Current Affairs – Notes

13 October 2026

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1 Right to Information Act completes 21 years (12 Oct)

Polity

News

The Right to Information Act 2005 completed 21 years of full operation on 12 Oct 2026. A report released for the occasion by Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS) found 3.85 lakh appeals/complaints pending across 28 information commissions as of 30 June 2026; nine commissions returned 37,701 cases without orders in July 2025 – June 2026.

Key facts

Act	RTI Act 2005 – Presidential assent 15 June 2005; fully in force 12 Oct 2005
Pendency	3.85 lakh appeals/complaints – 28 commissions (30.06.2026)
Chief Information Commissioner	Raj Kumar Goyal (since 15 Dec 2025)
Time limit	Section 7 – reply within 30 days; 48 hours if life or liberty is involved
Amendments	RTI (Amendment) Act 2019 – tenure and pay set by Central rules; DPDP Act 2023 amended Section 8(1)(j) (from 13 Nov 2025)

Background

- Constitution: the right to information is part of Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and expression) – State of U.P. v. Raj Narain (1975). Rajasthan's 'Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan' (MKSS, Aruna Roy) movement paved the way for RTI.
- Structure: Central Information Commission (Section 12) – a Chief plus up to 10 Commissioners; State Information Commissions (Section 15). Section 4(1)(b) – 17 categories of suo motu disclosure; Section 8 – exemptions; Section 20 – penalties. The first Chief Information Commissioner was Wajahat Habibullah.
- 2019 amendment: the 5-year term and pay equal to Election Commissioners were earlier fixed in the Act; now set by Central rules (currently 3 years).

Tamil Nadu link: before the 2005 central law, Tamil Nadu enacted the 'Right to Information Act 1997' – among the country's first State laws, alongside Goa. The Tamil Nadu State Information Commission was set up in 2005; the State Chief Information Commissioner's post is currently vacant.

2 PM GatiShakti National Master Plan completes 5 years (13 Oct)

Infrastructure

News

The 'PM GatiShakti National Master Plan', which integrates infrastructure planning, completed 5 years on 13 Oct 2026. PM Modi launched it at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, on 13 Oct 2021. It now covers 58 central ministries/departments and all 36 States/UTs, with over 23,493 data layers (as of 12 Oct 2026). Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the next phase will focus on multimodal connectivity, district-level planning and social sectors such as schools and health centres.

Key facts

Launch	13 Oct 2021 – PM Modi, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi; ₹100 lakh crore
7 engines	Roads, railways, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport, logistics
Platform	GIS platform built by BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics), Gandhinagar
At 5 years	58 ministries/departments; 36 States/UTs; 23,493+ data layers
Implementation	DPIIT (Ministry of Commerce and Industry); the Network Planning Group (NPG) appraises projects

Background

- National Logistics Policy (NLP) – 17 Sept 2022; target: a top-25 rank in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) by 2030. India's logistics cost was 7.97% of GDP in 2023–24 (DPIIT–NCAER).
- LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) ranks States' logistics performance. Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (2022) is in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- Schemes brought together: Bharatmala (roads), Sagarmala (ports), inland waterways, UDAN (regional flights) and Dedicated Freight Corridors.

Tamil Nadu link: the 'Tamil Nadu Logistics Policy and Integrated Logistics Plan 2023' (18 Mar 2023) uses the GatiShakti-style two-tier structure – an Empowered Group of Secretaries and a Network Planning Group. Chennai, Thoothukudi (V.O. Chidambaranar) and Kamarajar (Ennore) are major ports.

3 World Standards Day 2026 (14 October)

Important Days

News

14 October is World Standards Day. The 2026 theme (IEC, ISO, ITU) is 'Shared vision for a better world: Spotlight on SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy'. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) holds awareness events across the country – e.g. a 'Quality Walk' at Faridabad (9 Oct).

Key facts

Date	14 Oct – World Standards Day (since 1970)
2026 theme	Shared vision for a better world: Spotlight on SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy
Why 14 Oct	14 Oct 1946 – delegates of 25 countries met in London to create an international standards body; ISO was formed in 1947 (HQ Geneva)
Organisers	IEC (1906), ISO (1947), ITU (1865)
India	Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) – Ministry of Consumer Affairs

Background

- BIS: earlier the Indian Standards Institution (ISI, 1947); working from 1 Apr 1987 under the BIS Act 1986; now governed by the BIS Act 2016. HQ – Manak Bhavan, New Delhi. Industrial products carry the 'ISI' mark.
- Quality marks: BIS 'Hallmark' for gold jewellery (with a HUID number); 'Agmark' for farm produce (1937 Act); FSSAI for food; 'Jaivik Bharat' for organic food.

