Current Affairs – Notes

14 October 2026

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1 15 Oct: International Day of Rural Women, Global Handwashing Day, White Cane Safety Day 2026

Important Days

News

Three days fall on 15 Oct. The International Day of Rural Women 2026 theme (UN) is 'Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature' – women produce half the world's food yet own only about 15% of farmland. Global Handwashing Day carries the multi-year theme 'Be a Handwashing Hero!'. White Cane Safety Day marks the independence of people who are blind or visually impaired.

Key facts

Rural Women Day	2026: 'Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature'; UNGA resolution 62/136 (2007); first observed 2008
India	15 Oct – 'Mahila Kisan Diwas' (Women Farmers' Day), since 2016, Agriculture Ministry
Handwashing Day	Begun at Stockholm World Water Week 2008; first observed 15 Oct 2008; theme 'Be a Handwashing Hero!' (multi-year)
White Cane Day	US Congress resolution (6 Oct 1964); first proclaimed by President Lyndon Johnson; no 2026 theme

Background

- The white cane: in 1921 James Biggs, a photographer from Bristol (UK), painted his walking stick white after losing his sight; the US Lions Clubs popularised it from 1930. Braille was devised by Louis Braille (France); 4 Jan is World Braille Day.
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 – recognised disabilities raised from 7 to 21 (including blindness and low vision); in force from 19 Apr 2017; 4% reservation in government jobs.
- Handwashing: washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds cuts diarrhoea and respiratory infections. In 1847 Ignaz Semmelweis (Hungary) showed the importance of handwashing in hospitals.

Tamil Nadu link: 'Magalir Thittam' self-help groups – Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (1983); the 'Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai' – ₹1,000 a month (from 15 Sept 2023). Tamil Nadu has a separate Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons.

2 Oscar Whitfield named Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026

Awards

News

Results of the 62nd Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, run by the Natural History Museum (NHM), London, were announced on 13 Oct 2026. Oscar Whitfield, a British boy living in Zimbabwe, won Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year for 'Labour of Love', showing a dung beetle rolling a ball of dung. The overall winner was Federico Veronesi of Italy for 'The Aftermath', a female elephant carrying her dead calf in Namibia.

Key facts

Young winner	Oscar Whitfield (British, lives in Zimbabwe) – 'Labour of Love' (dung beetle); 11–14 category
Overall winner	Federico Veronesi (Italy) – 'The Aftermath' (elephant, Huab River valley, Namibia)
Competition	62nd edition; since 1965; Natural History Museum, London; 65,403 entries from 121 countries
Indian winner	Sitaram Raul – Behaviour: Invertebrates – 'Shifting Sand' (a scorpion in the Thar Desert)
Exhibition	16 Oct 2026 – 11 July 2027, NHM London

Background

- Dung beetles roll and bury dung, helping soil fertility, seed dispersal and parasite control; some species navigate by the Milky Way. Ancient Egyptians held the 'scarab' beetle sacred.
- Geography: Zimbabwe – capital Harare; Victoria Falls (Zambezi river) on the Zimbabwe–Zambia border. Namibia – the Namib Desert; the cheetahs brought to India in 2022 came from here.
- The Natural History Museum, London, opened in 1881; it holds collections including Darwin's specimens.

Tamil Nadu link: no Tamil Nadu photographer was among this year's winners. Western Ghats areas of Tamil Nadu such as Mudumalai, Anamalai and Valparai are major spots for wildlife photographers.

3 Kerala launches India's first Red List of Ecosystems assessment

Environment

News

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) launched India's first sub-national ecosystem risk assessment under the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) framework at Kollam on 14 Oct 2026. Implemented by the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI, Peechi) and others, it will assess shola-grasslands, riparian evergreen forests, Myristica swamps, coastal mangroves and river systems. Riparian evergreen forests of the southern Western Ghats are noted to have lost 83% of their area in about 100 years.

