancers; 6 and 11 cause genital warts. Harald zur Hausen won the 2008 Medicine Nobel for linking HPV to cervical cancer.
- India: cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among Indian women after breast cancer. Under the national HPV drive, 14-year-old girls get a free single dose of 'Gardasil-4' (registered on U-

WIN); over 80 lakh doses had been given by Sept 2026.
- WHO's '90-70-90' targets for 2030: 90% of girls vaccinated, 70% of women screened, 90% of patients treated.
- Institutions: Department of Biotechnology (DBT) 1986; BIRAC – DBT's public-sector company (2012). Serum Institute – founded by Cyrus Poonawalla in 1966; the world's largest vaccine maker by doses.

Tamil Nadu link: the Union Health Ministry named Tamil Nadu among the leading States in the national HPV drive. The Cancer Institute, Adyar, Chennai (1954) was founded by Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy; Dr V. Shanta later led it.

20 President Droupadi Murmu appoints Governors for six States

Appointments

News

On 12 Oct 2026 President Droupadi Murmu appointed Governors for six States: Tamil Nadu – R.V. Arlekar (moved from Keralam); Keralam – Om Prakash Mathur (moved from Sikkim); Odisha – Braj Mohan Ram; Karnataka – Dr Sudha Yadav; Uttarakhand – Dhal Singh Bisen; Sikkim – Dushyant Gautam. Each appointment takes effect from the date the person assumes charge.

Key facts

Tamil Nadu	R.V. Arlekar
Keralam	Om Prakash Mathur (ex-Rajya Sabha MP, Rajasthan)
Karnataka	Dr Sudha Yadav – succeeds Thaawarchand Gehlot; the State's second woman Governor
Odisha	Braj Mohan Ram – succeeds Hari Babu Kambhampati
Uttarakhand	Dhal Singh Bisen (ex-MP, Balaghat) – succeeds Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh
Sikkim	Dushyant Gautam (ex-Rajya Sabha MP)

Background

- Article 154 – the State's executive power vests in the Governor; Article 163 – a Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister aids and advises the Governor; Article 164 – the Governor appoints the Chief Minister.
- Article 158 – the Governor may not be a member of Parliament or a State legislature or hold any office of profit. Article 161 – power to pardon. Article 200 – assent to Bills; Article 213 – ordinances.
- Sarkaria Commission (1983–88) on Centre–State relations recommended that a Governor be someone outside active politics and from outside the State. Punchhi Commission (2007).
- Karnataka's first woman Governor was V.S. Ramadevi (1999–2002), who was also India's first woman Chief Election Commissioner (1990).

Tamil Nadu link: the Rajamannar Committee (1969–71), set up by Tamil Nadu CM Karunanidhi, made recommendations on State autonomy and the Governor's office – the first State-appointed committee on Centre–State relations.

21 R.V. Arlekar appointed full-time Governor of Tamil Nadu by the President

Appointments

News

Rashtrapati Bhavan announced on 12 Oct 2026 that Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Keralam who was holding additional charge of Tamil Nadu, is now the full-time Governor of Tamil Nadu. He had taken oath as Tamil Nadu Governor (additional charge) at Lok Bhavan, Chennai on 12 March 2026. The previous Governor, R.N. Ravi, was moved to West Bengal. Om Prakash Mathur is the new Governor of Keralam.

Key facts

Governor	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar – full-time (announced 12 Oct 2026)
Earlier	Governor of Keralam (from 2 Jan 2025); TN additional charge (from 12 Mar 2026)
Past posts	Governor of Himachal Pradesh (2021–23) and Bihar (2023–25); Speaker, Goa Assembly (2012–15)
Born	23 Apr 1954, Panaji, Goa
New Keralam Governor	Om Prakash Mathur (was Governor of Sikkim)

Background

- Constitution: Article 153 – a Governor for each State; the 7th Amendment (1956) lets one person be Governor of two or more States. Article 155 – the President appoints the Governor by warrant under his hand and seal.
- Article 156 – holds office during the pleasure of the President (normally 5 years); Article 157 – minimum age 35; Article 159 – oath given by the Chief Justice of the State High Court.
- Renaming: the Bill renaming 'Kerala' as 'Keralam' passed Parliament in August 2026 (Article 3, amending the First Schedule); in 1969 'Madras State' became 'Tamil Nadu'.
- Governors' residences have been renamed from 'Raj Bhavan' to 'Lok Bhavan'; Chennai's Lok Bhavan is at Guindy.

Tamil Nadu link: M. Fathima Beevi (1997–2001) was Tamil Nadu's first woman Governor – she was also the first woman judge of the Supreme Court (1989). In 'State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu', the Supreme Court on 8 Apr 2025 used Article 142 to deem 10 pending Bills as assented to.

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