- SDG 7 – affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (UN 2030 Agenda – 17 goals, 2015).

Tamil Nadu link: BIS's Southern Regional Office is in Chennai, with a branch office at Coimbatore. BIS has held World Standards Day events at Coimbatore and Villupuram in earlier years. Tamil Nadu is a leader in wind power – relevant to SDG 7.

4 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2026 (13 October)

Important Days

News

13 October is the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. The 2026 theme (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – UNDRR) is 'Resilience Starts at Home', stressing safe, disaster-resilient housing. Events run from 5 to 15 Oct in Geneva and elsewhere.

Key facts

Date	13 Oct – International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
2026 theme	Resilience Starts at Home
Origin	1989 – at the UN General Assembly's call; fixed on 13 Oct from 2009
UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Geneva
India	NDMA – 22nd Formation Day, 28 Sept 2026; theme 'Risk Reduction in Action'

Background

- Sendai Framework 2015–2030: adopted on 18 Mar 2015 at the 3rd UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan; 4 priorities and 7 global targets. It replaced the 'Hyogo Framework for Action' (2005–2015).
- India: the Disaster Management Act 2005 – NDMA (chaired by the PM), State authorities (chaired by CMs) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was launched by PM Modi on 23 Sept 2019 at the UN Climate Action Summit, New York; secretariat in New Delhi.
- National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) – New Delhi; the 'Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar' is the national disaster-management award (23 Jan).

Tamil Nadu link: the 26 Dec 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami devastated Tamil Nadu, especially Nagapattinam, and led to the Disaster Management Act 2005. Cyclones Gaja (2018) and Michaung (2023) followed. The CM chairs the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority.

5 IMF nudges global growth forecast up to 3.1%, warns of rising debt and AI investment risks

Economy

News

In its World Economic Outlook (WEO) released on 13 Oct 2026 at the IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings in Bangkok, Thailand, the International Monetary Fund raised its 2026 global growth forecast from 3.0% to 3.1%, with 3.4% for 2027. India is projected at 7.0% for both 2026 and 2027 – the fastest among major economies. The IMF said AI investment is propping up growth but a correction could follow if productivity gains fail to appear, and that rising public debt could push up borrowing costs.

Key facts

Global growth	2026 – 3.1% (3.0% in July); 2027 – 3.4%
India	2026 – 7.0%; 2027 – 7.0% (fiscal-year basis)
Released	13 Oct 2026 – IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings, Bangkok (12–18 Oct)
Risks	Public debt to top 100% of world GDP before 2030 (Georgieva); AI investment correction risk; Middle East war, oil prices
Leadership	MD Kristalina Georgieva; Chief Economist Silvana Tenreyro (since 10 Aug 2026)

Background

- IMF: created with the World Bank at the Bretton Woods (USA) conference in July 1944; HQ Washington DC; 191 members. Special Drawing Rights (SDR) are the IMF's international reserve asset.
- IMF reports: World Economic Outlook (WEO – April and October; updates in January and July), Fiscal Monitor, Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR). The World Bank publishes 'Global Economic Prospects' (GEP).
- The Annual Meetings are held outside Washington every third year – Marrakech (Morocco) in 2023, Bangkok in 2026. Silvana Tenreyro, a former Bank of England MPC member, succeeded Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu targets a US$1 trillion economy by 2030. Tamil Nadu leads India's electronics exports, so the AI-linked electronics investment wave matters for the State.

6 India and UK inaugurate a Genomics Centre of Excellence

Science

News

During the 8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council meeting (12 Oct 2026, New Delhi), Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Science and Technology, and UK Secretary of State Jonathan Reynolds jointly inaugurated the 'BRIC-CDFD – ONT India Genomics Centre of Excellence'. Its partners are the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad, and the UK's Oxford Nanopore Technologies (ONT). Focus areas: rare diseases, cancer, infectious-disease surveillance and newborn screening.