Key facts

Launch	14 Oct 2026, Kollam – Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB)
Implementing	Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Peechi; MES Asmabi College research centre
Ecosystems	Shola–grassland, riparian evergreen forest, Myristica swamp, mangroves, estuaries, rivers
Outputs	Risk register, ecosystem typology atlas, restoration-priority maps
RLE categories (8)	Collapsed (CO), Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT), Least Concern (LC), Data Deficient (DD), Not Evaluated (NE)

Background

- IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature: founded 5 Oct 1948 at Fontainebleau (France); HQ Gland (Switzerland). The Red List of Threatened Species dates from 1964; the Red List of Ecosystems was adopted by IUCN in 2014.
- RLE criteria A–E: A – decline in area; B – restricted distribution; C – degradation of the abiotic environment; D – disruption of biotic processes; E – quantitative risk analysis. The 'Collapsed' category is specific to the RLE.
- Myristica swamps – rare, ancient freshwater swamp forests of the Western Ghats, often called 'living fossils'.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu has the same ecosystem types – shola-grasslands of the Nilgiris, Anamalai and Palani hills, and mangroves at Pichavaram (Cuddalore district) and Muthupet (Tiruvarur district). The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1986, India's first) spans Tamil Nadu, Keralam and Karnataka.

4 Indigenous multi-purpose vessel INS Samarthak, built at Kattupalli (Tamil Nadu), to be commissioned

Defence

News

INS Samarthak, the first Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) built at Larsen & Toubro's (L&T) Kattupalli shipyard in Tamil Nadu, is to be commissioned at Naval Base Karwar, Karnataka, on 16 Oct 2026. About 107 m long and 3,750 tonnes, with over 75% indigenous content, it will tow targets, launch and recover torpedoes, test indigenous weapons and sensors, act as a mothership for unmanned systems and support disaster relief.

Key facts

Ship	INS Samarthak – first Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV); second ship 'Utkarsh'
Builder	L&T, Kattupalli shipyard (Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu); contract 25 Mar 2022, 2 ships, ₹887 crore
Commissioning	16 Oct 2026 (scheduled), Naval Base Karwar, Karnataka; delivered 27 Aug 2026
Specs	About 107 m long; 3,750 t; 15 knots; 75%+ indigenous
Motto	'Vijayartham Eknishthata' – Victory is our sole aim; crest – an Indian elephant rising from the waves

Background

- Roles: launching and recovering targets and torpedoes, towing, salvage, mothership for unmanned systems, maritime surveillance, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR); it can be converted into a small hospital ship.
- Naval Base Karwar – 'Project Seabird', INS Kadamba; being developed as one of Asia's largest naval bases.
- Note: the ship is not yet commissioned (16 Oct is the scheduled date). There is no ship named 'Shaktak' – the second ship is 'Utkarsh'.

Tamil Nadu link: Samarthak was built at L&T's Kattupalli shipyard in Tiruvallur district near Chennai (near Ennore and Kamarajar Port) and launched there on 14 Oct 2024 in the presence of Navy chief

Adm Dinesh K. Tripathi.

5 Indian Army's Assam Regiment team wins gold at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026 in Wales

Defence

News

An Indian Army team from the Assam Regiment won a gold medal at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026, one of the world's toughest military patrolling exercises, held by the British Army at Brecon, Wales, in early October 2026. Over 100 teams took part and 10 golds were awarded. The Army said: 'Forged in Grit. Crowned in Gold.' The Nepal Army also won gold.