Key facts

Centre	BRIC-CDFD – ONT India Genomics Centre of Excellence
Partners	CDFD, Hyderabad (under DBT's BRIC) + Oxford Nanopore Technologies (UK)
Inaugurated	12 Oct 2026, New Delhi – Dr Jitendra Singh, Jonathan Reynolds
Occasion	8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council (SIC)
Technology	Nanopore sequencing – reads DNA from changes in electric current as a strand passes through a tiny pore

Background

- Genome India project: Department of Biotechnology, Jan 2020; whole genomes of 10,000 Indians; data released on 9 Jan 2025 and stored at the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC), Faridabad.
- DNA fingerprinting was invented by Alec Jeffreys (UK) in 1984; its pioneer in India was Dr Lalji Singh (CCMB, Hyderabad). BRIC was formed in 2023 by merging 13 DBT autonomous institutes.
- India–UK: the 'Technology Security Initiative' (TSI, July 2024); 'Vision 2035' (July 2025, alongside the CETA trade deal).

Tamil Nadu link: IIT Madras was among the institutions in the Genome India project. Oral cancer, one of the centre's focus areas, is among the commoner cancers in Tamil Nadu too.

7 India hosts the first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting; 'Delhi Declaration' adopted

International Relations

News

The first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting was held in New Delhi on 13 Oct 2026, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Five items were approved – a BIMSTEC Convention against Trafficking in Persons, a Plan of Action on Drug Control, an MoU on capacity building against money laundering and terror financing, a Plan of Action on illicit financial flows, and a Bay of Bengal disaster-preparedness plan – and a 'Delhi Declaration' was adopted. Shah said 'drug trafficking is death trafficking'.

Key facts

Meeting	1st BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting – 13 Oct 2026, New Delhi
Chair	Amit Shah; senior officials' meeting (12 Oct) – Home Secretary Govind Mohan
Adopted	5 documents + 'Delhi Declaration' – terrorism, drugs, human trafficking, cybercrime
Origin	At the 6th BIMSTEC Summit (Bangkok, 4 Apr 2025) PM Modi offered to host the first meeting
Note	All 7 members took part; Bangladesh's Home Minister skipped it – an official delegation attended

Background

- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation): Bangkok Declaration, 6 June 1997 (BIST-EC – Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand); Myanmar joined in 1997, Nepal and Bhutan in 2004. 7 members – 5 South Asian, 2 South-East Asian.

- Secretariat – Dhaka (2014). BIMSTEC Charter – signed at the 5th Summit in Colombo (2022), in force from 20 May 2024. Secretary General – Indra Mani Pandey (India).
- 6th Summit (Bangkok, 2025) – 'Bangkok Vision 2030'; the PM announced 'BODHI' (training 300 youth a year) and a disaster management centre of excellence in India.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's long Bay of Bengal coast matters for BIMSTEC maritime and disaster cooperation. Curbing drug and gold smuggling across the Palk Strait (Rameswaram–Sri Lanka) ties in with the meeting's drug-control plan.

8 ICMR's first high-altitude medicine research centre – foundation stone laid at Keylong, Himachal Pradesh

Health

News

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda laid the foundation stone of the 'ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research' (ICMR-CHAMP) at Keylong, headquarters of Lahaul–Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh (about 3,080 m / 10,000 ft), on 12 Oct 2026. At about ₹36 crore, ICMR's existing Keylong field station will become a permanent year-round centre. Partners include the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS), DRDO and the Himachal government; it will serve both soldiers and civilians, including tribal people.

Key facts

Centre	ICMR-CHAMP – India's first centre for high-altitude medicine and public health
Location	Keylong, Lahaul–Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh (about 3,080 m)
Foundation	12 Oct 2026 – Health Minister J.P. Nadda; ICMR DG Dr Rajiv Bahl
Cost	About ₹36 crore
Research areas	High-altitude physiology, climate-sensitive diseases, maternal and child health, nutrition, mental health, disaster medicine, telemedicine, drone delivery

Background

- ICMR began in 1911 as the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) and was renamed ICMR in 1949; it is under the Department of Health Research (DHR, 2007), whose Secretary is also ICMR's Director General.
- High-altitude illness (background): caused by hypoxia – acute mountain sickness (AMS), fluid in the lungs (HAPE) and brain swelling (HACE); immediate descent and oxygen are needed. Air pressure falls as altitude rises.
- Geography: Keylong lies on the Bhaga river; the 'Atal Tunnel' (about 9.02 km, opened Oct 2020) links Manali with Lahaul valley all year – the world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 ft.

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai hosts two ICMR national institutes – the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT; begun in 1956 as the Tuberculosis Research Centre) and the National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE).

9 'Bharat Rice' launched for Army troops

Defence

News

'Bharat Rice' for Indian Army troops was launched in New Delhi on 12 Oct 2026 in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Food Minister Pralhad Joshi. High-quality ration rice, milled to defence specifications with minimal broken grains, will be supplied by NAFED from 2026–27 directly to Army Supply Depots, including in Ladakh and the North East (10 kg and 30 kg bags). An Army–FCI MoU was also signed letting the Army use FCI warehouses in emergencies.

Key facts

Launch	12 Oct 2026, New Delhi – Rajnath Singh, Pralhad Joshi
Supplier	NAFED – from 2026–27, directly to Army Supply Depots
Nature	High-quality ration rice to defence specs; 10/30 kg bags (not reported as fortified or sold via canteens)
MoU	Army–FCI MoU – 5 years; use of FCI warehouses, labour and equipment
Led by	Army's Directorate General of Supplies & Transport (ASC)

Background

- The 'Bharat' brand: Bharat Rice was launched for the public in Feb 2024 at ₹29/kg through NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar; Bharat Atta (wheat flour) and Bharat Dal (chana) also aim to check prices.
- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) was set up in 1965 under the Food Corporations Act 1964. National Food Security Act (NFSA) – 2013. 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' – Lal Bahadur Shastri (1965).
- NAFED – National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (1958); NCCF – National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (1965).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu runs a universal Public Distribution System; the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC, 1972) procures paddy. The Cauvery delta (Thanjavur) is the 'rice bowl of Tamil Nadu'.

10 IBSAMAR IX (2026): India–Brazil–South Africa maritime exercise, led by India

Defence

News

IBSAMAR IX, the 9th trilateral exercise of the Indian, Brazilian and South African navies, began at South Africa's Simon's Town naval base on 12 Oct 2026. Hosted by South Africa, it is led by India. INS Tarkash (with a Chetak helicopter), Brazil's BNS Barroso and South African warships and a submarine are taking part. Theme: 'Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain'.

Key facts

Edition	IBSAMAR IX (9th); began 12 Oct 2026
Venue	Simon's Town, Western Cape, South Africa (False Bay)
Lead	India – lead nation; South Africa – host
Indian ship	INS Tarkash – Talwar-class frigate (Yantar shipyard, Russia; commissioned 2012)
Drills	Surface, anti-air, anti-submarine warfare; VBSS boarding; anti-piracy; search and rescue

Background

- IBSAMAR – since 2008, usually every two years. IBSA Dialogue Forum – 'Brasilia Declaration', 6 June 2003. All three are members of BRICS and the G20.
- Geography: Simon's Town is near the Cape of Good Hope, where the Atlantic meets the Indian Ocean. In 1498 Vasco da Gama rounded this cape to reach Calicut.
- En route, INS Tarkash called at Victoria (Seychelles) and Mombasa (Kenya).

Tamil Nadu link: a large Tamil-origin community lives in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal (Durban) – including Navi Pillay, the 2026 Peace Nobel laureate. Thillaiyadi Valliammai took part in Gandhi's satyagraha in South Africa.

11 INDRA 2026: India–Russia naval exercise – INS Sahyadri reaches Vladivostok

Defence

News

Indian Navy stealth frigate INS Sahyadri reached Vladivostok, Russia, on 10 Oct 2026 for the India–Russia bilateral naval exercise INDRA 2026. The exercise runs 13–18 Oct with a harbour phase and coordinated operations at sea. Before this, the ship took part in the ASEAN–India Maritime Exercise (AIME 2026) in the Philippines.