Key facts

Exercise	Cambrian Patrol 2026 – Brecon, Wales (UK); 2–12/13 Oct 2026
Host	British Army – HQ 160th (Welsh) Brigade
Result	Assam Regiment – gold; 10 golds among 100+ teams
Challenge	About 60 km over 48 hours; 8-member team; up to 32 kg each
Earlier Indian golds	2016 – 2/8 Gorkha Rifles; 2021 – 4/5 Gorkha Rifles; 2023 – 3/5 Gorkha Rifles

Background

- Assam Regiment: raised at Shillong on 15 June 1941; regimental centre – 'Happy Valley', Shillong; mascot – the one-horned rhino; war cry 'Rhino Charge', greeting 'Tagra Raho'. Battle of Kohima, 1944.
- Assam Regiment's Hav. Hangpan Dada won the Ashoka Chakra (2016, posthumously). Some reports say the regiment's 'Bhairav' light-commando battalion won (not officially confirmed).
- The India–UK army exercise is 'Ajeya Warrior'. Wales's capital is Cardiff; the Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) is a national park.

Tamil Nadu link: the Madras Regiment, the Indian Army's oldest regiment, has its centre at Wellington in the Nilgiris, which also hosts the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC).

6 Dr Abdul Kalam's birthday (15 Oct) – Tamil Nadu's 'Youth Awakening Day' since 2015; 'World Students' Day' 2026

Important Days

News

Tamil Nadu observes 15 Oct, the birthday of former President Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, as 'Youth Awakening Day', as announced by CM J. Jayalalithaa on 31 July 2015, four days after his death. The same announcement instituted the 'Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award' (₹5 lakh, an 8-gram gold medal and a citation), presented on Independence Day (15 Aug) – in 2026 CM Vijay gave it to diabetologist Dr V. Mohan. Though 15 Oct is widely celebrated as 'World Students' Day', the UN has not officially declared it.

Key facts

TN day	15 Oct – Youth Awakening Day (since 2015; 'Youth Inspiration Day' in the English release)
Kalam Award	₹5 lakh + 8 g gold medal + citation; on 15 Aug; for science, student welfare, humanities
2026 awardee	Dr V. Mohan – diabetologist, Chennai (presented by CM Vijay)
World Students' Day	Not declared by the UN (confirmed by UN India); the UN day on 15 Oct is the International Day of Rural Women

Background

- Kalam: born 15 Oct 1931, Rameswaram; India's 11th President (2002–07); 'Missile Man of India'; died 27 July 2015 while lecturing at IIM Shillong; memorial at Pei Karumbu, Rameswaram.
- Honours: Padma Bhushan (1981), Padma Vibhushan (1990), Bharat Ratna (1997). Project Director of SLV-3 – Rohini satellite, 18 July 1980; Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (Agni, Prithvi); Pokhran-II (May 1998).
- Books: 'Wings of Fire' (1999, with Arun Tiwari), 'India 2020', 'Ignited Minds'.

Tamil Nadu link: Kalam was born in Rameswaram and studied at Schwartz School, Ramanathapuram, St Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli, and MIT, Chennai. Youth Awakening Day and the Kalam Award are both Tamil Nadu Government initiatives.

7 IMF raises India's 2026–27 growth forecast to 7%

Economy

News

In its World Economic Outlook released on 13 Oct 2026 (titled 'Resilience Under Strain, Urgent Choices'), the International Monetary Fund raised India's growth forecast for FY 2026–27 by 0.6 percentage point from July's 6.4% to 7.0%, and projected 7.0% for 2027–28 too (up 0.3 point). Strong domestic demand, services activity, favourable demographics and structural reforms were cited. India grew 7.8% in 2025–26.

Key facts

India 2026–27	7.0% (6.4% in July; +0.6 pp)
India 2027–28	7.0% (+0.3 pp)
2025–26	7.8% growth
RBI (7 Oct 2026)	Repo 5.25% → 5.50% (first hike since Feb 2023); FY27 GDP forecast 7.1%; CPI inflation 5.2%
World	2026 – 3.1%; 2027 – 3.4%

Background

- The IMF gives India's forecasts on a fiscal-year basis (April–March). In the IMF's April 2026 WEO, India was the world's 6th-largest economy by nominal GDP (after GDP rebasing and the rupee's fall).
- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC): created by amending the RBI Act 1934 (2016); 6 members (3 from RBI + 3 appointed by the Centre); chaired by the RBI Governor (Sanjay Malhotra). Inflation target 4% (±2%).

- The repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends short-term to banks; raising it helps curb inflation. GDP is estimated by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu aims to become a US$1 trillion economy by 2030; it is India's second-largest State economy.

8 21st Maritime States Development Council (MSDC) meets in Mumbai

Infrastructure

News

The 21st Maritime States Development Council (MSDC) meeting, chaired by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, concluded in Mumbai on 13 Oct 2026. It was the first since MSDC became a statutory body under the Indian Ports Act 2025. Targets were set for all ports to adopt 'One Nation One Port Process' (ONOP) reforms and join the 'Sagar Setu' maritime single window by March 2027, and electronic publication of port tariffs was made mandatory.

Key facts

Meeting	21st MSDC – Mumbai, concluded 13 Oct 2026; chaired by Sarbananda Sonowal
Significance	First meeting since becoming a statutory consultative body under the Indian Ports Act 2025
Decisions	ONOP reforms and 'Sagar Setu' onboarding by March 2027; port master plans for non-major ports; mandatory e-publication of tariffs
Shipbuilding	Two credit-risk insurance products – ECGC (export), New India Assurance (domestic)
TN presence	Tamil Nadu Maritime Board; Chennai and Kamarajar port chairpersons

Background

- MSDC – the apex advisory body for the maritime sector, set up in 1997; chaired by the Union Ports Minister; members include maritime States' ministers, the Navy and the Coast Guard. The 20th meeting was in Goa (Sept 2024).
- Laws: the Indian Ports Act 2025 (assented Aug 2025) replaced the Indian Ports Act 1908. The Major Port Authorities Act 2021 replaced the Major Port Trusts Act 1963. Major ports are on the Union List; other ports on the Concurrent List.
- Visions: Maritime India Vision 2030 (2021); Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 (2023); Sagarmala (2015).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu has 3 major ports – Chennai, Kamarajar (Ennore) and V.O. Chidambaranar (Thoothukudi). Kamarajar was India's first corporatised major port. Non-major ports are run by the Tamil Nadu Maritime Board (1997).

9 Soybean varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270 yield about 20 quintals/ha despite bad weather

Agriculture

News

At a 'Soybean Harvest Day' held on 9 Oct 2026 by ICAR–National Soybean Research Institute (NSRI), Indore, its improved varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270 gave a preliminary yield of about 20 quintals per hectare despite adverse weather (the national average is about 10–11 q/ha). ICAR Director General Dr M.L. Jat called the results encouraging.

Key facts

Varieties	NRC 268, NRC 270 – improved soybean varieties
Institute	ICAR–National Soybean Research Institute (NSRI), Indore (formerly Indian Institute of Soybean Research; began 1987 as NRC for Soybean)
Yield	About 20 q/ha (preliminary) – national average 10–11
Event	Soybean Harvest Day – 9 Oct 2026, Indore
Note	No formal 'release' was reported – the news is about yield results

Background

- Soybean: the 'golden bean' / 'miracle crop'; about 40% protein and 20% oil; a kharif legume that fixes nitrogen. Madhya Pradesh is called the 'Soya State'; Maharashtra is also a major producer.
- National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds): approved in 2024, running 2024–25 to 2030–31 – for self-reliance in oilseeds. India depends heavily on edible-oil imports.
- The 'Yellow Revolution' – the drive to raise oilseed output (1986 Technology Mission on Oilseeds; Sam Pitroda).

Tamil Nadu link: groundnut is Tamil Nadu's main oilseed; soybean is a minor crop here. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's Oilseeds Research Station is at Tindivanam.