Key facts

Exercise	INDRA 2026 – India–Russia navies; 13–18 Oct 2026
Venue	Vladivostok, Russia (Sea of Japan / Pacific)
Ship	INS Sahyadri – Shivalik-class (Project-17) stealth frigate; built by Mazagon Dock; commissioned 2012; Eastern Fleet
History	INDRA – since 2003; 2025 was the 14th edition (harbour phase at Chennai)
Context	India's 'MAHASAGAR' maritime vision

Background

- Other India–Russia drills: the first tri-service INDRA was in 2017 at Vladivostok. India and Russia share a 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'; the 23rd annual summit was in Dec 2025.
- MAHASAGAR – Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (2025), expanding the earlier 'SAGAR' (2015) vision.
- Geography: Vladivostok hosts Russia's Pacific Fleet and is the eastern end of the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Tamil Nadu link: INDRA 2025's harbour phase was held in Chennai. The Chennai–Vladivostok 'Eastern Maritime Corridor' cuts shipping time between the two countries. Kudankulam nuclear plant is built with Russian cooperation.

12 International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) opens new headquarters at Lodhi Estate, Delhi

Environment

News

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav opened the new headquarters office of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) at 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi, on 12 Oct 2026. IBCA Director General Dr S.P. Yadav welcomed guests. The alliance now has 29 member countries and 5 observers. India is providing ₹150 crore over 2023–24 to 2027–28.

Key facts

HQ	55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi – opened 12 Oct 2026
Opened by	Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav (IBCA President)
Director General	Dr S.P. Yadav
Members	29 member countries, 5 observers
Seven big cats	Tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, puma

Background

- IBCA: announced by PM Modi at Mysuru on 9 Apr 2023 at the 50th-anniversary event of Project Tiger; came into force as a treaty-based body in Jan 2025; first Assembly – 16 June 2025, New Delhi.
- Project Tiger – 1 Apr 1973, first reserve Jim Corbett (Uttarakhand); National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) – 2006. Of the seven big cats, all but the jaguar and puma occur in India; the cheetah was reintroduced at Kuno National Park (MP) in 2022.
- Other India-led international bodies: the International Solar Alliance (ISA, Gurugram), the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI, New Delhi) and the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA, 2023).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu has 5 tiger reserves – Mudumalai, Anamalai, Sathyamangalam, Kalakad–Mundanthurai and Srivilliputhur–Megamalai. Mudumalai is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and adjoins Karnataka's Bandipur near Mysuru.

13 Lakshadweep declared a fully literate Union Territory under ULLAS

Education

News

Under ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, Administrator Praful Patel declared Lakshadweep a 'fully literate' Union Territory at Kavaratti (Oct 2026). All 1,113 non-literate adults identified in a survey passed the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) conducted by NIOS. It is the second UT to reach this status, after Ladakh (June 2024).

Key facts

Declared by	Administrator Praful Patel, Kavaratti – Oct 2026
Learners	1,113 adults – passed NIOS's FLNAT
Benchmark	95% literacy = 'fully literate' (ULLAS)
Earlier	Ladakh (June 2024, first UT); Mizoram (May 2025, first State); Goa; Tripura; Himachal Pradesh; Sikkim; Uttarakhand
Census 2011	Lakshadweep literacy 91.85%

Background

- ULLAS – Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society; a centrally sponsored scheme of the Education Ministry (2022–27), aligned with NEP 2020, for people aged 15+ who missed school.
- Census definition: a person aged 7+ who can read and write with understanding in any language is literate. India was 74.04% in 2011; highest Kerala (93.91%), lowest Bihar.
- Lakshadweep: 36 islands, capital Kavaratti; under the Kerala High Court; the 8° Channel separates Minicoy from the Maldives and the 9° Channel separates it from the rest of Lakshadweep.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's literacy was 80.09% in Census 2011, with Kanniyakumari the top district. The 'Arivoli Iyakkam' led literacy work in Tamil Nadu in the 1990s. Tamil Nadu has not yet been declared fully literate under ULLAS.

14 Karnataka High Court strikes down SC/ST quota hike that took total reservation to 56%

Polity

News

On 12 Oct 2026 the Karnataka High Court struck down Sections 3 and 4 of a 2022 Karnataka law – to the extent they cross 50% – which had raised SC reservation from 15% to 17% and ST from 3% to 7%, taking total reservation (SC + ST + OBC 32%) to 56%. A bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K.S. Hemalekha held that the Indra Sawhney (1992) 50% ceiling 'is not an elastic limit' and that no extraordinary circumstances were shown.