10 Coast Guard ship ICGS Ajit commissioned; to be based at Okha, Gujarat

Defence

News

ICGS Ajit, an 'Adamya'-class fast patrol vessel built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL), was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard at Goa on 9 Oct 2026, with Dr Sirish Choudhary, Principal Integrated Financial Adviser (Coast Guard), presiding. Its home base is Okha, Gujarat (North-West region). It is 51.43 m long, does over 27 knots, has controllable-pitch propellers and over 60% indigenous content.

Key facts

Ship	ICGS Ajit – Adamya-class fast patrol vessel (one of 8)
Commissioning	9 Oct 2026, Goa Shipyard, Goa – home base Okha, Gujarat
Specs	51.43 m long; about 320 t; 27+ knots; 1,500 nm range
Armament	One 30 mm gun, two 12.7 mm guns
Roles	EEZ surveillance, search and rescue, anti-smuggling, fisheries protection, pollution response

Background

- Indian Coast Guard: raised 1 Feb 1977 (1 Feb is Coast Guard Day); Coast Guard Act 1978; under the Ministry of Defence; HQ New Delhi; motto 'Vayam Rakshamah' (We Protect).
- 5 regions: West (Mumbai), East (Chennai), North-East (Kolkata), Andaman & Nicobar (Port Blair), North-West (Gandhinagar) – Okha falls under North-West.
- Adamya class: a ₹473 crore contract with GSL for 8 ships in March 2022; the first, ICGS Adamya (Sept 2025, Paradip). Geography: Okha sits at the mouth of the Gulf of Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka district.

Tamil Nadu link: the Coast Guard's Eastern Region HQ is in Chennai, with stations at Thoothukudi and Mandapam. Sister ship ICGS Akshar is based at Karaikal (Puducherry).

11 NSAP extended to 2030–31, renamed 'PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana'

Welfare Schemes

News

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi on 14 Oct 2026 approved continuing the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) from 2026–27 to 2030–31 at a cost of ₹53,428 crore, renaming it 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana'. The disability-pension threshold was lowered from 80% to 40% disability, with eligibility from birth, and the amount raised to ₹375 a month (0–79 years) and ₹625 (80+). About 3.20 crore beneficiaries in 36 States/UTs.

Key facts

Approval	14 Oct 2026 – Union Cabinet; 2026–27 to 2030–31; ₹53,428 crore
New names	NSAP → PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana; IGNOAPS → PM Vridhavastha Pension; IGNWPS → PM Vidhawa Pension; IGNDPS → PM Divyangjan Pension; NFBS → PM Parivar Labh Yojana
Disability pension	Threshold 80% → 40%; from birth; ₹375 (0–79), ₹625 (80+) – earlier ₹300 / ₹500
Unchanged	Old-age ₹200 (60–79), ₹500 (80+); widow ₹300; family benefit ₹20,000 (one-time)
Beneficiaries	About 3.20 crore; 36 States/UTs

Background

- NSAP – launched 15 Aug 1995; Ministry of Rural Development; 100% centrally funded. Article 41 (Directive Principle) – right to public assistance in old age, sickness, disablement and similar cases.
- NSAP components: old-age pension (IGNOAPS), widow pension (IGNWPS), disability pension (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna (10 kg free foodgrain a month).

- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 – 'benchmark disability' means 40% or more; the new change aligns with this.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu adds its own top-up to the central pension and runs social security pensions for the elderly, widows and the disabled through its Revenue Department.

12 Swapped Murugan idol of 1,000-year-old Thogaimalai temple recovered and reinstalled

Tamil Nadu

News

At the roughly 1,000-year-old Meenakshi Sundareswarar – Balathandayuthapani temple at Thogaimalai near Kulithalai, Karur district (under the HR&CE Department), the main Balathandayuthapani (Murugan) idol was found to have been swapped after the 27 Nov 2025 consecration. Inquiries by HR&CE and the idol-theft prevention wing police found that a priest had replaced it. The old idol was recovered from a nearby spring (20 Jan) and the priest was arrested. On the orders of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, the old idol was reinstalled on 12 Oct 2026.