Key facts

Law	Karnataka SC and ST (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2022 (assent 11 Jan 2023)
Hike	SC 15 → 17%; ST 3 → 7%; OBC 32%; total 50 → 56%
Verdict	12 Oct 2026 – CJ Vibhu Bakhru, Justice K.S. Hemalekha; Sections 3 and 4 struck down beyond 50% (violating Articles 14, 15, 16)
Other ground	National Commissions for SCs and STs were not consulted beforehand (Articles 338(9), 338A(9))
Next	State weighing a Supreme Court appeal; request to the Centre for Ninth Schedule protection pending

Background

- Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992, the 'Mandal case', 9 judges) – reservation must not exceed 50% save in extraordinary situations; 'creamy layer' excluded from OBCs. Maharashtra's Maratha quota was struck down in the Jaishri Patil case (May 2021).
- Articles 15(4), 16(4) – special provisions for backward classes. The 103rd Amendment (2019) – 10% for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), upheld in Janhit Abhiyan (Nov 2022); but the High Court said it does not lift the 50% ceiling for other categories.
- Ninth Schedule – 1st Amendment (1951), Article 31B. I.R. Coelho case (2007): laws added after 24 Apr 1973 can still be reviewed for violating the basic structure.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu has 69% reservation under its 1994 Act (Act 45 of 1994), placed in the Ninth Schedule by the 76th Constitutional Amendment (1994) under CM Jayalalithaa. Split: BC 30%, MBC 20%, SC 18%, ST 1%. A challenge to its validity is pending in the Supreme Court. Karnataka's Act title mirrors Tamil Nadu's.

15 World Bank Poverty and Equity Brief (Oct 2026): extreme poverty in India at 2.6%

Indices & Reports

News

According to the World Bank's Poverty and Equity Brief for India (Oct 2026), extreme poverty at the international line of $3 a day (2021 PPP) fell from 27.1% in 2011 to 2.6% in 2023. At the $4.20 lower-middle-income line, poverty fell from 57.7% to 16.1%, lifting about 496 million people; it is projected to fall to 12.1% by 2028, though the pace is slowing.

Key facts

Extreme poverty ($3/day)	27.1% (2011) → 2.6% (2023)
$4.20/day line	57.7% → 16.1%; about 496 million lifted; 12.1% by 2028 (projected)
Concentration	About 57% of the poor in the belt from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal
Jobs	2017–2023: about 134 million jobs added
New poverty line	$3.00/day (2021 PPP) from June 2025; earlier $2.15 (2017 PPP)

Background

- World Bank: the IBRD was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods conference; HQ Washington DC; President Ajay Banga (since 2023). These briefs come out twice a year, before the Spring and Annual Meetings.
- Indian poverty estimates: Tendulkar Committee (2009), Rangarajan Committee (2014). NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) – health, education, living standards; 11.28% in 2022–23.
- PPP (purchasing power parity) adjusts for price differences between countries. New lines: lower-middle income $4.20, upper-middle income $8.30.

Tamil Nadu link: in NITI Aayog's National MPI (2023), Tamil Nadu is among the States with the lowest multidimensional poverty (about 2.2%), credited to welfare schemes like the PDS, the breakfast scheme and the women's entitlement grant.

16 Madurai ornamental fisheries cluster – Union Fisheries Secretary inspects

Tamil Nadu

News

Union Fisheries Secretary Dr Abhilaksh Likhi visited the Madurai ornamental fisheries cluster – one of four 'priority clusters' under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) – on 12 Oct 2026. An integrated ornamental fish farm at Mukkampatti near Melur, set up under PMMSY for ₹25 lakh, breeds over 30 varieties including guppy, molly, goldfish and koi (about 2 lakh fish a year).