Key facts

Temple	Meenakshi Sundareswarar – Balathandayuthapani temple, Thogaimalai (near Kulithalai), Karur district – about 1,000 years old
Incident	Main idol found swapped after the 27 Nov 2025 consecration
Recovery	Recovered from a nearby spring (20 Jan); priest arrested
Reinstalled	12 Oct 2026 – on the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court's order
Note	The report does not give the idol's metal or age; '1,000 years' refers to the temple

Background

- The Idol Wing CID of the Tamil Nadu Police dates from 1983. A notable return: the Sripuranthan Nataraja from Ariyalur, handed back by Australia in 2014.
- Laws: Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972; Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act 1959. The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court began in 2004.
- Murugan's six abodes (Arupadai Veedu): Thiruparankundram, Thiruchendur (the seashore temple), Palani, Swamimalai, Thiruthani, Pazhamudircholai. At Palani, Murugan is worshipped as 'Dhandayuthapani'.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's temples are administered by the HR&CE Department. Kulithalai lies on the Cauvery in Karur district.

13 Four Tamil Nadu Agricultural University professors in the world's top 2% scientists list

Tamil Nadu

News

Four professors of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, are in the 'World's Top 2% Scientists' list by Stanford University (USA) and Elsevier (2026 edition, released 7 Oct): acting Vice-Chancellor Ravindran, former Director of Research Subramanian, Agricultural Microbiology head Sivakumar and Crop Physiology professor Janakiraman. Only two were on the list last year. Six professors of Periyar University, Salem, are also on the list.

Key facts

List	Stanford–Elsevier 'World's Top 2% Scientists' (2026, released 7 Oct)
TNAU professors	Ravindran, Subramanian, Sivakumar, Janakiraman (2 last year)
Basis	Composite citation indicator incl. citations and h-index; 22 fields, 174 subfields
Lead	Prof. John P.A. Ioannidis, Stanford
India	Among Indian institutions IISc Bengaluru leads, followed by IIT Delhi

Background

- Tamil Nadu Agricultural University was set up at Coimbatore in 1971; its farm-college tradition goes back to the 1868 agricultural school at Saidapet.
- Elsevier is a Netherlands-based science publisher (the Scopus database). The h-index was devised by Jorge Hirsch (2005).
- Note: it is not four from all of Tamil Nadu – many from several institutions are listed; 'four' refers to TNAU alone. It is a list, not a ranking.

Tamil Nadu link: TNAU (Coimbatore) and Periyar University (Salem) are both Tamil Nadu State universities. Dr M.S. Swaminathan, father of India's Green Revolution, studied at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore.

14 Pallikaranai marsh: interim 'Zone of Influence' cut from 8,397 acres to 316.76 acres

Tamil Nadu

News

The Tamil Nadu State Wetlands Authority told the Madras High Court in a status report (Oct 2026; decided at a 30 Sept 2026 meeting) that the interim 'Zone of Influence' around Chennai's Pallikaranai marsh will be cut from the 8,397 acres covered by the National Green Tribunal's 1-km zone to 316.76 acres across 36 survey numbers. It said the area was drawn using hydrological links, drainage paths and satellite imagery, and that the final boundary will follow scientific study. PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss criticised the move.

Key facts

Cut	8,397 acres (NGT 1-km zone) → 316.76 acres (interim; 36 survey numbers)
Body	Tamil Nadu State Wetlands Authority – status report to the Madras High Court
Case	Challenge to the NGT Southern Zone's 1-km Zone of Influence order (24 Sept 2025)
Rules in zone	Construction regulated, not banned – NOC from the District Wetlands Management Committee needed; no sewage, dumping or Red-category industry
Ramsar	Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest – Ramsar site (8 Apr 2022), 1,247.5 ha

Background

- Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 (replacing the 2010 Rules) – State Wetlands Authority (chaired by the State Environment Minister); a 'Zone of Influence' is the area around a wetland where activities are regulated.
- Ramsar Convention – 2 Feb 1971, Ramsar (Iran); 2 Feb is World Wetlands Day. Tamil Nadu has the most Ramsar sites of any Indian State.
- Pallikaranai is one of south Chennai's last natural wetlands; declared a reserve forest in 2007; 337 species recorded, including 115 bird species. It has shrunk greatly from about 15,000 acres.

Tamil Nadu link: Pallikaranai is closely tied to the IT corridor (OMR), Metro Phase II works and flood drainage. The NGT Southern Zone bench sits in Chennai.

15 'Palli Paarvai 3.0' app introduced for school monitoring

Tamil Nadu

News

Tamil Nadu's School Education Department introduced the 'Palli Paarvai 3.0' app (Oct 2026) to digitise inspections and classroom monitoring in government schools and raise teaching quality. Chief Educational Officers, District Educational Officers and block officials must record their school visits in it, and inspection data flows straight into EMIS. It has 5 sections: student attendance, classroom observation, spot assessment, project interventions (Vasippu Iyakkam, clubs) and an observation report.

Key facts

App	Palli Paarvai 3.0 – school inspection and classroom monitoring
Department	Tamil Nadu School Education Department
Users	CEOs, DEOs, inspectors, block officials
Data	Linked directly to EMIS (Education Management Information System)
Classroom check	At least 2 random students tested on Tamil/English reading and the four basic arithmetic operations

Background

- Tamil Nadu school welfare: the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme – 15 Sept 2022, Madurai; free noon meal – CM Kamaraj (1956); Nutritious Meal Programme – MGR (1982).

- 'Vasippu Iyakkam' builds reading skills through the levels 'Enter, Walk, Run, Fly'; 'Vaanavil Mandram' fosters interest in science and maths.
- Right to education: Article 21A (86th Amendment, 2002) – free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14; Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 (from 1 Apr 2010).

Tamil Nadu link: this is entirely a Tamil Nadu Government initiative. Note: reports do not clearly say who launched the app, and no details of earlier versions (1.0, 2.0) were found.

16 CM Vijay lays foundation for ₹3,108 crore water ring-main pipeline in Chennai

Tamil Nadu

News

CM C. Joseph Vijay laid the foundation stone at Sholinganallur on 14 Oct 2026 for a ₹3,108.55 crore 'ring main' that will link all of Chennai's drinking-water sources in one loop. Implemented by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), about 98 km of stainless-steel pipe will connect 9 sources – the Poondi, Puzhal, Cholavaram and Chembarambakkam lakes, groundwater and desalination plants. Surplus water from one area can then be moved to an area facing shortage. It is funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and due in about 4½ years.

Key facts

Cost	₹3,108.55 crore – foundation 14 Oct 2026, Sholinganallur
Agency	Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB)
Length / capacity	About 98 km closed loop; design capacity 1,762 MLD; 9 water sources
Funding	Asian Development Bank (ADB) – 'Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project' ($230 million loan, Aug 2026)
Significance	Chennai will be the first Indian city with a comprehensive ring-main system (ADB)

Background

- Chennai's desalination plants: Minjur (100 MLD, 2010), Nemmeli-I (100 MLD, 2013), Nemmeli-II (150 MLD, 2024); a 400 MLD plant at Perur is under construction – among the country's largest.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB): founded 1966; HQ Manila, Philippines. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is in Beijing; the New Development Bank (NDB) in Shanghai.
- CMWSSB was set up under a 1978 Act. 1 MLD = one million litres a day. Chennai also gets Telugu Ganga (Krishna) and Veeranam (Cauvery) water.

Tamil Nadu link: about 85.7 lakh people in metro Chennai get roughly 1,200 MLD a day through 84 distribution systems. In the severe 2019 drought, water was brought to Chennai by train from Jolarpettai.

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