Key facts

Cluster	Madurai ornamental fisheries cluster – PMMSY priority cluster
Other priority clusters	Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) – pearl; Lakshadweep – seaweed; Andaman & Nicobar – tuna
Visit	12 Oct 2026 – Secretary Dr Abhilaksh Likhi; Mukkampatti, Melur
Farm	PMMSY – ₹25 lakh; 30+ varieties; about 2 lakh fish a year
Total clusters	34 fisheries clusters nationwide (all types)

Background

- PMMSY: launched 10 Sept 2020 with ₹20,050 crore – the largest-ever investment in fisheries; Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- National Fish Farmers' Day – 10 July: in 1957 Dr Hiralal Chaudhury and Dr K.H. Alikunhi achieved induced breeding of Indian major carps. India's first organic fisheries cluster is Soreng (Sikkim).
- India is the world's second-largest fish producer (after China); the 'Blue Revolution' refers to fisheries development.

Tamil Nadu link: Kolathur in Chennai is the main hub of India's ornamental fish trade, followed by Madurai. Chennai hosts the ICAR-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA); Nagapattinam has the Dr J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University.

17 Tamil Nadu Government Environment Awards 2025 – applications invited

Tamil Nadu

News

Tamil Nadu's Department of Environment and Climate Change invited applications for the 2025 Environment Awards on 13 Oct 2026. Individuals, educational institutions and NGOs in Tamil Nadu may apply for work done between 1 Jan and 31 Dec 2025. Applications must be made online at awards.tn.gov.in by 12 Nov 2026.

Key facts

Department	Department of Environment and Climate Change, Govt of Tamil Nadu
Categories	Environmental awareness & education; environmental protection; environmental management – ₹50,000 / ₹30,000 / ₹20,000 each
Research article	Best research article – ₹50,000 (published in 2025; Tamil or English)
Eligibility	Individuals aged 18+; one category only
Last date	12 Nov 2026 – awards.tn.gov.in

Background

- This is separate from the 'Green Champion Award' given by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) – ₹1 lakh each.
- Tamil Nadu's green initiatives: the 'Green Tamil Nadu Mission' (2021) targeting 33% green cover; 'Meendum Manjappai' (2021); the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.
- Tamil Nadu Additional Chief Secretary Supriya Sahu won the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) 'Champions of the Earth' 2025 award. UNEP is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya (1972).

Tamil Nadu link: this is entirely a Tamil Nadu Government award. Note: the 13 Oct notice only invites applications – no winners have been named yet.

18 CM Vijay meets Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu, seeks more Krishna water for Chennai under Telugu Ganga

Tamil Nadu

News

Tamil Nadu CM C. Joseph Vijay met Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu at his residence in Undavalli, Amaravati, on 13 Oct 2026 and asked for additional Krishna water for Chennai's drinking needs under the Telugu Ganga project. Naidu said El Niño had cut Krishna inflows this year, that 4.08 TMC had already been released, and that more would be considered depending on availability. No new quantity was agreed. The Godavari–Cauvery river link and Andhra's proposed dams on rivers flowing into Tamil Nadu were also discussed.

Key facts

Meeting	13 Oct 2026, Undavalli (Amaravati), Andhra Pradesh
Entitlement	12 TMC a year (after losses) – 8 TMC in July–Oct, 4 TMC in Jan–Apr
This year	AP released 4.08 TMC; TN received 2.251 TMC (to 9 Oct, at the border)
Route	Srisailam → Somasila → Kandaleru → Poondi (Sathyamurthy Sagar)
Canal	Kandaleru–Poondi 177 km (about 152 in AP, 25 in TN); 'Zero Point' – Thamaraikuppam, Uthukottai (Tiruvallur district)

Background

- History: the Telugu Ganga agreement – 1983, N.T. Rama Rao (AP) and M.G. Ramachandran (TN). Originally 15 TMC, with Maharashtra, Karnataka and AP giving 5 TMC each; 12 TMC after losses. Water has flowed from Kandaleru to Poondi since 1996.
- Geography: the Krishna rises at Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra) and flows through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and AP into the Bay of Bengal; tributaries include the Tungabhadra and

Bhima. 1 TMC = one thousand million cubic feet.

- Constitution: Article 262 – inter-State river water disputes; Inter-State River Water Disputes Act 1956. Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal I – the Bachawat Tribunal; Tribunal II – the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal.

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai's drinking-water lakes are Poondi, Puzhal (Red Hills), Chembarambakkam, Cholavaram and Kannankottai–Thervoy Kandigai. Telugu Ganga water is stored at Poondi and sent on to the other lakes. CM Vijay's August 2026 Karnataka visit on the Cauvery–Mekedatu issue was cancelled.

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